going to get? Mr Hayden is the Minister who brought forward this proposal. Admittedly, he is having a lot of bad luck because of late nothing he touches seems to go right. But nothing will ever go right with a proposal which does not require people to contribute something. In this world, we never get something for nothing and at this stage of Mr Hayden's career, which I believe will be very short, he has bungled pretty well everything he has touched.

Mr Hayden will find that in this world we get nothing for nothing. It tickled me a little that a person could set up in this House and complain about the Premier belting Canberra when one of the speaker's own prize schemes was let down by his colleagues in Canberra. That really fascinated me. I just wonder how much discipline applies in the Australian Labor Party. Can we not say what we think? I believe that some of us can and hope we continue to do so. I am disappointed the Opposition did not attack Canberra over this matter, because it represented one of its key proposals. It said it was going to do so much for the people, but all it has done is to raise their hopes and then drop them in the mouth. If this is the kind of Government that Canberra expects to give us, frankly, people in this State will begin to expect that sort of Government. Its promises are not honoured.

Inflation is another issue at which we should have a look. I will make only one short suggestion on inflation. It may be greeted with derisory cheers, but I believe that inflation is caused by the lack of productivity.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Good God!

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: No, he does not create inflation, it is due to the lack of productivity and the lack of work, which the honourable member cannot understand. However, I believe there is one quite simple solution to inflation. Right across the board, with no exceptions, from the members of the Legislative Council down to the other place and in Canberra and everywhere else, everybody should do four hours' extra work a week for no extra pay. At least we might get rid of some of the time wasted on tea breaks and some productivity back into the economy. Let us look at the Industrial Affairs scene today. People are walking off the job in the middle of cement pours. I wonder just how long it will be before the insurance companies, under their contractors' all-risk policies, sue the people who have walked off a job or sue the unions responsible for the walk-off. That is a sobering thought and if it occurs, the insurance companies will be the State Government Insurance Office or one of the private companies, in effect will charge that money to us.

The irresponsible people in this State who are trying unfairly to take advantage of the employers will disadvantage not only the employers but also everybody possessing any type of insurance in this State. I believe that this type of industrial action is just another contributor to inflation. Any union which cannot by negotiation with the bosses or by arbitration get what it wants should make sure that it does not cost the public money before it takes action. But have these organisations made sure they do not cost the public money? I do not think they have.

Mr President, I do not intend to continue my remarks. I believe that the Court Government will do more in the fields of education, community welfare, recreation, and almost every other aspect of government than did the previous Government, because the Court Government is a group of managers. It contains people who are used to managing things. Despite the terrific million or so that we carry on the east coast—I refer of course to the Australian Government in Canberra—and the bickering sitting on their behinds at great pay getting out the economic policy of this country, this State will go forward with leadership and drive, with the best management of any State in Australia; and while the Premier continues in that position, this will continue to be the case.

THE HON. GRACE VAUGHAN (South-East Metropolitan) 15.22 p.m.: Mr President, I apologize for not hopping to my feet sooner. I am not yet au fait with the procedures of this Chamber. I should like to say to you, Sir, and to the House how grateful I am for the warm welcome which has been extended to me by yourself and by other members of the House. I also pay tribute to the wonderful service which is available from the staff of this Chamber. I have been quite overwhelmed by their efforts, help and the sympathetic understanding of my lack of knowledge of the procedures of Parliament. I also pay tribute to the people in my electorate who put me into this position, which is one of honour. I am very touched by the tradition which surrounds this House. But to me, tradition is a useless abstraction unless it shows us development from the past and how we can learn from it. Unless it involves a learning process, tradition is useless. Perhaps I did not think seriously enough about this before I accepted endorsement and, to the surprise of some people, was elected to this place, despite the fact that I was of the wrong sex; but it seems to me that I have landed myself in the strange position of being in this House and it would be better suited to the days of the rotten boroughs of England, some centuries ago.
I was amazed to hear Mr Tozer speak about the high cost of living in the north-west. He referred to how much it costs people to live up there. In my opinion, cost is a matter of survival. We should give people enough on which to survive, but we do not seem to be doing that with 85 per cent of the population of this country—the men who are receiving less than the average weekly earnings. However, the most valuable thing to a person living in a democratic country is his vote. It seems to me that one of the cheapest things Mr Tozer’s electors possess is the privilege of getting a member into this House. The north-west-Murchison-Eyre area has a population of some 21,000 which elected some eight members to the House of Parliament. But it takes 91,000 people in my electorate to elect seven members to the Parliament. It would appear to me that while Mr Tozer’s electors are paying a high price for their butter and bread, they are not paying much to get their representatives into the House. I will not make a value judgment at this stage on the worth of those members.

One of the things that Mr Tozer mentioned was the cost of water. I made a few inquiries about this matter. He said that one day, we from the metropolitan area would come in hand to hand with the north and ask for concessions. I should like him to give us a concession rate in regard to votes. As I understand it, the price of water has not increased in country areas—as a matter of fact, there was a slight decrease during the rural recession of 1970—since 1965, whereas in the metropolitan area it has increased by some 80 per cent. Mr Tozer can hardly expect the residents of the metropolitan area to carry on their backs the people in the country areas any more than they are now doing. I intend to speak later about compensation. I believe country people should be compensated, but not to that ridiculous extent. What Mr Tozer suggests is that if I cared to live on the top of the Porongurups and pay for water and electricity services, I should pay the same rate that is paid by people who live in East Perth. That is a ridiculous suggestion.

Turning again to the abstract matter of representation in this House, given that we have an Electoral Districts Act which is reminiscent of the rotten boroughs operating centuries ago, we do have people who have been elected to this Chamber. I hope they will bend their minds to the welfare of the people of this State and not in their decisions reflect this quite monstrous inequality between the representation of city people and that of country people. The way in which I see this House functioning is as a House of Review. It should have much more equal representation than the Lower House because this is a pluralistic society and a House of Review surely is supposed to examine legislation from the point of view of all the people within all factions within our society.

Because we are the Upper House perhaps we imagine we are somewhat closer to that celestial court and have much more expertise in making decisions about what is best for the people. By electing a democratic representative is one who is elected by the people, whether or not the representation is inequitable. We have such representatives here and I hope they will attempt to be nonpartisan in their review of legislation which comes before the House.

One of the ways in which I consider the members of this House could obtain and therefore present the opinions of all the people is by listening more to them and by participating more in community affairs. In this way they can learn what legislation, in the opinion of the people, should be passed and what should not be passed in Parliament.

It seems to me that the Government when it was in Opposition had, and now that it is in Government has, a very peculiar attitude towards people who wish to express their opinion. I was a very scared witness at one of the protests, but I must say I support the Forrest Place protest, because it was a manifestation of what the people felt. They considered they were impotent and they wanted to express their opinion. The fact that the farmers were demonstrating because their hip pocket nerve was affected does not detract from the principle. It seems to me that the police treated them in a very soft way—and I have my opinion about this—and we know the result of the inquiry. If it can be called that, because no-one who was right on the spot, except the police, were questioned. Nevertheless, I believe that those concerned were within their rights in making some sort of protest.

However, the police dealt differently with another group of people who were protesting not because their hip pocket nerve had been hit, but rather because they felt strongly about a moral issue: that is, the situation at Exmouth. I am afraid I can think of no reason for the different treatment unless it was because a change of Government occurred and the police had been instructed to be tough with all protesters in future. Surely it was not because the Government considers some people can protest with immunity while others are to be literally jumped on.

I was quite amazed to hear Mr Heitman ask why we had not said something about the Forrest Place incident. I think he was referring more in terms of how we lost votes because of the incident. From my experience at Forrest Place and since, I would say certainly a number of farmers were present because I recognised some I knew. However, I do not recall any of them saying later, when I challenged them, that they were not there. The people who
said they were not there were those who spoke from such vantage points as Canberra. I am aware that Senator Reid is a tall man, but I do not think he is tall or smart enough to have been able to see right across Australia and witness what occurred at Forrest Place. I admire Don Eckerley as a great organiser and a man of principle, but I was rather surprised that he said, from his vantage point at Subiaco, he could see what occurred at Forrest Place and that the farmers, for whom, incidentally, he was waiting for 1½ hours, were not in Forrest Place at all.

It is a little difficult for one to be objective when one has an eye full of pie, is showered with Coca-Cola, and has an overripe tomato trickling down one's back. Nevertheless, I say that I support the people who feel they must protest. I believe they should be able to do so. This is part of community involvement and it is a way we can obtain the opinion of the people. However, I do not believe that people should have to reach the point where they feel they must protest in this way.

As legislators we should be sounding out the people and listening to their views. We should be getting out into our electorates to meet the people whose opinion is indicative of the grass roots of the electorate.

At this point I would like to refer to what Mr Lewis said concerning the Australian assistance plan. This plan is an opportunity for people at the grass roots level to involve themselves with the Government; it is an experimental programme and one which the Minister for Community Welfare welcomed as an opportunity for Western Australians to receive funds for the sorts of things about which Mr Masters was speaking last night; that is, those things which are necessary for an improved quality of life. Such things should be available.

However, I am sure that members of this Government would have been the first to protest if there had been a divergence from the usual accountability to which Governments are subjected in the expenditure of public money. What is happening in regard to the Australian assistance plan project in the south at the moment is that any requests which involve other Government departments are referred to those departments for a decision as to whether they will be able to fund them. Then they go back again to the regional board for further submission to the Australian Government. However, accountability, as all members know, is of great importance when public moneys are involved.

Tonight I am not speaking in regard to specific matters concerning my electorate. I am a new member and as yet I do not know enough about my electorate to be able to refer to its specific problems. In any case such problems are better dealt with by reference to the relevant Ministers as time goes by.

I hope that my background and experience may be of some use in the House and that Government members will not be so proud to think that they cannot ask me for any help I might be able to give, as I will surely ask them if I know they have some expertise in certain areas and are capable of providing me with information.

As legislators we should be, with vision and optimism, attacking the problems we find in the social environment. It seems strange to me that in these modern days of technological advance we have a great cultural lag and find it impossible to overcome social problems.

For instance we say we will never exist without war and we will never overcome the problems of poverty, want, and misery. Nevertheless we are able to put people on the moon and engage in a gigantic space exploration programme. We are able to make the most marvellous technical and medical advances. It was very sad tonight to hear that our latest heart transplant patient has died. Nevertheless we still approach this kind of problem by analysing the knowledge we have gained. Though the heart transplant patient died, the doctors know why he died and they have available all the particular variables which are concerned with heart transplants. The next time an attempt is made in this direction the doctors will have profited by what they have learnt on this occasion.

It seems that in the social environment we do not learn. We seem to go backwards rather than forwards. We have no confidence in our own ability. How do we attack the problems involving the physical environment? We do it by analysing the information we obtain and we can apply this same analysis in the social world.

Over the centuries we have accrued knowledge of mathematics, physics, and chemistry, which has enabled us to designate those things which need to be controlled. I sincerely believe we can do this also in the social world. We have the knowledge accrued by philosophers, social scientists, thinkers, and politicians who, from the early days, have been able to add to the growing body of knowledge and from that source we could draw sufficient information to be able to tackle our social problems in a much more scientific and analytical way than has been the case to date.

The first step to take in a programme to overcome our social environment problems is to compensate those people in areas where shortages abound. We can think of many ways in which people can be handicapped socially, physically, mentally, and emotionally, and these are the people we should help by attacking the specific variables involved.
In Australia it is an advantage to be thought worthy and those who are thought worthy are those who have achieved certain things. However, it is very difficult to attain a high level of education, an occupation which is highly valued, and an opportunity to live in a residential area of high prestige. The difficulty is we are not all born in the perfect set of circumstances. These circumstances would be that a person would have to be born to a fifth generation Australian family, preferably on the land—squatters, not cow cookies. A person would also have to be white, would have to follow the Anglican faith, and must not be too different from the average in build, although it is better to be a little taller and slimmer.

Not many of us are fortunate enough to be born with these ascribed statues. Some of us can improve our situation by marrying into the right family, by dieting, or by getting rid of our skin colour by some means or other. In this way we can perhaps attempt to reach what could be the perfect state of the “WASP”—that is, the white Anglo-Saxon protestant—brought up on a farm on which the great-great-grandfather had squatted.

Having admitted that only a very few of us have this great advantage, we must consider how far we can advance in order to achieve the statues I mentioned first. I am referring to a high level of education, a nice place in which to live, and a good job with reasonable income. How do we get these? We must begin to tackle the problem by using the knowledge we have gained. Mr Lewis mentioned education. I think he was talking a lot of nonsense. He said that he was a drop-out. Perhaps the wrong kind of people are attending university. Nevertheless, some studies have been made and here again—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Mr Thompson, I think you ought to remind Mrs Vaughan about the rules concerning a maiden speech.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Have I said something wrong, Mr President?

The PRESIDENT: Not that I am aware of.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I was having a conversation with the Leader of the Opposition.

The PRESIDENT: I think the reference might have been—if I heard the interjection correctly—to the fact that the honourable member wants to be provocative she cannot expect to be immune from interjections.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I am quite prepared for that, Mr President.

I am sure the Minister for Education was interested in the remarks concerning education which were made here this afternoon. Many people are disadvantaged in that they do not have the opportunity to continue on to tertiary education or, indeed, to finish their secondary education.

I do not say a high level of education is essential for all, but it is essential to be filled in our society. Nevertheless, surely equal access and opportunity for a high level of education is something to which, as a democratic country, we should be aspiring.

Many of the studies of educational opportunity which have been made, particularly in Australia, show without question that the children of well educated people in the professions who have a high income are much more likely to go to university than are other children. I think the ratio is something like 30 to one in favour of the children of professional people over those of unskilled workers. Nowadays this situation worse than in the country areas, where there is also a differential. The children of well-to-do people in the country are just as likely to go to university as are those in the city, but this does not apply as one goes down the income scale.

There are many ways in which this situation can be overcome but I think, first of all, a community sense of responsibility must be engendered in people, and we must recognise that this is not a matter which is the sole responsibility of parents but it is also a matter of community responsibility.

After all, children may be disadvantaged even if they are born into a “WASP” type of atmosphere, unless they receive sympathy and understanding from the adults who are socialising them to compete in our very competitive society. If this community responsibility is engendered in people, and particularly in legislators, we can begin to attack in a scientific way the shortcomings which some people experience in life.

I want to refer to the tremendous disadvantages suffered by people who are physically, mentally, or socially handicapped. I think we should begin to regard them as a part of society rather than as apart from society. They feel very strongly that we relegate them to a different section of society from that which we ourselves occupy. I recently went to a meeting at which representatives of all types of handicapped people had come together to attempt to co-ordinate their ideas and make a concerted approach to people of influence who could help them to gain recognition of their right to be a part of society and not apart from it.

I cannot emphasise too greatly the importance of seeing handicapped people as a resource in our society, rather than as a liability. We need all the resources we can gather by way of intellectual people and those who can be trained in rather intricate work. Many handicapped people are in sedentary type occupations and are therefore more likely to persevere with the intricate craftsmanship for which other people perhaps do not have the patience.
These people can therefore be an asset rather than a liability to the community, and thus the way in which they want to be seen—not as a drag on the community. This is another way in which culture has lagged behind technical and medical advances. We are able to save people who would once have died at birth, and we can preserve them so that they grow into adulthood.

Another pressing problem concerns the mentally deficient adult. We always think of such people as children. Intellectually, they do remain like children, but they grow in body and strength and cause increasing stress to parents. I shall be bringing to the notice of the Minister for Health a movement among parents who have reached the end of their tether after caring for mentally handicapped children for perhaps 20 years.

We cannot simply think of handicapped people as being individuals. We must think of them in the context of their family and friends. The ramifications of the misfortune of having a mentally deficient or physically handicapped child cannot be estimated. I hope the Minister for Health will give his attention to these matters.

It worries me somewhat that the attitude of the Government and the parties it represents has in the past been one of extreme indifference, which has caused great concern among professional people who are attempting to help those who are disadvantaged. I was appalled to read in the policy of the National Alliance a statement that it would take quite a long time for Aborigines to make any advance because it would be necessary to wait until the community was ready for it. If “the community” means all of society in Western Australia, I think we will wait a very long time. Among the serious disadvantages which can be disadvantageous to people, in some areas skin colour is the most disadvantageous. Perhaps it runs just ahead of being born the wrong sex, but I will come to that in a moment.

To most people in this State, the stereotype of the Aboriginal person is one who has below average intelligence and is over-sexed and a drunkard. I am sure not everyone in this House or outside it is of that opinion, but that is the stereotype in the minds of some people, and we must get rid of it. We will not eliminate it from society entirely until we make up for some of the shortcomings which now cause Aborigines to be oppressed. If we wait until the community is ready for Aborigines to be given advantages, I am afraid we will merely be chasing our tails and the vicious circle will never be broken.

I hope there will be some change in the attitude of the conservative parties and that they will begin to see the value of change. Change is inevitable. We might think we are remaining the same, but while the conditions are crying and the clock is passing we must and will change, and even the most conservative will find they have changed in spite of attempts to hold back the clock.

Despite what the honourable member said, to me the most important of the disadvantages suffered by the people who are not born into the “WASP” set relates to education. I refer to education in the sense of leading people to knowledge, not in the sense of preserving the “establishment” which seems to be the dominant factor in most of the education systems in Australia. Some community schools are starting up in Victoria and New South Wales, and I hope the Minister for Education will give consideration to this type of education in an attempt to get away from the “establishment” and the three Rs.

One of the statues which we achieve during our lifetime is income and, no matter how much is spoken and written about the inequalities of income in this country, it seems people are still labouring under the peculiar illusion that unskilled labourers are able to earn as much as specialist physicians do. Of course, that is a lot of nonsense; they are not able to do that at all. If they go into business they may be able to do so, and in that way a plumber may be able to earn as much as or more than the specialist physician. However, it is a phenomenal occurrence and can scarcely be regarded as the norm.

Aborigines, particularly, are suffering in this regard, and the average school leaving age of Aborigines in Western Australia is very low compared with that in other States of Australia. I hope this situation will improve. The majority of Aboriginal children in this State leave school before they reach the prescribed school leaving age of 16. They are usually encouraged to do so by teachers who seem to labour under the illusion that if those children go to work the pay packet will be an incentive for them to behave themselves.

Another disadvantage and handicap which may be suffered by some people is to be a single parent, perhaps through an accident before or after the birth of a child. I would particularly like to mention my concern for deserted fathers. We have heard much about deserted mothers, and I hope members are well aware of the disadvantages of being a deserted wife, but deserted fathers have a great problem and no provision is made for them. I hope the Minister for Community Welfare will have a look at this matter. It is becoming an increasing problem and it is worthy of examination.

Furthermore, this problem could be overcome not for deserted fathers alone, but also for others, by the establishment of a subsidised housekeeping service which would be of great advantage. We do have an emergency housekeeping service run by a very worthy and voluntary organisation but with Government assistance, the task is far too great for
this organisation. Accordingly I hope we can in the future see the establishment of an emergency housekeeping service.

I now wish to refer to the question of recreation about which the Hon. Gordon Masters spoke so eloquently and so well last night; and particularly would I like to emphasise the quality of life in the matter of recreation in its wider sense and mention the work carried out by the University extension service and stress the good job it is doing in expanding tertiary institutions into the community. Here again the number of volunteers among many people here who represent the country areas the need may be seen to send extension officers out of the metropolitan area. Already there is an extension officer working in the Bunbury area who has initiated quite a number of courses there.

In the main this is not an expensive service because it sets out to find people in the community who could provide staffing for such courses. I hope the Minister for Education will have a look at this aspect with a view to placing more extension officers in the country areas. The service is a very good one; it helps stimulate people to enter spheres in which they may enrich their lives; and, of course, when an individual's life is enriched, the community's life is also made much richer. It may appear that I have dwelt unduly on the matter of social welfare but, of course, members will appreciate that this is my sphere of experience and activity.

I would like to make particular mention of the Western Australian Council of Social Service which, for a long time, has been doing an excellent job with a very small income and limited means. Within this service are representatives of practically all the voluntary organisations in Western Australia and they have proved to be a great force in bringing this aspect to the notice of the public and other agencies. I hope members here will heed their pleas. This council consists of expert people who give their time voluntarily outside their other jobs to inform those who will listen of the need for social welfare extension in Western Australia.

**Sitting suspended from 6.06 to 7.30 p.m.**

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Mr President, I would like to continue along the line I adopted concerning the need for compensatory action to be taken by members of this House through community involvement and an understanding of the problems of those people who have shortcomings in relation to their climb up the status ladder, by going on from speaking about Aborigines and their disadvantages to refer to migrants. This is a problem which was touched upon by the Hon. G. E. Masters last evening, and it is one which I think is particularly relevant to the theme I adopted in relation to the inescapable recognition of country and city in this Chamber.

In particular we find that the ratio of migrants to Australian-born population is very much higher in the city than it is in the country that it means the members of this House may have to lend their minds to an understanding of this problem. In the population of Australia today more than one in five is a foreign-born migrant who came here since the war which finished in 1945. Half of these people are non-Anglo-Saxons, thus cutting out two of the letters from our "WASP". So there is a need for members to be particularly understanding in this regard. If we take in the number of children of postwar migrants we find that we are approaching something like 30 per cent of the population, and that is an enormous section of the community.

Following along my theory concerning the inadequacy of status factors affecting the achievements which can be gained by members of our population, we find that in the main these migrants are in low-paid jobs, and that their level of education is very low compared with that of the rest of the population. These are all validated and reliable statistics. One of the most disadvantaged sections of our community is comprised of women. I am not speaking now in all areas because I like being a woman—in fact I particularly like it—and I would not change for quids. But let us face it, in terms of the way society values people and the way in which we accentuate material gains, women are certainly disadvantaged in the areas of income and of access to the opportunity to choose their occupations and to take whatever educational courses they wish to take.

We have some burgeoning and very excellent organisations—such as the Women's Electoral Lobby—which are doing a very good job in bringing these shortcomings to the notice of the rest of the population. I hope these organisations will be so successful that they will be eliminated in the near future. We should not need separate organisations for women, but we will have them until such time as women recognise that they can either take or leave their chance to be equal and still feel worthy in our society. I want to emphasise that because occasionally we do find the case of a woman who writes a rather plaintive letter to the Press saying, "Forget about all these lobbying women; what about the good old mother and housewife?" Of course, if that is what she chooses to be—and "choose" is the operative word—then all power to her. In the few years of my life that I have been able to enjoy not working, I have enjoyed myself just as much as I have during my working years when I was making my way up the occupational ladder. Some people might say that I have gone down a few steps by coming to this Parliament; but that is a matter of opinion. I hope that does not prove to be so, and I hope this will be a fulfilling job and one in which I will be able to be of value to our society.
One of the steps taken by the Tonkin Government which I hope the present Government will expand is the introduction of special advisers in the north-west. I think the women in the north-west have a particular problem, and the female adviser who is employed in the north-west are doing an excellent job in helping the women there to express their desires for a better life and for better opportunities for their children.

I want to move now straight from women to children, and I point out that I am about to touch on a related problem in regard to child care. I will talk about this problem in three areas, the first of which is day care. Again, I recognise that country members are probably disadvantaged in that perhaps they do not understand much about the working mother. Perhaps they have in mind the stereotyped rather greedy little woman who wants to race out and get a lot of goodies from a department store by taking an extra job when she should be in the kitchen.

The average weekly earnings of adult males in Western Australia is now about $111. We find that something like 65 per cent of adult males earn less than the average weekly earnings. I am sure members have all heard in relation to the word "average" how a statistician drowned in a river which he had estimated to have an average depth of two feet. We can be very much misled by that word. If we stress the number of adult males who earn less than the average wage and take into account the fact that women on the average earn about 69 per cent of that wage—that is on an hourly basis, because that is an acceptable figure—then we realise how disadvantaged women are in regard to the income they receive for the work they do. There is an increasing number of married women in the work force; they now comprise well over 60 per cent of the female work force, and the number is increasing. Although it is difficult to estimate, from a Bureau of Census and Statistics survey carried out in 1969 we can say that half of those women have children who are of school age, and a considerable number have children of preschool age. Consequently there is a real need to worry about child care.

A system has been introduced by the Australian Government whereby those people in the community who like to raise money will be able to have a major part of their costs for the running of child care institutions met by that Government. However, these institutions are based on the existing child care regulations in each State; and I think we ought to begin to consider what the mothers want and not what some politicians—mainly males—have decided should be the regulations in respect of day care institutions.

Most women would prefer to have another woman of their own choosing looking after their children in a family setting while they work. They are not keen about the aspetic, education-orientated type of child care institution which most people seem to envisage when they think about this subject.

Another matter which is vexing the minds of many people who are concerned with social welfare, and particularly the mothers of children, is the residential day care position in Western Australia. The Council of Social Service has a special standing committee on child care which has been looking into this matter with great diligence. It finds that residential care centres which cater for children who are temporarily or permanently unable to be cared for by their natural parents or by their adoptive or foster parents are in a very grave position. I think we should bend our minds very much to this matter, because the disadvantages suffered by children in institutions are great enough when the institutions are well catered for in respect of finance and expert staffing. Yet alone when they have to begin to scratch around for money as many have to do now and have had to do ever since they came into being.

We must upgrade these institutions and see that their staffs are well and truly compensated for the job they are doing for society. The same applies to foster parents. We have a weird and wonderful idea about them; we are inclined to think that they are making money out of looking after children. That concept is a lot of nonsense and it is something we should begin to rethink. We heard the Leader of the Opposition saying that foster rates should be upgraded to cater for inflation. But I think we should go beyond that and start to think about the compensation we should give to the children and to the foster parents who are unequal to the trouble to take on this very difficult task.

I spoke previously about handicapped people, and I want to reiterate my remarks because I want to impress upon the members of this House how important it is that they give a lead to the rest of the community as far as taking a new look at the handicapped is concerned. Throughout history we have treated our handicapped people in a way that is not always to be admired. Traditionally we have thought of these people as being incomplete and as people who are not a part of society but, as I said before, apart from society.

I want to stress this point because the percentage of handicapped persons in our population is increasing as a result of medical and other advances. It does not require much in the way of professional opinion to come up with an answer regarding the importance of turning what is a liability into an asset.

I turn from that sphere of social welfare which has a sort of sick orientation—that is, trying to heal that which is inflicted on people either by birth or by accident—to the matter of the pollution
of our State of Western Australia. I think the indication is that many people are thinking about this problem, and this is borne out by the proliferation of groups which are concerned with keeping the air clean or with keeping our ears from being inundated with noise. This to me is a very refreshing phenomenon, and I hope it continues. I think the people concerned have a most difficult task because they must buck the establishment; and once we have set up a department or a way of doing things we are inclined to want to defend that empire and to justify its existence.

When we come to think of how our cities and towns, and probably the whole State, for that matter, are being polluted, I think the greatest blame can be placed on the automobile. Instead of worrying so much about vested interests we should worry more about the future and about those who, by some ecological turnabout, may be born without legs. We should think about cutting down on the production of automobiles. We should be thinking of doing away with their lifelines; that is, the roads. We should be thinking of alternative means by which people will be able to move around. We should not, of course, do away with the automobile altogether because we could not possibly live without it completely. Nevertheless, we should use more efficiently the resources that are now available to us instead of overlooking them so that we can find other means of transport in place of the private motor vehicle.

We should stop building freeways into the city. We should think in terms that the city is for the people, and we should “pedestrianise” it. We should not permit any cars to travel through the centre of the city. The central business section could do without them. Access to the city should be given only to taxis and buses. If we erected a car park within easy distance of the city and had it served by a fleet of buses, this would meet the needs of those people who are obliged to enter the centre of the city. In suggesting this, immediately I can almost hear people saying, “That would be very nice, but inevitably we have to put up with the automobile because it is so convenient.”

I emphasise again that we should be able to use our expertise, our technical knowledge, and our brain power to solve the problem of changing our social environment so that it serves us instead of whisking us along in whichever direction it wants to take us. In saying that I am thinking of the industries which rely on the automobile and also various Government departments. One may say, “What would the Main Roads Department do if there were no automobiles?” Nevertheless I am sure that very effective work could be found for that department to do in other directions.

As a further means of providing access to the city a river transport system is about to be encouraged and this is something we should defend. I am all in favour of the Southern Foreshore Protection Society and I will do all I can in this House to assist that organisation.

Moving from pollution to conservation I would like to speak on the subject of existing beauty spots and many forms of architecture about which some of our people are becoming quite excited. As one who is always speaking to the people about the quality of life and the true aims of life it is of great concern to me to know that the buildings we have erected in the past are now being threatened with extinction. There are protests being made about this trend, especially by young people who are taking a great deal of interest in the historical features of this State.

We must bear in mind that the first European ever to place foot on the soil in Western Australia, with the intention of settling here, arrived about 1829. In certain parts of the City of Perth there are what would be considered by people in other countries relatively new pieces of architecture, but which, to us, in fact represent half our historical life. In this regard I am thinking not only of the Legislative Council in making an attempt to preserve buildings that have some architectural value; I am also thinking of asking those in private enterprise to become interested in this subject. An exercise which is being performed at the moment is being watched by me with great interest. I am referring to that group of people in Maylands who are appealing to the Swan Brewery to be generous by co-operating with them in a community venture. If the Swan Brewery agreed to such a request it would mean that 68 cars would no longer have a home, or rather the home that is to be built for them would not come to fruition. This, of course, may prove to be very upsetting to the owners of those cars, but instead of the car park there would remain an old historical hotel—the Peninsula—which would be transformed into a community centre. The building would be preserved to house all the activities of the area and it would thus become something of historic value. The age of this building is about 65 years, which is almost half the history of Western Australia.

I hope other members of this House will take an interest in this venture and assist in persuading the Swan Brewery to be generous in its approach, thus ensuring its success. In other parts of the world it is a trend that private enterprise is realising that part of its responsibility is to the community which ensures that shareholders in various ventures profit by their holdings.

I have spoken of the inequitable representation in this House and I hope that some of my remarks are getting through
to other members. One of the great dangers we learn from our political history is the elitist system. There is no doubt that we have many "WASPS" here and we are moving closer to the adoption of an elitist system. We have many people who are highly educated. We have many people who are Anglo-Saxon and Protestants, and we have many people who come from the country. All these are essential factors which tend to blind those at the top of the status ladder. I issue a warning about the dangers of elitism. I am most serious about that.

In the Liberal Party policy speech there was an interesting paragraph about the importance of the Public Service, about the great good of giving public servants a chance to singularize themselves in those areas in which they have expertise. I was rather surprised to find that in another section of the policy speech a slur was made on the professional people who work in that section of the Department for Aboriginal Affairs of the Australian Government. In the Speech it was stated they were inhumane, ineffective, and were competing with their ideas. This is a very ill-advised attack on professional people and, personally, on behalf of my colleagues in the profession, I resent this. I am sure it is something about which the Premier will change his mind, because he will realise he will need these professional people to guide him in what he is doing for the State. Also, whilst he had said in his policy speech he would listen to the professional people and take notice of what they had to say, I did not like very much what his deputy in the Liberal Party stated; namely, that he thought the Australian Minister for Housing was listening too much to long-haired hippies.

One of the matters that has been raised in this House in the last couple of days has been the very difficult and vexed question of inflation. We heard one member say it was due to low productivity. It may be simplistic but I believe inflation is due to the problem of money. No doubt the Hon. Margaret McAlister has more knowledge of this subject than I have, but I think it was the kings of Lydia in the seventh century who decided it was much easier to stamp out small pieces of metal to be used as a means of currency than to barter with pigs, oxen, or other forms of produce. This new system of currency was introduced so that it would be more convenient for society. However, it has turned out that money has become our master and usury is the order of the day instead of people using money for their own convenience.

In the book outlining the Liberal policy speech I also noticed that the Leader of the Liberal Party stresses the importance of Commonwealth-State relationships. However, the book has made a very bad start with references made in the Governor's Speech. In fact there were 15 contradictory references made in respect of the Australian Govt. and I hope the Leader of the Liberal Party will have another look at his own policy speech in which—if I may quote from it—"he said—The direct relationship between the State and Federal Government will be no longer coldly financial but warmly personal and total in its coverage.

In attempting to make a warm personal approach, I think he has succeeded in putting his foot in it.

Where co-operation is needed we need not, of course, cut off our noses to spite our faces. There is a considerable amount of money available and it must be borne in mind that in 1942, when the High Court decided that the Australian Government was to be the income taxing body, we lost a great deal of our power. We have to admit that, because these days we consider money is most important and to lose money is to lose power. If we are to benefit from some of the schemes put forward by the Australian Government there is urgent need for co-operation.

This need is evident in Aboriginal affairs, because in this State the problem of Aborigines is very great. We do not have the greatest number of Aborigines of any State in Australia, but the problem is very real here because of the enormous area of Western Australia, and because of the many part-Aborigines in the population. It is indeed an extremely big problem.

During the regime of the Tonkin Government we were able to get rid of many of the reserves that were an eyewore and a real disadvantage to the State in the eyes of those in other States and, indeed, in the eyes of those in other parts of the world. If we can take advantage of what is being offered by the Australian Government I think the people of Western Australia will be grateful to this Government and realise it is big enough to recognise that where the money lies there lies the power.

In regard to co-operation being shown by other departments, I hope this Government and the Minister for Community Welfare in particular will ensure that no political bias is shown, because if it is it will mean that people are left high and dry; because, traditionally, this State has always filled the breach with emergency payments whenever there has been a hold up in any payment from the Australian Social Security Department. In taking such a step this is actually no skin off our noses because we are compensated for such payment from the Australian Government Social Security Department.

I therefore hope the Minister for Community Welfare will ensure that this situation is continued and will not introduce any spite in the handling of this matter because, if he does, I find that disadvantaged people will be left high and dry without any money.
One of the points I want to raise tonight, which has been very clear to me as an elector, and not as a representative of the people, is the lack of co-ordination and planning among departments. We know that under the system of Cabinet Government most decisions are made by the Ministers and when we come to the House it is really a sort of numbers game. We hope that what we have to say, both in and out of the House and in the party room, and between parties, will influence the course of legislation and policy making. However, in the main, decisions are made by the Cabinet.

In the complex society which exists today we have to recognise that Ministers rely very much on advisers and professional people and that it is necessary for there to be some sort of co-ordination between such people. The only way to achieve that co-ordination is to ensure co-ordination between those people. However, as I said previously, some of those entrenched organisations—be they private industries or Government departments—are inclined to want to build their own empires. Quite often a decision will rest either on the strength of the Minister or on the brilliance or perseverance of his advisers, and such decision will influence the importance of the department.

I would emphasise that this is a human failing which cannot be overcome, perhaps, without some structural change within the Government. It seems there may be some form of co-ordination by way of the formation of a new department under the direction of the Premier whereby he will be able to see where his priorities lie and plan for the future.

Although I am aware that I have a different political opinion from that of the Premier I do not place very much credence on his promises which were outlined prior to the election. I have been quite astounded by the lack of activity in the hundred-odd days—very odd indeed—since the election. It seems to me that the Government, unlike the elephant which laboured mightily, has not even brought forth a mouse. I am holding that if there are pressing problems in this State, particularly in relation to social welfare, the Government will begin to get cracking very soon. Certainly the Government will receive stimulation by way of questions from the Labor Party members in this House.

One of the biggest problems associated with co-ordination and planning, apart from empire building, is the reluctance on the part of some departments to come forward—even though they have been providing established services—because they fear that one particular section of the community is receiving more than it is worth. It is the word 'worth' which causes the trouble. The problem is in regard to compensation to people who need to have a chance of equal access to opportunity so that they may gain worth.

I come back to Aborigines as an illustration because the Aboriginal Affairs Department of the Commonwealth Government is attempting to upgrade the position of the Aborigines so that they can have equal access to opportunity. It is important that other departments do not withdraw and decide that the Aborigines are being looked after and nothing further needs to be done. That would nullify the whole intention of the course of action recommended by professional people.

I would like to conclude by asking members in this House to recognise that one of the most valuable actions which the Donkin Government took while in office was to get rid of an enemy of this State which has plagued certain people for a long time. I hope the present Government will continue with the good job already started, which is getting rid of the blowfly at Rottnest.

HON. L. G. PRATT (Lower West) (8.08 p.m.): May I return the congratulations I have previously given to you, Mr President, personally, on your appointment in this Chamber. It is widely recognised as a fitting achievement for your years of service while carrying out your duties both in this Chamber and throughout the State. My congratulations also go to those members who have been appointed to the ministry; the Hon. Norman Baxter, the Hon. Graham MacKinnon, and at a more personal level, a very special congratulation to the Hon. Neil McNeil who has not only been appointed a Minister but is also Leader of the Government in this House. He is my co-member for the Lower West Province and his advice and experience have been extremely valuable and of great assistance to me in my campaign to become a member of this House. For that I thank him most deeply.

I also extend my congratulations to the Hon. Ron Thompson on his appointment as Leader of the Opposition; and to those members who have been elected to the House as a result of the recent elections. For those who have been returned to this place, with which they are quite familiar, this will be old hat, but for those of us who are new members the experience promises quite a bit of excitement and interest. I hope the excitement will not be dulled by the time we spend here...

I believe it is usual during the debate on the Address-in-Reply to do either, or both, of two things: to discuss some topic of interest to the member, or discuss one's electorate. I intend to be quite brief but I also intend to touch on both of these areas.

The PRESIDENT: The honourable member may discuss anything he wishes on the Address-in-Reply debate today.