

to interfere in their lives and tell them what to do. Let them have a go themselves, and if they succeed it will save us a lot of bother.

I wish to comment on the fresh bread question, which was raised last week. When the Bread Act was revised and amended—I do not know whether it was last session or the session before—I spoke during the debate. At that time the bakers themselves came up with two possible solutions to this vexed problem. One was that milk bread should be used, and the other that the bakers should produce what they call bread rolls.

I have tried both the milk bread and the bread rolls, and I have found that milk bread is very palatable even after four or five days, and that bread rolls can, with a little treatment, be made just as palatable.

The occasions mentioned last week occur only two or three times a year, and surely it is not too much to ask even those people who value their comfort and who are, perhaps, concerned over their digestion to just let the position go on as it is—other people are satisfied—and give the milk bread and the bread rolls a trial.

I feel I have spoken long enough, and I conclude by once again thanking the officers and officials of Parliament House. I have enjoyed the utmost courtesy and efficiency from them since I have been here, and I wonder at just how efficient they are. Also, the State Public Service officials with whom I have had dealings have been most efficient and courteous, and I commend them and feel that the State is very well served by the wonderful Public Service that we have. I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

Question put and passed; the Address-in-Reply thus adopted.

Presentation to Governor

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [5.32 p.m.]: I move—

That the Address-In-Reply be presented to His Excellency the Governor by the President and such members as may desire to accompany him.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.33 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 10th August, 1965

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The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (34): ON NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH-STATE HOMES

Minimum Deposit: Position in Each State

1. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

Will he please ascertain and advise what is the minimum deposit payable for the purchase

of houses built under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, in each of the States of the Commonwealth?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

Queensland: £250 plus fees.
 New South Wales: £50 plus fees.
 Victoria: £50 plus fees.
 South Australia: £50 plus fees on the rent purchase scheme.
 Tasmania: No deposit on the rent purchase scheme.
 Western Australia: £100, including fees of approximately £45. Where an applicant is unable to find this deposit but is otherwise satisfactory, the commission will accept a lower amount on his agreement to spread the balance of the deposit over a mutually-agreed period.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Roebourne Connection: Cost

2. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it a fact that a Mr. Cabassi of Roebourne was charged the sum of £455 to have electric power connected to his house and, if so, how did the department arrive at this figure?
- (2) Is it a fact that the £455 was paid nine months ago and up till now no action has been taken to have the power connected; if so, is he satisfied with the speed at which the job is proceeding?
- (3) When can Mr. Cabassi expect to be supplied with power from the town supply?
- (4) Does he consider that Mr. Cabassi should be paid interest on the money he has virtually loaned to the Public Works Department?
- (5) Will he consider reducing the installation figure, namely £455, in view of all the circumstances?

South-West Connection: Cost

- (6) Would he ascertain what the charge would be for a similar installation to a farmer's property in the south-west.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Mr. Cabassi agreed to make a pre-payment of £455 to have electric power connected to his house.

The extension to provide the service will consist of eight bays totalling 1,200 ft. Of this length,

the department provides one bay and the consumer therefore must meet the cost of the remaining seven bays.

The estimated total cost of the extension is £715 and Mr. Cabassi was advised that his proportion would be £455. Certain special requirements concerning wiring were not included in the proportioning of costs to Mr. Cabassi.

- (2) The prepayment of £455 was made by Mr. Cabassi at Roebourne on the 24th November, 1964.

Unfortunately, the constructing authority was not notified of this payment and no action was implemented to have the service installed.

- (3) As materials have to be supplied from Perth and special poles fabricated, the estimated time for installation of the service is two months. The work will be given the highest priority.
- (4) No. Interest is not normally paid on moneys held by the department as prepayments on specific works.
- (5) Yes. The question of a reduction of cost to Mr. Cabassi will be reviewed when the installation has been completed and final total cost is known.
- (6) An installation to a farmer's property in the south-west would not be comparable with Mr. Cabassi's case at Roebourne. The State Electricity Commission, however, will extend three poles (about 6 chains) for a domestic consumer whereas one pole only is provided by the supply authority at Roebourne.

Charges at Roebourne: Reduction

3. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Works:

In view of the many requests made over the last three years for a reduction in the power charge at Roebourne (at present 1s. 9d. per unit for the first 20 units) being refused on the grounds that a trial period was necessary, is he now in a position to reduce the charges?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Since commencement of supply of electricity at Roebourne in March, 1962, the rates of charges have been reviewed periodically. Under present conditions it is not proposed to vary these charges.

HOUSING IN PILBARA ELECTORATE

Applications Outstanding and Future Programme

4. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What are the numbers of outstanding applications for State homes in the following towns:—
 (a) Port Hedland;
 (b) Roebourne;
 (c) Marble Bar?
- (2) what is the commission's future building programme in the towns mentioned?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------|----|
| (1) (a) Port Hedland | | 60 |
| (b) Roebourne | | 9 |
| (c) Marble Bar | | 3 |
- (2) (a) Port Hedland—20 units of accommodation now under construction.
 (b) Nil.
 (c) Nil.

The position in each of these centres will be reviewed in December, when the tentative north-west programme for 1967 is drafted.

5. *This question was postponed.*

MINES DEPARTMENT STAFF

Pilbara Area: Increase

6. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

In view of the greatly increased mining activity in the Pilbara, what provision is being made to increase the Mines Department staff in that area?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

The staff of the Mines Department, Marble Bar, comprises two male and two female officers. A new item was recently created for a male officer and is currently being advertised.

The position of the inspectional staff at Port Hedland is also being examined. This consists at present of a district inspector of mines and a workmen's inspector.

TIN PRODUCTION

Pilbara Area: Figures

7. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

What are the tin production figures for the Pilbara area for each of the five years 1961 to 1965 inclusive?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

Year	Tin Concentrates Tons	Metallic Content Tin Tons	Value F.O.B. £
1961	321.07	219.24	224,260.90
1962	442.17	309.55	319,885.80
1963	528.19	362.64	378,915.90
1964	578.76	407.85	564,937.25
1965 Jan.-Mar.	105.41	74.35	118,807.70

LOTTERIES CONTROL ACT

Conduct of a Lottery by a Club, and Breaches

8. Mr. TONKIN asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Was a certain club granted permission on the 28th May, 1964, to conduct a lottery in connection with which the sale of tickets was authorised to commence on the 8th June, 1964, and conclude on the 8th August, 1964, with a first prize of £20, second prize £10, and third prize £5?
- (2) Was permission granted for only 3,000 tickets at one shilling to be sold, but actually 9,000 tickets were printed and offered for sale in three separate series of 3,000 tickets?
- (3) Was this increase in the number of tickets disclosed to the Lotteries Commission in the return submitted by the club in question on the 3rd September, 1964?
- (4) How many prize winners were shown on the return?
- (5) How many persons were actually paid prizes?
- (6) Were the butts of all tickets sold in all three series of tickets included in the draw?
- (7) Were the holders of tickets 2541, A2541 and B2541 each winners of the second prize of £10?
- (8) Does he not agree that it is a most remarkable coincidence bordering on the miraculous that for second prize three tickets bearing exactly the same numerals were drawn?
- (9) Was this remarkable result also obtained with regard to the first and third prizes?
- (10) Was this lottery referred to the police for investigation?
- (11) As several breaches of the Lotteries Control Act appear to have occurred, how does he justify the commission's failure to prosecute in this case in comparison with its treatment of the part-time secretary of the Scot's Cricket Club?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) No.

(4) Three.

(5) Five.

(6) Yes.

(7) Yes.

(8) As no member of the commission was present at the drawing, the system used in drawing the lottery is not known.

(9) Presumably so.

(10) No.

(11) The commission considered that an instruction to the club to pay the prize money to those fortunate enough to hold winning tickets, plus a severe reprimand and an instruction that a permit to conduct a lottery in the future may not be granted to the club, was sufficient.

STATE HOUSING COMMISSION OFFICE BLOCK AT BUNBURY

New Building: Details and calling of Tenders

9. Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it intended to build a new office block for the State Housing Commission in Bunbury?
- (2) Has a site been acquired; and, if so, in what locality?
- (3) (a) Have plans and specifications been prepared?
- (b) What is the size and type of construction?
- (c) What is the estimated cost?
- (d) When will tenders be called?
- (e) When is completion anticipated?

Occupation by Other Government Departments

- (4) Will the building be occupied by any other Government departments, what departments, and to what extent?

Future Extensions

- (5) Are extensions envisaged at some later date; if so, would he give details?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. In the zoned shopping area, Spencer Street, South Bunbury.
- (3) (a) Yes.
- (b) The building will have a frontage of 46 ft. and a depth of approximately 65 ft. It will be two storeys with brick walls, concrete floors and metal roof concealed by parapet walls.
- (c) For obvious reasons, commission estimates are not published prior to the determination of tenders.

- (d) The 14th August, 1965.
- (e) If a satisfactory tender is received, completion by the 1st March, 1966, is anticipated.
- (4) Yes, under negotiation with the Public Service Commissioner and the Public Works Department.
- (5) The building has been designed to allow for the construction of an additional floor, if found necessary at a later date.

METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD LOAN

Brokerage and Term

10. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What amount of commission or brokerage, if any, did the Metropolitan Water Board have to pay in respect of the loan of £200,000 raised during the last financial year?
- (2) For what period of years was the money obtained?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Nil.
- (2) 45 years.

POLICE STATION AT ALBANY

Site and Commencement

11. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) In view of inspections carried out by himself and the Commissioner of Police, as to the site for a new police station at Albany, can he advise if final determination has been made?
- (2) If a site has been selected can he advise the approximate date of commencement of building?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) The site bounded by Stirling Terrace and Duke Street has been determined as most suitable. A design is now being prepared whereby the police station and lockup can be erected in Stirling Terrace and the quarters in Duke Street, without demolishing the historical cottage. Negotiations are still proceeding with the Historical Society re variation of the lease.
- (2) Subject to finalising the lease with the Historical Society and the provision of loan funds.

SCHOOL AT EXMOUTH

Staffing, Control, and Use of W.A. Syllabus

12. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) When the Exmouth school is eventually completed and both Australian and American children

are being taught there, is it the intention of his department that the school will be—

- (a) staffed by Western Australian teachers; or
- (b) by both Western Australian and American teachers?
- (2) If the school is staffed by (b), will the Education Department retain full control of this school?
- (3) Is it intended to use the Western Australian syllabus in the school?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) (a) Yes.
- (b) If American teachers who have joined the Western Australian Education Department desire such appointment this will be considered.
- (2) The Western Australian Education Department will retain full control.
- (3) Yes.

POLICE STATION AT GASCOYNE JUNCTION

Reopening

13. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is it intended to reopen the police station at Gascoyne Junction this financial year?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) It was intended to list the item for consideration in the 1965-66 loan programme. Owing to a heavy carry-over of more urgent building works this was not possible. Subject to available funds, it will be added to the 1966-67 list.

DAM SITES ON GASCOYNE AND LYONS RIVER

Investigations: Cost and Work

14. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What was the total amount spent on investigating dam sites on the Gascoyne and/or the Lyons River during the last financial year?
- (2) What actual work was carried out on the investigations?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) 1964-1965 expenditure—£1,500.
 - (2) Drilling to establish foundation conditions and some preliminary geological surveys at Kennedy Range site.
- These preliminary investigations temporarily ceased in July, 1965, due to river flow.

MILK VENDORS' LICENSES*Names of Holders*

15. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Agriculture:

Adverting to my question 9 of the 4th August, 1965, will he inform the House of the names of persons and/or business undertakings holding two and more milk vendors' licenses in the metropolitan area?

Mr. LEWIS (for Mr. Nalder) replied:

Ayres, R. J. & A. R.; Batten, J. A. & A. E. E.; Black, L. M. & Y.; Boor, E. A. & K. M. A.; Buckenara, R. T. & J.; Charles, F. & L. C.; Claxon, F. C. & M. N.; Crawford, E. A.; Cunningham, V. T. & T. D.; Dench Bros.; Doney, G. R. & M. A.; Dorrington, J. A. & M.; Dunham, B. D. W. & L. G.; Eamus K. B. & T. M. (Mrs.); Edward, L. E. A.; Ensor, E. D. & V.; Franolich, S. & P.; Gilders, W. H. & R. M.; Glisenti, A.; Green, W. F. & C. K.; Groothuis, F. & E. C.; Harper, W. B.; Harris, W. C. & D. M.; Healy, M. J.; Healy, P. J.; Hendriks, W. M. H. & H. J. E.; Hofstee, K. & M.; Johnson, A.; Kerr, A. V. & B. E.; Kielmans Dairy Pty. Ltd.; Knight, A. & E.; Lewis, D. & R.; McGowan, R. J. & B. M.; McGuinness, R. G. & A. J.; McGilligan, N. J. & G. E.; Macomish, A. J.; Marchant, F. S. & P. M.; Marsh, L. M. & M. Y.; Moore, L. C. & P. I.; Morris, H. P. & M. G.; Nagtzaam, P. J. & M.; Newman, D. C.; Newton, T. A. R.; Noonan, D. C. & J. E. R.; O'Callaghan, E. P.; Oud, H. A. & J. F.; Oud, A. & L. C. P.; "City Milk Supply"; Petricevich, M. F.; Petricevich, S. M. (Mrs.); Poyser, L. H.; Quinn, C. P. & E.; Rinaldi, D. M. & L. J.; "Roberts Dairy"; Rodway, C. L. & M. C.; Rodgers, J. F.; Roepen, M. A.; Russon, P. & M. E.; Scott, P. & L. E.; Sherwood, H. R.; Skrlac, B. & S.; Stokes, T. M. O.; Summerton, E. J.; "Southern River Milk Supply"; Taylor & Hart; Treasure, C. C. & D. J.; Van der Stroom, T. & J.; Van Dongen, K. H. Jnr.; Van Mil, M. M. & H. M.; Verheggen, J. T. H. & A. M. C.; Vinciguerra, R. & P.; Weir, D. A. & L. J.; Westdorp, P. G. & D. E.; Wild, L. M.; Brownes Dairy Pty. Ltd.; Sunny West Milk; Masters Dairy Limited.

REHABILITATION CENTRE*Establishment at Kalgoorlie*

16. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Health:

When the need arises for the establishment of further rehabilitation or kindred institutions, would he give earnest consideration to having such an institution centred at Kalgoorlie—having due regard to the medical benefits associated with the dry climate of the goldfields—and also as a means of assisting that district's decentralisation plans?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Yes; but it should be appreciated that rehabilitation centres must be situated where they best meet the needs of the patient.

EASTERN GOLDFIELDS HIGH SCHOOL*Gymnasium Facilities*

17. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Education:

Apropos the lack of gymnasium facilities at the Eastern Goldfields High School, is it correct that the only building ever available at the above school as a gymnasium was previously used as a morgue attached to an infectious diseases hospital in Kalgoorlie prior to 1913?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

The department has no record of this.

GOLD SUBSIDY*Maximum Payment*

18. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

What is the maximum permissible subsidy that can be paid by a Government to supplement the standard price for gold (expressed in Australian currency in terms per fine ounce) to gold producers within its jurisdiction, under the Bretton Woods agreement?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

Up to date information on this matter can only be obtained from the Commonwealth Government. Such information is being sought.

OLD-AGE PENSIONERS*Free Rail Passes on Discharge from Royal Perth Hospital*

19. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Health:

Is it correct that aged pensioner patients who have attended Royal Perth Hospital, on returning to

their homes in country districts are able to procure from or through the hospital authority a free rail pass for the return journey?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

If an aged pensioner from the country requires treatment at Royal Perth Hospital and finds himself in difficulties because of the cost of fares, he may apply to the Child Welfare Department for assistance.

JUDGES IN ENGLAND

New Rules: Adoption in Australia

20. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) In what Australian States have the English "New Judges Rules" been adopted?
- (2) Have these rules been under consideration by the judges in this State?
- (3) Is it considered likely that the rules will be adopted here?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) None. The chief justices of all Australian States and New Zealand have resolved in conference that they have no authority to make any such rules. One State has intimated that it would be introducing an amendment to its evidence Act to require observance of the new judges' rules.
- (2) Yes; at least by the Chief Justice.
- (3) Not at present so far as is known.

STATE SHIPS: EASTERN STATES TRIPS

Tonnage Carried

21. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) How many State ships have done the trip to the Eastern States?
- (2) What tonnage did each ship carry from—
 - (a) Western Australia to the east;
 - (b) from the east to Western Australia?

Time Involved and Profit or Loss

- (3) What amount of time was spent by each vessel on these trips?
- (4) What profit or loss was incurred by each ship?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Since March, 1964, to the 19th August, 1965, (*Dulberton* due date of return) eleven voyages will have been completed. Three of these voyages were necessary for annual docking requirements in the Eastern States.

(2) Including the three docking voyages—

- (a) (i) in 1964 an average of 610 tons per voyage (maximum 800 tons);
 - (ii) in 1965 to date an average of 599 tons per voyage (maximum 1,067 tons);
 - (b) (i) in 1964 an average of 1,127 tons per voyage (maximum 1,458 tons);
 - (ii) in 1965 to date an average of 1,225 tons per voyage (maximum 1,841 tons).
- (3) Including the three docking voyages, an overall average of 37½ days was spent in the extension from Darwin north-about to Fremantle and/or from Fremantle south-about. This time includes periods in dock, delays from wharf stoppages, awaiting berths, crew disputes, weather, etc. Voyage times have been calculated as from Darwin and therefore include an average of nine days which would otherwise have been occupied returning to Fremantle.

(4) The excess of operating costs over revenue return averaged approximately £10,000 per extended voyage. This does not take into account the improvement to the earnings of the reduced number of ships collecting southward cargoes.

The figure is slightly better than for coastal voyages of the same duration and is improving by reason of growing two-way traffic. The freight earnings on the present voyage of *Dulberton* are estimated to exceed operating costs.

YOUTH COUNCIL

Financial Assistance: Grant by Government

22. Mr. BRADY asked the Premier:

- (1) Has the newly-formed Youth Council made application to the Government for financial assistance to permit the Youth Council to carry out its obligations under the Act?
- (2) Will he state the amount requested by the council and the amount allotted by the Government?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The application is for an allocation of funds in 1965/66 of £40,000. The amount to be allotted by the Government is under consideration together with other budgetary matters.

AVON RIVER

Desnagging

23. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it proposed to carry on with the further desnagging of the Avon River upstream from Northam?
- (2) If so, when is it expected that the desnagging of the river to the Lakes Entrance will be completed?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This will be determined by the availability of finance, but it is anticipated that the work will take from four to five years, commencing 1965-66.

SAFETY BELTS IN CARS

Government Vehicles: Number Fitted and Type

24. Mr. MOIR asked the Premier:

- (1) How many of the Government's fleet of cars are equipped with safety belts?
- (2) Are any not so equipped?
- (3) Where belts are provided, what type is used, and how many are provided in each car?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) and (2) From a survey of 32 departments and utilities covering 2012 passenger type motor vehicles, it was found that 1664 were equipped with safety belts and 348 were not equipped.
- (3) Lap type belts are used throughout and normally two belts are provided per vehicle. The exceptions are 34 vehicles which have four belts and 197 vehicles which have only one.

POKER MACHINES

Revenue: Effect on State Finances

25. Mr. CORNELL asked the Treasurer:

Is this State penalised and, if so, to what extent, because a standard State derives revenue from the operation of poker machines whereas Western Australia has elected not to do so?

Mr. BRAND replied:

In order to assist in financing expenditure on hospitals, New South Wales imposes a tax on poker machine operations.

The proceeds of this tax raise the standard fixed by the Commonwealth Grants Commission in measuring the revenue raising efforts of Western Australia. This then requires us to either make an equal tax effort in other directions or refrain from expenditure on social services of a similar amount. The amount involved was £336,000 in 1963-64. Later figures are not available.

Put in another way, the commission does not penalise the State because New South Wales has a tax on poker machines, but it will not increase the special grant so as to allow Western Australia to finance expenditure which in New South Wales is met from the proceeds of that tax.

STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY

Cost: Original and Amended Estimates

26. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

- (1) What was the original estimate as to the then-anticipated total capital cost of constructing the standard gauge railway line from Kalgoorlie to Kwinana?
- (2) What is the latest amended estimate?
- (3) What was the original estimate as to the anticipated total capital cost of the proposed deviation of the 3 ft. 6 in. railway line in the vicinity of Spencers Brook through Northam and Toodyay to Bellevue?
- (4) What is the latest amended estimate?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) £41,210,000 (including rolling stock and locomotives).
- (2) £55,129,747 (including rolling stock and locomotives).
- (3) £7,496,000 (on basis single dual gauge track).
- (4) £9,674,000 (on basis double dual gauge track as agreed by Commonwealth).

ROAD WORKS AT ESPERANCE

Estimates and Expenditure

27. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) In reference to his reply to question 5 on the 4th August, as his reply indicates that only £132,352 of last year's allocation of

£261,120 from main roads funds was spent on work in the Esperance area during the year, will he state the reason that the projected work was not carried out?

- (2) Will he list the planned expenditure on the various roads for last year and the actual amount spent on the roads during the year?
- (3) Is the sum of £232,850 allocated for work in this area this year in addition to the unspent funds of 1964-65 or is it inclusive of this amount?

Programme: Implementation

- (4) In view of the urgent necessity of providing the people in this area with adequate roads, will he give an assurance that the work listed for this year by the department will be carried out?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Extensive work was being carried out in the Esperance Shire during June 1965, and not all expenditure was processed before the end of the month.

Estimated field expenditure for the year was £177,108.

Due to planning difficulties, work on the Esperance ring road was not commenced until June, wet weather caused a deferment of some works on land settlement roads, and some improvements and reseal of the main road were held over. All work planned for the Esperance-Mt. Merivale-Boydup road was not completed.

(2) —

SHIRE OF ESPERANCE

Work	Allocation £	Field Expenditure £
Main Roads—		
Coolgardie-Esperance Road: Reconstruct 20 ft. wide and prime 55.1-551.3	950	—
Construct and prime 2.25M x 24 ft. widen and prime 3M x 6 ft. wide 570-575.25	16,400	16,352
Shoulder improvements 577M	1,000	—
Single coat seal 20 ft. wide 551-551.3M	350	—
Single coat reseal 18 ft. wide 563.3-568.3M	5,250	—
Single coat seal 24 ft. wide 570-575.25M	11,000	6,658
	34,950	23,010
Important Secondary Roads—		
Ongerup - Ravensthorpe - Esperance Road: Single coat seal 20 ft. wide 382-398.45M	30,000	23,628
Maintenance	2,000	—
	32,000	23,628

Work	Allocation £	Field Expenditure £
Developmental Roads—		
Cape Le Grande Road: Improvements (various)	1,500	1,757
Grants Road: Improve- ments and gravel sheet- ing	8,000	8,473
Esperance - Israelite Bay Road: Prime 20 ft. wide 7.5-16M	16,500	16,538
Improvements (various)	16,000	14,951
Esperance Ring Road: Con- struct and prime 24 ft. wide	40,000	3,000
Esperance - Mt. Merivale - Boydup Road: Gravel and prime 20 ft. wide 1M-4.5M	12,000	6,581
Improvements (various)	2,000	2,000
Gibson East Road: Im- provements (various)	1,500	883
Dalyup-Gibson Road: Im- provements (various)	1,500	1,500
Balladonia-Israelite Bay (see Israelite Bay—40m. N): Improvements	500	—
Roads General Grass Patch Area: Improvements	2,000	1,960
Tourist Roads	1,500	1,100
Esperance - Israelite Bay Road: Single coat seal 20 ft. wide 7.5-16M	15,000	13,616
	118,000	72,359
General Allocations: Con- struction		
	4,000	2,825
School Bus Routes: Main- tenance		
	2,170	2,170
Roads to New Land Settle- ment Areas:		
Neridup-Lort River Area: Clearing and Improve- ments	3,000	—
Lort River-Munglinup River: Clearing and Improve- ments	12,000	1,679
Esperance Plains (North of Loc. 13): Clearing and Improvements	10,000	9,692
Grass Patch West - Lort River Area: Clearing and Improvements	14,000	16,841
Scaddan - Truslove East Area: Clearing and Im- provements	5,000	5,080
Scaddan - Fleming Grove East: Clearing and Im- provements	6,000	7,567
Neridup Location Area: Clearing and Improve- ments	20,000	12,257
	70,000	53,116
TOTAL	£261,120	£177,108

- (3) The sum of £232,850 is in addition to the unspent funds of 1964-65.

- (4) Every effort will be made to complete the works programme during the current financial year.

- (5) Answered by (4).

SWAN RIVER

Foreshore Buildings: Control

28. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has any authority control over existing or proposed buildings on the Swan River foreshore?

- (2) If so—
 (a) What are the authorities concerned;
 (b) What is the extent of their control?
- (3) How far back from the water line is considered to be "foreshore"?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) (i) Local authorities with frontages to the river.
 (ii) The Harbour and Light Department.
 (iii) The Swan River Conservation Board.
- (b) (i) High watermark is the defined river boundary for all local authorities with river frontages to their territory and these authorities have control of all existing or proposed buildings under their building and health laws.
 (ii) The Harbour and Light Department has control of all structures in the river below high watermark upstream of the Fremantle traffic bridge. Control is exercised by the issue of licenses renewable annually.
 (iii) The Swan River Conservation Board collaborates with both local authorities and the Harbour and Light Department concerning structures in the river or adjacent to it. There are six members representing local authorities and one Harbour and Light Department member on the board.
- (3) "Foreshore" is not a precise term, but can be considered as all the land between high and low watermark along the shore.

KEWDALE HIGH SCHOOL

Opening, Accommodation, and Upgrading

29. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it certain that the Kewdale High School will be ready for use at the commencement of the 1966 school year?
- (2) If so—
 (a) How many classrooms will be ready;
 (b) What students will be accommodated; i.e., 1st, 2nd, and 3rd years or only some of these grades?

- (3) If the school will only take limited grades, when is it proposed it will be a "full" junior high school?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) If the contract is carried out it will be ready for use at the commencement of the 1966 school year..
- (2) (a) 19 class rooms and library;
 (b) Years 1 and 2.
- (3) It will be a full high school (three years) in 1967, not a junior high school (which is a large primary school with post-primary years).

RESEARCH STATIONS

Wokalup: Facilities and Scope

30. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) For what purpose was the Wokalup Research Station instituted?
- (2) Has any research been conducted into—
 (a) the stocking rate per acre on dairy farms in the south-west;
 (b) the effect stocking rate has on the earning capacity of a dairy farm?
- (3) Is the Wokalup Research Station capable of giving a true assessment of the problems of dairy farmers in the lower west of the State concerning the above questions?
- (4) Is the Wokalup Research Station a research station in the proper sense of the term "research"?

Manjimup: Need for Establishment

- (5) Would not a research station at Manjimup have land more typical of the soil types peculiar to dairy farming areas of the lower south-west?
- (6) As the sheep and wool industry appears to have gained great expansion in earning capacity through research into stocking rate at Glenhossie Station, will he investigate the possibilities of extending similar research into stocking rate on dairy farms generally in the lower south-west?
- (7) Could not the foregoing be considered in conjunction with the proposed dairy farm consolidation plan?

Mr. LEWIS (for Mr. Nalder) replied:

- (1) For the purpose of research into plant and animal problems.
- (2) (a) Yes, but as yet with dry cattle only.
 (b) Information has been gathered by field officers and by surveys.

(3) Solutions to problems which are being investigated will have wide application in dairying districts.

(4) Yes.

(5) A research station at Manjimup would have soils typical of the Manjimup area, but which are different in type from those where the major concentrations of cattle are grazed.

(6) Research will continue into problems affecting dairy farmers, many of which are related directly to stock carrying capacity.

(7) The objectives of the dairy farm consolidation scheme are designed to help dairy farmers by providing long-term finance for development and improvement.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

Fatalities: Number

31. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Labour:

What was the number of fatal work-caused accidents in this State in each of the years 1961 to 1965, and the respective categories of employment—

(a) government and semi-governmental instrumentalities;

(b) private industry?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

1961-62—

(a) 5, being—

- 1 labourer
- 1 linesman
- 1 carpenter
- 1 permanent way railway worker
- 1 railway guard

(b) 20, being—

- 1 manager
- 1 mine machine worker
- 1 contractor tale mining driver
- 1 goldmining timberman
- 1 quarryman
- 2 salesmen
- 1 cameraman
- 1 photographer
- 3 farmhands
- 1 motor mechanic
- 1 concrete worker
- 1 truck driver
- 1 slaughterman
- 3 labourers

1962-63—

(a) 9, being—

- 1 waterside worker
- 1 labourer
- 2 policemen
- 1 electrical supervisor
- 1 railway guard
- 1 engine driver (State Battery)
- 1 linesman S.E.C.
- 1 forestry worker

(b) 21, being—

- 2 waterside workers
- 2 sales representatives
- 4 truck drivers
- 3 farmhands
- 1 mechanic
- 1 mining field assistant
- 1 miner timberman
- 1 miner underground fitter
- 1 miner sampler
- 1 miner
- 2 bulldozer drivers
- 1 plant operator
- 1 accountant

1963-64—

(a) 5, being—

- 1 tractor driver
- 1 plumber
- 1 timber feller
- 1 railway shunter
- 1 electrician

(b) 17, being—

- 1 clerk
- 4 farmhands
- 1 seaman (whaling)
- 4 truck drivers
- 1 fitter
- 1 barman
- 1 crane-driver
- 1 bulldozer driver
- 1 sales manager
- 2 welders

1964-65—Figures are not yet available from the Government Statistician for 1964-65.

The above exclude Commonwealth Government employees in this State.

HIGH SCHOOL HOSTELS

Wardens: Provision of Housing

32. Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Is it intended to build houses for wardens of high school hostels, either on the hostel sites or in close proximity thereto?

(2) If so, when will these be built and at which hostels?

Development of Grounds

(3) Are any funds, subsidies or otherwise, available for the development of the grounds; i.e., grassing, tree planting, construction of retaining walls, etc., on which hostels are built?

- (4) If the answer to (3) is "No," would he give consideration to making subsidies available on a pound for pound or similar basis, through the committees which run these hostels, for the purposes mentioned in (3)?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) and (2) The question of providing accommodation for wardens of high school hostels has been under active consideration for some time by the Country High School Hostels Authority. However, no decision has been reached as yet.
- (3) No.
- (4) This matter is already receiving consideration.

NATIVE WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Staff Shortage

33. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) Was he correctly reported in *The West Australian* newspaper of a few days ago when he is alleged to have said that the Native Welfare Department was short of staff?
- (2) If so, will he elaborate and give reasons for this shortage?

Qualifications of Staff

- (3) Is it necessary for an applicant to have a leaving certificate? If so, does not he consider that practical experience with natives would be more advantageous to an officer than educational qualifications?

Number of Officers, Sex, Grading and Salaries

- (4) How many officers, male and female, are employed by the department at the head office and at each other centre?
- (5) What are their gradings in the Public Service and salary to each officer?

Motor Vehicles: Number and Centres

- (6) How many motor vehicles are supplied by the department and at what centres?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The present shortage is—two district officers, four trainee district officers, five welfare officers (female).

The reason is the lack of suitable applicants willing to undertake difficult duties in remote areas.

- (3) For district officers and trainee district officers, yes. For welfare officers, no.

Practical experience with natives is an advantage but this does not necessarily outweigh other factors. Applicants undergo aptitude as well as educational tests.

- (4), (5), and (6) Head office:

Public Service appointments—M18, F8.

Salary gradings range from GX to A1-7.

Annual salaries range from £560 to £3,776.

Ministerial appointments—M2.

Weekly salary ranges from £9 17s. 1d. to £23 2s. 9d.

Vehicles 2.

Northern Division—

Derby:

Public Service appointments—M3, F2.

Salary gradings range from CV to G II-7/8.

Annual salaries range from £913 to £2,241.

Ministerial appointments—F1.

Weekly salary £5 13s.

Vehicles 3.

Wyndham:

Public Service appointments—M2, F1.

Salary gradings range from G III-1/3 to G II-4/5.

Annual salaries range from £1,083 to £1,788.

Ministerial appointments—F1.

Weekly salary £8 6s. 10d.

Vehicles 2.

Hall's Creek:

Public Service appointments—M1.

Salary grade—G II-1/3.

Annual salary—£1,425.

Ministerial appointment (part time)—F1.

Weekly salary—£2.

Vehicles—1.

Broome:

Public Service appointments—M1, F1.

Salary gradings range from C III-1/3 to C II-1/3.

Annual salaries range from £1,083 to £1,541.

Ministerial appointment—F1.

Weekly salary—£7 10s. 5d.

Vehicles—2.

North-West Division:**Port Hedland:**

Public Service appointments—
M3, F1.
Salary gradings range from
CV to G II-7/8.
Annual salaries range from
£872 to £2,371.
Ministerial appointment—F1.
Weekly salary—£7 10s. 5d.
Vehicles—3.

Marble Bar:

Public Service appointments—
M1.
Salary grade—G II-1/3.
Annual salary—£1,483.
Ministerial appointment—F1.
Weekly salary—£11 18s. 5d.
Vehicles—1.

Roebourne:

Public Service appointments—
M2, F1.
Salary gradings range from
G VII-1 to G II-1/3.
Annual salaries range from
£1,083 to £1,425.
Ministerial appointment—F1.
Weekly salary—£8 6s. 10d.
Vehicles—2.

Carnarvon:

Public Service appointments—
M1.
Salary grade—G II-1/3.
Annual salary—£1,483.
Ministerial appointment—F1.
Weekly salary—£7 10s. 5d.
Vehicles—2.

Others within Division:

Ministerial appointments—
M2, F1.
Weekly salaries—£13 11s. 5d.
to £23 17s. 10d.
Vehicles—2.

North Central Division:**Geraldton:**

Public Service appointments
—M3, F2.
Salary gradings range from—
CV to G II-7/8.
Annual salaries range from—
£913 to £2,436.
Ministerial appointment—F1.
Weekly salary—£6 14s. 8d.
Vehicles—3.

Mullewa:

Public Service appointments
—M1, F1.
Salary gradings range from—
G III-1/3 to G II-1/3.
Annual salaries range from—
£1,083 to £1,425.
Ministerial appointment—F1.
Weekly salary—£7 10s. 5d.
Vehicles—1.

Mt. Magnet:

Public Service appointments
—M1.
Salary grade—G II-1/3.
Annual salary—£1,483.
Ministerial appointment—F1.
Weekly salary—£6 14s. 8d.
Vehicles—1.

Meekatharra:

Public Service appointments
—M1, F1.
Salary gradings range from—
G III-1/3 to G II-1/3.
Annual salaries range from—
£1,083 to £1,483.
Ministerial appointment—F1.
Weekly salary—£10 8s. 7d.
Vehicles—2.

Others within Division:

Ministerial appointment—M1,
F1.
Weekly salaries—£13 11s. 5d.
to £18 7s. 10d.
Vehicles—1.

Central Division:**Perth:**

Public Service appointments
—M4, F4.
Salary gradings range from—
CV to G II-7/8.
Annual salaries range from—
£872 to £2,436.
Ministerial appointment—F1.
Weekly salary—£6 14s. 8d.
Vehicles—4.

Moora:

Public Service appointments
—M2, F1.
Salary gradings range from—
G III-1/3 to G II-4/5.
Annual salaries range from—
£1,083 to £1,788.
Ministerial appointment—F1.
Weekly salary—£8 6s. 10d.
Vehicles—3.

Kellerberrin:

Public Service appointments
—M1.
Salary grade—G II-1/3.
Annual salary—£1,541.
Ministerial appointment—M1.
Weekly salary—£15 17s. 10d.
Vehicles—1.

Others within Division:

Ministerial appointments—
M1, F1.
Weekly salary—£15 4s. 5d. to
£20 16s. 10d.
Vehicles—1.

Eastern Division:**Kalgoorlie:**

Public Service appointments
—M5, F2.

Salary gradings range from—
CV to G II-7/8.

Annual salaries range from—
£498 to £2,371.

Ministerial appointment—F1.

Weekly salary—£8 6s. 10d.

Vehicles—3.

Leonora:

Public Service appointments
M1, F1.

Salary gradings range from—
G III-1/3 to G II-1/3.

Annual salaries range from—
£1,112 to £1,425.

Vehicles—2.

Laverton:

Public Service appointments
—M1.

Salary grade—G II-1/3.

Annual salary—£1,425.

Vehicles—1.

Others within Division:

Ministerial appointments—
M3, F1.

Weekly salary—£13 11s. 5d. to
£23 17s. 10d.

Vehicles—2.

Southern Division:**Narrogin:**

Public Service appointments
—M4, F2.

Salary gradings range from—
CV to G II-7/8.

Annual salaries range from—
£779 to £2,436.

Ministerial appointment—F1.

Weekly salary—£6 14s. 8d.

Vehicles—3.

Gnowangerup:

Public Service appointments
—M3, F1.

Salary gradings range from—
G III-1/3 to G II-4/5.

Annual salaries range from—
£1,112 to £1,788.

Ministerial appointment—F1.

Weekly salary—£8 6s. 10d.

Vehicles—2.

Collie:

Public Service appointments
—M1.

Salary grade—G II-1/3.

Annual salary—£1,483.

Ministerial appointment—F1.

Weekly salary—£11 18s. 5d.

Vehicles—1.

Others within Division:

Ministerial appointment—M1.

Weekly salary—£21 14s. 10d.

Vehicles—1.

The honourable member may obtain complete details of individual gradings and salary ranges of

Public Service appointments from the Public Service List which was last published on the 1st July, 1964.

SCHOOL AT WELLINGTON MILLS*Building Progress*

34. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What progress is being made with the provision of a school building at Wellington Mills?

Septic Tanks and Playing Area: Provision

- (2) Will the proposed new school be provided with septic system toilets?
- (3) Can he give an assurance that there will be an adequate playing area adjoining the school?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) and (2) The provision of the new school building is delayed pending a clarification of the water supply problem. The existing pipe line installed by Millars Ltd. has very much deteriorated and a new pipe line will be needed.

Proposals are at present under consideration for a town supply from which the school could be served. If and when this is completed the school will be served with a septic system.

- (3) Yes.

QUESTIONS (3): WITHOUT NOTICE**COFFEE LOUNGES OF ILL REPUTE: PROPRIETORS***Names and Addresses*

1. Mr CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Police:

In view of the publicity given by *The West Australian* of last Thursday to a certain type of restaurant and coffee lounge existing in the metropolitan area and as a guide so that parents may warn and perhaps forbid their children against patronising such establishments—

- (1) Will the Minister advise the House the names and addresses of these restaurants; also, the names of the proprietors, and the venue of the stomp dance?

Prosecutions for Illegal Sale of Liquor

- (2) The names of the proprietors and of their restaurants who have been successfully prosecuted for the illegal sale of liquor?

(3) The names of the proprietors and their restaurants against whom prosecutions are pending; or, if this is not permissible, will he advise the House at a later stage if the prosecutions are successful?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) In reply to the honourable member for Claremont, who kindly gave me notice of this question, I have here a list of the coffee lounges and night clubs referred to in the Press report together with the names of the proprietors, and also a further list of the convictions that have been recorded against some of the proprietors, although some of the coffee lounges or night clubs referred to among those which are subject to the conviction of the proprietor are not necessarily referred to in the report.
- (3) These cases are listed for court hearing this month and the information sought will be made available after the magistrate's decision has been made. Further, in view of the fact that there has been some Press publicity on this subject, I seek your permission, Mr. Speaker, to table a copy of the report that was supplied to me.

A copy of the report was tabled.

NAVAL BASE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Albany's Claim

2. Mr. HALL asked the Premier:

- (1) Would the Premier forthwith raise again with the Commonwealth Government the need to establish a naval base in Western Australia?
- (2) Is he aware of the claim of Albany for consideration as a naval base, particularly in view of the following facts:—
 - (a) The changed situation in Singapore;
 - (b) the unsuitability of Cockburn Sound since an industrial complex has been established there;
 - (c) the emergence of the Antarctic as a strategic area to Australia?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) I would advise the House that we are constantly in touch with the authorities on this matter. As the House knows, this is an outstanding problem of many years' duration, but the Commonwealth continues to refuse to agree to any development, such as a naval base in Western Australia. The

Government has set up a committee comprising the Minister for Industrial Development, the Minister for Works, the Minister for Labour, and the Minister for Town Planning to investigate the possibilities of establishing some shipbuilding facilities and docks; because we recognise that, although we might not obtain a naval base here, the use of 100,000-ton ships in the Indian Ocean in connection with the export of iron ore and other commodities might well justify some decision; and it might be closer than we think. We should therefore be prepared for such a development.

- (2) (a) and (b) We cannot have a naval base unless we have available some sort of industrial complex together with their trades and facilities. This is more likely to develop near Fremantle rather than at an isolated spot. I do not think there is a change in the situation in Singapore with respect to the British naval base. This was dealt with particularly in the agreement under which Singapore broke away from Malaysia.
- (c) I do not think this is anything new. It is not a very good reason, and it would not impress the Commonwealth Government. However, the Government feels the day will come when there will be a naval base or some docking facilities to cater for the increased shipping which will come through the Indian Ocean. The Government is in constant touch with whatever authorities can help us.

CHILDREN'S FARES ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Concessional Allowance on Raising of School-leaving Age

3. Mr. MITCHELL asked the Minister for Transport:

When the new school-leaving age of 15 years is introduced, what will be the position regarding children's fares on public transport?

Mr. COURT replied:

With the raising of the school-leaving age to 15 years, the age at which children can travel for half fare on M.T.T. services will also be raised to 15 years.

Children up to 15 years of age already receive half-fare concession for rail travel.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by Mr. Norton, leave of absence for eight weeks granted to Mr. May (Collie) on the ground of urgent private business.

Second Reading

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [5.9 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

PARLIAMENTARY ALLOWANCES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Standing Orders Suspension

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [5.5 p.m.]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable a Bill for "An Act to amend the Parliamentary Allowances Act, 1911-1962," to be introduced and to be passed through all its stages in one day, and to enable the business aforesaid to be dealt with before the Address-in-Reply is adopted.

I might explain to the House that this motion has the same objective as the one I dealt with last week, except that it dealt with a Bill to amend the Constitution Acts Amendment Act. In the event of this motion being carried I propose to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Constitution Acts Amendment Act, 1899-1965, after which I shall introduce a Bill to amend the Act mentioned in this motion.

In seeking the approval of the House for the suspension of Standing Orders I might point out that the Bill is simply introduced for the purpose of granting to the two honorary Ministers full ministerial status now, instead of having to wait until such time as the Address-in-Reply debate is completed. Coupled with this is the fact that these are honorary Ministers and they do not receive the ministerial allowance whilst they are carrying out the job.

Mr. Graham: I have a feeling this Bill will be a little too restricted.

MR. BRAND: Nevertheless, we are seeking the approval of the House to introduce this measure. I have discussed this matter with the Leader of the Opposition. I do not know whether he will seek an adjournment of the debate; if he does I shall be agreeable.

MR. HAWKE (Northam—Leader of the Opposition) [5.7 p.m.]: I have no objection to this motion being passed; but I would indicate to the Premier that I shall be moving for the adjournment of the second reading to enable the debate to be continued tomorrow.

Question put and passed.

CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Brand (Premier), and read a first time.

I thank the House for its approval to enable these measures to be proceeded with. Following the last elections it was decided to increase the number of Ministers in the Government from 10 to 12. The Constitution Acts Amendment Act of 1899 provided for six principal officers of the Crown; in 1927 Parliament decided to increase this number to eight, and it remained unaltered until the introduction of a Bill in 1950 to increase the number to 10. That was done by the then Leader of the House, the late Sir Ross McLarty.

In seeking approval to increase the number of principal officers of the Crown it must be fairly obvious that the State has grown, not so much in the number of its people, but in the general activity that is taking place throughout. I am not claiming any credit on behalf of the Government for this; but the fact remains that expansion, development, and work are going on throughout the State, and this requires increased Government activity. Every department of the State Government is represented in, and is certainly very closely associated with, the developments in all areas—from Wyndham to Esperance, and from the coast almost to the South Australian border.

Hitherto the burden has been shouldered by ten Ministers in the Government. I think it is fair to say that I heard some members opposite express the opinion that there should be an increase in the Ministry. This becomes necessary, because we are reaching the point where one major portfolio responsibility should be allotted to one Minister. I would remind the House that in Western Australia, as in many other States, the Ministers carry a number of portfolios. In the previous six years the member for Nedlands carried the portfolios of railways, north-west, and industrial development; and The Hon. Mr. Griffith assumed the responsibility of leading the Upper House and carried the portfolios of housing, mines, and justice. Other heavy responsibilities were shared by all Ministers.

We are living in an age when the Ministers of the Crown are expected to travel very often to keep in touch with the work in various parts of the State, including the north-west, and to inspect the areas where development is taking place. They can be away from their offices for almost a week at a time. In the complex situation in which this State finds itself today in trade, commerce, government, and administration, it is necessary for the Ministers to be very closely in touch with what is being done in their offices. I am not one of those who believe that important

decisions should be made by the officers, because of the absence of Ministers. It is the duty and responsibility of a Minister to be present in his office in order to keep in touch with what is going on. He cannot expect his administrative head or departmental heads to make decisions for him. The Ministers have to keep closely in touch not only with the active work being done outside, but also with the work being done on the administrative side.

Ministers of the Crown today are required to go beyond the borders of their own State and country. I think it is generally accepted by Governments throughout the world that Ministers should travel and see what their counterparts in other parts of the world are doing, not only in respect of the very complex problems of the day, but also for the purpose of acquainting themselves with the latest scientific developments.

Mr. Graham: Do you think the other side of the House should also have the opportunity to look at other parts of the world?

Mr. BRAND: I agree with that. I take this opportunity of saying that it is the intention of the Government not only to continue the support which it gives to send one representative from this Parliament to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, but also to make available a grant of some £1,500 in order that a private member may go with the Government representative. The conditions under which the private member will go will be worked out between the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Government. This is a move to enable a private member to take advantage of overseas travel.

There is not a great deal more I can add. I regret I was not in the House the other evening when the Leader of the Opposition made a remark which made me very proud. He said there was a fine group of men of ministerial calibre in this House; and he also made some very complimentary references to yourself, Mr. Speaker, although his remarks were not quite consistent with what he said in the past. It did seem to me to be a compliment to the Government—and I am confident we will be here for many years to come—to say there will be no shortage of potential Ministers.

Mr. Hawke: You are forgetting I was not talking about the present Ministers.

Mr. BRAND: No; but we all took it for granted.

Mr. Hawke: I talked about those in this Bill.

Mr. BRAND: The situation was that the Leader of the Opposition was being a little mischievous in perhaps making a dig or two which he thought would not be helpful to the general atmosphere in the matter. The late Alex Panton said a very wise thing: that a Government was no good

unless it could offer every member and all of its supporters a portfolio. This is not possible, but the situation is that there has to be a certain number of Ministers selected by one scheme or another, and it is regrettable we cannot use all the talent available to us, whether the Government be Labor, Liberal, or Country Party.

So in moving the second reading of this Bill, I simply seek to state that we have already administratively increased the number of Ministers of the Crown and we now seek the approval of Parliament to amend the Constitution—

Mr. Tonkin: Without giving your real reason.

Mr. BRAND: —Acts Amendment Act and later on to provide the necessary amendment to the Parliamentary Allowances Act in order that they may be paid accordingly. What did the Deputy Leader of the Opposition say?

Mr. Tonkin: Are you going to stop your explanation without giving us the real reason for the introduction of the Bill?

Mr. BRAND: I have given the real reason, which is as I have explained—the expansion taking place in this State justifies the increase in the number of Ministers, just as it has done in the other States.

Mr. Tonkin: Would this Bill be here had the Government been returned with the same number of members as it had when it went out?

Mr. BRAND: Quite likely.

Mr. Tonkin: I think not, myself.

Mr. BRAND: In fact, I will turn around and say, "Yes."

Mr. Hawke: Why turn around?

Mr. BRAND: I always like to face the Speaker. I was looking in the other direction. The answer to the query by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is, "Yes."

Mr. Bovell: The only thing wrong with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is that he is jealous he is not included.

Mr. BRAND: We have got enough troubles—

Mr. Graham: I bet you have enough troubles!

Mr. BRAND: The honourable member should know. He speaks with great authority. Fancy the member for Balcatta talking about a political party in trouble! I have never heard anything so impudent.

Mr. Graham: I had better tell you a few things.

Mr. BRAND: Tell me anything you like. New South Wales this year increased its Ministry from 15 to 16. Victoria increased its number from 14 to 15 last year; while South Australia, with eight Ministers, is contemplating an increase. Queensland increased its Ministry from 12 to 13 last year,

and from 11 to 12 in 1963. Tasmania has had nine Ministers for some years. That is the constitution in the other States.

I feel quite confident the Bill will go through this House without any great opposition, for the simple reason that the added demands on the Government justify its spreading the burden of administration.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Hawke (Leader of the Opposition).

PARLIAMENTARY ALLOWANCES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Brand (Premier), and read a first time.

Second Reading

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [5.20 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I would explain that the only amendment is to substitute for the word "seven" in line one of para (c) of subsection (4) the word "nine." This is necessary because the Premier, the Deputy Premier, and the Leader of the Government in the Upper House are paid under a separate heading and this amendment refers only to the actual Ministers.

The Bill to amend the Constitution Acts Amendment Act to increase the number of Ministers of the Crown from 10 to 12 having been explained, this Bill is now introduced in order that the allowances and salaries might be paid to those new Ministers under the appropriate Act.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Hawke (Leader of the Opposition).

BILLS (2): MESSAGES

Appropriations

Messages from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills:—

1. Constitution Acts Amendment Bill.
2. Parliamentary Allowances Act Amendment Bill.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FOURTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 5th August, on the following motion by Mr. Rushton:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament:—

May it please your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank

Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

MR. GRAHAM (Balcatta) [5.22 p.m.]: It was my intention to speak on one subject only as my contribution to this debate, and that contribution, with one exception, to have been completely removed from party politics. However, I have now been driven by the Premier in some of the remarks he made a few moments ago.

Mr. Brand: In reply to remarks made by you, by the way.

Mr. GRAHAM: That is so. One would think there are political troubles on one side of the House only. If the Premier has a good memory—and I am sure he has—he will remember some very interesting interludes as between Mr. Freeth and Mr. Hamilton on charges of the Country Party being disloyal because of a pact of some sort between certain of its members and certain members of the Australian Labor Party. I am aware that the Country Party is cross with the Liberal Party because it offends by including in its title the word "Country" which is offensive to the Country Party and which that party feels is designed to mislead persons who reside in the rural districts.

Only a few weeks ago, on the 17th July, we read in *The West Australian*, to show how happy is the relationship of the two parties on the other side, these words—

The conference supported the retention of the party's W.A. title of Liberal and Country League, and rejected a suggestion to revert to the title of the Liberal Party.

By that, the Liberal Party rejected the Country Party's approaches. Continuing to quote—

Delegates said that the longer name had helped to offset a claim that the party had only city interests.

These, now, are the prize words to show what a great big happy family there is —

It also had at least partly achieved an object in reducing the numbers of Country Party members in Parliament.

This was the governing body of the Liberal Party of Western Australia; and yet the Premier has the effrontery to suggest all is not well on the Opposition side of the House in contradistinction with the harmonious relationships that exist between the parties on the other side.

Mr. Brand: I do not think it was effrontery to suggest it.

Mr. GRAHAM: I think it was.

Mr. Brand: I read about it every day of the week.

Mr. GRAHAM: Of course the Premier does, and so does the public of Western Australia, because whatever occurs in

Labor politics that can be to Labor's disadvantage is reported and repeated over and over again; but when there are difficulties—if I might use that term—between the Liberal and Country parties they get a mention and are then allowed to sleep in the limbo of lost things.

Mr. Brand: We have had plenty of publicity about—

Mr. GRAHAM: And I am reminding the Premier of one at the moment; and I am indicating to him that if there are difficulties of organisation on this side of the House, then the Australian Labor Party is no orphan—

Mr. Brand: I didn't say it was.

Mr. GRAHAM: —and the marriage on the other side of the House is not nearly as happy as the Premier would like.

Mr. Brand: I only raised this matter in reply to what you said.

Mr. GRAHAM: The Premier raised it and I am taking advantage of the opportunity to make a few references to it.

Mr. Bovell: Tell us what a happy family the Labor Party is.

Mr. GRAHAM: I think the noisy scrub bird is inviting somebody to be rude.

Mr. Brand: He is the right bloke, too.

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not know of anybody who is his peer in that regard. I do not know of anybody more justified in being at the receiving end than is the Minister for Lands, because of his conduct in this Chamber. I will not accept the guidance of the Minister for Lands in respect of anything; and that includes the form of the speech I wish to make.

It is my intention to devote myself to the question of the problem of youth, and I shall do so in a most serious vein because of the transcending importance of the question and the dire need for some drastic action to be taken in a positive as well as in a negative sense. Here let me preface my remarks by saying that apparently owing to a genuine misunderstanding, I made available to the Press last week a report of the police which had been compiled for the Minister for Police. It was not made available with any intention of securing political advantage or anything else. The fact is that earlier in the year—from memory, the 8th June—I attended a function which was the opening of the £100,000 appeal for Police and Citizens Youth Clubs at which the Minister, who opened it, quoted from a certain report, and quoted quite extensively.

I was so impressed by it—that is to say, by the seriousness of its content—that I wanted a copy to use in whatever way I felt disposed; and I say to him in the House, as I said to him privately, I am indeed sorry if I erred in making it available at that time, when, probably he, the Minister, should have been the one to release it. However, I do not think it has

done any harm whatsoever, and it has focused public attention upon a very real problem.

I had resolved to do something, such as lies within the limited powers of a private member of Parliament, particularly one who occupies a seat on the Opposition side of the House, following a visit I made some months ago to the Police and Citizens Youth Club at Scarborough, where a police officer is doing a tremendous job for the young people in that district.

I have nothing but praise for Constable Lavers and the work he is doing, and it did one's heart good to see so many young people of considerable variation in ages usefully employing their leisure time, as against the conduct of quite a number of people in our midst.

Mr. Moir: Constable Lavers has always done a wonderful job.

Mr. GRAHAM: I would believe that. He is a dedicated man. During the course of my remarks I will, no doubt, be making comments not particularly flattering in respect of the youth of Western Australia. Here and now I want to point out and emphasise that not for one moment do I consider the majority of our young folk are encompassed by those who cavort at night clubs and those who commit breaches of the law and generally get into trouble.

My experience has been that the majority of our young people are clean and decent living; intelligent and anxious to make a place for themselves in this world; and so on. However, there are many other factors to which I think we could well devote a considerable portion of our time—on a non-party basis—analysing the situation which has caught up with us and which, I should say, has overtaken us. By that I mean a situation has arrived and no appropriate or adequate measures have been taken in order to cope with it.

Now what is that situation? In recent years we have seen the introduction of a shorter working week; a lesser number of hours is being worked by those employed in the humblest tasks to those occupying the senior executive positions. Annual leave has been increased, long service leave has become virtually universal, and all of this means that there is more time—more leisure time—available to our people and particularly to our young people.

We should ask ourselves what education or preparation we have made for those people both mentally and in the matter of the provision of facilities so that the leisure time might be constructively employed rather than that it should provide an opportunity for the young spirits to get into trouble—first of all mischief, and then crime. Some of their actions, of course, can affect the balance of their lives merely because there has been no proper provision made for them.

When we ponder—speaking of an older generation than the people whom I am discussing—the great bulk of our time was occupied learning how to work and how to perform a particular operation, and thereafter the bulk of our time was devoted to actually working in order to earn the means of livelihood, and very little time, indeed, was devoted to learning how to live. I am referring to public relations, getting on with other people, developing good habits, and participating in sport and recreation to the extent we should have done, and so on.

Hand in hand with this time factor has been the impact of the affluent society. All sections—and this, of course, includes the youth—now have spending money which in the time of the majority of us was unthought of and unheard of. Because of those resources which have increased so considerably, there is a natural facility available for young people to move about, to purchase, and to cater for their weaknesses. There are, too, the effects of mobility brought about by the almost universal use of the automobile. One has only to look at the vehicles parked outside colleges and universities, and to see young employees arriving at their jobs in vehicles, to appreciate this point.

Because of this mobility it is the order of things that young people are able to escape the surveillance of their parents to a degree which was previously impossible. Because of the automobile young people are able to move over considerable distances to where they are not known, and congregate in secretive places and so on.

So without proper guidance, example, and tuition generally, it is much easier for young people to get into difficulties. We have seen the effects, or side effects, of certain forms of entertainment. We probably remember that when we were children films were a rarity; they were exceptional. Since that time, of course, they have been and have almost gone again. We saw the arrival of the radio, and it became an item in everybody's home; but that, to some extent, is now being superseded by television. Now those media are available to all.

This change from a life surrounding a home has been transformed by the image the young people see through the films and by listening to the radio and watching television. This is in addition to the escape which is provided by the motor vehicle. Also, and this is to be regretted, many parents have become fascinated by the square picture box in the corner of the sitting room, and it would appear that some display more interest in that medium than they do in the welfare of their children.

I hope I have not given undue emphasis in any way, but those are some of the factors which have, in my view, completely altered the situation so far as the

younger generation is concerned; and it is, accordingly, necessary for us to do something in order to meet the situation which is developing.

Another matter which is becoming part of the life of younger people in Western Australia but which, in my view, is completely foreign, is what occurs when an artist—or a so-called artist—is about to arrive. Usually some thousands of young people proceed to the airport, or the point of arrival, and engage in quite a lot of lawlessness and misbehaviour generally. The artist performs at a show a night or two later and some hundreds of young people enter the theatre and there is a constant screaming from start to finish. Those people are not interested in listening to the artist, but endeavour to clamber on to the stage and pull things to pieces generally.

Here let me say that I disagree with the squealing, which is not a natural reaction, and is something which was not carried on in Australia by our kiddies until the idea was brought here from overseas. It is cultivated on teenage sessions on Channel 2 and Channel 7 every Saturday afternoon—or it was the last time I was watching about that time of the day, which is not very often I will admit.

I suggest that because of the situation and the seriousness generally, it is necessary for a change of heart and atmosphere on our part. We talk about the Snowy Mountains scheme and the Ord River project, and we feel a sense of pride with regard to those and similar undertakings. But surely the most important factor in our country is the youth: the young men and women of this country.

Just as we are able to devise and undertake tremendous projects, such as the couple I have mentioned, the time has arrived—indeed, in my opinion it is overdue—when there should be something large, something dramatic, in order to capture the imagination of young people and provide some facilities for them.

What is the position at the present time? I have been appalled when reading reports. We find that with the common crimes of breaking, stealing, and unlawful use, in 1954 in this State there were 594 adult offenders. In 1963 there were 566; almost the same number but, in fact, it had fallen slightly. For the same years, with others—that is, children—the number rose from 189 to 1,242, and that in less than a decade. No wonder, therefore, that Inspector Graham of the Police Department—who, incidentally, is no relation of mine—said this—

The frightening truth is that children have overtaken adults in crime. Every thinking person should be concerned about this.

That, of course, is perfectly true and that is why I repeat that the time has come when something should be done about it.

There should be a recognition that with modern science, machinery, and mechanisation generally, we are attaining a leisure age, and less and less emphasis need be given to work because a lesser proportion of our time will be required in order to fulfil the various functions which are necessary to our existence—our existence, even in abundance. This is an age of leisure, recreation, and personality development; or at least that is what it ought to be.

I suggest to the Government, therefore, that in Western Australia, where the Government has, with revenue money and loan money, a total of approximately £150,000,000 a year available to it, it could, and indeed it should, basically and initially decide that a sum of £500,000 annually be made available to do something specifically for the youth of this State—to provide facilities for the leisure of the people, and specifically for the young people, but also to cater for all because we are all caught up with this problem of leisure without any proper preparation on how to use it.

I suppose immediately the thought arises: In what direction should this be used? In the first instance I would suggest—and I will give my reasons for this suggestion—that the sum initially might be used for the provision of a headquarters for Australian rules football. This is a sport which, in the metropolitan area, is played by approximately 10,000 young people every week; and which attracts a crowd approaching 1,000,000 in a season of league competition. It has tremendous appeal in the matter of participation, and it has the greatest appeal of all sports from a spectator viewpoint.

This, of course, is an important factor because any youngster playing football probably has a mental image of himself, or an ambition, of one day being numbered among the top players. Such a youngster would dearly love to see a grand final football match, or an interstate football match. But what is the situation today? Unless he is exceedingly tall it is impossible for him to watch those matches, because he would be standing up and looking fair and square into the back of some adult standing in front of him.

If there were a football headquarters worthy of the name—and such a headquarters could be provided with the co-operation of local authorities and the National Football League itself, which is placing money aside for this purpose—that would be a symbol of the earnest of the Government, and would be its starting point. Admittedly, the full sum I have mentioned would not be required in the first year, but I think a grant of that size, and then bank guarantees for the balance so that this proposition could come to fruition, would be in the best interests of the people, and specifically the youth. Thereafter attention would be given to other sporting, recreational, and cultural facilities in all parts of the State.

I do not want it to be thought for one moment that such grants should be confined to the metropolitan area, although I think it is true to say that whilst in many country districts there is an absence of facilities, nevertheless, in the nature of things, the large assemblies of population, and temptations are in the metropolitan area and consequently there is a great need for something to be done here in the interests of our youth. When we are considering their welfare there should be no boundaries between the metropolis and the more distant parts of the State.

Our young people might be attracted to the sport if they had the opportunity of seeing it at its highest level, with all the enthusiasm and ballyhoo that goes with final round football matches, and the rest of it; but because the children find there is no place for them, and there are plenty of vacancies around the milk bars, the coffee stalls, the so-called night clubs, and the rest of it, they tend to fritter away their time instead of watching decent healthy sport under decent healthy conditions and, through their viewing of it, becoming interested to the point where they too want to take an interest in their bodies and minds and participate either in that or some other form of recreation.

Here let me say that my thoughts in the matter of this leisure time do not go exclusively in the direction of football, cricket, tennis, badminton, basketball, fishing, and those sorts of things because, as we well know, a tremendous amount of interest, satisfaction, and enjoyment can be obtained through studies and hobbies, constructive work, community work, and so on. But the facilities for these things must be provided.

If I could return to the Scarborough Police and Citizens Youth Club for a moment, young people were pointed out to me and I was told that they were on the road to ruin; they were dirty and untidy and generally misbehaving themselves, but in their case a transformation had taken place. When I saw them they were clean and neatly dressed; some were playing chess, some were playing table tennis, others were dancing and taking part in other forms of recreation, whilst still others were sitting around drinking soft drinks—boys and girls of various ages. So it is possible, if some interest is shown in them, for there to be a favourable reaction.

I am aware that all Premiers and Treasurers throughout our history have been beset with calls for funds for housing, hospitals, schools, water supplies, drainage, irrigation, and so on. But many years ago, when Western Australia was in its comparative infancy; when there were very few resources available; when there were no modern appliances at hand; when the community was not nearly as well circumstanced financially as now, it

was possible to lay down the framework and base work of our railway system and our ports and to establish such places as a museum, an art gallery, a public library, a zoological garden, and all those sorts of things; and notwithstanding the demands of the time, it was possible for our predecessors to find certain funds to cultivate educational and cultural requirements, and also to provide for a number of sporting activities.

That was done because it was felt that in order to have a full and complete life amenities such as these were essential. But now, I insist, on account of the revolution that has been achieved in our lifetime, and because of the large amount of leisure time available to us and the fact that we are ill-equipped to make full use of it, it is a matter of pressing urgency to provide such facilities; and any Government which undertook a scheme—I have endeavoured to be as modest as possible with my suggestions—of gigantic proportions for the purpose of meeting this rapidly increasing problem of our young people blighting their lives and indulging in so many anti-social acts would receive the highest commendation from the public and, I am sure, the grateful thanks of many parents who, today, are at their wits' end in endeavouring to control their children.

Whilst there are many parents who are guilty of not discharging their responsibilities to their offspring, in many instances the situation is made extremely difficult by the neglect of other parents. In the very nature of things the Smith children will want to keep up with the Jones children, and if the Jones children are running around at liberty to do what they want where they want at any time of the day or night, it is only natural that the neighbours' children will want to join them and indulge in the same frivolities. Therefore, as I have said, it would be fairly difficult for their parents, in many instances, to control their activities.

At this stage in making the submission, I regret it is necessary for me to indulge in a little criticism; but I consider I have valid reasons for so doing. Those members who were in this House in 1963 will recall that I was most critical of the action of the Government at that time, because it had succumbed to pressure from a highly placed Liberal Party official in allowing Hale School to depart from the usual procedure of making available approximately 10 per cent. of a subdivided area for public recreation. The Premier did his best to excuse what had been done—which was a shocking thing—and, of course, having the numbers, he succeeded in his objective.

The situation is and was that there are 1,000 home sites in the suburb of Wembley Downs in which the largest playing area is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and that is being developed to accommodate tennis courts and

bowling greens. In other words, there is no open field—in fact, nowhere at all—in a suburb of that size where children or adults can play a game of cricket or football. Yet, notwithstanding the lack of open space, I repeat that this Government, to its discredit, allowed certain influences to get to work, and instead of an area of open space being set aside being about $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres of the Hale School subdivision, not one square inch of this major subdivision was reserved for public recreation.

I read in the Press only last week—and I am placing some questions on the notice paper tomorrow in connection with it—that the Government has put aside $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land which is to be made available for public recreation purposes. This, of course, is to make up for the terrific blunder which was deliberately made by the Government in 1963; but whilst that may be the purpose of the Government, it does nothing of the sort, because it is wrongly placed. This area happens to be on the extreme southern boundary and is abutting about 1,000 acres of open space, whereas, if it were in the heart of this district, where, at the moment, there is not a square inch of open space available, it would be of some use to the children who desired to use it. Therefore the Government has been going in the opposite direction to what I want it to go.

Being one who is on what is called the steering committee for the appeal of £100,000 for the Police & Citizens Youth Clubs, I was disappointed in the slow response to the approaches made to the Premier for a financial grant to assist in reaching our final objective of £100,000. As a result, last Wednesday I asked the Premier some questions. The approaches for assistance were made on the 26th June, 1965, and the Government is still considering whether it will make a financial grant available.

Mr. Court: I think it can be assumed that the Premier—as is his usual attitude towards these things—will be quite generous and responsive.

Mr. GRAHAM: For the edification of the Minister, the appeal has now closed; although that does not mean that the organisers will reject a cheque, no matter from what source it comes. There are certain business firms which have their head offices in the Eastern States, and before their branches in Perth can make a contribution towards the appeal, their head offices want to know whether the State Government has contributed and the extent of its contribution. Yet the Government is still considering whether it will contribute, just as though the youth of Western Australia are of no consequence.

So here I say that there is too much concentration on millionaire companies, and expansion here and expansion there—all of which is important, I agree; but in

my book the souls of our youngsters have a prior claim. With this Government, however, they are in second place.

Mr. Court: That is not so.

Mr. GRAHAM: I will inform the Minister in respect of this, because I think the Government needs a bit of talking to. The Government has provided a grant of £20,000, and another £17,000 by way of an interest-free loan, which makes a total of £37,000. Guess what for? A pavilion for sheep! To erect a building on the Claremont showgrounds, the Government has made available a total of £37,000 for sheep! Our primary industry is important, of course, but what comes first—premises for livestock, or premises and facilities for our young people? Without measuring one against the other this is, in my view, a crisis in our period of history because of what is happening to our young people; because of their unpreparedness for the type of life into which they are thrown. Yet the Government, notwithstanding that approach after approach has been made to it, is still considering whether it will grant £2,000, £20,000, or £50,000, or whatever the sum may be, to the Police and Citizens Youth Clubs.

Mr. Court: You cannot pick one building within a scheme and say, "This is a measure of the Government's attitude." You have to take into consideration the questions of youth, education, and so on.

Mr. GRAHAM: Since I rose to my feet I have been endeavouring to emphasise the importance, the urgency, and the terrific magnitude of the problem that is ours. We may get ports, railways, and mines; we may get favourable overseas credits; there may be a few more millionaires; a few more towns may be created, but if the cost is to be the neglect of the younger generation, which causes them to get into serious trouble as disclosed in the report which was made public last week, then I suggest the Government should do some new thinking; because that report makes reference to only 12 places in the whole of Western Australia. Apart from these places where there are organised orgies and similar activities, there are, of course, beach parties, barbecues, private parties, and so on, where activities similar to those revealed by the report have been going on. Yet the Government is focusing its attention on economic matters, whereas I want it to give much greater emphasis to the human side of things.

Mr. Court: I think this Government is doing just that. You don't want to overlook the fact that the Ministers and the supporters of the Government have children and grandchildren of all ages. Anyone would think we do not know what children are, or that we do not care about them.

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not know whether the Minister cares or not.

Mr. Court: He cares a lot.

Mr. GRAHAM: I should say—and I do not say this unkindly—that the Minister is far more concerned about his happy relations with, say, Sir Halford Reddish than he is with doing something for the young people of this State.

Mr. Court: You judge yourself; I am doing my share for my family.

Mr. GRAHAM: The Minister may be doing his share as a father and as a family man; but the Ministers of the Crown, the appointed leaders of the State, have a responsibility as a Government to measure up to the problem, which is one of the utmost seriousness.

Mr. Court: I think the Ministers of this Government will measure up so far as the youth of the State is concerned with anything you have done.

Mr. GRAHAM: That may be a matter of opinion. Suppose it is so; and suppose I make the statement that all Governments and all members of Parliament have, up till now—and after I have finished—neglected to give this matter the close attention and consideration and, thereafter, the necessary action it required. What is wrong with that? I want something done.

Mr. Lewis: It is because of the consideration given by this Government that we set up a youth council to survey the overall situation. What more can be done?

Mr. GRAHAM: This Government has been in office for 6½ years, and it now wants to survey the situation. That one report on the so-called night clubs—these sleazy joints—should be enough. The Government is aware of the position with our own observations, without other reports, with the crime summary to which I have made reference and which was referred to us and, indeed, incorporated in the annual reports of the Commissioner of Police. The Government is aware of the position, and I am urging the Government to take some specific action; something that would capture the imagination of the young people, and make them feel that they have a place in the sun; that we are genuinely interested in them; and that we can speak their language. We must make them feel that we are not merely interested in doubling a power station here, or carrying out some other activity there, however important it may be.

These are young people we are dealing with. Some of them have a fair amount of money and a terrific amount of time, and they have no clue as to how to use that time in their own best interests; and these interests could range from sporting activities to serious hobbies such as the furtherance of their studies, and so on. It is necessary to make them realise this.

Mr. Lewis: They need guidance and that is what the youth council will give them.

Mr. GRAHAM: I am a little tired of bodies such as councils, committees, and so on. To my mind anyone in public life ought to be sufficiently aware of the general situation. I think all of us have been guilty of allowing the situation to overtake us. The present Government is the Government of the day for at least another three years, and I urge it to take some dramatic action to capture the imagination of the young people and to provide a solid basis on which to build their future. I am sure this would receive the undying gratitude of people throughout the length and breadth of the country, and Western Australia would be quoted as an example to other parts of the world if we really got down to this job.

I am aware that if anything substantial and worth while is to be done it will inevitably require a little trimming of budgetary allocations to certain departments. I repeat, however, that there is nothing more important than the welfare of our youth, because the future good of Western Australia depends upon how those who are youths today develop and become adults and leaders tomorrow.

Mr. Lewis: We probably would not run to a football headquarters all the same.

Mr. GRAHAM: I suggested that as one attempt; as an initial attempt. Let us not get party political on this matter. The Minister should give some serious thought to this, and we can discuss it privately if he likes. I cannot think of anything that would more graphically depict to the young people our own earnest desire to do something for them.

Mr. Gayfer: It would only be used infrequently.

Mr. GRAHAM: It would be a symbol as well, and it would be used for other activities. Members can make their own contributions and have their own thoughts. I am not in charge of this project; I wish I were. Let me make some particular reference to the contents of the report which was made public last week.

Mr. Court: Before you go on to that, up to date you have more or less implied that this responsibility in respect of children rests with the Government. I think you are missing a most vital factor. It is time some parents got off their tails and did something for their children.

Mr. GRAHAM: Apparently the Minister was not following me closely. It was in connection with the parents that I wanted to make a point when I referred to the police report. It is shocking that in an enlightened and comparatively educated community in this modern age, it is possible for hundreds of young girls and boys in their early teens to be out until the small hours of the morning, and to be able to indulge in excesses in the intake of liquor and in other behaviour, which I need not detail, without some drastic action being taken by the parents.

I suggest that in addition to delinquent and semi-delinquent children there are very definitely delinquent parents who show shocking irresponsibility. I have not checked through the various Statutes, but if there is not ample provision at the moment, then I suggest early priority should be given to introducing legislation to provide a legal responsibility on the part of parents for taking all reasonable steps to ensure that their conduct and activities are not undertaken in contravention of the law and of our ethical codes, because as parents they must accept a certain responsibility.

When youngsters, and some of them are not much more than babies, get into trouble, I suggest that conjointly with their being charged with, and penalised for, an offence a simultaneous penalty should be imposed upon the parents. I realise that in certain circumstances this could be regarded as harsh and unfair, but if a young spirit gets into some terrible trouble which causes harm to a member of the family of one of us, why should we as parents have to bear the responsibility? Surely there ought to be, and indeed there is, a responsibility on the parents for the wayward child! Something has been lacking in the conduct of the child, and some salutary lesson is required to be taught to the parents, in order that as far as possible a greater interest will be taken in the child, so that he will be prevented from roaming abroad and from going into dens of iniquity, to enjoy himself in a way that children should not.

I hope and trust that I have not grown old prematurely or that I have become a killjoy. I suppose most of us had our youthful days, and disported ourselves in one way or another; but everyone will agree there are excesses indulged in today which were unthinkable not many years ago, and they have been brought about by the factors I enumerated earlier.

I am one who has usually adopted the attitude that there ought to be considerable freedom and latitude in our legislation covering the consumption of liquor; but, in view of what is happening and the impact of liquor upon young children, I am wondering whether it ought not to become an offence for young people who are under the legal age to drink in licensed premises to partake of liquor in the other places to which the public has access, so that the owner or occupier of those places, the supplier of the liquor, and the underage people who drink liquor there, will be committing an offence. If the young people consume liquor in their own, or in somebody else's, home, that is all right. However, in dance halls and restaurants—not the licensed restaurants but the so-called night clubs—under the law it is not an offence at the present time for a 15 or 16-year-old child to drink liquor, provided the owner of the premises

is agreeable, and provided the child does not buy the liquor. If I took it upon myself to supply to all and sundry of these youngsters, then neither they, the owner of the premises, nor I would commit an offence.

Mr. Brand: What about the 18 to 19 years age group?

Mr. GRAHAM: They are not allowed to be supplied with or to drink liquor on licensed premises.

Mr. Brand: You were making your point by referring to the 15 and 16-year-olds. As the law stands, it covers the 18 to 20 years group.

Mr. GRAHAM: That is so. I was merely giving emphasis to my point by referring to the very young ones.

Mr. Brand: The problem lies with the older group.

Mr. GRAHAM: If Parliament in its wisdom decided that 21 years was the lawful age at which persons might enter licensed premises of all types to purchase and consume liquor—I do not suggest 21 years is the correct age—we should give consideration to applying the same rule to the other places to which the public has access. We cannot put a blind eye to what is now going on. I hope that my several criticisms of the Government will not be construed in this light: that I desire to be mischief-bent, or to score politically.

I am appealing to the Government; and, if it makes the Minister for Industrial Development happy, let me say I agree with him that all Governments—including the one of which I was a member and the one of which he is a member—have missed the bus, and have been somewhat slow in facing up to this problem. Now it has suddenly hit us, like automation which is increasing daily. Whatever the position, it is being accentuated with every day that passes; and the youth of this country are worthy of some consideration. I think we could sacrifice a little of the economic development and a little of the social services and other benefits in the interests of our State; which, I say, are basically the interests of our young people.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

MR. DURACK (Perth) [7.32 p.m.]: It is with a great sense of privilege that I address you, Mr. Speaker, and the other members of this House for the first time. First of all, I would like to extend to you, Sir, my congratulations on your re-election to the high office of Speaker; and I would like to thank other members for the courtesies and good wishes which they have extended to me as a new member of this House. I have, since I was a first-year law student, had a great interest in the history and theory of Parliaments and it is now, for me, a great privilege to be able to participate in the practice of Parliament.

I think it is quite a reflection on the modern role of a member of Parliament and perhaps the changes in the practice of Parliament that I should have been a member of Parliament for nearly six months before I actually have had the opportunity of addressing this Assembly. In my short experience I find I have been called upon to deal with a great variety of matters which are new and should be given more consideration in the general theory and tradition of Parliament. I find that it is the practice of members when speaking on this debate we are now addressing to His Excellency the Governor to speak at some length about various problems affecting their electorates. I am sure that members have a great deal of knowledge of my particular electorate as it is under their constant view and consideration, and I doubt whether there is much I can contribute to their knowledge of the electorate of Perth. However, I think I should, in this my maiden speech, say a few words about certain problems as I see them which particularly face the city of Perth.

I think it is obvious that there are great plans for the development of the city which are already made and which are being put into practice and which will be extended and reformulated; and all of which will, in the next decade, make very great changes, which I am sure will be largely for the better, in our city and its general complexion and spirit. The changes that are occurring and the plans that are now being made are particularly evident with regard to the planning of road and rail transport; and, of course, there are the big private developments of buildings and so forth which are taking place and which will take place even more prominently.

There is one matter on which I could express a general view; that is, in regard to the way in which the planning of our city—and indeed our town planning generally—is carried out. In regard to the planning of the city, firstly I would like to say that I sincerely hope our planners will always have regard, and particularly high regard, to the preservation and extension of the natural beauties of our city. For that reason I was very pleased to note the great plans the Government has for the beautification of the approaches to the Narrows Bridge. I feel this area as planned will give the citizens of Perth an opportunity of getting closer, as it were, to their river and of enjoying it by having the opportunity of walking around it, sitting alongside it, and generally contemplating the beauties of nature that are available to us in that area.

I feel that in the past there has been a certain lack of opportunity in the immediate city area for such enjoyment; and I would hope that in future, the planning of our city will not be entirely dominated by the demands of the motorcar. I feel

that I should also say something about the way planning is carried on and the great need that all such planning should be done in the open in conjunction with the people of the area where such plans are to take effect.

This, I feel, refers generally to the provisions of our town planning legislation; and I am not here speaking solely in regard to planning for the city of Perth, although that is perhaps the most obvious to us. I am of the opinion that there is a lack of procedures available under our town planning legislation for the ordinary citizens and members of the public to express their own ideas and, perhaps, their criticisms of the experts.

Indeed, in a small community such as ours it is not possible to have such a variety of expert opinions on these matters; and I feel we should always bear in mind that although we engage experts—and I am pleased to note several new appointments of overseas experts have been made recently in the town planning sphere, who I am sure will have much to contribute—experts themselves differ in their opinions. Therefore opportunities should be made available whereby plans and criticisms of plans can be aired at a public inquiry in order that any problems might be resolved.

I was very impressed recently on reading in *The Listener* a report of a talk given by an English town planner on the methods which should be adopted by town planners when they are considering the planning of a particular area or town. He indicated that a good town planner will conduct a door-to-door canvass—with which we as politicians are familiar—in the area which is to be planned. Before the plan is formulated the town planner or his staff goes around to try to find out from the people of the area what they themselves feel about the way in which their town or city should be changed.

In addition to the door-to-door canvass, there is in England and in the United States an opportunity for citizens to express their views at a public inquiry, which is very commonly ordered if any conflict arises. At such an inquiry the principal people affected by the proposed plan can appear themselves and be legally represented and call evidence from experts and others as to the way in which they feel the plan as laid down should be modified. Finally the person holding the inquiry reports his findings to the Minister who is, as under our legislation, ultimately responsible for the decision.

It seems to me that these procedures give citizens an opportunity of being able to contribute their own ideas, and it also gives experts the opportunity of contributing their ideas before the formulation of the final plan which is adopted.

Lastly in regard to this matter I would like simply to express some criticism which from experience I feel could be levelled at our experts and bureaucrats in the field of town planning. There has sometimes been a tendency for experts—and it is natural enough—to decide matters solely on the basis of efficiency and material progress and in accordance with their own particular expertise. They resolve some problems with a certain coolness and indifference to the actual effect on individual human beings. So much for the question of town planning.

The other matter on which I would like to address a few words in this debate concerns the administration of the law. This—the law having been my profession for most of my working life—is a subject on which I could contribute a few thoughts to this House.

First I would like to say and record what a great improvement there has been in recent years in the administration of justice generally in this State, and also the extent to which the present Government has given attention to the problems of law reform. I was looking at the Statutes of Western Australia over the past few years and I was really quite astounded to see how much of our present modern legislation has been introduced and passed by this Parliament in recent years.

However, many more problems remain in this field which must be faced, and I have every confidence they will be faced in the life of this present Government. But it is not so much on the particular question of law reform or private law legislation about which I wish to speak tonight. It is more in regard to the administration of the law in the courts and the part the legal profession plays.

We must realise that today a greater number of citizens are involved in court proceedings than ever before, largely due to the increased use of motor vehicles involving those concerned in appearances in the traffic court. One of the most important statements made in regard to the administration of the law is that not only should justice be done, but justice should be manifestly seen to be done. That was said by the Lord Chief Justice of England some 40 years ago, but it is as true today as it was then, and it is one of the important adages which should always be borne clearly in mind.

The administration of justice in our courts in this State is working, I am happy to say, very smoothly indeed. The number of Supreme Court judges has been increased and the buildings of the Supreme Court have been extended, and extended in a most impressive fashion. There are now virtually no delays in the hearing of cases in that court. Similarly, the magistrates' courts have been improved and extended in the City of Perth. This perhaps does not apply to some country courts

as much as some members would like. The magistracy itself has been increased in number and, I feel certain, in quality.

However, there is one problem I would like to bring to attention and it involves the ordinary citizen and his dealings with courts. It is the need to preserve fully the status of the legal profession. Contrary to the views which are held by many people, the legal profession as a whole is by no means a wealthy one. For the number of hours lawyers put into their work, the remuneration is by no means great by comparison with professions generally, and, indeed, to the lawyers' salaries paid by both State and Federal Governments.

I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that it is vitally important that the status of the legal profession should be properly preserved and that there should always be the fullest opportunity for the ordinary citizen to have legal representation in all matters in which he is involved. That does not only involve him in litigation between fellow citizens, but also involves the ordinary citizen—I feel even to an increasing extent these days—in his dealings with Government departments and Government agencies. There is a constant increase in the activities of Governments and in the laws and regulations which are being made and there is, more and more, a demand by the ordinary citizen for expert legal advice and assistance.

The ordinary citizen is limited in that respect in obtaining advice from two sources. Firstly, there is a great deal of legislation in this State—for some reason or other, unfortunately—which restricts the right of legal representation of the ordinary citizen before various tribunals. That, I feel strongly, is quite contrary to principle, and quite contrary to the rights of the ordinary citizen, who has to have expert guidance when he is rubbing shoulders with any agency that is administering any aspect of law or regulation.

The other limiting factor—and I suppose it is even a much greater one—is that of cost. Some years ago we had inaugurated in this State a legal aid scheme. It was a very good start indeed. However, the actual assistance given and the actual carrying out of that scheme—apart from the administration by a secretary and a small staff—is done almost entirely free of cost by individual members of the legal profession, and that is a burden which is increasing year by year. It is one which I feel the profession cannot continue to carry indefinitely in its present form.

I have here the latest report of the Legal Aid Committee, which shows that in the year ended the 30th June last, there were 1,081 applications to the Law Society—or the secretary of the Law Society, who administer the scheme. Of those 1,081 cases, 315 were ultimately referred to practitioners, and the work on those 315

cases was carried out by practitioners, in almost all cases, without any remuneration. I think that it would be of interest to members of this House to know that the appeal by Darryl Beamish to the High Court and the Privy Council was carried out by members of the Law Society under this scheme.

There is also reference in the report to the effect that one legal practitioner carried out no fewer than nine assignments in the course of one year, and two Queen's Counsel had each accepted three cases in that year. The burden of this scheme is not one which can be spread evenly over all members of the legal profession practising in the State because the nature of the work on which legal aid is required falls on a very small section of practitioners. This is because in the spheres of criminal law and matrimonial law and claims for damages there is only, in fact, a small proportion of the legal profession specialising. By far the greater majority of applications are in those spheres.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I suggest to the House and to the Government that earnest consideration should be given to extending the legal aid scheme by further subsidising it in order to keep up with this increasing burden that is being placed on the legal profession, and to satisfy what is an increasing demand by the citizens of the community for expert legal aid and guidance.

I know it is all very well to make these suggestions or point to a particular problem. I am sure the Government is fully aware of the problem; and, as in so many of these cases, it is largely—in fact, almost entirely—one of cost. However, in that regard I would like to make a suggestion which I think would be of considerable help in the discharge of that financial burden. All solicitors in practice maintain a trust account; and under their responsibility—legally, morally, and ethically—that account must be kept separate and quite sacrosanct. However, as in the case of a banker, because of the money that is deposited with him, there is always a substantial credit in a solicitor's trust account.

I feel that legislation could well be considered which would require solicitors to deposit a certain proportion of their trust account with a statutory body set up to administer such a scheme. The money would then be available for investment on short call. This is a scheme and method which has been adopted, I understand, in Victoria, in order to finance a fidelity fund by the legal profession. So it is not something revolutionary; it is not an idea which is particularly new. But it would be a way in which moneys which are lying idle and which are really only benefiting the bankers with whom these accounts are kept, could be used to advantage. The moneys could be used for

short-term investment and would provide a small amount of finance which could provide a proper legal aid scheme for the citizens of this State.

That, Mr. Speaker, completes the two matters on which I wished to address you and members of this House during this debate. I think both matters do tie together, in my own mind at all events, indicating that we as members of Parliament should always, in our deliberations here and in our legislation and our administration of the laws, have, first and foremost, regard for the individual members of our community for whom we legislate and on whom our deliberations will fall.

MR. ROWBERRY (Warren) [8 p.m.]: At the outset, Mr. Speaker, I wish to offer you my own personal congratulations on once more being elected to the high office of Speaker. I do not know whether I should mix these congratulations with a degree of sympathy for I cannot imagine that a man of your disposition would not rather be indulging in more active spheres instead of having to swallow and listen to all the multitudinous words which are poured out in this Chamber.

Mr. J. Hegney: He has no alternative.

Mr. ROWBERRY: However, Mr. Speaker, I do sincerely congratulate you on your reappointment and also on the way in which you have carried out your duties so far. I believe you will carry out your duties in the future, as you have done in the past, to the best of your ability, irrespective of pressures from right or left. That is expressed as much in hope as in congratulations.

I should also like to offer my congratulations to the Government which, through fortuitous circumstances over which it has no control, has once more been elected to govern this State of Western Australia. I congratulate the individual members who have been returned and particularly the new members who have contributed to the debate on the Address-in-Reply. There was one point I did notice, and this is something about which I am very sensitive: all to whom I have listened have taken some pains to see that their words were heard by everyone in the Chamber. I congratulate them on their voices and I would also like to congratulate some of them on their eyesight. However, I sincerely think that the contributions made by the new members on the Government side have been most impressive and have merited all the plaudits that they received.

I was particularly interested in a remark passed by one of the new members when he said that a member who sincerely believed in something should have the courage of his convictions and should stand up and express them. I would remind that honourable member that he is

beset on one side by the devil of the Press and on the other side by the deep sea of public opinion; then, if he escapes those two great dangers, there is yet another that might beset him—he might get offside with the leaders of his party.

It is one thing to have courage; it is another thing to have the ability to express what one thinks; and it is still another thing to be able to put up with the consequences; because, believe me, the Labor Party is not the only party in politics that is beset with troubles on the selection of candidates. It could be that members who express themselves too freely on things that they think should be expressed could be beset with the great danger of the selection ballot at the end of their term.

Mr. Lewis: You are very concious of that at the moment.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I am extremely concious of it; but it was said more in sympathy for other people than by way of self pity.

When a member has represented his electorate for three years he goes before the electors at the end of that time and he finds that all the hard work he has done in the intervening three years does nothing whatever to dissipate his anxiety that he has done enough to make the populace accept him the next time. That is something which every member has to put up with. Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown, but more uneasy lies the head that represents a district which is called a swinging electorate.

Mr. Bickerton: It is better than a swinging member.

Mr. ROWBERRY: We hope he does not swing too high! These facetious remarks aside, I rose to take this opportunity of putting forward a plea, along with other members, on behalf of the people whom I represent. It has been said that the reason why Parliament has to sit such long hours at the end of a session is that members spend far too much time on the Address-in-Reply. I hope that the Government in this session will not be tardy in bringing forward its legislation and will not try to pack into the last three or four weeks of the parliamentary session important legislation which, with the pressure of time, and the tiredness and fatigue of members, is not given the serious consideration it warrants for the benefit of the citizens of this State. I hope the Government—the Premier and his ministers—are listening to this.

I want to say something on agriculture. I listened with interest to the Premier opening a conference of the apple and pear growers of Australia a few days ago, and I gathered the impression that he was sling- ing off—to use a slangism—at a certain section of our community which deals with ships and with waterside labour. He seemed to give the impression that the

reason for the lack of shipping space was that waterside workers were tardy in their duties, and the turnaround of ships was thereby delayed.

I have paid a considerable amount of attention to the needs of apple and pear growers, and fruit growers generally in my electorate. I have attended many of their meetings but have never heard this view advanced before. I think the whole trouble—in fact I am sure that the greatest amount of the trouble—is that a proper assessment of the fruit crops was not made in time, or could not be made in time so that the shipping could be ordered; because it is necessary to order the ships required months and months beforehand. I think that was one of the reasons why the special committee was set up to deal with the requisite legislation over the past few years; that is, to give an opportunity to assess not only the quality of the crop but also the quantity; and, further, to assess the quantity that was available for export so that shipping could be ordered in time. I have never heard the view expressed that the reason why shipping was not available was that the waterside workers could not turn the ships around fast enough. In fact, I have read expressions to the contrary; namely, that the Australian waterside workers are among the most competent in the world when they are on the job, and that one of the principal reasons for losses as a result of the slow turnaround of ships is the inadequate facilities at our major Australian ports.

I also find that the fruit growers in our State are greatly in favour of having a marketing board set up similar in form to and with the same purpose as the Potato Marketing Board, the Egg Marketing Board and other similar boards so that an opportunity can be afforded at the beginning of the season to assess accurately the quantity of fruit that will be available for export, and also to give the shippers an opportunity to order the requisite shipping space. It is further considered that such a board would solve many of the marketing problems and would assist in improving the quality of the fruit that is being unloaded on the market at present. I have seen examples of extremely poor quality fruit—apples, especially—that have been sold to the public in recent times.

Last season, when there was such a large crop of apples, which resulted in a great surplus, there was no reason why inferior quality fruit should have been foisted on the public. Not only was this a bad advertisement for the State, but also it showed extremely poor judgment by those growers who unloaded those apples on to the market for sale to the public. It puzzles me how the apples got past the inspectors and the subcommittee that was especially set up to prevent this kind of fruit being made available for consumption.

On the subject of dairy farming, I was pleased to note that the Government had decided to extend the dairy farm improvement scheme—under the new name of the dairy farm consolidation scheme—to dairy farmers at Albany, Walpole, Pemberton, Northcliffe, Nannup, and Margaret River. It is sometimes considered that the words which are uttered by members in this Chamber go unheard and unheeded, but I am extremely gratified to think that some of the suggestions I outlined in my motion during the last session of Parliament towards improving the conditions of the dairy farmers and the butterfat producers in our State have been incorporated in this scheme. Although the Minister for Agriculture seemed to throw cold water on the idea I put forward at that time I am gratified to think that someone in the Government—it may have been the Premier—was listening and that, as a result, certain improvements have been effected.

I think it was a very necessary improvement, and I hope that eventually it will not only increase the income of the dairy farmers but also increase their production, because I know that some of them at present are not even making the basic wage or sufficient to keep themselves and their families. So I repeat: I am sure it will not only increase their earning capacity, but also the gross production of dairy products, which is extremely necessary to the economy of the State. If I am allowed to congratulate the Government or whoever is responsible for the dairy farm co-ordination scheme, on behalf of the people in the south-west engaged in dairy farming, I offer my thanks.

There is another aspect of dairy farming which I want to bring before the House, and especially the Minister for Agriculture or his representative; and that is the subject of artificial insemination. For months the dairy farmers at Walpole have been endeavouring to have their stock served with artificial insemination, but they have been told by the officials at the Wokalup Research Station—from where the semen for artificial insemination is obtained—that owing to circumstances it will be impossible to extend the scheme to Walpole in the near future.

We are not told what the circumstances are; but if it is a matter of distance or time I would point out to the Minister and his department that a high official—I could give his name but I do not believe in that—who controls the artificial insemination at the Wokalup Research Station—concerning which I asked some questions this afternoon—said at a meeting in Busselton recently that the time will come when cows will be giving birth to calves with semen from a sire which has been dead for 10 years. If it is

possible to keep such semen for 10 years, surely it is possible to convey fertile semen as far as Walpole.

I have also read in a journal on agricultural research which I receive from the old country, that artificial insemination research stations in Britain are supplying various parts of the world thousands of miles distant from Britain with artificial insemination. To build up its cattle herds, they are supplying semen to—of all places!—Argentina. Here we have the position of artificial insemination research stations in Great Britain being able to serve a country such as Argentina with semen, and yet a research station at Wokalup is not even in a position to serve Walpole with semen. That is too ridiculous for words!

Despite the fact that many dairy farmers are switching from dairy production to the production of sheep and beef cattle, the farmers at Walpole desire to continue with the production of butterfat. Surely, in those circumstances, the utmost effort should be made to ensure that the requirements of these farmers, in the way of artificial insemination, are fulfilled. Surely that is the least that could be done for them.

These people are dedicated dairy farmers; they continue in the production of butterfat and dairy products generally, in spite of the fact that it is far more lucrative and far less arduous to grow wool, sheep, mutton, and beef. But even though they are dedicated dairy farmers they are turned down by the Department of Agriculture, and especially by that section of the department which deals with artificial insemination. Perhaps if some of the heads and deputy heads of the departments were given a little insemination we might get better results! They seem to have become moribund, inactive; they seem to have lost their virility; either that or they are thinking too much of running the research station and the artificial insemination scheme at a profit.

This scheme was inaugurated by State funds to build up our dairy industry. I do not think it was inaugurated for the sake of making a profit. It would seem that the farmers themselves think along the lines that the head of the station is more concerned with running the station at a profit. I am sure the Government does not aid and abet them in that; I cannot imagine that it would. I am sure the intention is to run the station so that it will be of the utmost service to the greatest numbers of farmers concerned.

I bring this to the notice of the Minister and to the notice of the Premier, in the hope that something will be done not only to help the farmers in Walpole who want to continue producing butterfat, but also to assist in building up the economy of the State so far as dairy produce is concerned. I offer these thoughts

in the knowledge from past experience that someone on the Government side will take notice.

I would also like to bring to the attention of the Minister for Electricity the fact that one of the greatest means of lowering the cost of production on dairy farms would be to give them electrical power. I should imagine that the dairy farm consolidation scheme would have a much easier path towards returning its expenditure in the time allotted if greater efforts were made towards supplying dairy farms with electrical power.

I have been told by practical dairy farmers that they could cut their costs by 25 per cent., if electrical power were fed into their farms. I know the problem is a difficult one; that this is a huge concern; that the State extends over hundreds of thousands of miles; that the grid system must be kept up; and that we can only spend as much as we have. But there are times when certain schemes should be given priority. I am sincerely of the belief that men, women, and families who are willing to stay on dairy farms and produce butterfat, which is about the most arduous type of occupation, should have every encouragement to do so, both by helping them in the matter of artificial insemination, and by the supply of electrical power.

It seems that when members have nothing else to talk about they turn to the old and trusted theme of speech-making; namely, theories. Everybody seems to have theories and ideas about the control of traffic, and no doubt everyone in the community who thinks along the proper lines is deeply concerned about the number of deaths and serious accidents that occur on our roads. I saw one such accident at 7.45 a.m. on my way to Perth, where a young person riding a motor scooter was knocked over. It seemed that the person riding the motor scooter was knocked down because she did not have a true appreciation of the rules of the road.

I brought this matter to the Minister's attention last year, and I will do so again this year. I pointed out that there is a large percentage of drivers of motor vehicles on the roads today who are not aware of the fundamental and simple regulations governing traffic. It is apparent from reading the letters in the newspapers, from reading the protests of certain drivers, and by watching them on the roads, that they have no appreciation of the fundamentals of the traffic regulations. I think this is due to the fact that they have no knowledge of them.

So many of the regulations have been changed since innumerable drivers were given their licenses that they would not be aware of certain things. Not all drivers are aware of the fact that when making a righthand turn one should approach the

righthand turn from the centre of the road, or within 20 in. of the centre of the road. One will still find people hugging the lefthand side of the road and then turning right. On the other hand when they turn left they swing out to the right to do so.

When these drivers are asked why they do this they say they do it to miss the corner. When they are asked if they could turn left out of a road which is the width of one laneway they reply that they could. The obvious retort to that of course is, "Then why do you swing out right when you want to turn left; and why do you hug the left when you want to turn right?"

The public generally needs a lot more education in traffic rules, in traffic behaviour, and in their attitude to traffic rules and behaviour; they need training in patience, tolerance, and a consideration for the other fellow's problems. I often think that the people who write to the newspapers and say that the give-way to the right rule, and so on, is all wrong, would also write to the newspapers in the same manner and say that the give-way to the left rule was all wrong. They would do this because it happened to interfere with their movements on their way to the office that morning; possibly somebody got in front of them and thwarted them, or irritated them, and they decided it would be a good thing to rewrite the traffic rules and bring them nearer to their own desire.

However, it is not really the traffic rules we have which count but the amount of obedience that we give to those traffic rules. To obey the traffic rules we must know them; so what we really need is a small pamphlet, which could be easily read, containing the important regulations such as driving on the lefthand side of the road at all times, the process of turning right, and that sort of thing. It could also contain instructions about the parking and positioning of vehicles, and parking on turns and around bends, which we get mostly from shire council vehicles and Government vehicles, especially those belonging to the P.M.G. and other departments, which seem to think they have the right to park their vehicles anywhere on the road. They give no consideration to whether their parking spot is near, or is just around a bend. They thereby cause traffic hazards to arise. If we were to adopt a system of education through the Press, television, and pamphlets which are easily assimilated, I am sure we would achieve excellent results.

On the question of speed limits and zone speed limits I was very interested to learn from a newspaper from my home country which I received yesterday that this method has been tried—by adopting a 50 miles an hour speed limit on certain portions of the main highways—for the past 12 months; and that there has been a reduction in the number of accidents by some 33 per cent. Whether this could be attributed to the speed limit has not been

determined as yet, but it is significant that the two went together—the imposition of a speed limit on certain roads and the diminution of accidents as a result. This is an aspect to which consideration should be given in this State.

There are certain roads around Perth, especially those leading south from Perth to Kwinana and Rockingham, where a speed limit of 35 miles an hour is just too ridiculous. There might not be a vehicle within sight either in front or at the rear, yet the law prescribes a speed limit of 35 miles an hour. The limit must be a reasonable one if we are to get the people behind it.

Mr. Craig: This is the philosophy of speed with which the Leader of the Opposition did not agree.

Mr. ROWBERRY: In my view speedsters do not indulge in philosophy, because they have no time to do so. If they had any philosophy they would not indulge in excessive speeds. The Minister could examine the position on some of the main highways leading east, north, and south from Perth.

Mr. Craig: We are doing that now.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I am convinced this will lead to a remarkable diminution in congestion of traffic, although I am not opposed to congestion. When traffic is congested and the vehicles travel close behind each other not as many accidents occur, because there is no opportunity for speed or for cars to cut in. However, when congestion and traffic snarls occur drivers become irritated and impatient, and they do things which they would not do if things were running smoothly. We should at all times avoid such situations.

I think highly of the idea of the Commissioner of Police to apply psychological tests to applicants for drivers' licenses. In the final analysis all accidents are caused by the drivers of the vehicles concerned. Let us determine who gives the right to a person to drive. It is the authority which issues the license.

We have accepted the situation that when a driver breaks the law in certain instances or becomes involved in an accident his license shall be taken away. Is that not locking the stable door after the horse has bolted? Is not the time to impose this stricture upon the holders of drivers' licenses before, or during the granting of the licenses?

I say the tests are not strict enough. At the present time no psychological tests are made. In the case of large transport and cartage firms every driver is subjected to character, aptitude, reaction, and psychological tests. As a result their accident rates have been reduced considerably. Should we not, as the authority responsible for safeguarding the lives of the people, take more pains before issuing a person with a license?

I bring this point before the Minister: No driver, to my knowledge, is tested on his ability to drive under lights, or on his ability to drive after dark. The eyesight of certain people is incapable of reacting quickly enough to the flash of advancing headlights, to enable them to see far enough ahead to avoid danger. It is known that the eyes of certain people do not react quickly enough in the blind spot which everyone experiences when passing an approaching vehicle after dark. For a split second the ordinary person sees nothing but darkness, but in the case of some people this split second is extended, and in that time they have covered possibly a few chains. Before their eyesight becomes normal it is possible for their vehicles to run off the road, or to collide with others. I am convinced that some of the head-on collisions that occur after dark are caused by this slow reaction.

The eyesight test which is applied to the applicant for a driver's license requires him to distinguish certain letters at some distance. If he cannot distinguish the letter A from another letter similar in shape it is then assumed his eyesight is defective. The fact that he is able to read anything at all is all that matters. He is not expected to know when a vehicle approaches whether it is a Holden, an Austin, or some other make, to enable him to drive safely. All he is expected to see is the approaching vehicle. A person reading letters on a board while in a standing position will give no indication of his reaction, and this is the important aspect. It is not what he sees but how speedily he reacts to what he sees. It is the reaction which moves him which counts. So I think the eyesight test is completely useless in judging whether a person could be entrusted to drive a motor vehicle.

There is also a controversial issue at the present time as to whether the control of traffic should be with a central authority or should remain with the local governing authorities in the State. As one who has had experience of working as a traffic inspector under a local authority, I would say that the sooner we get traffic under the central authority the better. I do not care whether it be under the police or not. I am like the Leader of the Opposition: all I want to see is an impartial authority that is apart from pressures, discriminations, and victimisations.

I asked questions about the qualifications of traffic inspectors; and this did not mean I was reflecting on the traffic inspectors themselves. The purpose behind the questions was to see whether the local governing authorities realised their responsibilities in this matter in seeing that proper steps were taken to train these people who control the traffic on our roads in the country. We find that the steps that are taken have been very ineffective, if any have been taken at all.

On that one ground alone, local governing authorities have failed to live up to their responsibilities.

There is also the invidious situation of a traffic inspector having to take action against his bosses. I well remember when I went into the board room and interviewed the local authority. I was told that I had been appointed as a traffic inspector and I said, "Well gentleman I thank you very much and I want to tell you that I am in a very invidious position in that I may have to take action against my employers, but I can assure you gentlemen that if it is necessary, it will be done." I wonder how many traffic inspectors would have faced up to that, or how many would be allowed to face up to that situation?

Tonight we heard of the pronouncement by the Lord Chief Justice of England who said that justice not only has to be done but has to be manifestly seen to be done; and there is an utter aura of distrust and suspicion amongst the ordinary people that certain individuals in the country are not proceeded against for some traffic offences. I can say from experience that in several instances pressure was brought upon me to drop prosecutions against certain people; and while it is possible that such a situation can arise, then it lends itself to corruption and to undue intimidation. It also lends itself to the travesty of ordinary justice.

That is one of the reasons why I believe traffic control should be taken away from the local governing bodies and put into the hands of an impartial and trusted authority. I am sure we would have a very much better control of traffic and a better behaved vehicle-driving population in the State if that were so.

I do not know whether I told the House before that because I refused to drop a prosecution against a certain person in the community; and because I took action against my employers, as I promised them I would, they endeavoured to put me on half time. I knew from trade union experience and industrial experience that unless there was a provision in the award for the working of employees on half time, then it could not be done without an amendment to the award which governed traffic inspectors. So I was known as the man who would not take the sack, because I refused to go on half time. I was handed a letter from the local governing authority saying that as from a certain date my services would be only required on a half-time basis.

I would point out that this shire council had a registration income of some £42,000 and it wanted to put one traffic inspector on half time. Those are the people who are asking that they retain this authority. I have not mentioned this because I feel offended or have a sense of injustice. I have spoken in the interests of public security

and have endeavoured to point out that that type of individual and that type of thinking is neither responsible nor moral enough to be in control of such a serious thing as traffic on our roads.

That experience of mine is not the only thing that makes me say that local governing authorities are not responsible enough to be entrusted any longer with the control of traffic on our country roads. We read of such things as a vehicle in the south-west of this State running down and killing two young people; and then we find on inquiry that this vehicle had no brakes at all and had been running on the road for months. When taken before a local court the driver was exonerated, but when an appeal was heard before a magistrate in Perth, he immediately said that the driver of the vehicle had to be convicted. How was it possible that a vehicle with no brakes was on the road? The responsibility for that rests with the local authority.

I will quote another case where the traffic inspector condemned a vehicle and ordered that certain repairs be carried out. He later found this vehicle on the road and the necessary repairs had not been made to it. He found that it had been licensed against his will by the girls in the local governing authority office because the vehicle was owned by a member of the shire council, who has now become president. Do members think that when these things occur without let or hindrance we should continue to allow the responsibility for country traffic control to remain in the hands of local governing authorities?

At that time the council itself expressed the opinion that the inspectors—there are two of them now—were inefficient, and if they did not polish up their ideas their branch would be reorganised. In other words they would be given the sack. The traffic inspector made a report on this vehicle and pointed this out to the local shire council, but the local shire council decided to proceed with the next business. That is what it thought of unroad-worthy vehicles. Provided they were owned by members of the shire council or their friends, everything was hunky-dory.

Another point I would like to bring forward concerning our country roads is that repeatedly heavy vehicles exceed the speed limit. Vehicles of 25 and 30 tons gross weight race along at 50 miles an hour, which is some 15 to 20 miles an hour faster than they should travel. There is no-one to police them. Never have I seen a vehicle pulled up and never have I seen any reference to any action being taken against them in the local court. It is a fact, of course, that some of these vehicles belong to farmers who are friends or relations of members of the shire council. Therefore no action is taken because it is more economic to run five trips a day than to run three. The faster they go the more loads they can take and so the more income

they make. This is wrong because the reason for the responsibility for traffic being placed in the hands of the shire councils is to protect the general public and vehicle owners.

I could go on quoting cases *ad lib*, for hours but will make one last comment. On several occasions I have seen gross breaches of the Act and regulations. I have written to the shire council concerned and offered to appear as a witness against those who breached the Act. I would do that not because I am a Johnnie Spoil-all, but because I believe it is the responsibility of every person on the road to see the law is kept. It is not only the responsibility of an individual traffic inspector.

I am sad to relate that I did not receive even an acknowledgment of any of the letters I wrote to the shire council. I was obviously considered to be an interfering busybody—interfering with other people's liberty to do what they liked. If required of me I would give evidence in affidavit or before a responsible body on this matter. I am not taking advantage of the privilege of Parliament when I state these things.

I think I would agree wholeheartedly with placing the control of traffic under a central authority. I would not object to the police having control, because they are the administrators of the Act and regulations, and they have a sound knowledge of the Act and regulations. How many members of local authorities have any knowledge of the Traffic Act and regulations?

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. ROWBERRY: They have the power and authority to review and alter any decision made by the traffic inspector. This is something which I think requires rectifying. While it is possible that the traffic inspector himself could be guilty of taking undue action and victimising certain people in the community, we must remember that the traffic inspector has to take his case to the court and submit a case that will stand up. He has to have enough evidence and quote the regulation or section of the Act which has been breached. In this regard one of the most significant things against traffic inspectors is that they do not have a thorough knowledge of how to present evidence or how to collect and collate evidence so that their cases do stand up in court. Because of that, magistrates tend to depreciate the evidence given by traffic inspectors. On the other hand the police have behind them a vast reservoir of knowledge and experience of the law which is being administered. No shire council or local authority has taken any steps whatever to train the traffic inspectors in presenting their cases in such a manner that they convince the magistrates that their cases are genuine. As a consequence many cases are just overlooked. Many breaches

of the Act are never brought before the court because the inspector has not the necessary knowledge to make the cases stand up before a magistrate. This is not as it should be.

In a traffic case in the Supreme Court, because I was a traffic inspector and had a very limited experience, my evidence was discounted, or nearly so. This is not as it should be in the interests of justice, and I think it is time we followed the lead of the other States and other countries and placed traffic under the control of one central governing authority which is efficient, trained, and competent to do the job required of it.

MR. HART (Roe) [9 p.m.]: I wish to add a few comments to the debate on the Address-in-Reply. Before doing so, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on having again been elected Speaker of this House. I think your election is a popular one and I am sure it is very well received; and, as I said, I congratulate you. At this stage I would like to also congratulate and personally welcome the new members to this House. I feel sure they will find their work here very interesting, amongst other things. There are a lot of sides to being a member of Parliament, but I feel the new members will be an asset to the House and I hope their stay will be a happy one.

On reading the Speech of His Excellency I noticed with interest his remarks about the expansion of land settlement and the big part agriculture is playing in the development of Western Australia. His Excellency mentioned that one million acres of land were being released each year and, of course, we all know a little about that.

I desire to speak tonight on the effects of wheat and sheep farming in Western Australia and, more or less, support the remarks of His Excellency. I would like to outline to this Assembly some details about the district of Roe. It is a typical wheat and sheep area and I think it could be quoted as a very good cross-section of the whole of the wheat and sheep areas of Western Australia.

In order to give members some idea of the size of the electorate of Roe I would point out that it covers the Shires of Narembeen, Kondinin, Kulin, Dumbleyung, Lake Grace, Nyabing-Pingrup, Gnowangerup, and Ravensthorpe. It is a very big area extending from Narembeen in the north to Ravensthorpe in the south-east.

In the last four or five years there has been released in that area for land settlement over one million acres of land. That is a lot of land. I recently toured right through the district; and, as we all know, the farmers are enjoying a favourable season, particularly for wheat and sheep. In the section of this country which we could call the south-eastern wheatbelt,

we have about 12 old towns and old districts—very safe and very reliable. On the eastern side of the electorate there are another 12 towns coming along very fast, and they will probably catch up with the older towns very soon. Some of the development which is taking place throughout the district is reflected in those new towns.

Improvements in the towns—particularly the older towns—include very attractive bowling greens and sporting facilities, well in keeping with the development of Western Australia. At Narembeen there is a new swimming pool, and at Kondinin and Kulin pools are being constructed. There are new brick hotels at four of the smaller towns further out: Hyden, Jerramungup, Ongerup, and Pingrup. There are new shire council offices at Kondinin, Dumbleyung, and Lake Grace; all evidence of healthy progress. This is a sheep and wheat area typical, I claim, of Western Australia as a whole.

I think that some idea of the potential of grain can be gained from the fact that C.B.H. last year erected an "A"-type bin at Narembeen costing £160,000. At Kondinin a 500,000 bushel bin is under construction, costing £100,000. A further "A"-type bin is being erected at Kulin costing £120,000. To back up further my reference to increasing development, we find that C.B.H. this year finalised plans to build a port facility at Esperance. There will be eight silos to take the grain from Salmon Gums and the eastern areas to Ravensthorpe. The first stage of this venture will cost in the vicinity of £400,000.

I would like to point out one other fact regarding the proof of the potential of this sandplain area—and there are many more of them throughout the State. I will quote some figures from the report of the Agricultural Department on some trial plots at Forrestania which is 40 miles east of Hyden. There are trial plots there to show what wheat can be grown. The report states that one plot, where they have grown four successive wheat crops, yielded at the rate of 16.9, 21.8, 6.9, 20.7 bushels. If that can be done in the light sandplain country, I think it will be difficult to find country which could do much better with successive crops without fallow.

I feel that we are inclined to take things for granted, so I make those points. I think that what is happening in my electorate can be applied throughout the State.

I would like to make the point that in the foreseeable future our export grain will reach 120 to 135 million bushels each year, while sheep numbers could easily go to 20 to 35 million, and our pasture development, at the present rate, could go from 10 to 20 million acres. If we add those facts together I would say that this area, like a lot of the other parts of

Western Australia, is going ahead fast and bringing lots of problems. I think that whatever money the Government can see fit to put into those areas by way of better roads in particular—they are road transport areas—will be justified in the future.

I turn now to remarks on the marketing of our grain and wool. Over a number of years grain marketing has been under the control of various marketing authorities, which have undoubtedly been the making of the grain market in Western Australia, and probably in Australia. Without that organisation marketing the grain I am quite sure the wheat industry today would be very haphazard.

In the post-war years—the last 20 years, probably—the grain industry generally has enjoyed the benefits of organised marketing. In Western Australia we have organised marketing not only for wheat but also for barley, and the selling of those grains has been done by a pool. There is also organised marketing of barley in South Australia, Victoria and Queensland.

To get back to Western Australia we do not want to lose the benefit of the organised marketing schemes for grain and we should do everything possible to keep them going. Therefore, it was with some concern that some little time ago I read two articles, one in the *Bank of New South Wales Review*, under the heading of "New Wheat Policy Wanted", and the other in the *Financial Review* of Friday, the 30th July, under the heading of "Rising Concern for Mounting Wheat Subsidy". Probably both of those articles were quite reasonable in their approach, but they should not be used to undermine in any way the wheat stabilisation scheme, bearing in mind that the scheme has been in existence for some 17 years.

Both the articles to which I have referred pinpointed certain trouble spots that have occurred, as well as some that have not as yet arisen but which the writers of the articles thought may arise in the future. The views contained in those articles should not be accepted without taking into consideration the 17 years of operation of the wheat stabilisation scheme. This scheme is now in its fourth fifth-year period, and during that time the wheatgrowers of Australia have had a guaranteed price for home consumption wheat and for stock food wheat sold in Australia. But by the same token consumers within Australia have had the benefit of a reasonable price for grain used here.

If we look at the whole picture we see that in the early stages of wheat stabilisation the growers put in many millions of pounds as their contribution to the scheme. I do not want to weary members with the details of the scheme, but it was introduced by a vote of growers in an endeavour to help the wheat industry. The

Commonwealth Government supported the proposal and laid down certain basic principles and, as a result, some 17 years ago the wheat stabilisation scheme was brought into existence.

Five years later, after certain minor alterations, which were approved by the industry, had been made to the scheme, and the Commonwealth Government supported the proposals, it was extended for a further period of five years. The principles of the scheme were much the same as they had been previously; there was a certain home consumption price with a tax on wheat sold at above a given price which was paid back to the pool. The third extension to the scheme was made in another five years time and again the Commonwealth Government saw fit to support it on the basis that it was a good scheme. It gave the consumers a stabilised price for home consumption wheat and it enabled stockmen to buy their stock food at a reasonable price at all times.

At the present time we are in the fourth period—I think we are now in about the third year of the five-year term—and some people are saying that it is costing the Commonwealth Government—or in other words the taxpayers of Australia—a large sum of money. That is quite correct; it is. However, as I said earlier, any criticism of the scheme should be made in the light of what it has achieved throughout the approximate 20 years of its existence.

I have with me a graph which was drawn up by the Federal Bureau of Economics. It shows the export prices for wheat over the period I have been discussing; it shows the price growers would have received, and it also shows the levelling effect the stabilisation scheme has had over the period from 1946 to 1963. It is remarkable what a steady effect this scheme has had. The graph shows the peaks, which the growers did not get, and which the consumers did not have to pay. The prices paid by consumers would have been much higher had it not been for the existence of the stabilisation scheme; but in addition it has been of considerable benefit to the wheat industry and to Australia as a whole.

I think that is all I need to say in reply to the articles I mentioned which refer to the millions of pounds it will cost to continue the wheat stabilisation scheme. However, I could quote from the Wheat Board report which gives an overall picture of the period 1940-41 to 1955-56. The report shows that the Australian wheatgrowers sold within Australia wheat at a much lower price than would have been obtained had that same wheat been sold overseas. Had that home consumption wheat been sold overseas an additional £179,000,000 would have been returned to the Wheat Pool. I know some of the views contained in the article would receive support from some quarters, but the

fact remains that the picture has to be looked at as a whole. Apart from what the wheatgrowers put into the scheme to get it into operation they paid 1s. 6d. a bushel tax into the fund in the early years to help stabilise the industry. All these factors have to be taken into consideration before we start piecemeal altering the scheme.

Turning from wheat I would very briefly like to touch on wool marketing. I have spoken on this subject before and I do not want to repeat myself; but unlike the grain industry, which over the last 20 years, approximately, has been stabilised and well organised in the selling of wheat, particularly overseas, and on the home market, the position with the wool industry has been the opposite. The wool market has been up and down and any-old-how. For many years growers throughout the various States have tried different methods to overcome the open auction system to which, by and large, they are opposed. They have been unable to do very much about altering it, but growers are now being asked to vote on an improved marketing scheme which will have as a basis a reserve price plan.

This plan has been endorsed by the Australian wool industry conference, which is composed of 50 men elected from growers' organisations throughout Australia. This organisation has been investigating ways to improve the wool selling system; and, hand-in-hand with their investigations, they have had to take into consideration the changes, if any, that growers would vote for. Over the last few years there has been a great deal of public discussion, at meetings and so on, about wool marketing and we have now reached the stage where the wool industry conference has recommended a scheme to the Commonwealth Government, and the Government has agreed to put it to a vote of growers. This scheme which they are recommending, as I said, is based on a reserve price plan and I feel sure that it will receive growers' support.

I am confident that the scheme is being recommended because the conference feels that it is one which has the best chance of getting a majority "Yes" vote. We all have ideas about the various types of schemes we think should be adopted, and what improvements could be made; but the fact remains that we have to devise a scheme which will receive the support of the majority of growers.

So I would urge and hope that this Government will do all it can to support the ballot requesting a "Yes" or "No" vote on the proposed reserve price scheme. If a "Yes" vote is cast for that scheme it will be a vote to improve the marketing of wool, but if a "No" vote is cast it will merely leave things as they are and as they have been for the past 40 years, and many woolgrowers are not happy about that. I support the motion.

MR. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [9.21 p.m.]: Once again I trust that you, Mr. Speaker, will accept from me my congratulations on your re-election to your high position of honour in this House. I also congratulate the member for Narrogin on his election to the very important office of Chairman of Committees in this legislative Chamber. I also affirm my support for the Address which is given in reply to that Speech which His Excellency the Governor was good enough to make when declaring this session of Parliament open, and I have some comments to make to substantiate my affirmation.

Like other members, I am sure, I greatly appreciate the vast improvement that has been effected in the library and its attendant facilities made available to members of this Parliament. These improvements have become more obvious with the transfer of the library to the new section of the building and its much-needed expansion. I believe that our librarian, who is at present in the Chamber, is deserving of special commendation for the inspiration that he has shown, and possibly for a certain amount of perspiration he has expended on evolving a new and much improved library service. I consider that Mr. Bob Davies and Mr. Bill Joyner, who serve in the library and magazine room respectively, should also be commended. I have always found each of these officers to be courteous, willing, and extremely helpful.

I express the hope, however, that this will not be the end of the improvements already effected; but that, as time goes on, the library facilities will be further improved to enable members to be thoroughly informed on those subjects which appeal to them and so assist them to participate in a more fruitful manner in the debates which are held in this House. It is a truism that a man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot, and no member of the high institution of Parliament should ever be in a position to plead that library facilities are not available to him to further his knowledge on any subject.

I would now like to make a few remarks on criminal court procedure. At the outset I regret that the Government has not seen fit to agree to a request made by the Western Australian Law Society; namely, that an accused person, on applying to the trial judge, should be permitted to sit on the floor of the court alongside his counsel, unless there are special reasons indicating that the granting of such an application would be against public or private security. I repeat that this request was made to the Government by the Western Australian Law Society and I understand it was rejected out of hand.

The right that was sought—and I am making a plea for it now—should not be regarded as a concession or a privilege, but an ordinary act of procedure and a right in itself. It is recognised that the cornerstone of British justice is that a man is innocent until he is proven guilty, and so I repeat that this right which is sought should not be regarded as a concession or a privilege but should be looked upon as a procedural act and a right in itself, subject, of course, to there being any reasons which would jeopardise public or private security in special circumstances.

If the law says that a person is innocent until he is proven guilty—and our law says just that—a procedure which would give better effect to the law should not stand in the way of the principles proposed by the law. Permitting the procedure of an accused person starting one pace behind scratch as a result of being cooped up in a dock reserved for an accused person is prejudicial not only to that accused person, but also embarrassing to the jury. I claim that, allowing such a procedure to exist and to continue, can only be regarded as a thrust at the very buiwark of British justice.

I also deplore the fact that the Government has not agreed to implement another recommendation put forward by the Law Society; namely, that the Crown's right to stand by would-be jurors should be abolished and that it should have only the same right of peremptory challenge which the accused person has. Members may not be aware that a counsel, on behalf of an accused person, has the right to challenge peremptorily six jurors. If he desires to challenge a greater number than six he must show just cause for such a challenge. But the Crown has an unlimited right to stand by—this being the expression used in law—and therefore it does not take much imagination to realise that it would be possible for the Crown, by using this right to stand by jurors out of number, to almost select a jury 100 per cent. acceptable to the Crown.

I repeat that the Crown has an unlimited right to stand by, but an accused has only the right to challenge peremptorily up to six times. The Law Society, therefore, recommended to the Government that the Crown's right of unlimited challenge or standing by should be removed and that it should have only the same right as the accused person; but again the Government refused to accept the recommendation.

Another matter which causes me concern is the practice of the Crown Law Department acting for private citizens against other private citizens. Participation in this way by the Crown Law Department is evidenced by sometimes acting as solicitor, and often acting as counsel. I claim this

has been countenanced for a considerable time, not only under this Government but under other Governments. This practice is usually seen in connection with the State Government Insurance Office. It is untenable at the time now reached that on the face of the record the Crown should be apparently seen to be employing all its legal resources in support of one private citizen against some other often poor unfortunate citizen.

This is usually seen when a person who is claiming workers' compensation applies to the State Government Insurance Office, particularly if he comes from the mining industry, where the State Government Insurance Office is the only insurance office concerned. We find that the full legal resources of the Crown Law Department are placed at the disposal of the mining company concerned, because the worker makes his application against the employer. These resources are placed at the disposal of a rich, powerful employer opposed to a poor unfortunate worker. I feel this system cannot be tolerated any longer.

I would now like to draw the attention of the Minister representing the Minister for Justice to the fact that I recently attended a criminal trial in which the accused person pleaded not guilty. The crime for which he was charged was one in which no mental element such as *mens rea*—guilty intent—or consent was required. The defence put up by this accused person contained the alibi that at the time the crime was committed he was not present at the place where the crime was committed.

There was no doubt that a crime had been committed, but the accused person claimed he was not present at the particular place at the material time. The jury, however, found the person concerned guilty. When passing sentence the judge said that he would have to take consideration of the fact that the accused person in his defence had put up a lying defence; that his defence was a pack of lies; and this very fact would necessarily react detrimentally against the accused person when the judge considered what sentence to impose.

I think this is basically wrong. I mentioned that the crime concerned was one in which there was no mental element required to constitute the body of the crime. In other words, what the judge was saying was that every time an offence is clearly committed and where there is no mental element required, to constitute the crime and the person pleads not guilty, if the jury disagrees, then that person is telling lies and must be punished accordingly.

I feel that the judge on this occasion confused the function of the jury. All the jury had to decide on this issue, and on any such criminal issue, was whether the Crown had discharged its burden to prove

the accused person was guilty beyond reasonable doubt. The jury was not there to deliberate whether or not the person was telling lies in his defence. I feel this is a disturbing matter and one which the Government should consider. If the Government does not agree with the contention of the judge concerned, it should state so effectively in the Criminal Code; because I can assure the Minister that this matter is receiving the attention of various legal circles in Australia, as it is a most dangerous departure from practice hitherto followed.

I was very interested to hear the member for Perth tonight speak on the question of legal aid. I also intend to make a few comments in regard to this matter. The question of legal aid and the accessibility of this aid should be one that touches the conscience of the whole community. The principle that justice should be denied to none is inherent in *Magna Carta*, signed and adopted by British systems of law ever since the year 1215. However, this is often brought about through a lack of finance, and more often perhaps through ignorance of the position in which an accused person finds himself, where he is ignorant of his legal rights and also the means of asserting those rights.

In this modern age, where we are facing a tremendous growth in population and a quickening tempo in community life this position will become much more acute. The problem often arises where would-be litigants are unaware, as I have mentioned, of their legal rights; and because they are unaware that they have certain rights people often do not attempt to assert these rights; and if they are unfortunate enough to be involved and to be drawn before the courts and have to defend some issue, they are often unaware of their rights and are not represented in the best possible manner that the circumstances of their case justify. In other words, they try to represent or defend themselves, and we know that often a person is a very poor advocate of his own case.

The Law Society of Western Australia is fully cognisant of the problem; and, as the member for Perth mentioned, the society has indeed shouldered the obligation to afford legal aid in many cases consistent with its ability to offer the time and financial obligations to discharge that burden. However, the society is placed in the position of being in the path of what is really a social and not a legal problem. As the member for Perth also instanced, it is now time for the Government to consider this subject with a sense of urgency. I would like to see the Government consider the subject in view of what has been effected in the United Kingdom by way of legal aid, because I consider it is unfair to expect the Law Society of Western Australia to shoulder the burden.

Another question concerning the Statute law of this State touches upon a subject which has, since the war, almost become a way of life. I refer to the practice of purchasing goods under hire-purchase conditions. The law and the procedure on this subject are governed largely by the Hire Purchase Act of 1959.

I have before me a cutting from the *Daily News* of the 18th June which displays a most disturbing headline. The article goes on to voice a very serious problem which exists, and one which the Government should not countenance but should remedy effectively by suitable legislation. With your indulgence Mr. Speaker, I quote from that article. It states—

HP—OR HIGHER PAYMENTS

Our current hire purchase laws are all haywire.

They do not encourage a person to clear his debt quickly.

Instead, they penalise him for prompt paying. He pays a higher rate of interest because he is clearing his debt early.

If he signs an agreement to buy an appliance over a set period at a flat interest rate, he can expect to nearly double the rate in simple interest.

If he signs at eight per cent flat, he can expect to pay about 15 per cent simple interest.

AND the quicker he clears himself the higher the rate goes.

In other words, the man who settles early carries the slow payer.

This is contrary to normal business principles.

The Minister for Industrial Development is aware of this. To continue—

The Hire Purchase Act should be revised immediately to correct this anomaly.

In business, the prompt payer and the person who settles his account before the due date is a valued client.

To keep his trade a business house will often offer incentives in the form of a rebate or commission.

To hire-purchase companies this person is also a valued client—he is their profit-maker.

But, the "incentive" they offer is higher interest charges.

Interest, or hiring charges, in force in Perth vary, but usually they are within the following limits:

New cars 6½-7 per cent; used vehicles 8-9 per cent; household appliances 9-12 per cent—all flat rates; and personal loans 8 per cent flat or 15 per cent simple interest.

But, there is no fixed minimum deposit amount nor is there a ceiling on the rate that can be charged.

In some States, there is a fixed top interest rate and a set minimum percentage of total cost deposit.

In WA, the Hire Purchase and Finance Conference has set a 20 per cent minimum deposit for new vehicles.

But, this is one of the few minimum deposits in force.

Retail houses carrying their own finance or with HP subsidiaries are readily offering household goods on little or no deposit.

That is where the Hire Purchase Act falls down.

Touching upon the Industrial Commission and its functions, I would point out that at the present time it has become exceedingly clear that consumer exploitation is as serious as labour exploitation. It is true today that we have strong unions to protect the people in their capacity as workers, but neither the organisation nor, unfortunately, the legislation protects the people as consumers. Today we find that trade unions are doing double duty—as consumer spokesmen, and as industrial spokesmen.

I claim this situation demands that the Industrial Commission be allowed to continue to increase wages in accordance with price rises, until a Government policy to regulate prices and incomes is introduced. This contention places a double onus on the Government, which it has not discharged. In the first place there is a negative onus; that is, to maintain a hands-off stand in respect of the Industrial Arbitration Act, and a threat that was hinted at—according to an article which appeared in the Press recently—by the Premier, when he suggested that the right of the Industrial Commission to adjust the basic wage quarterly should be removed. I claim it was a negative onus of the Government to maintain a hands-off policy in respect of the commission's authority to make these adjustments.

Consistent with the retention of the authority to increase the basic wage by quarterly adjustments there is a positive onus carrying a strong moral sanction calling on the Government to formulate, and to legislate in respect of, a policy that will regulate prices as well as incomes. If the word "control" is obnoxious to this Government let me remind it that since 1912, when our Industrial Arbitration Act first took its place on the Statute book of this State, there has been a system of wages control. Let me further remind the Government that during its 6½ years of office it has maintained this system of wages control. Let there be no doubt about the control of wages.

What we want is some control over prices. If the legislation in force in the community insists upon a worker, who

performs a service or who sells the only commodity he can sell—his labour or service—and who wishes to obtain an increase in the price of the commodity which he sells, submitting a case before some tribunal to justify the increase he is seeking, surely it is just as much a moral obligation to expect the Government to legislate so as to require every other citizen who sells something to the public also to justify any price rise in that commodity when he seeks it.

I now wish to mention briefly one or two matters affecting my electorate. First of all I touch upon the need for assistance to be given to the district officers of the Child Welfare Department. This is a matter in respect of which I have become a source of great torment, and I have probably been regarded as a pest by the Child Welfare Department. I have repeatedly requested the appointment of a second officer at Kalgoorlie, for by far the Kalgoorlie district is the largest in the State, but there is only one officer.

As a result of the vast distances which he has to travel it is my contention that the people of Kalgoorlie are not being given the service which they require and which they deserve. More often than not the office of that officer is closed. I know him personally, and I am aware of the late hours he keeps, not always in attending to the needs of the public but in compiling his records behind locked doors late at night.

This situation is one that has existed for a long time, and is one to which I have often drawn the attention of the department and the Minister; and it is one that is still continuing. I feel that if a second officer cannot be appointed there should at least be a full-time receptionist and stenographer appointed at Kalgoorlie who could relieve the officer of a great deal of his clerical duties; and, when he is absent from the district, this appointee could be present in the office to answer queries, make appointments on the phone, and give information which would take a burden off the officer on his return.

I have no official information on this matter, but I understand it is the practice in some country districts for the child welfare officer to be given the assistance, on a part-time basis, of a typist from a nearby Government office, whether it be from the Agricultural Department in one town, the Crown Law Department, or the clerk of courts office in another.

If this be so, I would regard it as a halfway house. It is not a complete solution, but half a loaf is better than no bread at all; and if the Minister representing the Minister for Child Welfare in this Chamber could pass on my comments to that Minister, at least he would not be able to plead ignorance on this matter. I

sought a different solution, but I will content myself with repeating my request and offering another solution to that Minister.

I now wish to touch upon goldmining. No speech from a goldmining representative would be complete without mention of the lustrous metal. I trust that the report of the goldmining parliamentary committee will soon be made available to Parliament so that we will, after perusing this report, be made aware of the various suggestions put forward by this committee. I hope something valid will be forthcoming. In the meantime, I would ask the Government to get cracking so as to be ready to give effect to the recommendations of this committee when the report is made available, so that no time will be lost in offering whatever assistance is possible within the ambit of the Government's jurisdiction.

I now wish to touch on a subject about which there are many voices of dissent coming from the citizenry of the goldfields. It is against the policy of the Education Department, which tolerates inadequate facilities and buildings that make up the Eastern Goldfields High School. I urge the Government to reconsider its thoughts on this matter so that the school can proudly point to facilities which are more in keeping with a school of its status and fine academic distinction.

I was very interested this evening to hear the comments of the member for Balcatta on the growing tendency of lawlessness, and the carefree attitude of our younger generation. I would like to make a brief sociological review which could be said not to be a sign of the times and not as a consequence of our affluent society. Let me rather say that what I have in mind is an indication of some of the symptoms of the affluent society.

It would appear to me that the Government, being the pulse of the community for the next three years, must adopt a measure of responsibility for some of the things I am about to say. I feel in this community there is something lacking. There seems to be missing amongst our citizenry a sense of urgency. People seem to take things too easily; and there is an almost universal acceptance of life as it is.

There seems to be lacking a spark of intellectual stimulation. I feel the Government, by its revolutionary move to pitchfork people into the iron-ore age, has a responsibility for this attitude which is expressed amongst people. They are becoming conservative. The typical idea of the Australian being the wild colonial boy has gone. Instead of being the wild colonial boy, he has become the mild colonial boy, if the expression "colonial boy" does describe the average Australian today. However, he has certainly become mild rather than wild.

Alongside its endeavours to industrialise, the Government must also place a premium on reserves of human resources. It must be able to bend all those material powers which are available to it still further, and more to a human purpose. We must give a lead. The Government must give a lead which will do away with the attitude of, "She'll be all right, mate."

We must do away with any advocacy, or any condonement of this idea of ancestor worship. These are signs of a decadent Australia. I am sure that if things are allowed to continue, that is the way we are headed. There is no intellectual stimulant being provoked by the Government. We have lost our wild adventurous spirit and are becoming too ready to accept and not ready enough to challenge. With those thoughts, I again confirm my support of this Address.

MR. TOMS (Bayswater) [9.57 p.m.] Together with other members who have already offered you their congratulations, Sir, may I say how pleased I am in one sense to see you again occupying the position of Speaker of this House. For a number of years I have been able to agree with the justice of your decisions, although there have been occasions when this has not been so. However, I believe the majority of members in this House are satisfied with the job you do as leader of the Chamber.

My congratulations also go to the member for Narrogin on his appointment as Chairman of Committees. I do not know the particular reason for the change from Whip to Chairman and back to Whip again. Perhaps it could be because of the strenuous time the Chairman of Committees had during the last session. That may have been the reason for his not desiring to be Chairman again. I would not have liked to be him during some of the spots last session. In regard to the other officers who have been appointed by you, Sir, I would say that we have in this Parliament officers who will acquit themselves well in their particular jobs.

No doubt you, Mr. Speaker, like other members who have been in this House for many years, have been around the country with many members during their Address-in-Reply speeches and have learned of the problems of particular electorates. I do not know whether you would share in the sentiments expressed by the member for Swan when he said he had a few words to say in regard to his particular electorate but he doubted very much whether the words he spoke would have much notice taken of them.

This, perhaps, is the pace at which we are living today and anticipating that our own districts may develop. I know I am starting to get a bit impatient because I have for quite a long while now brought

to the notice of this House what I consider the slow development, by all departments, of that section north-east of the metropolitan area.

When we consider that areas four miles from Perth are still without sewerage, we wonder just how far and fast we are developing. Yet that is the position in a portion of the electorate I represent. I know plans have been on the drawing board at the department for many years for the sewerage of Belmont, Bayswater, and Bassendean. It might even extend some day to the area represented by the member for Swan. It does seem that the vital necessities are very slow in coming; and the longer we leave them the more costly they become.

I have also clamoured for many years for the drainage of the particular area I represent, which is one with direct access to and from the city. There are no waterway crossings such as the Narrows or the Causeway, and yet the development there has been much slower than it should have been.

I have criticised not only this Government but previous Governments for having developed housing areas on the other side of the river, thus creating bottlenecks on the various bridges, while at the same time overlooking areas close to Perth where the development would have been easy and no problems would have been created with regard to traffic.

Touching on traffic, I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister for Police—who will probably refer me to the Main Roads Department, which will then refer me to the engineers there—a very dangerous spot in the Whatley Park area of Bayswater. A road leads from Guildford Road directly to the river, and it is used by many people who go to the river to fish. This road is Moojebing Street, and it crosses over Hardy Road, which has now become a bus route. Not very long ago a triple tragedy occurred at this corner. Three men in the one car were killed.

I did ask and make representations to the department for the placing of a "Stop" sign or a "Give Way" sign at this particular intersection, and I do hope that something along that line will be accomplished before any more deaths occur. I intend to try again through correspondence to have this problem overcome, because pressure is being brought to bear on me by the residents in that area who have to listen to the squeal of brakes time and time again. I do not think the department appreciates fully how dangerous this particular area is; otherwise a sign of some sort would have been installed before this.

The Minister for Railways has, no doubt, in his office a file as big as the shire of Bayswater dealing with the widening of the Coode Street subway. We were told many years ago that this would possibly be done when the broad gauge railway line

was laid. For the Minister's information the road now extends through Morley Park to Dianella and is a busy thoroughfare. The subway is very dangerous because from both sides leading down to it is a rather steep slope, and something will have to be done before long.

I think the fact that many people know the danger of the spot has prevented too many accidents there, but the local authority is faced with a problem. It is desirous of widening the road on the north side of the line, but this will create a further problem if the subway itself is not widened. I would consequently ask the Minister to take steps to enable the local authorities to place this big file, which low stands a foot high, in archives or somewhere and have the job completed.

It was interesting tonight to hear the member for Perth tell us of the policy adopted in England by town planners. He said that they go from door to door to gain the reactions of the residents, if the department is desirous of planning an area. I believe this is something that should have been done here a long while ago—perhaps when Professor Stephenson was formulating his plan in regard to the Beechboro-Gosnells highway, because at the present time I have two people who are suffering hardships. Because of a change in the policy of the department it appears they will have to spend the rest of their lives in their present homes, and thereby justice is not being done.

This file I have here concerns only one person and his correspondence with the department, and it was started before August 1964. The chappie concerned is a poultry farmer, who is desirous of establishing and developing a poultry farm on his two acres of land. When he knew that the two acres were to be resumed he made representations, at the age of 50, to have the whole of his property resumed. He has for many years been engaged in chicken sexing and, as some of us know, it is very hard for a man as he gets older to maintain the 98 per cent. accuracy required.

He is getting slower because he is having trouble with his eyes, and he wants to establish a poultry farm before he reaches 60 or 70; yet he is told, when he is now 50, that the department will be prepared to resume a portion of his land, thus restraining him from any further development, but it is not prepared to resume the house. This man does not object to my using his name because he feels he is being treated very unfairly, and I agree with him. His name is Mr. P. S. Peirce, of Kenmore Avenue, Bayswater, and the following is a letter he received from the Department of Public Works on the 12th August, 1964:—

In February last you were notified of the publication in the *Government Gazette* of the 7th February, 1964, of

a Notice of Intention to Resume land for that section of the Gosnells-Beechboro Controlled Access Highway between Guildford Road, Bayswater, and the Swan River.

I am now advised by the Secretary, Main Roads Department that a new scheme has been adopted for the acquiring of land for Major Regional Roads and that no further resumption actions will be initiated by his Department until construction work makes it necessary.

The land ultimately required for these Major Roads will be protected against development under the power of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority.

Any requests from owners for purchase of their property due to inability to develop or because of hardship should be addressed to the Secretary, Metropolitan Region Planning Authority for consideration and decision.

In the event of a decision to proceed with the acquisition of a property, in compliance with an owner's request, the Authority will instruct the Land Resumption Office of this Department to negotiate with the owner and effect settlement.

All further correspondence should therefore be addressed to the Secretary, Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, 33 Mount Street, Perth.

This is just one of the letters that have gone to the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority in this man's case, and his property has still not been considered to be justified for resumption. I know that the department would probably have a spate of applications on its hands if it went willy-nilly about resumptions. But when the livelihood of a man is concerned and when he desires to make some provision for his future, I believe he should be given the utmost assistance possible.

There is another case of a man living on the scheme. He was not interviewed during the suggested door knock. His name is Mr. Frank Fedders and he lives on the corner of Robinson and Harvest Roads, Morley Park. This chap was employed by the shire council at Bayswater. The member for Maylands would know the man I am talking about. He was one of the most loyal servants a shire could wish for, and he has lived on his property for 35 years or more. Because of failing eyesight he wanted to build a new home for himself so that he and his wife could spend the last 10 or 15 years of their lives in comfort with modern conveniences. He has owned the land concerned for many years, and it happens to be part of the Beechboro highway. I made representations to the Metropolitan Region

Planning Authority and pointed out the particular case. The letter I received back was as follows:—

Thank you for your letter of the 4th February, 1965, which was forwarded to me by the Public Works Department for direct answer to you.

At the present time the land will not be required for approximately 15-20 years and acquisition is not expected to take place until the property is actually needed.

However, Mr. Fedders will still be able to live and carry out his activities on the property for some years to come.

Here is the case of a man who has had to retire because of poor eyesight. He is getting the pension at the present time and now he is not able to sell his two or three acres of land because the department does not want it for 15 or 20 years. He could go on paying rates for the 15 or 20 years, or he could let the rates go and have a caveat lodged against his title by the local authority.

This man has worked and given honest service to the shire, and this is the way the community is treating him. We call that justice and say there is no hardship being meted out. If that is not hardship, I do not know where hardship begins and where it finishes. I believe that man is entitled to be considered by the department and given an opportunity to spend his last few years in relative ease in decent surroundings. He has a little home which was good enough when he started there; but now, because of the attitude of the authority in not resuming his land, he has been told to stop there until he dies. I admit that sounds callous; but those might just as well have been the terms used.

I am not happy with the situation, and I brought it to the notice of this House last year. I think I told the House then that when in consultation with an official of the town planning authority I asked when the road was going through and his reply was 15, 20, or 25 years. To my query, "How do you know it will be wanted in this area at that time?" he said, "We do not." That is the way town planning is going on.

A 3-chain highway was going to be wide enough—and that is wider than the Kwinana Freeway. But now the town planning authority is not satisfied and envisages a 6-chain highway right through the district. It was proposed to put in some overways. If that occurs in this particular area it will be a modern Venice. People will be able to sail in gondolas.

I do feel very keenly about town planning, because my area is one that is going to be affected, particularly by the Beechboro-Gosnells highway. The members

for Belmont, Swan, and Beeloo will be concerned in the matter. I believe that anyone who is going to have his livelihood affected should be bought out and given a chance to start afresh before the price of land gets too high. Surely it is reasonable that people who have sat on land for years and who are now prepared to develop it should be given a chance to do so. They are told that they cannot develop it and cannot subdivide it or sell.

I agree with this principle where land has been bought for speculation, but not when it was bought with the idea of developing it. People are being penalised as years go by. I believe that as they get older they should be looked after, and I hope the two cases I have mentioned will get some consideration from the departments concerned. Those departments are the Main Roads Department, the Town Planning Board, and the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority. They are the three authorities one has to go through, and if one authority cannot get around a problem the buck is passed to someone else.

I want to touch briefly on a matter which I have raised several times in this House, and that is the way the Press report various items. No doubt members have been told by now that I am a member of the local authority. In a recent eastern suburban supplement, on Thursday, the 5th August, 1965, there appeared a heading "Bayswater Opposes Housing."

No doubt many people have read that and noticed that it had to do with natives and a request from the Minister for the opinion of the local authorities in regard to the housing of natives in their districts. Now, headlines are read by a lot of people who do not read the article, and those people can be misled by such headlines.

The position is that the local authority is not opposed to housing natives, as the article would indicate. The local authority believes in the assimilation of the natives, but it believes in total assimilation. In this article one councillor said that he did not notice that Melville or Dalkeith or other areas were mentioned in the letter dealing with where the native houses were to be built. Surely if we are to assimilate our black brothers into our community we will not pick out certain suburbs and say, "That is where you can live." Surely we have to do the job properly; and if it is good enough to approach the local authority of Bayswater, then surely it is good enough to go to all the local authorities. We should not pick out two or three authorities.

Our growl is not against the housing of natives. Our complaint is the lowering of the standards of the other people where the natives are going to be put, because of the lower standard of house to be built for the natives. The houses in the area I

represent are brick, or brick veneer. It is proposed, according to the plans and specifications which I read, and which are shown in the list, to put the natives into houses of a lower standard than we would allow our own white people to live in.

I do not make any excuses for the local authority, but I do say that if we intend to be really earnest in our endeavours to assimilate these people, then let us do it the right way. If we have been able to raise some of these native families to a reasonable standard, and we intend to put them into houses, is it not only right and proper that they should be placed in properly constructed homes which would be equal to those which would be occupied by white people?

I know there have been experiences where some natives in various parts of the State have torn their homes to pieces. In that case I say the department is in the wrong, because it should not put natives into houses when they are not ready for it. It could be said, "How can you get them ready for houses?" As I have mentioned before, many native families have come from the missions, and surely nothing could be said about the character of those people. They are the type that we should be gradually assimilating into our community. I know it is not possible to take nomad natives from the bush, place them in homes in the middle of civilisation, and expect them to live like the rest of the community around them.

Therefore the article I mentioned, like many others that appear in the Press, is misleading; and I hope the day will come when we will have decent reporting—unbiased reporting—which will not only lift the standard of the people, but will also retain the standing of Parliament on the highest plane.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Runciman.

House adjourned at 10.22 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 11th August, 1965

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