

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 18 *August*, 1981

Death of Thomas William Dalton, a former Member of the Legislative Assembly—
Petitions—Questions without Notice—Sessional Committees (House, Library,
Printing)—Governor's Speech: Address in Reply (Third Day's Debate)—
Adjournment (Port Botany Hazard Survey).

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

Mr Spealrer offered the Prayer.

DEATH OF THOMAS WILLIAM DALTON, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr WRAN (Bass Hill), Premier and Treasurer [2.16]: I move:

That this House extends to the family of Thomas William Dalton, a
former Member of this House, the deep sympathy of Members of the
Legislative Assembly in the loss sustained by his death.

Thomas Dalton served this House and the people of his electorate faithfully from 14th February, 1953, to 6th February, 1956, and from 21st March, 1959, to 23rd January, 1968. His maiden speech to this House on 19th August, 1953, set the tone for his parliamentary career. Above all, he was concerned with the problems of his electorate, centred on the then rapidly growing Sutherland district. In that speech he spoke on housing, transport and the industrial development of the Botany Bay region.

It is ironical that one of the principal concerns that he expressed in his maiden speech was for home buyers following the increases in housing interest rates by the federal Government of the day. In recent years we have become accustomed to hearing of the need to tackle urban problems and to plan for future urban developments. It is a measure of Thomas Dalton's insight into the future needs of his constituents that in his maiden speech he called for the development of the Menai district, the construction of roads to serve that area, and the upgrading of train services in the Sutherland areas. The electrification of the line to Waterfall was a particular project he wanted to see proceed. These and other causes he championed throughout his parliamentary career. Today, some of the visions of Thomas Dalton are becoming realities. There can be no better tribute to his years of dedicated service.

Mr McDONALD (Kirribilli), Leader of the Opposition [2.18]: I second the motion and echo the condolences expressed by the Premier and Treasurer. It is always sad in this Chamber when we pay respect to members who have passed away. On behalf of the Opposition, I extend to the family of Thomas Dalton sympathy in their tragic loss. Though he left this place well before my time, the reports I have

heard in the last few hours are of a quiet, unassuming and thoroughly delightful gentleman. Only a few years ago he lost his wife. Both of them were highly respected in the Sutherland community as a devoted couple.

Thomas Dalton was a typical product of the old-style Labor Party background, a person who could be described as the salt of the earth in the development of this State in the twentieth century. He was a railway worker, a shed hand, and a shearer, but his main employment was with the Department of Railways as a timberman, powderman and ganger. He soon developed an interest in union politics. Between 1935 and 1945 he became organizer for the city construction and permanent way section of the Australian Workers Union, subsequently becoming vice-president of the New South Wales branch in 1939.

His parliamentary record spanned two periods as the member for Sutherland, between 1953 and 1956, when he was defeated, and again between 1959, when he staged a comeback, and 1968. Unfortunately, in 1968 he lost his seat to the former member for Miranda, Mr Tim Walker. The Opposition joins with his many friends in the Australian Labor Party in supporting this motion of condolence on the passing of Thomas Dalton.

Mr PUNCH (Gloucester), Leader of the Country Party [2.21]: On behalf of my colleagues of the Country Party I extend to the family and friends of Tom Dalton our sincere sympathy for their loss. Some of my colleagues and I spent a number of years in the House with Tom Dalton. I speak for us all when I say that he was a quiet and efficient man, respected by honourable members on both sides of the House for the manner in which he performed his duties. As the Leader of the Opposition said, he was one of the old-style members. The manner in which he carried out his parliamentary duties was beyond reproach.

After his retirement he was often in the gallery of the Chamber. All honourable members were pleased to see him and to extend courtesy to him when he visited the House. On behalf of my colleagues, I join with the Premier and Treasurer and the Leader of the Opposition in again extending sympathy to his family.

Mr KEANE (Woronora) [2.22]: I extend condolence to the relatives of Mr Thomas William Dalton. Tom Dalton was a personal friend of mine. I learned my election tactics and political knowledge from observing him during his successful career. Many times I manned the polling booths for Tom. Later Tom reciprocated by manning the booths for me. I am sad to hear of his passing.

Tom was one of the old school; a great stalwart and a tremendous trade unionist. He was respected highly throughout the community for the fact that he always had time to listen to the problems of his constituents. He was elected to represent the Sutherland electorate on 14th February, 1953, and served until 6th February, 1956, when he lost the seat to our former colleague, Ian Griffith. He was again the member for Sutherland from 21st March, 1959, to 23rd January, 1968.

As honourable members know, he was a railway worker. He was educated in country schools. It was evident that Tom had been a shearer because sometimes when he was upset this fact would be revealed by his language. In 1922 he joined the construction section of the railways, where he worked as a timberman, a powder monkey and a ganger. He was proud of the fact that he was an organizer for the city construction and permanent way section of the Australian Workers Union from 1935 to 1945. He was vice-president of the New South Wales branch of the Australian Workers Union. From 1945 to 1953 he was a ganger. It is of interest to note that

during the period he was a member of this House his electorate covered the following districts: Caringbah, Caringbah North, Cronulla, Kurnell, Lilli Pilli, South Cronulla, Taren Point, Woollooware, Gymea, Gymea Bay, Kirrawee, Menai, Miranda, Sutherland, Sutherland North, and Woronora River. Some of those districts are part of the Woronora electoral district. I express my condolence to the family of Mr Dalton. He will be sadly missed.

Mr JACKSON (Heathcote), Minister for Youth and Community Services [2.25]: I join with other honourable members in extending condolence to the family of the late Tom Dalton. It was my great privilege to know Tom Dalton for many years prior to his election to Parliament in 1953, when he defeated the great Joe Munro to win the former seat of Sutherland. I well recall Tom's defeat at the 1956 elections, following which he had the experience of many defeated members of Parliament, whether they have served in this House for a short time or a long time: he did not have a job. Tom saw me on the Monday following his defeat to inform me that he was looking for employment. Prior to his election to Parliament he had been a railway ganger. He went heavily into debt in an attempt to retain his seat. Following two weeks of representations on his behalf, he was offered his job back on the railways as a ganger, provided he passed the medical test. I was astonished at the idea of his having to pass that test to qualify for re-employment. His defeat was psychologically devastating for him. He was a defeated member of Parliament whom few people wanted to know. In 1959 he accepted the challenge to return to Parliament and as a result of his mature years and experience in the trade union movement, the Labor Party and with hard knocks he was returned as member for Sutherland. He had renewed vigour. He proved to be a most successful and dedicated man who served his constituency and the Parliament in a manner that commanded great respect and admiration for his party, the Parliament and himself. I extend to his family my sincere sympathy in their sad loss.

Mr ROBB (Miranda) [2.27]: On behalf of my Labor Party colleagues in the Miranda electorate and the people of that district I express sincere condolence for the loss of Tom Dalton. Tom Dalton was a dedicated member of Parliament and friend of the people of Miranda. He made a great contribution to the history and to the well-being of the people of the Sutherland shire. He was responsible for the start of the Sutherland Hospital, the commencement of the Captain Cook bridge and the building of the Gymea technical college. Tom was a good family man who was widely respected. His loss will be felt by the people of the Sutherland shire.

Mr EGAN (Cronulla) [2.28]: I first met Tom Dalton some seventeen years ago, shortly after I joined the Australian Labor Party. I had the good fortune to work on his last two election campaigns. Tom Dalton's nature enabled a great rapport and friendship to develop between us. As the honourable member for Woronora said, in 1953 Tom Dalton won the former seat of Sutherland from Mr C. O. J. Munro, who at that time was regarded as almost invincible. In 1950 the Labor Party candidate who unsuccessfully contested the seat against C. O. J. Munro was an up and coming barrister by the name of E. G. Whitlam. In 1953 our standard-bearer was a railway ganger by the name of Tom Dalton. He won the seat and held it until 1968 with a break of three years. Tom Dalton was a most assiduous and approachable **local** member. Because of his services on behalf of the electorate and his constituents he won the admiration and affection of political friend and foe alike. As I mentioned, I worked for Tom Dalton in the 1965 and 1968 election campaigns. He was an old-style campaigner. On those occasions his campaigns consisted mainly of going the rounds of railway stations, pubs and clubs with a loud speaker. For about three weeks I accompanied him on both campaigns. We spoke at **every** street corner

on about six occasions. On most occasions we were not only the speakers but also the complete audience. Tom Dalton was a fine man. I regard it as a great privilege to have known him, to have worked with him, and to have been his friend.

Mr J. A. CLOUGH (Eastwood) [2.31]: It was my privilege to have known Thomas William Dalton well. He was a responsible and friendly man. It was always a pleasure to meet him in the precincts of the House, and to have a chat with him. Tom Dalton had a caring disposition and showed great concern for his friends, his family and those who were less fortunate than he. I join with the Premier and Treasurer, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Country Party and other honourable members in expressing deepest sympathy for his family in their sad bereavement.

Members and officers of the House standing in their places,

Motion agreed to.

PETITIONS

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

School Funding

A Petition of the undersigned citizens, residents within the State electorate of Georges River, 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 to achieve these ends.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Ryan, received.

Prostitution

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of Australia, 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 therefore 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 McCarthy, 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.

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

Petitions, lodged by Mr Barraclough and Mr McCarthy, received.

Intellectually Handicapped

A petition of the undersigned citizens, resident within the State electorate of Rockdale 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 New South Wales.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Bannon, 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. Petersen'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 Ferguson, received.

St Vincent's Day Centre

The Petition of the citizens of the electorate of Phillip respectfully sheweth:

That the failure by the New South Wales Health Commission to immediately replace the vacancy for a chiropodist based at the St Vincent's Day Centre, to serve the Surry Hills area, primarily at the Sydney council's Moore Park activity centre, will cause undue hardship to those who utilize the service in this area. This service is vital because:

- (1) The cost of the private chiropodist is not feasible for those living on a pension, for a private consultation amounts to, on average, \$12 a visit, which is almost one-fifth of an aged pensioner's benefit.
- (2) The services of the chiropodist prevent a larger and more costly drain on the public health system at a later and more acute stage.
- (3) This service is vital to enhance the general well being and comfort of those recipients of meals-on-wheels who are brought to the Moore Park activity centre for the service. These present users are physically unable to seek alternative chiropody services.
- (4) By keeping aged citizens mobile, a chiropody service helps add dignity and independence to the ageing process.

Your Petitioners humbly pray that your honourable House will see fit to:

- (1) Reappoint a chiropodist to the St Vincent's Day Centre immediately.
- (2) Look to improving the chiropody service as it existed with a view to providing a more extensive and improved service.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Barraclough, received.

Traffic Signals for Hornsby

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

The almost impossible situation for east bound motorists in Bridge Road, Hornsby, trying to cross the continuous flow of heavy traffic travelling north and south along the Hornsby bypass, having no right of way.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House approve of having traffic lights installed at the intersection of Bridge Road and Jersey Street North, Hornsby, as a matter of urgency.

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

Petition, lodged by Mr Pickard, received.

Vehicle Registration Fees

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

We request that a fifty per cent rebate on car registration fees and third party insurance be granted to holders of pensioner health benefit cards. This concession is presently available in Victoria and Queensland.

Further, we request that the special pensioner excursion tickets operating on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and weekends in the Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong areas be extended to eligible pensioners in country areas for journeys up to 100 miles from their towns.

Petitions, lodged by Mr Boyd and Mr Einfeld, received.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr McDONALD: I direct a question without notice to the Premier and Treasurer. Has the Premier stated that his Government's industrial development projects will not prejudice capital works programmes in education and health? Has capital expenditure on each of the high priority matters of education and health fallen already to the lowest level in a decade? Is it the Government's intention to curtail capital works programmes? If not, will the Government increase sharply charges for electricity, water, sewerage and transport?

Mr WRAN: The answer to the last part of the honourable member's question is, no. The answer to the first part of it is, yes. The other parts seek answers that would pre-empt the Budget, and I do not propose to do that.

VOLUNTEER BUSHFIRE BRIGADES

Mr MAIR: My question without notice is directed to the Minister for Police and Minister for Services. What action is being taken by the Bush Fire Council of New South Wales to ensure that all volunteer bushfire brigades receive necessary instruction? In particular, what action is being taken in the current off season to prepare the men and women of the volunteer bushfire movement for the coming season?

Mr CRABTREE: The matter raised by the honourable member for Albury is important to all parts of New South Wales. I recall that recently I paid tribute to the honourable member for his co-operation in arranging a demonstration by the State Emergency Service at Holbrook. I am sure everyone in New South Wales applauds him for the magnificent work he did there.

Mr Schipp: Do they have a director down there?

Mr CRABTREE: The honourable member for Wagga Wagga should be the last to talk about direction. When I was in Wagga Wagga recently I noticed he seemed unable to find his way round the city.

[Interruption]

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

Mr CRABTREE: Though some areas of New South Wales are suffering severely from local flooding, the unfortunate fact is that once the summer months arrive most parts of the State will have bushfire problems. For 1980–81 the Government doubled its allocation to volunteer brigades through the Bush Fire Council to some \$6.4 million. Honourable members can rest assured that that service will be looked after in future years. The Government realizes that training and instruction of volunteer personnel is essential to protect life and property in times of disaster. The Bush Fire Council has taken this responsibility seriously. For instance, this week some eighty-five volunteers and key State and federal Government employees are attending the annual bushfire school at Camp Mackay. That school caters especially for senior volunteers—for instance, brigade or group captains or deputy captains—who can then pass on their knowledge and experience to group members in their local government area.

Earlier this year special regional schools were held at Boorowa and Wagga Wagga. Programmes were modified and adapted to suit the special conditions existing in those areas. The Boorowa school was attended by ninety-six officers from the Boorowa, Harden, Cowra, Young, Gunning, Yass and Crookwell shires. At Wagga Wagga, slightly more than 100 volunteers, all of deputy-captain level, from Wagga Wagga city and the shires of Junee, Coolamon, Lockhart, Holbrook, Culcairn, Tumbarumba and Narrandera benefited from the programme.

I should like to point out that such regional programmes have been introduced because the Bush Fire Council recognizes quite clearly that a central school that caters for officers from throughout the State cannot always give adequate attention to special and different conditions and circumstances that might exist in the various regions. Schools of the sort that were held at Wagga Wagga and Boorowa this year, are to be held at a different centre each year, as it is the council's intention to provide instruction and assistance to senior volunteer personnel throughout the State. They can then use their new knowledge, combined with their understanding of conditions in their district, to train local volunteers.

WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECTS

Mr PUNCH: I direct a question without notice to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Public Works and Minister for Ports. If, as the Minister said last week, country water supply and sewerage projects now receive so much more money than they received from the former Government, will he explain why the waiting time for subsidies for such schemes—which the Liberal Party–National Country Party Government had reduced from fifteen to seven years—has now been extended to nine or ten years? Will the Minister explain what the extra money is being used for, particularly as the Government has also stopped rural stock and domestic supply schemes and the 75 per cent subsidy to small village projects?

[Interruption]

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

Mr FERGUSON: What I said last week about the Government's allocation to country water and sewerage projects, in comparison with the allocation by the former Government, is true. It is significant that the Leader of the Country Party did not see fit to challenge the figures I gave. One of the reasons why the waiting time has been increased is that, during its last year in office the former Government gave only \$13 million for this purpose, with the result that country councils realized that there was not much use applying for funds. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. In the past financial year this Government has allocated \$36 million for this purpose, which shows its priorities with regard to works of this nature. The Leader of the Country Party asked why the waiting time has increased. The magnitude of the allocation has enabled some major country projects to be developed. Recently, when I was in the Tamworth electorate, I opened a huge augmentation scheme.

Mr Punch: Who started that scheme?

Mr FERGUSON: The Leader of the Country Party should know that if the rate of allocation of funds had continued at the level it was when the former Government held office, that scheme would not have been finished yet. The honourable member for South Coast could also give testimony to the huge projects that the Government has undertaken on the Shoalhaven River. The Government will continue to undertake such projects, and that will be shown in the Budget, which will be delivered shortly.

COUNCIL LEASES TO CLUBS

Mr O'NEILL: I direct a question without notice to the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Roads. Is the Minister aware that some bowling clubs, particularly in the Strathfield area, are experiencing real financial difficulties due to rising costs? In some cases are the difficulties being increased by the requirement in new and renewed leases that clubs pay to councils an annual rental of 6 per cent of the unimproved capital value of the land? Will the Minister review the situation and ensure that clubs receive as much assistance as possible in continuing to provide a valuable service to the community?

Mr JENSEN: It reflects credit on the honourable member for Burwood that, as an active bowler and treasurer of the Parliamentary Bowling Club, he should bring before the Parliament a matter that is causing concern to the administrators of some bowling clubs in the State. The rental charge to which he has referred arises as a result of a condition attached to ministerial approvals of leases granted by councils to licensed clubs which occupy public reserves or other land that is owned outright by local councils. A rental of 6 per cent of the unimproved capital value of the land is regarded as a reasonable contribution by clubs to the public whose land the clubs are occupying for their exclusive use. The condition to which reference has been made has been applied in three cases only, though in about thirteen other cases lessees have been informed that the 6 per cent rental charge will apply when their leases come up for renewal within the next couple of years.

Mr Dowd: That is not right.

Mr JENSEN: The honourable member for interruptions is not noted for his accuracy. However, if he wants to dispute the information I am conveying to the House, I invite him to do so in a more substantial manner, rather than by way of some inane interjection of the type he made a moment ago. It certainly is not the Government's intention that this rental charge, however modest, should be imposed

on clubs that cannot afford it. Recently I received evidence of hardship from some clubs. Representations putting forward cases of hardship have been made to me persistently and consistently by the honourable member for Burwood. In such cases the Government undertakes that the rental charge will not be applied in the future. Where leases that contain this rental condition have already been entered into and the club concerned is experiencing hardship, every consideration will be given to a variation of the conditions of those leases upon receipt of an appropriate application. A departmental review of the procedures for approving leases has been under way for some time. This will ensure that in future the rental charge will be applied initially only to clubs that demonstrate a capacity to be able to afford that charge.

Mr Healey: The Minister should have put that in the letter in the first place.

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

Mr JENSEN: The former Liberal Party—Country Party Government, in which the honourable member for Davidson was a Minister, was responsible for introducing legislation that tried, erroneously, to anticipate the future. As a result, it has been almost impossible to undo the knots tied by that Government. This Government introduced legislation containing provisions that would enable a quick solution to be found in circumstances such as those described, and that is being done in the present instance. That is why Opposition members are now manifesting such frustration. I assure the House that the problems complained of will be corrected quickly.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES REPORT ON ABORIGINES

Mr MASON: I address my question without notice to the Minister for Youth and Community Services. Did he receive and study the recent report by the World Council of Churches on Aborigines? If not, will he undertake to study it carefully in the interests of the Aboriginal people? If the Government agrees that it should be doing more in some areas, will the Minister invite representatives of the World Council of Churches to become members of a committee to investigate ways of assisting New South Wales Aborigines?

Mr JACKSON: My attention has been drawn to the report compiled by the World Council of Churches. That council conducted a survey within this State and across Australia into the living conditions of Aborigines. Every responsible person should be concerned about its findings. Considerable publicity has emanated from it. The report is being studied by the Department of Youth and Community Services to see whether action might be taken by the State Government to alleviate any problems. In 1975 an agreement was entered into between the State Government, of which the honourable member for Dubbo was a Minister, and the federal Government. Any necessity to alleviate the deprivation and adversity suffered by Aborigines is entirely attributable to the federal Government and no other. Clause 3 (1) of the 1975 agreement, signed by the Hon. T. L. Lewis, as Premier of New South Wales, and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in the federal Government, the Hon. L. R. Johnson, says, “. . . the Australian Government shall assume responsibility and for the administration of planning——”

[*Interruption*]

Mr JACKSON: Country Party supporters should agree that it is up to them in particular to help the Aboriginal people. To them Aborigines are a nuisance. Members of the Country Party are actively depriving Aborigines of equal opportunities.

I can tell honourable members of the bitter experiences Aborigines have had in country areas where racism is at its worst. They are not liked by members of the Country Party.

Mr Arblaster: What rot.

Mr JACKSON: The record attained over eleven years in government by the party to which the honourable member belongs is a sad one. Country Party members particularly are regarded almost as criminals by the Aboriginal people. Knowing of the problems faced by Aborigines the State Government appointed the honourable member for Woronora as chairman of an all-party select committee of this Parliament to inquire into some of the serious problems faced by Aboriginal people. The Government's concern for the contents of the report from the World Council of Churches is reflected in its study of the recommendations of that all-party parliamentary committee. I shall remind honourable members of who has the responsibility for special services for Aboriginal people. The 1975 agreement stated:

. . . the Australian Government shall assume responsibility and for the administration of planning, co-ordination and financing of such activities as are designed to promote the economic, social and cultural advancement of the Aboriginal people in the State.

Clearly, that shows that if there are deficiencies in special Aboriginal needs, services, housing, welfare, education, and health programmes, these are the responsibility of the federal Government. I say that deliberately. Programmes administered by the State Government on behalf of the federal Government are always in jeopardy because of the federal Government's attitude to welfare. But, no matter whose responsibility it is, the honourable member for Dubbo can be assured that the State Government is studying the report and findings of the World Council of Churches. Everything that is possible to be done at a State level will be done to alleviate the plight of the Aboriginal people.

ILLEGAL GAMBLING

Mr WADE: My question without notice is directed to the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. Has the Minister's attention been drawn to a recent edition of a Wagga Wagga newspaper which quoted the leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Don Chipp, as saying that gambling criminals were sick and tired of having magistrates on the take? Have Senator Chipp's remarks any validity?

Mr WALKER: Yes, Mr Speaker, my attention has been drawn to remarks reported in the Wagga Wagga press last week, following a visit to that city by Senator Chipp. It seems quite clear that Senator Chipp has been greatly encouraged by his success in half smoking-out the Leader of the Opposition in this House as a person with strong links with organized illegal gambling. Senator Chipp is, of course, to be **complimented** on doing the community such a valuable service. However, in relation to the Leader of the Opposition, Senator Chipp has failed in his often quoted intention to "keep the bastards honest". The fact is that it is impossible to keep someone honest unless he was honest to begin with. Even the Deputy Leader of the Opposition obviously agrees that his leader is not a very nice person.

To Senator Chipp's reported remark that gambling criminals had told him that they were sick of having magistrates on the take I can only respond that, if he **was** accurately reported—and I have no reason to think that he was not—he might reconsider the wisdom of making such sweeping assertions when his source of information is gambling criminals—people of the kind who so obviously closely associate with

the Leader of the Opposition. So far as the New South Wales magistracy is concerned, I can say only that I have no information before me which calls into question the integrity of any magistrate sitting on the bench in this State. I am certain that the magistrates do not need me as their champion. Their standing in the community is unchallenged and they are their own best advertisement.

MARGARET STREET, ORANGE, LEVEL CROSSING

Mr WEST: I address my question without notice to the Minister for Transport. On 5th June this year, in response to representations from me about the re-opening of the Margaret Street level crossing, did he state that because of ministerial commitments he was unable to meet a deputation from the Orange city council? Did the Minister state further that he would call upon the State Rail Authority to provide him with a full report and that he would contact me again following receipt of that report? As a considerable period has elapsed, will the Minister now say what he intends to do with regard to this matter? In view of the numerous previous refusals by the State Rail Authority to re-open the level crossing, will the Minister call for its report on that level crossing and arrange to meet with representatives of the Orange city council and the Orange Chamber of Commerce and with me to discuss the matter?

Mr COX: I shall certainly call for a report on this matter and as soon as I have been advised I shall contact the honourable member.

EAST HILLS RAILWAY DUPLICATION

Mr ROGAN: My question is directed to the Minister for Transport. I remind the Minister of my continuing representations about duplication of the East Hills railway beyond Riverwood? Will the Minister advise me and the House when work will commence on this long overdue project?

Mr COX: It is true that the honourable member has consistently raised with me the need for duplication of the railway from Riverwood to East Hills. The position in relation to the matter is that money has been put aside for the planning of the proposal. The proposals being considered include partial duplication—perhaps from Riverwood to Padstow or from Padstow to Revesby—and total duplication. I support this programme. I have asked the State Rail Authority to make money available for the planning of the duplication. I understand that initially the State Rail Authority will be examining partial duplication. I assure the honourable member that money will be made available for the initial planning of the work and I shall keep him informed when I have a further response from the State Rail Authority.

MAITLAND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Mr TOMS: I direct my question to the Minister representing the Minister for Education. Do the students and staff of the Maitland technical college carpentry and joinery classes work in a former drill hall at East Maitland in conditions of extreme difficulty caused by dust, noise and overcrowding? Will the Minister have urgent action taken to provide better accommodation for them.

Mr SHEAHAN: I am not in a position to give a detailed reply to the honourable member. I shall ask the Minister for Education to convey to him as soon as possible information about the matter he has raised.

DEPARTMENT OF MAIN ROADS EMPLOYEES

Mr PETERSEN: My question is directed to the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Roads. Has the attention of the Minister been directed to the way in which the Leader of the Opposition confers with Department of Main Roads workers regarding their problems? Is the Minister aware of the mass demonstration today to the Liberal Party-Country Party Government in Canberra by Department of Main Roads workers urging repeal of the federal legislation which would jeopardize their job security? Will the Minister advise me and the House what the effect of this legislation would be upon Department of Main Roads workers?

Mr JENSEN: I observed some of the conduct of the Leader of the Opposition in his discussions with the Department of Main Roads workers who were assembled outside this Parliament. My only regret is that I was not able to be present to observe all of his performance. I went outside the building after it began. I regard the legislation introduced by the Commonwealth Government, in furtherance of the philosophy of the advancement of private enterprise, as **unlikely** to lead to an increase in the length of roads constructed in New South Wales or anywhere in Australia. This view is shared by every Minister responsible for roads throughout the nation, irrespective of political affiliation. Already in New South Wales 50 per cent of the roads that will be required to be built under contract in future are built under contract now, but there is an integration between municipal employees performing work on behalf of the Department of Main Roads and a number of employees of the Department of Main Roads engaged exclusively on the construction of national highways and other work. The evidence garnered in the Department of Main Roads indicates that the cost of constructing given sections of road, whether by contract or by a day-labour work force, is not significantly different. The requirement by the Commonwealth Government that tenders be called may result in certain work now being performed by the local government work force and the Department of Main Roads work force going to contractors. This practice may completely disrupt small communities that depend on the Department of Main Roads work force for the continued existence of the towns concerned.

I intimated earlier to the honourable member for Illawarra, whose deep concern and interest in this matter do him great credit, that the Commonwealth Government has produced no evidence of any advantage to the community from its new system. I hope the campaign for the revocation of the legislation will succeed, because the consequence of its introduction will be the disruption of the established practice for the construction of roads throughout Australia by bodies that have demonstrated their capacity to spend effectively and wisely every dollar available for roads. If the Commonwealth is so dedicated to its philosophy that it wants to call tenders for the construction of national highways, the process should be staggered over five, seven or eight years so that small communities throughout the nation will not be disrupted.

SCHOOL FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Mr DUNCAN: I ask a question without notice of the Minister for Housing, Minister for Co-operative Societies and Assistant Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Education in the other place. In 1971 did the Richmond Valley subnormal children's welfare association in Lismore provide to the Department of Education land, at a cost of \$1,500, for the building of a special school for handicapped children? Subsequently did the department use an alternative site for the school? Is the original site now surplus to its needs? Is it a fact that the association wants to

obtain the land to extend its sheltered workshop facilities? Are the department and the Government demanding that the association pay a fair market value for the land? Will this cost the association many thousands of dollars? Will the Minister intervene to ensure that this callous rip off by the Government does not occur in respect of this association that has worked most effectively for the handicapped?

Mr SHEAHAN: The Government certainly applauds the activities of the association to whose activities the honourable member for Lismore draws attention. I am not in a position to respond to the detailed question asked by the honourable member. It is general policy to dispose at fair market value of land holdings surplus to departmental requirements. I shall ask my colleague the Minister for Education to look into the matter.

HEALTH CARE

Mr EGAN: Is the Minister for Health aware of the comment by the Australian Medical Association that the Wran Government is introducing socialized medicine under the new health care arrangements to come into operation on 1st September? Will he inform the House how the new health scheme will operate?

Mr K. J. STEWART: The honourable member for Cronulla is right to say that the Government has been accused of endeavouring to introduce socialized medicine into New South Wales as a result of its encouragement and highlighting of hospital-only insurance. When the House bears in mind that in the past financial year the New South Wales State Government provided \$1,260 million for the running costs of hospitals and \$80 million in capital expenditure for them, one wonders what else the Government must do to socialize the system. The reaction of the Australian Medical Association was that hospital-only insurance would encourage people not to visit a general practitioner but instead, to attend hospitals for all medical services, thus implying that the private medical practitioners would be robbed of their patients. That is not the Government's intention. On 1st September the Government is faced with the dilemma of a restructuring of hospital fees and the reorganization of medical and health insurance. The Government believes that the resultant contributions will be extremely costly for low-income earners and especially those with young families. Therefore, the Government decided to commend an insurance scheme of lower cost. It selected hospital-only insurance as it would enable a family to be insured for about \$6 a week. That figure would be reduced to about \$4 a week after a tax refund of 32c in the dollar to the insured. For a single person it is expected that the contribution will be in the region of \$3 a week or, after the tax deduction, \$2.

The aim is to cover people who have not been insured since 1975. The Government's approach was that if people could afford to pay for visits to private practitioners and those charges would be tax deductible, they would not need medical insurance. However, if those people wish to insure against catastrophic illness or accident, we felt that the hospital-only system would provide adequate cover at the lowest cost. I have here a poster that is being sent out by a health insurance organization with which the Government has no association. The poster reads:

Do you want to save as many hard-earned dollars as possible? From 1st September, 1981, there will be changes in health insurance arrangements. The cheapest of our rates will cover you: (a) If you want the doctor of your choice . . . (b) If you prefer to be treated as an outpatient and when admitted by a hospital-nominated specialist. Join our basic hospital table only.

That fund, which recommends hospital-only insurance, is organized and run by the Australian Medical Association.

PRE-PURCHASE PROPERTY INSPECTION

Mr ROZZOLI: Is the Minister for Housing, Minister for Co-operative Societies and Assistant Minister for Transport aware of the disclaimer clause contained in the Builders Licensing Board's application form for pre-purchase property inspection? Is the disclaimer so wide as to make any report not worth the paper on which it is written? In the interests of consumers, will the Minister seek an amendment at least to bind the board to issue a report that is competent and responsible and upon which an intending purchaser can place some reliance?

Mr SHEAHAN: I am familiar with the details of the arrangements in the scheme initiated by the Deputy Premier when he held the housing portfolio. Also, I am aware that the many hundreds of people who have taken advantage of the service in this State have been more than delighted to have available to them, in taking what is perhaps the most important financial decision in their lives, the information supplied following inspections carried out by officials of the Builders Licensing Board. The honourable member implies that such reports are not worth the paper on which they are written. I am sure that the people who receive the reports feel that they are of great value to them and that they will be able to make a decision based on the best information available. I do not know on what ground the Opposition is basing its criticism of the service given by the board. If the basis of it is that people have sought a detailed and professional inspection and are now taking action following the receipt of poor advice from the board, that is a separate issue. The scheme was initiated by the Wran Government and the various Ministers who have been associated with it are proud of it. I shall have investigated any problems raised by any constituent of any honourable member and I shall be willing to give them detailed advice on the matters raised.

DECENTRALIZATION

Mr MCCARTHY: I ask the Minister for Industrial Development and Minister for Decentralisation a question without notice. Is the Minister aware that in the past few weeks the Leader of the Country Party, in company with the Leader of the Opposition, has accused the Government of abandoning decentralization and has promised to allocate \$50 million to the Country Industries Assistance Fund during the first term of a Liberal Party-Country Party government? What role was played by the Liberal Party-Country Party in decentralization when in government?

Mr DAY: The honourable member for Armidale has invited my attention to the promises made by the Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Country Party about the marvellous things they would do if the electors were foolish enough to give them another chance to govern this State. The Leader of the Country Party said, "In our first term of office we will allocate \$50 million to the Country Industries Assistance Fund." That is a large allocation for the Country Party to promise, for when the coalition parties were last in office they allocated only \$6 million to that fund. In the past five years the Wran Government's expenditure through the Country Industries Assistance Fund has been \$100 million. In the past year alone it has exceeded \$25 million. The \$50 million promised over the three years is about two-thirds of the Labor Government's current expenditure. During the eleven years that the former Government was in office it spent only \$62 million through the fund, not \$100 million as claimed. This fact reflects the difference between the coalition parties promise when they are in Opposition and what they do when they are on the Treasury benches.

During the five years in which the Labor Government has been in office, it has helped 2 777 industries to decentralize. In a similar period the former Government helped 866 firms in that way. The Wran Government has a proud record of assistance to country industries. Amazingly, the Country Party has promised to reverse the trend in country employment. In 1976, when the Labor Party was elected, the unemployment rate in the country was 6.2 per cent of the work force. The most recent figures show that the rate has dropped to 4.8 per cent. Apparently, according to the promise of the Leader of the Country Party, a coalition government would reverse that trend and would put things back where they left them. Further, he said that a coalition government would reverse population trends. For the past five years the Sydney growth rate has been 1.1 per cent of population, which is the rate prevailing for the whole State. In 1979-80 the country growth rate outstripped the metropolitan and State growth rate; it increased by 1.8 per cent, compared with 1.3 per cent for the State, and 1 per cent in the metropolitan area.

[interruption]

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

Mr DAY: The Leader of the Country Party said that a coalition government would maintain existing decentralization incentives. Most of them were introduced by the Labor Government. Of more interest, however, are the forms of assistance now given that a coalition government would not maintain. Subsidized feasibility studies for industries seeking to establish in country areas are not included in the Opposition promises. Apparently the transport of personal effects of persons going to work for decentralized industry would not be subsidized, and the subsidies that the Wran Government introduced for leased premises would not be continued. Those three forms of assistance do not appear in the Opposition list of incentives to decentralization. That document was drawn up by General Cornpone, the Leader of the Country Party himself. The general has not won a battle yet, and the next will be known as Cornpone's annihilation.

The Leader of the Country Party has promised telephone rebates. For many years the federal Government has had the opportunity to rebate telephone costs for decentralized industry, but has never taken it. In fact, the Premier and Treasurer has asked the federal Government for such telephone rebates, and his request has been refused. The federal Government could use the same method as the State Government used to rebate freight rates and payroll tax. In those circumstances, I fail to see how electors could believe that a coalition State government would do what its federal counterpart has declined to do. In any event, the razor gang eliminated the paltry assistance the federal Government had been giving towards decentralization of industry. The Commonwealth was allocating \$10 million a year for that purpose and two or three months ago it disbanded the decentralization advisory committee. The Opposition's federal counterparts have walked away from decentralization. The Opposition parties now ask the people of this State to believe that, in the unhappy event of their ever getting back into office, they would be likely to do something that their federal counterparts have failed to do. The Wran Government is proud of its record in decentralization. It has reversed the policy of abandoning decentralization that the Country Party adopted during its eleven years of Government.

[Interruption]

Mr Cameron: On a point of order. By the effluxion of time the opportunity for members of the Opposition to ask questions is being reduced as the Minister for Health knows well, for he has just suggested that the Minister answering the question

should keep speaking to take up the remainder of question time. Every member on the Opposition benches heard the Minister for Health say to his colleague, "Keep it going".

[Interruption]

Mr Cameron: That is the clearest possible example of the deliberate prostitution of question time, and it gives the House a prize opportunity to call a halt to the practice and to require Ministers to answer questions briefly.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I have heard enough from the honourable member for Northcott to rule that no point of order is involved.

Mr DAY: I conclude my answer to the question asked by the honourable member by mentioning that New South Wales has in the pipeline some \$24,000 million worth of development investment, of which some 83 per cent is destined for country New South Wales—an all-time record amount of private sector investment in the State, particularly in country areas. My colleagues and I are proud of that fact. Opposition supporters will need to give more attention to their homework when they produce their policy speech. They will need particularly to improve on the \$50 million that over the next three years will be put into the Country Industries Assistance Fund.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

House

Motion (by leave, by Mr Walker) agreed to:

(1) That the House Committee for the present Session consist of The Speaker, Mr Barraclough, Mr Boyd, Mr Brereton, Mr Caterson, Mr Degen, Mr Hunter, Mr Maher, Mr Whelan and Mr Wotton, with authority to act in matters of mutual concernment with any Committee appointed for similar purposes by the Legislative Council.

(2) That the Committee have leave to sit during the sittings or any adjournment of the House.

Library

Motion (by leave, by Mr Walker) agreed to:

(1) That the Library Committee for the present Session consist of The Speaker, Mr R. J. Clough, Mrs Foot, Mr Johnson, Mr Park, Mr Pickard, Mr Rogan, Mr Stewart, Mr West and Mr Wilde, with authority and power to act jointly with the Library Committee of the Legislative Council in accordance with the Assembly's resolution of 26 November, 1968.

(2) That the Committee have leave to sit during the sittings of the House.

Printing

Motion (by leave, by Mr Walker) agreed to:

(1) That the Printing Committee for the present Session consist of Mr Britt, Mr Cleary, Mr Face, Mr Johnstone, Mr Jones, Mr O'Neill, Mr Moore, Mr Park, Mr Smith and Mr West to whom are hereby referred all papers (except such as the Standing Orders or the House direct shall be

printed) which may be laid upon the Table of the House. It shall be the duty of such Committee to report from time to time which of the papers referred to them ought, in their opinion, to be printed, and whether in full or in abstract; and it shall be in the power of the Committee to order such Papers, or abstracts thereof, to be prepared for press by the Clerk in attendance upon such Committee and such Papers or abstracts shall be printed unless the House otherwise order.

(2) That the Clerk of the House shall cause to be printed, as a matter of course, all reports from the Printing Committee.

(3) That the Committee have leave to sit during the sittings of the House.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH: ADDRESS IN REPLY

Third Day's Debate

Debate resumed (from 13th August, *vide* page 158) on motion by Mr Brereton:

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.

Upon which Mr McDonald had moved:

That the Address be amended by the addition of the following words to stand as paragraph 3:

"We also desire to inform Your Excellency that because of this Government's misdirected priorities and financial mismanagement of the State, and the failure of the Government to ensure that the benefits of a strengthening economy and the developing resources boom result in a higher standard of living, then the Government does not have the confidence of this House."

Mr McILWAINE (Yaralla) [3.25]: When debate on the Address-in-Reply motion was adjourned last Thursday I was stating that at the next elections the seat of Yaralla will disappear from the electoral map and a new seat of Ryde will be created.

I regret that the seat of Yaralla, which has been in existence for many years, will be abolished but I look forward to the opportunity of continuing to represent in Parliament those areas that will be part of the seat of Ryde and the new areas of Ermington and Dundas Valley. I welcome the proposed second 5-year programme estimated to cost \$1.4 billion for upgrading the State Rail Authority system, which was referred to by His Excellency the Governor. His Excellency spoke of the revitalization of the public transport system in New South Wales. Already an extensive programme has been undertaken to upgrade the railway track through West Ryde and Eastwood. I should hope that improvement continues with additional track upgrading. Last year the John Whitton bridge across the Parramatta River was completed at a cost of \$10.5 million. The provision of additional railway track between Meadowbank and Eastwood will facilitate faster trains overtaking slow trains. I have received many complaints from people living near the steep grades in the Denistone area. I am sure that the additional track has made their life more pleasant. This additional trackwork enables trains to pass preceding trains that may have broken down. The completion of crossing loops between Pennant Hills and Thornleigh will improve the flow of trains travelling towards Sydney. Nevertheless, further action is required to ensure that the railway track between those areas is quadrupled at the earliest opportunity.

I noted with pleasure mention by His Excellency of the Government's intention to add another one hundred double-deck carriages to the suburban and interurban commuter fleets. I am aware of the appreciation expressed by citizens who use these new carriages, which will make their journey to and from work much more pleasant. I note also the Government's proposal to acquire another 170 single-deck buses. I have observed a great improvement in services and comfort following the introduction of the Mercedes-Benz buses. In the latter part of May, bus services between Ryde and the city were improved with more frequent services and regular spacing of buses. The offpeak service was increased from 15 to 10 minutes frequency and a new evening express service introduced. I expect that the provision of the new buses will permit of a further extension of bus services.

The Urban Transit Authority has introduced express buses for shoppers that leave Ryde at 9.3 and 9.33 each morning and return from the city at 2.25 and 4.5 each afternoon. Those services are a boon to people travelling from the Ryde area to the city. Express buses leave Ryde every ten minutes in the peak hours between 7.10 a.m. and 8.10 a.m., picking up at Cressy Road, and thereafter stopping to pick up at only four stops, providing sufficient room is available on the buses. Each evening seven express buses leave the city between 4.30 and 5.30, picking up at all stops to the Queen Victoria Building, then first stop Pittwater Road followed by all stops as required to Ryde.

The amalgamation of bus routes 505 and 509 with route No. 501 gives a direct service between Rozelle, Drummoyne and Gladesville and West Ryde station, Mondays to Saturdays. That is a welcome improvement for the people in those districts. The bus service has been extended to Carlingford court shopping centre. I look forward to an early extension of bus services to Ermington shopping centre. That would give a full Government bus service in the area, with buses connecting the various shopping centres in the electorate with the West Ryde railway station. Notwithstanding the severe cutbacks in federal funding, I am sure the Government will continue to do all it can to improve health services in the district. I have sought an early decision from the Minister for Health on the upgrading of the intensive care and coronary care unit at Ryde hospital. No one would deny the need for the improvement of those units. The only matter delaying a decision is the lack of available funds.

I suggest that the Government should give early consideration to making funds available in the Budget for the rebuilding of the intensive care and coronary care units at Ryde hospital. I am aware that the Rotary clubs have contributed a substantial sum to the appeal on a \$-for-\$ basis with the Government. Representatives from **Rotary** clubs attended a meeting with the Minister for Health. The Minister advised them that the Government would increase the grant that would be available to match funds raised by the Rotary clubs and the staff of the hospital. However, that is insufficient to meet the total cost of the proper development of the unit. I invite the attention of the Minister for Health and the House to the need for additional funds to proceed with that worthwhile and important new facility for health care in the Ryde area. I understand the need to provide a podiatrist service to the Weemala home. I hope funds will be provided to assist in the employment of additional speech therapists in the Ryde child health service. Funds should be made available so that nurses in the community receive a just financial reward for the excellent work that they carry out in the hospital system.

In the remaining time available to me I should mention two further matters. The first is my concern about the federal Government's imposition of fees for post-graduate students. That concern is shared by the council of Australian Post-Graduate Associations. My colleagues the honourable member for Heffron and the honourable member for Fuller attended a meeting between representatives of the council and the Minister for Education. That meeting sought to overcome this decision of the federal Government. I suggest to members of the council and to those specifically involved—teachers and public servants of the State—that they commence a letter-writing campaign directed at their federal members seeking a change of attitude by the Commonwealth Government on this important issue.

Finally, I was delighted to note in the Governor's Speech a proposal to introduce a new public accounts committee and to extend its powers of investigation. As a new member of Parliament I have realized the great need to enable honourable members to have greater input in the administration of government. It is most important that members of Parliament be able to point out to senior public servants problems that arise at a local level. Often when matters that have been raised by constituents with members of Parliament are referred to a department, members are told that it is not within the province of that department or that another department has jurisdiction. That type of action breeds inefficiency. It is important that a new public accounts committee be established. Backbench members of Parliament should be at liberty to attend meetings, investigations and inquiries of that committee and to raise matters of concern to their constituents on an individual basis. That would increase the level of expertise of members of Parliament. It would ensure also that the policies being implemented by departments are properly investigated and their effects on the people highlighted. The best method of achieving that is to draw the attention of senior departmental officers to the problems involved and their effect upon local areas. I hope provision will be made for individual members of Parliament to attend committee hearings and investigations into Government departments and statutory authorities. I am sure the administration of the State would be better for having that type of individual involvement.

Mr PUNCH (Gloucester), Leader of the Country Party [3.37]: On behalf of my colleagues in the Country Party I welcome the Governor's first Speech to the Parliament. Since His Excellency's appointment as Governor he has carried out his most difficult task with dedication, warmth and understanding. Being Governor of this State or of any other State is a difficult and onerous task. Already His Excellency has received considerable affection and understanding from the citizens of New South Wales. I am delighted to have the opportunity to comment upon the

Governor's Speech. I hope that the Governor and Lady Rowland have a long and happy time as the Queen's representatives in New South Wales. I deplore the Government's action in using the Governor in a political manner, in respect of the way it prepared His Excellency's Speech. The Government has written into His Excellency's Speech the following paragraph:

The Commonwealth Government has withdrawn or reduced its support from essential areas of government responsibility, especially in the fields of health and hospital services, education and welfare housing, and has transferred further responsibilities to the States and severely restricted the Borrowings Programme.

Mr Durick: That is factual.

Mr PUNCH: It might be factual in the opinion of the Minister for Corrective Services. I do not believe it is factual, and obviously one would get a division of opinion between members on both sides of the House on that question. For the benefit of Government supporters I shall repeat what I said before. It is wrong for the Government to use the Governor in that way. The Governor's Speech also contains the following passage:

I have been able to see at first hand the steady and significant progress being made in the growth and balanced development of Australia's oldest and most populous State.

I dispute the use of the word balanced. Government supporters might claim there has been a balanced development, but that is a political claim. One will always have opposing views expressed by Government and Opposition supporters. Obviously, when such statements, made by the Governor, are reported in the media they give the impression that the Governor is involving himself in political controversy. Neither the Governor nor his predecessors would become involved in political argument. The Governor merely delivered a speech prepared for him by the Government. I place on record the displeasure of myself and my colleagues at the fact that the Government is attempting to use the Governor for political purposes.

I shall return now to the content of the Governor's Speech. In such a speech one would expect to read about the Government's achievements over the past few years and its proposals and legislative programme for the future. However, the speech read by His Excellency—I repeat one prepared by the Government—contains a tirade of untruths, a rehash of unfulfilled promises, plenty of election baits and many examples of misrepresentation. It is important to consider some of the untruths contained in that speech. The Governor's Speech contains evidence of many broken government promises. It is important to place on record some of those broken promises for they have extremely bad consequences for this State.

The Minister for Industrial Development and Minister for Decentralisation spoke about the Government's proposals in relation to balanced development. I remind the Minister and his colleagues about promises made to the people of Grafton, to those in the Clarence electorate and, in particular, to the residents of Yamba. At the last election and at a Cabinet meeting in Grafton, the Minister and the Premier and Treasurer said that the Government would build a boat harbour at Yamba. Though the Government has had five years to honour that promise, nothing has been done. No doubt the Government will make a similar promise at the forthcoming election. That is one example of the Minister for Industrial Development and Minister for Decentralisation, who represents the people of Yamba, and the Premier and Treasurer not honouring their undertakings.

Another instance relates to the Bathurst electorate. Before the last election the Government promised the honourable member for Bathurst that a police academy would be built in the city of Bathurst. A great fanfare was made and bold headlines published about the Government's undertaking to build a police academy in that centre. Now the Government says that it is considering building the police academy at Goulburn and having the appropriate courses conducted by the local college of advanced education, which has suffered greatly under this administration. That was another undertaking the Government failed to honour. Some time before that, in Armidale, the Premier and Treasurer announced details of a proposal by a Belgian firm to establish a wool scouring factory in Armidale and in other country towns. However, Armidale has not seen any evidence of the establishment of such a plant.

Mr Brewer: A wool scouring plant has been established in Goulburn.

Mr PUNCH: Although the Government promised to establish such a plant at Armidale, where much of Australia's best wool is grown, it failed to honour its undertaking; the plant was built elsewhere. I shall deal now with transport, which was mentioned in the Governor's Speech. Though the Government promised that a new super XPT train was to be introduced within two years, that time has come and gone. Now, three years after that promise was made, it has been reported widely in the news media that, instead of being the super trains the Government had promised, they will be no faster than the trains already in service. Surely something is wrong when so many undertakings have been given but not been honoured. The credibility of the Premier and Treasurer and his Ministers is suffering as a result of all their broken promises.

On many occasions the Premier is on record as saying—especially in his 1976 and 1978 policy speeches—that the Government would concentrate its efforts on reducing the tax trend that has made New South Wales the highest taxed State in Australia. The Premier and Treasurer promised that there would be no increase in State taxes in 1978. I have a list of taxes, rates and charges that have increased by up to 900 per cent. The cost of reports by the Corporate Affairs Commission and Maritime Service rates have increased by 225 per cent. Many persons derive enjoyment from motor boats. Charges imposed in respect of motor boats have increased by up to 100 per cent. The cost of a licence to a motor boat driver has increased by 125 per cent. Doubtless, the Premier and Treasurer, the greatest actor of all time, would have an interest in the fees applicable to employment agents and theatrical agents. Those fees have risen by up to 525 per cent.

Many small country bakers have been disadvantaged by the 400 per cent increase in bread manufacturers' licences. Third party insurance on motor vehicles has risen by 135 per cent. Levies and taxes applicable to the production of wheat have increased by up to 63 per cent. Some taxes in respect of the use of trucks have risen by up to 147 per cent. In addition to those increases the Government has imposed new taxes, many of which had not been heard of before Labor came to office. Those imposts cannot strictly be called increases for they are new charges and taxes. For instance, a fee of \$100 is charged in respect of meat processing plants; a fee of \$20 is paid for each meat van; it is \$100 for meat markets and \$100 in respect of saleyards.

Though the Premier and Treasurer gives undertakings about State taxes, his word means nothing, as it does on any other matter. The Government promised that land and housing costs would be reduced—in fact, it made all sorts of promises—but it has failed to honour its word. Few houses have been built in the country, even less for aged persons. The waiting list for Housing Commission homes has risen from

19 000 to 40 000 and land costs have increased by 113 per cent. Though the Government made a great fanfare about a second mortgage scheme, that also has failed to materialize. The Government has made many other promises and then broken them. The promise it gave about the Mater hospital is but one example. Before the last election the Government gave the Sisters of Mercy a firm undertaking: it promised to re-develop the hospital—another of the Premier's broken promises. A similar undertaking was given by the Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Energy and the Premier and Treasurer in relation to blackouts. That undertaking was given the day before blackouts occurred in New South Wales. Despite those assurances, it is likely that New South Wales will suffer further blackouts.

Mr Petersen: Would the Leader of the Country Party like to bet on that?

Mr PUNCH: When I asked the Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Energy about this matter in March, the honourable member for Illawarra supported the Minister, as did all Government supporters. The Minister harangued the House, boasting that there would not be blackouts in New South Wales under a Wran Labor Government.

Mr Haigh: Apparently the Leader of the Country Party has not heard about the blackouts in Queensland and Victoria—and both those States have a coalition government.

Mr PUNCH: The Minister for Corrective Services should be more concerned about problems in New South Wales. In particular, he should be concerned about escapes from New South Wales prisons. Prison authorities in Victoria say that the Minister should hang his head in shame. A newspaper article today showed that most prisoners at large had escaped from New South Wales prisons. That does not show a lack of credibility on the part of the Minister for Corrective Services; it highlights his lack of competence. The Governor's Speech referred to a reduction in youth unemployment. I do not know where the Government obtained its figures but statistics in respect of country areas show a considerable increase in youth unemployment. The number of unemployed young persons in country areas has risen from 41 per cent to 49 per cent. Though 25 per cent of the State's population reside in country areas, 43 per cent of the unemployed are in the country. How can the Government claim that there has been a reduction in youth unemployment? The statistics show that the number of unemployed is rising rapidly.

The Governor's Speech referred to natural gas extensions under construction. The Speech states that extensions of natural gas pipelines to Wagga Wagga and Cootamundra had been approved and that proposals to extend supply to Bathurst, Orange and Lithgow, to **Griffith** and **Leeton**, and to Yass and Queanbeyan are under consideration. It is interesting to note that those centres are located in marginal **electorates**, which **Labor** candidates will probably lose. I am not convinced that the proposals are a matter of coincidence.

There are other untruths in the speech the Government prepared for the Governor. The Government has had five years to implement undertakings given at the previous election and the preceding election, about which it has done nothing. Suddenly—as though they came from a magician's hat—the Government gives **new** undertakings to proceed with the natural gas pipeline; the issue has suddenly become important. The Governor's Speech fails to refer to roads and bridges, probably two **of** the most important issues for people in both country and city areas. Roads and bridges have been neglected by the Government; it has failed completely to tackle the problem. The only construction to which the Governor's Speech refers relates to a road that is being built with Commonwealth money.

Some of the Government's claims in the Governor's Speech are quite untruthful. I refer to unfulfilled promises with respect to the natural gas pipeline, electrification of the railway line to Newcastle and the third coal loader. The Governor's Speech contains the Government's rehash of its election promises about the Homebush sports centre and the tourist development at Yamba, which is another of the babies of the Minister for Industrial Development and Minister for Decentralisation, who refers to it as a significant development. That project was brought forward seven or eight years ago as an initiative of the former Government. This Government has done nothing about that proposal other than to now bring it out with big fanfare, knowing that the election will soon be held. The Government will not continue with that project—and everyone knows it. The Governor's Speech contains many promises about welfare and decentralization.

Another important aspect of the Governor's Speech—I have examined it thoroughly and marked the references to rural New South Wales areas—is that the Premier and Treasurer and other Ministers talk about the balanced development of country New South Wales, yet there is a minimal reference to country areas or country needs. I have spoken already about unemployment in the rural areas of the State, where one-quarter of the population is located but where 43 per cent of unemployed persons live. It is important that industry be encouraged to country areas and that job opportunities be created, but that is not happening under this administration. The Government has seen fit to introduce an unemployment welfare scheme in the western suburbs of Sydney, where the position is not nearly as bad as it is in the rural areas.

In the Governor's Speech reference is made to coal and oil exploration and mining. That will obviously take place in the country areas of the State. Other promises relate to natural gas. The work on Windamere Dam is to be resumed. That project was started by the former Government. The one and only new dam that the Government has commenced is the Glennies Creek project. It should be noted that that is a dam for industrial uses, not for mitigation needs. When one looks at the comments about the drought one sees that they are mostly untrue. Some waffling has gone on about growth centres. Reference is made also to the Hunter Valley, technical education, environmental planning, mining and similar matters. No mention is made about country hospitals, education, road funding, water conservation or decentralization initiatives aimed at providing employment.

To my mind the whole of the Governor's Speech is a condemnation of the Wran Government as the most bigoted and biased anti-country administration that New South Wales has ever had. It is true that flying visits to the country have been made by the Premier and Treasurer and by some of his Ministers and that Cabinet meetings have been held in the country to try to bolster up the rapidly falling images of Labor Party candidates in those areas. A few promises—and they will not be fulfilled—do not convince me and most persons in country areas of New South Wales that the Government has any intention of looking after country people. The fact that the Government brought about a redistribution that saw six country seats abolished illustrates the extent to which it wants to look after country areas of New South Wales.

The biggest issue in the Governor's Speech is the Government's credibility. In New South Wales that will be the biggest electoral issue. The credibility of the Government and that of the Premier and Treasurer is exemplified by the Mater hospital incident. That proved that the word of the Premier and Treasurer means **nothing**—and Bishop Muldoon made that clear. The Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Energy said in the House that there would be no power blackouts. He usually whinges and whines away but on that occasion he made his position clear. He **was** then shown to be totally without credibility. The Minister for Health should hang his head in shame over the Mater hospital debacle. The Premier and Treasurer

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has bypassed the Minister for Health; he appointed a person over the head of that Minister. Obviously the Premier and Treasurer does not have a high opinion of the credibility of the Minister for Health. Everybody knows that the Attorney-General **and** Minister of Justice lacks any credibility.

I have mentioned blackouts. In March, on advice made available to me I asked a question in the House about power supplies. My colleague the member for Upper Hunter asked a similar question soon after. Statements were made by the Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Energy and later by the Premier and Treasurer. They said that there would be no blackouts under the Wran **Labor** Government. There were, and the lack of credibility was not that the State ran out of capacity to produce power as a result of poor planning; it was rather that the Premier and Treasurer and the Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Energy misled the people by not telling them of problems related to power generation and that there was **likely** to be a shortage at a time of high demand. Right until the day blackouts occurred **it** was said that there was no shortage of supply. In the weeks preceding the blackouts, the authorities knew that the surplus capacity of the generators was close to a line ball situation. Though the State was bailed out of trouble by the Snowy Mountains scheme and by power supplied from Victoria, ultimately the blackouts **occurred**.

I need not elaborate on the promise made to the **Mater** hospital. That promise was unfulfilled, and it gave people a taste of the lack of credibility of the Premier and Treasurer, I doubt whether any independent **hospital** is safe in respect of its future operations having regard to the views of this atheistic Premier and Treasurer of New South Wales. All independent institutions should be aware of the Premier's thinking towards independent schools and hospitals. He follows the extreme socialist line, and his words mean nothing. The Premier and Treasurer does not take the oath. I think he is only one of two members of the House who do not take the oath. The honourable member for Illawarra is the other honourable member who prefers to **make** an affirmation rather than take the oath of allegiance. That is his prerogative and I do not deny him that right.

Though the Premier and Treasurer gives undertakings, he does not keep his word. I need refer only to his credibility in respect of the nurses of this State. The Health Commission of New South Wales made savage cuts in the staffing of hospitals. That compelled the remaining nurses to work overtime and to undertake heavier workloads, though they were being paid lower salaries. Despite promises by the Premier and Treasurer and the Minister for Health to rush through pay rises and improve recruitment measures, many nurses left the profession. The Premier and Treasurer made those promises only in the face of stop-work meetings and threats of strikes. An election is imminent. After the election the promises will not be fulfilled.

In 1976 the Premier and Treasurer pandered to the New South Wales Teachers Federation when he claimed that 3 000 unemployed teachers would be given full employment, with a view to reducing class sizes. The number of unemployed teachers has jumped from 3 000 to 7 500—an increase of 150 per cent in five years. The Government's promise to reduce class sizes to 30 by 1980 was broken. This year 220 additional teachers have been employed so as to reduce average **class** sizes. That was not what the Government said was needed; it said that no class should have more than thirty pupils.

Another 1 000 teachers need to be employed to bring all class sizes down to thirty. The Government's broken undertakings to the teaching profession have resulted in widespread **stopwork** meetings, strikes and go-slow tactics, which have disrupted the education system. Few people in New South Wales are not concerned about the standard of education that is available for their children. The level of education

children receive will not help them with job opportunities in future years. If children do not receive a proper education, it will make it more difficult for them later when they apply for a job. Many parents and teachers are concerned that, as a result of the lead given by the Government and by the Minister for Education, education is **one** of the poor cousins in the administration of the State.

In New South Wales local government is an important issue. It is the third tier of government. In 1976 the Premier and Treasurer promised "sensible amalgamations after adequate consultation with local residents". That was nothing less than an outright lie. It is as simple as that and is exactly what the Government did not do. In this House last year the Government introduced a controversial bill amalgamating country councils. Thirty-eight municipal and shire councils were amalgamated into seventeen councils. Those amalgamations were imposed in a totally dictatorial fashion. They were not a sensible move and were implemented against the wishes of many affected councils and residents. That action left a legacy of bitterness in country New South Wales.

The **large** and fertile area of the South Coast was the subject of a lengthy inquiry by the Boundaries Commission. The commission made a report to the Government, but the Government adopted an approach opposite to the recommendations. **Labor's** promise of 1976 to relieve and help local government has certainly not been fulfilled. Its other promises to relieve local government of its contributions to statutory bodies has been broken, also. Councils still pay a levy to the Board of Fire **Commis-**sioners, as well as fees to a number of other government bodies. The amalgamation of county councils was supposed to result in a saving to consumers. The Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Energy spoke about the saving to be brought about by the amalgamations and also about the introduction of the 35-hour week. I shall give the example relating to the St George County Council. Prior to amalgamation it used to charge consumers \$7.90 for a service call. After the merger of that county council with the Sydney County Council the cost of a service call went up to \$18, a massive increase of 127 per cent.

Electricity prices in New South Wales have risen at an enormous rate following the introduction of a 35-hour week and the amalgamations. There has been complete lack of planning. Consumers in New South Wales receive four big accounts a year from the county council for power and light. People are paying through their necks as a direct result of the incompetence of the Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Energy and the New South **Wales** Government.

I want to elaborate on country unemployment, which I have mentioned briefly. It is critical. The existing situation reveals the feeling of the Government towards this problem. Country unemployment is related to education, health, industry, decentralization, roads, councils, water supply and many other things. If the State Government does not undertake public works in country areas and does not assist or encourage councils and industry to develop their areas, unemployment will worsen.

As I said earlier, rural areas contain about a quarter of the State's population. The latest unemployment figures disclose an increase to 43 per cent of unemployment in the country. In 1976 the unemployment level was 35 per cent. In five years **under** a **Labor** Government the proportion of unemployed in country New South Wales has risen by 8 per cent. This has caused many problems to young people. That is a **critical** point. Young people leaving school are in need of a job. Some want to go to **the** city, but the majority of them choose to stay close to their friends and families. **But**, they cannot get a job. Adult unemployment in the country has risen at a rate two and a half times that of adult unemployment in the city. Junior unemployment in **the** country has risen at a rate three times that in city areas. The latest Commonwealth

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Employment Service figures disclose that in five years unemployment for country youth has risen from 41 per cent to 49 per cent of total youth unemployment. This definitely proves that Government policies—in particular decentralization policies—have exacerbated the growing level of unemployment in country areas. The Labor Government has killed decentralization. Decentralization means nothing to it. The Government's policy on decentralization means only that industry will be encouraged to go to Campbelltown or Newcastle.

Only the other day a gentleman came to see me about a problem he had encountered in his business which he had in Newcastle. He had been to see the Department of Decentralisation. He wanted to set up a second branch of his industry at Bulahdelah, a small town about 60 miles north of Newcastle. He had checked the labour position in the district and found that suitable employees were available for his industry. He could obtain a suitable building there and was in a position to set up his business within about two or three weeks. He saw an officer of the Department of Decentralisation about financial assistance to enable him to decentralize. He was given the answer, "I am sorry. We have not got any money. We cannot do it. They are spending all the money on industries at Campbelltown and Newcastle". That is what decentralization means in New South Wales.

In 1980-81 the Government cut assistance funds to country industries by 25 per cent in money terms. It has pursued a policy of unbalanced development in New South Wales and has failed to honour its undertakings to small business. This morning I heard an advertisement on the radio informing listeners of advice about small business being available at the Blacktown office of the department. Blacktown is as far out of Sydney that this Government has gone with decentralization. Does the Government have a real concern for small business in country New South Wales? Of course not. The Government has killed job opportunities in such key industries as country abattoirs, forestry and sand mining.

As recently as last Friday my colleague the honourable member for Tamworth referred to the fact that one sand mining company—formerly the biggest sand mining company in the world—has pulled up its roots and moved its headquarters to Perth, leaving behind hundreds of unemployed people. It is not that the company wanted to go to Perth; it wanted to stay in New South Wales where there are considerable rutile deposits. But because of red tape, regulations, frustrations and difficulty in obtaining leases from the New South Wales Government this company has moved to Western Australia. One of the other two New South Wales sand mining companies is phasing out its operations altogether and moving to the northern State of Queensland.

This afternoon in this House the Minister for Industrial Development and Minister for Decentralisation did not mention the forestry industry and what is happening at such places as Washpool. Recently the Premier and Treasurer interviewed many environmentalists. He made a deal with them about logging at **Washpool** and bringing in an alternative timber supply so as not to log any of the **Washpool** area. Subsequently he denied that he had said these things, as he found he was in hot water. The local people and environmentalists went away with the understanding that the **Washpool** area would not be logged. There was a breakdown in communication between the Premier and Treasurer and his environmental advisers on that issue. When referring to the forestry industry, I refer not only to **Washpool** but also to **Terania** Creek and other forests south and north of Washpool. The forestry industry is important to these districts. It offers employment to many people. The Forestry Commission is an efficient body, and always has been. It has organized selective logging sensibly so that the environment is not spoilt. In this way the timber needed by society is obtained, and the timber mills are kept working. Further, job opportunities

can be kept open and the workers and their families in these towns are able to preserve their lifestyles. Recently we have witnessed the unfortunate situation affecting the **Washpool** timber reserves where procrastination and more and more inquiries are taking place. Obviously they will continue up to the elections. The people involved in the **Washpool** issue will not get an answer from the Government until after the elections, when no doubt the Government will stop logging in the area, should it be returned to office. I **do** not want to go into great detail, but it might be of interest to honourable members to learn that the **Washpool** forest area is of **43 000** hectares. The timber industry wants to log only **13 000** hectares over a 30-year period. That is not a big area. In fact, it is only a little under one-third of the whole forest area.

It is proposed that rainforests will be excluded from logging. They shall be preserved for posterity. In other areas logging will be **done** on a properly selected basis, so that the environment will be protected. However, in those areas where conservation has become an issue, the Government will not make any decision about logging operations. In the Casino and **Grafton** districts between **1 000** and **2 000** workers are involved with the timber industry and forest logging. I like to think that I protect the environment, as do most people within the community. We like these areas to look attractive and nice, but we must acknowledge that society needs the timber resources to be found within them. The Government has a practical obligation to ensure that available timber can be taken out of these areas and, at the same time, the environment is protected. National parks, and such environmental areas of interest as rainforests, will be protected for the future. Though the Premier and Treasurer, the Minister for Industrial Development and Minister for Decentralisation and the Government do not wish to become involved in decision-making about logging, it is known that they are in favour of stopping it. The jobs of workers within the industry are at risk and they and the families they support are in jeopardy.

I have spoken of sand mining and forestry; now I wish to speak about country abattoirs. Many country abattoirs in New South Wales have closed. When each closes another **100** or **200** people lose their employment. Last week the abattoir at Orange closed and another **200** people were put out of a job. Certainly, there are problems within the abattoir industry. A shortage of stock for the abattoirs is one problem, and it may continue for three, four or even more years yet. It is important for the Government to rationalize the abattoir industry. An inquiry was set up under a capable administrator. A report was furnished but because it did not agree with the Government's idea of what should happen with abattoirs in country areas, and perhaps because any action taken would be at the expense of **Homebush** abattoir, the report was shoved in a drawer or thrown into an incinerator. It is important that the Government should acknowledge the difficulties facing abattoirs in the country. Steps should be taken to rationalize the industry and preserve country abattoirs so that there is minimum unemployment. The closure of abattoirs increases the pool of unemployed. We do not want to see more and more abattoirs closed.

The Premier and Treasurer announced with a fanfare details of financial assistance for five years for State or council-owned abattoirs. But, that financial assistance has been available since 1964 or 1965. It is not a new concept involving extra money or assistance. The only thing that might be described in that way is the \$240,000 to put abattoirs into mothballs. That might keep them maintained, but it will not solve the problems of the industry or increase employment. **As** far as country people are concerned, the Government's policy on abattoirs is a disgrace.

At the annual National Country Party conference at **Armidale** I spoke of a small town in northern New **South** Wales called Goodooga. The local hospital had burned down. A promise made **to** the **town** to restore the hospital has not been fulfilled. The problem is greater in Goodooga than **elsewhere** as that hospital was

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also the main employer in the town. Quite often country hospitals are not the main employers as most towns are bigger than Goodooga. But country hospitals anywhere are an integral part of the community and the credibility of the Government is sorely tested when they are closed. Hospital beds, also, are being reduced in number to the detriment of rural people. If a country hospital is closed the local people may have to travel a further 50 miles for health care. Lives will be lost in cases of sudden illness or accidents.

It is not necessary to have a base hospital in every country community but there must be adequate health facilities to cater for accidents, emergencies, illnesses, such minor operations as appendectomies, and births. Country people should not have to travel long distances for hospital care when it is needed urgently. It is a different thing to close a hospital in Sydney where one travels only 2 or 3 miles to another. It is a different thing in the bush. People must travel 40, 50 or perhaps 60 miles to visit another one. These closures are the responsibility of the incompetent Minister for Health. He is incompetent in my view and also within the view of the Premier and Treasurer. Recently the Premier and Treasurer appointed his own personal adviser over the head of the Minister for Health. The Premier and Treasurer did not accept his Minister's word and did not want his advice about anything. He wanted to bypass the Minister, so he appointed his own adviser. Now Mr X will make all the health decisions and will tell the Minister for Health what he must do.

The Minister for Health, however, is closing the hospitals and reducing the number of beds available, but all we hear from him is that that action is caused by the funds cutback imposed by the federal Government. It is time the New South Wales Government took care of its own priorities and standards for country hospitals. The closure of small rural hospitals and the general reduction in the number of beds available has meant that country dwellers have available only a second rate health service. It seems that the Government is willing to cut back the number of country hospitals so that it might maintain metropolitan hospital facilities. It is most important that the Government be made aware that in country communities parents and relatives should have ready access to hospital patients so that they may assist in the recuperation process. The Government should consider also that in some rural areas hospitals provide an economic basis for the community by creating demand for jobs, goods and services.

The Governor, in his Speech, spoke of drought. On many occasions over the past couple of years I have raised the subject of drought in this House. What I have said has usually fallen on deaf ears. My pleas have been for different forms of financial assistance to those affected by drought. I shall repeat what I have said many times before. In our recent, worst-ever drought, the assistance given by the New South Wales Government was trivial. Too little money was available and what was given came too late. Some was infrequent. Much was subject to delay and red tape. The failure of the State Government to help the small businesses affected by the drought was appalling. The federal Government said it would support them, and that the State Government need only provide \$1 of every \$4. The Governments of Queensland and Western Australia adopted the scheme. But the Premier and Treasurer of New South Wales wanted to push small business out of country towns. He refused to give them help. Many small businesses are in such financial difficulty that they will never recover.

The Minister for Agriculture says that the drought is over. We shall see the Government move **out**, taking no more action for drought relief and making no plans for the future. It is to be hoped the Minister for Agriculture is right and that the drought is over. But we shall not know that until we get good spring rains. Certainly, the drought situation looks better. Many dams are filling up, In practically all areas

of New South Wales the rainfall seems to have been good and there has been some run-off but we must wait until spring to know if the drought is over. If good spring rains fall, we shall be out of the drought. But, even if they do fall, it is my belief that we must start planning now for the next drought. It is certain there will be another, whether this year, next year or later. New South Wales, and Australia generally, experience drought quite often.

More dams must be built. Farmers and graziers must be encouraged to prepare for the next drought through water and fodder conservation. I emphasize the need for a continuing standing committee to study the problems of droughts and their alleviation. It should not be simply a departmental committee but one with representatives from primary producers' organizations, pastures protection boards, chambers of commerce, government, local government and statutory bodies. Also, there should be a Commonwealth-State committee to deal with any form of combined drought assistance. This committee would play a part in minimizing the effects of any future heartbreaking drought such as we shall surely experience. I do not want such a committee to become a political football to be kicked around by the Premier and Treasurer of New South Wales. Already we have seen the subject of drought relief become a political football and I should not like to see that happen again.

I come next to water conservation, a most important issue especially in times of drought. I shall deal with the record of the Labor Party over the years in regard to water conservation. I could go back for a long time. The only efforts the Labor Party has made in the field of water conservation have been for political gain. No Labor Government in this State has undertaken any water conservation works unless political advantage was to be gained from them. Consistently Labor Governments have overlooked the needs of agriculture, particularly in regard to water conservation. I shall speak of four dams as this subject is important. Keepit Dam was commenced prior to World War II, in 1937 or 1938. It was opened in 1960. The Labor Party had been in power from 1941 to 1960, a period of nineteen years. Admittedly the first four or five of those years were during the war and obviously no work would have been carried out on the dam in that period. However, after the war the Labor Government, when an election was approaching, moved men to the Keepit Dam project in order to hold the Liverpool Plains seat. Then, in order to make the Mudgee seat a little safer, the Government transferred the men to Burrendong Dam.

Construction of Burrendong Dam began in 1946, and took about eighteen years. I cannot recall exactly when it was completed. The Government transferred the work force between those two projects and the Glenbawn Dam. Glenbawn Dam, the construction of which commenced in 1946, and took twelve years, was opened in 1958. It was situated at the lower end of the Liverpool Plains electorate at Scone. When the Labor Government considered that Mr Roger Nott, the member for Liverpool Plains, had a shaky hold on the electorate and needed support at election times, the Government would transfer a number of men to the Glenbawn Dam project in an endeavour to prop him up with a few votes from the dam construction work force. These were all day labourers, I might add. This type of project is a perfect illustration of work that should be done by contract, as the Leader of the Opposition has said. When one considers dams that have taken twenty-two years, eighteen years and twelve years to build, one must come to the conclusion that the method of construction should be reviewed.

What I have said shows clearly that the Government does not care about the State's needs in the field of water conservation. Now that the Labor Party has been in government again—unfortunately for the State of New South Wales—in five years it has commenced the construction of only one new dam and that is for industrial purposes. It is needed to provide water for power stations which are in such a mess

under the administration of the present Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Energy. In addition, the Government is continuing with the construction of the Windamere Dam which was commenced by the former Liberal Party—Country Party Government. That is not a coincidence. The Government is not continuing that project for the purpose of water conservation; it is in an effort to persuade the people of Mudgee to vote for its candidate in the electorate of Castlereagh. That is a seat the Government has no hope of winning, even in the unlikely event of its winning the election. It is my view that that dam will go on to completion under a Liberal Party—Country Party Government.

Mr Einfeld: The Leader of the Country Party has a sense of humour.

Mr PUNCH: I am stating the facts. The Minister interjects but several members on the Government side are in a shaky position. The Premier and Treasurer has the nervous twitters at present. I shall believe that the Government can win Castlereagh when the numbers go on the board. As far as water conservation is concerned, while the Labor Government remains in office the people of this State can forget it. It is used only for political gain when an election is in the offing. The Government allocates a few men to a water conservation project to whip up some activity on the site. Illustrations of this are at Split Rock and Cudal, where only a small amount of work has been done. When the Opposition becomes the government there will be a complete resumption of these works.

The Minister for Lands, Minister for Forests and Minister for Water Resources had an opportunity in his own electorate to approve the construction of the dam at Lake Mejum which would be of enormous benefit to the agriculturists of the Murrumbidgee region. But, after five years he is still considering which one of the three proposals should be adopted. He has done nothing about the matter. A new dam would be of great assistance in the rich fertile Coleambally area, where additional irrigation farms could be provided with water if the Lake Mejum project were completed. When the coalition parties become the government they will give high priority to that work, build the dam and expand farming activities at Coleambally. I have outlined the atrocious record of the Government over the years in relation to water conservation. Government supporters should hang their heads in shame. What I have said illustrates their lack of concern about water conservation, which is important to the people of Australia generally as well as to the people of the State of New South Wales, particularly in country areas. Everybody needs water, whether for domestic use or agriculture. We all must have it. In this dry continent it is imperative that the maximum amount of water be stored.

I shall deal now with the Government's intention to socialize agriculture, which is a matter of concern to members of the Country Party. One example is the constitution of the Grain Handling Authority which handles all the wheat produced in this State. The authority is financed entirely by the wheatgrowers, of whom there are 19 000 in this State. They elect three members to the authority. There are 1 000 unionists who—when they are working—handle the grain and have the privilege of electing two members to the 11-member authority.

Mr King: That is a good example of one vote one value.

Mr PUNCH: As the honourable member for Oxley said, that is a good example of the one vote one value principle, of which the Premier and Treasurer is so proud. The situation is that the wheatgrowers pay for the authority but the Government controls it by its appointees to the authority. To my mind that is an example of socialism of agriculture, which is something to be deplored. Members of the Country Party wish it to be changed and will certainly change it when they

are elected to government, for it is wrong. Another illustration of the same approach by the Government is its legislation regulating the meat industry, which contained a provision enabling the Government to introduce price control into that industry. The producers of meat **do** not want that sort of control. It is socialism. It is no good for agriculture, an industry which does not work that way.

The Government has taken no action to encourage young people to go back to the land. One of the greatest problems in country areas today is the increasing age of people on the land. Members of the Country Party are keen to see the introduction of a constructive plan to encourage young people to return to the land. We have adopted a constructive scheme to help young men and women to settle on the land. This Government has done nothing about that matter. Its aim is to socialize the ownership of land by taking away freehold title and replacing it with leasehold. In case the Minister for Consumer Affairs starts jumping up and down and saying that is not right, I remind the House that the 1980 platform of the Labor Party includes as an objective the retention and extension of a rural land tenure policy based upon a flexible family unit home maintenance area leasehold title. Following the decision of the Premier and Treasurer and his desire to take over freehold mineral and coal rights, this will be the next step.

The next step after that will be to change the title to homes from freehold to leasehold. It will not matter whether one has lived in a home for years, and one's parents lived in it for years before that; one will not feel secure in New South Wales as the Labor Government intends to change the system of land tenure. In many ways the people of this State are being let down by this socialist Government.

The next matter I shall mention has great bearing not only on the country people but on all people in New South Wales. I refer to the Sydney Kingsford-Smith Airport which has always been the number one airport in Australia, the gateway to this land. It is vitally important for overseas visitors, interstate and intrastate travellers and the convenience of business, particularly tourism. The airport is operating at 5 per cent below its capacity. It is essential that action be taken to build either a second runway or a second airport. There is no other alternative. The diversion of some aeroplanes to Bankstown has been suggested but it is not practicable. Bankstown has not the capacity to handle large aircraft. The Premier and Treasurer is on record as saying that these aeroplanes will not go to Bankstown, anyway. Because the airport is in his electorate, he said that in his usual petty, parochial way. In any case, the runways and taxiways at Bankstown airport are inadequate for larger aeroplanes. So there has got to be either a new airport or a new runway. On present trends it will be only two or three years before the airport reaches full capacity unless there is a change in air traffic procedures.

The Major Airport Needs of Sydney committee was set up by the federal Government and the State Government with representatives appointed by each. The committee recommended a cut in general aviation, that is, private planes, charter planes and commuter planes. The committee did not say where these planes should be sent to, but for a number of reasons, as I mentioned earlier, they cannot go to Bankstown, which is part of the electorate of the Premier and Treasurer. The federal Minister for Transport said that any cuts would be right across the board. That would mean that international, interstate, intrastate and general aviation would all be cut if a cut became necessary. That would be a devastating loss to Sydney in employment, business and convenience. The Premier and Treasurer withdrew this State's representatives from the MANS committee. I do not know what he hoped to achieve by that. Perhaps he may placate a few Labor-controlled councils but he will destroy Sydney as the gateway to Australia. He will kill aviation, for one-third of country people using commuter planes, including those that go to Newcastle, continue their journey to another airport.

There is only one option—a second runway. A second airport cannot be built for twelve to twenty years. The Premier and Treasurer deliberately distorted the figures when he said nine years. Every study has shown that it will be from twelve to twenty years. The second alternative is a second runway, but only for small planes. It **might** not be a full length runway, but there must be another runway capable of handling the increasing number of planes **coming** into Mascot. We must review the air regulation procedures used at present. I have been told by a number of people with **long** experience in aviation that with a change in air traffic control procedures the capacity at Mascot could be considerably increased. The change is long overdue. The honourable member for Rockdale seems to be amused.

Mr Petersen: Does the honourable member mean safety regulations?

Mr PUNCH: No. The honourable member for Illawarra should not try to distort what I am saying. I am saying that more sophisticated and modern radar equipment should be used. Other countries that have top safety procedures are able to handle more planes than Mascot. It may be the equipment or the procedures; I am not talking about downgrading, but changing. New South Wales will be destroyed as the gateway to Australia. That is what the honourable member for Rockdale wants. This is too important a matter to become an election plaything. A decision on the matter must be made. The Premier and Treasurer of this State should lead the fight to upgrade Sydney's major airport, not to destroy Sydney as the gateway to Australia.

Mr Bannon: The Leader of the Country Party is playing with the lives of millions of people.

Mr PUNCH: The honourable member for Rockdale is talking a lot of nonsense, as usual. There is no doubt that that has not been envisaged by anyone. We have an airport at Mascot and we must use it. I point out that 99 per cent of residents near the airport moved there after the airport had been established. I have spoken at length today on the Government's credibility. Neither the Premier and Treasurer nor the Government has demonstrated any credibility over the past five years. Government policies, particularly those relating to country New South Wales, are negative. They do not take into account the importance of country New South Wales, its agriculture and its mining. Country people are not fooled by flowery words and shallow promises. They want sound and constructive policies. That is what they will be given over the next few weeks by the Liberal Party and the Country Party. My aim today is to highlight the Government's failings, broken promises and lack of credibility.

Other speakers want to make a contribution to this debate and therefore I shall not speak at length. In later debates inside and outside Parliament I shall outline our positive policies, which will benefit country New South Wales and all of the people of New South Wales. Those policies will recognize the serious concern being expressed about this State's aviation system and its quality. They will present positive initiatives to overcome unemployment in country areas, to tackle the drought problem, water shortages and agricultural needs. They will improve our deteriorating roads and bridges. A Liberal Party–Country Party government would be willing to cut regulations and red tape and improve efficiency in government operations. Consequently it would reduce the record taxation of \$7 a head that all New South Wales residents pay. Later I shall elaborate on those policies, which will gain the support of the New South Wales electorate.

I wish to mention briefly two other matters. The first is the rights of members of Parliament. I place on record another instance of the lowering of standards by the New South Wales Labor Party, the Premier and Treasurer and his

Ministers. I refer to the role of members of Parliament in New South Wales. After an election all honourable members, for better or worse, are the democratically elected members of their electorates. Most honourable members on both sides of the House try to do their best for their electorates. Some projects take quite a while to bring to fruition. They might be new schools, new hospitals or new developments. Honourable members work, in differing degrees of effort, for the benefit of their electorate. Traditionally the practice has been that, except for major announcements, which obviously ought to be made by the Premier or by Ministers, all details are handled by local members and announced by them to the parents and citizens groups, the hospital authorities, to the news media and so on. Deputations are always handled by local members. Visits by Ministers are organized by local members. That is their job. Often it is the fulfilment of much work and effort, sometimes over many years.

In all my twenty-two years in this Parliament all political parties observed the rules and worked through local members until the Wran Labor Government was elected in New South Wales. Today that practice is not being observed. Democracy has been the loser. I have said before in this Chamber that the examples set by the Premier and Treasurer by his unfounded personal abuse and vilification of persons both inside and outside the Parliament have lowered greatly the standards of New South Wales Parliament. The practice of bypassing the elected representative of the people in favour of ALP candidates is further lowering the standard of this Parliament.

Recently Cabinet met at **Mudgee** in the electorate of Burrendong. The honourable member for Burrendong contacted the Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Tourism asking him to interview some sporting organizations in **Mudgee**. The honourable member for Burrendong received a telegram from the Minister acknowledging receipt of his request and pointing out that all arrangements were being made through the honourable member for Castlereagh. From what I have been told, the honourable member for Castlereagh did not gain any credit for his intrusion or his performance in **Mudgee**. My point is that the principle is wrong. The Yallaroi shire in Wialda was perplexed when the honourable member for Armidale wrote to the council regarding a grant of \$1,000. The honourable member for Armidale is not and never will be the member for Wialda. It is not even in the new boundaries of the seat of Northern Tablelands that he is contesting, yet he has been involved there, obviously trying to gain some support. It is outside the area that he is trying to win. The Minister for Education altered the date on a letter so that an Australian Labor Party candidate for the electorate of **Barwon** could make an announcement at Collarenebri. The Minister for Education issued instructions that a representative of the Liberal Party or Country Party should not be invited to school functions.

Mr **McIlwaine**: That is not true.

Mr **PUNCH**: It is pointless to say that is not true. On one occasion the Minister for Education had a federal ALP candidate, not a member of Parliament, represent him at an education centenary celebration. The Minister makes almost all of his announcements through the Australian Labor Party. Today my colleague, the honourable member for Goulburn, was informed that he had been left out of a deputation concerning a number of issues upon which he had been working for some time and upon which he had made representations to the Minister for Youth and Community Services. An ALP candidate had introduced the deputation. The honourable member for Goulburn knows more about those matters than the Labor candidate referred to and is in a position to render better assistance. He is the elected member for the electorate of Goulburn. Those are examples of my point.

The Premier and Treasurer and his Ministers arrogantly tell electors who will represent them. The Government will not accept the decision of the electors, whether they be in Goulburn, Barwon or Gloucester. The Premier and Treasurer pays lip service to democracy, but is the first to try to destroy it. I raise this matter today to place on record the Opposition's concern and to remind members of the Labor Party that the wheel turns in politics. If ever members of the Opposition attempted to do that, Government supporters would scream. No Opposition member will stoop to that level.

Recently a draft plan of management for the Kosciusko National Park was published by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. If implemented, it will have an adverse effect on skiers and tourists to the snowfields. In saying that I speak as one who has had considerable skiing experience. Skiing brings many visitors to Australia and to this State. I am concerned that if the Kosciusko National Park plan of management were adopted, it would virtually freeze accommodation on the snowfields of New South Wales, and it would freeze much of the development proposed both on the snowfields and at places like Jindabyne, 30 kilometres away, or Berridale, 40 kilometres away, or at Cooma, 80 kilometres away. If development were frozen, land values would rise sharply in both areas.

Jindabyne is landlocked. A major subdivision is being developed in which the prices of land are astronomical. Adoption of the management plan would cause the value of lodges and accommodation in the snowfields to skyrocket beyond the financial means of those who visit the snowfields. Many of them are not rich. Tens of thousands of people enjoy skiing. It is a good sport and good recreation for both older and younger persons. It has never been beyond the financial limits of, particularly, young enthusiasts. If this plan were accepted, a visit to the snow would be beyond the financial limits of many of them. Prices would become prohibitive and the roads murderous. I say that deliberately. At present, the roads into the snowfields are inadequate for the volume of traffic they carry. They are narrow, winding and dangerous. The park plan is an attempt to have visitors to the area accommodated outside the snowfields. The plan provides for them to go to the snow for a day's skiing and then drive back to their accommodation, which may be 20, 30 or 50 kilometres away. Naturally, after the exertion involved in skiing, many of them who take part in the sport like to have a few beers at the end of their day out. Then if their accommodation were outside the snowfields, they would have to negotiate slippery, narrow and dangerous roads in foggy, icy conditions.

About 24 000 day visitors go to the snowfields each year, and the Ski Association estimates that by 1990 the number will rise to 80 000. The estimate of the National Parks and Wildlife Service is 43 000. Probably the reality will be somewhere between 50 000 and 70 000. The roads will not be able to cope with them. The Government is not spending money on the roads. If it did allocate the substantial sums that would be needed to build four-lane roads, it would spoil the park environment more than it would if it provided for planned development within the park. Cunningly, the National Parks and Wildlife Service has referred this matter for further study of the roads before a decision is made on this plan of management. That is a delaying tactic.

I do not speak for either the New South Wales Ski Association or the Australian Ski Federation. I speak as a skier of some years' experience, who has driven in and out of the snowfields, and has enjoyed the facilities available in them. The slanted management plan is indicative of the environmental bias of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The service is keen to enlarge parks. It wants restrictions placed on park use and it would deny their development for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. **The** service is not fulfilling its basic function. **The plan** is repressive. It would affect

average families most severely. It would make accommodation scarce and expensive. It would compel visitors to obtain accommodation outside the park. It would overburden the inadequate roads which are sometimes impassable. Better roads, if built, would cause more damage to the environment than properly developed resorts. The whole scheme is ill-conceived. I hope the Government and the Minister concerned will review the matter. I raise it because it is of **importance** to the future enjoyment of many persons.

The motion for adoption of the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech and the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition have my support. The Governor's Speech, prepared as it was by the Government, contains a tirade of untruths and rehearsed promises. The credibility of the New South Wales Government is in tatters. In the next few weeks or months, when the people have the opportunity to do so, they will express their discontent with the Government by their vote.

Mr PETERSEN (Illawarra) [4.50]: I am pleased to have the opportunity of speaking today in the Address-in-Reply debate to express my confidence that the Wran Labor Government of New South Wales will be returned at the polls to be held in the near future. As a member of the Parliamentary Select Committee upon Aborigines I welcome the Government's intention to legislate for land rights for Aborigines. As a civil libertarian I am particularly proud of the fact that in the field of civil liberties the Wran Government has instituted a great number of reforms, notably a reformation of the New South Wales prison system, the repeal of the Summary Offences Act, and the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation, which are high points of achievement of which we can be proud. It is my intention in speaking today to suggest that there are other areas in which reforms are necessary, and I refer particularly to improvements in the administration of justice in this State.

If there is one single case which illustrates the necessity for reform and change it is that of an obscure religio-political sect, the Ananda Marga, and their treatment under the laws of this State. This sect was founded in India in the 1950's. Their members describe it as a spiritual social service organization or a social service spiritual body—which claims as its objective liberation of self and service to humanity. In the conditions that exist in India today, with a small, immensely rich ruling class and a mass of hundreds of millions of people living in the direst poverty, its ideology has an enormous appeal for the millions of middle-class and professional people who are repelled by the materialist doctrines of communism, and, at the same time, want to do something more than just dish out charity. Its membership in India runs into millions and is seen as a threat by both the right-wing parties and the three mass communist parties—but particularly by the pro-Russian Communist Party of India—whose goon squads were the first to attack it. In Australia it appeals mostly to young spiritually minded people, and it recruits mostly from tertiary-educated drop-outs. They do not use drugs of any sort, not even tea or coffee. They are vegetarians and they fit in very well with the counter-culture generally, in that they are interested in such issues as prison reform, aborigines, conservation, women's liberation, anti-nuclear technology and anti-racism. They mix up this small "I" liberal political ideology with advocating special diets, the practice of meditation, and doing good works generally through their own social service groups. In this latter respect they are something like the Salvation Army.

What has brought them into conflict with the establishment in this country is that they have actively campaigned in Australia against the arrest and charging with murder in 1971 of their leader in India, Mr P. R. Sarkar, otherwise known as Baba. He was finally released in 1978, but not before his followers all round the world made themselves rather unpopular with the Establishment by staging various demonstrations

outside the India Embassy and Air-India offices. Generally, their actions were peaceful, in accordance with their stated aims of *ahimsa* or non-violence—to do the least amount of harm possible to *all* forms of life. In August 1977 a Margi named Paul Alister did throw pig's blood around Sydney Air-India office. On 15th September, 1977, the military attaché of the Indian High Commission was assaulted and allegedly kidnapped. As a result, John Duff, a member of Ananda Marga, was convicted in late 1978 on two counts of depriving the diplomat of his liberty. In my view he was properly convicted. All Margis with whom I have discussed the matter completely dissociate themselves from his action. It was specifically condemned by Tim Anderson, editor of *Dharma*, the Ananda Marga magazine, in its October 1977 issue, in which he equated the attack on the military attaché with that by Simon Peter on the servant of the high priest when Jesus was arrested.

On the other hand, the Ananda Marga have some cause to be less than satisfied with the treatment they have received at the hands of various police forces. On 29th November, 1976, Tim Anderson was arrested by Commonwealth police in Canberra for obstructing the High Commissioner for India. The evidence of the arresting police was shown to be perjury when a videotape of the demonstration was produced showing that Anderson was nowhere near the High Commissioner. On 30th November, 1977, a Margi named George Jekic was arrested in Perth on a charge of possessing cannabis, allegedly found in his shirt pocket—a quite ridiculous charge to anybody who knows these people, and their total antipathy to drugs. He was acquitted on 6th March, 1978, when he produced the shirt he had been wearing, showing that it had decorative flaps, and no pockets. Even in the case of John Duff, the Canberra police were shown to be not content with letting the facts speak for themselves. To cover up the situation that an hour had been spent threatening Duff, no fewer than nine police officers wrongly stated the time of his arrest by an hour. Unfortunately for them on its way back from the farm where Duff was taken into custody one of the police cars involved hit a kangaroo. The police accident report showed that they had falsified, not only their evidence, but also their log books, to make a consistent story. In addition to the cases of Jekic and Anderson, their magazine *Dharma* for September 1978 gives details of 33 more cases of harassment of the Ananda Marga between September 1976 and August 1978 by Commonwealth, West Australian, Victorian, New South Wales and Queensland police, and by the Commonwealth Department of Immigration.

The incidents that particularly concern me are that the *Sun-Herald* of 28th March, 1978, and the *Australian* and *Daily Telegraph* of 2nd April, 1978, and the *Sun-Herald* of 11th June, 1978, all printed material issued by Commonwealth police and Australian Security Intelligence Organization, claiming, without any evidence whatsoever, that Ananda Marga was responsible for the Hilton bombing on 13th February, 1978. In the early hours of 16th June, 1978, three Ananda Marga members were arrested and charged with conspiracy to murder Robert Cameron, leader of the tiny fascist organization, the National Front. Two of them, Paul Alister and Ross Dunn, were found with a bomb made of gelignite in a car near Cameron's former residence at Yagoona, about 11.30 p.m. The third, Tim Anderson, was found in bed asleep at the sect's Newtown headquarters at 1 a.m., with press releases in his coat pocket addressed to the *Australian* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*. These read:

All racist elements should take warning from the attack on Nazi racist leader Cameron to-night. This is not an isolated attack, but a systematic campaign to smash the artificial boundaries that divide one human being from another. We will never allow racists scope to spread their pernicious views in this society.

Signed—One World Revolutionary Army of Australia.

The police also found in the room the original of an unsigned statement which had been sent to the Australian, dated 7th June, 1978, in which the One World Revolutionary Army declared it would soon act to physically suppress the racists. Both sets of documents were typed on the Ananda Marga typewriter. There are three things to be said about these press releases. The first is that an agent-provocateur named Richard Seary did have access to the typewriter, and he had given the New South Wales police special branch samples of the type faces and a typewriter ribbon. The second is that Anderson is an experienced journalist who knows all about deadlines. There was no way in which he would not have known that the press statements to the Sydney Morning Herald and Australian could not be published that day. The third notable feature is that the wording of the press releases, and the earlier letter, bear absolutely no relationship to any Ananda Marga publication that I have ever seen. In the last month I have read 23 copies of their magazine Dharma, and four issues of their magazine Horizons. I have read also three of their theory pamphlets, Seven Stages, The Way of Peace, and Recipe for Revolution—although it must be said that the local Australian leadership of Ananda Marga disowns The Way of Peace because it has too great an emphasis on politics, and not enough on spirituality. Not one of those publications contains phraseology anything like the statement sent to the Australian, or the press release discovered by Detective Inspector Krawczyk in Tim Anderson's coat.

The magazine Dharma contains several articles written by Anderson which reveal him as a deeply compassionate humanitarian. He would be as capable of writing the garbage contained in the press releases, and the letter to the Australian, as would Mother Theresa. The only possible conclusion is that the press statements were planted, as was the original of the earlier letter to the Australian. The Ananda Marga are not pacifists. In India they have formed self-defence squads against the Communist Party of India and Congress goons. Politically what they stand for they make clear in their publications. Essentially they are elitists. Describing themselves as universalists they seek to lead society, which they say is always composed of four psychologically determined classes—workers, warriors, intellectuals and capitalists. They speak of seven stages of revolution. The first stage consists of holding study classes of intellectuals, the second stage is organizing them, the next four stages consist of fighting corruption at all levels of society, and the seventh stage supporting a government that has abolished corruption. Their ideology is an eclectic mixture of Hindu theology, Hegelian philosophy and Machiavellian politics, with bits taken from Mao Tse-tung, Che Guevara and Subhas Chandra Bose. They are not anarchists of the deed. Their whole concept of political activity is based on action among the masses and taking power only when they have mass support.

In Dharma of March 1978 Anderson wrote: "When all other avenues are cut off, violence is the inevitable result", and he gave as examples Rhodesia and South Africa, but said that, "Ananda Marga does not support revolutionary violence in Australia, and we have not printed or supported the printing of literature that advocates same." There is no doubt of the intense love and veneration they feel for their leader, Sarkar. I can understand how Duff could have assaulted the Indian military *attaché*, who was generally believed to be the agent of C.B.I., the Indian Intelligence Unit. I can understand how Dunn would have thrown pig's blood around Air-India office. These actions are explicable in terms of their beliefs—even if they were against their principles of non-violence. But why blow up Bobby Cameron—a nazi, a ratbag who represents only himself and the Skull—a quite inexplicable action? Richard Seary, who had joined Ananda Marga after the Hilton bombing, interviewed Detective Inspector Krawczyk of police special branch about 6 p.m., on 15th June, 1978, and told him that Ananda Marga planned to blow up Bobby Cameron's house that night.

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Seary is a drifter, a drug addict. In November 1971 he was convicted of self-administering heroin. On 29th September, 1972, he told a social worker that for the previous three years he had been using heroin, cocaine and amphetamines. His personality was diagnosed as that of a bland schizoid with no wish to change. A week later he admitted to the same social worker that he had been using amphetamines in the previous week. In the period between March and June 1978, when he was a member of Ananda Marga, he sought psychiatric assistance through the Queen Elizabeth Centre at Camperdown, as he feared he had schizophrenia. Before telling the police the story of the proposed bombing, he had also told the police a completely false story that the Ananda Marga proposed to demonstrate outside Cameron's house. At the first trial of the Ananda Marga, in February 1979, he was cross-examined by barrister Ken Shadbolt about amphetamine addiction, which he denied. However, he did say that he took amphetamines on prescription using an inhaler—a clear and obvious lie. It might be noted also that use of amphetamines leads to the development of paranoid schizoid traits. It is reasonable to assume that a man with this record is totally unreliable. Nevertheless the police special branch took him seriously.

What had actually happened was that on the afternoon of 15th June, Seary had gone to the Ananda Marga headquarters and arranged with Alister and Dunn to meet them at 11 p.m., in Carillon Avenue, Newtown, and to go out to Cameron's house at Yagoona, look over the place, and if possible, paint slogans directed against Cameron near his house. Seary undertook to borrow a car. This all sounded reasonable, because Seary had previously gone out with Alister on what they called the soup patrol, feeding derelicts, and he had gone out with other Margis pasting over Nazi posters. On a previous occasion he had borrowed a car from the Wayside Chapel, where he worked as a part-time counsellor. After interviewing the police, Seary stole a car, and parked in Carillon Avenue. Anderson, who had been talking to Alister at the Ananda Marga headquarters, walked with Alister to the car discussing the soup patrol, and crossing Carillon Avenue towards where Seary was parked near the university gates. A few minutes later Dunn walked through the university grounds to the car. Seary gave Anderson a lift to the end of Carillon Avenue, where he got out, and walked back to Ananda Marga headquarters. The three went to Yagoona with Seary driving, Alister in the front passenger seat, and Dunn in the rear seat. Near Yagoona Seary told Dunn that the bag alongside him contained explosives, assured him that they were safe, and suggested to Dunn and Alister that they blow up Cameron's car. Dunn and Alister refused, the car overshot Cameron's street, and turned down the next street to turn round. As they did so, a police car pulled up alongside them, apprehended the three of them, and eventually took them back to Criminal Investigation Branch headquarters.

At the Ananda Marga headquarters in Newtown the police forced their way in, went straight upstairs to a room where Anderson was sleeping, found the two press statements in Anderson's coat, and also the original of the letter to the *Australian* in the room, and took him to Sydney Criminal Investigation Branch headquarters. A peculiar incident was that a travelling clock by Anderson's bed went off at 1.8 a.m. Anderson told me he brought the clock upstairs from the office. He is completely mystified as to who set the alarm, which he never used—using the clock only to tell the time. At Criminal Investigation Branch headquarters, Anderson, Alister and Dunn refused to answer any questions except their names and addresses, and details of their membership of Ananda Marga. In doing so, they were carrying out a policy based on a pamphlet compiled six months previously by Anderson, on the basis of information supplied by the Council for Civil Liberties. Dunn was assaulted by Detective John Burke and Anderson was assaulted by Detective Sergeant Roger Rogerson. However, they did not sign any confessions, or make any statements to the police.

These are the bare bones of the case, on the basis of which a committal hearing and two trials were held. At the first trial, before Mr Justice Nagle, which concluded in March 1979, the jury disagreed. At the second trial before Mr Justice Lee, which concluded on 31st July, 1979, the jury found Anderson, Alister and Dunn guilty of conspiracy to murder, and Alister and Dunn guilty of attempted murder. They were each sentenced to 16 years' gaol, with no non-parole period. I say one thing as clearly and unequivocally as I can. These three men are completely innocent victims of the greatest miscarriage of justice in Australian history. When I first began examining this case, I half believed that it might be like the case of the Industrial Workers of the World, in World War I, in which only some of the twelve convicted could be declared completely innocent, and some of the twelve probably guilty, although not of the crimes of which they had been charged. Having read the transcripts of the three trials, and an enormous amount of written material, interviewed a great number of people, I say that these men are not only not guilty, but that they are as much frame-up victims as Arthur Allan Thomas who was convicted of murder in New Zealand in 1971.

The circumstances in which the trial took place are worth considering. Remember the hysteria of the **Hilton** bombing, following the explosion in a garbage can outside the **Hilton** in George Street, at 12.40 a.m., on Monday, 13th February, 1978, in which two council workers and a policeman died, and three police officers were injured. A number of questions must be asked about that incident. Is it true that police security began at the **Hilton** Hotel on Friday, 10th February at 11.0 p.m.? Why did police officers wave away the garbage trucks coming to collect the rubbish in George Street at 2 p.m. on Saturday, 11th February; at 7.40 a.m., on Sunday morning; and at 2 p.m., on Sunday afternoon? Under what instructions were these directions given? Is it true that the bomb which exploded was a jumping-jack bomb of a type used in Vietnam and explodes when inverted and consequently exploded when the rubbish tin was lifted into the truck? Is it true that the police thoroughly searched the hotel, including the kitchen, on Saturday? Is any police officer really as incompetent as Superintendent Reg Douglas, who said it was all his fault that the bin was not examined?

Is it not true that Sergeant Cecil Streetfield of Police Headquarters received a call at 12.30 a.m., advising that there was a bomb in the rubbish bin outside the **Hilton**? If so, why did he not telephone the **Hilton** in accordance with Permanent Police Circular 135? Why did the *Daily Mirror* of Monday, 13th February, 1978, publish a press statement saying that the call was received at 12.40 a.m.—the time the bomb exploded? Who gave the *Daily Mirror* this false information? Was it intended that the bomb should be found in order to justify special powers for ASIO, and the New South Wales Special Branch? Above all, why has no inquest ever been held? I do not think we can understand the Ananda Marga case unless we take up this case in the context of the hysteria of the **Hilton** bombing. There is no doubt about the attitude of Ananda Marga. In *Dharma* of March 1978, Anderson wrote:

The bombing at the **Hilton** on the evening of the conference was taken as a godsend by Malcolm Fraser. Along with Lee Kuan Yew, Hussein Onn and Moraji Desai, Fraser was able to use the incident to propagate his police state politics in the name of national security . . .

It will not be the conference so much as its casualties—the loss of innocent lives, the gains of extreme right-wing elements and the loss of civil liberties—that remain to provoke some analysis of our sick society.

Clearly their approach was not an hysterical one. The fact that the three defendants had no objection to evidence regarding the **Hilton** bombing being introduced at the committal hearing, points to their innocence. And, having interviewed the three men,

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and based on my limited knowledge of explosives, gained in the army during World War II, I take the view that either they are the most consummate liars I have ever met, or they know absolutely nothing about explosives. By contrast, Seary, the informer, has been an opal miner at Lightning Ridge, and he knows about explosives, including where to obtain them. He gave evidence that in the car going out to Yagoona, Dunn told him that he had planted twelve sticks of gelignite outside the Hilton. Strangely Seary did not tell the police about this until six days after the Yagoona arrest. If the Hilton bomb had been gelignite it would have blown in all directions. The Hilton bomb was an anti-personnel mine which blew outwards. After the bomb went off, the truck was driven away. Obviously Seary was not telling the truth.

The only evidence of the charge of attempted murder against Dunn and Alister is Seary's report that Dunn and Alister had decided to set off the bomb if they were stopped, blowing up themselves and whoever was stopping them. This is another obvious lie, because when they were apprehended the car doors were not locked on the inside. Also, if Seary knew that they were going to blow up the car, and he knew that the police were going to stop them, why did he keep driving? Nevertheless, not only was Seary's evidence believed, but while an appeal was pending against their convictions, the Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowan, presented four of the arresting officers with awards for bravery—the most disgraceful use of the Governor-General's office since the 11th November, 1975, and a clear pointer to the fact that powerful forces within the Australian establishment are determined that the frame-up will stick.

Seary is, and was, a psychopathic liar. His evidence is full of inconsistencies and variations which have been spelt out in some detail on a recent ABC radio programme. The three men could not possibly have been convicted on Seary's evidence. They were convicted because the police officers concerned in the case all gave stories which were consistent with the guilt of the three men at the expense of truth. And the major reason that they were convicted was that peculiar custom of the New South Wales Police Force, the police verbal, described by Tim Anderson in *Dharma* of April 1979, as institutionalized perjury. A typical example of this was the evidence of Detective Senior Constable Burke of the arrest of Dunn, where Dunn is said to have admitted his intention to blow up Cameron's house in such words as these:

He's a racist pig and doesn't deserve to live in this world. We are humanitarians doing a service to humanity.

We will never be stopped. Ananda Marga will cleanse the earth.

We are committed. You people deserve to die for stopping us.

Anybody who has met Dunn, or has read any Ananda Marga material, knows that such a conversation has less relation to reality than a Hans Andersen fairy-tale. More conversations were invented at Criminal Investigation Branch headquarters for all three accused along the same lines. The most incredible was that invented by Detective Sergeant Rogerson concerning Tim Anderson, who only six months before had produced a pamphlet for Ananda Marga telling them not to make statements to the police. In this farrago of lies Anderson is said to have admitted responsibility for the One World Revolutionary Army, and the projected bombing of Cameron's house. An incredible reversal of everything Anderson had written—and totally inconceivable to anyone with even the faintest acquaintance with Ananda Marga ideology.

Similarly, the evidence of what police witnesses saw, and heard, coincides incredibly well. But in two areas the police were proved to have lied. Because Seary put the bag containing the gelignite in the car, it was necessary, in order to secure a conviction, to state that one of the Margis had done so. Seven police witnesses, who had been in three cars in the street, and Seary, gave evidence that Dunn crossed

Carillon Avenue carrying a bag. In fact, Dunn did not cross Carillon Avenue, and was not carrying anything, but entered the car from the footpath after coming through the university grounds. Detectives Middleton and Hamilton said he was wearing white sandshoes. Pictures taken of Dunn at the time of his arrest show that he was wearing dark coloured shoes. Surely, that was a peculiar mistake for experienced police officers to have made. Giving evidence regarding the apprehension of Dunn at Yagoona, Detectives Burke, Gibson and Gilligan all said that Dunn said nothing to the army bomb disposal squad officers. But, the two army officers, Captain Stevenson and Warrant Officer Tuena, confirmed Dunn's evidence that he told them the bomb was safe. Against the serried ranks of the police officers, giving evidence that bore little relation to fact, Anderson, Alister and Dunn had no chance. I do not blame the second jury for convicting them; the police were most convincing.

Before Mr Justice Lee on 31st July, 1979, barrister Michael Adams argued not for a conspiracy between the police and Seary but that the police believed Seary, and accordingly, they were going to ensure that the guilty did not escape. In reply, Mr Justice Lee accused Mr Adams of splitting hairs, and of suggesting that the police were committing perjury. I can appreciate that as a barrister Mr Adams was reluctant to accuse the police of perjury—a serious offence for which a gaol sentence is provided—unless he had admissible evidence which proved it beyond reasonable doubt. But as a parliamentarian protected by parliamentary privilege, I have no such inhibitions, and what I want to suggest to the Government is that the twin practices of police verbals and of distorting the truth in police evidence are indefensible.

What we have done in Australia is to reverse the traditional process of British law where an accused is innocent until he is proved guilty. What happens here today is that evidence is manufactured to prove a person guilty, and only by proving himself innocent can he avoid punishment. Most of the time the prosecution gets away with this because if the accused are not guilty of the crime of which they are charged, they are usually guilty of some other offence. But, as Tim Anderson showed in Canberra in 1976 when he produced the videotape showing himself to be innocent of obstructing the Indian diplomat, and as George Jekic demonstrated in Perth in 1977 with a shirt that had no pockets to contain marihuana, if one is innocent it is all a matter of luck whether one can prove one's innocence. We cannot all be as fortunate as Arthur Allan Thomas in New Zealand, where the New Zealand police were so careless as to plant a cartridge case fired by Thomas' gun which could not possibly have been manufactured at the same time as the bullets which killed the murder victims. It is worth noting that even in the New Zealand Royal commission, four New Zealand police went into the witness box and lied in their evidence about the area concerned not having been searched before the planted cartridge case was found.

I suggest to the Government that we need to have a completely new look at this whole question of police evidence, beginning immediately with the abolition of police verbals, and instituting tape recordings. When Detective Inspector Krawczyk was interviewing Seary on the afternoon of 15th June, 1978, for his own purposes, he used a tape recorder. I can suggest only that the police are opposed to tape recorders because their use would make it more difficult to obtain convictions. But there is an even more important question than this. I hesitate to ask for a Royal commission into this gross miscarriage of justice, on the simple question of whether the three men are innocent or guilty. I suggest instead that there should be, first, an inquest into the deaths arising from the Hilton bombing. Let it be free and open with all documents produced, including police and Australian Security Intelligence Organization files. Let the three Ananda Marga be released from gaol immediately, and a Royal commission held into how these innocent young men came to be convicted, and to determine the amount of compensation to be paid to them.

Mr Petersen]

And while we are about it, let us examine the activities of the Police Special Branch. Four years ago I moved in a parliamentary Labor Party caucus for the abolition of the Special Branch. I am more than ever convinced that I was right in doing so. As the White report in South Australia amply demonstrated, secret political police consider themselves to be totally above being responsible to any democratically elected authorities. A police officer has told me that Ananda Marga, the Church of God, and Scientology are prime targets for the Australian Security Intelligence Organization and the Special Branch. Why? Why this essentially harmless, law-abiding body, the Ananda Marga, whose political ideology owes more to John Stuart Mill than to Karl Marx? Let me say, parenthetically, I would be proud to claim any of the three convicted men as my son, they are such fine men. The Ananda Marga is an isolated group of do-gooders who can be well accommodated in Australian capitalist society, and whose major political obsession at the time of the Hilton bombing was a deep concern for the welfare of a religious leader who had been imprisoned in India. Why pick on this isolated group, ignored by the political left as irrelevant?

It is precisely because the Ananda Marga are a small isolated sect, that these men were such suitable subjects for a frame-up. I would suggest that the scenario went something like this: somebody in the Australian Security Intelligence Organization was determined to get legislation extending the Australian Security Intelligence Organization's powers. There was the precedent of the three bomb blasts in Dublin in 1975—which Irish Republicans allege were planted by the British Special Air Service—which induced the Eire Parliament to pass Draconian legislation against the Irish Republican Army. The Hilton bomb was meant to be found after a telephone call to police headquarters, with nobody hurt. Somebody goofed, and the garbage men collected the bomb. However, the Australian Security Intelligence Organization was successful three weeks later in having legislation introduced giving them far greater powers. Obviously, the full details of the planting of the bomb would be known to very few people. Somebody had to be blamed, and the Australian Security Intelligence Organization released press statements blaming the Ananda Marga. When Seary came along with his cock-and-bull story, the Police Special Branch were well disposed to believe him, and the rest followed, with the police giving doctored evidence to make sure the three Margis were convicted.

If my scenario is true, then it is high time that the Labor movement increased its demands for the disbandment of the Australian Security Intelligence Organization and the Police Special Branch, as a direct threat to the lives and liberty of any persons seen to be challenging the establishment. In recent times I have noted an increasing presence of Police Special Branch officers at legitimate political meetings dealing with national and international issues. For example, they were at the Gaelic Club in Devonshire Street questioning people about completely legal political activities. They are presumably extremely busy keeping files on radical and working-class political activists. Why are they at these meetings instead of being engaged in crime prevention or traffic control?

In all their existence they have managed to secure convictions in a court of law against three Ananda Marga members, who are innocent, and against six Croatians convicted on 9th February, 1981, of conspiracy to use explosives, who may or may not be guilty of the crimes charged against them, but whose convictions were obtained by the same doubtful methods of using a psychopathic agent provocateur and then producing unsigned confessions which five of the accused denied making. If the Ananda Marga are innocent, and I have not the slightest doubt that they are, then we should have a look at the trial of the Croatians and examine closely whether the police witnesses told the truth. What the Ananda Marga case brings out clearly is that the Australian Security Intelligence Organization and the Police Special Branch are

at best grossly incompetent and certainly a grave danger to democratic freedom. It is high time that the Police Special Branch was wiped out, and we should demand of an incoming Commonwealth Labor Government the disbandment of its twin, the Australian Security Intelligence Organization.

Mr ARBLASTER (Mosman) [5.20]: I should like to congratulate His Excellency the Governor, Sir James Anthony Rowland, on his appointment. I wish him, and Lady Rowland, a long, happy and rewarding tenure of office. In the Governor's Speech the Government programme is not properly outlined. What there is of it looks to the past and not the future. No attempt is made to establish goals for the 1980's and into the next century. No list of priorities is given. The content of the programme was a cosmetic approach to problems that will be faced by development in New South Wales in the next nine or ten years.

The Governor's Speech dealt with some important matters, particularly transport and roads. It was important not for what was said but for what was not said. The Governor's Speech did not deal with what I call the Government's deferred bad news list. That list is growing every day. The Speech stated that electrification of the northern line between Sydney and Newcastle is to be continued. It did not mention that in the Premier and Treasury's pre-election speech in 1976 and again in 1978 he promised that that electrification project would be completed by 1980. There was no mention of promises made in 1978 about the high priority that would be given to the electrification of the line between Campbelltown and Goulburn. One can only assume that that work will not be proceeded with. There was a brief announcement that the electrification of the line from Waterfall to Wollongong would be commenced. Can the people of this State believe such statements as that having in mind the promises that were made in 1976 and 1978 that were not kept? Promises on the timing of this electrification work were broken also.

In the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor but written by the Government great emphasis was placed on the expansion of coal exports from the Hunter Valley and the enormous expansion that would take place in that region over the next few years. No mention was made of the electrification of the Newcastle—Muswellbrook line that was promised in 1978. At that time it was stated that a high priority would be given to electrification of that line. The Government said also that the new coal loader being constructed in Newcastle that will have a capacity of 15 million tonnes will be in operation by the end of 1984. That coal loader is already 18 months behind schedule. Promises were made last year and again early this year that contracts would be let. The latest promise is that in the first half of August contracts would be let. On my reckoning that half way mark has been passed and still no contract has been let.

On the predictions made about coal exports from Newcastle, the Newcastle—Muswellbrook line will carry more traffic than any line in this State. It would be ideal to electrify that line, but the Governor's Speech failed to mention it. It failed to mention also what type of power would be used when eventually the line is electrified, or whether the system will involve the use of 25 kV. Is it any wonder that the people of New South Wales have doubts about the Government's ability to provide the infrastructure for coal exports?

Recently I attended a function with three Japanese coal buyers who had just completed a buying trip to Queensland. They had signed contracts for the purchase of an enormous amount of coal for delivery after 1983–85. The coal was to be exported from Gladstone, Hay Point No. 2 and the new coal loader port to be established north of Bowen. I said to the Japanese coal buyers, "Why did you arrange

to have the coal leave Australia via three different points?" They replied: "That is obvious. The first reason is to minimize the effects of any possible industrial trouble so that we may still be able to get coal out of one port. The second reason is that we want a guarantee that all of the coal will be delivered". I said: "You have spread this coal over three Queensland ports. What about New South Wales?". The Japanese buyers replied firmly: "We do not believe New South Wales would be able to get the coal out of its ports after 1983–85. We do not believe New South Wales would be able to deliver the required amount of coal. We could not sign a contract with any degree of confidence that we would obtain delivery". That is the attitude of some Japanese coal buyers about the ability of New South Wales to export coal.

I continue with the Government's deferred bad news list. In regard to hospitals the Government said, "We will give you an answer in November after the elections". The Governor's Speech did not mention the new timetable for trains on the urban and interurban commuter network. It dealt with track upgrading. We were told of the expenditure of \$1 billion over the past five years and a projected \$1.4 billion over the next five years. Any reasonable person would think that after the expenditure of a huge sum of money there would be a better service. But there has been no faster service. A new timetable has been devised and will be brought into operation next year. It provides for slower running time, not faster. It is designed to provide slower travelling times in peak periods, involving a general increase in travelling time in the urban area of four to five minutes.

A sum of \$90 million has been spent on track upgrading on the western line. One would expect better services on that line, but what is to happen? Under the new timetable persons travelling from Mt Victoria in peak periods can look forward to a journey of from five to nine minutes longer than under the existing timetable. Trains will take fifteen minutes longer than they did under the 1950 timetable. After the expenditure of \$90 million on the line the trip from Mt Victoria to Central will take a quarter of an hour longer, and that is if the trains run on time. It is all very well to quote statistics and say that the trains are running on time more often than not, but what is the reason for the new timetable? It is a question of the phoney image that this Government advances all the time. The new timetable is coming out for one reason only—in the hope that the statistics will show more trains running on time. The Government will not be able to sell that to the commuters. The commuters know the conditions under which they are travelling. It has been said that there are lies, damned lies and statistics. The Labor Government of New South Wales has added a new dimension to that saying: If something does not work, change the rules. That is what this Government is doing.

Returning to the deferred bad news list, I remind the House that the Government is considering a reduction in the number of services on the urban transport network between 7 p.m. and midnight and the cancellation of services between midnight and 5 a.m. Honourable members have probably noticed that some of the 2-car sets are not being used. They will be abolished. Why is that? They are unreliable. That has been put in writing. Also on the deferred bad news list are fare increases proposed for later this year. Hospitals, schools, both State and independent, are there too. They will be dealt with later this year. As a result of a \$600,000 television campaign to promote public transport, honourable members often hear the jingle, "The more you use us, the better we get".

In 1976 fares on public transport were reduced by 20 per cent. That was fair enough. However, in 1979 they were increased by 17 per cent. In 1980 they were increased by a further 18 per cent. All city section fares were increased by 50 per cent. The fares for short country trips went up by 20 per cent and those for very short trips

by 50 per cent. Fares for longer country trips rose by 333 per cent. The Government is considering recommendations for fare increases ranging between 25 per cent and 60 per cent to be imposed later this year. Like motor vehicle registration charges, fares will be indexed to make sure they go up each year thereafter. The Government is trying to make up some of the cost of the \$40 million sweetheart deal it entered into dishonestly with railway employees not so long ago. The Premier and Treasurer said that such a deal would be of benefit to commuters. What happened? Strikes occurred immediately. More strikes will occur. That was an attempted bribe for peace prior to the election.

Electricity charges are also on the deferred bad news list. They will increase between 20 per cent and 25 per cent from next January. In January last, freight charges were increased sharply. It is difficult to assess the effect of those increases because of the introduction of weight or cubic capacity equivalents as a basis for charges. A good example is the cost now of transporting Insulwool to country areas, where the people rely on it. Those charges went up by 900 per cent, and without reason except the Government's need for more revenue. Yet the Government says that it has not increased taxes. In fact revenue from State taxes and charges has gone up by about 70 per cent. Recently while returning from Gosford I heard a good definition of railway service. It was given to me by a commuter, "Longer, dearer and later to work and home." A proviso was added, "That is, if you get home." Commuters are taken to work in the morning and if train drivers go on strike during the day, those commuters are unable to get home.

I refer now to an incident that occurred at the Hazelbrook railway station on Sunday, 9th August. At 2.45 p.m. twenty-five people were waiting for a train. It was bitterly cold. The ladies' waiting room was locked. Katoomba station was contacted and an employee was asked whether someone would come down and unlock the waiting room. The toilets were in the waiting room. The employee replied, "We are sorry, but we cannot do anything about it." How long will that sort of thing continue?

Honourable members know what Mr Justice Macken said about some workshops in the metropolitan area. I have no doubt that if all railway workshops in the city had the same productivity as those in the country, there would be fewer problems and it would cost taxpayers and railway users less. All persons employed in country workshops work and live within a community. Militant unionists are tossed out by such communities. They will not tolerate men who limit the effort to 3½ to 4 hours a day. Fewer militants are found in the country, where people take pride in their work. The managers of country workshops have direct contact with the employees, and for that reason can solve industrial problems before they get out of hand. In the cities industrial strife is commonplace and taxpayers are being ripped off to pay for it.

Better industrial relations would solve the problems in the State's railways. No matter how good the permanent way, the computerized signalling or the new rolling-stock may be, the system is worthless unless the trains run, and run on time. Trains are useless if they remain in the shed. The system is ineffective if the trains run ten minutes or half an hour late. The object is to make them run and to run on time. That is a matter that goes directly to serving the people for whom the system was intended. The latest pre-election bribe attempt is typical of the Government's approach to industrial relations. It will buy peace at any price, but at the taxpayers' cost.

The sweetheart deals made by this Government, the Premier and Treasurer, the Minister for Transport, and the unions, with small select groups, in some cases, are the cause of major discontent within the State's railway system. The latest sweetheart deal destroyed the pattern of margins for skill among railway workers, based

as they were on degrees of skill and responsibility. The so-called train examiners, whose job it is to tap the wheels of rolling-stock, now have the classification of tradesman. They undergo fifteen weeks of training. Who would work for five years to become a tradesman when in fifteen weeks one can be trained for a position in which the wage is \$5 less than is paid to a fitter and turner? Road construction and maintenance are an important part of the State's responsibility. In the thirteen pages of His Excellency's Speech only five short paragraphs deal with that subject, a fact that discloses the Government's failure to provide for the State's road system. In his Speech His Excellency said:

. . . the Government has continued the improvement of the State's road network, within the limits of the financial restraints imposed upon it.

That was meant to be a backhander for the federal Government, but it is a load of garbage, because the only financial restraints on the Department of Main Roads have been those imposed by the State Government. The community has a misconception that the State Government gives the Department of Main Roads a substantial part of the money it needs for road maintenance and construction. I should make it clear that the only sources of funds used for road construction and maintenance are Commonwealth Government grants, motorists, and local government ratepayers. The State does not contribute a cent from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Mr McCarthy: What about contributions from State loan funds?

Mr ARBLASTER: That is a bright comment from the honourable member for Armidale. Does the honourable member have a loan on his house? If so, does someone else make the repayments for him of capital and interest? Although the Government contributed \$500 million to meet the losses sustained by the State Rail Authority and the Urban Transit Authority, 90 per cent of passenger journeys in the States are made by road. The honourable member for Armidale more than anyone else should realize that. Let us consider the hypocrisy and dishonesty of the State Government in its attempts to mislead the people. In another paragraph of his Speech the Governor said:

The South-Western freeway, with an overall length of 64 kilometres, the largest road project of its kind ever undertaken in Australia, was completed last December.

Of the four roadworks mentioned in the Governor's Speech, three were funded totally by the federal Government. When the Premier and Treasurer opened the new freeway he said that what he liked about federalism was "the federal Government provides the money and we do the work"; he should have added, "and I get the kudos". The Premier and Treasurer is the last of the big spenders when he is using someone else's cash, but he does not like responsibility.

Mr Gordon: Where does the federal Government obtain its funds?

Mr ARBLASTER: The Minister should ask where the State Government obtains its funds. In the past five years Commonwealth allocations to the State have increased by 90 per cent, as the Minister well knows. In the same time the cost of living has gone up by 59.6 per cent. No mention is made in the Governor's Speech of a tunnel under the harbour or of a second harbour crossing. The last time the Premier and Treasurer spoke of a tunnel under the harbour he said that it would cost about \$600 million and that the toll would be about \$4 to \$6. If the toll for travelling through the tunnel is to be that much, what will be the toll on the Sydney Harbour

Bridge or the Gladesville Bridge? The Premier and Treasurer made no mention of that, as he only wanted to grab a headline. He is supposed to be genuine and decisive yet when a proposed tunnel under the harbour was reported in the *Australian* in February he said as follows:

A harbour tunnel may be built, but if it isn't we could have a second harbour bridge, or we may not do anything at all.

That was a definite maybe. He does that sort of thing all the time. No prizes are given for guessing what will be done. Nothing will be done, and the honourable member for Armidale knows it.

Mr McCarthy: Similar to what was done by the former Liberal Party-Country Party Government.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr ARBLASTER: The deteriorating condition of the State's roads is compelling more traffic to use roads that were designed purely as residential streets. The burden of constructing and maintaining metropolitan and country roads has been placed upon ratepayers. Local councils are responsible for 70 per cent of the State's road system. What assistance does the State Government give to local councils? Not a cent. For the three years from 1978–79 to 1980–81 for one electorate the Government allocated \$396,400 from the State local government assistance fund. The allocation for all New South Wales local government areas was \$27.7 million. The federal Government allocated \$534.5 million for expenditure on road construction and maintenance programmes in the same area.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member has exhausted his time.

[Mr Speaker left the chair at 5.50 p.m. The House resumed at 7.30 p.m.]

Mr KEANE (Woronora) [7.30]: I am pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this important Address-in-Reply debate. I congratulate the honourable member for Heffron who moved the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to his Excellency's Speech in such an eloquent manner. His contribution was an example of the fine standard of debate one has come to expect from this member. I was particularly grateful for his thoughtful and supportive remarks related to the recommendations of the Select Committee upon Aborigines, as I know the member for Heffron has a deep and genuine desire to see justice achieved for the Aboriginal people of this State. I congratulate also the honourable member for Cessnock who made a thoughtful and thought-provoking contribution to the debate in the course of seconding the motion. I am sure the honourable member for Cessnock will continue to make similar worthwhile contributions for many years to come.

As chairman of the Select Committee upon Aborigines I am naturally delighted that the Governor included in his Speech a statement that the Wran Labor Government will announce proposals during the session to take a significant step towards the recognition of the importance of land rights to the advancement of the Aboriginal community. A recent article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* states that the Government's step to give black communities freehold title to land represents probably the most significant advance for Aboriginal rights in New South Wales. I agree with the assessment. It is a significant step but only the first of many that will be required if the Aboriginal people are to be given justice in every sense of the word. Land rights and land justice are of paramount importance to the Aborigines. They are the foundation upon which all that follows will be built. Justice and equality in health,

employment, housing, education and culture must swiftly follow in succeeding steps if the faith of the Aboriginal people and the integrity of the Government are to be maintained.

Recently wide and deserved publicity has been given to the inquiry into Aboriginal conditions by oversea representatives of the World Council of Churches. I have received their report and reviewed their recommendations. I was heartened to note that the general thrust of their report was in the same direction as this Parliament's select committee report. I offer my congratulations to the obviously sincere representatives of the committee and to Gary Foley and Roland Rollason who assisted in such a dedicated manner. I deplore the disparaging remarks directed at the World Council of Churches by the Premier of Western Australia and the Premier of Queensland without any attempt to discuss dispassionately or analyse the committee's work. Obviously the gentlemen concerned have guilty consciences and much to hide in their treatment of Aboriginal people. It is little wonder that Premier Bjelke-Petersen is regarded as a sick joke both within and outside the borders of Queensland. Of course, Premier Court is in hock to the multinational mining companies who are raping Aboriginal land throughout the State of Western Australia, so one cannot expect any support for the Aboriginal cause from that quarter. Nevertheless, those two obstacles in the path of progress and decency are destined to be swept into the garbage can of history as the Aboriginal cause triumphs and Premier Bjelke-Petersen and Premier Court become historical oddities.

I take issue also with a recently published statement of the Reverend Lance Shilton, Dean of Sydney, in which he is reported as saying that the World Council of Churches report recommends a similar system to apartheid. With respect to the reverend gentleman, I suggest that if that opinion is honestly held he either knows little about apartheid or has never read the World Council of Churches report, or both. For the Dean's information, apartheid is a system of political and social oppression similar to that exercised by Hitler in his oppression of the Jewish people. The only discernible difference is that the South African Government has not quite been able to implement Hitler's final solution of mass genocide in gas ovens, but only worldwide public outrage prevents that happening. In every other aspect, apartheid as imposed by the South African Government upon its helpless and hapless black and coloured citizens is just as inhuman, soul destroying, wicked and depraved as Hitler's Jewish policies. Torture, arrest without trial, brutal repression of opposition, both black and white liberal opinion, and trade unionists, economic starvation, cultural genocide, all were weapons used by Hitler. All are weapons used by the South African Government minority white dictatorship. Their protestations of innocence fool nobody in the world today.

Who will ever forget the brutal inhuman murder of Steve Biko, the endless incarceration of Mandela, the massacre of school children at Soweto, the murder of political activists and trade unionists in police cells and in the streets, the forced separation of children and wives from husbands, the indignities heaped upon those whose skin colour is darker than those who wield power? The apartheid Government of South Africa is an abomination in the sight of God and the peoples of the world.

I salute the people of New Zealand for their fearless struggle against the dupes of the South African Government—the rugby players. Had the magnificent Ella brothers, the Aboriginal superstars of Australian rugby, had the misfortune to live in South Africa, they would never have played as representatives of that country. The heroic struggle by the New Zealand people is an inspiration to us all, a beacon of freedom shining on a black sea of apartheid cruelty. Our New Zealand cousins, whose parents possibly fought alongside my father and uncle at Gallipoli, have again

flown the flag of freedom. They are an inspiration to us all—may God bless them and prosper their worthy endeavours. We salute the people who are church activists and are leading the fight in New Zealand against apartheid, supported by students and trade unionists and the men and women of New Zealand in their hundreds of thousands. Victory will be theirs, as their cause is just.

If we are to avoid the racial conflicts of other countries and their condemnation for lack of positive action on our behalf, Australians must demand justice and equality for Australian Aborigines. New South Wales can lead the way if it has the will to do so. I applaud the Premier and Treasurer and the Government for taking the first step as outlined by the Governor towards the recognition of Aboriginal land rights. I look forward with keen anticipation to the second report and subsequent steps that must be taken in rapid succession if the faith and support of the Aboriginal people in the Government is to be justified. As the Premier and Treasurer has stated in the House, the Government is committed to the principle of land rights for New South Wales Aborigines. The Aboriginal people have waited nearly 200 years for justice and equality. That is a long road. It most certainly has been a hard one with countless detours along the way. Even the most hardened traveller loses patience if the road does not finally lead to the traveller's longed-for destination, but turns out to be simply a dead end. The select committee's recommendations were unanimous and have received the overwhelming approval of the majority of the Aboriginal people. In most instances they are in line with the Aboriginal policy enunciated by the State Australian Labor Party conference, and white academics and church activists involved in Aboriginal affairs support the recommendations.

I shall refer to a despicable campaign that is being waged against New South Wales' citizens who reside in Housing Commission dwellings. The campaign was instigated, and has been continued, by the Liberal Party and Country Party Opposition in the forlorn hope that it may bring them some cheap political advantage. The campaign, which is concentrated in the electorates of Manly and Woronora, is causing great mental anguish to my constituents who live in Housing Commission accommodation, as many thousands of people do. Those people live at Jannali, Jannali East, Como, Gymea, Loftus, Oyster Bay, Sutherland and Kirrawee. They are splendid people and they are the parents of magnificent children who attend State public schools, as my children did, and do. The parents are proud to play an active role in community activities such as parents and citizens associations, progress associations, Rotary clubs, Apex clubs, Lions clubs, the scout and guide movements and the Sutherland Police Citizens Boys' Club. They act as voluntary instructors. My constituents who live in Housing Commission dwellings throughout the electorate are involved in cricket, football, netball and hockey and their children excel in those and other sports.

Those who denigrate Housing Commission developments do not know what they are talking about and are too blind to see the truth. Two minutes' walk from my home is a splendid modern Housing Commission development for elderly people. It is Arcadia, situated in Oakwood Street, West Sutherland. It has beautiful landscaping with a stone walled creek winding its way through the grounds. There are magnificent trees, with benches, on which those elderly pioneers sit and dream in the sun. Those marvellous people sit there, their minds filled with memories of years past. They may welcome their grandchildren in the ideal surroundings that were created for them. They are the people the Liberal Party and Country Party Opposition has denigrated, sneered at and made patronizing comments about, snidely suggesting that Housing Commission development is not good enough for the electorate of Woronora, and that such developments should be at Penrith or Campbelltown as they would fit in better out there.

Mr Keane]

The statement made by the honourable member for Ku-ring-gai—the shadow of the shadow minister for housing—that Menai Housing Commission development should be built instead at Penrith, was made when he was a guest on the "John Laws Show" on radio on 12th August. That attitude of the Liberal Party–Country Party Opposition was expounded by him. Does the honourable member for Byron, the real shadow minister for housing, support his shadow? Do the honourable member for Vacluse and the honourable member for Lane Cove, who have been skulking round the Woronora electorate in support of the Liberal candidate, also support the honourable member for Ku-ring-gai in his view that Housing Commission people are second-class citizens, not good enough for the electorate of Woronora and therefore to be kept out of sight and mind in the far, far west? The honourable member for Byron, the honourable member for Vacluse and the honourable member for Lane Cove, who are supposedly masterminding the Liberal Party campaign in Woronora, have not seen fit to dissociate or distance themselves from the public remarks of the honourable member for **Ku-ring-gai**. One must assume they wholeheartedly and unreservedly support their **colleague** in his condemnation of **my** constituents who live in Housing Commission dwellings.

It is politically most unwise for those members to make such remarks about my constituents. My office has been swamped with calls from Housing Commission constituents throughout the electorate who asked, in outraged protest, how dare the Liberal Party treat them as second-class citizens. I can assure the honourable member for Ku-ring-gai, who has been in this House for only a short time indeed, that my constituents from Housing Commission developments are boiling with indignation and resentment and that their feeling will be reflected in the polling booths throughout the electorate on election day. Here, for example, are extracts from only **two** of the dozens of letters I have received in protest at the Liberal Party's attitude. The first says:

We have recently purchased land to build a home at Illawong and look forward to building our home in an atmosphere of neighbourly goodwill.

We were horrified when we were handed a leaflet put out by the Menai District Progress Association condemning the building of **276** Housing Commission homes in the Menai area.

We were even more horrified to learn of the attack which was made on the State Government for providing land for this purpose.

I wonder if the Menai District Progress Association members who inspired this politically motivated condemnation of the poor and disadvantaged expect that they will go through life trouble free, protected by brick veneer from the unexpected life situations which may cause them to become invalids or ill, deserted by a partner, widowed or made redundant by the ever increasing cuts of labour, even within the Commonwealth Public Service.

We will go on trying to build a better community in spite of the prejudice which has been so blatantly expressed by the Menai District Progress Association.

I shall read also to honourable members a second letter I received, which said:

I am writing in connection with the "protest meeting" to be held on 23–8–81 concerning Housing Commission developments in the Menai region.

I believe that some of the statements made by the organisers of this protest are incorrect, while the intent of their meeting is socially divisive.

Material left in my letterbox has claimed that no notice has been given of the possibility of public housing in the region. However in the State Planning Authority Interim Development Control Map (**M7/5/1**), issued in

October 1971 and obtained by myself from Sutherland Council in 1977, areas in Bangor, Menai and Illawong are shown as zoned "Public Housing". I believe anyone who claims they have been "hoodwinked" in this matter are only showing their own negligence rather than any duplicity on the part of the government.

During the past seven years I have taught at a High School in the midst of a large Housing Commission area (Macquarie Fields). My experience there has taught me the folly of large scale public housing projects isolated from the rest of the community. Accordingly, I would fully support integrated pockets of Housing Commission developments within the overall Menai town plan.

Unfortunately, I cannot attend the planned meeting because of other commitments. I take this opportunity to let you know of my opinions as I fear that this "protest meeting" will seek wide publicity for views which I and others in your electorate could not support.

These letters are typical of the views of constituents of my electorate on this most important matter. Another subject for my address concerns unemployment, particularly of youth. I congratulate the Government on its achievements in reducing unemployment in New South Wales to the lowest level in Australia. The reduction in youth unemployment is particularly pleasing. Unemployment in the 15 to 19-year-old group in New South Wales has fallen by 35 per cent. Of course, the cold statistics cannot in any way portray the appalling misery inflicted upon these young people through no fault of their own. It is the deliberate policy of the Fraser Government that has caused this, as exemplified by the statement of the Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs, the Hon. R. I. Viner, who said earlier this year, "The Government is philosophically opposed to job creation." And yet Australia's record for youth unemployment is third worst among all countries in the Organization for Economic Control and Development. Youth remain unemployed longer in Australia than in any of those other countries. Although Australia has the highest growth in unemployment for youth the federal Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs says, basically, that the federal Government does not care and does not intend to do anything about it. In one of its editorials a writer in the *Sydney Morning Herald* was moved to say:

What is Mr Viner up to in his approach to rising youth unemployment? For that matter what is the Fraser Government up to? Do they realize that this sickness has become so serious, so much a charge on social conscience, that it calls for urgent surgery? Do they know that they increasingly resemble old fashioned country doctors given to administering castor oil as a panacea for all ills of the young?

[*Quorum formed.*] The move to call a quorum is typical of the attitude of the Liberal Party—Country Party Opposition and its lack of understanding for the most important issue facing the country today, youth unemployment. When we talk about youth unemployment, unemployed youth committing suicide, and the social problems of unemployed youth, what does the Liberal Party—Country Party Opposition respond with? They respond by calling for a quorum to take up my time, to prevent me speaking, to gag me. That is their tactic. When the gallery is full of young people and when we are talking about their fate what does the Liberal Party—Country Party Opposition do? It could not care less. It calls for a quorum to gag me. It tries to shut me up. That exposes members of the Liberal Party—Country Party Opposition for the hypocrites they are. When the gallery is full of young people they have to shout me down. But I shall not be silenced. I am determined to talk upon this

Mr Keane]

important issue of youth unemployment. It has been caused by the failure of the policies of the federal Government. I was reading from the editorial in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and I shall continue quoting what it says about youth unemployment:

There is evidence that the suicide rate among the unemployed young is climbing. Tragic as this is it would indicate only the outer extremity of despair within a generation which had woken up to discover itself in a blind alley. If our society does not soon face the fact that massive unemployment among the young is already a full red-alert problem, there could be a bitter period of reckoning. It is imperative that the Fraser Government rekindle hope and provide leadership and a sense of direction to the young. The time has come for it to turn away from an exclusive preoccupation with the problem of inflation, as if the world can wait and all other problems can be set aside until this central problem is solved. The young in particular cannot wait, because tomorrow they will not be so young. They will be past their youth but cast in the crooked mould of the time spent while they were forced to wait. As matters stand, Minister Viner and the Government are very much in the dock.

Those eloquent words of a leader writer of the most prestigious newspaper in Australia state fairly and squarely the true situation of the young unemployed. Many other organizations involved in the issue of youth unemployment are raising their voices in righteous protest. I read from a statement prepared for the Catholic Bishops of Australia by the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace:

Unemployment is the most serious social problem in Australia today. It strikes hardest at those already disadvantaged. Its persistence and its unequal impact give rise to many questions about the way we live and work in Australia and about the way in which our society is organized.

I quote further from the same publication:

The widespread unemployment which marks our society today can rightly be called a situation of great injustice. It has been rendered by other injustices—the inequitable distribution of wealth, the unplanned introduction of employment reducing technology and the powerlessness of people to affect decisions that change their lives. What is more, the unemployed often have to bear other injustices—media attacks, family tensions and poverty. For the sake of a more human society, the forms of economic organization which have been with us for a long time must change to allow access to the work force for all who want a job and a just distribution of society's wealth for everyone.

The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in its statement gave a graphic illustration to help us visualize the 500 000 registered unemployed Australians by reminding us that if all those people were gathered together they would equal in number the population of the sixth largest city in Australia. There would be more people in that city of unemployed than there are in Newcastle, Wollongong, Canberra, Hobart or Geelong. If we included their dependants, the total unemployed would equal the population of the third largest city in this nation. Of all those unemployed the percentage of youth unemployed far exceeds all other categories, standing at 23 per cent with twenty-four unemployed youths for every notified vacancy.

Because of the high birth rates in the 1960's, job opportunities must increase during the next five years even to keep unemployment at current levels. It is estimated that 250 000 new jobs will have to be found each year over the next 10 years for young people entering the work force. It is sobering to note that Aborigines are the

most disadvantaged in employment, as they are in all other areas of life. Though the exact figure for Aboriginal unemployment is hard to determine, it is certain that unemployment among Aborigines is higher than in any other group in Australia. As the statement prepared by the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace showed, the poor are most affected by unemployment. Young people, Aborigines, disabled migrants, the low skilled and the untrained have the least financial resources to fall back on. They have the least access to financial and emotional support from other sources. They are also the most powerless in the Australian community, and have little or no influence over the policies of government, corporations or trade unions.

The unemployed young face psychological problems that their unemployment produces. I refer to loss of self-respect, feelings of worthlessness, anxiety and fear of the future. Within the family, tensions are created which often leave the unemployed young person isolated and unsupported. If the young person is married with dependants, special emotional difficulties are experienced. Great strains are placed on the marriage, often leading to its breakdown. This makes the sense of failure greater because of the hardship it causes to those who depend on the unemployed young husband or mother.

The statement prepared for the Catholic Bishops of Australia points out that unemployment presents particular difficulties for young people. The emotional and mental health threats associated with unemployment come at a most critical time for young people while they are attempting to establish their independence, when they are entering a new relationship with society at large and when aspirations for career and self-fulfilment are greatest. Within the home, unemployment causes increased pressure on young people as many parents have difficulty in accepting that their son or daughter cannot find work and they speak and act as if the young person were to blame. As Professor Aitken of Macquarie University has stated:

Parents find it hard to believe that their children cannot get jobs. In areas where the junior unemployment rate is approaching 50 per cent most parents, teachers and children are united in the mistaken belief that most school leavers will get jobs.

The same attitude underlies statements that work is available if a person really wants to work. Statistically it has been proven that there are about twenty-four unemployed young people for each vacancy for their age group, yet there is the fairly widespread belief in the community that there is enough work for young people if they really want to work. Such statements are unjust and only reinforce the feelings of failure and worthlessness when the young, encouraged by such statements to think that work is available, find there is no employment for them. Another popular fallacy unfortunately and shamefully often propagated by the mass media is that the young unemployed live a life of luxury on unemployed benefits. Of course, that is a physical impossibility on the existing weekly rate of benefits, which is \$36 a week for 16 and 17-year olds.

In comparison to the Fraser Government's mean fisted and parsimonious approach to providing employment opportunities, the Wran Government's record stands as a shining beacon in a pool of darkness. When the Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs, the Hon. R. I. Viner, claimed credit for an employment growth rate of 2.5 per cent he failed to mention that most of the new jobs are being provided by State governments and not by corporations waxing fat because of the so-called resources boom. Almost half the jobs created over the past twelve months have gone to single women in the public sector, the vast majority being nurses and schoolteachers. Those jobs were provided almost exclusively by State governments.

The Wran Government has led the way in providing job opportunities for the young people of New South Wales. The Premier and Treasurer and the Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Energy have led the way in significant and meaningful youth employment initiatives which will directly assist nearly 11 000 young people to find employment and will cost the Government more than \$17 million a year. Already the Wran Government has employed 1 000 school leavers under the special youth employment training programme and next year a further 1 500 young people will be offered jobs. The Government will employ 1 000 school leavers, and local government will be assisted in employing another 500.

An additional 300 apprenticeships have been created in the public service and a pilot programme for youth work co-operatives has been established covering both city and country areas. These co-operatives will organize part-time and casual work for young people and will promote youth involvement in community service projects. In addition, the Government will expand the special courses conducted for unemployed youth by the Department of Technical and Further Education. More than 2 100 young people will be offered full-time pre-apprenticeship, secretarial and business courses. I congratulate the Minister for Youth and Community Services on the pre-eminent role he played in this area.

Housing Commission contractors and subcontractors will be offered an incentive bonus scheme to employ apprentices. This should result in the employment of 400 apprentices. The Government assists unemployed school leavers by providing concessional fares on public transport between December and March each year. Under a Department of Industrial Relations and Technology scheme, country apprentices travelling to technical colleges have their subsistence and travelling costs subsidized by the State.

The New South Wales Wran Government has utilized nearly \$1,000 million from funds unused by previous governments to carry out capital works of a kind that will create employment, without the need for a single state tax increase. In addition to record capital works expenditure the Wran Government, as I have outlined, has allocated \$17.5 million for specific schemes aimed at further relieving unemployment. Another initiative taken by the Wran Labor Government has been to fund two studies to find ways in which employment in Sydney's outer western suburbs might be increased. Interviews with commerce, industry and other organizations within the western region were conducted over a 2-month period to identify local job prospects, measure businessmen's knowledge of existing government training and employment programmes, and to suggest incentives likely to influence significantly future business locations or employment plans. In addition, the State Government is using 100 trained psychologists from the New South Wales Vocational Guidance Service to help combat youth unemployment. This youth counselling service operates from six metropolitan and fourteen country offices of the vocational guidance service. As the Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Technology, my colleague, the Hon. P. D. Hills, stated at the time:

I have introduced the new counselling service because I believe that at no time in the history of our nation have the young and jobless needed friendly understanding as they do now.

The State Government youth counselling service provides information services on unskilled and semiskilled work as well as trades and crafts. It is anticipated that 10 000 young people a year will be contacted by the youth counselling service.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member has exhausted his time.

Mr SMITH (Pittwater) [8.0]: I feel sorry for the honourable member for Woronora. As he wishes to join others who want to promote hatred and division and also to create obstruction, the Opposition thought it worth while that, as a goodly number of persons were in the public gallery, some of his colleagues should come into the Chamber to hear him. It was noticeable that, as Government supporters came into the Chamber, not one of them stayed to listen to his speech—in fact, they slowly dwindled away. Government supporters complained that the Opposition had the audacity to call for a quorum. The honourable member for Woronora should take heed of what is done by his comrades in the federal Parliament. Quorums are called by the Labor Opposition in the federal Parliament within a space of even five or ten minutes. Surely this Government objects to that practice.

The Labor Government boasts of its so-called record of being a truly democratic and representative administration—words it has used again in the Governor's Speech. However, true democracy is present only when there is open government, with a proper series of checks and balances and respect for the institutions of Parliament, its privileges, and the rights of its members. We get continuous mouthing of platitudes in this area, but where is the sincerity of Government members? They have ridden ruthlessly and roughshod over the Parliament, the people, the institution of government and the system of justice.

The Governor's Speech is given to direct the Parliament for this session. I hoped it would give a direction for a return to democratic government, to proper accountability and responsibility, but that appears to be absent. It is hypocritical of the Premier and Treasurer to bring forward the referendum on pecuniary interests in the present form and to ask the Governor to describe it in such glowing terms. It is a measure that will be effective only on honest people, and there are not many of them on the Government benches.

The loopholes in the provisions inserted by this Government are such that they will allow the dishonest to carry on with impunity as they have done before. It is nothing more than a cosmetic exercise, a piece of public relations, another part of this shopfront Government, which is concerned only about image and power and has scant regard for principle, decency and fair play. It is important to look at what goes on behind the shopfront, what the Government is doing to democracy and how close we are to approaching a dictatorship. It is important that the public be informed. Even in Parliament little opportunity is given to enable the representatives of the public to bring serious matters to the attention of the people.

I shall point out how this dishonest Government silences those who dare, in the interests of the people and on matter of principle, to question its actions. One has to consider only what happened to Mr Morris, of the National Trust, when he opposed the disgraceful plan of the Premier and Treasurer to build a luxury hotel on the site where the Treasury building now stands. Mr Morris has now been moved aside, and undoubtedly much more has gone on behind the scenes. Let me come now to another body that was set up to protect individuals and has an outstanding record that has been acclaimed worldwide. That body dared to question various government moves. This upset some Ministers and brought the arch enemy of democracy, the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, out on the warpath.

I refer to the Privacy Committee, a body of which I had the privilege of being a member, as the nominee of the Leader of the Opposition, for more than two years. In his attack on this committee, the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice closed it down for four months, and has set out to—as he calls it—change its direction. What he means is that he wants to make it a tame cat, an instrument that he can control. In the short term he has been successful, but I predict that

will not last. This Government does not want checks and balances on its actions; it does not want true democracy, it wants the power to silence any opposition to its devious schemes and a good public relations system to keep the people in the dark.

The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice delayed the appointment of the members of the Privacy Committee, effectively stopping its work, first, until new members were appointed and, second, until those new members were familiar with the work of that body. Already the work of the committee has been stopped for four months and it will take some time for it to return to normal. What caused some concern to the new members was press speculation that the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice had the committee in his sights. The press speculated that the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice was going to change direction by appointing persons of his own choosing who were politically his way and could be expected to support him. Those new members were upset about the press speculation. I shall examine what the Act says about the appointments and see how the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice has filled those positions. Section 5 of the Privacy Committee Act is in these terms:

(2) The Committee shall consist of not less than twelve nor more than fifteen members.

(3) Of the members—

- (a) one shall be the Ombudsman;
- (b) one shall be the executive member; and
- (c) the remainder shall be appointed by the Governor.

(4) Of the appointed members—

- (a) one shall be a member of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council nominated by the Minister;
- (b) one shall be a member of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly;
- (c) not more than two shall be persons each of whom is an officer or employee within the meaning of the Public Service Act, 1902, and who shall be nominated by the Minister;
- (d) not less than two shall be persons each of whom is employed by a university established in New South Wales and who shall be nominated by the Minister; and
- (e) not less than four shall be persons each of whom has, in the opinion of the Minister, special knowledge of or interest in matters affecting the privacy of persons and who shall be nominated by the Minister.

The new members appointed to the Privacy Committee are: Wayne Haylen, who is a prominent member of the League of **Labor** Lawyers; John Lester Goldring, a professor of law at Macquarie University, who has been a past vice-president of the League of **Labor** Lawyers; **Barbara** Lepani, first officer of the justice and consumer **affairs** branch, cabinet division, of the Premier's Department; and George Masterman, who is the Ombudsman and well known as a fairly radical lawyer. On 27th June the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that George Masterman tended towards fairly radical views. The other appointments are: Mr Bill Robinson, the assistant under-secretary of the Department of Attorney-General and of Justice; Mr Vermeesch, head of the Department of Legal Studies, Ku-ring-gai College of Advanced Education; and **Diane Eyerbury**, who, in 1974, was first assistant secretary of the federal Department of

Labour and Immigration. The electorate will be able to make up its own mind about the direction in which the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice has tried to steer the Privacy Committee.

The most fascinating part about those persons is that, at the first meeting they attended, almost to a person they appeared to come in with a preconceived idea that the committee's method of operation and its direction were wrong. They said that the committee would not be allowed to operate until they had had time to become more familiar with its functions and introduced some changes. Therefore, the committee was stopped from recommencing its valuable work. **As** a member of the committee for over two years and a person with years of successful industrial management experience and a distinguished academic record, I assure the House that it takes a considerable time—say, between six months and nine months—to become familiar with the workings of this body and to make a positive contribution to its activities.

Though I believe those persons are highly intelligent and competent and that eventually they will make good contributions to the Privacy Committee, I find it inconsistent with an intelligent approach that they should undertake their task with an attitude of wanting to change everything before having researched and **understood** the existing practices, unless they had been given a set of instructions and a briefing by someone who wanted to change the direction of the committee.

Mr Jackson: That is a serious reflection on the members of the Privacy Committee.

Mr SMITH: The members of the committee to whom I have referred appeared to be on first name terms with one another and with the new chairman. That could indicate that they were associated elsewhere previously. It is significant that the first action of the new committee was to silence the executive member, to take away from him an ability to respond to press inquiries. That practice had continued without dispute. Since the commencement of the committee I have always found the executive member to be apolitical in the performance of his duty. That was confirmed by the former chairman, Mr Justice **McClelland**, a prominent **Labor** personality. I have been informed that the silencing of the executive member has been revoked by the chairman, **under** his powers of delegation. This applies to everything except any comment about the Government, and that immediately **confirmed** speculation in the press that something was going on. Further, members were reminded by the chairman of **section 20** of the Privacy Committee Act, which is in these terms:

A member, a member of a subcommittee of the Committee or an officer of the Committee shall not disclose any information obtained by him in the course of his office, unless the disclosure is **made—**

- (a) for the purpose of any proceedings under section 22 or under Part III of the Royal Commissioners Act, 1923; or
- (b) for the purpose of the execution or administration of this Act.

Penalty: \$1,000.

That provision was designed to ensure that members of the committee said nothing outside their meetings. That leaves me only the forum of this Parliament to bring these matters to the attention of *the* public and to emphasize the ruthlessness of the Government when it realizes that it will be exposed. **It** is interesting to note that the silencing motion was moved by Mr **George** Masterman and was opposed only by the executive member and three members of the former committee, including me. **The** person appointed by the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice to the Privacy

Committee, Mr W. J. Robinson, assistant under-secretary of the Department of the Attorney-General and of Justice, whom I heard referred to as the Attorney-General's spy, said in committee that he would not agree to any statement that was against the Government.

The Privacy Committee was established to protect privacy. In the two years that I have been a member of the committee, it has been successful in protecting privacy in the private sector but, it has not had similar success in the government sector. That is a disgraceful record of a committee that was supposed to be a watchdog for the individual. What has happened to the basic tenets of English common law, where the rights of the individual are supreme over those of the State? Day by day, they are being disintegrated by the power-hungry Attorney-General and Minister of Justice and the Premier and Treasurer. The chairman of the Privacy Committee is full-time secretary of the salaried division of the Water and Sewerage Employees Union. At the first meeting of the committee he made much of his availability to make statements or to assist members. On that same day I tried to contact him on the number I had been given, but I was told that it was his home leave day and that he could not be contacted. So much for the chairman's availability and application.

It is interesting also to consider the chairman's association with the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. I have evidence on voting cards that shows that in 1971 and 1973 the chairman of the committee was campaign manager for the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. Moreover, he was campaign manager for the Hon. W. L. Morrison in his federal election campaigns. That politicizing of the Privacy Committee is a scandal. Another interesting aspect is that the books of the union for which Mr Hunt works are audited by none other than M. L. Walker, the wife of the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice—undoubtedly for a fee. I have evidence of that fact also. No wonder the public, the press and former members of the committee are concerned. The Government has the hide to suggest that its public funding and pecuniary interests proposals will expose the Liberal Party–Country Party coalition. The Government's own record is a disgrace. It will be no accident that the election will be held before the hearing of the court cases to examine the manipulation of the Labor Party inner city branches, flowing on from the Baldwin bashing case.

I draw attention to the constitution of the Privacy Committee, which was established by the former Attorney-General, the Hon. J. C. Maddison, and the way that committee functions. Those members who have served on the committee and have left room for speculation that they might have been given a set of directions, are highly intelligent people. Doubtless they will see the benefit of the committee and ensure that it gets back into operation. The big problem is that six months of effective work will have been lost before the committee again becomes effective. Even the reversal by the chairman of the veto of the executive member demonstrates that things will move in the right direction. I would be failing in my duty as a member of Parliament, and as a member of the Opposition if I did not bring these matters to the attention of the House. It is probable that the Premier and Treasurer will want to stand on his record in the forthcoming election. Already, I have emphasized that his record is one of deceit and smart public relations, rather than one of achievement.

I should like now to examine briefly the Premier and Treasurer's management of the prison system. Being the minister for good news, undoubtedly he will say that he has the prisons under control. The controversial Dr Vinson has resigned technically, because the Premier and Treasurer could not sack the responsible Minister—only caucus can do that. The prison system is supposed to be consolidating the progress already made. That means that the Premier and Treasurer has given an instruction to keep everything quiet, for an election is just round the corner. It has been rumoured that

every prison officer is to be moved up a grade, to stave off a wage rise push. That is another attempt to buy industrial peace at the taxpayers' expense. It is similar to the \$40 million deal the Government made with employees of the State Rail Authority.

Little has changed inside the State's prisons. The organization is in a mess. Prison officers are demoralized, and the Government's bungling continues. In the past four weeks we have seen four escapes from the State's corrective services establishments—two from Cessnock and two from Goulburn—the assault of a prison warder, the assault of another prisoner, and I believe that prisoners have gone on strike at one of the gaols. That is only the tip of the iceberg. Industrial problems are brewing over the treatment of a prison officer, Kevin Fenton, who has been invalidated out of the service after being attacked by a prisoner. Mr Fenton is living in abject poverty for the commission has not dealt with his claim for compensation. Dr Vinson promised that Mr Fenton would be paid \$2,000 to see him through, but there seems to have been some difficulty in honouring that promise. The total compensation he is to receive is of the order of \$10,000.

It is surprising that today a representative of the Public Service Board handed Mr Fenton a cheque for \$2,000. It must be that an election is on the way. Doubtless the Premier and Treasurer will say that everything is under control in the prisons. ~~Me~~ means that everything has been swept under the carpet. The Premier boasts of the Government's record of achievement in respect of the recommendations of the Nagle Royal commission. Following those recommendations the Government closed down Katingal immediately—for political reasons—despite a recommendation to phase out that part of the prison. However, it left open the observation section of Long Bay gaol, in spite of the recommendation that it should be closed immediately. That matter was referred to on 18th May when a strike was threatened by nurses working in that section of Long Bay prison. The headline in the press was "Close the Pig Pen for the Mentally Ill, Say Jail Nurses". Recently I visited the observation section, which is a disgrace to humanity. The Premier and Treasurer should inspect that section. It would do him good. The article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 18th May was in the following terms:

Their cells are quite disgusting. They are "dry" cells with no proper toilet facilities . . . just a pot in the corner.

Their beds are screwed to the floorboards, which in some cases are rotting away because of the food and urine and waste matter draining on to them.

You would have to be iron-hearted or unbalanced yourself not to feel saddened and disgusted at how these people are treated.

Prisoners could be kept in Katingal in far better conditions than they have in the observation section. Some small modifications to Katingal would have made it a preferable place in which to keep prisoners. Though the Government closed Katingal, it left open what has been called a pig-pen, and it is still open. The Government has not carried out the recommendations of the Nagle report. The Government's approach to prisoners is back to front. The Premier and Treasurer announced that the Government would build a hospital at Long Bay. One minute that hospital was to cost \$8 million and then, in answer to a question in this House, the Minister for Corrective Services said that it would cost \$10.5 million. The Premier and Treasurer cannot find money for the **Mater** hospital. He has said that the Government cannot proceed **with** the development of the Sydney eye hospital. **A** bulldozer should be put through places like Long Bay instead of adding to the existing mess. Psychologically disturbed prisoners in the observation section could be much better handled in Katingal. Better facilities should be built at Morisset so that those prisoners could receive better care. **The** decentralization of those activities to **Morisset** would be a great benefit to the State.

The construction of Parklea is not the answer to our problems. Some prisoners should not be in maximum security gaols. The system is inflexible. Maximum security gaols are overcrowded, and we have an insufficient number of minimum security gaols. Some senior prison administrators say that the need is not for maximum security gaols but rather for humane prisons, such as Cessnock, which was built under a former administration. The Department of Corrective Services needs to be completely overhauled. That department even has two directors in charge of establishment and they have overlapping responsibilities. With that degree of overlap at the top of any structure, one can imagine what happens. No wonder prison officers feel totally demoralized; they do not know where they are going. No wonder the Government has industrial problems. The Premier and the Minister for Corrective Services have failed miserably. It will be interesting to see what happens about Dr Vinson's so-called resignation. I note that his resignation does not take effect until after the most favoured election date. Will his resignation be withdrawn after the election? Surely it is merely an election stunt. About six months ago I predicted that the date of the election could be calculated by the date Dr Vinson is compelled to resign.

Mr Jackson: That is a reflection on Dr Vinson.

Mr SMITH: It is a reflection on the Government. Some other matters contained in the Governor's Speech are worthy of comment. Much has been said about coal and oil exploration, and it all sounds interesting. I worked for some years in the coal industry and on coal exploration in New South Wales. I know that the great problem is not coal exploration and production: rather, it involves providing export facilities. The Government put a stopper on the Botany Bay coal loader and the coal industry has suffered ever since.

Mr Jackson: Would a coalition government build a coal loader at Botany Bay?

Mr SMITH: Yes. Economically and environmentally that would be, by far, the best for this State. The Minister for Youth and Community Services is hypocritical. He favours transporting coal from the western coalfields through thirty residential suburbs. He favours coal trucks travelling through those suburbs late at night, causing noise and dust pollution, all the way to Port Kembla. On the other hand, coal being transported from Tempe to Port Botany would travel through only one suburb, and that is Botany. If one drew a line with a radius of 2 kilometres round the coal loader at Port Kembla, one would encompass the entire area of that centre and the city of Wollongong. If one drew a line with the same radius round the Newcastle coal loader, one would encompass the entire city of Newcastle. The Government is in favour of promoting open stockpiles. The proposed coal loader at Port Botany was to be 2 kilometres from the nearest house, and the stockpile was to be enclosed. From an environmental aspect, it would have been the best coal loader in the nation.

Mr Jackson: Kembla Coal and Coke Pty Limited gave evidence at the inquiry and opposed the Port Botany coal loader. The honourable member for Pittwater was a senior officer in that company.

Mr SMITH: I used to work for that company. That organization adopted its attitude for obvious reasons. Many assumptions were made at the hearing—and I sat through the entire proceedings. One assumption was that a 10 per cent port capacity was needed for a facility to be able to operate. That is so much garbage. The entire system has to be considered. Storage at the mine, rail and port facilities and the shipping system all have to be taken into account. If all those factors are controlled and organized properly, one can establish the type of storage needed at the port.

[Interruption]

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

Mr SMITH: The chairman of that inquiry accepted the submissions of Kembla Coal and Coke Pty Limited. A properly researched and scientific document was submitted. That inquiry was a disgrace to this Government.

Mr JACKSON: That is a reflection on a judge, a former Queen's Counsel, who has since passed on. Opposition members should be ashamed of themselves.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the Minister for Youth and Community Services to order.

Mr SMITH: The Government does not like to hear the truth; it will try to manipulate everything it can. I shall deal now with beach improvement. The Governor's Speech states that \$2 million is to be spent on enhancing the State's beaches. What has happened about the proposed inquiry into the sandmining proposal for Palm Beach? In March last year in this House the Minister for Mineral Resources and Minister for Technology said:

A thorough environmental inquiry will be made into the proposal before any decision is reached, and all persons will have a right to present information before that inquiry, including the honourable member for Pittwater.

When is that inquiry to take place? Has it been shelved until after the elections? The Government is dishonest. How does the Government propose to improve New South Wales beaches? There is a great need for beach nourishment. It is essential that the public knows the Government's attitude to this matter, but it is not dealt with in the Governor's Speech.

One government supporter suggested that some houses should be allowed to be claimed by the sea. He said the Government could then buy up the land. He claimed that erosion will continue. Erosion can be corrected and held by a proper system of beach nourishment, as has been shown in other parts of the world. Further investigations into the matter are needed before all our beaches are lost. In the past 50 years development of our beachfronts has added to the rate of erosion. That has happened mainly through ignorance and by people not understanding the effects of development and the natural processes that operate on the beachfront. Fortunately, in the past few years, our knowledge in that area has increased. We should look at that aspect further. I should like to have seen some evidence of such an undertaking in the Governor's Speech. I note also that the Government has started drilling for the undersea tunnels for sewage outfalls. The Government says it has commenced construction of that project. All that the Government is doing is carrying out surveys. The Government has said that Malabar is No. 1 priority. In fact the Government has started a drilling programme offshore from Manly. The reason is obvious: Manly is a swinging seat the Government wants to hold. The first drill hole will be made well out to sea. By the time of the election the drill will be close to the Manly beachfront for everyone to see. That is another example of the Government's grandstanding. Government supporters should hang their heads in shame. The Government has shown itself in its true colours.

Had time permitted, I should have liked to discuss the Sandy Hollow railway. The Government has not put a penny into that project. White Industries Limited will finance it entirely. The Premier and Treasurer will not put the line through to

Maryvale. He said that the railway will go only to Gulgong. White Industries Limited will be paying for that. The Government ought to do its homework and put the line right through to **Maryvale**.

Mr JOHNSON (Mount Druitt) [8.30]: I am pleased to speak in the **Address-in-Reply** debate. I congratulate the honourable member for Heffron and the honourable member for Cessnock who so ably moved and seconded the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency. As the Australian **Labor** Party candidate for the new seat of Riverstone I again invite the attention of the Minister for Housing, Minister for Co-operative Societies and Assistant Minister for Transport to a serious problem affecting senior citizens in Riverstone. No provision has been made by the Housing Commission for aged persons units. Consequently, people in need of such accommodation are compelled to leave their families and life-long friends. In many urban areas, this may not be such a serious problem but for a closely knit community such as Riverstone, it has serious social effects. In nearby Windsor units are provided for the aged. I appeal to the Minister to give the matter sympathetic consideration.

In November 1980 the Wran **Labor** Government increased its allocation to the Home Help Service of New South Wales. The Minister for Youth and **Community** Services announced that he had allocated an additional \$700,000 for the 1980-84 financial year. The additional funding means that for the financial year just ended the total amount allocated was \$7,550,000—an increase of 37 per cent on the \$5.5 million provided in 1979-80. The Home Help Service is providing a valuable service to more than 17 500 clients from 148 branches throughout the State.

I shall mention the welfare grants to various organizations in my electorate by the Minister for Youth and Community Services. The Mount Druitt Youth Organization received \$23,000; the Learning to Live Cottage at Tregear received \$8,300. The amount of \$500 was granted to the Gracilis Community Group at **Bidwell**. Kid's Activities Centre, Mount Druitt, received \$1,860; Lethbridge Park After **School** Activities received \$1,140; North Mount Druitt Community Centre was given \$2,380 and the YWCA, Blackett, received \$2,860. The Essie Women's Refuge at **Rooty Hill** was granted \$2,500 and Sydney City Mission, Mount Druitt, received \$10,000.

All thinking Australians must be concerned with the level of unemployment in the community. In my electorate of Mount Druitt 2 483 people are unemployed, of whom 1 221 are juniors. In May 1981, unemployment in New South Wales was recorded at 4.99 per cent of the labour force, the lowest since January, 1977. New South Wales again had the lowest rate of unemployment of all States. In May this year the reduction in unemployment throughout Australia by 600 persons was largely due to the New South Wales reduction of 4 300 persons. Unemployment increased in Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. Clearly after six years of coalition government federally those figures constitute the greatest indictment of the Fraser stewardship. They are also a repudiation of the so-called fight inflation first strategy. The Wran Government will continue to give high priority to job creating programmes, with special regard for their effect on young people and on the most seriously depressed regions in the State.

Since coming to office in 1976, the **Labor** Government has introduced a range of measures designed to promote increased job **opportunities** in New South Wales. Though the federal Government has the major responsibility for employment and for unemployment relief measures, the State Government has attempted, within its budget restraints, to promote the generation of **jobs within** New South Wales. One State initiative involved the allocation of \$3 million over three years to establish work co-operatives. The initial allocation for this programme, which is totally administered

by the Minister for Youth and Community Services was \$250,000 in the 1978–79 financial year. Since then, a further \$1.5 million has been spent and it is proposed that the remaining \$1,250,000 will be expended by the end of 1982. The objective of the work co-operative is to generate permanent long-term jobs within successful businesses registered as co-operatives. The Wran Government has provided establishment grants to the co-operatives which in turn make loans to persons engaged in the development of business ventures. The loans are repaid to the co-operatives with interest to allow for the establishment of further enterprises.

The level of achievement of the programmes is highlighted by the establishment of seventeen work co-operatives which are located at Armidale, Auburn, Bellingen, Bondi, Camden—Campbelltown, Canterbury—Bankstown, Fairfield, Gosford, Mount Druitt, Newcastle, North Sydney, northern beaches, Manly, Nowra, Orange, Taree, Wagga Wagga and Wollongong. It includes also the creation of 147 full-time award wage jobs, 59 permanent part-time jobs and 120 casual employment jobs. In addition, 210 jobs have been attained in private industry as a direct result of skills developed by people through the co-operatives. The programme involves also the establishment of fifty-six businesses ranging through the construction, manufacturing, service and retail sectors. Many of the businesses have been created in the rural sector and have been a real stimulus to the local community.

As a result of the work co-operative programme considerable savings have accrued to taxpayers. For example, the person involved in the long programmes I have mentioned were, in most cases, in receipt of Commonwealth government unemployment benefits. Based on the number of permanent and part-time jobs created, directly and indirectly, the programme has saved the taxpayer more than \$500,000 in those repayments. It is estimated that taxation revenue on income from work co-operatives has exceeded \$250,000 annually. It is also estimated that every three jobs created within the work co-operatives result in two employment positions elsewhere in the private sector. The value of the work co-operative programmes is highlighted by that substantial list of achievements. The Government's scheme, which is unique, has attracted the interest of other State Governments in promoting similar programmes. The Government is most responsive to all these inquiries.

The Wran Government is conscious of the rights of all individuals in Australia to obtain employment, and in turn, the highest possible standard of living. The Wran Labor Government has spent more money on youth unemployment relief than had been spent previously. As a result of the unemployment relief scheme, which is administered by local councils, 20 000 young people in New South Wales are undertaking courses in skill or semi-skill subjects in technical colleges. The Government will continue to give the strongest encouragement to large-scale development projects in the private sector, particularly in mining and manufacturing. Unfortunately the federal Government is refusing to come to grips with the problem and prefers to see people collecting the dole rather than in productive employment. The real problems for federal governments in the 1980's will be structural readjustments of the manufacturing industries. This area has been totally ignored by the present federal Government. That is the only solution to the long-term problems confronting Australia. I am pleased to say that the Wran Government's policies of attracting industry especially to the outer west are succeeding. Kellogg (Australia) Pty Limited, Humes Limited and Insulco Pty Limited have built factories at Rooty Hill that are now providing jobs for many hundreds of people.

I turn now to education. I believe all citizens of New South Wales can be justifiably proud of the achievements of the Wran Government in education in this State. Education is our largest single undertaking, with service being provided

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in 1981 for well over one million people. Education expenditure of \$1,483 million in 1980–81 in New South Wales is an increase of \$685 million over the past five years. The education portfolio's share of the State's total annual appropriations has increased to 36.5 per cent in the most recent budget. This resulted in an increase in funding of 13.5 per cent for education and 22.5 per cent for technical and further education. That progress has been achieved in spite of a reduced Commonwealth Government commitment to education in New South Wales. This State's share of Commonwealth funds made available for schools has declined from 11.5 per cent in 1975–76 to 9.2 per cent in 1980–81. That has meant a cumulative loss, under Fraser, to New South Wales government schools of \$43 million in recurrent funds and \$74.5 million in capital works funds.

In addition to its achievements with schools, the State Labor Government has given unprecedented support to the technical and further education system. Since 1976 the number of colleges has been expanded from 65 to 86. Preliminary enrolment figures for 1981 show that, for the first time, technical and further education enrolments in New South Wales will exceed 300 000. This is a 50 per cent increase since 1976. For the first time we will have more people attending our technical and further education colleges than our high schools. The Government has increased its recurrent expenditure on technical and further education from \$75 million to \$178 million, an increase of 137 per cent since 1976. In 1976 there were 386 student places in pre-apprenticeship courses in our technical colleges. This number has been increased to 2 760 in 1981, of which 2 700 are State funded.

The establishment of the Education Commission, which had its inaugural meeting on 20th October, 1981, saw the achievement of a major item of our education platform. The establishment of such a commission was promised by the Askin Government in 1965, but like so many promises made by the Liberal Party–Country Party Government, it was never honoured. Despite a decline in the number of students in our schools and the operation of staff ceilings, we have employed an additional 715 teachers. This has allowed us to introduce a range of improvements into our schools which have greatly enhanced the quality of education being received by the children in New South Wales. Grants to schools in the Mount Druitt electorate to carry out works such as carpeting classrooms, repairs to buildings, upgrading playing fields and so on are: Doonside High School \$129,828; Doonside Public School \$1,222; Rooty Hill High School \$1,418; Colyton Public School \$57,482; Shalvey High School \$6,630; Blakett Public School \$8,298; Whalan High School \$5,918; Plumpton High School \$50,797; Whalan Primary School \$3,707; Hebersham Primary School \$7,234; Noumea Primary School \$1,260; Plumpton Primary School \$19,240; Eastern Creek Primary School \$2,000; Dunheved High School \$3,033; Crawford Primary School \$12,000; Rooty Hill Primary School \$50,600; Dawson Primary School \$15,242; Mount Druitt High School \$13,209; Lethbridge Park Primary School \$9,600; Madang Avenue Primary School \$11,902; and Dawson Pre-School \$2,948.

The Liberal Party–Country Party Government had a pathetic public transport record. Its entire neglect of essential maintenance of tracks and rolling-stock and its continual fare and freight increases resulted in the loss of millions of passenger-journeys. Fare increases in the last two years of the former Government's term of office amounted to 114 per cent. In the run-up to the 1976 elections the Labor Party committed itself to a new deal in public transport, embracing the provision of comfortable, convenient, speedy and reliable services. Five years later we can look back at an outstanding record of achievements. In the first really sustained effort to improve the system since the underground construction and carriage acquisition programmes of the 1920's the \$1,000 million programme has revolutionized public transport in this State, converting it from a dirty, overcrowded, ramshackle system to one of which

the community can be justifiably proud. Major projects included acquisitions of passenger and freight rolling-stock, buses, ferries, locomotives, workshop modernization, construction, electrification, track upgrading, signalling and communications and electrical installations. At the same time we have greatly improved travel benefits for disadvantaged groups, including pensioners and the unemployed, and we have done much to improve the working conditions of transport employees.

In the five years that the **Wran Labor** Government has been in office it has honoured a commitment to upgrade public transport at a cost of \$1,000 million and its ongoing programme is being expanded to meet requirements. Present activities can be regarded as the inauguration of a second 5-year programme to expand and supplement what has already been achieved. The cost of works in progress and new works in the current programme is estimated at \$1.4 billion. It will continue to be supplemented until the ramshackle system we inherited from the coalition Government is brought to a first-class standard.

Under the Government's programme significant progress has been made with the re-equipment of the suburban and interurban passenger fleets with double-deck carriages to replace older single-deck units. Since mid 1976 more than 500 new units have been commissioned. At present 100 air-conditioned suburban cars are on order with **A. Goninan & Co. Limited** of Newcastle and 46 interurban cars are being built by Commonwealth Engineering (N.S.W.) Pty Limited. It is proposed that ultimately the present fleet of 700 urban double-deck cars be increased to 1 000. Benefits accruing from acquisition of the new cars include reduced maintenance, a lower requirement of spare carriages and improved passenger service. Better on-time running will flow from fewer breakdowns and cancellations, faster trip times will be achieved, and passenger comfort will be improved. Completion of the present order of 46 interurban cars will bring that double-deck fleet to 91. An all double-deck fleet will require the purchase of another 84 cars. The modified interurban cars feature improved air-conditioning improved interior décor with fire retarding materials, floor and wall carpeting, heat and glare reducing windows, and public address systems.

Upgrading of track is another important phase of the Government's transport improvements. This programme provides for reconstruction work such as resleepering, drainage, ballast cleaning, continuous welding of track, installation of special track sections for improved signalling and other line improvements. So far the work has been concentrated on main country and interurban lines and in the metropolitan division. More than 1 000 kilometres of track has been rehabilitated at a cost exceeding \$150 million. Since 1976 at least 3 000 car spaces have been provided at metropolitan railway stations to encourage commuters to park and ride. In that time available space has been doubled. In my electorate 103 car spaces have been made available at Mount Druitt and 202 at St Marys. An extensive expansion programme is proceeding to bring to about 4 500 the number of spaces available. Just under \$1 million of the \$3 million programme was spent to 30th June, 1980, \$600,000 will be spent in this financial year and \$300,000 in 1981–82.

To meet the demands of increasing coal, wheat and general traffic, the locomotive fleet is being greatly expanded. Orders have been placed for fifty 2 500 horsepower and eighty 3 000 horsepower diesel electric locomotives. Ten electric locomotives are on order and another contract for seventy will be let soon. Those locomotives are being acquired for the electrification extensions to the Newcastle, Port Kembla and other areas. To accord with the trend overseas in developed countries, provision is being made for a major technological advance by the use of dual voltage locomotives on 25 kV AC and 1 500 V DC systems. Goods railed last financial

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year increased by about 20 per cent on the previous year from 33.5 million tonnes to just under 40 million tonnes. Total revenue increased from \$260 million to \$350 million.

Initiatives are being pursued to secure increased use of the railways for the **cartage** particularly of iron and steel, coal and other minerals. The ultimate objective is to place rail freight activities on a competitive and commercially successful basis. This in turn will provide industry with the full benefits of economies in transport, particularly in the energy conscious 1980's. Marketing initiatives include regular unit train operations from **Tomago** to Newcastle for the mining industry; block train operations for major customers in the steel and petroleum industries; and a car terminal at Enfield to facilitate speedy **receival** and despatch of motor vehicles by rail. Also, there will be updated handling and packaging procedures for beer, involving shrink wrapping, and the use of pallets and containers. Confirmed development of rail as the major line haul component in a national intermodal door-to-door delivery system is intended. And further business expansion, particularly interstate, is expected.

Major projects to cater for expanding freight traffic include the construction of the Sandy Hollow–Gulgong railway to service the vast coal developments in the Hunter Valley and to **channel** coal, wheat and other traffic through the port of Newcastle. The New South Wales coal traffic alone is expected to rise from about 16 million tonnes in 1979–80 to some 50 million tonnes by the mid-1980's. General container business during 1979–80 generated an additional 18.6 per cent of revenue over **1978–79**. Containerization provides rail with a competitive ability to overcome trans-shipping problems and to provide opportunity for a door-to-door service. During 1979–80 a total of 140 000 overseas containers, or 1.683 million tonnes, were moved by rail, a tonnage increase of 11.1 per cent over **1978–79**. Provision has been made in the State Rail Authority's **1980–81** programme for the expenditure of just under \$12 million on 200 container wagons, bogies, and 100 containers. The Government has moved to streamline freight operations through the construction of regional freight centres at **Armidale**, Coonamble, Glen Innes, Casino, Gunnedah, Moree, Narrabri, **Tamworth**, Cootamundra, Cowra and Wyalong. A sum of \$1 million is programmed for expenditure by June 1983 on freight centres.

The estimated cost of the **Granville–Westmead** quadruplication is \$32 million. The project is necessary to achieve the full benefits from the quadruplication of the western line from **Westmead** to St Marys. The section between Seven Hills and St Marys, which is expected to be complete this financial year, will cost \$23 million. Since coming to office in 1976 the Government has eliminated three level crossings in the electorate of Mount Druitt, namely at Mount Druitt, Rooty Hill and **Doonside**. New sophisticated computerized signalling and communications systems are being installed to enable higher speeds to be achieved for both freight and passenger services. The Sydney area has been modernized with the introduction of the latest technology in one unit at **Redfern**. A similar programme is proceeding at Strathfield. The major benefit on completion of the full programme will be faster movement through the heavily used **Strathfield–Central** lines benefiting suburban, interurban and country passengers.

Centralized traffic control is being provided between Telarah and Casino thus permitting safer and faster movement of trains with control centralized at Broadmeadow. Centralized traffic control is being provided between Junee and **Albury** as part of the general upgrading of the Sydney–Melbourne rail link, and between Aberdeen and Werris Creek. Microwave radio communications have been installed between Newcastle and Werris Creek as part of a continuing programme which will provide the country

rail system with a high grade communication network. The Sydney–Newcastle microwave radio network is expected to cost \$1.7 million. The total estimated cost of the signalling and communications programmes is \$93 million, estimated expenditure this financial year being about \$20 million.

Several transport concession fares are available to holders of the Commonwealth pensioner health benefit card. They include unlimited half fare travel on all Government rail, bus and ferry services, with the exception of hydrofoils, and a free economy rail travel voucher for one intrastate journey a year. Pensioners can also get reductions for any single or return rail journey at half adult fare for journeys between any two stations on the main lines South Brisbane to Perth or Alice Springs via Albury or Broken Hill. They are also entitled to a combined rail, bus, ferry excursion ticket, which is available after 9 a.m. on Wednesdays, and at any time on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. The multimodal tickets are available for unlimited travel on the day of issue at a cost of 50c for a suburban ticket, 90c for outer metropolitan area ticket, and \$1.20 for an away-day ticket. The transport concession fare certificate is recognized for travel on private buses licensed by the Department of Motor Transport. New South Wales pensioners can use these certificates on urban services in all States except Queensland. The State Rail Authority issues temporary certificates to visiting pensioners from all other States for a duration of two months or more.

In November 1980 the Government took delivery of the last of 750 Mercedes-Benz buses, costing \$62 million, acquired for the Sydney and Newcastle services since the Labor Government came to power in 1976. Complete modernization of the fleet is envisaged under proposals for the acquisition of 500 new buses between 1981 and 1985 and an additional 250 by 1990. Commuters in Sydney and Newcastle have been given a new deal in transport. Under the former Government the fleet had become alarmingly run down. It was a struggle to keep the services going. The Labor Government has remedied that. Performance, measured by the reduction in mechanical breakdowns, is the best in 25 years, largely because of the introduction of the Mercedes-Benz buses. With the forward-thinking policies announced by His Excellency in his Speech we can look forward to our Government being returned at the forthcoming general election with an increased majority, which will assure New South Wales of remaining the premier State of Australia.

Mr BREWER (Goulburn) [8.58]: I congratulate the mover of the motion for the Address in Reply, the honourable member for Heffron, and seconder, the honourable member for Cessnock, who reminds us greatly of his father—a man who served a long time in this House. While sitting in the House reviewing my intended contribution to this debate I heard the address of the honourable member for Mount Druitt. I intended to speak about country matters. Listening to the speech of the honourable member for Mount Druitt I realized that all the achievements of the Government of which he spoke were in Sydney and its surrounds, or in the Hunter Valley and Wollongong. For that reason perhaps it is easy to understand why this Government is not so popular in the country as he thinks it is in the metropolitan area.

The content of His Excellency's Speech revealed nothing but continued carping criticism of the Fraser Government. The State Government has taken credit for some industrial developments to which it has no right. Claims have been made that the State Government had been responsible for the development of coal resources, and for steelworks. They were projects with which it has had little to do. In fact, it has failed often to provide the infrastructure for such developments. The Speech itself is an indictment of the Government for what it does not say rather than for what it reveals. Local government is mentioned not once in His Excellency's Speech and we

all know why that is so. The Government cannot break the same promise twice. It cannot say it will not amalgamate more councils, for the people would not believe it. I know that the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Roads is not guilty of seeking such amalgamations. I hold him in the highest regard. But if the Labor Party is elected once more I believe it fully intends to embark upon a second stage of council amalgamations, and that will include the 10-cities plan.

There is no mention of Labor's scheme for further amalgamations of electricity county councils or to create a central distribution authority. Moreover, there is no boast of the savings to ratepayers and to electricity users following council and electricity county council amalgamations. I know this is a fact as a consequence of the steep rate increases that have taken place following the amalgamation of the Mittagong, Bowral and Wingecarribee councils. That legislation was clumsy and dictatorial as it related to the retention and direction of staffing. Certainly, improper provision was made for the amalgamations. In the new Wingecarribee council rates have risen substantially. What has the absorption of the Berrima county council with the Illawarra county council meant to the Berrima and Moss Vale districts? It has led to greatly increased electricity rates and steeply increased charges. Before the amalgamations the Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Energy promised a reduction in electricity charges. That statement has proved to be untrue.

The Governor's Speech—a Speech which because of its political imputations was obviously written for His Excellency by the Premier and Treasurer—gives the Commonwealth no credit for the finance it has made available to the State. Indeed, total federal funding for New South Wales in the period 1980–81 rose by \$175.3 million or 10.5 per cent more than in the previous year. That figure is almost 2 per cent above the present inflation rate.

The Speech also ignores state and federal funding to local government. The Speech is an indictment of the State Government's real attitude to priorities, as we discover when we examine the figures. Total state funding under the local government assistance fund rose by only \$66,000 in the 4-year period to June 1981. That figure to local government has increased by only 1.9 per cent. Compare it with Commonwealth assistance to local government—a level of assistance that is constantly criticized by Labor members. In that same 4-year period the Commonwealth's contribution to local government rose by a total of \$49.3 million or 81 per cent. The Premier and Treasurer conveniently omitted to make the point that the Commonwealth's contribution to local government has been a positive factor in keeping down local government rates. It has been far more effective than the Labor Government's **rate-pegging** farce. On the subject of local roads, local government would have been extremely short of funds had it not been for Commonwealth funding. I now wish to mention the Labor Government's road policy—or the lack of it. The Speech fails to mention the roads programme as part of the national strategy or of the freeway system. I quote from the Speech:

Parallel with the programme for the renewal of the public transport system of New South Wales, the Government has continued the improvement of the State's road network, within the limits of the financial restraints imposed upon it.

That is the State Government's tale of woe. The roads referred to are wholly federally funded; yet there is no mention of that fact in the Speech. For example, there is the South Western Freeway, one of the finest pieces of road construction in the Commonwealth. I pay tribute to the Department of Main Roads on that project but I must emphasize that it was funded by Commonwealth money under Commonwealth direction. Also it mentions the Sydney to Newcastle freeway, the deviation of

the **Hume Highway** at Tumblong, the western freeway from Concord to Mays Hill and the Parramatta by-pass at Toongabbie. On the one hand the State Government criticizes the Commonwealth for not providing it with funds; on the other hand it forgets the enormous level of Commonwealth investment in this State. The Commonwealth has accepted responsibility for the funding of national highways and developmental roads. The Commonwealth offers, also, complete funding for local and shire roads. It should be emphasized that not one cent of assistance is afforded by the State Government to local government for local council roads. Indeed, the Wran Government has abdicated its responsibility to the motorist in funding its own state main and arterial roads. The State has contributed not one cent out of consolidated revenue to road construction. I have just been given the good news that the federal Budget provides for \$57 million more to be spent on roads. Compare that decision with the attitude and the efforts of the New South Wales Government.

Mr Jensen: Give us some more good news.

Mr BREWER: The Minister, one of the oldtimers, will not be here when all the good news is known. I wish to quote from the Premier and Treasurer's Loan Speech for the financial year 1980-1981. It contains confirmation of who is really responsible for the state of the roads in New South Wales. On that occasion the Premier and Treasurer said:

In 1980-81 the total funds available to the Department of Main Roads will be \$554 million, an increase of \$37 million or 15 per cent over last year's expenditure.

That sounds **good** but let us examine the make-up of those funds. The Speech makes it clear that the state contribution from the General Loan Account will be \$10 million, which shows how little importance the Government gives the road system. **Departmental** funds and revenue including motor vehicle taxes amount to \$262 million. The fines incurred by motorists for breaches of the traffic regulations are not even returned to the motorist. That \$52 million goes into consolidated revenue. **Semi-government** borrowings amount to \$85 million. That money is raised by the Department of Main Roads. Commonwealth road grants amounting to \$197 million have been increased, I understand, to \$220 million. Thus, a total of \$554 million is available for spending on the roads of New South Wales. Let me breakdown the figure. Debt charges of \$46 million makes the Government's boast of an increase of 15 per cent look silly.

The increase in state funds expended on the road system and its traffic facilities was a mere 6.7 per cent. The State does not really contribute that percentage but taxes the motorist and provides a miserable \$10 million from the general loan account. Actual expenditure on the road system is \$508 million. The 6.7 per cent increase to which I referred is well below the Commonwealth contribution of 11 per cent to this State. The New South Wales Government is not only guilty of refusing to accept its responsibility for road funding but is guilty also of misdirecting priorities. That misdirection applies to roads that are entirely state funded and to developmental roads that are funded federally. **Wran's** priorities have again been directed in most instances away from rural areas to urban and interurban construction.

I shall give some examples of the combined result of the lack of state funding and the misdirection of priorities away from country roads and freeways. They are examples with which I am familiar, for they are in or near my electorate. The most important artery between Wollongong and Moss Vale, giving access to the southern hinterland, the Berrima district and **Goulburn**, is the Illawarra highway. That highway is important for the transportation of primary produce to Port Kembla and the movement of steel and superphosphate from Port Kembla to the tablelands. It is also an

important commuter route to the coast. Lately it has become important for the haulage of coal from the mine at **Berrima** to the steelworks at Port Kembla. That **traffic** is already creating a hazard for the residents of Moss Vale and Robertson, and other travellers on the Illawarra highway.

The development of the Illawarra highway is of importance, particularly to enable heavy vehicles to bypass Moss Vale and Robertson. Why has that work not been done? Because of the lack of funding by the Government and the Government's misdirection of its priorities on road construction. Another important state road runs between Canberra and **Batemans Bay** via Braidwood. It is trunk road **51**. Councils in that area have made continuous approaches for assistance to upgrade that road. It is a most important artery for the south coast.

Main road 254 from Crookwell to Boorowa is a state road for which local government is responsible as reconstructing authority. It gives access to Young and the Midwestern Highway and is a most important route to Goulburn. It carries wool and livestock to Goulburn as a marketing centre. Because of lack of state funding and the misdirection of **Labor** priorities, that road has received virtually no attention since the **Askin-Cutler** Government realized its importance in the late 1960's and provided funds for the construction of a high level bridge over the Lachlan River at Narrawa. As a result of **Labor's** neglect, this winter the road became almost impassable. Transports were bogged on many sections of the road between Crookwell and Boorowa.

Trunk roads **52** and **54** are those between Canberra, Young, Crookwell and Bathurst. A large section of those roads run through the Crookwell shire and some through the **Gunning shire**. Those roads also have suffered from lack of funds for maintenance. They are deteriorating rapidly. This Government is guilty of disregarding its responsibilities towards country roads. The Auditor-General's Report for 1979-80 reveals that Commonwealth assistance to New South Wales increased by 10.5 per cent. Total receipts by New South Wales rose by 13.1 per cent. Taxation in this State increased by 13.74 per cent. About half the funds came from the Commonwealth. If 1 per cent, 2 per cent or 3 per cent of that revenue had been allocated to this State's road system many problems would have been solved.

The Minister for Local Government and Minister for Roads has been guilty of fear tactics over the federal legislation on road funding. I refer to the legislation under which the Commonwealth requires the New South Wales Department of Main Roads to tender for construction. At the opening of the shires conference the Premier and Treasurer said that 90 per cent of national road construction was let to tender, anyway. Of the money provided for national highways, \$9 million goes to maintenance. The requirement in regard to tendering will not come into operation until 1st September. I understand that the amount of day labour that will be affected by the federal legislation is minimal. Because of the nature of tendering, the **general** work force in the Department of Main Roads will be less affected than the day labour sector. That has been done for a considerable time by the Department of Main Roads as the construction authority of national highways and developmental roads. When the initial development is finished each divisional sector of the Department of Main Roads will be totally a maintenance area. What will happen to Department of Main Roads' employees **who** are involved in the reconstruction when it is complete? Will they be kept on with nothing to do? Many divisions contain no state highways. The pattern is similar to what the Minister would have in mind already for the Department of Main Roads work force.

I refer next to country water and sewerage schemes. During the Askin-Cutler Government's term in office the waiting time for government assistance for country water and sewerage schemes was reduced from 15 years to 7 years. In the short period of 5 years that the Wran Government has been in office, the waiting time has extended from 7 years to 10 years. That is a further instance of the Government's lack of interest in the welfare of country people. A further example of the Government's ineptitude is its failure to provide an adequate water supply for Goulburn during the recent drought. It took a publicity campaign extending over three months led by myself and assisted by the mayor of Goulburn to have the Premier and Treasurer meet us and to set up a task force. I acknowledge the tremendous job performed by that task force. The Minister for Agriculture accused us of using scare tactics. I am sure the Minister had a red face when the Government recognized the seriousness of the problem. The task force is continuing its investigations.

Early in 1979, during the drought, the Government realized that Goulburn's water consumption would be much greater than was estimated when the augmentation at Pejar was considered. Application was made to the Department of Public Works for priority to be given to stage 2 of the Goulburn augmentation scheme. Although the application was in order, no reply was received by the Goulburn council. Some seventeen months after I made inquiries, which I was asked to do, the council received a reply to its request stating that the scheme had been placed on priority from the date of the application. I was advised that within a week the council would be informed officially by the Minister. Unfortunately at the time there was no Labor candidate for the Goulburn electorate. One candidate pulled out and it took time to find another. The Minister did not have any Labor Party supporter to make the announcement and he waited until a candidate was available to make it.

I wish to refer to the augmentation of water supplies for Goulburn, the Wingecarribee district and the many hamlets and villages between Moss Vale and Goulburn. Some years ago I sought in this Parliament a share of the riparian rights of the Shoalhaven River for the districts surrounding it. I realized that worthwhile water resources beyond the Shoalhaven were limited. These rights were granted. A committee was established to ensure certain areas received a share of the Shoalhaven waters. Because of the 14 per cent growth rate in the Moss Vale district and the expected growth rate in Goulburn as a result of the development of the F5 freeway, water augmentation schemes from the Shoalhaven River must be developed. When I first made representations, consideration was given to the Welcome Reef dam to be constructed on the Upper Shoalhaven, which would have meant pumping water to a height of 600 to 700 feet over a long distance. As the Wingecarribee pondage has been constructed, it would be a simple matter to pipe water from the pondage to Moss Vale and district, and through to Goulburn. This should not be under the control of the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board. The district should have a right to Shoalhaven water, at no cost to it, but with the responsibility of developing the augmentation and reticulation system.

A lot of fuss has been made in Goulburn by my political opponent about a \$6 million pipeline between Pejar and Goulburn. He considers that this is the ideal scheme. I ask the Government to consider carefully the construction of a pipeline at a cost of \$6 million between Goulburn and Pejar. Different considerations apply when Pejar dam is full and when it is empty in times of drought. Because of the lack of other resources, any further augmentation scheme must be associated with the Shoalhaven River. Future augmentation must be kept in mind when considering the cost of a pipeline. It is now time to start on future augmentation.

Although the Premier and Treasurer asserts that taxes have not increased in the consecutive budgets that he has introduced, I remind the House that taxation has been **raised** outside the budgets. Since the Government came into office, State taxes and charges have increased by a total of **73** per cent. For instance, motor registration charges have increased by **63** per cent, and after the election they will be increased to make a total of 80 per cent. The Government has been most cunning in leaving motor registration charges as they are until after the election, when they will be increased. The citizens of Goulburn know about it.

Mr DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member has exhausted his time.

Mr HUNTER (Lake Macquarie) [9.28]: I welcome the opportunity to speak to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor. Opposition supporters must be saddened to observe the new Leader of the Opposition perform badly. His contribution to the debate was a repetition of speeches made by former leaders of the Liberal Party, and with no more substance than theirs. Opposition supporters who have contributed to the debate have spoken in a similar vein. The honourable member for Goulburn asserted that roads were not mentioned by His Excellency. I am sure that the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Roads, who is present in the House, would have smiled broadly at the comments of the honourable member for Goulburn. Not long after the Liberal Party and the Country Party came into office in 1965 they declared that they would assist councils by taking over responsibility for funding main roads in New South Wales. That Government soon forgot to make available the additional amount required to make up for the sum that local government had contributed under the old formula. The result was that road users were disadvantaged by less and less funding for main roads.

The honourable member for Mosman referred to sweetheart deals destroying tradesmen's wage margins for skill. I remind the honourable member that in 1965 the former Government set out to strangle the wages of fitters and turners, which at that time were the yardstick for the setting of all wages. I was a fitter and turner and I recall clearly how the margin was slowly eroded by the actions of the Liberal Party—Country Party Government. Opposition supporters referred to the electrification of the railway to Newcastle. I live on the Gosford to Newcastle railway and I recall that prior to 1965 Sir Robert Askin, as he now is, and his colleagues promised in their election campaign that the railway between Gosford and Newcastle would be electrified.

I lost count of the many press releases on the electrification of the Gosford to Newcastle railway made by the former coalition Government, especially when the Hon. M. A. Morris was Minister for Transport. It was not until the Labor Government came to office that substantial funds were allocated for that work. The project is progressing well. Further money will be allocated to it in the coming Budget. The honourable member for Goulburn mentioned that under the Askin Government huge funds were allocated to country electorates for sewerage work. That is true. Under the Whitlam—Uren scheme funds were provided for a backlog of sewerage and water works.

I turn to problems facing the Treasury. Early this year the Premiers were tricked by Mr Fraser at the Premiers' Conference. In the coming years we will recognize only too well that he and his cohorts in Canberra have unjustly deceived the people of Australia. The States' long-term share of revenue will be determined by the ratio between the fixed amount of money they receive in 1981–82 and the total

Commonwealth taxation in the same year. Thus, the higher the Commonwealth taxation in 1981–82, the smaller will be the percentage paid to the States in that year and in each succeeding year. For a number of reasons taxation is likely to be extraordinarily high in 1981–82. Taxation will be boosted automatically in real as well as money terms because the federal Government has broken its indexation promises. By 1982–83 Mr Fraser will have his eyes on a desperate pre-election tax cut. The higher tax revenue is in the crucial year of 1981–82, the lower will be payments to the States in perpetuity. When the Prime Minister boasted about how he had conned the Premiers, he no doubt had this in mind. The Opposition in this Parliament and the public should remember this well in the coming years when funds for essential services in our communities continue to reduce in money terms, as well as in real terms.

What Fraser has done to the borrower of essential finance is nothing less than criminal. People from all walks of life will feel the real crush of increased interest rates. Unfortunately some will lose what any government with principle should be assisting them to obtain—a home in which to live comfortably and in which to raise a family. The Fraser Government is inviting foreign investors to take over ownership of Australian industry. Increased interest rates, with the resultant inability of the small business person to obtain finance, is allowing and will further allow trans-national corporations to take over Australian industry. Most clear-thinking people will realize that the return of a national health scheme is a must, especially after 1st September when the chaotic newest Liberal health care scheme causes widespread distress and confusion. Two years of watching the poor and the unemployed suffer sickness because of the Fraser Government's indifference to their plight will make even the average "I'm all right Jack" Australian realize that it is time to tell Fraser to go back into the swamps of Nareen. All Liberal Party and Country Party candidates in the forthcoming State elections should hang their heads in shame. They are as guilty as Fraser by continuing to allow their Government to pursue these undemocratic and selfish policies. Along with the sick, the disadvantaged, the elderly and the family trying to obtain a home, I condemn Opposition supporters for their lack of action within their parties.

In his speech the Governor emphasized the importance of the Hunter region. Our regional development has been assisted greatly by organizations such as the Hunter Valley Research Foundation, lead by Professor Cyril Renwick. Over the years the foundation has come to be regarded as a trailblazer for community planning in New South Wales. I commend the foundation for its past services to the community. Special mention must be made of the more recently formed Hunter Development Board, headed by Alex Young. The initiative shown already by the board has played and will continue to play an important role in the Hunter region. There can be no doubt that the foresight that led to the establishment of those bodies is now reaping the harvest of their dedicated service which is of importance to the Hunter region, to the State and the nation. These efforts have special significance because of the massive development proposed for the region—development that all honourable members know has its critics. I stress that the path the State Government is pursuing, and has pursued for some years, is sensible, correct, and based on the most sincere desire to ensure that the region's tremendous potential is realized. Essentially what the New South Wales Government is trying to do is to create jobs to ensure that shabby periods in our history that greatly affected our region do not recur, and that the damage to our economic and social fabric is not repeated.

The large-scale development that will take place in the years ahead will create many thousands of new jobs. The alternative to growth is stagnation or decline. This in turn leads to higher unemployment, fewer opportunities, growing inequalities, and

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poorer community services at every level affecting education, health and welfare. We certainly do not wish this to occur. The State Government is most aware of the problems our planned development will bring and knows there is a need for thorough investigation. However good the management of new development, there will need to be social support services to pick up the inevitable casualties of this rapid development. The predicted funding to be announced in the coming Budget will be directed to assisting these essential social welfare services. Lake Macquarie has not escaped the **difficulties** created by large-scale development. It is accepted widely that roads suffer from the transport of coal. Though action is already being taken to upgrade our **rail-**roads and rail stock, it is expected that the State's main roads will share in the special allocations to be made for the region.

The commencement of planning for new school concepts is welcome. Funds should be forthcoming for those extra facilities already planned and agreed to for schools that at present feel the effects of the workforce invasion. Heavy coal and electricity developments are especially damaging to environment. They cause high levels of noise, air and water pollution, elimination of open space and wilderness areas and visual pollution. Some of these can be resolved, though only at a cost, which must be shared not only by the people but also by the developers both by compromising in development and by injecting the necessary finance. I emphasize the major financial problems in the area of the Lake Macquarie municipality. First is the ability of the Hunter District Water Board to fund the necessary headworks required to service the demands for land in the southwestern sector. These headworks are needed now; further delay will worsen the pollution problems of the lake as well as the adjoining land and residential areas. Second is the ability of the Department of Main Roads and the council to provide the road network necessary to carry the vastly increased traffic. At present the roads in the municipality are inadequate, but there is a backlog as well as a future demand problem. Third is the ability of the State and the council to provide the backup welfare services necessary to cope with the social problems associated with this rapid development.

I shall now list major projects related to coal and other industries in the Lake Macquarie area. The first is the construction of a 2 640 megawatt power station at Eraring. Then there is the establishment of four coalmines, namely, Myuna at Wangi, Cooranbong No. 1 and No. 2 at Eora Creek and Morisset, and Awaba No. 2 at Awaba. Initially, those four Electricity Commission mines will supply 1.5 million tonnes per annum to Eraring power station. The production of each will increase. The Stockton Borehole colliery at Cockle Creek will increase production and washing processes to 3.5 million tonnes per annum. The John Darling colliery at Belmont will increase production and washing output to 2.5 million tonnes per annum. Production and washing processes of the Newstan colliery at Fassifern will increase to 2.5 million tonnes per annum. The Newstan colliery, which is another Electricity Commission coalmine, produces coking coal and steaming coal.

With the mining of new seams, production at the Wallamaine colliery at Catherine Hill Bay will increase from 500 000 tonnes to one million tonnes per annum. Wakefield open-cut mine will increase production to 120 000 tonnes per annum. The West Wallsend No. 1 colliery at Killingworth, which was reopened after being closed because of an explosion, and is producing 500 000 tonnes of coal per annum, will increase production to 3.75 million tonnes per annum when in full operation. By 1985 total coal production in the municipality will increase from 5.8 million to 17.6 million tonnes per annum. One can see from those statistics the extent of the mining development in the Lake Macquarie area.

Further developments to take place in the region will be the erection of the transmission lines through the West Lake Macquarie grid system, linking Eraring, Wangi, Vales Point and Munmorah power stations to Sydney and to the Tomago aluminium smelter. The national road route will pass from Wyee in the south of the Lake Macquarie district, through Morisset and Freemans Waterholes, and on to Barnsley in the northwest of the area. Another development will be the electrification of the Great Northern Railway from Wyee to Cardiff and on to Newcastle. The construction of the gas and petroleum products pipeline from Wyee to Cardiff is another substantial development that will take place. Other developments will be the enormous increase in road transport of coal, the establishment of Mannering Creek ash disposal area, the Wyee balloon rail loop and the Newstan to Fassifern rail link. The Bolton Point Housing Commission project 7777, and the expansion of the Sulphide Corporation works smelter at Cockle Creek are further developments. The major projects I have mentioned generate numerous related industries. I do not need to explain further why the southeastern section of the Hunter region looks forward to favourable consideration in the coming State Budget to enable essential services to be provided.

The Governor also mentioned the importance of the State's coal industry. I wish to make a few remarks about this long-established industry. For some time New South Wales has enjoyed an overseas market for this product. It is predicted in quite a number of business circles that the trade will increase considerably in the next decade. It is said that the main buyers will be Japan, Korea and Taiwan. The United States of America also expects a large increase in exported coal. Historically, the United States of America has exported coal to Europe from Atlantic coast ports. However, it is now turning to Asian markets because of its federal Government's easing of restrictions on coal companies and because of the assistance that Government has seen fit to give those companies to export.

Japan especially is investing heavily in the United States of America, in ports and rail in the west and coalmines in the mid-west. Japan, Taiwan and Korea would prefer to buy coal from the United States of America, as their own goods are sold mainly in that country, and that would offset their trade balances. Australia with its small population and being a low consumer of imported goods from those countries is at a disadvantage. Only by co-operation of the whole of the coal industry in all States will Australia become competitive with the United States of America. In that country the federal Government is helping all States, whereas in Australia the States must go it alone.

In the United States of America the Government is spending vast amounts on research into new methods of transportation and storage of coal. The Australian federal Government should be assisting a great deal more to make sure that Australia is able to keep pace with the United States of America. The obvious reason for the American Government spending such vast amounts and effort is the benefit that it will gain directly from the sale of coal. The States gain only proportionately.

In other primary production areas in Australia, such as wheat and wool, the latest technology is being used. In fact Australia is in the forefront of technology for primary production. Wheat and wool production are supported by the federal Government. Unless the federal Government gives financial assistance to the coal industry, that industry will be at a distinct disadvantage. The Hunter Valley region is a prime example. Where is the input by the federal Government? Funds to establish coalmines, roads, and rail and port facilities are provided by the State Government and private enterprise. It is time the Commonwealth contributed in more than one way, instead of receiving high returns for extremely little outlay. New South Wales has the workers, the coal and the infrastructure to produce much more coal for export

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each year, but unless there is a lot more efficiency and proper federal Government support the Australian coal industry will not be competitive in the Asian market in that decade.

When one speaks about competition in price with the United States of America, it should be remembered that in the 1990's the total cost of coal must be counted. The Japanese have rigid pollution control requirements which place an additional cost on coal imported into Japan relative to the cost of handling the pollution created by imported coal. Dirty coal imported into Japan cheaply can become expensive when burnt in that country, because of the pollution control loading. If all of Australia's export coal trade is aimed at producing funds for the federal Government to help its balance of payments, how much more competitive would the Australian coal industry be in the 1990's if the federal Government gave support to the industry similar to the support that will be given to the coal industry in the United States of America in that decade?

It must be remembered also that Japan has announced already that by 1990 it expects to purchase 20 per cent of its steaming coal from China. Japan is engaged also in feasibility and research studies of major steaming coal projects in Siberia, another source for the importation of coal. The central government in China, not the provinces, finances coal projects. Why does that not happen here? As long as the Commonwealth continues to dodge its responsibility to the coalmining industry, the States must increase encouragement to the industry so that it can compete when other competitors come into full production. The development of State mines, along with the provision of facilities for training new miners and coalmine apprentices is a big plus for the Government and is certainly a progressive measure.

The ever-increasing production brings about dangers in the workplace. Continued research in that field should be given high priority. I commend the Minister for Mineral Resources and Minister for Technology and his department, for I know that research is being conducted. I commend the researchers at the University of New South Wales for the work that they have undertaken. Though it would take many hours to describe those studies, I am sure that the results achieved will make underground mining much safer.

The Government should be congratulated on the real effort it has made to engage more apprentices in all of the trades. I make special mention of the employment of females in a number of trades. It is heartening to know that after years of neglect by the former Liberal Party-Country Party Government, New South Wales can look forward to having sufficient tradespersons to cope with industrial expansion. It is pleasing also to realize that industrial unions are aware of the Government's efforts. I add my congratulations to the New South Wales branch of the Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights Union on its appointment of Barbara Grenfell to the position of State organizer. I believe she will give sterling service, especially to females employed in the State's workshops.

I turn now to a subject mentioned by the Governor which is as exciting as it is challenging. I refer to the restoration and preservation of Aboriginal culture in New South Wales, for which the Government has already made a vital and initial move in the form of the all-party parliamentary Select Committee upon Aborigines. As member for Lake Macquarie, naturally I am proud to be associated with that name, for surely Lake Macquarie has strong claims to be regarded as the birthplace of Australian anthropology. In 1825, the London Missionary Society established Australia's first

Aboriginal mission at Belmont on the shores of Lake Macquarie. This missionary was the Reverend Lancelot Threlkeld, a humanist and linguistics scholar. He was an unusual man of his time, and he possessed attributes rare among Europeans of that early settlement period in colonial history.

Though Threlkeld's main aim was to convert the first Australians to the Christian way of life, he understood, though not completely, that the natives had their own culture, and that they were deeply spiritual, if somewhat superstitious. He was the first cleric in the colony to appreciate that the best way to expound the gospel was by communicating in the mother tongue. This he set out to do by learning the classical language of the Awabakal people, their various aspects of spirit belief and general lifestyle. In this way there was the beginning, at grass roots—and indeed valid—level of anthropology in Australia. It was an approach to acquire new knowledge with an open mind. In 1827, only two years after the mission began, Threlkeld published the first Aboriginal language book in Australia. He continued his linguistic and cultural researches until his sudden death in 1859. His recorded works of Lake Macquarie and other areas are now regarded as landmarks in Australian history.

The Threlkeld tradition lingers in Lake Macquarie in the same way as does the survival of so much physical evidence of long Aboriginal presence in the region. In many parts of Lake Macquarie and its environs, European intrusion, in particular in the mountains and the bush, has been minimal. In such places there are still to be found artwork and other forms of expression that belong to the Australian Aborigines alone. It was thought that the Awabakal language had died out with the passing of the last fullblood of the tribe, Queen Margaret of Swansea, shortly after the turn of the century. Strangely, the language did not die out as until the 1980's it had been freely spoken by many Europeans scattered round Lake Macquarie. Thus when this language was researched more than twenty years ago, elderly people of white background were able to pass on their knowledge of it. The most remarkable facet of this particular segment of history is that the Awabakal language, which was spoken for thousands of years by the original inhabitants, is being returned to Aborigines of this generation through its survival among Europeans.

Many families of Aboriginal descent reside in the Lake Macquarie region. They have come from various parts of New South Wales to an extinct tribal area. However, they have strong age-long kinship ties with the Awabakal—the mother tongue being taught in Lake Macquarie and Newcastle to their children. This is a self-supporting project that warrants the urgent and close attention of New South Wales education authorities. I consider that Australians of European descent are about to enter a period of atonement so that justice in truth might be given to our Aborigines. All their needs demand high priority. Surely there can be no higher priority for people dispossessed of their traditional lands and denied their full culture. I suggest that education facilities to encourage cultural involvement should be more the direct responsibility of the Minister than a referred commitment by departmental officers.

In our district, instruction in mother tongue is part of the programme to help Aboriginal people regain some of their lost culture. It is truly a sure path along which they may travel to recapture dignity and re-establish personal identity. May I remind the House of the history of the Greek people, who were once subjected to Turkish rule. The Greeks, always a brave and scholarly people, refused to surrender their mother tongue and religious belief. These two great human forces eventually led to the end of Turkish domination. Perhaps, in a peculiar fashion, history is repeating itself in our region, in that the first inhabitants, slowly but surely, are moving to adopt a stance that could well mean that once more they can become a proud and united

people, linked with the ancient past but equipped to merge with modern society without loss of traditional identity, and thus provide a better and more generous security for their future.

The parliamentary committee inspected the Lake Macquarie area and environs to become acquainted with, and informed about, the ancient history of the region and to note the richness of relic survival. I am happy that the Government is associated with activity that is helping to restore and preserve Aboriginal culture, particularly in the Hunter region where a pilot scheme is operating that has attracted the attention of Aboriginal communities elsewhere in Australia. Though this welcome development is helping Aboriginal people to gain more recognition of their culture and claims, there are pockets of refusal at all levels to understand that a change, initiated by the Government, is on the way. These European resisters cannot say they have not been warned. It is my hope that the New South Wales Government will pursue its original aims to help Aboriginal people to get the long overdue relief they merit. If there is to be a keynote of this new attitude, it is perhaps consultation before confrontation. The Aboriginal people in our region are being helped by an Aboriginal support group, representative of both races, and whose members include the Bishops of Newcastle and Maitland.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member has exhausted his time.

Debate adjourned on motion by Mr Greiner.

ADJOURNMENT

Port Botany Hazard Survey

Mr SHEAHAN (Burrinjuck), Minister for Housing, Minister for Co-operative Societies and Assistant Minister for Transport [9.59]: I move:

That this House do now adjourn.

Mr BRERETON (Heffron) [9.59]: I draw the attention of the House to a matter of great concern to the constituents of my electorate. It is the urgent need for the completion of a hazard survey statement for the industries in the Botany–Randwick industrial complex, together with the formulation of an emergency plan for the Botany Bay subregion, in order that the people of the district may be assured that the Government is aware of the potential dangers facing them and will be able to cope, as well as possible, if the worst happens. The question has been of concern to local residents over the past couple of years, since various announcements have been made about a rapid expansion of industrial development in the area.

As honourable members are well aware, plans have been approved for a complex for ICI Australia Limited at Banksmeadow to be extended, for the Total oil refinery at Matraville to be extended, for various petro-chemical complexes to be constructed, for the completion of the development of Port Botany and for various other industries to be established which are, of their nature, hazardous. At the time that the approval for the Total oil refinery was granted the Botany Bay Sub-Region Community Advisory Committee approached the Government with a view to that development being stayed until such time as a full, independent public inquiry into the proposed expansion had been held.

The Minister for Planning and Environment advised the Botany Bay Sub-Region Advisory committee on 22nd August, 1980 that the Government was not willing to accede to that request, that the concern expressed by the committee had been noted, and that there would be a full study of all the various projects that were planned

for the Botany region. When the Botany Bay Sub-Region Advisory Committee met in September 1980 it resolved that it was considered essential that an overall comprehensive hazard analysis be carried out of the port and adjacent areas before any more developments were approved.

The committee call received the overwhelming support of local residents and interested organizations. On 2nd October, 1980, the Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development came out in support of the call for a moratorium and drew particular attention to the Esso petrol spillage, which had occurred shortly before that date. The Inner Sydney Regional Council for Social Development called also for three new local firefighting stations to be located near the port and for specialist firefighting capabilities including boarding burning ships should a burning ship—heaven forbid—ever confront us in Botany Bay; for the re-opening of Banksia Street, Botany, as an alternative evacuation route, and for open and continuing debate about a hazard plan—the plan that the Minister had undertaken would be completed by the Department of Environment and Planning.

The Botany Bay Sub-Region Community Advisory Committee published a press release in October 1980 which stated that, though the committee appreciated the efforts of some departments to put stringent controls on individual new developments, it considered that the combination of these and old or existing plant required that all necessary predisaster planning for the port and its hinterland should be completed as a matter of urgency. The Minister acknowledged receipt of all of these representations in December 1980 and advised local residents that a subcommittee had been set up and was undertaking an overall hazard analysis, which would involve all industries for the whole of the area and the port itself, that analysis to be directed principally at identifying possible risk levels and quantifying the cumulative impact of all proposals, including existing and possible future proposals, and assessing whether any additional controls are necessary. The final outcome of this task will be a hazard plan for the whole area. That announcement was greeted with great joy by local residents who live in considerable fear because of the close proximity of the major industrial developments in the area.

The Minister went on to advise that, on completion of the study, the findings would be made available to the public. He pointed out that the preparation of a hazard plan is both time-consuming and a costly exercise. He said also that, due to the work required to be undertaken by industry, the hazard analysis would probably take up to another six months. That was in December 1980. All the residents waited with bated breath. Six months have come and gone—in fact, almost nine months have passed. The worries of local residents have not been eased by information that some overseas major ports have already developed adequate controls to cope with any potential disaster. The major world ports of Rotterdam and Marseilles, both of which have large petro-chemical complexes in close proximity to residential development, have come up with most impressive hazard analysis and disaster plans.

A plan in Rotterdam also covers the carriage of dangerous goods on roads. Maps show the routes by which various sorts of dangerous goods can be delivered to different industrial complexes. That system is aimed at keeping dangerous goods away from residential development so that the quiet peace and enjoyment of the people in those areas is not disturbed. The last word from the Minister came on 23rd March, when he advised me that the Department of Planning and Environment was conducting a study. He had already told me that the majority of companies within the study area had responded to hazard analysis inquiries. The Minister said that questionnaires had been submitted and returned and that the department was analysing the data. The Minister had directed the department to expedite the study and to make it available as

soon as possible. He repeated that he hoped the publication of the department's findings would assist in alleviating many fears and misgivings. We are fortunate to have such a fine body as the Botany Bay advisory committee, which is **lead** by Professor **Hans Westerman**. That committee is doing a commendable job in highlighting measures needed to protect and safeguard the interests of local residents.

Mr Cameron: On a point of order. Mr Speaker, it has been long established that the only circumstances that justify a member speaking on the adjournment during the course of the Address-in-Reply debate are where he has spoken already in the debate and upon a local matter that has important implications. The honourable member for Heffron has already spoken in the Address-in-Reply debate. However, it is a complete deviation from the established practice for a member to speak on the adjournment when the Address-in-Reply debate is only three days old. A ruling that is pertinent to this issue was given by you, Mr Speaker, and published in *Parliamentary Debates*, 1976–78, at pages 171 and 342. That ruling is to the effect that, while the Address-in-Reply debate is current, a matter is usually raised on the adjournment only by a member who has spoken in the debate some considerable time previously. The honourable member for Heffron spoke in the debate as recently as last Wednesday. It has been ruled that, for a matter to be raised in these circumstances, it should be one of strictly local content and unlikely to be raised in any other way during the Address-in-Reply debate. Although I am not really clear as to the subject upon which the honourable member was speaking—

Mr Sheahan: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was not in the House to hear the debate.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is speaking on a point of order. If the Minister wishes to take part in the debate, he should seek the call.

Mr Cameron: Mr Speaker, I submit that the honourable member for Heffron is acting contrary to your previous ruling and that he should not be allowed to proceed. Otherwise, the result would be that each evening, during currency of the Address-in-Reply debate, we shall have an adjournment debate and, thereby, two parallel debates at the one time.

Mr Brereton: On the point of order. We are witnessing a disgraceful attempt by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to prevent me from putting information before the House on behalf of my constituents. He knows that in taking up time discussing a point of order he has denied me an opportunity to develop this important subject. The honourable member stands condemned for that cheap and nasty piece of political manoeuvring.

In the few days since 12th August when I had the opportunity of speaking in the Address-in-Reply debate I have been inundated with correspondence from my constituents who are desperately worried about their safety in the event of a major disaster at one of the dangerous complexes to which I have referred. For example, I have received from local residents representations dated 17th and 14th August. I have also received correspondence from the Hillsdale Community Information Centre. In the past week I have been inundated with correspondence from concerned people. As all of this has occurred since I spoke on the Address-in-Reply motion, I ask you, Mr Speaker, to uphold my right to raise in this House matters brought to my attention since by local residents.

Mr Cameron: Further to the point of order. The honourable member for Heffron condemns himself out of his own mouth. He cites correspondence arising at a date before he spoke in the Address-in-Reply debate.

Mr Brereton: That is rubbish. I said that I had received letters dated 14th and 17th August.

Mr Cameron: The honourable member for Heffron has already spoken in the Address-in-Reply debate. It is only when matters arise after an honourable member has spoken in that debate that the possibility of giving him leave to speak on the motion for the adjournment of the House can be considered. Even then, the Address-in-Reply debate must be in its late stages. I submit that in present circumstances such leave could not conceivably be justified.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Leader of the Opposition entered the Chamber at a time when the honourable member for Heffron was concluding his remarks on the adjournment motion. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition bases his point of order on a ruling I gave in 1976–77. He submitted that my use of the phrase "some considerable time" to describe the period after which a member who had spoken in the Address in Reply debate might be allowed to speak on the adjournment during the currency of that debate precluded the honourable member for Heffron from making remarks at this stage. It is difficult to say when the Address in Reply debate will end. It could end tomorrow; one does not know. In speaking to the point of order, the honourable member for Heffron referred to correspondence, some of which was dated 17th August, 1981. Clearly, that correspondence arose after he took part in the Address-in-Reply debate.

The question to be determined is whether the circumstances that now arise come within my earlier ruling. It is clear that a matter may be raised in the adjournment debate while the Address-in-Reply motion is still before the House only if it is one of strictly local character. The honourable member for Heffron has shown how the matter in this case concerns his electorate. It must also have narrow implications and be unlikely to be raised by another member when speaking to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. As the matter raised by the honourable member for Heffron appears to meet those requirements, I rule that he is in order in speaking on the adjournment.

Mr SHEAHAN (Burrinjuck), Minister for Housing, Minister for Co-operative Societies and Assistant Minister for Transport [10.13], in reply: The time left to me to reply to the honourable member for Heffron is severely limited because the Deputy Leader of the Opposition saw fit, by way of a point of order, to deprive an honourable member of an opportunity to express the genuine concern of his constituents and to deprive me of an opportunity to comment on it. The reason for the concern shown by the honourable member for Heffron was made manifest by the recent correspondence to which he referred. I am pleased to inform the House that the Minister for Planning and Environment will be resuming duty in the near future. It will be my pleasure to convey to him the details of the matter raised by the honourable member for Heffron. I shall tell him in no uncertain terms that that concern is not shared by the Opposition. The development of a hazard plan for the area referred to is a matter of longstanding concern to the Government. I am sure the Minister will do everything possible to bring the process to a speedy conclusion.

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned at 10.14 p.m.
