

and which would not interfere with the planning for the future requirements of the Western Australian coastal strip.

We have been told that the Labor Party slogan which some people believe won the election was, "Time for a change." I sincerely hope that this is the time for a change and that the problems I have mentioned will be given serious consideration. I think it is time for a change in departmental thinking, which has perhaps become a little too stereotyped. That is all I wish to contribute this evening, and I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. D. K. Dans.

*House adjourned at 8.41 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 28th July, 1971

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

### LIQUOR

#### *Sale of Low Alcohol Beverages: Petition*

MR. A. R. TONKIN (Mirrabooka) [4.32 p.m.]: I wish to present a petition from the West Australian Temperance Alliance, addressed as follows:—

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia.

We the undersigned residents in the State of Western Australia do herewith pray that Her Majesty's Government of Western Australia will reconsider its policy of allowing beverages with a known alcohol content of less than 2 per cent. being freely available in stores and milk bars with a view to restricting the sale of such beverages to licensed premises.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

The petition has 2,002 signatures, and I have signed the petition to certify that it conforms to the rules of the House.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

### QUESTIONS (42): ON NOTICE

#### 1. ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

##### *Replacement of Lost Revenue*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Premier:

Relating to the Government's published intentions of not taxing any particular group to replace

lost road maintenance tax revenue, does this mean the Government will—

- (a) use the same method as that to refund the receipts tax estimated to cost between five and six million dollars; or
- (b) revert to the deferred payments method as in the late 1950's?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (a) Possibly, but not necessarily.
- (b) See answer to (a).

2.

#### OLD COAST ROAD

##### *Works Programme*

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) What is the programme of work now being undertaken on the Old Coast Road?
- (2) What is the cost of the work?
- (3) As traffic has been diverted to another road, could his Department give consideration to the erection of speed limit signs along this route?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) Reconstruction and widening to 24 ft. over a distance of 14 miles.
- (2) \$160,000.
- (3) The Department will investigate the need for additional signs for this detour.

3.

#### ABATTOIRS

##### *Midland Operational Loss, and New Major Abattoir*

Mr. REID, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What is to be the estimated loss of the Midland abattoirs ending the 30th June, 1972?
- (2) What will be the loss on—
  - (a) the mutton chain;
  - (b) the lamb chain;
  - (c) the beef chain?
- (3) What is the cost of servicing the loans currently held by the Midland Abattoir Board for the last financial year?
- (4) Has the Government made any decision regarding building a third major service abattoir?
- (5) If so, where will it be built?
- (6) If not, when will it make a decision?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) and (2) This information is not available. The Board is currently finalising its budget for 1971-72. The effects of increased capacity, and of the new boning, freezing

and storage complex, on the overall financial results for 1971-72 are difficult to forecast accurately at this time.

(3) \$406,000.

(4) No.

(5) A site is available in the Kwinana area for a new abattoir.

(6) While the overall need for abattoir facilities is recognised by the Government it would be inappropriate to make a firm decision at this moment when inquiries from private interests are being examined and a shortage of Government funds exists.

#### 4. YALGORUP NATIONAL PARK

##### *Inclusion of Lakes Clifton and Preston*

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Minister for Lands:

Does the gazetted proclamation of Lakes Clifton and Preston in the Yalgorup National Park include the unclassified foreshore reserves of these lakes?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

Not entirely. Some small sections are freehold in private ownership, and the remaining sections of Crown land on the foreshores are planned for inclusion during a forthcoming readjustment of the boundaries of Yalgorup National Park. The western foreshore of Lake Preston is set apart as a gazetted road, and consideration is also being given to the future disposition of this section.

#### 5. DARRYL BEAMISH

##### *Report of Parole Board*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Attorney General:

(1) Did the parole board make a report to him regarding Darryl Beamish prior to his release?

(2) Did the parole board report support the release?

(3) Will he table a copy of the parole board's report?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

(1) No.

(2) and (3) Answered by (1).

#### 6. FREMANTLE PRISON

##### *Exterior Appearance: Beautification*

Mr. FLETCHER, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

(1) Will he in an endeavour to make Fremantle Prison outer walls less offensive to the public view, have ivy or other suitable fast growing creeper grown thereon?

(2) Will his department collaborate with the Fremantle City Council in establishing a shrub and garden area in the locality between the eastern wall and Hampton Road?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

(1) No. The growing of ivy or any creeper on the walls would present a security risk.

(2) The Department has been negotiating with the Fremantle City Council for some two years with a view to establishing a garden area on this site. At the present time, the matter is referred back to the Fremantle City Engineer for revision of the estimated cost.

7.

#### NATIVES

##### *Housing: North-West Towns*

Mr. RIDGE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

(1) How many conventional homes have been built for Aborigines at each of the following centres over the last 12 months—

- (a) Broome;
- (b) Derby;
- (c) Hall's Creek;
- (d) Wyndham;
- (e) Kununurra?

(2) What was the total cost of each of the houses?

(3) How many additional conventional homes are under construction or planned for each centre?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

(1) (a) 2.

(b) Nil.

(c) 1.

(d) Nil.

(e) Nil.

(2) (a) \$20,466.65.  
\$20,446.65.

(c) \$25,586.40.

(3) Authorised for construction in 1970-71 and yet to be completed:

Broome—Nil.

Derby—Nil.

Wyndham—3.

Hall's Creek—1.

Kununurra—4.

The 1971-72 programme can not be definitely formulated until Budget approval is received.

8.

#### TOURISM

##### *Statistics for 1965 and 1971*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Tourism:

(1) How many tourists were estimated to visit Western Australia in the years ended the 30th June, 1965 and 1971?

- (2) For each year what is—  
 (a) the break up of tourists arriving by land, sea and air;  
 (b) the calculated value to this State of these visits?
- (3) Will he advise the same statistics for the tourist traffic in the north-west for the same years?
- (4) If the statistics are not available for 1971, will he provide them for 1970?
- (5) What has been the contribution from State and local governments separately towards tourism through its tourist authority for each year since the authority's inauguration?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Because travel statistics within Australia are not available total visitors to Western Australia could be ascertained only by a comprehensive investigation by specialists in statistical techniques. However, reliable figures can be given in relation to travel business written by the Tourist Development Authority's offices in other States. The number of visitors booked by the offices to Western Australia were:—

1964-1965—9,587.

1970-1971—12,238.

- (2) (a) Information of this nature is not available owing to the lack of travel statistics.  
 (b) An indication can be obtained from the following figures which are based on a research report on the balance of payments prepared in the Faculty of Economics, University of Western Australia for the period 1938-1939 to 1956-1957.

The estimated receipts from interstate travel was \$10.5 million in 1956-1957 whilst a revised figure for 1963-1964 was within the range \$25 million to \$26 million. A comparable figure for 1970-1971 would be in the region of \$42.5 million.

- (3) The only reliable source for this information is the report *Travel and Tourism in Western Australia's North West and Kimberley*, 1st August, 1968 to 31st July, 1969, from which the following has been taken:—

(a) Air	...	...	16,191
Sea	...	...	870
Road	...	...	4,784
			<hr/> 21,845

- (b) Value of all short term visitors, including tourists, spending on accommodation, food and motor vehicle running, \$5,000,945.

- (4) Answered by (3).

	Government Contribution. \$	Estimated Local Government Contribution. \$
(5) 1960-1961	144,526	242,074
1961-1962	155,474	148,526
1962-1963	150,000	59,400
1963-1964	165,558	54,442
1964-1965	158,948	49,052
1965-1966	180,934	91,064
1966-1967	208,955	71,965
1967-1968	197,521	75,333
1968-1969	231,986	93,701
1969-1970	224,023	90,665
1970-1971	238,342	88,836

9.

## SCHOOLS

### *Constructions, and Major Extensions: 1972*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Where will the ten new primary schools and two new secondary schools to be ready for the 1972 school opening be built?  
 (2) How many class rooms and what other facilities will be provided at each school at the initial stage?  
 (3) To which existing primary and secondary schools are major extensions to be made ready for the 1972 school year?  
 (4) What are the details of the extensions envisaged?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) and (2)—

- (a) Primary Schools:

Churchlands, 6 rooms and administration building.

Gooseberry Hill, 6 rooms and administration building.

Langford, 12 rooms and administration building.

Connell Avenue (Clifton Hills) 4 rooms and administration building.

Seaforth (South Gosnells), 3 rooms and small administration building.

Hainsworth (Girrawheen), 12 rooms and administration building.

Blackmore, 12 rooms and administration building.

South Hedland, 6 rooms and administration building.

Nulsen (West Esperance), 6 rooms and administration building.

Dardanup, 3 rooms with administration included in the same building.

(b) Secondary Schools:

Moora and Port Hedland. These are not planned to be completed for February, 1972.

(3) and (4) Major extensions (six rooms or more) are planned for—

(a) Primary Schools:

North Parmella, 6 rooms, covered assembly area and resource centre.

Lockridge, 12 rooms, covered assembly area and resource centre.

North Balga Junior Primary, 6 rooms and administration building.

(b) Secondary Schools:

Morley, stage 3.

Thornlie, stage 2.

Balga, stage 3.

Rockingham, stage 2.

11.

## IRON ORE

### *Temporary Reserves: Policy on Allocation*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Mines:

(1) Referring to the statement—

(a) by the Government in its policy speech; and

(b) in the speech by His Excellency enunciating the Government's intentions for the handling of temporary reserves and Pilbara iron ore reserves,

will he reconcile to the House how these statements agree or are at variance?

(2) As the Government has stated it has announced its firm policy on allocation of Pilbara iron ore reserves and on general long term Pilbara development, what are the details of this firm policy?

Mr. MAY replied:

(1) (a) and (b) The statements obviously agree as if the expansion of the production of iron ore was not guaranteed by security of tenure, then there could not be general long term Pilbara development.

(2) The broad details of the Government's policy on allocation of Pilbara iron ore reserves and on general long term Pilbara development were announced in a Press release "General Statement" dated the 26th June, 1971, a copy of which is set out hereunder.

### General Statement

Future development of the Pilbara iron ore region will as far as possible be based on ports, railways, towns and services already established or planned for the area.

The Premier of Western Australia, the Hon. J. T. Tonkin, said this today when he announced that the State Government had approved broad guidelines for development of the Pilbara.

He said that Government policy was aimed at achieving optimum benefits from existing facilities.

In order to do this it was essential that each project have the longest possible life in order that maximum use be made of Company and State facilities such as schools, hospitals, power and water services.

The need for any additional associated works would be carefully considered and planned as a logical extension of present de-

## 10. FREE SCHOOL BOOKS

### *Limitation to Primary Schools*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Premier:

(1) Did he state in his 1971 election policy speech that his Government would provide free school books and materials for pupils in our schools?

(2) If so, why did he qualify that policy statement, after his election as Premier, by stating that it was intended to apply to primary schools only, when most parents within the community had interpreted this promise as applying to pupils in both primary and secondary schools?

(3) What is the separate estimated cost for Government and independent primary schools of the scheme for a full year?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

(1) and (2) The actual wording in the policy speech was—"There will be the provision free of school books and materials for pupils, educational equipment, visual aids and educational aids."

In the course of the campaign it was stated and published that this undertaking applied to children attending primary schools both Government and non-Government.

(3) Government Schools—\$225,000.  
Independent Schools—\$45,000.

velopment on a regional and national basis. Unless this was done individual projects with their own ancillaries at present-day and future costs would be extremely difficult to bring to fruition.

When granting future rights of occupancy over iron ore reserves and subsequently negotiating for the development of deposits the Government's main objectives would be:—

Planned development with optimum use of infrastructure to ensure that Pilbara iron products enjoy a long term place in the world market.

The maximum recovery of natural resources of ore of all grades, and types, with logical extensions into more sophisticated fields of ore integration, upgrading, beneficiation, processing or alternatively the production of metal both in the region and in other parts of the State and in Australia.

A new deep water port with connection by rail to the iron ore deposits of the Pilbara and to the existing railway system on a joint development and use basis with the State being responsible for overall co-ordination.

Sharing of townships, water supplies, railways and other elements of infrastructure by the iron ore companies to achieve maximum utilisation with the State being responsible for overall co-ordination.

Blending of different grades of ore to obtain maximum recovery of the mineral and production of a marketable product on a long term basis.

Mr. Tonkin said ample provision would be made for iron ore which would be ear-marked for large tonnage export steel production in Western Australia and in the Eastern States.

However, he pointed out that Pilbara Development depended heavily on carefully negotiated arrangements for geological and metallurgical proving and also on engineering studies, one of the prime objectives of which was the provision of a 250,000 to 300,000 ton port for general use in the Pilbara.

The Government would also negotiate the highest possible royalties on future projects to cope with expenditure on consequential population growth both in the North and South of the State.

Mr. Tonkin said "that in the allocation of rights of occupancy to reserves the Government would require any new holder who developed the deposit to compensate the former holders or their nominees for exploration expenditure to an amount approved by the Government and in addition a royalty, again to be approved by the Government, per ton of ore shipped or sold".

The royalty payments would extend for a reasonable number of years and then be no longer payable.

## 12. DROUGHT RELIEF

### Loans

Mr. W. G. YOUNG, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has he approved any drought relief loans which have not required a first mortgage priority?
- (2) If "Yes" how many such loans have been approved?
- (3) If "No" what priorities have been required in any loans approved?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) First mortgage priority has been available for all approved drought relief delegated agency loans.

## 13. PEARCE R.A.A.F. BASE

### *Pacminex Alumina Refinery Smokestack*

Mr. MOILER, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) With relation to the R.A.A.F. base at Pearce, is he aware of the maximum height of smoke stack which the R.A.A.F. would permit within the area of the possible Pacminex Alumina Refinery site?
- (2) If so, would he state the permitted height and, if not, would he obtain the information?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) The R.A.A.F. has not set a maximum height for the smoke stack it would permit within the area of the possible Pacminex alumina refinery, but at a recent conference with senior officers of the R.A.A.F. it was stated that the range of smoke stack heights contemplated by the Clean Air Council for this project would be well within its tolerable limits.
- (2) The matter has been referred back to Canberra, but it is doubtful whether the R.A.A.F. will ever state a permitted maximum height. In the planning of the refinery close consultation will be

maintained between the R.A.A.F., the developers, and the Clean Air Council, and the height and position of any smoke stack would be considered by the R.A.A.F. on its merits.

#### 14. MORLEY HIGH SCHOOL

##### *Lockers*

Mr. A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware of the widespread dissatisfaction among the staff and parents associated with the Morley High School due to the fact that lockers were not provided when the school was built?
- (2) Is it intended that lockers will be provided?
- (3) If (2) is "Yes" when will such action eventuate?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) No. Open racks were installed in lieu of lockers on a trial basis in the new high school buildings, as lockers have not proved a satisfactory answer to storage of bags, cases, and materials.
- (2) No action will be taken until a full assessment of the open racks system has been made.
- (3) Answered in (2).

#### 15. HIGH SCHOOLS

##### *Division into Faculties*

Mr. A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it intended to build future high schools so that the campus is divided into various faculties?
- (2) If "Yes" how will these faculties be designated?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Mathematics and science; social science and commerce; English and languages; manual arts and home economics; and an upper school.

#### 16. YOUTH EDUCATION OFFICERS

##### *Country and Metropolitan Areas*

Mr. A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many youth education officers are employed by the Education Department at the present time in—
  - (a) the country areas;
  - (b) the metropolitan area?
- (2) For which areas are these youth education officers in the metropolitan area?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) (a) 3.  
(b) 8.
- (2) They are based at the following secondary schools:—  
John Curtin.  
Scarborough.  
Mt. Lawley.  
Governor Stirling.  
Cannington.  
Kalamunda.  
Armadale.  
Melville.

#### 17. EDUCATION

##### *Special English Classes for Migrants*

Mr. A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many migrant pupils receive instruction in the English language in special classes for the purpose in primary schools?
- (2) How many migrant students receive such instruction in special classes in the secondary schools?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) 529.
- (2) 138.

#### 18. AIR POLLUTION

##### *Monitoring, and Personnel Employed*

Mr. A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will he consider releasing to the public the results of the aerial pollution monitoring which is undertaken by the clean air division?
- (2) How many professional personnel are employed for the purposes of administering the Clean Air Act?
- (3) Is this number adequate?
- (4) If (3) is "No" what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) These results are available, and are provided to the Press, local authorities, and other responsible bodies, on request.
- (2) One engineer, one chemist and two technicians (all full-time); in addition to medical personnel (part-time).
- (3) No.
- (4) The appointment of two additional officers for laboratory purposes has been approved in principle, but is subject to funds being available.

## 19. TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGES

### *Married Female Trainees*

Mr. A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many married women over 24 years of age were accepted for training into the teachers' training colleges in 1969, 1970, and 1971 respectively?
- (2) What allowance was paid to such students—
  - (a) before the recent tribunal decision;
  - (b) since that decision?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) 1969—32.  
1970—15.  
1971—68.
- (2) (a) (i) Normal Intake:  
No allowances.  
(ii) 2 Year Tertiary Trained:  
Allowances (year 3)—  
\$1,152.  
(iii) Graduate:  
Allowance (year 4)—  
\$1,193.  
+ \$500 graduate allowance.
- (b) The tribunal judgment did not affect allowances.

## 20. CLEAN AIR ACT

### *Prosecutions*

Mr. A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many prosecutions have been made under the Clean Air Act since its inception?
- (2) How many requests for prosecution have been put forward by the clean air division and which have not resulted in the institution of legal proceedings?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) None (the policy so far has been to achieve the objectives of the Act by negotiation and co-operation rather than compulsion).
- (2) None.

## 21. MEDICAL PRESCRIPTIONS

### *Printing*

Mr. FLETCHER, to the Minister for Health:

As an alternative to having doctors write or type prescriptions to a chemist, will he, if necessary, amend the Act or regulations, or take whatever action necessary to have doctors print the name of the preparation prescribed together with the dosage?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

The subject of prescriptions was considered by the Poisons Advisory Committee at several meetings last year; and the regulations governing prescription-writing were amended and published in the *Government Gazette* on the 19th February, 1971.

The committee includes representatives of all interested parties and the honourable member's proposal will, therefore, be referred to this committee for advice.

## 22. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

### *Overseas Tours*

Mr. A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Education:

With reference to question No. 59 on Thursday, the 22nd July, is it the view of the Education Department that tours overseas by high school students are not of educational benefit and therefore should not be conducted during term?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

The Education Department believes that these tours are of educational benefit, but that the students' schooling should not be interrupted by conducting them during term time.

## 23. GASCOYNE RIVER

### *Dam at Rocky Pool*

Mr. NORTON, to the Minister for Works:

Can he give any estimate of when the feasibility studies for the construction of a dam at Rocky Pool on the Gascoyne River will be completed?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

All field investigations have been completed and the final report is expected by the end of September, 1971.

## 24. HOSPITAL

### *Busselton: Site*

Mr. BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the decision to construct a new hospital at Busselton been confirmed?
- (2) If "Yes" has the site been secured?
- (3) If any part of the desired land is as yet unsecured, what steps are being taken to obtain title?
- (4) Is planning proceeding on the hospital, and if it is, at what stage has such planning reached?

- (5) When is it expected that—  
 (a) detailed planning will be completed;  
 (b) construction will commence;  
 (c) the hospital will be commissioned?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) Yes.  
 (2) Part has been secured.  
 (3) Negotiations proceeding to acquire balance.  
 (4) No, as staff are engaged on work of a higher priority.  
 (5) (a) to (c) Dates cannot be specified. A decision on a programme will follow a review of priorities after allocation of loan funds is known.

## 25. ILMENITE

### Road Transport

Mr. JONES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What were the tonnages of ilmenite carted by road from Capel to Bunbury—  
 (a) by railway road services for the years 1965 to 1970 inclusive;  
 (b) by private contractors for the same periods?  
 (2) What are the estimated tonnages to be carted in the future by road?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) and (2) To publicise the details as requested in these instances would divulge the volume of our client's business and this is against Government policy.

## 26. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

### Power Generation: Chem-coke Method

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Has the Commission investigated the possibility of producing power by the chem-coke method whereby hot gas, a by-product, is used as an energy to produce steam, which is fed direct to generators?  
 (2) If "Yes" what were the results of the investigations?  
 (3) If "No" will the State Electricity Commission investigate the process?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) No.  
 (2) Answered by (1).  
 (3) The process has not had general application in Australia. The commission would be prepared to consider a proposal.

## 27. MANJIMUP CO-OPERATIVE FRUIT CANNERY

### Study Group Recommendations, and Board Members

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is the proposed Manjimup Co-operative Fruit Cannery, announced in *The West Australian* the 16th July, 1971, under the heading "Manjimup Cannery to cost \$209,000", in accordance with the recommendations of the co-operative fruit canning study group?  
 (2) If not, in what particulars does it differ?  
 (3) Has the final constitution of the co-operative board been determined and, if so, who are the members?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) No; the majority recommendation of the Co-operative Fruit Canning Study Group centred on further investigations being undertaken.  
 (2) See answer to (1).  
 (3) Yes.

Mr. D. D. Reid, M.L.A., orchardist.

Mr. A. Simcock, orchardist.

Mr. A. E. Manning, orchardist and nurseryman.

Mr. J. W. Dwyer, accountant.

Mr. G. J. Parke, orchardist and a director appointed by the Government of Western Australia.

## 28. IRON ORE

### Temporary Reserves Within Wittenoom National Park

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Has the Government reached finality in its negotiations with Hanwright about the revision of boundaries of temporary reserve areas within the national park near Wittenoom?  
 (2) Is it anticipated that the necessary amending agreements such as Hanwright, Hamersley Iron, and Mt. Bruce will be signed in the near future and presented to Parliament for ratification this session, or is it intended to deal with these amendments and all other Pilbara negotiations at or about the same time?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) No, but negotiations are still continuing.



- (2) It is expected that the agreements in respect of Hanwright, Hamersley Iron, and Mt. Bruce will be signed in time for presentation to Parliament for ratification during the current session.

## 29. IRON ORE

### *Nimingarra, Sunrise Hill, and Yarrie Deposits: Negotiations*

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Has finality been reached in negotiations between Goldsworthy, Sentinel Mining Company, and the Government in respect of the Nimingarra, Sunrise Hill, and Yarrie deposits as well as other areas covered by the Sentinel agreement?
- (2) If negotiations are not complete, when is finality expected?
- (3) Will ratifying legislation be introduced this session?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Before the 30th September, 1971.
- (3) Yes.

## 30. MORTGAGEES' RIGHTS RESTRICTION ACT

### *Re-enactment*

Mr. McPHARLIN, to the Premier:

Does the Government intend to re-enact the Mortgagees' Rights Restriction Act?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

As yet a decision on this question has not been made.

## 31. TOURISM

### *Karri Log Alongside Eyre Highway*

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Tourism:

What is or will be the cost of transporting and placing in position the karri log alongside the Eyre Highway?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

The Tourist Development Authority has been informed that the estimated cost of transporting the log and locating it alongside the Eyre Highway is \$2,000.

The authority has agreed to contribute two-thirds of the actual cost to a maximum of \$1,333

## 32. DRAINAGE

### *Rate: Preston District*

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is it intended to abolish the drainage rate of \$2 per property which is at present levied against

Bunbury residents who live in the Preston drainage district; if so, when?

- (2) If not, will this levy be increased this financial year?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) The striking of rates for the year commencing the 1st September, 1971, is presently under consideration and no decision has yet been made.
- (2) Answered by (1).

## 33. "LESCHENAULT LADY" LOCOMOTIVE

### *Installation of Boiler*

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is there a new or used boiler at Midland workshops suitable for use in either or both of the "G"-class locomotives G.123 or G.233?
- (2) Could this work be carried out in the Bunbury workshops?
- (3) What would be the approximate cost of installation in—
  - (a) Midland;
  - (b) Bunbury?
- (4) Would the Western Australian Government Railways install the boiler free of charge to the organisation responsible for the running of the vintage train "Leschenault Lady" or contribute towards the cost?
- (5) If by contribution, in what way and/or by how much?
- (6) Would he give an assurance that a suitable boiler will be retained for the re-boiling of a "G"-class locomotive to haul the vintage train, i.e., either G.123 or G.233?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

- (1) A used boiler is available but would require general overhaul.
- (2) A replacement boiler could not be installed at the Bunbury workshops.
- (3) (a) Boiler overhaul — approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000.  
This expenditure would not cover any repairs necessary to the engine, i.e., frame, etc.  
(b) Answered by (2).
- (4) No, it is considered that responsibility for expenditure of this nature should not rest with the Railways Department.
- (5) Answered by (4).
- (6) Assuming the boiler in mind is the one referred to in (1)—Yes, but not indefinitely.

### 34. STATE SHIPPING SERVICE

#### *Round-Australia Voyages: Profit or Loss*

Mr. STEPHENS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the profit or loss on the round-Australia voyages of the State Shipping Service?
- (2) If a loss, what amount was attributed to—
  - (a) passenger services;
  - (b) cargo services?
- (3) If a profit, why was the service discontinued?
- (4) Who were the Eastern States agents for the State Shipping Service at the time of the above service?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) The average loss per voyage on the round Australia voyages was:—

Operating Loss—\$30,824.

Loss including Interest and Depreciation—\$76,106.

- (2) In a cargo passenger ship operation it is extremely difficult to arrive at a separate allocation of profit or loss as being attributable to either cargo or passenger traffic. One example affecting such an allocation would be the apportionment of overheads and losses caused by delays occasioned in loading or discharging, industrial disputes or weather. Passenger vessels have much higher construction cost and cost more to keep in class than a straight out cargo vessel.

However, taking passenger traffic in isolation, i.e., earning *versus* direct wage and victualling costs, the actual result over a 12 month period showed that, on an average, earnings approximately equated expenditure.

Therefore, the passenger venture was not profitable.

- (3) Answered by (1).

However, the reason for discontinuing this service was that the commission was able to effect economies in the north-west Darwin trade by concentrating *Koolama* on the north-west Darwin trade and speeding up the schedules of the three larger cargo passenger vessels. The Service on the then level of traffic, was enabled to dispose of *S.S. Dorrigo* and thus ease the burden of the overall loss on trading.

- (4) Main agents were:—

Brisbane—Burns Philp and Co. Ltd.

Newcastle — McIlwraith, McEachern Ltd.

Sydney — Initially Associated Steamships Pty. Ltd. changed early 1967 to Howard Smith Industries Pty. Ltd.

Melbourne—Associated Steamships Pty. Ltd.

### 35. TOWN PLANNING

#### *Green Belt Reserves: Cost of Acquisition*

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) How much money has been spent in acquiring land for the recreational reserve or "green belt" along the Darling scarp adjacent to Perth?
- (2) How much money has been spent in acquiring similar reserves in the Helena and Bickley Valleys?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) 1959-60 to 1970-71—\$8,870,717.
- (2) Helena Valley—\$251,533 (Included in the \$8,870,717 mentioned in (1) above.)  
Bickley Valley—\$22,000 (Included in the \$8,870,717 mentioned in (1) above.)

### 36. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

#### *Kwinana-Balga Power Line: Proposed Route*

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Will he table a plan showing all routes considered by the State Electricity Commission and/or the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority for the proposed 330 K.V. power line from Kwinana to Balga?
- (2) As the General Manager of the State Electricity Commission stated at a public meeting in Kalamunda on the 7th June that the Commission was going to spend more money to construct the line as far east as the two routes under examination because they were concerned about the impact on the aesthetics of the coastal plain, will he indicate what routes the General Manager had in mind when he made that statement, and how much money would be saved if such a route were adopted?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) No. Transmission lines are highly capital intensive. The first selection is the shortest possible route, i.e. straight line between two points. This is tempered by practical considerations of terrain, obstacles, acceptability, etc. By

this method the two routes now under detailed consideration evolved.

- (2) The alternative to which the general manager referred was a hypothetical route being the shortest distance to the northern terminal. This direct route would have involved a shorter line to construct, but would have been impractical because of barriers caused by intense development, airport restrictions and the river crossings. For this reason the longer line route was chosen and the shorter route was not costed.

### 37. MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENT

#### *Available Funds and Expenditure, 1971-72*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) What amount of funds will be available to the Main Roads Department for the 1971-72 financial year?
- (2) What is the budgeted expenditure figure for the Main Roads Department during the 1971-72 financial year?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) The Main Roads Department has prepared a programme of works for 1971-72 based on estimated receipts of \$59,772,400. This includes statutory grants to local authorities amounting to \$12,437,000.
- (2) \$59,772,400.

### 38. AIR POLLUTION

#### *Midland Brick Company: Chimneys*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Health:

In view of the possibility of natural gas being used by Midland Brick Company before the end of 1971, will he defer action regarding installation of higher chimneys at these works until it has been able to ascertain the effects of conversion to natural gas?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

No; there are reasons other than the fuel used which necessitate higher chimneys.

### 39. FISH PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT AT SHARK BAY

#### *Takeover Negotiations*

Mr. NORTON, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Does he know of any negotiations in progress with a Japanese firm to establish or take over a fish processing establishment at Shark Bay?
- (2) If "Yes" can he give details?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) No, although officers of the Fisheries Department have heard rumours that negotiations are proceeding.
- (2) See answer to (1).

### 40.

#### EDUCATION

#### *Wagin Parents' Associations: Deputation*

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Did he receive a deputation on about the 12th March, 1971, from the Wagin Parents and Friends' Association and the Wagin Parents and Citizens' Association?
- (2) If "Yes" what was the subject or subjects for discussion?
- (3) Were any requests made?
- (4) Did he make any recommendations to the department as a result of the discussions?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Future educational developments in Wagin.
- (3) Requests were submitted for the establishment of a secondary school and improved facilities at the existing school.
- (4) Arrangements were made for the Deputy Director-General of Education to accompany me to Wagin to inspect the school and meet the local committee.

### 41.

#### MIDLAND ABATTOIR

#### *Slaughtering of Sheep and Lambs Bought Privately*

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

What number of—

(a) sheep; and

(b) lambs,

slaughtered weekly at Midland for the financial year 1970-71 did not pass through the Midland saleyards but were bought privately or at other sales?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

This information is not available.

### 42.

#### HOSPITAL

#### *Dumbleyung: Kitchen Block*

Mr. W. G. YOUNG, to the Minister for Health:

Is it proposed to proceed with the construction of a new kitchen block at the Dumbleyung hospital this financial year?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

No.

# QUESTIONS (4): WITHOUT NOTICE

## 1. LICENSING COURT

*Non-reappointment of Mr. H. R. Robinson*

Mr. COURT, to the Attorney-General:

I would like to address a question without notice to the Attorney-General. I did not send him notice of it because I think the question is one that he can answer easily off the cuff. Why was Mr. H. R. Robinson's appointment to the Licensing Court not renewed at the end of his first term?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

In answer to the honourable members' question, it is because the Act only provides for an appointment for three years. The matter was given due consideration by Cabinet and in consequence of that deliberation Mr. Robinson was not appointed but somebody else was appointed instead.

## 2. EGG PRODUCERS

*Refusal to License*

Mr. W. A. MANNING, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Have egg producers who have been refused a license been given reasons for the refusal?
- (2) If not, how can an appeal be satisfactorily made against such decision?
- (3) Will he supply reasons?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

In reply to the member for Narrogin, whom I thank for some notice of his question, I have to say that persons whose applications for a license were not approved have been advised by circular letter that the reason for the refusal was that the applications were not in accord with the bases and principles as approved by the Minister for Agriculture. Briefly, these bases and principles were as follows:—

- (1) Producers were given a basic allocation based on the maximum number of birds as disclosed on the C.E.M.A. returns during the 12 months prior to the 2nd April, 1970.
- (2) Where the applicant had established to the board's satisfaction that a definite financial commitment had been entered into prior to the 2nd April, 1970, special consideration was given to the allocation of additional birds.

- (3) The whole circumstances of a rejected application are examined in the event of an appeal, not just certain aspects of it.

I would like to table for the honourable member's information, firstly, a copy of the circular letter to which I referred which was the instrument of identification in each case. Also, I would like to table a copy of the bases and principles referred to in reports (1) and (2) and also the circular letter forwarded to each applicant with the official application form.

*The report and correspondence were tabled.*

## 3. DAY-OLD CHICKS

*Transport from Narrogin*

Mr. W. A. MANNING, to the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is it a fact that day-old chickens will not now be received at Narrogin for transport by road bus to areas such as Boddington, Kondinin, Lake Grace, Hopetoun, etc.?
- (2) If so, what is the reason for refusing transport to such inoffensive passengers?
- (3) Will he reverse the decision?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question, the answers to which are as follows:—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Arrangements were altered last year by the reason that in the road buses the only place the chickens could be accommodated was in the baggage compartment which was close to the engine and this resulted in an extensive loss of chickens and subsequent claims. The present arrangement is that the day-old chicks are conveyed by railway and road trucks.
- (3) By reason of the circumstances which I have outlined in respect to question (2), no.

## 4. MANJIMUP CO-OPERATIVE FRUIT CANNERY

*Study Group Recommendations, and Board Members*

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Industrial Development and Decentralisation:

Arising out of the answer he gave to question 27 in which he said that the majority recommendation of the Co-operative Fruit Canning

Study Group centred on further investigations being undertaken, do I take it from this answer that the Government has decided to proceed independently of the report that had been put forward by the group, or did it incorporate into its final decision most of the ideas put forward by the group? I understand the group had reached a certain stage in its recommendations when it submitted its report.

**Mr. GRAHAM** replied:

It was on account of the bleak prospect facing the fruit growers in the south-western area, around the Manjimup and Donnybrook districts, that it became urgently necessary that something should be done in view of the projected cessation of canning operations in the Plaimar works at West Perth. For this reason, the Department of Industrial Development and Decentralisation busied itself expeditiously and fortunately was able to produce a plan that will result in a fruit-canning industry being established in the south-west, and I am confident it will not suffer a fate anything akin to the previous proposal; namely, the establishment of a fruit-canning factory by the Shepparton Preserving Company.

In replying to this question I take the opportunity to express my concern that an honourable member in another place took advantage of an opportunity yesterday to pour cold water on the scheme. I do not think he will earn any gratitude from the people in the district, and I think he has rendered a gross disservice to a project sponsored by the Government and financially supported by the growers, Manjimup business people, and others. Further, in this respect I acknowledge the work done by the representative for the fruit-growing district, the member for Blackwood. He has played a not inconsiderable part in bringing the proposed works to the stage already reached.

### SUPPLY BILL

#### *Returned*

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by Mr. I. W. Manning, leave of absence for seven weeks granted to Mr. Hutchinson (Cottesloe) on the ground of private business.

### BILLS (12): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act Repeal Bill.  
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. J. T. Tonkin (Premier), and read a first time.
2. Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation Enabling Bill.  
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Graham (Minister for Industrial Development and Decentralisation), and read a first time.
3. Stamp Act Amendment Bill.
4. Land Tax Assessment Act Amendment Bill.
5. Vermin Act Amendment Bill.
6. Noxious Weeds Act Amendment Bill.  
Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. T. D. Evans (Treasurer), and read a first time.
7. Bulk Handling Act Amendment Bill.  
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. H. D. Evans (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.
8. Administration Act Amendment Bill.
9. Property Law Act Amendment Bill.
10. Inheritance (Family and Dependents Provision) Bill.
11. Wills Act Amendment Bill.
12. Offenders Probation and Parole Act Amendment Bill.  
Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Bertram (Attorney-General), and read a first time.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY

#### *Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 27th July, on the following motion by Mr. A. R. Tonkin:—

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech be agreed to:—

May it please Your Excellency: We the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament 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. BROWN** (Merredin-Yilgarn) [5.16 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the Chair of this House, and through the confidence which the electors of Merredin-Yilgarn have reposed in me I have the privilege of doing this. Knowing you personally and being aware of your keen and active interest in local government and of the actions you have taken in the short period that you have been a member of the State

Government, I feel sure that the Parliament of Western Australia will be well served by you as our Speaker. Therefore it is with a great deal of pleasure that I wish you well in your high office.

To the Premier of Western Australia I, too, offer my congratulations. His enthusiasm and devotion to his responsibilities are certainly an inspiration, particularly to those members who have had only a short period of service in this Parliament.

On this occasion I would also like to extend my congratulations to the members of the Ministry which, in some small part, I had the honour of selecting. I am confident that we will be well served by those Ministers, and I feel certain they will fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with the wishes of the people of Western Australia.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to the Leader of the Opposition, and I am sure that his deputy will pass on my good wishes to him. I extend my congratulations to him for the length of time during which he has served in and led the Parliament of Western Australia. Furthermore, I hope he will have the opportunity, subject to the will of the electors, to break another record in his term of office on the other side of the House.

I join with other members in congratulating the 10 other new members who have been elected to the Legislative Assembly. In particular I would like to congratulate the member for Mirrabooka on the example he has set to the new members of Parliament. I am certain that Parliament will be well served by the member for Boulder-Dundas. Having known the member for Toodyay over many years and his calibre to undertake responsibilities, I know that he, too, will serve Parliament well. I hope that with the support of my party and Parliament generally I will be given the opportunity to serve those electors who have placed their trust in me.

I would now like to make reference to my two predecessors (The Hon. Lionel Kelly and Mr. J. M. Stewart). In my association with the Merredin-Yilgarn electorate I have known both those gentlemen for many years. Of course, the former was a Minister of the Crown, known for his devotion to duty. I have been associated with Mr. Stewart in local government, and I acknowledge the outstanding service he has rendered in this field. In my capacity as the President of the Merredin Shire Council I acknowledge the courtesy and the attention which he showed to the shire in his term of office in this Parliament and as a supporter of the Government.

It is on a sad note that I make reference to the late Hon. J. J. Garrigan who, through his efforts, made my task easier—if this task can be made easier. He left no stone unturned to support my candidature on the two occasions that I

had the honour to represent my party in an election for a seat in Parliament. I am conscious of his service not only to myself, but more particularly to the people of the province which he represented. I can safely say that he was a very active worker for, and a frequent visitor to, all sections of his electorate.

It is now opportune for me to refer to the Merredin-Yilgarn electorate which is situated on the eastern side of Greenmount. This electorate commences at the periphery of Baandee and stretches to the south to Dudinin, then to the east past Widgiemooltha and to the south for some 30 miles. The area embraces seven local authorities, namely the Shires of Kulin, Kondinin, Narembeen, Merredin, Westonia, Yilgarn, and Coolgardie.

I am, indeed, fortunate to represent an area which has so much diversification, and I trust that during my term in this Parliament I will be able to promote further interest in the electorate. It is very important that I make mention of the southern portion of my electorate; namely, the farming districts of Kulin, Kondinin, Narembeen, Westonia, and portions of Yilgarn; but in particular the areas south of Merredin. When one takes into account the area of the Kulin Shire which embraces the towns of Dudinin, Jitarning, and Pingaring, and stretches to the east for a distance in excess of 100 miles to the small centre of Holt Rock, one is able to have an appreciation of the situation.

A similar situation exists in the Shire of Kondinin which embraces the Karlgarin and Hyden areas. I am referring to the recession which those districts have faced and are still facing. That situation existed last year and the year before; it has been intensified over the past three years.

This state of affairs is confined not only to the two shires I have mentioned, but also to the Shires of Narembeen, Westonia, and Yilgarn. The situation is very critical in those areas, and the people there have no opportunity for diversification except in the pursuits of agriculture; that is, in the production of wheat, sheep, oats, and barley. They cannot diversify their activities in any other way. With costs rising and with commodity prices falling their position is, indeed, parlous. I am confident that the Minister for Agriculture will shoulder his responsibilities in such a manner that he will be exemplified as one who is ready to assist the rural community. He has clearly demonstrated to all sections of my electorate his drive and vigour, despite the odds that are against him. Whilst it might be said that he has an unenviable task, I am confident that he will surmount the difficulties and that his efforts will result in a turnabout in the plight of the rural industries which, through his administration, will no doubt progress.

The Merredin-Yilgarn district is known for its high productivity. This is an area where the wheat quotas have caused grievances amongst the members of the farming community; and it is indeed difficult in the Shires of Merredin, Naremben, Westonia, and Yilgarn—and the Westonia and Yilgarn districts are considered to be marginal areas—to reconcile the fact that those areas are responsible for nearly 500,000 bushels of top cut. Then again in the Shires of Kulin and Kondinin the increase in uplift is in the vicinity of 160,000 bushels. However, the farming communities in those areas have reaffirmed their support of the Minister for Agriculture who is faced with a difficult task.

I think it should be clearly stated at this stage that the responsibility for the introduction of the top cut lies with the executive of the wheat section of the Farmers' Union. Whilst the farmers were perhaps looking generally for an alternative and for relief in regard to the production of grain, it was very difficult to alter a quota system which had been changed twice within two years, and threatened to be changed a third time. So the Minister for Agriculture has the support of the farming communities throughout the district.

I believe that if rain does not fall soon, and if the circumstances become any more perilous, the people there will be facing a very bad time in the immediate future. However optimistic I would like to be—and perhaps optimistic I must be—I consider that if the wheat quota is over-filled, and sales do not fall into line with our production, then another drastic view of the quotas must be taken. It is my humble and considered opinion that if this must take place the traditional areas of wheat production should be given a preference.

Whilst we may license the growers I consider, in fairness to those people, that they should receive a preference. For that reason Parliament may be asked—the Government may be asked—to consider zoning the State so that viability can be brought back to the industry. Of course, when one talks about rural economy one realises that reference has already been made to the situation regarding wool and the other produce from sheep. When one considers that a farmer, tailing his lambs, tails the ewes and cuts the throats of the wethers one can see there is not a very bright or happy future for the farming community.

Perhaps it would be opportune to refer to the Rural Reconstruction Scheme. I see from the answer to a question on the notice paper that there could be three successful applicants from the Merredin-Yilgarn electorate. Perhaps there will be a fourth successful applicant if the pastoral area is included. However, more

likely than not no applicant from this region, which produces a large percentage of the grain produce of the State, will be successful. One is inclined to ask: What does rural reconstruction do?

If rural reconstruction favoured people in the southern areas of the State I feel it would have the support of Parliament. However, for my part I think we would be ill-advised to accept the \$14,600,000 from the Commonwealth without being able to use it to the best advantage of the State. If the New South Wales Government can utilise its funds from the Commonwealth for the purchase of over-quota wheat under the guise of premium wheat I see no reason whatsoever why we should not make the strongest representation to the Commonwealth to ensure that the funds are employed in the most suitable manner.

Of course, when I say the most suitable manner it can be deduced that one must have the facilities to handle the wheat and wool; one must have killing facilities and freezing facilities; and one must have the export market for the produce. I am confident that if the rural reconstruction funds are not used to the advantage of the State then the situation will be aggravated.

I might make reference, Mr. Acting Speaker (Mr. Bateman), to the fact that the Commonwealth Development Bank, in its generous loans to farmers over the years, has created a situation where the farmers cannot meet their overdrafts or their hire-purchase commitments and they cannot make their repayments to the Commonwealth Development Bank.

I do not know whether or not the funds which are to be made available are tied to rural reconstruction. To my mind the money used on rural reconstruction will not assist the farming community in any way whatsoever.

I would now like to refer to the mining industry, and particularly to the mining which takes place in the Yilgarn. We are all aware of the quantity of iron ore produced in the Yilgarn Shire. That ore is trucked from Koolyanobbing. We are also aware of the expansion taking place in Kambalda where, four years ago, there was nothing of any consequence. When one sees the development taking place in that area, and observes the productivity, one realises that our nickel ore has been a bonus to Western Australia.

I feel quite confident that if the gold-mining industry could receive the gold subsidy which is required for the interim period, the people in the goldfields would be far better served as would the State of Western Australia. However, our impassioned pleas to the Commonwealth have fallen on deaf ears.

The Yilgarn area is still producing gold, and the mine at Marvel Loch is carrying out exploration and extending its activities. There is activity from Bullfinch, right

through the Coolgardie Shire to Kalgoorlie, and it is a sad day for us that we do not receive a gold subsidy from the Commonwealth. As I have said, we are fortunate in having the nickel minefields in the Coolgardie area. Their productivity is of tremendous benefit to the State. Something like 1,000,000 tons of ore are crushed each year from which 36,000 tons of nickel concentrate are produced.

Five years ago there was a shortage of nickel concentrate throughout the world, but through the astuteness of the management of Western Mining Corporation, that company has been able to tie up contracts throughout the world, and there appears to be a very bright future for the nickel industry in Western Australia. Whereas five years ago there was a shortage of nickel, at present there is a surplus and I trust that our Canadian friends will not take over this market as they have our market for agricultural products.

Referring to the Shire of Coolgardie, and in particular to the town of Kambalda, the needs of the community are very apparent. Whilst it is a great tribute that 36,000 tons of nickel concentrate are produced, to make that production possible people are required. Nearly 5,000 people live in the township of Kambalda, and they are very suitably housed. The environment within the townships of Kambalda and West Kambalda reflects credit on those who live there, and those responsible for the establishment of the towns. However, the needs of Kambalda have to be suitably served. Those 1,487 people who work in the mine and who are responsible for its activities both above and below the surface require medical services, education facilities, and recreational opportunities.

The local shire has measured up to its responsibility in accordance with the support it has received from the company, but there is a responsibility upon the Government to supply the other necessary facilities. Whilst it can be said that if the requirements are made known they will be supplied, I think we also have the responsibility of anticipating the needs of our State.

It will be my responsibility, in association with my colleagues, to make representation to our Minister for Education for the provision of a senior high school in the area so that the principle of decentralisation and equal opportunity can be afforded those people.

The hazards associated with employment in the area place a responsibility on the Government to provide first-class medical attention. I am not suggesting for one moment that first-class medical attention is not available in Western Australia, but people in outback areas require such services and for that reason the Minister for Health will receive my representation—in association with my colleagues—to ensure that hospital services and sufficient

medical practitioners are available to serve this community which is serving the State.

The Western Mining Corporation is not the only company operating within the area. Such companies as Anaconda, International Nickel and Metal Exploration—along with others—are unknown quantities when it comes to wealth. I feel quite sure that the Government is mindful of its responsibility concerning the investment of \$18,000,000 for the establishment of a railway service from Kalgoorlie, through Kambalda and Widgiemooltha, to Esperance. I make representation to the Government for favourable consideration of the implementation of that railway line.

I realise, of course, that \$9,000,000 is available from the Western Mining Corporation, \$3,400,000 is available from the Lake Lefroy salt company and, in addition, \$5,600,000 has been allocated as a loan on behalf of Western Mining Corporation. That loan is repayable over seven years and carries an interest rate of 7.5 per cent., and it is subject to Commonwealth approval. Alternatively, the Commonwealth could supply the funds. We should do our utmost, in the interests of Western Australia, to see that the standard gauge railway is constructed not only for today, but for tomorrow and for the benefit of Western Australia in the centuries ahead.

It must also be remembered that the companies concerned will supply the rolling stock. However, the companies do not provide the funds for nothing; they receive the benefits of reduced freight rates. If there is a difference of opinion at the moment I trust it can be settled amicably so that the project will have an opportunity to proceed.

The people living within the eastern wheatbelt and the southern portion of the Merredin-Yilgarn electorate would welcome an opportunity to have such an undertaking in the area which would be used for the benefit of the State of Western Australia.

It is also incumbent on the Government to consider the extension of electricity services and water services to the people living in the southern part of the State. The high tension power line from Wagin to Merredin will involve an expenditure of some \$600,000, and the area which will be served by electricity has served the State well. I feel sure that the Minister for Electricity, and other members, will want to support any undertaking which will implement the construction of that line. There is an urgent need for its construction. It is usually found that those who live farthest from the centres are the least served. I look forward to the completion of the undertaking.

I would also refer to the 1966 period when S.E.C. services were supplied to farmers, and the farmers are to pay for the services over a period of 30 years at a very low interest rate. The farming



community is entitled to these facilities. I know that the Treasurer has a tremendous responsibility in administering the funds of the State.

I do not say the following words with my tongue in my cheek, but let us utilise our resources, if Western Australia is going to have a deficiency of \$30,000,000 at the end of this financial year. The Treasurer of Queensland had a deficit in excess of \$60,000,000. I am not saying he received his knighthood for that particular effort, but I offer this contribution to the debate on the Address-in-Reply in view of the development and progress that will take place in Western Australia.

It would be remiss of me if I did not make some reference to local government. I feel that the Minister for Local Government, who is my colleague in the Merredin-Yilgarn electorate, is facing a challenge. With the admission of adult franchise, I think the imposition of a tax on the community, for the community, is worthy of consideration.

During the conference of the Country Shire Councils' Association in Perth last week, it was evident that those people who have represented local authorities without reward look forward to some contribution for their services. I think they are justly entitled to a reward for their services in view of the responsibilities they bear. It is very clear that sections of the Local Government Act provide for disbursements to members of local authorities, and I consider such disbursements should be made on an equitable State-wide basis rather than for the favoured few.

Perhaps this is also an opportune time to mention traffic control, which became a controversial issue at the Country Shire Councils' Association conference. Section 11A (1) of the Traffic Act, which was enacted in 1969, clearly defines the responsibility of a local authority. It provides that a local authority may hand over the responsibility for vehicle licensing and traffic control to the Minister for Police, if the Minister thinks fit. Several shires in Western Australia have taken advantage of this provision, and I feel quite confident that when they have had time to reflect upon the matter of traffic control and the desirability of uniformity throughout the State, shire councils will find they will be better served by having one authority dealing with this control.

I would now like to discuss education in the eastern wheatbelt. In the Shire of Merredin there is a high school hostel which is run by the Anglican Church and known as St. Michael's House. This hostel was established in 1962 and now caters for 128 pupils since it was extended. It is a magnificent brick building which caters for youngsters from the north, the south, the east, and the west of the centre, stretching right through to Rawlinna. When attention was drawn to the urgent

need for expansion of this hostel, we were supplied with a transportable type of building. If it is intended only as a temporary measure, one can have no quarrel with it, but plans must be made for buildings which are commensurate with our requirements.

There is now a very urgent need to provide education at a five-year level, because for 1972 applications from 31 girls and five boys have been rejected. Those youngsters will not have the opportunity to improve their education unless they can make alternative arrangements; so the situation is desperate. I would like a portion of the hostel funds which have been allocated to the Pilbara district to be allocated to my electorate, but I am sure the member for Pilbara would not accede to my request. I think the State should be divided and special contributions made to the northern portion of the State for hostel accommodation, but not at the expense of the people who live in the southern part of the State. I therefore bring to the notice of the Government the urgent necessity for the upgrading of our hostel at Merredin.

Some two weeks ago there was a report in the newspaper concerning the Shire of Merredin. I do not dispute the accuracy of the report but I feel the details given left a lot to be desired. I know of keen businessmen in the town who are making representations to the newspapers in an endeavour to have their grievances rectified. To suggest that we are crying poverty because of the grim situation that exists is far from the truth.

There is a great deal of enthusiasm for the future in the area. We feel quite confident that with the appointment of a Minister for Decentralisation there will be further expansion. The pig industry, for example, is at its highest peak, and the largest pig sales in Western Australia are conducted in this area. There are in the area storage facilities for grain in excess of 8,000,000 bushels. When one considers the services operated by the oil industry, at a cost to the industry of many thousands of dollars, one realises there is a bright future for this town, and nearby neighbours will rightfully share in this prosperity.

While speaking about the Merredin-Yilgarn electorate, I would like to make some further observations in regard to the railway line. We are all very pleased that a standard gauge rail link has been established between Perth and Sydney. However, I consider that in formulating the plans cognisance should have been taken of the local people before the track was laid. We have the position that some towns are bisected, others are bypassed, and one town is even forgotten.

We are concerned that there should be the fullest possible utilisation of this service. When one considers the pains

which are being suffered by the wheat industry, and the fact that premium wheat cannot be transported to the metropolitan area on the standard gauge rail, the situation is seen to be critical. Furthermore, there is a backlog of applications for reservations on the magnificent trains that run between the east and the west.

It is time we produced the rolling stock and planned ahead for the services that can be provided. We must face our responsibilities with fortitude and courage to ensure that this State is served to the fullest possible extent.

I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your election, and I thank the electors of Merredin-Yilgarn for their confidence.

**MR. COYNE** (Murchison-Eyre) [5.56 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my congratulations to you on your appointment as Speaker of this House. May I also take the opportunity to congratulate those members who have been elected as chairmen of the various parliamentary committees. I also wish to convey my gratitude to the staff of Parliament House for the helpful and courteous service that has been extended to me.

I will work zealously for the welfare of the people in the Murchison-Eyre electorate, in recognition of the honour they have bestowed on me in electing me to represent them in this Parliament. I wish to offer my good wishes to others who, like myself, have recently succeeded in becoming members of this Parliament. I hope they will all have a long and meritorious career in Parliament.

In his speech last week the member for Northam mentioned that the Address-in-Reply debate was a golden opportunity for new members to highlight problems affecting their electorates. I therefore wish to avail myself of this opportunity to bring to the notice of this House some of the problems that are at present confronting the people of Murchison-Eyre.

Before proceeding, however, I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor and sponsor, Mr. Dick Burt. It was he who first suggested that I should put myself forward as a candidate for parliamentary honours. For this I am deeply grateful, and I am sure it was his influence amongst the electors of Murchison-Eyre that paved the way for my succession to this electorate.

It was a matter of deep regret to the people of Murchison-Eyre that Mr. Burt announced his retirement. I realise what a tremendous responsibility rests with me to follow in his footsteps but it is a task I undertake with enthusiasm, as I have at least had the opportunity, in the last seven years, to watch Dick at close range.

During my seven years as a sales representative in what is basically the Murchison-Eyre electorate I have gained an insight into what this job entails. Only time will tell how successful I will be.

The electorate that I represent is, I believe, one of the largest in the State and has the smallest number of electors. This is a situation that I feel sure will not last for very long. I firmly believe that a tremendous upsurge will take place in mining development which will be unprecedented in the history of the goldfields. Not the least of these developments will take place in my old home town of Agnew. I also spent some of my early working years at Lancefield goldmine at Laverton, and I am particularly pleased at the prosperity which is about to envelop that area.

It is most distressing to the people of Laverton to find that the Poseidon company is proceeding with the development of a separate town at Mt. Windarra. To my mind it would appear that the disadvantages of the daily 15-mile journey each way by the work force would be more than compensated by having all the Government instrumentalities located in the Laverton township. The fact that all facilities are already in existence at Laverton would obviate the necessity of duplicating the whole civic structure and ancillary services, and surely would save the developing company many hundreds of thousands of dollars in development costs. I understand that the Poseidon company and the Laverton Shire are having discussions today, and I sincerely hope something of benefit to Laverton will ensue, otherwise the future of the town will be very bleak indeed and the business people could be left high and dry.

The future of Laverton, of course, could revolve around Union Oil and Hanna Homestake of Canada, if the current explorations of those concerns live up to expectations. In that case, Laverton would not be so dependent on Poseidon.

The projected plan of the Walkabout motel company to build a \$1,250,000 hotel-motel in Laverton would undoubtedly be one of the first casualties in the area and people would even have grave misgivings about upgrading the present hotel.

I made a recent tour through my electorate in company with two other members and we were shocked at the tragedy that has befallen pastoralists throughout the entire area. This situation is attributable mainly to the drought conditions which have left what is considered to be the best woolgrowing area in the whole of the State almost completely devoid of ground feed. Even the mulga which provides a certain amount of feed is also dying. In the Leonora-Laverton-Sandstone area, which is probably the worst affected, most pastoralists are down to half and

even less of their usual stock numbers, and those sheep surviving have dropped production by 40 per cent.

The low price of wool is a real body blow and makes the situation doubly serious. Yet, despite the reduced circumstances in which the people find themselves, they are still optimistic and planning ahead and hoping for rain which will allow them to remain on their properties until the wool price support scheme is implemented by the Federal Government. I believe good general rain was experienced during the weekend almost throughout the whole of my electorate; but as usual, Sandstone missed out. This rain will undoubtedly alleviate the situation to some extent.

I have related two important factors that are causing grave concern to pastoralists; however, there is still another serious obstacle which affects their progress. I refer to the mining and exploration activities that are taking place on pastoral leases. The damage done to properties by pegging teams and geological survey groups has been well publicised; but I wish to raise the matter of compensation, as in some cases the activities of mining people make the operation of wool production almost impossible.

One of the ideas put forward recently seems to me to have real merit. An annual lease rental of \$75 is paid together with the survey fee at the time of registering the claim. Thereafter, an annual lease rental is paid after the lease is approved by the Minister. Could not a portion of this rental—say, \$10 on each claim—be returned to the pastoralist for each claim pegged on his property? On many properties up to 300 or 400 claims have been pegged, and that would mean that \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year would be paid to the pastoralist to compensate him for the wear and tear on his roads, damage to fences, loss of some of his paddocks, and the general interference with his livelihood.

To take this idea a step further, why could not a similar benefit be applied to the shire councils? As an example, let me mention the Leonora Shire in which something like 7,000 claims have been registered. If \$10 a claim was allocated to that shire each year, \$70,000 in additional revenue would result and the shire would ensure that the money would be spent in the area from which it came, thus providing better amenities for the people who live in the region. I am sure this idea could be expanded and made practical.

One of the most interesting conversations we had on our recent trip was with the matron of the Leonora Hospital. Matron Canning is an extremely capable person who takes a great interest in the welfare of native children. From her experience over the years, she feels that insufficient work is being done for native children after they leave school. Usually

they return to the reserve or station from which they came and a great deal of the training they receive in hygiene and school lessons is lost. She strongly advocated the establishment of a work training centre at Kalgoorlie or Geraldton where the education of these children could be continued instead of being lost to them.

The matron's thoughts on native children were taken a little further by Mr. and Mrs. West of the Kiara Hostel at Cue. They expressed the opinion that a kindergarten is also a great necessity in order to teach the younger children normal hygiene and social behaviour instead of leaving this form of training to the teachers when they begin primary schooling.

One of the most urgent needs of my electorate is cheaper electric power, and in relation to this a promise was made by the previous Government—a promise which was enthusiastically welcomed. Householders, generally, are availing themselves of the benefits of air conditioning and other electrical conveniences, but at the present time the charges of between 14c and 18c a unit make the cost of such amenities almost prohibitive. I am sure the present Government could give consideration to subsidising the electricity charges, particularly for householders.

It is pleasing to note that the building of a new police station at Leonora is in the preparatory stage. This project is long overdue and the fact that the station is now to be sited in the main street will uplift the appearance of the business area to some degree. I am sure the police staff will work much more efficiently and happily in their new surroundings.

While on the subject of police stations I must mention the appalling and antiquated conditions that exist at Laverton. On the day that we visited the town six young natives who had just been sentenced were being held in the gaol prior to being sent to Kalgoorlie. The officer in charge was on relieving duty only and did not have his family with him. This caused a problem in regard to feeding the prisoners. Normally one of the officers' wives attends to the cooking. However, at present the cooking is attended to by one of the four constables and the food is prepared on an open fire in the police yard. The officer in charge was most concerned about the general security of the station—I am quite sure the police would not sleep very well whilst prisoners were in custody.

The upgrading of the Meekatharra school to a three-year high school is well under way. I understand that tenders are about to be called for additional classrooms and the project should be ready for the beginning of the 1972 school year. It is to be hoped that consideration will be given to the establishment of a regional hostel in Meekatharra to cater for station students.

This would also provide accommodation for high school students from the neighbouring towns.

Meekatharra is a busy, bustling town, and being the railhead for the area it is a centre for several major transport companies. It is the jumping-off place for transport vehicles which travel to Paraburdoo, Newman, and Port Hedland. The Meekatharra Airport is an alternative airport for overseas planes, and this helps the town considerably because the Department of Civil Aviation maintains a reasonable number of radio operators, technicians, and weather men.

The construction of a new civic hall and shire offices at Meekatharra is well under way. An amount of \$179,000 is being spent on this project which will complement the new police station completed several years ago. I think the development which has taken place at Meekatharra is a first-class example of the benefits of decentralisation.

The last point I wish to mention concerns the Hill 50 goldmine which is at present the only goldmine operating in the whole of the Murchison area. I think the operation of this mine would be helped considerably by an increase in the gold subsidy. At the present time the mine is maintaining production and extensive prospecting for nickel is taking place. If nickel is found I think the prospects for the entire area will be enhanced. I would like to wind up my remarks on that note, and I wish to thank members for the attention they have paid to my speech.

*Sitting suspended from 6.12 to 7.30 p.m.*

**MR. HARTREY** (Boulder-Dundas) [7.30 p.m.]: May I, in the first place, follow the admirable example of those who have already spoken and extend to you, Sir, my heartiest congratulations on your elevation to the high and dignified post of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia.

Already in the brief life of this Parliament you have given eminent proof that you possess those innate gifts of wisdom and justice and the acquired qualities of experience and learning which admirably fit you to discharge the onerous duties of your high office.

May I congratulate, most humbly, the other members besides myself who have been admitted for the first time to this august assembly. Some of them have already made very good speeches and I await with interest to hear those of the other members who have not spoken.

I feel that I can describe myself in more senses than one as a latecomer. I arrived here rather late in life and I also arrived a little late during the opening of Parliament. This, however, was a great advantage because I received at your gracious

hands, Sir, the oath of allegiance to our most gracious Sovereign. So I feel that I was not the loser by that episode.

I join with the member for Merredin-Yilgarn in paying a tribute to his and my old colleague and friend Jim Garrigan, who passed away after the last session of Parliament. He was a most valuable goldfields member; a highly popular man in another place, and a very highly respected member of this Parliament. I would like to pay him a very sincere tribute.

At the same time I am happy to pay a tribute to my immediate predecessor as the member for Boulder-Dundas. I refer, of course, to Arthur Moir who was a member of this House for close on 20 years. He represented the goldfields characteristically and industriously. He was himself a miner and had he not been he might still have been a member of this Parliament. Unfortunately, however, he and Mr. Garrigan became the victims of what is commonly known as miner's complaint, or silicosis.

It was silicosis that took the life of Jimmy Garrigan and the health of Arthur Moir. Never having been very industrious I might point out that I am in no danger of contracting an industrial disease. Before I go any further I would like to thank the electors of my constituency for the confidence they have reposed in me; and I would like to express my appreciation of its loyalty to the political party whose cause I am proud to espouse tonight.

In 1905 the electorate of Boulder was first represented by a man who left his mark on the history of Western Australia. I refer, of course, to Philip Collier who was Premier of Western Australia for several terms. He was a man who did more than any other man in the cause of Labor so far as State politics are concerned. Ever since his election he has been succeeded by a series of Labor members. They have all, up till now, upheld the dignity and the honour of the constituency, and I trust I shall walk in their footsteps humbly and with a full sense of responsibility as to what is required.

I would now like to congratulate the Government on the comprehensive programme of legislative reform which it has foreshadowed in the Speech of His Excellency the Governor to which we are now replying. I am pleased to note that some quite novel propositions are being put forward. They are novel so far as the Legislature of this State is concerned, but they are by no means novel for those people who have progressive minds.

Consumer protection is something which has long been close to my heart, because over the last 30 years I have been a bush lawyer; and no man can hold that humble but useful office without becoming familiar with some of the real problems of the average man. I am not a "corporation

lawyer" as they say in the United States; I do not act for wealthy people. For most of my life I have acted for the humble folk, the wage earners, the small producers and those people who are not wealthy but who are the victims of the very great. They are, particularly, victims in the matter of purchasing.

The subject of consumer protection is closely allied to another matter on which I wish to speak. I refer to selective price control. It is selective because it involves legislation to protect common people from well-known swindles. There are few people who have had more knowledge of common well-known swindlers than I have, but if there is anybody who has had more knowledge of these people I would like to shake him by the hand and give him a leather medal.

One of the most dangerous swindles is that connected with hire purchase, and if we are to have consumer protection at all we must also have hire-purchase protection.

In 1958 the Labor Party did introduce hire-purchase legislation. It was not, of course, the first piece of hire-purchase legislation, because the Opposition party enacted similar legislation in 1931. This legislation was passed but it was not very strong. It did, however, provide protection and was useful in its day.

The Labor Party's legislation in 1958 was a little unlucky because it never saw the light of day. It was replaced by less strong and less justifiable legislation introduced by my friends on the other side of the Chamber.

Capitalism is a very difficult conspiracy to overthrow. It is a vitally entrenched force. It is advised by corporation lawyers, and others, in various ways of evading the law. One of these ways is undoubtedly the chattel mortgage.

One of the first things we should do in any consumer protection legislation is to make it unlawful to have such a chattel mortgage in substitution for a straightout hire-purchase agreement. Most members at some time in their lives have been familiar with a hire-purchase agreement. The essence of this is that the chattel actually belongs to the finance company. The wholesaler and retailer of the commodity sell to the finance company and the finance company sells the commodity to the hire purchaser and remains in all material respects the owner of the property. Some of these hire-purchase agreements included extraordinarily unconscionable clauses, some of which I am happy to say were forbidden by the Act passed by the present Opposition.

The Act the Government passed has for the last five years at least been evaded by a pretext known as the chattel mortgage. The Hire-Purchase Act defines a hire purchase in effect as any agreement for the

acquisition of goods on time payment, provided that it does not apply to people who deal on a wholesale scale in those goods.

I do not know why this should be so, but it does not apply also where the ownership of the goods passes before the agreement is entered into. That never happens with a hire-purchase agreement, so that is all right; but it passes with a chattel mortgage when the finance company solemnly makes over the ownership of the goods to the man taking them on hire purchase—for as long only as it takes him to sign the paper. The ownership immediately goes back to the mortgagee of the chattel. It reverts to the grantee of the bill of sale—in other words of the chattel mortgage.

From then on the goods do not belong to the hire purchaser. He has the disadvantage of being technically the legal owner but he is excluded from any benefit at all under the Hire-Purchase Act. He is also excluded from the hire-purchase provisions relating to insurance and is not given the right to select an insurance company of his own choice. Hence he is compelled to take whatever insurance company the mortgagee wishes to inflict on him. Furthermore, such insurance company can insist that any claim be referred to arbitration, and although it is probably regarded among citizens as an easy way to avoid legal costs, this is far more tedious and expensive than any proceedings in a local court. Accordingly, any person who is taken-in, and signs a chattel mortgage, could be in real trouble. This is the first form of consumer protection I wish to see introduced. Seeing how my friends opposite might have been hoodwinked in the past I hope they will vote solidly both here and in another place for the proposition I have mentioned.

There are other aspects of consumer protection which are important and one refers to the crackerjack itinerant salesman. Most people may realise that there are more things in our philosophy than are ever dreamed of. We have the case of housewives who may be called to the door by some smiling, nicely dressed, and vivacious young man who, after a short time, might get her to sign on the dotted line.

If she is buying a fur coat for \$500 it does not bind her husband, but of course she may be buying a set of books for her little children—"to give them the advantage of learning at home," is the line usually adopted by such salesmen. As a rule women are generally taken in by such methods and they sign a contract which binds them to make the necessary payments.

This position has, however, been relieved to some extent, and again I pay a tribute to our opponents on the other side of the House for having provided this protection. All the swindlers, however, do not sell

books. Some of them sell Rena-Ware and all sorts of other commodities such as floor polishers and so on. The goods are generally of poor quality and provide unfair competition to the retailer in the town—the man who pays rates and taxes to the local municipality while still having to put up with this unfair competition.

There is no chance of repentance for any person who gets caught by the itinerant salesman except if he happens to be buying books. I earnestly hope this matter will be attended to by the Government under the heading of consumer protection because action is badly needed.

There is another aspect of consumer protection that I mentioned earlier in passing, but would now like to discuss further. I am referring to hire-purchaser protection. A hire purchaser must be protected not only from the finance company, but also from the insurance company. Bookmakers have never been very highly regarded in the community, although they are very rarely poor. However, we do not see any of them with castles at every street corner, in the central part of all the biggest cities of Australia or, for that matter, the biggest cities of the world. However, we do see insurance companies similarly situated. Why is this?

If a bookmaker loses a bet he must pay. If he welches he is out. He may not pay that one bet, but then he will never get another one. He cannot even appear at a racecourse, whether he is licensed by law, as here, or whether he is not, as is the case in many other places. However, he will not practise if he welches on a bet.

This does not apply to the insurance companies. The insurance company which did not welch on a bet would be a freak. I have had so many examples of this that it makes my heart bleed to think of them, but one example is particularly brilliant. A young fellow whose name I can recall but will not mention here brought a motor-car for \$1,000. The actual price was \$700 plus the insurance, plus this, plus that, and so on, which brought the price to \$1,000. He traded in something as a deposit of \$300 and then five days later he had an accident and the vehicle was a wreck. He had paid \$70 as premium to an insurance company which was a branch of the finance company but when he made his claim he was told that the value of the vehicle was assessed at the market value, which was only \$240.

From this amount must be deducted the \$50 he had to pay as a minor, which reduced the amount to \$190. Deduct another \$50 which was in the franchise anyhow, and that reduces the amount to \$140. Take off the salvage, which was worth \$90, and that meant the insurance company showed a cop of \$10 by having a loss! A bookmaker certainly could not win when he lost! If he did he would be magnificent!

This is not a joke. I am telling the facts. I have never struck another one quite as good as that, but I have dealt with many on the same principle. A hire purchaser undertakes a transaction. He sees he will owe \$2,400 so he insures the article for that amount so that if anything happens to it he will be able to pay for it. However, he will not be able to do anything of the sort. Whether he insures the article for \$2,000 or \$2,400 it will not make any difference to what he will get, because if he suffers a loss the article will be assessed at the market value and the assessors will blind him with science. If he goes to court he will still lose. I can quote some cases which were not commenced at my instigation. There was one case which was not a bad one either, but only one judge was on my side. One has to have two out of three.

These are matters which are vital to the constituents not only in Boulder where the electors vote Labor three to one, but also in Bunbury where the electors do not vote Labor at all but vote for the Opposition. This is not a party question. If a man gets robbed under an agreement he becomes hot and wild no matter what party he supports, whether it be the Labor Party, the Country Party, the Liberal Party, or even the Communist Party for that matter. These are matters in connection with which I consider this Government when it raises them will be conferring a general benefit on the whole community. I really do hope and quite confidently expect that many members on the opposite side will co-operate in an endeavour to do justice to the ordinary rank-and-file citizens.

That is one aspect of the new programme, but there is another, of course; that is, selective price control. Here my big number tens will land on someone's toes for sure, but I cannot help that. We have a spiral of inflation which the Federal Government will not attempt to control—and I will deal with that Government directly—but which we are entitled to try to control. There are difficulties in a price fixing system which applies to one State only in comparison with a price fixing system which applies uniformly to all States, but there are no advantages in sitting down and waiting for a Government which will not do anything but talk about the matter.

Therefore this Government has taken the bit between its teeth and has said it will introduce selective price control. I am not a member of Cabinet—thank God for the Cabinet's sake and probably for the State's sake—and am not in its confidence. Consequently I do not know what Cabinet has in mind, but I feel sure that one of the items it will study very carefully is in relation to rents, which are quite extortionate and quite above the real economic value of the land, housing, or shops being rented.

Another aspect, of course, concerns the staple commodities, especially food, the prices of which, as everyone knows, are extortionate. I am sure my friends in the Country Party will agree because everyone knows that the producers of food get a miserable pittance in comparison with what the people who buy the food must pay for it.

The man who produces eggs may prefer to throw them over the fence rather than sell them because he frequently does not obtain enough for them to cover even the packaging. And yet the consumer does not obtain eggs for nothing, especially at the present time when the prices are extortionate. The same principle applies to fruit, vegetables, and meat. In the part of the country from which I come the sheep are in such a deplorable condition that those which are not dead are dying. It is possible to buy quite good sheep for almost nothing, but if I tried to buy a leg of lamb from a butcher in Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie, I would have to pay a shocking price for it. It is astonishing the prices the middleman can obtain, and that is why selective price control is necessary.

Rent and food are the biggest items for every man with a family, or without one for that matter, and therefore I suggest that in connection with these items we can expect quite a lot of help and support not only from our Liberal friends opposite, but also from our Country Party friends and, of course, from the loyal supporters of the Premier. It will be one of those matters on which we will be unanimous, and that is nice. So far I have been impressed with the cordiality of the atmosphere in this Chamber. I never expected it to be tempestuous or stormy and thought it would be better than the atmosphere in the Federal Parliament, but I did not believe it would be quite so friendly as it has been and I am delighted this is the case. In all sincerity and humility I compliment members on this fact. I will admit that I thoroughly enjoyed the little bit of chitchat from side to side concerning the election promises. The Liberal Party very politely told the Government it had made promises it could not carry out, and the Labor Party has told the Liberal Party that it had done nothing while in office. It was all very nice to hear.

It made me chuckle because it reminded me of what Benjamin Stone said in 1812. He was the Governor of Massachusetts, and after he had been elected he said, "Those promises which I have made and which I can keep I will keep; those that I cannot keep I will renew."

I hope that what I have said about selective price control covers what the Government has in mind. If so, the Government will have my support, and I am sure the support of members opposite.

I come now to another aspect of progressive law reform; that is, the Mines Regulation Act. I am going to quote an incident which vividly illustrates the weakness of legislation by regulation. Any Government—this one or any other—must keep a watch all the time. "The price of liberty is eternal vigilance," as far as democracy is concerned. Regulation must not make an ass of legislation.

In 1895 in the Parliament of Western Australia the Mines Regulation Act was passed and it was based on the English Metalliferous Mines Act of 1873. It contained some very valuable protective provisions. The regulations were in the Act and no-one could fool about with them. In 1906 an Act was passed which provided that regulations could be made and then directed that the regulations should be made.

That Act was re-enacted in 1946. I am not going to blame my friends opposite for that because it was a Labor Government which did that. Therefore regulations can still be made. I propose to read regulation 4 made under the Mines Regulation Act of 1946 and I will indicate the disastrous result of it.

There was, and still is, in Norseman, which is part of my constituency, a very able and admirable type of character. He was a regimental sergeant-major, and although that type of person is not usually particularly popular, the person about whom I am speaking was. He was a very intelligent man and worked as a miner. He spent his spare time filling in the taxation returns of his friends, for nothing. He wrote little paragraphs of news for *The West Australian* and the *Kalgoorlie Miner* and had a better than average intellect as well as a powerful physique.

His job was to ride in the skip down the shaft at an angle of 45 degrees and throw off the stones which might have accumulated on the rails so that when the first cage of the day went down it would not be derailed and therefore no-one would be hurt. He was doing that one morning when a big 28-pound stone from above struck him on the head and wrecked his life. He stutters, is paralysed, and has now only half the mental capacity he had previously, although he is quite rational and is a very courageous type of man.

We have a Mines Regulation Act which states that there shall be a sufficient cover overhead, securely hung on hinges, to protect any person in a skip or cage in a working shaft. This, of course, was a working shaft or he would not have been there. There was no cover overhead at all and *ipso facto* according to the law there was a breach of the regulation made for the protection of the workers, and this automatically leads to damages. But in this man's case it did not lead to anything of the sort.

The State Government Insurance Office, which of course is one of those very generous organisations as far as the worker is concerned, and insists on the last ounce of flesh, raised two defences. One of these was held by the judge to be invalid. It was said that there was no overhead on that shaft. It was said the man was not in a vertical position because the shaft was at an angle of 45 degrees, and that therefore there was no overhead. The judge would not wear that, and I am not very surprised. The other matter raised was in relation to regulation 4 of the Mines Regulation Act of 1946. This regulation is still law, but I sincerely hope that my colleagues, and particularly those in Cabinet, will get rid of this regulation before we next meet. It states—

The provisions of Parts IV to X inclusive, and Part XIII are hereby declared, pursuant to subsection (4) of Section 61 of the Act, to be the general rules and shall be observed in all mines—

Who would complain at that? It is why the Act was passed. However, I ask members to listen to the rest. It continues—

—wherever and so far as in the opinion of the inspector they are reasonably practicable of application.

The effect is that Parliament passed an Act for the protection of mineworkers. Members of Parliament at the time honestly thought it would do a great job. All it has done is to give some stooge in the bureaucracy a chance to nullify the Act. It is a question of, "We don't have to pay unless the inspector says so. We don't have to worry at all."

"China Ryan", whom I mentioned previously, would have got £15,000 because Judge Negus said this on the Bench. However, he did not receive anything at all. In my ignorance—it strengthens a man if he does not know what he is talking about—I said, "This will go to the High Court of Australia. No body of men can make a regulation to nullify an Act of Parliament." I took it to the High Court where there were five learned judges and not one of them on my side. We have our little troubles, even in legal circles. The regulation was watertight. It nullified an entire Act of Parliament and has continued to do so ever since. Possibly but for the political accident of my being elected to represent Boulder-Dundas it might have continued to do so for the next 10 years. I hope that position will now be changed. This is the kind of action we want to see taken in this Parliament. I am sure the present Government will take the necessary action as part of its progressive programme of legislation.

I come now to the hardy perennial of workers' compensation. This is a subject with which I have been quite familiar

over many years. I think the member for Subiaco may be interested in my next comments. I consider the Workers' Compensation Act is weak in the provision for compensation for a person who actually meets with what the medical profession, as well as myself, call either a cardio-vascular, or cerebral-vascular, accident. The onus is on the widow of a man, if he dies at work, to prove that he has suffered from a cardio-vascular or coronary occlusion. If such a man has become exhausted and drops dead, the widow has to prove that it was the work that caused this to happen. Everyone knows it can happen without work. The member for Subiaco will corroborate on that statement. A man can die of a cardio-vascular occlusion while he is lying on his back. It may be immediately precipitated by a cough or by a motion of the bowels but it does not have to be precipitated by anything.

It can simply happen, but if it happens at work it is often ridiculous to say that some factor at work has not contributed to its occurrence. However, this is almost impossible to prove. The onus of proof is on the wretched widow if the man dies, and on the poor fellow himself if he does not die. The result is that in most cases the widow or the man does not receive any workers' compensation. That is my experience, I assure members.

I can recall one case in particular. The widow's husband had been a skip man. To my mind the evidence left no doubt at all. About 1.30 in the afternoon he threw out six huge logs from the skip. He was standing in the corner on two brackets, because there was not enough room to stand on the logs. He heaved them out onto the plat. Having done that he signalled to go up top and, having reached ground level, he got a load of 36 gimlets which were the same length as the others but nowhere near the same thickness. He took the 36 gimlets down and started to throw them out. When he had thrown out the last one a worker approached and asked to be taken to the surface so that he could go to the dentist. He put up his hand, touched the line, and dropped dead. His widow did not receive any compensation.

Let us make an amendment to the Workers' Compensation Act which will at least throw upon the employer the onus of disproving that the occlusion is not immediately attributable to the work instead of the onus being upon the widow, or the man if he survives, to prove that work was responsible. It is practically impossible, as I said, to prove this, but it is more than highly probable as any fair minded medical man must admit. This is one matter which I hope the Parliament will attend to.



Another medical matter upon which I would like to touch is impairment of hearing through industrial factors. This should receive compensation. It is commonly called boilermakers' deafness and is very common in Boulder and Kalgoorlie, especially amongst machine miners. Vibration and noise diminishes their hearing very considerably. I am quite certain of this, because I deal with miners every day of the week. I suppose I have to shout to one in every three and to another one in every three I have to raise my voice. The others can hear all right. Men may be doing the same type of work but the same noise does not affect them all in the same way. Two-thirds of machine miners suffer from impaired hearing and some are as deaf as beetles. This is dangerous when men are working underground. It is certainly dangerous for them not to be able to hear what is coming. Nevertheless, men who, to my knowledge, are quite deaf are still working underground. Compensation for this should be included in the third schedule to the Workers' Compensation Act.

While on the subject of the Workers' Compensation Act I mention, incidentally, that section 8, subsection (13), should be taken from the Act. However, this is a matter which can be dealt with in more detail later. I will not weary the House by going into it now.

I wish to touch upon one other subject before I conclude. To my way of thinking this is the most important subject which the people of Western Australia, and every other State in Australia, have to face in the near future. In recent years, and recent months in particular, it has become a major problem affecting the Australian way of life. I refer to the subject to which the member for Wembley referred the other day: the state of Federal-State financial relations. It is absolutely farcical that we should continue as a nation on the present basis. The nation does not consist of the Commonwealth Parliament, Commonwealth Government, Commonwealth politicians, and the Commonwealth bureaucracy. It consists of all the people who are born in the six States of Australia.

There is, of course, Federal territory and people born there are entitled to call themselves Australians too. I accept them as such, but I maintain that few Australians are not citizens of a State. What is the situation today? It is exactly as it was foretold by Alfred Deakin, who was one of the persons responsible for this atrocity. I shall quote from a book which was written on his life by the late Professor Sir Walter Murdoch, my old friend and tutor for many years. He quotes from a speech in these words—

As the power of the purse in Great Britain established by degrees the authority of the Commons, it will ultimately establish in Australia the authority of the Commonwealth. The

rights of the States have been fondly supposed to be safeguarded by the Constitution. It left them legally free, but financially bound to the chariot wheels of the central Government.

"Bound to the chariot wheels"! Do members like to think of themselves running like prisoners of war behind a Roman chariot? I do not. It continues—

Their need will be its opportunity. The less populous will first succumb. Those smitten by drought or similar misfortune will follow, and finally even the greatest and most prosperous will, however reluctantly, be brought to heel.

"Brought to heel"! Like a dog! We are worse than that. Not only have we been brought to heel, but we are sitting on our haunches and begging as well. The Commonwealth has trained the dogs to beg. As an Australian, I am sick of begging and sick of seeing money squandered on the most idiotic ventures and military exercises whilst it is urgently needed for every real and necessary facility in a civilised community.

Against this, let me quote the words of President Coolidge of the United States in a speech he delivered at Williamsburg, Virginia, in July, 1926. He said—

If the General Government of these United States were suspended for three months, I venture to think that the great majority of our nation would scarcely notice the difference. But if the Governments of the States should be subverted, or their authority overthrown, within twenty four hours the entire Republic would be brought to the verge of chaos and ruin.

How true that is!

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has five more minutes.

Mr. HARTREY: I am obliged to you, Mr. Speaker. Let us look at what the States have provided. Water supplies come immediately to mind. God help us if we had not provided them! We could not live without water supplies in the area I represent. In addition, the States provide roads, bridges, schools, fire brigades, police, hospitals, medical services: in fact, everything people cannot live without has to be provided by the States. Yet we are told it is a disgrace for us to have a deficit of \$30,000,000, and for Queensland to have a deficit of \$60,000,000 is a shocking disgrace.

It is a disgrace for the Australian people as a whole to tolerate this kind of thing. It may be answered, "The States have no remedy. We cannot amend the Commonwealth Constitution. Only the Commonwealth Parliament can initiate a referendum to amend it." We can amend the Commonwealth Parliament but, irrespective of that, we can do something else.

I urgently ask every member—irrespective of political allegiance—to consider that we are all Australians. We are all Australians by nationality, if not by origin. We have to be either born Australian or naturalised Australian to be elected to Parliament. We are all Australian citizens. We should all combine in our approach. We would not be on our own.

I am not talking secession, although I was strong in that movement at the time. I am referring to what would be a crusade. Our action would be echoed in Victoria where Sir Henry Bolte is preaching the same gospel. I differ from Sir Henry in many respects, but not in this, because on this subject we are allies to the hilt. Action on our part would receive support from the Liberal Premier in New South Wales. I am sure it would be supported by the gentleman who owes \$60,000,000 in Queensland. I hope that it would be strongly supported by the Labor Governments of Western Australia and South Australia. Tasmania would not want to be the odd man out. The action I suggest could be accomplished.

It is a humiliating and disgraceful spectacle that the elected Governments of six States should be compelled to go to Canberra every now and then to beg for money which is taken from us and wasted by the Federal Government. I remind members of only one occurrence. It was reported in *The West Australian* on the 11th February this year that the sum of \$7,000 was spent on bringing 108 soldiers from Melbourne to Canberra to form a guard of honour at the installation of the acting Governor-General who was to have that title for one week. Who wants to pay \$7,000 to see an acting Governor-General acting? The Federal Government can throw money away with both hands while our children have to go short of education, our wives short of medical attention, and our roads short of repair. It was shocking extravagance. I commend that thought to members as I conclude.

I thank members for having accorded to me the courtesy that is always accorded to a member making his maiden speech. God help me later on! In thanking members I refer to members of my own party and to members of the Opposition parties. Mr. Speaker, I particularly thank you for the courtesy which you have shown in listening to me and for your patience.

**MR. MENSAROS (Floreat) [8.15 p.m.]**: Mr. Speaker, I shall probably be less entertaining and less eloquent than the honourable member who just concluded a magnificent maiden speech and whose last remarks I especially appreciated coming from a Labor Party member and speaking for the State's rights.

I wish on this occasion to express my thanks and appreciation to the constituents of the Floreat electorate. The numerical as well as percentage increase in my primary vote at a time of an undoubted swing against my party, did, I hope, express confidence in my representation. I assure all my constituents of my endeavour to give them the efficient service to which they are entitled.

Mr. Speaker, there are no specific matters of urgency in my electorate which I could not cover by personal representation to various Ministers, or by questions to them. Therefore, I desire to turn the attention of the House to a matter which occupies foremost interest not only in my electorate but, I believe, throughout Australia and, indeed, throughout the Commonwealth. I am referring to a recently highlighted yet by no means novel increase of power of organisations and/or their leadership which will influence the everyday life of all citizens. I am speaking of the industrial unions.

These were established with a respectable aim yet were never charged instead of the responsible Government with governing the people. Their actions, however, indicate that they are trying to create, and often succeed in creating, conditions which adversely influence all the people. They create conditions which at best inconvenience the people, hinder them going about their lawful business and, at worst, endanger the whole economy and thereby the well-being of the community. This is an extraordinary development in a democratic society. It produces the question whether we are prepared to idly watch and accept the transfer of governing power or even some aspect of this power from constitutionally elected Governments to any individual or organisation. There is no doubt in my mind that the majority of the people are not prepared to accept this and consequently we have to find out how this undesirable situation developed and what can be done to prevent it. I shall endeavour to do so in a factual and objective way, not biased by emotion or even party politics.

Before doing so, however, let me make two points quite clear at the outset by answering two possible accusations—two critical questions which I can envisage could be justly levelled against me. The first one is why do I single out industrial unions as being the most dangerous organisations in usurping Government power; and the second, what gives me the right from the outside to deal with internal aims and organisations of unions?

The answer to the first question is simple because the unions represent the most potential and factual danger to our system of democracy. Whenever any true system of democracy was followed by some form of authoritarian regime, frequently with a spell of anarchy in between, this was always

caused by a disproportionate growth of one part of the Government, one section of the community, or perhaps of one individual. In older history sometimes it was the king, sometimes the nobility, the oligarchy, and sometimes the church or the army. Later, in more contemporary societies it was the Police Force or a political party with economic needs or national emotions. More often than not these organisations produced an idolized individual whose personality commanded more followers. If this growth of power was checked, as the King's power was with the Magna Carta and various other charters of the 13th century in other countries, and as the Roman Catholic Church was with the Reformation, and as the feudalists were in the mid 19th century revolutions, democracy of the time was saved. If it was not, anarchy and/or authoritarian rule followed.

It is obvious to me and apparently to most other people that today in our State and nation the unions have amassed such a disproportionate power which is bound to endanger our system of democracy.

The second question, the justification for discussing the internal aims and organisations of unions, can be answered by our system of arbitration. Industrial unions in Australia are not merely private organisations. Through compulsory arbitration, they are part and instruments of the economic system and as such influence the lives of almost the whole community. Therefore, it is not only the right but I think the duty of a member of Parliament to examine the affairs of these unions.

To deal with my originally proposed question of how this undesirable situation of usurping Government power without responsibility came about, one has to touch upon the origin and development of Australian trade unions.

We know that benefit and trade societies were already formed in the 1830s and 1840s. More permanent organisations were established in the 1850s. The building trade in Sydney and Melbourne achieved the first eight hour day around this time. Trade halls were built and the organisation of Labor councils became stronger and stronger and more co-ordinated.

The first inter-colonial trade union congress was held in 1879, and by the turn of the century there were 198 unions with a total membership approaching 100,000. The aims of these early associations were expressed in different ways. The Melbourne journeymen tailors were combined in the 1840s. They gave as their reason to raise the rates of pay and to get every member of the thimble and sleeve trade into constant employment.

Various friendly and benefit societies organised successful insurance funds and helped their members in sickness, in need,

and with funeral expenses. Later in 1895 the Amalgamated Railways and Tramways Association proclaimed as its aim to obtain shorter working days as labour-saving devices increased production with less labour.

There is not the time to go into the details of this interesting history. It can be seen, however, that the original aim of unions was to bring higher wages, to reduce working hours, to secure widespread employment, and to give mutual economic aid and improved working conditions.

These day-to-day practical aims were always mixed up with ideals. Every rule contains thoughts about new orders, about cultivating feelings of friendship, and the motto that all men are brethren. Advocates of unions state these ideals in various forms, sometimes as ideals with sincerity, sometimes as idolatry with hypocrisy. These ideals were only crystallised when the Marxist thoughts were ordered into a strict doctrinaire dogmatic form when they were accepted by both industry and labour as the political ideology of the Labor Party. From this time on the influences and connection of trade unions with political Labor parties became clearly understood, although it had not always been heralded and was not always officially acknowledged policy.

There could not be any objection to the original aims of the unions. Nor could there be, to my mind, any objection to the ideological convictions in social and political fields provided that the majority of the members agreed. The close influence and connection with the political Labor Party, however, soon found its critics, not only outside but also within the political and industrial wings. Opposition to close connections was always strong on both sides and conflicts always grew if political labour achieved power. Neither unions nor political administrators realised the responsibility of political power, the difference between agitation and revolt, and of victory and responsibility and the fact that Governments are responsible to the whole of the population and not only to their own supporters.

Unions always live more peacefully with non-Labor Governments and in countries where there is no compulsory arbitration they achieve even more of their original aims by retaining their own autonomy. Objective students of recent history will know—as I have personally experienced—what complete integration means between union and Government.

Mr. Jamieson: Have you ever belonged to a union?

Mr. MENSAROS: No, I have not.

Mr. Jamieson: You know all about them though.

Mr. MENSAROS: I never confess to such an all-embracing knowledge as the Minister for Works does, but I do understand the subject I am talking about.

Mr. Jamieson: So far you have not indicated it.

Mr. MENSAROS: Well, if the Minister will wait patiently he will see. My previous contention can be seen in every dictatorship, whether it was Peron, Salazar, or Stalin, and nobody could say—certainly I do not think the Minister could say—that the original aims of the unions are better achieved under those dictatorships than under Liberal Governments in Australia.

Let me quote an opinion by a union secretary, an historian and lawyer, Dr. Lloyd Ross, who says:

Co-operation of (Union and Government) in a democracy is co-operation between autonomous institutions, each with its own purpose and philosophy, leadership methods and aims. If co-operation were complete, the result would be the authoritarian relationship which exists in dictatorship.

There is another and even more important aspect of the development which led to the present situation and this is the practice of arbitration authorities in Australia, and especially in our State, to accept preference and/or compulsory union membership clauses in industrial awards. These clauses have come about by the lack of prohibitive provisions in either the Commonwealth Constitution or in subsequent Federal and State legislation. Preference clauses have also resulted from the interpretation of prohibitive judicial decisions regarding compulsion when it was held that to prohibit compulsory unionism does not mean to prohibit compulsory preference of employment to union members.

To my mind this is a queer interpretation which, in fact, declares that outlawing the greater evil automatically allows the lesser one.

Before dealing with the argument for and against compulsory unionism, and before trying to prove my contention that compulsion is the largest link in the chain of causes responsible for the present situation of usurping Government power by unions, let me show how preference and/or compulsory unionism developed in Western Australia and what it means.

Prior to 1960, arbitral authorities generally refused to grant claims by unions for preference and/or compulsory unionism, as it was held that no real grounds were substantiated by the unions. The court of arbitration enunciated criteria to be met for such grounds as follows:—

Discrimination against union members by employers.

Discrimination against unions by employers.

Hindrance by employers of attempts to organise by unions.

These are interesting criteria which have never been met, and yet arbitral authorities ceased to require them.

One significant departure from this principle was a preference clause in the building trades' award of 1938. This, however, was for the sole purpose of allowing unions to police the piecework provisions of the award.

The first breakthrough on this subject in Western Australia occurred in the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust case in 1960 when the court inserted a preference clause in the award. The clause required—

- (a) Employer to give preference of employment on engagement to members of the union.
- (b) Non members to apply within 14 days of engagement to become members and maintain financial membership.
- (c) Employer to dismiss any worker not meeting requirements of (a) and (b) hereof.
- (d) Worker, on ground of conscientious religious beliefs to be able to seek exemption. Equivalent of union subscription to be paid to charitable organisation nominated by the court of arbitration.

It can be seen that this, although not clear-cut compulsion, is not a simple preference either, which, of course, allows the employment of non unionists if a unionist is not offering himself for employment at the time of engagement and does not compel the non-unionist to join.

Subsequent preference clauses in similar terms to the transport trust case allowed by conciliation commissioners were appealed against. The appeals were dismissed by the court of arbitration which on the 28th September, 1961, held that—

- (i) The Act is framed to encourage the organisation of unions.
- (ii) Preference is a means of ensuring that there will be industrial peace and facilitates the exercise of control by the court upon union members.
- (iii) Preference is a feature of other industrial jurisdictions.

Again these are interesting grounds, especially the second one which, as we all know, proved the court wrong as the very contrary of industrial peace was ensured, and indeed was experienced.

Following this, the Government of the day—as older members will vividly recall from their personal experience—abandoned proposed new section 61A as an amendment to the Industrial Arbitration Act.

This proposed, but later abandoned, section provided that the new Industrial Commission "may" insert in awards a simple preference clause. It aimed, by implication, at limiting the commission expressly to preference, thus negating any right to order compulsion or the dismissal of workers if they failed to join the union—which is preference cum compulsion.

Yet the new section 61B which provided for employees to seek exemption from the need to be a member of a union was retained. Ironically this new section was ultimately relied upon by the commission to establish its jurisdiction for inserting preference cum compulsion clauses into awards. In the food preservers' case on the 28th August, 1964, the commission decided that—

- (i) Unions have to accept the burden of "policing awards" and this can best be done if a significantly high proportion of workers are unionists.
- (ii) Unions can best observe their obligations under the Act if they can control as many workers as possible by union rules of membership.
- (iii) The new clause was not onerous upon employers as it placed most of the obligations on the worker and/or the union.

Again it is interesting to note the first and second points, which did not prove the anticipations of the commission at all.

Since then unions generally succeeded in obtaining the preference cum compulsion clause without having to put a case of any substance. This means that employees who refuse to join the unions can be, and are continuously, prosecuted and fined for breach of the award. So are employers prosecuted if and when the union cares to send a member along to fill a vacancy. I know of a case where a 78-year-old union member was offered. This would have compelled the employer to enter a costly and lengthy legal process to prove the unequal qualification, only to find that, if he did so, by that time a younger man was offered. So *de facto* compulsory unionism stayed with us.

Among the arguments for compulsion are, as I have pointed out, the arbitration court's ruling in 1961 and the commission's decision in 1964. As one reason for preference, both list that by controlling more members the unions will adhere to the awards, and industrial peace will be secured. The wishful thinking of this argument became only too evident by the waves of excessive industrial unrest during the last years.

One of the strongest recurring arguments for compulsion, or "union security" as it is kindly termed, is that it is only fair for everyone to contribute to the work

which unions put into securing better working conditions. This argument has more weight in countries where industrial awards emanate solely from collective bargaining, and a particular union is registered to conduct this bargaining with the employer. Even there, however, in my opinion it cannot be sustained. The individual's right to associate or not to associate himself, his right to work and live at a place of his choice, must be superior.

There is no compulsory membership in employers' associations which provide the same bargaining for non-member employers as unions should for non-union workers. There are many associations helping the community in several ways even if the recipients do not contribute to them. To take a local example: Of all the people who are assisted by the St. John Ambulance only 55 per cent. are contributors to the St. John Ambulance Association.

In Australia this argument falls even more, because in our system of arbitration it is not the unions that secure the working conditions. These are granted by the arbitration system with the unions simply appearing as advocates for the workers' interests. Not all awards are even opposed by unions. Many are granted automatically and many conditions in awards are inserted by the commission.

Another important philosophical argument for compulsion was best expressed by Walter Reuther, the late President of the U.A.W. At a United States Senate Committee hearing he said—

Freedom is not an absolute but relative value. You can exercise what we call human freedom in a given society only in your relationship to other people. This applies to the local, State, national and even world community. You have no human freedom excepting in your relationship to other people. Freedom of speech, for example, does not mean that you can yell "Fire" in a crowded theatre.

The validity of this argument, of course, depends on a question of degree. I go along with the relative value theory, but only to the extent where exercise of excessive freedom—like yelling "Fire" in a crowded theatre in Reuther's example—results in considerable disadvantage to the majority of other people. In the case of compulsory unionism, non-association only denies the easy access to funds by unions.

Then we have the argument that every democratic society works on the principle of majority decision. If union members decide for compulsion, then every worker should be compelled to join and pay his dues, just as no citizen can opt out from paying taxes or being conscripted. This is the very argument which I have to reject most emphatically, because unions are not, and should not be, allowed to be Governments. They should not be Governments

beside, or instead of, the elected Governments; nor should they be Governments within Governments.

If we accept the majority rule principle in this context, this would mean that because in a given electorate the majority of people voted Liberal, all the others should be compelled to join the Liberal Party.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: How often has more than half of the electorate voted Liberal?

Mr. Court: Plenty of times.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: Have a look at the figures for the last election and revise your ideas.

Mr. MENSAROS: More than half of the electorate has voted Liberal plenty of times. This argument of, "No representation without taxation"—revolving around the reverse principle of the American War of Independence—claims governmental power for unions. Unions are, and should be, free associations. Members can be bound only by majority decision if they join freely and if they are free to leave. Compulsion, however, involving outsiders who do not wish to join, cannot be tolerated.

There are numerous and very valid arguments against compulsion. Almost every judicial authority came out against compulsion, even if they had to allow preference clauses, which were not prohibited by Statutes. Yet the arguments listed by learned judges against compulsion are also valid against preference, because preference became *de facto* compulsion. I will quote only one of these arguments. In the Queensland Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Stable said—

A man's freedom to live and work as he chose could not be lightly taken away or impaired. If an Act of Parliament was relied upon to take away or impair a man's freedom in that respect, then the Courts would look to see that what Parliament had said was clear and unambiguous.

I do not necessarily subscribe to the theory that the United Nations shall tell Australia what to do or what not to do, but for the benefit of those who incessantly refer to the great moral authority of the United Nations—I suppose mostly when it suits them—I would like to refer to the Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations.

Article 20 of the declaration states—

Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceable assembly and association, and no one may be compelled to belong to an association.

One cannot ascertain whether the majority of union members really want compulsion. It is an undoubted fact, however, that the vast majority of the public is against it. Repeated Gallup poll findings show that from 1943 to date between 64 per cent. and 69 per cent.—that is, two out of three people—think that membership of trade

unions should be voluntary. How strong this feeling is at a time of crisis has been expressed at the recent Queensland by-elections. This will no doubt be appreciated and understood by members.

This does not necessarily mean that I am in support of legislating only on popular request. On the contrary, I think a Government is entitled—indeed, is duty bound at times—to bring down some measures which it thinks are right even if not popular, as Governments have more information than the public to judge the issues. If, however, initially unpopular measures gradually do prove themselves right, they will, in due course, receive public approval. Compulsory unionism, however, has never at any time obtained public approval.

Doing away with compulsion—to list another argument against it—would answer the often and rightly-criticised union affiliation with the political Labor Party.

I do not think there is anything wrong with political affiliation, or even with paying subscriptions or giving donations to political parties. What makes it wrong and objectionable is the compulsion of membership. In a voluntary organisation members may leave the union if the funds of the union are used for objectionable purposes, and that is the reason most voluntary organisations refrain from making any controversial decisions unless they are backed by a great majority of the members.

*De facto* compulsory unionism creates the farcical situation where an employee can sack his boss, but he cannot sack his union.

Neither does the provision for the exemption of conscientious objectors prove that compulsory unionism is right. The exemption clause is worthless, even in principle, as it includes compulsory payment by the objector in lieu of his union fees.

It is incredible to assume that most workers are so spineless that they would only seek exemption for the sake of avoiding the payment; yet these are the very spineless workers whom the unions want as members.

In practice, however, the exemption clause is not worth anything. Today none of the unions object to it any more; on the contrary, they offer this clause as a pious demonstration of their goodwill, alongside the most devious proposals. After the Western Australian exemption clause—section 61B of the Act—became law, in 1964-65 only 92 of all unionists in the State availed themselves of the exemption provided. Thirteen of them were refused exemption, and 33 of them were apparently prevailed upon to withdraw their applications. So only 50 per cent. of the very small number of applications were granted. This proved the hypocrisy of it all, because 99.9 per cent. of any group

is never in agreement in a free society. Furthermore, decisions based on the present Act offer no conscientious objection to those who are already members of a union. Could no-one ever change his convictions, or is it their concern that association with some unions is bound to change the convictions of most workers?

A further important argument against compulsion is that it creates by temptation and almost by necessity an undemocratic way of election and of management within the unions. A handful of supporters against an army of apathetic conscripts can—and indeed do—keep an autocratic leadership in power. Decisions made at open meetings on the voices, on a show of hands, or by the chairman announcing, "without dissent," often in an emotion-charged atmosphere, are subject at least to psychological intimidation.

Autocratic leadership with huge wealth from the compulsory dues creates the biggest danger of usurping power or taking over Government power; and this was my first contention about the conditions existing today.

The case for trade unionism and its original aims is undisputed. It is this very case and the original commendable aims of unionism which are adversely affected by compulsory unionism. Leaders and organisers are freed from competitive obligation to encourage and retain leadership by making conditions of joining acceptable, and by giving desirable service to the working people. They do not have to show responsible leadership which would appeal to members and would warrant their democratic re-election. Instead, irresponsible union leaders can go on a rampage of frivolous strikes mainly for non-industrial reasons, and thereby inconvenience and dangerously affect their own members and the whole community.

Or is it that cynicism has taken the place of much needed care and support? I wonder! I think you might agree too, Mr. Speaker, if I recall my sad experience of last year when I represented the case of one of my constituents, a widow whose late husband had paid union fees for 40 years as a worker and then for a further 12 years after his retirement. Those fees apparently included payments for some funeral benefits. At the age of 78 and ill with advanced cancer this old man omitted to pay his last instalments, because the union ceased to collect them at the neighbouring council yard and he was too ill and frail to take the fees into Trades Hall. Even according to the later rules of the union—brought in after his retirement—payments for funeral benefits were not requested any more after retirement. Yet when I made representations on behalf of the widow of a man who had paid his union fees for 52 years, and possibly more than the amount he would gain from the funeral benefits, my plea

on behalf of the widow was rejected. I am thankful for the fact that a respected member on the opposite side of the House helped me in my representations.

You, Mr. Speaker, have had much more experience in this House than I; and you can imagine better than I to what eloquent thunder we would have been subjected by the Deputy Premier had this been the case with a capitalist insurance company and not with a union.

I submit that the evils of compulsory unionism, unless checked, could lead to even worse conditions, for who can guarantee that after the closed-shop, unions will not revert to some form of closed unions. Nothing would prevent that, and the existing law does not. This would mean that the unions could decide that anyone, say, with red hair or of Jewish origin could not qualify for membership.

If this happened the unions could have the final decision, not only in the individual's basic right to free association, but also in his right to work and therefore his right to survival. This is not a hypothetical proposition. It has happened in the United States of America and some signs of it are already evident even here. The condition for qualification is already used by some unions in such a way that they can exclude anyone whom they do not want to accept.

A further, final disturbing aspect of development is the recently experienced diversion of union funds into active business ventures. This is not designed to protect the contributions and the funds of members; it is designed to gain a decisive majority and interest in important industrial or commercial enterprises. The reason given for it today is that it is to protect the public against retail price maintenance; we might be told tomorrow, perhaps, that it is designed because of excessive profits by capitalists. After that, who knows what reason will be given?

In due course union fees, unwillingly paid by compulsorily conscripted members, can be used to compete unfairly with industry by striking against competitors and by various other means. Ultimately they can be used against the workers themselves when the stage is reached that the same people negotiate for the employer and the employees. This is not as incredible as it sounds. It happens, now, in the United States, where unions are the largest shareholders in many companies.

I have tried to show how the present undesirable situation developed when the power of the elected Government can be usurped by some organisations. It remains for me to suggest some remedies. This I will do very briefly, without, of course, having any realistic hope that

they will be considered or implemented during the term of the present Government.

Mr. Jamieson: The employers' organisations are all pure.

Mr. MENSAROS: The provisions which I think should be enacted are—

- (1) Prohibiting the inclusion of preference and/or compulsory unionism, closed shop or closed union clauses in industrial awards or agreements and outlawing any *de facto* situation which leads to any of these practices.
- (2) Prohibiting any discrimination by employer against union or union member and *vice versa*.
- (3) Absolute protection of individuals, workers and employers against any kind of discrimination or intimidation.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has another five minutes

Mr. Jamieson: Far too long.

Mr. MENSAROS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The further provisions which I think should be enacted are—

- (4) More effective assurance of democratic elections and decision makings within industrial unions by wider mandatory use of court-controlled secret ballots.
- (5) Making it unlawful for unions to acquire a decisive interest in any industrial or commercial enterprise.
- (6) Reversing the farcical present practice whereby strikes—and strikes are illegal as it is—could be used to assure earlier hearings of proposed awards or submissions by the commission.
- (7) Strikes for other than industrial reasons should bear much heavier penalties and unconditional de-registration; and, finally
- (8) All breaches and offences should be subject to mandatory public prosecution and should bear heavy penalties.

As I said, it would be unrealistic to expect these proposals to be considered by the present Government. I only wanted to record a comprehensive picture of development and events which seriously occupy the minds of so many people. If this picture will evoke some serious constructive thoughts by responsible people, my endeavour will not have been in vain.

At the same time, however, I also want to sound a note of warning, that there are signs of definite danger to our democratic way of life. This is shown by way of emerging subversive pamphlets in schools, as the member for Mt. Lawley pointed out. This is also evident by the increasing habit of expressing political

views on the streets, thus endangering law and order; by blackmail tactics against lawful business, and by undoubted infiltration of professional subversive elements into many organisations.

We should not delude ourselves with false security and wishful thinking that it never could happen here. Believe me, sir, this type of false security and the lack of preventive measures contributed largely in a number of countries to the overthrow of democracy.

Mr. Jamieson: A lot of rubbish and nonsense.

Mr. Court: It is a scholarly discourse which you do not like.

MR. BURKE (Perth) [8.57 p.m.]: I am pleased to join with those who have spoken before me and offer to you, Sir, my congratulations on your elevation to the high office of Speaker of this House. May I also congratulate those who were elected to the Ministry and welcome the new members to this House. I would also like to convey my thanks to the staff of Parliament House for their forbearance and patience and to members for their great assistance. May I also thank my constituents for their continuing support and their confidence in me at the recent election.

I feel sure members would have been greatly advantaged by the very lengthy dissertation on the trade union movement which we have just heard but for the honourable member's complete misunderstanding of the subject. I am sure that members will agree, however, that it would be fair for me to deduce from what was said that if the member for Floreat were ever in a position to employ people they would be paid award wages.

I am sure that every member in the House is concerned with the decline of the rural industries. I do not think that any one of us would deny assistance to those who are in real need in the areas concerned. I am, however, a little disturbed about the methods being used to offset the problems confronting the rural industries. I do not think subsidies are the answer.

Although what I am about to suggest is probably more the domain of the Federal Government, it is worth considering. I believe it was the member for East Melbourne who the other night pointed out that in some Scandinavian countries areas which were proving uneconomical and unviable were bought out and, in fact, the people pensioned off.

A study of the subsidies to rural industries in Australia over the years reveals that all they seem to have achieved is to promote the interests of those who do not really need a subsidy. I refer particularly to the dairy industry in Victoria. Subsidies do little more than ward off the evil day for those who were maintaining



themselves at only subsistence level. Something real must be done. I believe that we should consider withdrawing all subsidies which at present apply and buy out farmers in those areas which are not viable. This would enable those in real need to re-establish themselves with the sum of money granted them.

This leads me to refer to a problem in my own city electorate. A tremendous number of people within a mile of this building are living below the subsistence level and are depending on charity to exist, but little or nothing is being done to subsidise them. They have been overlooked.

In recent days in the House we have been subjected to what are purported to be censure motions, but my appreciation of censure is hardly what we have been confronted with. However, if that is what they are meant to be, they are accepted as such.

If the Opposition were sincere in its censure of this Government, and if it were sincerely concerned with the welfare of those in the rural areas—in fact if it were sincerely concerned for the welfare of the constituents of the honourable member who sits next to me—it would get to work on its Federal colleagues to secure some real interest in the needs of those who are in desperate circumstances.

In fact the Government in Australia in recent times—and we have been subjected to 12 years of it in this State—seems to have ignored those most in need and has promoted the welfare of sections of society which least need the assistance of the Government.

What we on this side have sought to achieve when making promises—if they can be called such—during the election campaign is to make it known to the people that the return of a Labor Government would bring about the opportunity for all people to aspire to what is their normal right. This would in fact add a little weight to that side of the scale which has been neglected in recent times. The censures to which I have referred are hardly more than thinly veiled criticisms of a good Samaritan.

We are confronted with economic problems and an area in which this has been experienced in no small way is the building industry. This has affected not only the building workers themselves, but the subcontractors as well. I cannot help but think that the critical situation in this industry was engineered—and it was a fairly sadistic piece of engineering—by the former Government.

That Government very early in its life reduced building through State housing. If this building had been maintained at the rate maintained by the previous Labor Government there would not have been inflation in land prices resulting in the high cost of homes and accommodation

generally. This cut-back was artificially created, and in turn was responsible for the great demand for housing which followed and, as a result, furthered the interests of those whom the present Opposition during its term of office represented first. I do not mean all of them, but at least some of them—the speculators, unscrupulous developers, and landlords. It was inevitable that the pockets of those who were forced to pay phenomenal prices for land, exorbitant rents, and exorbitant prices for homes through the private sector—when those homes could have been provided by the State Housing Commission at a much lower price—were affected adversely.

This is the cause of the slump in the building industry which is a major and integral part of the economy. The cost of accommodation has played a very large part in the economic problems confronting us today; and I am convinced that this situation was created in the interests of those the former Government represented first.

If things had been allowed to develop in an orderly fashion and, as I have said, the State Housing Commission production had been maintained at the rate at which it was progressing when we were in office—even without any increase—there would not have been a housing problem today; there would have been no inflated land prices; there would not be the problem of unemployment in the building industry; and many of the financial difficulties which are being experienced today would have been obviated.

I am not particularly concerned with the big fellows who can generally carry themselves, but with the little subcontractors; that is, the plumbers, the electricians, and the roof tilers. In fact, only yesterday I met the son of a member in another place, who happens to be of a different political complexion from myself. This young man is a roof tiler and he is at present experiencing problems because he is finding it difficult to secure payment for work he has performed.

The fact of the matter is that the former Government was influenced overwhelmingly by ideology. It was motivated by greed and adoration of its god—the almighty dollar. It seems completely careless and has expressed itself in the bulk of what it did in the 12 years it held the Treasury benches when it did not, in fact, have a plebiscite. It was maintained over those 12 years by the preferences of minority groups, and so it in fact assumed an awful lot of rights it abused in the 12 years it was in power. It now in censure motions accuses us when we attempt to balance the scale.

Mr. Court: The honourable member is not suggesting that the Brand Government was not a lawfully elected Government, is he?

Mr. BURKE: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition can draw his own conclusion.

Mr. Court: Well, I am asking. I have never heard the honourable member raise this previously.

Mr. BURKE: The Labor Party will do its best to promote a little self-sacrifice on the part of those whose interests were promoted by the former Government's regime. This action will be in the interests of those who most need the assistance of the Government. This Government stands for the people, not profits, and it will express itself as it has done up to this date by actions, not words.

Mr. Court: And yet the Labor Government is going around the world telling people that it intends to carry on the policies of the previous Government.

Mr. May: What is wrong with that?

Mr. Court: The member for Perth is complaining; we are not complaining.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BURKE: As I said, the Labor Party will express itself, as it has expressed itself in the short time it has been in Government, by taking action. Very shortly after the election we increased social welfare payments, and we have recently provided free transport for pensioners.

I have previously expressed concern regarding the problem of housing and the need for housing to be given a higher priority. I am quite certain that under the present Government, and our Minister for Housing, housing will be given its rightful priority.

Mr. O'Neil: The Minister for Housing told us yesterday that the loan fund allocation under the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement is the same. There is no increase.

Mr. BURKE: He will have to make the money go further.

Mr. O'Neil: He will have to buy tents!

Mr. BURKE: The Minister for Housing is well aware of my personal opinion on the twentieth century caves, in the form of flats, which the former Government seemed to derive a lot of pleasure in building all over the place. Of course, we are committed to certain flat development which the former Government commenced.

Mr. Rushton: The Deputy Premier supports flats. The member for Perth had better watch out for him.

Mr. BURKE: As I have said, I personally am opposed to flats and I reserve my right to that opposition.

Mr. O'Neil: The previous Government did not commit the present Government to any flat projects.

Mr. BURKE: This Government will be burdened with the problems arising from flat development, which will confront

us through the years. I am quite certain that our Government, and the Minister for Housing, will be concerned to avoid the problems which are revealing themselves as a result of the misdemeanours of the previous Government.

Social legislation will, of course, have priority under the Labor Government. We have already indicated that an ombudsman will be appointed. It is unlikely that the Opposition will agree to that appointment because it has expressed itself in bitter opposition to such a proposition on the two or three occasions that it has been raised during the last three years.

Consumer protection and price control have been well covered by the member for Boulder-Dundas in what was probably the most admirable maiden speech I have heard in the few short years I have been here. I would like to support the honourable member in his call for some form of rent control.

I have indicated earlier that some landlords take advantage of the demand for accommodation and they increase rents. Some of the rents being charged in my electorate—and throughout the rest of the State—are quite unreasonable. Some people, for one reason or another, cannot purchase homes, and those people should have an opportunity—when they have a justifiable case—to complain to someone when rents are out of all proportion.

Mr. O'Neil: Does the member for Perth think that Housing Commission rents are reasonable?

Mr. BURKE: There are very few Housing Commission homes in my electorate.

Mr. O'Neil: But do you think the rents are reasonable?

Mr. BURKE: Generally, I am pleased with Housing Commission rents.

Mr. O'Neil: The Housing Commission lost \$500,000 last year. Does the member for Perth think that the rents should be increased to cover that loss?

Mr. Taylor: That is not for the member for Perth to answer; the member for Melville should be able to answer that question himself.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BURKE: I do not think any real objection could be raised if the Housing Commission felt it was necessary to increase rents to offset the loss, because at the present time the rents for the Housing Commission homes are fairly reasonable.

Mr. O'Neil: The Minister for Housing will be thrilled to bits.

Mr. BURKE: When the means test is applied, some people are paying only \$2 or \$3 a week. I have just arranged for a woman to go into a Stirling Highway flat and she will be paying only \$3 a week.

Mr. O'Neill: One person is paying only 80c a week in Carnarvon.

Mr. BURKE: I cannot recall being able to get a single lady into a State Housing Commission flat in the last three years at less than \$3 per week.

Mr. Taylor: The rents are not going to go up, either.

Mr. O'Neill: Concessions apply to aged persons. What about the Carnarvon case?

Mr. BURKE: Rent control is in the interests of those who most need and require the assistance of the Government. I feel that some form of rent control, taken in concert with consumer protection and price control, would help to offset the disregard for our pensioners by the Federal Liberal Government. Such control would soften the blow to those people who try to eke out an existence on the pension.

There seems to be a rumour circulating that the Federal Liberal Government might give the pensioners another dollar a week. A woman told me today that in anticipation of the increase her landlord has said he will increase her rent from the 1st August by \$2 per week.

In a lot of cases the people who will be affected are living in rooms or very small flats, and are hit to leg by the landlords who continually increase the rents just to feather their nests. I will encourage the Government to do something to provide for an appeal by people who are forced to live in the accommodation I have mentioned. Some people, for reasons best known to themselves, desire to live in flats and they should be protected against those in our community who take advantage and derive wealth from other people's hardships.

Controls would also be in the interests of the young married people who are trying to establish themselves. Many of those young people are forced to refrain from securing what would be their natural and normal aspirations: a home and a family. They cannot afford to buy a block of land for cash and they get themselves involved in regular payments for five years or seven years.

In the meantime, both are forced to work to meet their commitments of \$25 to \$30 per week for a flat as well as anything else that they may require. It is impossible for them to have children. If the figures were analysed we would find that the natural increase in population in Western Australia has declined in recent years. I do not think this is what people want when they get married. As I have said before in this Chamber, people do not marry to have a little flat. They marry to have a family and a home of their own. No man desires more than a home and a family, but of course he must have sufficient income to maintain them. Under the former regime this has been denied and the effects of 12 years

mismanagement on the part of the previous Government will, I am afraid, mean that people will be denied for a little while longer. The Labor Government is doing its best to offset the problems. As I have said before, our legislation will be socially orientated and will take these factors into consideration. It will not be too long before all the people will be able to aspire to what too many of us take for granted.

There is no getting away from the fact that, under the former Government, we saw the development of a class society based on wealth. Great advantage and license were given to areas of vested interest and to sections of society which least needed assistance. By this action greed and self-interest were promoted. Many people are under the misapprehension that they will be able to take their assets with them. At the other end there is the man on the breadline. The impositions of this weighted society promoted a kind of greed and self-interest in such people.

On the one side is the person who accumulates wealth for its own sake. On the other side is the person, in very poor circumstances, who, when he gets the opportunity to take a loaf of bread, takes two because he cannot be certain when the opportunity will occur again. This is very real. Members have only to go to the soup kitchen in Shenton Street, to St. Vincent de Paul in Bronte Street, or to any other social welfare organisation. They will see queues of people waiting for a meal. The bulk of them are pensioners or people out of work for various reasons—either ill-health or misfortune—who are not in the position to provide for themselves. If given the opportunity the majority of them would have the necessary motivation to provide for themselves.

In 12 years of partisan Liberal Government a lot more than our natural resources were exploited. Society has been exploited. Western Australia has the unenviable reputation of having the highest prison population, per capita, in Australia. I would not be surprised if it rated, on a per capita basis, as one of the highest among comparatively prosperous countries. We have spent millions of dollars in recent years on child welfare institutions; their establishment and upkeep. Crime and misdemeanour in Western Australia, on a per capita basis, rate amongst the highest of comparatively prosperous countries. To my mind these are hardly achievements, particularly in view of the fact that the former Government had 12 years in which to make achievements.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is inclined to take kudos for the great mineral development that has gone on in recent years. I would be the last person to deny that the honourable

member works hard. He works very hard. This does not get away from the fact that any Government would have taken advantage of the State's mineral resources and the markets for them. In fact, we would have had the opportunity had the embargo placed on iron resources by the Menzies-Fadden Government been lifted during the last period of a Labor Government in Western Australia. I am quite certain there would not have been a Liberal Government in office during the last 12 years if this had happened. Labor would have taken full advantage of the situation and would have promoted the necessary markets. Although the comparison may not be enjoyed by the present Minister for Industrial Development, I am quite sure he would have proved as ferocious a bargainer and as competent a negotiator as the former Minister for Industrial Development.

I cannot say with certainty that it is a fact, but the information I have on the question of lifting the embargo was that an approach was made by Hamersley Iron to the former Liberal-Country Party regime, but no results were secured in the first instance. It was 18 months after the former Government was approached before any move was made to exploit our iron ore.

Mr. Court: You are completely uninformed or misinformed. You should read the history of the breakthrough on the embargo. It will tell the history of iron ore and how it started.

Mr. BURKE: If it was 17 months and not 18 months, I stand corrected. The point I am making is that any Government would have taken advantage of this situation and would have derived benefits from it.

Mr. Rushton: What did the Hawke Government do?

Mr. BURKE: Had we been in the position, I am quite certain that under the Hawke Government, or at any time in the past—

Mr. Court: You would still have the embargo.

Mr. BURKE: —iron ore and mineral resources would have proved just as fruitful. I venture to say that they would have proved more fruitful to the general interest, because Labor would have demanded more than the former Government agreed to by way of royalties.

In fact, during a tour of the north-west last year it was interesting to note the demeanour of the former Minister for Industrial Development when we pulled up at Tom Price opposite an ore train. There were about 150 trucks on the train. The P.R. man, who was showing us around, pointed out that there were 100 tons in each truck and that each truck was worth \$1,000 gross. Of

this sum \$940 went to Hamersley Iron, \$20 to Lang Hancock, and \$40 to the State Government. These figures are gross and I checked the net return to the Government. I am quite certain that Lang Hancock would get his 2 per cent., but of the 4 per cent. grossed by the State Government, the net amount came to just over 2 per cent. There is something wrong somewhere along the line. To my mind 4 per cent. is a low figure, and I hope our negotiators will be able to extract a little more in the interests of the State.

Mr. Court: Does the honourable member know what the Hamersley iron ore royalties are? They are 7½ per cent. on high grades and half that on lower grades.

Mr. BURKE: I am working on the information provided to me. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was present on the bus at the time but he made no effort to contradict the figures which were given. I may be wrong and I hope I am, but what I am setting out to suggest—

Mr. Rushton: Project a proper picture.

Mr. BURKE: —is that any Government would have taken advantage of the situation. I am quite certain that the present Minister for Industrial Development will do so. In fact I even go so far as to say—by way of an analogy if one likes—that even a humble back-bencher like myself would, in the circumstances, be capable of selling gold at 50c an ounce.

I now wish to speak about noise, which is a matter in which I took an interest during the last session of Parliament. On several occasions I asked the former Premier to take action. The questions and answers, or vacillations, are contained in *Hansard*. The then Premier deferred questions from one sitting to the next and did nothing.

Within a month of the appointment of the present Chief Secretary proposals were announced in the Press. Legislation is ready for presentation to Parliament and action is being taken. In a very short time he has walked in and prepared legislation to control noise, which, to my mind, is as great a pollutant as dust, gas, or chemicals. In fact, noise is more sinister in its effects on the psyche and can do damage that is usually irreparable.

We are now breeding a generation of young people who will be deaf in a very short time. Surveys have revealed that the average 21-year-old in this "rock" society is as deaf as the average 60-year-old was in previous generations. Because of its inaction, the former Government must accept responsibility for the deafness which may become apparent or which is already present among young people who have been subjected to noise in the last three years.

I would be pleased if the responsible Minister would take some action to control amplification. I am quite certain it

can be done very simply by placing a control on the amplification equipment. I think this action is absolutely essential, although I would be the last person in this Chamber to interfere with the enjoyment or leisure time of young people. It is not very many years since I enjoyed myself in much the same way as they do, but I think it is in their best interests that action be taken to safeguard their hearing.

In the first speech I made in this House I directed myself primarily to the interests of young married people because I felt an empathy with them, and I still do. In the three years in which I have been the member for Perth and a member of this Legislature I have sought to promote their interests. I have also sought to look after those people who are in the later stages of life—the pensioners—who, in my considered opinion, are poorly treated in Australia.

We seem to overlook the pensioners and to take for granted many of the things that make life easier for ourselves. Without the pioneers and the people who were born even at the beginning of this century, and without their efforts and the deprivations they suffered in the early stages of the development of this country, we would be a lot worse off. In all my endeavours I will promote the interests of pensioners and those who most need the assistance of the Government.

On many occasions I have said that the ideology which directs Liberal Party Governments seems to ignore general welfare and the young who are the pride of our society. I am not arguing for private enterprise at the moment, but it has been said that a private enterprise system provides the jobs and everyone is all right. However, even with the provision of jobs many people are deprived and are in real difficulties. It has a snowballing effect. When a family is in difficulty, for one reason or another, the deprivation to which their children are subjected affects and inhibits their natural aspirations and their ability to take advantage of the gifts the good Lord may have given them.

The attitude and stand of this Government will be to encourage sharing by those who have had too much advantage in recent years, so that those of whom they have taken advantage will be given the opportunity to fulfil their aspirations. Under this Labor Government all Western Australians will be able to aspire to proper fulfilment in a free, equal, and fraternal society.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Jones.

*House adjourned at 9.37 p.m.*

## Legislative Council

Thursday, the 29th July, 1971

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### CHIEF HANSARD REPORTER

#### *Retirement, and Appointment of Successor*

**THE PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver) [2.32 p.m.]: Honourable members, I wish to announce that at a meeting of the Joint Printing Committee held on Wednesday, the 28th July, 1971, the resignation of the Chief Hansard Reporter (Mr. G. Hale) was accepted with regret. Mr. Hale, whose resignation takes effect from the close of business on Friday, the 30th July, 1971 has been a reporter with *Hansard* since 1941. He was appointed Deputy Chief Hansard Reporter during August, 1958, and promoted to Chief Hansard Reporter in February, 1966.

At the same meeting, the Deputy Chief Hansard Reporter (Mr. J. A. Cox) was appointed Chief Hansard Reporter and will commence his duties in that capacity from the 31st July, 1971.

### QUESTIONS (5): ON NOTICE

#### 1. DAIRY FARM RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME

##### *Applications for Assistance*

The Hon. N. McNEILL, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) How many applications for assistance under the Marginal Dairy Farm Reconstruction Scheme have been made in Western Australia?
- (2) How many of such applications have been approved for the—
  - (a) purchase of additional land; or
  - (b) provision of additional capital improvements; or
  - (c) writing-off of redundancies?
- (3) How many applications have been—
  - (a) received; and
  - (b) approved for assistance in providing for—
    - (i) expanded butter fat production; or
    - (ii) diversification into beef or other production;
    - (iii) upgrading of properties to meet standards for licensed milk production; or
    - (v) any other purpose?