

Mr. Hannaford said that if building blocks were cheaper, houses would be brought down to the price range of the low income earner.

I definitely agree with that.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: He didn't say whether there was any over-pricing in any of the other States?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: Let me finish reading the article and then we can have a talk about it afterwards. It goes on to state—

To qualify for a loan of \$10,000 a man had to earn \$65 a week or more and people earning that figure could hardly save the \$4,000 or \$5,000 deposit needed at present prices.

"If the blocks came down then those people who are now on the State Housing Commission list because they do not have the necessary deposit, would be able to buy a home of their own," he said.

"This also means that those people would come off the S.H.C. list and allow the commission to build for people on the basic wage and those in real need."

He said that in Western Australia, house building was generally keeping up with the demand and there was no problem about buying houses. The standard, too, compared favourably with other parts of Australia.

The W.A. branch of the Housing Industry Association had made efforts at the highest level to try to bring down the price of building land and, as a result, the government had agreed in part to its suggestion.

One suggestion was that people who held land and were not developing it should be forced to subdivide it.

Another was that there should be more building land made available and this was being done, too.

Mr. Hannaford said that because of government action the price of land was being forced down.

The association on a national level had asked Federal Treasurer McMahon for legislation to enable people to change their child endowment into a lump sum to enable them to buy a house.

And so the article goes on.

Amendment to Motion

In view of what I have said, and the beliefs I hold, I think it is fitting I should move the following amendment to the motion:—

; but this House views with concern that despite the commendable efforts in the private sector, housing shortages remain in so many areas of the State, the price of land is still high and building blocks remain in short

supply, families are still being forced to pay exorbitant rents, and migrant intake is being restricted because of doubts about being suitably housed in Western Australia.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines).

House adjourned at 5.25 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 5th August, 1969

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

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Appointment

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Guthrie): I wish to announce that I have appointed the member for Bunbury (Mr. Williams), the member for Stirling (Mr. Mitchell), and the member for Ascot (Mr. Toms) to be Deputy Chairmen of Committees during the present session.

NOTICE PAPER

Change in Format: Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Guthrie): With the indulgence of the House I would like to make a short statement on the changed format of the notice paper. Members may notice a change in the printing format of the notice paper. The section comprising questions on notice has been printed in *Hansard* type face and format. The balance, to the end of the notice paper, has been printed in the usual type face to which we are accustomed.

The *Votes and Proceedings* will be treated in like manner, only the questions and answers will be placed at the end of regular business.

The necessity for this change has been occasioned by the regular and constant number of questions on notice asked by members. This naturally has been reflected in the processing of the daily notice paper and *Votes and Proceedings* through the printing stages.

Although full co-operation has been given by the Government Printer, on too many occasions over the last two years, the time factor has caused late delivery of both the notice paper and the *Votes and Proceedings*.

It must be borne in mind that *Hansard* printing is also involved, as the printing of *Hansard* must keep pace with daily proceedings to enable *Hansard* to issue on time.

Following a conference with the Government Printer, the Chief *Hansard* Reporter, and the Clerk of the House, this

present system has been decided upon. In actual practice this eliminates a duplication in the printing and proof reading of questions and answers. The *Hansard* copy becomes a complete 'lift out' of the *Votes and Proceedings*.

I might point out that with the exception of Tasmania and Queensland, no other Australian Parliament records questions and answers in its *Votes and Proceedings*. We are compelled to at present under Standing Order 110. Tasmania has no *Hansard*, and Queensland, although only one House, records in *Hansard* type and format its questions and answers in the *Votes and Proceedings*.

I would add that the Standing Orders Committee discussed this question and we reached the conclusion that we would stop putting answers to questions in the *Votes and Proceedings* until our attention was drawn to the provision of Standing Order 110 which makes it compulsory for us to put answers to questions in the *Votes and Proceedings*. I trust members will bear with the change. Although the printing is a little smaller, it does make the task very much easier if the one set-up is used.

QUESTIONS (31): ON NOTICE SPEARFISHING

Legislative Restrictions

1. Mr. BATEMAN, pursuant to notice asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

Reference to the *Sunday Times*, of the 13th July, 1969, "Government may Act on Spearfishing"—

- (1) Is it his intention to introduce legislation restricting divers spearing fish while using underwater breathing apparatus?
- (2) If "Yes," on whose advice is he acting?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No, with the exception of crayfish.
- (2) Director of Fisheries and Fauna.

BRIDGE

Canning River, Maddington

2. Mr. BATEMAN, pursuant to notice asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has a decision been reached by the Gosnells Shire Council and the Main Roads Department on the exact location of the bridge to cross the Canning River at Maddington?
- (2) If "Yes," when will work commence on this project?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No. However, agreement in principle has been reached with the Gosnells Shire Council that any bridge should connect Olga Street with Thornlie.

- (2) No decision has been made as to when the bridge will be constructed.

CANNINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL SITE Sale

3. Mr. BATEMAN, pursuant to notice asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Who purchased the Government owned land site on which the Cannington primary school now stands?
- (2) Were tenders called for the sale of this property?
- (3) If "Yes," who were the developers who showed interest in this site and submitted a tender?
- (4) If "No," why not?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The Government land on which the Cannington Primary School now stands has not been sold.
- (2) No.
- (3) and (4). Answered by (1).

MARITANA STREET BRIDGE, KALGOORLIE

Hand Railing

4. Mr. T. D. EVANS, pursuant to notice asked the Minister for Railways: Has a determination yet been made by his department with regard to the installation of a hand railing on the Maritana Street bridge at Kalgoorlie?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

The Railways Department does not propose to install hand railing on the bridge.

However, should the Kalgoorlie Town Council desire the railing, the department has no objection to its installation at the council's expense.

The Kalgoorlie Town Council has been informed accordingly.

STAMPING OF DOCUMENTS

Facilities at Mining Registrar's Office, Kalgoorlie

5. Mr. T. D. EVANS, pursuant to notice asked the Acting Treasurer:

- (1) Having regard to the large increase in volume and in value of documents being attended to for stamping under the Stamp Act by the mining registrar's office at Kalgoorlie, will early consideration be given to providing at that office a machine to denote duty paid to obviate the need for holding stamps of large denominations?

- (2) If "No," will he provide as an alternative stamps of larger denominations at that office to facilitate the stamping there—rather than requiring the documents to be sent to Perth—of documents carrying *ad valorem* duty of large amounts?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) It is not considered that the present volume of business justifies the installation of a machine.
(2) This request is being examined.

KALGOORLIE-BROAD ARROW ROAD

Upgrading

6. Mr. T. D. EVANS, pursuant to notice asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) When is work to commence on upgrading of the road from Kalgoorlie to Broad Arrow?
(2) What is the nature of the work to be effected and at what estimated cost?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Towards the end of this month.
(2) Complete reconstruction of 9.5 miles between the 4 mile and 13.5 mile, together with formation, shoulder and drainage improvements on various sections and the construction of six truck bays between the 9 mile and 41 mile.
\$205,000 has been set aside by the Main Roads Department in its 1969-70 programme for this work.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN ACT

Regulations and Amendments

7. Mr. T. D. EVANS, pursuant to notice asked the Minister representing the Minister for Child Welfare:

Will he please advise when it is expected that the proposed new regulations under the Adoption of Children Act will be promulgated and the 1964 amendments to the said Act proclaimed?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

Copies of the proposed draft rules applying under the Adoption of Children Act, 1964, have been prepared by the Child Welfare and Crown Law Departments and were presented to the Chief Justice on the 16th July, 1969, for his consideration.

When these rules are received back by the Crown Law Department, they will be presented to the Governor-in-Council for consideration. If the rules are approved, the 1964 Act will then be proclaimed.

It is not possible to forecast the exact date of promulgation, but this should occur in the very near future.

WEEKEND PROSPECTORS

Protection from Forfeiture

8. Mr. T. D. EVANS, pursuant to notice asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

What action, if any, does the Government intend to take to amend regulation 10 of the regulations under the Mining Act so as to afford protection from forfeiture for bona fide "weekend prospectors"?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

In the light of a recent forfeiture plaint, regulation 10 has been examined and it has been decided not to make any change in the regulation at least for the time being.

Although prospecting areas are required to be worked in accordance with the regulations under the Mining Act, if the holder is unable to comply with the regulations, there is provision for him to apply to the Warden's Court for exemption from labour conditions, which can be up to a maximum of six months.

Applications for forfeiture, in regard to areas held by the type of operator referred to, are not generally practised and the position will be watched.

ORD IRRIGATION AREA

Pilot Farm

9. Mr. TONKIN, pursuant to notice asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) What firm contractual obligations has the Government entered into under the agreement with a consortium of three companies to carry out extensive research on a 2,400 acre pilot farm in the Ord irrigation area?
(2) Will he give details of the inducements offered and/or given to the companies which have resulted in their decision to spend several hundred thousand dollars on research?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) The Government has assured the consortium of three companies that when actual investigations and research on the 2,400 acre pilot farm have established, to the satisfaction of the State, that the growing of grain sorghum or other crops on a broad acre basis is economically viable, the State

Government will negotiate an agreement with the consortium to make available up to 30,000 acres of land in the Ord irrigation area.

- (2) Answered by (1).

I should add that if we get to the stage of the negotiations for an agreement they will be conducted by my colleague the Minister for Lands and be subject to ratification.

TEACHERS

Resignations and Appointments

10. Mr. TONKIN, pursuant to notice asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many resignations of teachers occurred during the months of June and July in—
 - (a) Secondary schools service;
 - (b) Primary schools service?
- (2) During June and July how many teachers entered or re-entered—
 - (a) Secondary schools service;
 - (b) Primary schools service?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) (a) 32.
- (b) 37.
- (2) (a) 37.
- (b) 43.

PORT OF KING BAY

Definition and Proclamation

11. Mr. TONKIN, pursuant to notice asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has the port area under the control of Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd. been defined?
- (2) If "Yes," when was this done?
- (3) Is it intended to proclaim the Port of King Bay a port under the Shipping and Pilotage Act, 1967?
- (4) If "Yes," when is it proposed to do so?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) Definition of the port area is now in the final stages.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) It is planned to proclaim the port within the next few weeks.

PORT OF KING BAY

Regulations

12. Mr. TONKIN, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) Are the "Regulations for the Port of King Bay" which were issued by Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd. on the 14th October, 1965 still in operation?
- (2) What alterations if any have been made to the regulations?
- (3) If alterations have been made were they done with his approval?

- (4) What action has been taken on the advice given by the Crown Law Department that the "regulations" of Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd. should be in the form of by-laws?

- (5) Has the agreement which was pending last year between Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd. and the Government on proposed by-laws been concluded?

- (6) If "No," when is it expected agreement will be reached and the by-laws tabled in Parliament?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) The "Regulations for the Port of King Bay" issued by Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd. on the 14th October, 1965 were superseded by a document headed "Regulations for the Port of Dampier", effective from the 1st July, 1966.
- (2) I will table a list of the alterations.
- (3) Under the terms of the agreement approval is not required. However, the State was made aware of the alterations made.
- (4) to (6) Discussions between the State and the company are nearing finality.

The list was tabled.

STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY AGREEMENT

Deficit and Repayments

13. Mr. TONKIN, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) By what amount has his department's liability to the Commonwealth for the last financial year in respect of obligations under the standard gauge agreement increased the department's deficit?
- (2) What is the total repayment due to the Commonwealth for 1968-69 in respect of obligations under the standard gauge agreement?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) \$2,262,679—representing interest on advances.
- (2) \$ 273,168—repayment of advances.
\$2,262,679—interest.

\$2,535,847

FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

Harmful Effects and Research

14. Mr. TONKIN, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Since the introduction in this State of the fluoridation of public water supplies has the medical department conducted any blood or urine analyses for fluoride or done any actual laboratory work in this direction?

- (2) Has the department made any inquiries from doctors or dentists concerning actual experience of harmful effects of fluoride?
- (3) Have any cases of supposed harmful effects from fluoridated water been reported to his department?
- (4) If "Yes," will he give particulars?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.

HOUSING

Applications Outstanding

15. Mr. GRAHAM, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What is the total of outstanding applications on the books of the State Housing Commission at present?
- (2) Of these, how many are in respect of the metropolitan area and country districts respectively under the headings of—
- (a) purchase;
- (b) rental?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) 18,967 (including dual applications.
- (2)

	Purchase	Rental
Metropolitan Area	7,091	10,612
Country	277	987
	<hr/> 7,368	<hr/> 11,599

Figures taken out on the same basis at the 31st March, 1969 showed 7,428 purchase, and 11,813 rental; a total of 19,241 including dual applications. A complete survey of applications as at that date drew a response showing 3,286 purchase, 3,792 rental, and 3,053 dual applications; a total of 10,131 applications, or 9,110 less than the existing statistics. Figures for the 31st July given in the answers (1) and (2) should be adjusted for a similar order of difference.

HOUSING

Perth, Fremantle, and Midland: Allocations from Priority List

- 16 Mr. GRAHAM, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Housing:

What is the present date of applications lodged for which allocations are being made from the priority list in the Perth, Fremantle, and Midland metropolitan areas respectively, under the following headings—

- (a) purchase;

- (b) four sleeping unit rental houses;
- (c) three sleeping unit rental houses;
- (d) two sleeping unit rental houses;
- (e) two bedroom flats;
- (f) one bedroom flats;
- (g) pensioner cottage flats?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

Since the State Housing Commission is now also erecting other than individual houses for rental purposes, priority dates are being kept in two categories, viz.:

- (1) Individual houses and duplex houses; and
- (2) Single storey terrace housing; two-storey terrace housing, flats, etc.

Two bedroom flats are now included in (2) above.

The answers are given in accordance with the new method of keeping this statistical information.

	Three Bedroom	Four Bedroom
(a) Purchase		
Perth	August, 1965	April, 1966
Fremantle	November, 1965	April, 1966
Midland	October, 1965	November, 1965
Armadale	December, 1966	December, 1965
Kwinana	March, 1966	April, 1966
(b) Rental		
Perth		October, 1965
Fremantle		May, 1965
Midland		January, 1965
Armadale		Not applicable
Kwinana		April, 1966

	THREE BEDROOM	
	Individual Houses	Other
(c) Perth	May, 1965	November, 1965
Fremantle	December, 1965	January, 1966
Midland	November, 1965	Not applicable
Armadale	September, 1965	June, 1966
Kwinana	October, 1966	November, 1966

	TWO BEDROOM	
	Individual Houses	Other
(d) Perth	December, 1965	January, 1966
Fremantle	November, 1965	February, 1966
Midland	March, 1966	Not applicable
Armadale	February, 1966	July, 1966
Kwinana	July, 1967	September, 1967

	One Bedroom Flat	
(f) Perth	July, 1967	
Fremantle	April, 1966	
Midland	Not applicable	
Armadale	Not applicable	
Kwinana	Not applicable	

	Pensioner Flats	
(g) Perth	December, 1965	
Fremantle	November, 1966	
Midland	October, 1965	
Armadale	May, 1969	
Kwinana	December, 1966	

HOUSING

Completions in 1968-69

17. Mr. GRAHAM, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What was the total number of houses completed by the State Housing Commission for the year ended the 30th June last?

- (2) What are the totals under the various headings respectively?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

(1) 1,863.	
(2) Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement	936
State Housing Act	539
	<hr/>
	1,475
	<hr/>
War Service Homes	138
Other Government departments (including Commonwealth)	128
Native Welfare Department	60
Government Employees	
Housing Authority	52
Shire building scheme (for Government employees)	2
Charitable organisations	8
	<hr/>
	1,863
	<hr/>

RESEARCH STATIONS

Rocky Pool and Gascoyne: Details

18. Mr. NORTON, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) How many citrus trees and what varieties are to be planted on the Rocky Pool Research Station?
- (2) What other varieties of fruit trees are to be planted?
- (3) Is the Rocky Pool Research Station to be run as part of the Gascoyne Research Station?
- (4) If so, will the budget for the Gascoyne Research Station be increased?
- (5) If "Yes," by how much?
- (6) How many personnel will be employed on the Rocky Pool Research Station and will they be domiciled there; if not, where?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) None.
 - (2) None.
 - (3) Yes.
 - (4) Yes.
 - (5) An increase of \$10,516 is included in current estimates.
 - (6) One technician and two farmhands are included in current estimates.
- Staff will be domiciled at the site during the working week and at such times as the programme demands continual attention.

SNAPPER FISHING IN SHARK BAY

Use of Traps

19. Mr. NORTON, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

Is the use of traps for catching snapper allowed in the vicinity of Bernier Island and Dorre Island, Shark Bay?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:
Yes.

TEACHER TRAINING: APPLICATIONS

Qualifications, Acceptances, and Withdrawals

20. Mr. NORTON, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many people applied to his department this year to take up teaching?
- (2) How many of the applicants held teaching bursaries?
- (3) How many of the applicants had passed their Leaving Certificate in—
 - (a) seven subjects;
 - (b) six subjects;
 - (c) five subjects;
 - (d) four subjects?
- (4) How many of the applicants who had passed their Leaving Certificate in—
 - (a) seven subjects;
 - (b) six subjects;
 - (c) five subjects;
 - (d) four subjects,
 were accepted for teacher training?
- (5) How many of the applicants who were accepted for teacher training and who had passed their Leaving Certificate in—
 - (a) seven subjects;
 - (b) six subjects;
 - (c) five subjects;
 - (d) four subjects,
 withdrew after being accepted for teacher training?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) 2,214.
- (2) 245.
- (3) The following applied for entry into teachers' colleges and subsequently passed their Leaving examination—
 - (a) 478.
 - (b) 427.
 - (c) 390.
 - (d) 236.
- (4) The following applicants were admitted to teachers' colleges—
 - (a) 302.
 - (b) 289.
 - (c) 288.
 - (d) 171.
- (5) The following withdrew before entering colleges—
 - (a) 176.
 - (b) 138.
 - (c) 102.
 - (d) 65.

EXMOUTH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Tenders for Additions

21. Mr. NORTON, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Education:

Have tenders been called for the additions to the Exmouth Junior High School; if not, when will they be called?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Tenders have closed for the additions to Exmouth Junior High School and it is anticipated that a contract will be let in the near future.

COMMONWEALTH AID ROADS ACT

Grants

22. Mr. NORTON, pursuant to notice, asked the Acting Treasurer:

- (1) Does the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act make provision for grants for works, other than roads, which are directly connected with other forms of transport?

- (2) If "Yes," what amount is available and for what classes of work?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) The current Act contains no such provision.

- (2) Answered by (1).

SINGLE UNIT ACCOMMODATION

Eligibility

23. Mr. BRADY, pursuant to notice asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) When was the decision made by the State Housing Commission to make a ceiling bank balance of \$250 for single unit applicants for State Housing Commission flats?

- (2) What other criterion is used for deciding if an applicant is eligible for a flat?

- (3) Will recognition of applicants setting aside money for funeral expenses be allowed in arriving at maximum bank balance or must the money be paid to undertakers?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) On the 7th February, 1966, when it was increased from \$200.

- (2) The criteria for deciding eligibility for an applicant for a single unit flat are—

- (a) At least 60 years of age.

- (b) Income not exceeding the equivalent of aged pension plus rent allowance.

- (c) Of sound health, and capable of living in a community project for elderly women.

- (d) A proven need for improved accommodation.

- (e) Liquid assets not exceeding \$250.

- (3) Allowing liquid assets up to \$250 is intended to cover provision for funeral expenses and other contingencies faced by single unit applicants. No change in this policy is currently envisaged.

SINGLE AND DOUBLE UNIT FLATS

Provision and Applications

24. Mr. BRADY, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Are any plans being made to provide flats for—

- (a) single unit;

- (b) two unit,

applicants in the Midland area?

- (2) Are all single unit and two unit flats in the metropolitan area occupied at present?

- (3) What number are waiting for—

- (a) single unit;

- (b) two unit,

flats at present?

Mr. O'NEIL replied,—

- (1) There are 8 bed-sitting room flats (for single unit applicants) included in a block of 24 flats at present under construction in the Midland area. No one-bedroom flats are planned this year.

- (2) Yes, except for 5 units of pensioner one-bedroom accommodation currently under offer, and 2 units under maintenance prior to reletting.

- (3) (a) 1,263 applications have been lodged, of which 276 come within the current criteria for assistance.

- (b) 314.

PERTH RAILWAY TERMINAL

Integration with Suburban Service

25. Mr. BRADY, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is it proposed to provide alighting facilities for trans line passengers wishing to travel from the Perth terminal by suburban trains?

- (2) If "Yes," when will provision be made?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) Construction of a platform for suburban services must encompass the provision of a footbridge to span the Perth terminal area. Arrangements are being made for design work to be undertaken, following which tenders will be called and construction commenced. Completion is anticipated early in the new year.

LAND TAX

Reduction and Receipts

26. Mr. BRADY, pursuant to notice, asked the Acting Treasurer:

- (1) Is it intended to reduce land tax during the current session to offset the steep rise in land values?
- (2) What was the amount of land tax received for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969?
- (3) What was the amount of receipts for land transfers through the Titles Office in the same five years?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Land tax levies are now being examined with a view to introducing legislation in the current session so as to lessen the charge on home owners.
- (2) 1965—\$2,891,902.
1966—\$3,397,551.
1967—\$3,588,672.
1968—\$4,811,527.
1969—\$4,892,454.
- (3) The Titles Office does not keep separate records of fees collected from the registration of transfers of land.

AGED PERSONS HOMES

Provisions at Swan Districts Hospital

27. Mr. BRADY, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will he give early consideration to providing accommodation for couples in the Swan Districts Hospital grounds similar to that provided at Mt. Henry?

Annexes to Hospitals

- (2) Has any consideration been given to reducing costs of maintaining aged people's homes by building annexes close to hospitals similar to those at Mt. Henry?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) Annexes for geriatric cases exist and others are planned in association with hospitals. No homes for aged couples are contemplated in association with hospitals.

TIMBER RESERVE 26666

Release

28. Mr. GAYFER, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Lands:

When is it proposed to release, for the purposes of agriculture, the balance of timber reserve 26666—east of Gleneagle not required to be reserved by the Mines Department under temporary reserve 2563H?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

Reserve 26666 is a reserve for timber. I am unable to advise at the present time if and when any part of this reserve can be released for agriculture. However, the position will be kept under constant review.

TEMPORARY RESERVE 2563H

Bauxite Exploration Pty. Ltd.: Mining Operations

29. Mr. GAYFER, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

When is it proposed that Bauxite Exploration Pty. Ltd. will start mining operations on temporary reserve 2563H portion of timber reserve 26666—east of Gleneagle?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

At present an extensive drilling programme is being carried on over the temporary reserves held by Bauxite Explorations Pty. Ltd., including temporary reserve 2563H, which affects timber reserve 26666. In addition, feasibility surveys of the deposits are to be undertaken within the next two to three months.

Mining operations for the production of bauxite will not take place until after these investigations have been completed and prove the project to be viable.

MARRIED PERSONS AND CHILDREN (SUMMARY RELIEF) ACT

Complaints

30. Mr. HARMAN, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) How many complaints were received under section 10 of the Married Persons and Children (Summary Relief) Act during 1968 and for the period the 1st January to the 30th June, 1969?
- (2) How many of these complaints included "desertion" by the other partner as a cause for the action?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) 1968—1,056.
1969—579.
- (2) 1968—762.
1969—382.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION

Kalgoorlie-Boulder Area

31. Mr. MOIR, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Will he supply the reasons why the ratepayers of the Shire of Kalgoorlie and the dissolved

Boulder town council have been without local government representation since the 30th June?

- (2) When does he expect that local government elections will be held in this area?
- (3) What is the position of the candidates who nominated for the election for this area advertised to take place on the 12th June and which was abandoned?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Unless the Writ of Summons, dated the 30th June, 1969, issued by the Shire of Kalgoorlie as first plaintiff and Charles Pearson Daws, Edward John Usher, John Melville Absolon, David Peter Dellar, Louis Cameron Nowland, Charles Barton Cecil Jones, Eric James Cox, Athol Vernon Wickens and Edgar George Winner as second plaintiffs had been issued, the election schedule for the 12th July, 1969 would have taken place, and following the result of that election, the ratepayers of the Shire of Kalgoorlie and the dissolved Boulder Town Council would have had their Local Government representation. The abovementioned first and second plaintiffs with the consent of the first and second defendants and after discussion and with the consent of the solicitor acting for the former Boulder Town Councillors obtained an injunction restraining the holding of the election. This was done with the mutual concurrence of all parties to see whether arrangements could be made for representation of all parties in the new enlarged Shire of Kalgoorlie by the creation of wards. Present indications are that no arrangements regarding wards will be reached. Nevertheless an attempt has and is being made.
- (2) Election proceedings will commence in approximately two weeks, depending on the progress of negotiations between the parties.
- (3) It is unlikely that the original election, the subject of the restraining order, will be held. The whole matter will be dealt with by a further Order in Council following which all candidates referred to in paragraph 3 of the question, together with any other candidates seeking election, may nominate.

QUESTIONS (2): WITHOUT NOTICE

MEMBERS: READING OF SPEECHES

Procedure

1. Mr. GRAHAM, without notice, asked the Speaker:

In view of recent occurrences, and for the guidance of members, will you, Mr. Speaker, kindly outline what procedure is to be allowed, having regard for the following extracts from Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice*, viz.—

- (a) A Member is not permitted to read his speech, but may refresh his memory by a reference to notes.
- (b) A Member may read extracts from documents, but his own language must be delivered bona fide in the form of an unwritten composition?

The SPEAKER replied:

I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for having given me some notice of the question, and I welcome the opportunity of giving some guidance to members on the subject of either reading a speech or reading extracts from a newspaper or authoritative work during the course of a speech.

Firstly, I must make it clear that the only persons who are permitted to read speeches are Ministers of the Crown when introducing a Bill, and the fact that recently I took no action when this rule was transgressed must not be accepted as a precedent. Reading lengthy extracts from newspaper editorials is not permissible at all. A short extract of no more than two lines is permissible. If a member reads from a newspaper report of an event that has occurred, then it is the responsibility of the member concerned to satisfy himself that the report is in fact accurate.

In regard to quoting from publications which are considered to be authoritative, a certain amount of leniency is allowable according to the prestige of the authority being relied on. In general, however, and even when members are referring to authorities of undoubted standing, it is the task of the member to make his own speech and paraphrase the views of the authority on which he relies. Short quotations of the most salient points from the writing of the authority can, for the sake of greater accuracy,

be permitted. The tendency of some members to read very lengthy extracts from works of authority is to be deplored.

PILLAR BOXES

Removal

2. Mr. BRADY, without notice, asked the Acting Premier:

In *The West Australian* this morning it was reported that the P.M.G. Department had removed 40 pillar boxes. As some of these boxes had been located in their present position for up to 30 years and had been frequently used, their removal is causing distress to elderly residents, and the department should be obliged to replace many of those now closed or removed. I would like to ask the Acting Premier if he will launch a strong protest with the Postmaster-General regarding the action of his department in Perth in removing 40 pillar boxes because they were not being used enough?

Mr. NALDER replied:

I did see the report which appeared in the Press with reference to the P.M.G. Department taking action to remove some pillar boxes in the metropolitan area, and I understand this has also been the case in some country areas. The reason given was that the public had not been utilising these facilities, and so they have been taken away. I will contact the Postmaster-General for information regarding the matter, and will make his reply available to the honourable member.

ROAD GRANTS SCHEME

Repayment of Loans by Local Authorities

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Works) [5.3 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, I would like your approval to make a statement.

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Works has asked the indulgence of the House to make a statement. Is there any dissentient? Permission granted.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certain problems have been raised by some shire councils in meeting loan repayment commitments under the new road grants scheme. These problems have been discussed at meetings between shire council representatives and Main Roads Department officers and, following discussions between the Commissioner of Main Roads and myself, I am now pleased to advise that I have approved a variation in administrative procedures which will provide a solution to the problem.

Mr. Tonkin: You should have agreed to do that when we told you about it.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I appreciate the comment of the Leader of the Opposition. However, I am not at all sure he said this. I do not remember his saying anything so sensible.

Mr. Graham: He said it, but you never recognised it.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The new procedure is that loan repayment commitments which are presently to be met from a council's own funds will be deemed in the future to be road expenditure for the purposes of the matching scheme over the next five years; that is, the amount of the actual road expenditure required by a local authority to meet matching requirements each year will be reduced by the amount of the loan repayment which was previously met from vehicle license fees. For example, if the road expenditure required by a local authority from its own resources to meet the full matching quota this year was, say, \$25,000 and its loan repayment commitment previously charged to vehicle license fees was \$10,000, it would now require only \$15,000 road expenditure to match in full.

In addition, I have also approved the recommendation of the Commissioner of Main Roads that a higher proportion of administration expenditure be allowed as road expenditure. Although this proportion has yet to be worked out, it should be another valuable concession to local authorities.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Days and Hours

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Acting Premier) [5.5 p.m.]: I move—

That the House, unless otherwise ordered, shall meet for the despatch of business on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, at 4.30 p.m., and on Thursdays at 2.15 p.m., and shall sit until 6.15 p.m., if necessary, and, if requisite, from 7.30 p.m. onwards.

MR. DAVIES (Victoria Park) [5.6 p.m.]: I rise to ask whether any recent attention has been given to the question of whether or not these are the most suitable sitting hours for this Parliament. I have been here since 1961, and the same motion, word for word, has been moved every session, and I have not heard any voice raised in opposition; neither have I heard any query raised during a debate in this Chamber.

I thought I would do some research to see just when these hours were fixed, and it appears that as far back as 1898 practically the same motion was moved in this House; that is, that it sit as from 4.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and from 7.30 onwards if

required. You will note, Sir, that the House rose for tea at 6.30 p.m. in those days. I did my research in 10-year steps and I found that by 1908 the same motion was being moved, but the House rose for tea at 6.15 p.m., so the evening recess was extended by a quarter of an hour.

Going on from 1908 through 1918, 1928, 1938, to 1948, I found the same hours applied; that is, from 4.30 to 6.15 p.m. and then from 7.30 p.m. onwards, if required, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. When I got to 1958 I found there had been an alteration, so I looked back and discovered that a query had been raised in 1951. The then Premier (Sir Ross McLarty) moved the usual motion which had been in operation since the turn of the century, and the present Leader of the Opposition suggested that the House should sit at 2.30 p.m. each day. However, I rather think that was a ruse to discuss the rent legislation of that time, because although the debate proceeded for some three or four hours, very little was said about the hours of sitting and quite a lot was said about some pending changes in the rent legislation as it applied then.

That was on the 7th August, 1951. I became rather confused, because I found there were two sessions of Parliament in that year; from the 2nd August to the 11th October, and then a new session from the 16th October to the 23rd November. The second session appears to have been related to changing certain legislation dealing with price control and rents, and a new session was necessary. However, the same motion came forward at the commencement of that second session. Later in the same year the present Deputy Leader of the Opposition moved as follows:—

That in the opinion of this House normal hours of sittings in future sessions should be held in the day time.

He was particularly careful not to specify any hours in his motion, because he wanted an expression of opinion from the House as to whether or not members thought this was a good idea.

The motion was finally dealt with on the 31st October, 1951, and page 389 of *Hansard* for that session shows that there were 11 in favour and 28 against; so there was a majority of 17 against the motion. I noticed that most of the debate on the motion was centred around the availability of Ministers and the lack of accommodation in Parliament House. However, the then Premier (Sir Ross McLarty) indicated that he would give consideration to altering the hours of sitting.

The matter came up again in 1952, and the present Deputy Leader of the Opposition—who was then the member for East Perth—raised a query as to whether or not the Premier intended to honour

the undertaking he had given during the previous session with regard to starting earlier on some occasions. The Premier indicated that he would see what could be done as soon as the House had dealt with some important business. Apparently nothing further was done, although I found that from about September to the end of the session a motion was moved at the adjournment of the House on Wednesdays that the House meet at 2.30 p.m. the following day, instead of the usual 4.30 p.m.

That was the first breakthrough. During the earlier debate on the motion moved by the present Deputy Leader of the Opposition for daytime sittings, mention was made of the fact that the question had been before the House on one or two occasions. Indeed, Dame Florence Cardell-Oliver had brought it forward, and our former Leader of the Opposition (The Hon. A. R. G. Hawke) also sought a change in sitting hours in 1933. However, by 1952 the best we could do was to sit at 2.30 p.m. on Thursdays; and the other hours which had applied since the turn of the century still applied.

In 1953 there was a change of Government and, as was to be expected, there was a change in sitting hours. But it was not an extensive change: the only difference was the introduction of the hours we have at the present time; that is, starting at 4.30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 2.15 p.m. on Thursdays. This change was made by a Labor Government and I think a former member for Roe (the late Hon. C. C. Perkins) complimented the Government, and I think the present Premier also said he was pleased that the change had been made because it enabled country members to get away early on Thursdays to return to their electorates.

Mr. Jamieson: I think the Minister for Lands was also happy about it.

Mr. Bovell: I am always happy about most things.

Mr. DAVIES: Actually, the present Premier when complimenting the Government of the day was backed up by the Minister for Lands when he interjected and said, "Perhaps not," but he did not make a speech.

However, the fact remains that from the turn of the century to 1952 only two minor changes were made; the tea recess was extended by a quarter of an hour, and from 1952 onwards we met at 2.15 p.m. instead of 4.30 p.m. on Thursdays. I do not think our present hours are the most suitable, but they may well be. It may be that no recent attention has been given to the matter, and the motion is moved each year by force of habit and unless someone complains it will continue to be moved in its present form.

As I said previously, I am not original in opposing the motion. There have been sporadic attempts over the years, but none

since the present Deputy Leader of the Opposition moved his motion in 1951. The main arguments used in opposition to any change are related to the accommodation at Parliament House, and the availability of Ministers. I think we can dismiss the first argument, because since 1963 we have had reasonable accommodation in this place for both members and Ministers.

Accommodation for private discussion and interview is available, and if it is not immediately available, then some can easily be provided. Therefore, I do not think there is any argument on the question of accommodation. Ministers are able to have their secretaries attend on them in Parliament House; they can have papers brought up to them by messengers, and any other documents delivered to them can be handled quite confidentially. Even now many Ministers and their officers carry out certain duties in Parliament House, and the question of accommodation, in my opinion, can no longer be raised.

The question of Ministers being readily available has also been raised. I am not certain whether this means that Ministers should be available by sitting in this House and listening to each and every speech that is made in debate, or whether Ministers should be in their offices working. As members of Parliament I think our principal duty is to deal with legislation. I have never been a Minister so I am unable to say exactly what administrative duties they carry out. Nevertheless, I think we can all concede that a large amount of the work of running a country or a State is performed by civil servants, and I think Ministers could arrange a timetable so that they could be in the House for the convenience of members generally. We should be given the opportunity of meeting at more reasonable hours.

If the function of Parliament is to perform more or less as a two-ring circus, then possibly the present hours of sitting are the most suitable, because we are readily available for members of the public to gaze down upon us. However, as I said before, our main duty and our most serious duty is to look towards legislation, and whether or not we arrange our sittings to enable members of the public to attend in the gallery and watch us is quite immaterial. We all know that if a matter is of sufficient importance to certain people, irrespective of the hour it is debated those people will attend in the gallery to listen to the debate.

On the question of Ministers being present in the House, I suggest that few Ministers take part in many debates other than on the items in which they are particularly interested. I think Mr. Speaker, that since your elevation to the position of Speaker we have been able to conduct Parliament and deal with the items on the notice paper far more smoothly than

we have in the past. I think the rostering of speakers and the arranging of the business of the House has been greatly improved.

Mr. Nalder: You are blaming the Whips, are you?

Mr. DAVIES: Possibly I might be getting more used to it as a member, but I think in the past year, particularly, we managed to get through a lot more business more expeditiously. However, the point I am making is that I do not believe Ministers themselves take part in many debates other than those which have a bearing on their departments, and for all the good they are, apart from that, they could be outside the Chamber or down in their offices working on departmental matters. The Whips would be quite happy to grant them a pair if they so desired.

Indeed, I think, if we all had to attend the sittings of the House during the day, and if Ministers had to go back and work in their offices at night they would find they would get a great deal more done, particularly when there were no departmental officers to interrupt them and no telephones to answer. I know that I can get through a great deal more work at night than I can during the day, for the simple reason I do not have so many interruptions.

Mr. Nalder: Ministers are doing that now, anyway.

Mr. DAVIES: Now that we have two periods for parliamentary sittings, I consider it is time we reviewed the sitting hours. I merely bring this matter forward to obtain, perhaps, an indication of how members feel about it, because in the corridors one quite often hears members say, "It is quite ridiculous sitting at this time of night." Members of Parliament find that from 8 a.m. until late in the afternoon they are continually answering telephone calls whilst trying to perform some of their electoral duties, and if we look out the window we can see the workers in St. George's Terrace making their way homewards at about 4.30 p.m. when the bells are ringing for us to meet in the Chamber where we are required to perform another four or five hours' work in debating legislation.

At this late hour in the afternoon we are not at our best, and the majority of us would be more satisfied if they were able to start their work in the Chamber earlier in the afternoon, or perhaps even before lunch, thus enabling us to finish our deliberations earlier in the evening than we do at present. I do not suggest that members should then go home and put their feet up and watch television. I feel that, like myself, each and every member would have some work to do which had some relation to his electorate. I am not trying to dodge work,

but for the reasonable conduct of Parliament I think it is time a review was made of our hours of sitting.

I am aware that in one other State the parliamentary sittings commence at 10 a.m., and that other State Legislatures have morning and afternoon sessions, but I do not think that is any concern of ours. I do not care what they do in other Parliaments or in other States. I think we should set those sitting hours which will suit this Parliament best, and which will also suit the great majority of members, and it is for this reason that I ask whether any recent consideration has been given to whether or not the present sitting hours of this Parliament are the most suitable.

MR. BICKERTON (Pilbara) [5.21 p.m.]: It is not my intention to make a prolonged speech on this motion, but now it has been raised by the member for Victoria Park there are one or two observations I would like to put forward. At times I do wonder at the wisdom of Parliament sitting at 4.30 p.m., and why it should not sit at an earlier hour of the day. I think the 4.30 p.m. sitting time may possibly stem from the way the first Parliament was constituted when some members were appointed and some were elected. I have no doubt that probably the majority of those members were, in the main, businessmen in the town and it was probably convenient for them to sit at that hour in the afternoon.

Those men were no doubt carrying on their particular businesses during the day and it suited them to meet in this House somewhere around 4.30 p.m. for the transaction of parliamentary business. Nevertheless, I also have no doubt that at that stage of the life of the Western Australian Parliament there was not nearly the amount of parliamentary business to attend to as is now going through this House, and I feel sure that most of the members' deliberations in earlier years would be over in perhaps two or three hours of a parliamentary sitting.

As the years have passed this situation has progressively altered with sittings becoming longer and longer, and the hours of sitting after the tea suspension becoming longer and longer. In the immediate past years it has not been unusual for members to be here until 11 p.m. and midnight or even until the early hours of the morning. This set of circumstances has meant that about two-thirds of the way through the session Standing Orders have been suspended and we have then proceeded to pass all the legislation remaining on the notice paper in one, two, three, or half a dozen sittings. The reason for this haste has probably been due to the fact that when the House was conducting its business in accordance with the Standing Orders we were

not taking advantage of the available hours during the day to deal with our legislation.

It has been said that if the House were to start proceedings earlier in the day this would interfere with the work of Ministers, and it would probably interfere with the work of members as well. However, as members of Parliament, surely we are here to do our work in Parliament, and some other provision would have to be made to enable members to attend to their electoral work and for the Ministers to carry out their departmental duties.

One cannot help but think that the duties performed by Ministers during the day in these times are, to a great extent, concerned with social activities; namely, the opening of various projects and being present at functions, such as passing-out parades, and so on. Probably, in the past, their duties in this connection were not as great as they are today. Therefore, no doubt one is entitled to query whether such duties are of more benefit to the State than perhaps a Minister remaining in his office, or alternatively, spending such time in Parliament. This, of course, is a matter of opinion. I suppose many people would point out that the social functions performed by a Minister could be classed as being parliamentary, but others would, perhaps, imply that they were merely performed for the purpose of electioneering on behalf of the Government.

I am of the opinion that to attempt to draw a line between what was a parliamentary duty and what was an electioneering duty would be a fairly difficult task. I am aware that it is probably good for the State that Ministers should travel around the countryside so that people can see them, but many of the duties they perform now, as we all know, were in the past carried out by the road board chairman, as he was then. He would be called upon to open the local hall, or a new school, or to perform duties of a similar nature, and in those days the Ministers no doubt spent their time on what could be considered by some people, at any rate, as matters of a more constructive nature.

Coming back to the question of parliamentary sitting hours, I feel the time is approaching when these could be reviewed. Earlier hours of sitting are apparently successful in other State Parliaments. I would remind members that in Queensland the House sits from about 10 a.m. until about 6 p.m. and rarely, if ever, does it sit after dinner. I take it for granted that the Ministers in Queensland work just as hard as the Ministers in Western Australia; and no doubt the legislation passed there is no better or no worse than that passed in this State.

Therefore if it is possible for the Queensland Parliament to function in a

satisfactory manner in the hours of sitting it observes, and if it is possible for other State Parliaments to sit in the morning or earlier in the day than 4.30 p.m. and get through their work within such hours, I can see no reason why, especially when we now have two periods of sitting in the one session, a review of the sitting hours could not be made so that Parliament could sit at an earlier hour of the day; because I believe that people are less tired during the day time and can then give greater attention to legislation than they can in the early hours of the morning.

As we all know, it has been the custom in the past for important legislation to be pushed through in the early a.m. hours of the day. Now that the member for Victoria Park has raised this matter, I think it is up to the Government—because it is not a matter that should come under our Standing Orders—to have another look at the question to ascertain whether it is possible to take more advantage of the daylight hours to conduct the sittings of Parliament.

Question put and passed.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Precedence on Tuesdays and Thursdays

On motion by Mr. Nalder (Acting Premier), resolved:

That on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Government business shall take precedence of all motions and Orders of the Day.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Appointment

On motion by Mr. Nalder (Acting Premier), the following sessional committees were appointed:—

Library.—Mr. Speaker, Dr. Henn, and Mr. Norton.

Standing Orders.—Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, Mr. Burt, Mr. Gayfer, and Mr. Bickerton.

House.—Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bickerton, Mr. Jamieson, Mr. Dunn, and Mr. Mitchell.

Printing.—Mr. Speaker, Mr. I. W. Manning, and Mr. Fletcher.

SUPPLY BILL

Standing Orders Suspension

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Acting Premier) [5.30 p.m.]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable a Supply Bill to be introduced without notice and passed through all its stages in one sitting, and to enable this business to be entered upon and dealt with before the Address-in-Reply is adopted.

Question put and passed.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Acting Treasurer), and read a first time.

Message: Appropriations

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the Bill.

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Acting Treasurer) [5.34 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to grant supply to Her Majesty of a sum not exceeding \$155,000,000 for the services of the State for the year ending the 30th June, 1970.

The Revenue Budget and the Loan Estimates for the current financial year are now being framed and these will be presented to the House later in this session at the same time as the Appropriation Bills are introduced. This procedure was commenced last year and is in accordance with the revised Standing Orders. In the meantime it is necessary to provide funds to carry on normal Government services.

An issue of \$120,000,000 is sought from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and \$30,000,000 from moneys to the credit of the General Loan Fund. The amount sought from the Consolidated Revenue Fund exceeds the provision in last year's Supply Act by \$10,000,000, which is required to meet higher costs and expansion of Government services.

Provision is also made in the Bill for an issue of \$5,000,000 from the Public Account to enable the Treasurer to make such temporary advances as may be necessary to carry on the services of the State. This is the same amount as was made available last year.

The amount of supply being sought at this stage is to meet the estimated requirements for the first six months of this financial year.

Full details of proposed transactions on both the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the General Loan Fund will be available to members when the Estimates are presented.

Transactions on the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the last financial year resulted in a deficit of \$1,056,000. The main factors contributing to this result were the impact of salary and wage variations and a sharp decline in railway revenue caused by the fall-off in wheat shipments.

It is expected that continued increases in salary and wages rates will pose a major financial problem in the current financial year. In addition, increased prosperity is resulting in demands for expansion and improvement of services at a much faster

rate than that of the growth in the revenue of the State. But more will be said on these aspects when the Appropriation Bills are introduced later in this session.

At that time the full requirements for 1969-70 and the means by which they are to be financed will be set out. Members will then have an opportunity of seeking detailed information on expected revenue and expenditure from Ministers controlling the various departments

MR. TONKIN (Melville—Leader of the Opposition) [5.37 p.m.]: As we know from experience it is customary for the Government to require supply immediately Parliament opens. Accordingly, this is no exception, and we agree that in order to finance the costs of administration supply should be granted. Before we agree to it, however, we think it is our responsibility to point out a number of things with which we disagree, so that the Government will have notice of the requirements necessary to make its administration more satisfactory.

I had noted that the Government had a deficit exceeding \$1,000,000. I do not agree with the explanation which is given as being wholly responsible for that deficit. Replies given to questions this afternoon indicate that there is another factor. The Acting Premier has mentioned that we are in the red to the extent of \$1,050,000, because the railways have not carried as much wheat as ordinarily they would have carried and they have therefore lost revenue from that source. That is true. Another cause mentioned was an increase in salaries and wages. The increase in salaries and wages was forecast when the Budget was introduced and the increase was taken into consideration.

One of the reasons why there is a \$1,000,000 deficit is that we are now being called upon to pay substantially for the standard gauge railway. It is undoubted that this railway will confer benefits upon the State and upon certain companies in the State, but it is well to appreciate that a pretty high cost is involved in this, and a very heavy burden will be imposed on the finances of the State in connection with it.

The Minister for Railways established this afternoon that his department's liability for the current year to the Commonwealth was \$2,262,679 for interest and \$273,168 repayment on advances, imposing upon his finances a burden this financial year of \$2,535,847.

That is a pretty hefty sum which has to be found from the earnings of the railways to enable that department to balance its accounts. The railways finished up with being something like \$6,000,000 in the red this year; so the standard gauge railway has made a very substantial contribution to the deficit of

the Railways Department, and to a large extent to the overall deficit on the State's financial operations.

If it had not been for the fact that the Premier's estimates of revenue were grossly understated, then the Government would have finished up many millions behind. Land tax, for example, has run completely riot. I am not satisfied at all with the intimation given in His Excellency's speech—

It is intended to provide additional relief to home owners—

What relief have the home owners had? His Excellency went on to say—

—and to protect them from the effects of sudden increase in land values and this will be reflected in amendments to land tax legislation.

I am awaiting with the greatest interest to see what the Government's proposals will be in this direction.

Land tax, metropolitan region improvement tax, vermin tax, and probate duty, are now being levied at a rate which is completely out of balance with what is reasonable in the circumstances; and if this trend is allowed to continue unchecked then we will have a situation where a very large portion of the population will be completely unable to meet its obligations.

Mr. Nalder: The vermin rate has been reduced.

Mr. TONKIN: By how much? Generally some idea of what is occurring can be gained from these figures which I have taken in the broad. In my own territory there is the local authority of the Melville City Council. Part of it is in the territory of the Minister for Housing, and he will therefore be aware of the situation which I am now going to explain. The whole of the district of Melville has been revalued, and the improved value of all the properties has been increased from \$36,000,000 to over \$100,000,000 in one year—an increase from \$36,000,000 to over \$100,000,000 in value.

Let us make a rough calculation to see what that means in increased land tax and metropolitan region improvement tax to the Government. I have selected a couple of examples concerning individuals—I will give more later—to show what has occurred. I take an example from Spearwood. The tax payable—and this includes vermin tax as well as land tax and metropolitan region improvement tax—on this particular property in 1966 was \$172. In 1969 the tax levied on this was \$989; or an increase from \$172 in 1966 to \$989 in 1969.

Mr. O'Connor: Has this area been gazetted?

Mr. TONKIN: I doubt very much whether a similar example can be found anywhere else in the world.

Mr. O'Connor: Has this area not been gazetted?

Mr. TONKIN: There has been no alteration to the area at all. As a matter of fact, the unfortunate owner of the land is in the position that he cannot do anything with it, because it is covered by interim development orders.

In respect of another property in Spearwood, the total tax paid in 1967—and this would not include vermin tax—was \$22.94. In 1969 the bill was \$110, or an increase from \$22 to \$110.

In the district of East Fremantle, which is in the territory of the member for Fremantle, on one particular property the tax payable in 1963 was \$12.21. In 1966 the total tax was \$20.33; so in three years it went up by \$8. However, from 1966 to 1969 it went up again, to a figure of \$56.50; so from 1963 to 1966 there was an increase of \$8 in the total tax payable, but in the following three years it increased again by \$36.

The whole thing has got completely away from the Government. It should have been corrected long ago, but instead it has been allowed to go on. But for how long? In the meantime the taxpayers will be called upon to meet this increased burden.

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. Mitchell), you will remember that when the Government introduced legislation in the last session to reduce land tax the Premier budgeted for a reduction of \$1,300,000 in the tax; and I ventured the opinion then that there would not be a reduction in this revenue at all but that the Premier would finish up with more money than he was then getting.

I quote from page 2367 of the 1968 *Hansard*, which sets out what I had to say—

... and it looks to me on a rough calculation, that what the Treasurer will lose by a reduction, he will make up for by the extra taxation imposed on the speculators, give or take a few thousand dollars. I hazard a guess he will probably show a profit in the long run because he will get more in increased taxation than he will give away in reduced taxation.

So it has proved to be the case; because, instead of getting \$1,300,000 less, he finished up with \$80,900 more.

Land tax was up by \$517,454, which was an increase of 12 per cent. above the estimate for the previous year. On this point I will make a comparison with the stamp tax, although I do not want to leave land tax for the moment.

The stamp tax was up 14 per cent., or an amount of \$2,876,436. Now, according to statements which have come from Government sources, what has taken place with regard to the legislation passed has meant lower bills for most people. If it has meant lower bills for most people—and I deny it

—just imagine what it has meant to those people who are paying higher bills; because, overall, the amount from taxation has increased, and increased substantially. If it has meant that most people are paying less, then the unfortunate minority is certainly paying plenty. The truth of the matter is that it does not mean lower bills for most people—it means lower bills for some people. For example, South Perth has not been revalued for six years! It means substantially higher bills for many people who, in most cases, just cannot afford to pay them.

The Government has said that this increase in land tax on unimproved land has had the effect of reducing speculation in land and reducing land prices. To be able to appreciate that, one would have to be endowed with extrasensory perception! Land prices are not rising at the same rate in certain districts because of compulsory buyer resistance. Prices have become so high that the people who now desire to obtain the land just cannot afford to buy it at the price at which it is being offered. I know it to be a fact that the number of people coming into certain parts of the district of Melville—not the electorate of Melville, but the district of Melville, around Booragoon—is falling off, not because they are not desirable areas in which to live—they are—but because the price at which the land is being offered is beyond the reach of those people who wish to acquire it.

I glanced at an article, in the *Daily News* this evening, under the heading, "SHC accused of land profit hunt." That accusation can be well established, because it is not unknown that the Housing Commission has put land on the market with a reserve price on it to ensure that it will not be sold at a lower price than the commission requires for it. Is that any way to bring down land prices?

Mr. O'Neil: When was this reserve price put on land?

Mr. TONKIN: Early last year.

Mr. O'Neil: This land to be sold is at fixed prices.

Mr. TONKIN: I was not talking about "this land" when I made that statement. What I said with regard to that statement was well justified; I was giving an instance where the State Housing Commission sold land and put a reserve price on it. The Minister must have agreed to it.

Mr. O'Neil: You made a statement; give us an example of where and when.

Mr. TONKIN: I will dig up the files and see that the Minister is supplied with the information, but I can assure him it is a fact.

Mr. Court: Isn't the main thing to remember that all the proceeds of land sold by the State Housing Commission go back to the commission for it to build homes for low income people?

Mr. TONKIN: I have heard that often, but the figures do not show it. The article in the *Daily News* makes the statement that the State Housing Commission land which has most recently been made available is overpriced to the extent of about \$3,000.

Mr. O'Neil: That statement is about all land; why pick out the State Housing Commission?

Mr. TONKIN: The Minister is not responsible for all land, only Housing Commission land.

Mr. O'Neil: Some people who were lucky enough to obtain land as a result of the ballot have said it is \$3,000 below market value.

Mr. TONKIN: It seems to me that what Mr. Hannaford has said in this article is perfectly true.

Mr. O'Neil: Another wise man from the east!

Mr. TONKIN: With regard to prices and rentals, the article is interesting; and fortunately I am already in a position to prove this immediately I make the statement. I quote as follows:—

He contrasted the present situation in Sydney and Melbourne, where housing blocks within seven miles of the city could be bought for about \$4,000.

In Adelaide, blocks within a seven-mile radius of the city centre could be bought for \$2,000.

When I was in Victoria last week I looked through the newspapers to get the local news and I saw a heading in *The Sun of Monday*, the 28th July, a paper which is published in Melbourne, "Rates Sale Yields \$102,203." I thought it was very interesting that land should be sold for rates.

One would imagine that anybody at all who owned land would want to pay the rates and put the land on the market. I have not seen any sales for rates in Western Australia for some time. So I made inquiries about some of the districts which are mentioned and I found that they are about eight miles from the centre of Melbourne. This article states—

At a rates recovery auction held on Saturday for the City of Keilor, all 47 blocks of land offered sold for a total of \$102,203.

About 300 attended the auction, which was held in the old Shire Hall building.

It was estimated that the amount of rates, interest and other charges owing to the council on the land sold amounted to about \$33,000.

So for \$33,000, the council was able to get \$102,000 from the sale.

Mr. O'Connor: They may have had a lot of water on them.

Mr. W. A. Manning: Are these blocks serviced with water, sewerage, and roads?

Mr. TONKIN: Is that a relevant question, if one has regard to the sales of land, because in order to make a proper comparison we would have to say that all blocks of land put on the market in Western Australia are serviced with roads, are sewered, and have water. That is not so at all. A lot of the land sold in Western Australia today has none of those things.

Mr. O'Connor: In what areas?

Mr. TONKIN: Continuing to quote—

In East Keilor 11 blocks sold at from \$2,150 in William Av. to \$4,250 in Wonganella Drive.

Six blocks in Airport West sold at from \$3,750 in Kingsley Rd., to \$5,600 in King St. for an industrial site.

Ten St. Alban blocks sold at from \$1,300 in Reaburn Av. to \$4,825 in Main Rd. East.

In Sydenham 20 small size lots in old subdivisions sold at from \$450 in Carrington St. to \$9,000 in Victoria Rd.

The auctioneers in conjunction for the council were:—

It then gives the names. Further on the article continues—

The only land sold was four blocks at Glenroy for \$11,200.

That information tallies with the statement of Mr. Hannaford about the price of land in Melbourne and it emphasises how completely out of hand the situation has got in Western Australia, despite the fact that the Government keeps on claiming it has taken measures which are proving effective.

I want now to refer to the land tax situation, which is really dreadful. The valuation of one property in 1960 was \$1,700 and the tax was \$13.10. In 1963 the valuation was increased to \$2,830 and the tax rose to \$20.32. In 1967 the valuation was still the same at \$2,830, but the tax had risen to \$22.98. In 1968 the valuation had gone to \$9,000 and the tax to \$56.50. Of these sums the metropolitan region improvement tax was \$1.67 in 1962 and \$25.50 in 1968.

It can be imagined that when the assessments started to go out I was inundated with questions from people in various parts of the metropolitan area who just could not understand the situation. I made copies of those assessments, which copies I have here, and I have made a selection from them to indicate just how serious the situation really is.

I have one here for a house in Blackwall Reach Road, Bicton. This happens to be the home of a man who works with the S.E.C. His valuation last year was \$6,200, and his total tax, \$50.37. This year he

has received an assessment showing his valuation as having gone to \$18,000 and his tax bill to \$123. For a working man \$123 is a pretty formidable account, especially when it is for tax alone. His metropolitan region improvement tax has gone from \$15.50 last year to \$45 this year.

I have one here for a house in Palmyra, the tax for last year being \$9.10, while this year it is \$25.19. One from Fremantle: the valuation last year was \$19,800 while this year it is \$72,400. The tax has risen from \$190.45 to \$989.50. One from Potts Street, Melville: the previous valuation was \$1,470, and the new valuation, \$5,300. The previous tax was \$11.93, and the new tax, \$29.45.

One from McKimmie Street, Palmyra: the previous valuation was \$1,100. It will be appreciated that at this valuation it is quite an unpretentious dwelling. This year the valuation is \$4,530 and the tax has gone from \$8.93 to \$24.91.

Another notice from McKimmie Street, Palmyra, shows the valuation last year at \$1,200, with a tax of \$9.75. This year the valuation increased to \$4,600, with a tax of \$25.30. One from Spearwood shows the valuation last year at \$2,100. This year it has increased to \$12,500. That is six times as much; up 500 per cent. The tax last year was \$22.94 and this year it is \$110. The metropolitan region improvement tax last year was \$5.25 and this year the same tax is \$31.25.

For how long is this sort of thing to be allowed to go on? I have in my possession many more examples of a similar kind, but I think I have read enough to indicate just what the situation is. It is absolutely imperative that something be done to alter drastically the present method of revaluation which is resulting in increases in valuations of more than 100 per cent. a year.

It is generally recognised that a 3 per cent. inflation is as much as a country can stand. If, in our overall economy, we had more than a 3 per cent. inflation then before long we would have the Federal Treasurer (Mr. McMahon) advocating some repressive measures.

Three per cent. a year! Consider what is going on with regard to land tax! This is caused by the failure of the Government to check the increase in the price of unimproved land, and because of the sales of unimproved land which are taking place in districts where there is a great deal of improved land, the values of the improved land are being forced up.

Why cannot the Government change the method completely? Instead of paying a lot of valuers to go around revaluing some districts every five years, and other districts not once in six years, why cannot the Government make an increase of 3 per cent. a year in the value of land to provide for normal appreciation? The

present situation of subjecting people to increases in values of 400 per cent. and 500 per cent. is completely indefensible.

I repeat: We on this side of the House will be anxiously waiting to see what the Government's proposals are. They will have to be pretty drastic to correct this situation, because it has to be corrected. It is absolutely unconscionable to allow it to remain as it is.

When I raised this question at previous sittings of Parliament, I received the answer that the Government was keeping the position under review. What the Government should have been doing was busying itself in applying an immediate remedy. I suppose we will go on, month after month, and in the dying hours of the session a Bill will be brought here which will not go nearly far enough to correct the present situation.

The Opposition will continue to remind the Government of this situation, and how we owe it to our citizens to make it possible for them to meet their obligations for taxation within their means. The way taxation is going now it is not possible for people to meet their obligations within their means.

It is bad enough for those of us on salaries or wages which increase from time to time with the increased cost of living. But what about the people on fixed incomes? What about those on superannuation and pensions who have to wait years before they receive any increase? Those people do not get the benefit of taxation deductions from increased amounts paid for land tax.

People with an income of \$10,000 or more a year would have their land tax cut in half because on the top level of their income they would be paying 50c in the dollar, or more. Money paid in land tax is a deduction. However, those on fixed incomes—on superannuation—who are not paying income tax will not get any deduction at all and they will be obliged to meet the whole of the tax which is imposed at a rate beyond that which they ought to bear. I make it plain that we are not prepared to allow the present situation to continue to exist.

MR. TAYLOR (Cockburn) [6.13 p.m.]: It is just under 12 months since I stood in this House for the first time. On that occasion, I spoke to the Address-in-Reply. This session I move just one stage further forward to make a contribution to the debate on the Supply Bill. When the next session of Parliament commences I hope to join the ranks with my colleague from Victoria Park in speaking to the very first motion that is moved; and in the following session I hope to be associated with my leader on the Government side of the House.

Mr. Graham: Hear, hear!

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Hope springs eternal!

Mr. TAYLOR: With just 12 months' experience behind me perhaps it would be appropriate to remark on my impressions of Parliament. Some members might suggest I should wait until I have spent a longer time in this Chamber, but I have the feeling that unless I make certain comments now I am likely to become, perhaps, a little cynical, or accept the situation, and the thoughts I now have may never be recorded.

My first disappointment—perhaps I should have expected it—was that in my maiden speech, and in other speeches, I made points pertinent to my electorate—points which I thought were valuable and which deserved attention—but to no avail. I believed that some of those matters which I mentioned would receive some attention, and I believed that some action may be taken. However, there appeared to be little return for my effort.

A second disappointment was when I found that on two, and possibly three occasions during the year, when I was able to speak on matters affecting my electorate, a time limit of 45 minutes was imposed.

When one sees so many problems which one would like to bring before the Government it is distressing to find that one is limited in dealing with any matter in detail.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. TAYLOR: Just before the tea suspension I was making one or two points about my thoughts on my first 12 months in Parliament. I will run over them quickly as I wish to come to the point of my address this evening.

As mentioned, I was disappointed over the relatively few occasions when private members are able to address the House on topics in which they are interested.

Mr. Bickerton: Who is in charge of the Government?

Mr. TAYLOR: I was even more disappointed to find so much time was made available to speak on other matters which were not of the same importance. It did appear to me that I was able to spend more time speaking on Argentine ants or exotic diseases in cattle than I was on major problems of industrialisation within my own area.

One or two other points also disturbed me a little; and I hope that with the passage of years this feeling will not pass. I was a little disappointed to find there should be so much time spent in referring to cash value and statistics in legislation, but very little time spent in referring to human values. We seem to spend a great deal

of time debating the amount of money that is to be spent on education for classrooms but almost no time is spent in discussing what the content of that education will be or the type of product which may emerge from the schools.

We tend to debate the cost of welfare relief in dollars and the cost of fines in dollars, but we spend too little time in trying to determine what is causing the problems for which we are deciding penalties.

We debated the sinking of the railways and the archway, but we spent almost no time in looking at the City of Perth *in toto*, which, after all, belongs to the whole of the State; that is, to the country areas as well as to the city.

We debated road funds with each member perhaps looking at his own electorate to see what proportion could be spent in that section. However, we did not take into consideration that transport in its entirety should be part of that debate. We were interested in roads only, but not in considering what forms fast commuter transport and other transport would take. Obviously, these two must be completely linked, but we in this House debated only one section.

We debated underage driving, underage drinking and traffic offences for minors, and other such offences which effect young people. However, there was no debate in this Chamber last year whereby we looked at the causes. We discussed what we would do if underage people drank, stole a vehicle, or committed some other misdemeanour, but we did not discuss the social conditions which caused them to take these very actions.

These things appear to be out of all perspective. If I could take a little from the remarks made by my colleague, the member for Victoria Park, it would appear that we are still debating in the terms of the 1890s and the 1900s and we are not looking at the human content of the State; we are debating all issues, or relatively all issues in terms of dollars and cents.

I would like now to make a brief criticism of the Government before moving on to my main point. Except in the field of economics, and there only in one area, I did see that the State has an unimaginative Government and that some Ministers have become jaded and stereotyped by time. They are becoming more defensive and necessarily limited, perhaps because of the suffocating presence of more powerful colleagues or through the influence of more persistent heads of departments. Real flair and imagination is not being given its full rein. Again, there are a few exceptions, but far from being stimulators and initiators in their departments, some Ministers are becoming virtually rubber stamps.

I will try to make my points progressively and I wish tonight to try to indicate a situation which I think may be developing within this State. In looking at the year 1968, which is the year we have just completed, a number of points come quickly to mind as far as the world situation is concerned. There were race riots and poverty demonstrations in the United States, and events in Vietnam, Czechoslovakia, the Middle East, and France.

In the Eastern States there was the beginning of student riots and other types of disorders. If one recalls the Press comment one would be aware that on three occasions over that period of 12 months the headlines were, "Worst Riot Ever" or "Largest Group Ever." The instances of demonstrations in the Eastern States were actually growing during that period.

There appeared to be a growing disquiet amongst the population of this State. A number of examples can be mentioned to illustrate this point. Firstly, the *Daily News* of Tuesday, the 25th March, gave the finding of a Gallup poll. The first paragraph reads—

People are 2/1 of the opinion that their standard of living is getting worse, rather than better, according to the latest Gallup Poll.

I will go no further than to make that statement and I will not try to prove its accuracy. I wish now to refer to a letter which appeared in *The West Australian* on the 24th July. The first paragraph reads as follows:—

I say that the increasing price rises affecting every phase of our living standards are brought about by worsening political moves.

Further down, it says—

Where does all the splendor go from the millions and millions of dollars signed up in mineral deals or other enterprises? Who benefits from all this?

Why all the price rises, the strikes for better living and the meagre loans to finance housing?

These are two cuttings which indicate a pattern which I thought I could see.

In our own State we saw the situation of youth taking a hand for the first time. We saw the formation of a union within high-school children and this is something we had not anticipated before in this area. We saw university people taking part in demonstrations and, again, this is something we had not seen before. Further, there was an increasing intensity in this type of demonstration. We saw an increase in the incidence of venereal disease and in the incidence of vandalism.

For the first time for many years we saw groups of farmers protesting, looking at their own areas, and their own standards of living. I attended one meeting

in Capel and one in Anzac House, but I was aware of others in Boyup Brook and other centres. All members agree that this is something which has not been experienced before.

I am talking now of last year, 1968. None of these matters were discussed at depth in the Chamber last session, but these are incidents which took place in that year.

In industry, we saw an increased number of strikes in the north-west, in Kambalda, and in Kwinana, in the building trades. We saw watersiders and bakers on strike. We saw police taking action of their own accord and virtually putting themselves on the mat as far as their occupations were concerned through appearing on radio and television. Even to this date, teachers are taking part in open discussions about the Government.

These are all events which took place in 1968 and the beginning of 1969 and they are not events which can be paralleled in any period in the years before.

We saw an increase in what might be called antisocial behaviour amongst the aboriginal population, particularly in the area north of Perth. While this is said to be always a problem, nevertheless it became a greater problem in 1968.

Finally—and I am not criticising this particular point—we have the instance lately of women's organisations forming themselves in relation to the Termination of Pregnancy Bill. I think this again is an indication that the community as a whole is stirred and restless. There is something transpiring within this country and within this State of which I doubt the Government is completely aware.

I would like to confirm some of the points I have made and to impress upon members that they are quite valid. First I shall deal with industrial disputes. The detail I am about to quote is taken from a Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics interim report, under the heading of "Industrial Disputes, December Quarter 1968 and Year 1968" and the reference number is 6.6. Taking the figure for the number of industrial disputes in Western Australia and Australia in 1964 as 100 per cent., we find that by 1967 both this State and Australia as a whole had continued more or less in line; and, in fact, the incidence of industrial disputes in Western Australia was only 82 per cent. and in the whole of Australia only 88 per cent. In other words, after a four-year period the incidence was below our starting point.

But what happened in 1968? We find that from 100 per cent. in 1964—which was our starting point—or 82 per cent. in 1967, the incidence of strikes in this State rose to 270 per cent., while for the whole of Australia it was up to 128 per cent. So the

increase in the number of industrial disputes in Western Australia in 1968 was 600 per cent. of the Australian increase.

The figures for each quarter are well worth reading. In the March quarter the increase was 200 per cent.; up from a 100 per cent. base to 200 per cent. of what it had been in the previous quarter. In June the figure was 250 per cent., in September 350 per cent., and in December it was 367 per cent. of what it had been for the December, 1967 quarter. All of this was in Western Australia. I will mention the previous figures again: for the whole of Australia there was an increase of 28 per cent. in 1968, and for Western Australia there was an increase of 270 per cent.

If we look at the incidence of workers involved in industrial disputes, we find a very similar pattern. Using again the 100 per cent. basis, the number of workers involved increased from 100 per cent. on the 1964 base—after decreasing to a figure lower than 100 per cent. in 1967—to 303 per cent. in 1968 compared with the Australian average of just 132 per cent. So Western Australia is so far ahead in industrial unrest that it is farcical to imply that there is anything else but a situation approaching a crisis.

The number of working days lost is completely comparable. Using again the 100 per cent. base we find that by 1968 this State was up to 304 per cent., compared with 118 per cent. for the whole of Australia. This means there was over a 1,000 per cent. increase in working days lost in Western Australia using our four-year base. The figures for this year are not yet available, but it is quite obvious from figures which are available that the first quarter of this year is even higher and the second quarter is higher again, and when we consider that we had the greatest strike ever, with the greatest number of people involved, in March, then we cannot avoid accepting the fact that there is a crisis so far as industrial relations within this State are concerned.

Let me proceed a little further away from this field. Crime is another indicator of unrest among the community. Using the figure for 1966 as a base, and starting with crimes against property, we find that in 1967 there was an increase of 5 per cent. That is fair enough, because the population also increased by 5 per cent. So in the 12 months to December, 1967, there was little or no increase. However, in 1968 the figure was up to 125 per cent.; that is, it had risen by 25 per cent. So the incidence of crime against property increased 400 per cent., or four times, in 1968 as compared with the 1967 figure.

A similar situation existed with crimes against persons. The incidence of these crimes rose by over 100 per cent. on what it had been the previous year. The incidence of crimes against order rose by 105 per cent., and for other offences, including traffic, by 106 per cent.

The incidence of criminal traffic offences is an excellent example. We find that if we take the base year of December, 1966, as 100 per cent., then in 1967 the incidence rose to 107 per cent., but in 1968 it was up to 131 per cent. Either our drivers were worse, or our police were more efficient, or there was an incidence of unrest within the State.

I hesitate to use other statistics, because they may not necessarily apply, but they are worth looking at. The incidence of aboriginal disorders—these statistics are kept separately and I do not necessarily agree with that principle—rose four and a half times for crimes against property, and five and one-third times for crimes against persons. I should explain to members that when I use the terms, "four and a half times" or "131 per cent.," I refer only to the increase as compared with the previous 12 months. That is, if the increase for the previous 12 months had been a 5 per cent. increase, and it went up to 25 per cent. in 1968, this would indicate five times the relative increase compared with the previous year.

At the present time it appears that the incidence of venereal disease is higher than it has ever been before—or certainly higher than it has ever been in the statistics I have available. The increase since 1965 has been slow, but at the moment we look like having a record year.

Reported cases of wilful and malicious damage and vandalism are also extremely high. Drug offences—which are only small statistics—increased from 24 cases in the 12 months to June, 1968 to 39 cases in 1969; an increase of 62½ per cent.

Bearing in mind all these points: the situation of youth; the situation of farmers, the situation of industrial development, teachers, police, the incidence of aboriginal unrest—even taking into account housewives and others—I do not think it can be denied that there is a problem within this State, and the only explanation I can offer for this situation is to tie it back to the Government. Perhaps I should qualify that statement and say that some of this unrest is endemic in our society at the moment. Our television and newspaper mediums show what is happening in other countries, and that would account for some of it; but only a small proportion, and the position of industrial unrest in this State compared with the Australian average indicates there is a situation in Western Australia which is quite different from what applies elsewhere in Australia.

I would like to go back over some of these points to try to pinpoint the reasons for them. Firstly, housing is an obvious one; I believe it is causing almost as much unrest as any other factor. Perhaps I might give three examples.

There is a resident in my electorate who lives in a State Housing Commission home. He has had his name down for a purchase home for quite some time, having made application in March, 1966. This gentleman wrote to the commission in January of last year, and was advised that the commission was up to the 28th February, 1966. Six months later he again wrote to the commission and was told the date was the 28th February, 1966. In December of last year he was told again that the commission was allocating houses for the 28th February, 1966 on the waiting list. The gentleman applied again recently and was advised that the list was up to the end of February, 1966.

He is a worker in the refinery at Kwinana, and he has found that the deposit he had saved has been fritted away by his growing family and if his turn does come up he will be in bother. He is growing disturbed.

The second example concerns a new arrival in the district who was referred to me by one of my colleagues. He had been superseded in his employment in the south-west. He was redundant to the timber industry.

He moved into a town in the south-west, but was evicted. He then moved to an industrial area where the Government would like to have a greater work force and where the employers are looking for more men to swell their work force, but he could not obtain a house. He is paying \$25 a week for accommodation at a beach house. This is half his weekly earnings. Redundancy should not have been a sufficient reason for some Government action and attention. Redundancy is a word to be condemned as far as a worker is concerned. Eviction should have been sufficient for him to obtain a house. Shifting to a new industrial area where workers were badly needed should have been sufficient reason for him to obtain a house, but apparently all those reasons were not sufficient for him to be granted accommodation.

The third example concerns a new arrival in this State. When he left England he thought he had sufficient money for a deposit on a house, but when he arrived here he found he was wrong. Eventually he was able to obtain a deposit on a house, but for his present accommodation he is paying \$109 per month, which is half his earnings, and he is sleeping on a mattress on the floor.

All three of those men work in an industrial area and all three cannot see how they can advance themselves. Therefore all three are prime movers in any industrial unrest in an area which is purely industrial, and there is no doubt that much industrial unrest is completely hinged on circumstances such as these.

Housing is undoubtedly a major factor in forcing the pressure for higher wages in that area.

Quite recently I attended strike meetings in the Kwinana area. At one, the 500 floor members rejected a recommendation of the shop stewards and their union to return to work. As I stood in the hall during that meeting I felt the tension among those men when they rejected the recommendation of their union. A report of this meeting was printed in a newspaper last Monday week. At a subsequent meeting, after having negotiations with their employer, the men decided to go back to work, but only by a small majority. There is tension among the workers in that area because they are under great pressure, which is real and vital, and it needs attention.

Industrial relations are the second matter which must be attended to by the Government. Anyone who has studied the situation realises that the penal clauses in the legislation enacted by the Government are creating a great deal of unrest. The Government has adopted the wrong approach. To have penal clauses in any legislation is as bad as applying the birch to maintain discipline. I sincerely believe that an open approach to industrial problems, in the main, will find responsible elements who will accept such legislation because the penal clauses at present in our industrial laws have been a complete failure.

A typical example can be given by citing the five boilermakers who were threatened with gaol action last year. I attended the homes of every one of those men and spoke to their wives and families and offered my support in case they were prosecuted and sent to gaol.

Mr. Davies: You did not pay their fines, did you?

Mr. TAYLOR: No, I did not. Those men were quite prepared to go to gaol rather than pay the fines. Once again, in this situation, tension was present. If ever the penal clauses are implemented the situation in industry will be chaotic, because the men feel these clauses are entirely unfair. To illustrate this matter further we have had examples of other strikes, and at this time I will try to indicate to the House how the industrial legislation operated. For example, recently a strike was held at Kambalda for a nickel bonus.

In an article headed, "Employers' View on Unrest In Industry," in *The West Australian* newspaper in early March, the director of the Employers Federation stated quite plainly that the strikes in that area were communist-inspired. One cannot find the most suitable adjective to describe the action of a man in a responsible position

such as that in making such an inflammatory remark, especially in this State and in these times.

Mr. Rushton: It makes one see red.

Mr. TAYLOR: Yes, it does, but not in the manner the honourable member implies. I would point out to members that the price of nickel is set on the world market, and 76 per cent. of the mineral is produced in North America and Canada. It is in those countries that the price is set. As I said, the price increased by 12 per cent., because the workers in North America asked for a 6 per cent. increase in their wages and obtained it. Therefore, the company concerned in this State—the Western Mining Corporation—gained the benefit of a 12 per cent. increase in the price of nickel as a result of world sales in that commodity. The increase in price had nothing to do with costs in this State, but was due mainly to the price that was fixed overseas, and the workers at Kam-balda were asking for a bonus. If the workers had been granted their request, the company's costs, in wages, would have increased by \$200,000 a year.

That is a considerable sum of money, I must agree, although I would think that one-third in direct taxation and one-sixth in indirect taxation would have gone to the Commonwealth and State Governments. I would also point out that in *The West Australian* this week a report was published indicating that the profits of the Western Mining Corporation for the past financial year amounted to \$2,600,000, after meeting all contingencies. In view of the recent increase in the price of nickel, if the workers had been granted the bonus they requested, and if the nickel produced had been sold overseas at the increased price, this would have offset the bonus paid to the workers.

In this regard I think my logic, in general terms, is sound, and I believe the company would have still made a profit of approximately \$2,600,000.

Mr. O'Connor: What was the amount of capital invested by the Western Mining Corporation to earn the profit of \$2,600,000?

Mr. TAYLOR: I have no idea, but from what I can understand of the profits made by the Western Mining Corporation they well and truly cover the shares issued and held by the various shareholders. I merely make the point that the company would not have lost any money had it granted the bonus to its workers, because the increase in the price of nickel obtained on selling its products on the world market would have offset the cost of the bonus. If this is a logical argument, then at least a better approach could have been made to the workers, and the last thing I could have imagined that would have occurred was the statement that was made by the director of the Employers Federation in claiming that the dispute was communist-inspired.

Mr. O'Connor: If there had been a fall in the price of nickel would the union or the men have agreed to a reduction in their wages?

Mr. TAYLOR: I believe the union would be prepared to accept a bonus on a sliding scale, based on the world price for nickel. Without committing the union I would think it would agree to such a proposal. It would have been far more satisfactory if the Government had agreed to a similar arrangement in regard to the payment of royalties by iron ore companies or those producing minerals. If the payment of royalties by the companies had been based on a sliding scale, the State would be far better off now than it is by accepting a set price for royalties.

In August last a strike occurred among waterside workers and 21 workers were put off for two days as a disciplinary measure, because the employers considered it was necessary. This meant a loss of \$40 to the men. Further, because another situation developed, the period the men were put off was increased to a week. The employers considered that the workers had committed a misdemeanour.

As I understand it the situation was brought about by the fact that from March through until August the waterside workers had been working seven days a week and three shifts a day. They were earning plenty of money and were continually in employment, but they had reached the stage where their working efficiency had fallen off. The problem was a managerial one and it could have been resolved satisfactorily, but on reading the newspaper report the comment of the employer was that discipline was necessary. The method used was to dismiss certain of the workers—25 of them—and the result was that the whole waterfront went on strike.

Mr. Rushton: What was the nature of the misdemeanour?

Mr. TAYLOR: I understand that they failed to carry out certain orders. In this particular instance the men had been working continuously shift and shift about. They would receive orders such as, "We want you to work this Sunday." Unfortunately, on this occasion the word came to the men a little late and some of them thought they deserved a weekend off. They had made previous arrangements, and when they received the orders to work that weekend they decided they would not work but continue to take the weekend off.

According to the regulations they may have been wrong, but, when we look at the whole context of the situation, they certainly had a moral case which could possibly have been resolved by better negotiation and liaison. That is the point I am making.

In this day and age the Government is quite wrong in trying to implement penal legislation with the idea of fining and gaoling these people; it is quite wrong to use strong disciplinary measures in cases of this kind. I believe that the statistics of unrest in Western Australia which I have cited completely verify this point.

I can only sheet home the blame to the Government because it was not imaginative enough and was not prepared to take the chance by coming forward to meet the unions or to make certain concessions.

The metal trades and the building trades in the Kwinana area have been engaged in numbers of disputes and these unions have been painted in a black light. This week, however, we find that they are to get what they have been asking for—a new type of award which we have not had previously in this State. We are going to follow the American pattern. Why the Government should have taken the strongest penal action by the implementation of fines and gaoling and so on, I would not know.

Mr. Davies: Because of the attitude of the Employers Federation.

Mr. TAYLOR: I agree; but this does not exonerate the Government for accepting that point of view.

Mr. Davies: It would not dare interfere with the Employers Federation.

Mr. TAYLOR: I have mentioned housing as being what I believe to be a major feature, but I put industrial legislation as a close second. Another important aspect is high wages with spiralling costs. Recently we have seen that Western Australia is to increase its wage structure to quite a reasonable level, but we will find that costs will also rise, and while we may be catching up with the other States in terms of gross wages we will not be increasing our standard of living, because of the increasing costs.

I agree with the point made by my leader that present land prices are also causing great difficulties within this State. I am also prepared to accept the fact that there are other features which are at the moment upsetting the demeanor of the State. One of these is the fact that in the last two and a half years there has been a 20 per cent. increase in what one might term "working wives." In my experience most of these working wives come from the middle income and the lower income families in areas where most damage is likely to be done to the family structure.

While it may be possible to twist the statistics I have quoted, and while I may be vague in some instances, I do feel that there is a picture of unrest in this State

and the Government is certainly neglecting its duty if it ignores the situation and does not seek to repair it. I do not wish to take sides in this matter, but some action must be taken; somebody must make the first move. The initiative to quieten the unrest in the Police Union, the Teachers Union and the industrial unions, generally, must come from the front bench opposite.

In brief I feel the remarks I have made point to a very real situation and in my opinion it is imperative that some action be taken immediately. I say this because there are suggestions that there may be an economic slowdown. In this connection I would like to quote the comments of the financial reporter of *The Independent* of the 29th June, when he said—

Finally there is the prospect of more unfavourable world economic environment during 1969-70. The management of the British and United States economies in particular has not been such to encourage a continuance of recent levels of economic expansion in either country. There is already talk of a recession in the United States and in Britain during 1969-70.

The SPEAKER: Order! Only this afternoon, in answer to a question by your deputy leader, I drew attention to long readings of newspaper editorials. The honourable member will desist.

Mr. TAYLOR: I apologise, Mr. Speaker, if I have offended, but I did not feel that this was an editorial.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member said it was the view of the financial editor and that would make it an editorial.

Mr. TAYLOR: I accept your ruling, Sir. There does, however, appear to be a slowing down within the world economic situation; and there is much conjecture at the moment with regard to the Australian economy and what may transpire as a result of the Budget which the Prime Minister is likely to bring down in the near future. There is some apprehension as to whether it is likely to cause an inflationary spiral and whether it will cut down development.

If there is the likelihood of any type of recession or slowing down in the economy of this country, then I feel that now is the time to look at the problems which are currently confronting our people—not our industries, but our people. If there is any chance at all that we are to have less development, now is the time to look at our own situation and put our house in order.

We must not permit any section of the community within this State to get into a worse situation in the event of a recession or a slowing down taking place.

I would like to emphasise this point by referring to the Government and the progress in this State over the last 10 years. There is little doubt that we lead Australia as a quarry. I do not see, however, where we lead Australia in our social services or in our education system. For instance, are we better than the other States in matters of health or in our transport system? I cannot see that we are better than any other State in so far as the arts and culture are concerned. What example do we set the nation in the field of human relations? I feel that the Government should lift its efforts in an attempt to take the lead in these fields of community service.

The Government certainly had a wonderful opportunity last year to give a lead in regard to the lowering of the voting age for the youth of the State when it could have permitted young people of 18 to vote. As I understand the position, had this legislation been passed the young people in this State would have been permitted to vote at the Federal elections, whereas this privilege would not have been possessed by the young people of the other States of Australia.

Such a step might certainly have cost the Government a bit, but it would have provided a tremendous lift to the young people of the State, because they would have been the only people of 18 years who would have been permitted to exercise this franchise. It would seem, however, that we are to wait for the rest of Australia before we make a move.

Mr. Bovell: It cannot be done on a Federal basis.

Mr. TAYLOR: I understand that under the Constitution anyone with a voting right in any one State would have the right in the Federal sphere.

Mr. Bovell: I do not think our own law would override the Federal law.

Mr. TAYLOR: Some of my colleagues suggest I am correct and I accept their ruling. I hope the Minister will accept the point I make: that this legislation would have given a lift and an incentive to young people—it would have given them a sense of responsibility. It was given the chance last year.

The appointment of an ombudsman is another of these matters. If the Government had agreed to such an appointment freely, and had said it was willing to abide by the ombudsman's decisions and was willing to encourage the appointment, it would have provided the public with something which the public should have. This appointment would not be a costly one. These are the matters which attract the imagination of the people, and which indicate to the people there is something alive and active in their future. These are the very things which militate against the Ministry opposite, and which confirm the points I made

earlier with regard to the moribund actions of some of the members on the opposite front bench.

In conclusion I would like, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, to quote from *Hansard* of last year.

Mr. SPEAKER: To quote from *Hansard* is permissible.

Mr. TAYLOR: I want to quote again a quotation which was made 12 months ago in this House by the Leader of the Opposition. He said that in 1956, the present Minister for Industrial Development made what he regarded as being a very thoughtful speech. The Minister for Industrial Development then in Opposition said—

... we must keep our rate of expansion to a figure that we can afford.

... it involves works priorities to ensure the best use of available funds and an examination of our immigration programme to keep it in proper balance with our capacity to expand and absorb.

The Leader of the Opposition also quoted further what the Minister for Industrial Development had to say—

But the clever thing, of course, is to be able to regulate that ambition to a point when it does not produce calamitous results. Where expansion has been too rapid, be it in business, be it in one's ordinary private method of living, or be it in the affairs of a nation, it follows that it could be disastrous for all concerned. Therefore, the sound thing to do, whether it be an individual, business or a country, is to make progress on the policy of advance and consolidate, advance and consolidate, and so on, so that we do not outreach ourselves within these different points of progress.

I suggest from the figures I have given and from the points I have made, it would appear that in 1968 the Government certainly had overreached itself as far as the welfare of the people was concerned. There must now be a period of consolidation in which the people can again take trust and can again rest satisfied.

Mr. McIVER (Northam) [8.13 p.m.]: In making a contribution to this debate I would like to make one thing clear at the outset; that is, despite the remarks that my entry into the political field has caused earthquakes to occur in my electorate, I am sure the scientists will be the first to agree with me that this is not right.

Like my colleague the member for Cockburn I am very concerned with the attitude of the Government in respect of housing and land prices. We heard the Acting Premier announce before tea the deficit of the State Railways. In respect of housing, in the short time I have been in this House I have seen nothing but

frustration when members make approaches to have people in their electorates housed. In speaking in this Chamber, it is practically impossible to give the correct picture of the situation.

I have always been one to say that when one is critical of any proposition one must submit an alternative; and my alternative in respect of housing is that the Government should curb its immigration policy, and expand the policy under which the Government Employees' Housing Authority operates, so that other instrumentalities can make available to the State Housing Commission large sums of money for the provision of houses in the country for the workers employed in those instrumentalities. I refer specifically to the State Electricity Commission, the Main Roads Department, the Public Works Department, and the Railways Department.

The extent at which the State is developing not only in the northern part, but in the agricultural areas also, has created a great demand for housing; but I do not think the Government realises the drastic housing shortage in those areas. In my opinion the Ministers do not visit these areas frequently enough to obtain first hand information of the situation. In my electorate there has been a great influx of migrants in the last 12 months.

Mr. Bovell: You ought to be grateful for that.

Mr. McIVER: The Minister for Lands says we ought to be grateful; but what we are concerned about is the embarrassment of not being able to house those people. They are scattered far and wide in the Northam electorate, and are living on farms under substandard conditions—such as shearers' quarters—which they did not expect to find when they left England and the other countries of Europe.

Mr. Rushton: They are all working.

Mr. McIVER: Some are and some are not.

Mr. Rushton: Whereabouts?

Mr. McIVER: That does not alter the situation. The problem is there and it remains unsolved. As I have said in this House before, larger sums of money must be made available to the Housing Commission to overcome the shortage.

I have heard the Deputy Leader of the Opposition putting forward proposals in this House for the easing of the housing shortage. I would have thought the Government would take notice of a former Minister for Housing and of his vast experience in this field; because some of the proposals he put forward were very sound indeed. Of course, like any other proposals put forward from this side of the House, the Government feels there is no merit in them, and they are passed over

by the Government. What I suggest is that the Minister for Housing should evaluate the proposals that have been put forward and apply them to other Government instrumentalities in making allocations of funds for housing. This is one way in which the housing position in country areas can be overcome. The Main Roads Department, the Public Works Department, the State Electricity Commission, and the Railways Department, have large numbers of workers in the country for whom housing should be provided.

The business fraternity in the country is also affected by the shortage of houses, because when it engages a specialist to work in the country to improve a business it is unable to retain him for any length of time, as there is no living accommodation for him or his family. No useful purpose would be served by the Government's burying its head in the sand. It has to get down to the fundamentals of the problem; it has to accept the challenge; and it has to do something to solve it, because there is no doubt that in 1971 when the Government faces the electors the main issue, in addition to several others, will be the housing shortage.

Mr. Rushton: Would not the Government have created the prosperity in the Northam electorate?

Mr. McIVER: The Government is retarding development in the area, because of the reduction in the provision of homes. The number of houses to be built in our district this financial year will be less than the number built in 1968-69. I contend the number to be built this year should be increased.

When we take into consideration the railways deficit this year, we can understand where the money of the State is going to. I was alarmed when I heard the figures mentioned this evening, because I claim that the Railways Department is not being allowed to cart the freight that it should. This Government is giving more and more freight to the big road transport industries in Western Australia.

I illustrate my point by saying that pipes for the Public Works Department and other freight such as this should be carried on the railways and not by road transport. The cyanide containers that go to the goldfields used to be carried by rail, but now they are carted by road. This is freight the railways can ill afford to lose, but evidently the Government is not concerned.

Mr. Cash: What was the railways deficit in 1958?

Mr. McIVER: I do not know offhand.

Mr. Cash: It was about \$17,000,000.

Mr. McIVER: I will get around to that; and after I have illustrated my point I think the honourable member will find that the deficit is greater now than it was in 1958.

Mr. Cash: Fair go! Cut it out!

Mr. McIVER: It has been put forward that the deficit has been brought about by a reduction of wheat freight due to a fall-off in the cartage of wheat from the agricultural areas. This has contributed towards the deficit, but not to the degree that has been emphasised by the Government.

Mr. O'Connor: An amount of \$6,000,000!

Mr. McIVER: In regard to the standard gauge railway, we were given the picture that when it was completed we would have one of the finest railways in Australia, as far as the carriage of freight was concerned. However, when one considers the cost of construction of items that are not necessary and are not used—things such as concrete foundations for bridges between Meckering and Cunderdin, which must have cost thousands of dollars—one realises that this money should have been allocated to the State Housing Commission for the building of homes.

Mr. O'Connor: Is it State or Commonwealth money you are referring to?

Mr. McIVER: State money from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. When one looks at the overall concept of the standard gauge railway, it appears that someone responsible for the overall planning has not been doing his job, and that something has gone astray. In some places the buildings that are being constructed on the standard gauge route are commendable, but in others they are not going to fit in with the picture.

Let us look at the passenger service that is now operating between the Eastern States and Perth. What happened with the first train that was ever run over this route? It was not possible to open the doors of the vans because the platform was too high! Because of this the train had to be pulled further down the line so the doors could be opened.

Mr. O'Connor: One van!

Mr. McIVER: Even so, it is a shocking situation to have at East Perth.

Mr. Jamieson: A shame on the railways of Australia.

Mr. McIVER: What is it going to cost to eliminate this problem? Had the East Perth concept been properly planned in the first place, this situation would not have arisen. I can go back further and refer to what happened at Collie when the new loco depot was constructed. The coal stage was forgotten. There are many other cases I could quote.

I am of the opinion that the Director-General of Transport could do a great deal more to retain freight for the W.A.G.R. by having a look at the road transport situation. Road transport is growing in volume. One has only to travel between Northam and Perth to see huge road transports carrying everything from needles to bulldozers; and most of these commodities should be transported by rail. Consequently the Railways Department is losing freight to road hauliers; and this is something which should not be occurring.

The member for Cockburn mentioned industrial unrest. I think the 1968-69 financial year would go on record as the most unrestful period during the life of the railways. There were stoppages and unrest among all employees.

Mr. O'Connor: But the local boys did not want to stop.

Mr. McIVER: I would say they were 100 per cent. behind the union executive.

Mr. O'Connor: But the union executive did not want the men to stop.

Mr. O'Neil: They got involved in a dispute in which they did not want to be involved.

Mr. O'Connor: You should get closer to the union executive.

Mr. McIVER: I am close to the union executive. I was not referring to that issue alone; I was referring to other disputes during the 1968-69 financial year.

Mr. O'Connor: You referred to a specific issue.

Mr. McIVER: Maybe I did, but I was digressing from the subject. In order to have a harmonious relationship between employee and employer the Minister, together with the administrative officers of the Railways Department, should attend the conferences which are held twice a year to hear the union's side of the argument. At the moment, due to a shortage of staff, men who are experienced in their particular fields of endeavour are being imposed upon by having to work increased hours. This is as a result of the shortage of trained men. Consequently, in a situation like this, inefficiency results and unrest must occur when nothing is done about it. A close look should be had at the situation to see whether it can be relieved in some way or another.

I think the Minister would agree with me that Mr. Kelly, in his report, supported the E.F.D. and E. Union when the men tried to obtain a 15 minute tea break on the 150 mile standard gauge run. I was surprised that the commission endeavoured to deprive these men of the opportunity to have a cup of tea and a sandwich. We in this Chamber like to adjourn to the corridor for a cup of tea and a sandwich, and so do the enginemen employed by the W.A.G.R.

During the last two years men in the railways have been working tremendously long hours and they are playing their part in getting the standard gauge project off the ground in a way desired by the Government.

In conclusion, I would like to refer to the allocation of funds to the Police Department. Right throughout the wheat-belt the facilities available to the Police Force are in a shocking and deplorable condition, and this is contributing greatly to unrest amongst members of the force. We have a situation at Northam where it is necessary to close the police station every time a court is held. Therefore no business can be transacted while a court is in session. The same situation applies at Wundowie. It is a ridiculous state of affairs and one that could easily be overcome if more money were allocated to those areas. This would enable a police station with modern facilities to be built so that the policemen could work in an environment similar to that enjoyed by employees in the Public Works Department and the Main Roads Department in Perth, where the offices are quite lavish.

I strongly believe the present poor conditions are contributing largely to the dissatisfaction which now exists amongst members of the Police Force. This dissatisfaction is not only in relation to wages, but also in regard to the conditions under which the men have to work. In Northam they do not even have an amenities room; nor do they have a locker in which to hang their clothes and keep personal belongings. I have written to the Minister on this subject, and he has informed me that strong consideration will be given to this matter in the allocation of money this financial year.

I sincerely hope and trust the Minister will be able to bring this about. Even if it is not possible to provide new facilities, I feel Northam has an advantage over other areas because it has the land, and the area could be made very attractive. The new police station and inspector's residence with modern cottages, could provide a very attractive entrance to the town and certainly a far better complex than exists at present.

I repeat that these factors, as well as the question of wages, contribute to the dissatisfaction of the rank-and-file members of these Government instrumentalities and account for the resignation rate at present existing. I only hope and trust that Ministers will go over the ranges during this session and consider the points members on this side have raised. I sincerely trust that Ministers will go into the matters at depth and evaluate what we have said and act accordingly.

MR. HARMAN (Maylands) (8.31 p.m.): I was interested tonight, Mr. Speaker, to hear your request to members of this House to observe certain standards during debates in the forthcoming session. After the autumn session had concluded, *The West Australian* in an editorial reflected, in my opinion somewhat adversely, upon the debating strength of the members of the Australian Labor Party in this House. I felt that the debating strength of those on this side of the House was quite reasonable. On the other hand, I was under the impression that during a debate there are always two people involved, one from one side and one from the other side. Therefore I thought *The West Australian* was going a little too far in saying that the debating strength of those on this side of the House was not too good, when there was no debating strength whatever from those on the other side.

This is the point which worries me and others on this side. When we have a debate it seems to be the members on this side of the Chamber who do all the speaking and submit all the points, but those points are not answered by anyone from the other side.

Mr. O'Neil: You speak for a long time, but you do not say anything.

Mr. HARMAN: Debate after debate takes place, but no-one from the other side rises to challenge any of the points we make. I leave it at that. I do not propose to go into any reasons why members on the other side do not defend the policies of their Government. I just leave it on that note.

During the course of my election campaign in 1968, I had an occasion to address a number of people in Forrest Place and when doing so I remember saying to those gathered there that if any one of them went to the State Housing Commission to apply for a commission home he would find it necessary to wait for 33 months before his turn would be reached. I went further to say that if the Liberal Government was re-elected to office for the following three years, that applicant would find that when I was addressing him again in 1971, he would be standing there in Forrest Place and his turn would still not have been reached.

And so it has come to pass that even in the space of 14 months, since the election of 1968, the waiting period has extended from 33 months to 48 months. That is in only 14 months of the three-year life of this Parliament. I do not know what the period will be by 1971.

I have, of course, wondered why the Government would allow the situation to become so bad and to allow this waiting period to extend. The member for Cockburn suggested the Government has overreached itself; that it has not, as the Minister for Industrial Development said in 1956, had regard for all the factors

when in Government. I wonder too whether this Government, having decided that we must have 1,000,000 people in this State, whatever else occurs, is determined to achieve that objective. In the process it does not matter whether those 1,000,000 people have homes in which to live or whether they have work in this State. It does not care whether the workers are underpaid. It does not care whether we have strikes, unrest, pressures, tensions, and husbands deserting wives and so on because of pressures. The Government does not seem to worry about those things so long as we get 1,000,000 people. I wonder if that is the attitude of the Government, but only the Government can answer that question.

During the comments made by our leader concerning profits made by the State Housing Commission, the Minister for Industrial Development interjected and asked what was wrong with the State Housing Commission making a profit. So I took the opportunity to look up some of the annual reports of the State Housing Commission to ascertain the exact position concerning profits. It is, of course, public knowledge that the commission is making a profit, but I wanted to see how the profit was being reflected in ensuing years. I found the information I gained very interesting.

For the financial year 1965-66, the State Housing Commission profit was \$2,100,000. Assuming this is ploughed back into the commission, we find that in the following year—that is, 1966-67—the commission built 1,766 homes altogether, but the number of homes erected under the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement and the State Housing Act was 1,258.

For the next year—that is 1966-67—the profit was \$1,900,000, a slight decrease, and this decrease was reflected in the number of homes built for the year 1967-68. The number built under the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement and the State Housing Act dropped from 1,258 to 1,214, a decrease of 34.

In the 1967-68 period the State Housing Commission profit was \$5,300,000. That profit was ploughed back into the commission and in the following year there was an increase of 261 in the number of State houses built, bringing the total under the State Housing Act and the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement to 1,475. Therefore, for a profit rise from \$1,900,000 to \$5,000,000, there was an increase of 261 homes. I know that many other arguments can be raised with regard to this matter, but I am generalising and saying that the profit made by the commission has not been reflected in the number of homes the commission has built.

In the State Housing Commission report for the 1968 period, I noticed that amongst the sundry creditors was the Native Welfare Department which had \$1,114,000 in

the State Housing Commission accounts. Other departments, of course, had amounts, including \$288,000 for the Public Works Department and \$227,000 for the Medical Department.

Mr. O'Neil: You want to show that to the member for Northam.

Mr. HARMAN: All this money is sitting in credit in the State Housing Commission accounts.

Mr. O'Neil: The money is paying for the houses which are being built for those departments.

Mr. HARMAN: This obviously means that the State Housing Commission is not able to build the number of homes for which money is being allocated by other departments. There can be no other reason because the amounts are entered under sundry creditors.

Mr. O'Neil: All Housing Commission contracts are paid for under a system of progress payments, and the money must be in the commission's account in order to pay for the work which is in progress.

Mr. HARMAN: That is true enough, but the amounts are increasing. The amount for the Native Welfare Department is \$800,000.

Mr. O'Neil: Because the department is building more houses.

Mr. HARMAN: That may be so.

Mr. Graham: I beg your pardon; it is not building more houses.

Mr. HARMAN: Despite what the Minister is saying it seems to me that not all of the money which is sitting in the sundry creditors account at the State Housing Commission is for homes for which contracts have been let. The amount of money involved suggests that it is not all being allocated for homes in the course of construction.

On many occasions I have wondered why the State Housing Commission does not build more homes, even in the metropolitan area. I know it is the policy of the Liberal Party that it should not allocate too much money for low-income homes. The Liberal Party is influenced by its policy to see that private enterprise builders construct more flats and more home units because private enterprise reaps a greater reward from constructing such accommodation.

I have looked around the metropolitan area during the past few months and I have noticed that a considerable number of new home units have not been sold. There are a number in my own electorate which have been erected for almost 12 months, and only 12 units have been sold. This suggests to me that it is a better investment for the builders to construct home units and flats rather than interest themselves in building homes.

Apparently the Government goes along with this theory because it does not interfere; it does not plan ahead sufficiently to encourage builders to construct low-cost homes.

Mr. Davies: It encourages the building of high-cost homes.

Mr. HARMAN: Because of the policy of the Liberal Party young people are forced into paying high rents, and the people who own flats receive the benefit of the money which is paid in rent. When the young people of today wish to buy a block of land, they are paying up to 12½ per cent. reducible interest. In some cases they are paying \$70 a month for a period of about seven years in order to buy a block of land valued at \$5,000. This sort of thing is going on around the metropolitan area right now. The cases are not isolated, but are continually being brought to notice.

People living in flats in my electorate are constantly ringing me or approaching me because they are anxious to get into their own homes. They are young married couples on the State Housing Commission lists and their young children are inhibited by the one-bedroom flats in which they are forced to live. There is nowhere for the children to play. The whole environment of flat life is completely unnatural for the raising of young families, and it is no wonder that pressures and tensions mount in such situations.

The subject of migrants has already been mentioned. A case was recently brought to my notice which concerned a young migrant with six children. He is a fitter by trade, and as such would be the type of tradesman we are looking for in this State. He was living at Davis Park, Fremantle. This man told me that in his childhood he was raised in Soho in England. Apparently that is a notorious section of London and he said, quite frankly, that he had no intention of bringing up his family in a similar environment. He was suggesting that the environment at Davis Park was not as it should be.

As he could not get any assistance from the State Housing Commission or from the Immigration Department he arranged for a job to be found for him in South Australia. He then packed his children into his car and off he went.

Mr. O'Neil: You said he lived in Davis Park?

Mr. HARMAN: In a flat.

Mr. O'Neil: Who provided the flat?

Mr. HARMAN: The State Housing Commission.

Mr. O'Neil: You said he did not receive any assistance from the State Housing Commission or the Immigration Department. The flats have been made available by the State Housing Commission for the housing of migrants.

Mr. HARMAN: His argument was that the accommodation was not suitable.

Mr. O'Neil: It was purely transitional accommodation. You stated that he did not receive any assistance from the State Housing Commission or the Immigration Department, but the man was housed by the State.

Mr. HARMAN: The assistance I referred to was the assistance a young man with six children should be entitled to receive.

Mr. O'Neil: Did he expect to come out and be put straight into a brand new home?

Mr. HARMAN: No.

Mr. O'Neil: He was given assistance by the Immigration Department in the form of a flat which was provided by the State Housing Commission.

Mr. HARMAN: That is right.

Mr. O'Neil: What did he expect?

Mr. HARMAN: He asked to be taken out of that environment and to be placed in a house.

Mr. O'Neil: He would have been when his turn was reached, but he could not receive consideration over people who have been waiting longer.

Mr. HARMAN: No, but he was not prepared to wait for three years.

Mr. O'Neil: The fact is that he was assisted by the Immigration Department and the Housing Commission with accommodation.

Mr. HARMAN: He went to both departments and received no further assistance.

Mr. O'Neil: No further assistance! He was already housed. You should have sent him along to see me.

Mr. HARMAN: This, Sir, is the last of the comments I wish to make. It staggered me to find that the Government could go on during the last 12 months without any real plan. The Government has not made any headway with housing. It has allowed speculation to suit its friends, rather than the public interest. I have got to the stage now of trying to find a reason for the Government's action. It is difficult to find a reason and I sometimes wonder if the Government knows exactly where it is going.

MR. DAVIES (Victoria Park) [8.48 p.m.]: This Bill asks that we allocate the sum of \$5,000,000 for the purpose of carrying on the financing of the State in various directions. I am unable to say whether \$5,000,000 is too much, or whether it is totally inadequate.

I want to mention a matter I raised last session, and I refer to whether economies are being practised in the running of State departments. I mention

that the number of civil servants has grown by 50 per cent., despite the fact that the present Government said it would streamline the Civil Service and half of the employees would find they were without a job. However, last year there was a 50 per cent. increase in the number of civil servants.

I am not saying that those officers are unnecessary, but I am wondering whether any Minister has ever looked into his department to see whether or not any economies could be effectively practised.

Mr. Rushton: Those officers claim they are doing twice as much work as they did during the Labor regime.

Mr. DAVIES: The member for Dale can make a sensible interjection if he wants to, but that is ridiculous.

Mr. Graham: That would be impossible for the member for Dale.

Mr. DAVIES: The fact remains, of course, that the present Government talks about being a free enterprise Government but it does not tell us what free enterprise means. Apparently it means that a few are allowed to make as much money as quickly as they can, but when it comes to the running of the State the Government is prepared to hand over control to all manner of committees and commissions.

I have mentioned previously the number of Acts that come before Parliament which set up various statutory bodies charged with the implementation of the particular Act and, indeed, very often the running of the department concerned.

I often wonder who are appointed to those bodies and whether or not many of them are political appointees. In fact, I wonder whether we are now aspiring to the American state of politics where the fruits go to the victor and there are plum positions for certain supporters of the party. I see no evidence whatsoever of the Government practising any economies. In fact, as far as running the State is concerned, the Government has created new cost records, I think, in just about every department.

I will refer now to the two bodies appointed under the Clean Air Act, as I intended to comment on them this evening. The Act was brought before Parliament with a fanfare of trumpets in 1964. However, it was three years before the Government got around to forming the regulations that would apply under the Act. Indeed, the first report complying with one of the regulations under the Clean Air Act was tabled in Parliament only during last session, and it covered the first full year of the operations of the two bodies up to the 30th June, 1968. From 1964 to 1968 would certainly seem a long time for them to take to get into operation.

The report itself, which I now hold in my hand, consists of one page and contains eight paragraphs. It certainly does not tell us very much. I know that \$8,950 was collected from license fees, \$1,102 was spent on equipment, and there were incidental expenses of \$2,700. Salaries were additional to those expenses. There is a surplus of something like \$5,100 when the incoming amounts are set against the outgoing amounts, excluding salaries.

I am not really concerned about the finances of the board at this stage, but I am worried about its efficiency, and whether or not the Act is effective to the extent that we proposed.

I remind members that under the Act there is an Air Pollution Control Council and a Scientific Advisory Committee. The first body consists of a chairman and 13 members, and the second consists of a chairman and six members. Consequently, 21 people are looking after the clean air of the State of Western Australia.

In looking out of my window from time to time, I wonder if they are doing anything at all; because over the past three years the same chimney stacks have been emitting the same dark smoke, the same dust, and the same nuisance that they were emitting before the Act came into being. Despite the fact that we have all these chiefs, we seem to be getting very little work done and the effectiveness of the legislation is surely in doubt.

I do not propose at this stage to suggest any economies in it. Instead, I suggest that we give these bodies a little more time to see what can be done, and I will be disappointed if there is not a marked decrease in the amount of air pollution in the metropolitan area in the next few years.

The reason I particularly wish to say a few words on this subject is simple. I have had a never-ending stream of complaints, particularly over the past few months, about the dust nuisance which comes from the Swan Portland Cement works. I am sure any member of an area within even a five-mile radius of the cement works must surely have had complaints made to him about the cement or lime dust which comes from those works. I have had no end of them, as I have already mentioned. Indeed, the position is becoming very serious. I can tell, from the direction of the wind, whether or not I will receive complaints about the cement works.

What I would like to know is why I did not receive any complaints at all about these works during the first five years I was a member of Parliament and why I have received an increasing number of complaints over the past several years when the clean air committees in their various forms have been operating. If the committees have powers under the Act to take action to eliminate a nuisance of this

description, why have they not done something about it? Are they falling down on their job?

The cement and lime works is listed in the schedule to the Act as a scheduled premises and, under the Act, the board has particular authority with regard to scheduled premises. Consequently, there should be no doubt about the right of the various committees to take action against the works and yet nothing seems to be happening.

I have referred the matter to the Public Health Department, and I must say that Dr. Macey, who is a senior engineer in the clean air section, always gives a very prompt reply. By the same token, it is not always a very satisfactory reply.

First of all, I spoke to a representative of the company at Rivervale and he assured me that the position was no worse now than it had ever been. He was unable to explain to me why I am now receiving a great number of complaints when previously I had received none. Obviously, some different process is being used or something has happened to allow this nuisance to escape from the chimney stack. Instead, the representative suggested to me that in many cases it was not dust but steam coming out of the stack and he said that people saw it, thought it was dust, and complained. This is sheer nonsense. The people complain because the dust is on their houses, cars, gardens, and verandahs, and they can see it there. I myself find it regularly on our front verandah and I would live some three miles at least from the cement works.

As I mentioned previously, Dr. Macey is always very prompt with his replies, but he does not give much hope that there will be any improvement in the future. I wrote to him in the middle of last month and he told me that he agreed there was a nuisance. He said that the particle size of the dust was quite large and he was able to tell, just as I was able to tell, when complaints would be made. He said that as far as Victoria Park was concerned I would receive complaints when light north winds were blowing. That is exactly what is happening: when light north winds are blowing I do receive complaints.

Dr. Macey said the company ran into some kind of trouble when it asked for tenders for electrostatic precipitation. The company said it had to go through a number of different channels to find something which would be suitable for it and that there had been some confusion about the machinery required when tenders were called.

Dr. Macey said he went to Adelaide in April to see another simpler type of collector which is working very well at a

cement works there and that Swan Portland Cement has now purchased a small pilot unit. He hopes that when some equipment arrives from England he will be able to test it to see if it is effective.

One does not need equipment to test to see if it is effective. Instead, one only has to look at the top of the stack, and stand out in the open within a two-mile vicinity of the stack. One knows whether it is effective or not, because the dust is there to see. There is no need to wait for equipment to arrive from England.

The fact is that a nuisance exists. The air pollution committees have power to take action but they are muddling along hoping that sooner or later there will be an elimination of the nuisance which they acknowledge exists and is bad, but about which they are doing nothing.

The Swan Portland Cement company has recently been taken over by the Blue Circle Cement company, I believe, which is the biggest cement company in the world. I pose the question: Do residents within five miles of the Swan Portland Cement company, now owned by the biggest and richest cement company in the world, have to continue to put up with this nuisance?

The clean air committee council could close the works down in a somewhat drastic attempt to eliminate the nuisance. I wrote again to Dr. Macey to see if he could be more specific as to when the nuisance would be eliminated, and on the 1st August he replied and said he was waiting for the equipment to arrive. Am I allowed to read the first paragraph of his letter, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. DAVIES: In this letter dated the 1st August, 1969, he said—

Thank you for your letter of the 28th July. This is the sixteenth complaint or reference to Swan Portland Cement this week, and the plant was shut down for two days.

My letter to Dr. Macey was the sixteenth complaint in a week, and there were a number of complaints contained in my letter. Further, the plant had been closed down for two days, so I think this is sufficient evidence to suggest that the nuisance exists. What I want to know is what is being done in regard to it. In his letter, Dr. Macey continues—

I am sorry if my previous letter was not clear.

I had read his letter in a way different from the way in which it is now interpreted. His letter continues—

My equipment from the U.K. is for testing. The Company has already installed a pilot plant, but I have to test this before any opinion of its performance can be made.

The material in question is lime. This is very easy to test by putting a drop of 50/50 hydrochloric acid on a sample when it will fizz violently and dissolve.

Is not that nice to know? Is it not nice to think that by putting a drop of 50/50 hydrochloric acid on a sample of dust that has been taken off one's car or swept off one's front verandah it will fizz violently and dissolve, and that one can then say it is lime?

This is the test prescribed by a member of the clean air committee to determine the type of nuisance. What are we coming to? Under the legislation we have 21 people with specific powers to control an acknowledged nuisance, and all they can do is to tell one how to test a sample of the dust to ascertain whether or not it is lime. It is quite astounding! The only action I can take in the future is to tell every person who telephones me to ring the Minister for Health direct.

I have housewives ringing me up and almost crying because there is dust on their new, polished verandahs. Others have been ready to tear me apart because they have cleaned their cars and left them out overnight. During the night there has been a light northerly wind blowing, the lime has settled on the cars, dew has fallen on the lime and then, when the sun rises in the morning it causes the lime to harden. As a result the people concerned have to use a compound to remove the lime from the cars.

This is what is actually happening and it is probably the most serious nuisance that has been experienced in the metropolitan area for some considerable time. Strangely enough it has only become a nuisance since the clean air committee has been in operation. During the first five years I was a member of this House I did not receive any complaints, but since the formation of the committee the nuisance has apparently become worse.

Summing up, I pose the questions: Are economies being effected in running Government departments? Does the Government look very closely at what expense will be involved in all the legislation that is brought down? Is the legislation that is brought down effective? Is the Government placing incompetent political appointees on the boards, or is it appointing the best persons available? Finally, what is the Public Health Department going to do to solve the dust nuisance?

MR. JAMIESON (Belmont) [9.4 p.m.]: I rise to compliment the Minister for Works on making the statement he did tonight on road funds. I am sure everyone will appreciate such an effort on his part. Certainly the members of the Opposition appreciate it, and no doubt some of the supporters of the Government on the

back benches will appreciate it, because any information we can get to clarify this situation is indeed an improvement.

To that extent I refer the Minister back to his own statement where he castigated the Opposition for being so badly informed on this matter, and he said, "They ought to be ashamed of themselves." I feel that they should have been, too, but it just shows that being ashamed of oneself is not a great hurt to anyone, particularly when there is no way of finding out the true situation. Now, by being ashamed of ourselves, I suppose the Commonwealth Minister for Transport (Mr. Sinclair) was ashamed of himself for not understanding what we were doing, because when he came to this State and the position was explained during a top echelon discussion with our Minister, evidently he was clearly informed of what was taking place; and that, too, was ever so much better. Now we are able to explain what is taking place in respect of these road funds, and we were very pleased that the Minister made his statement this evening. It will no doubt assist all local authorities and those associated with the disbursement of road funds to understand the true position.

Mr. Bickerton: When the Minister explains anything to me I get more confused.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Is that not understandable?

MR. JAMIESON: In this situation, however, the Minister had his notes and was able to make the position more clear. When one reflects on one's notes and one brings them before the House no great mistakes are made, because there is no great problem.

I now wish to speak briefly on a couple of other subjects. One was raised by the member for Victoria Park a few moments ago; that is, the problem in regard to air pollution. It was necessary for me to ask the Minister to visit the area and view for himself the effects of the dust emanating from this industrial project; the effects that were being felt by the people in the houses at the back of the eastern Kewdale area.

Most of the new industries that are being developed are in the Kewdale-Belmont area, and indeed, one particle board manufacturer has established works which have become extremely obnoxious to the people who live in the vicinity of Kew Street, and who have lived there for many years. As a result, they have complained bitterly, and very often, to me as the member for the district. However, I was achieving very little success as a result of my representations. The clean air authority merely wanted to listen to the views of only one person in the industry and wanted to analyse the particles of dust to ascertain from where they were coming. Eventually the Minister had to visit the area.

Whilst there he was obliged to brush the particles of dust from his face and he was convinced then that the dust was coming from this industrial area, and from the particular works in question which mainly were the cause of the nuisance.

His great comment at the time was, "In Great Britain the air is ever so much worse than this." This was not much consolation to those people who had been used to the fairly pure air in the district of Kewdale, and they had enjoyed this type of air for many years. For the Minister to say now that people in some other part of the world have to breathe air a lot worse than that in Kewdale is very small consolation to them.

For years the same works caused a lot of trouble to the residents of Carlisle and Victoria Park, which adjoin my electorate. Those residents had to bear the nuisance caused by the particle board works, and I think that at various times the management tried to take action which it claimed would resolve the situation. However, the point I make is that these works were badly situated. With the modern industrial establishments being erected in these times surely those in authority would know enough about the type of industry to have it located on a suitable site! Certainly the relocation of the Westralian Plywoods Pty. Ltd. works in Division Street, Welshpool, could not be regarded as a satisfactory location.

Millions of dollars have been spent on equipment and plant which of course could not now be shifted elsewhere. This meant that the only alternative was to install air purifying equipment—various types of saw dust extractors, and so on, and that it was necessary for this equipment to be of the highest order possible. It would appear, however, that this obviously was not the case; that the equipment was not the best available.

It is the responsibility of the Clean Air Authority to ensure that the air in the area to which I refer remains as good and as clean as possible. Quite apart from the raw product and the small particle pieces, there is an incinerator which discharges the charred remains of many small articles into the atmosphere. This is very similar to the cement dust nuisance, because if one cleans one's motorcar one finds that overnight it has been covered with this unsightly mess. This is particularly so during the summer months when there is a light easterly breeze blowing in the area. If there is any moisture in the air, the housewives find they have a great deal of cleaning to do on the verandahs and paths. In the event of any windows being left open it is necessary for the housewife to clean right through the house.

It is quite apparent that the Clean Air Authority is not doing the job that Parliament required of it. It has been charged with a certain job and we have every right to expect it to carry out its duties.

I would point out that the particular works I mentioned a moment ago has one of its staff on the advisory committee and one of its senior officers on the board itself. I am certain that we will not get very far if we follow the advice that is given by the people who are directly concerned with the industry. It is certainly most desirable in any such administration that it be above and beyond the control or influence of those who might be affected by its decisions.

As I mentioned earlier, the people in Carlisle have been complaining for years about the dust nuisance and the obnoxious smells from the works established in Victoria Park. If these industries are to be retained in heavily and closely settled areas, it is natural that the member for the district will continually get a bashing about the difficulties that might arise and it is also natural that he, in turn, will carry this bashing forward to the Government.

I certainly propose to take every opportunity to pass on as many complaints as I receive from the people in this area. The Minister has visited the area in question and agrees that a nuisance does exist. But nothing has been done to improve the situation and I feel that something should be done as quickly as possible.

The last point I wish to mention deals with traffic lights. The positioning of traffic lights is the responsibility of the Main Roads Department. Not so long ago the Main Roads Department saw fit to install a set of traffic lights at the corner of Cornwall Street and Great Eastern Highway. This was a most unsuitable and unnecessary junction at which to erect traffic lights of the type supplied at that time. Those who have used Great Eastern Highway recently will be aware of the fact that as far as Cornwall Street there are three traffic lanes with a median strip down the centre and this narrows to two lanes when it reaches Cornwall Street. As a consequence, prior to these lights being placed in position, traffic could flow into Cornwall Street only from Great Eastern Highway, and this could be done without much trouble. One must also bear in mind that Cornwall Street carries the traffic from Great Eastern Highway; it is a main artery, and has taken the place of Streasley Road, which has been blocked off because of the work that has been done.

Before the traffic lights were placed at this junction it was no problem for people to get back into Cornwall Street, because the traffic could feed through gradually as occasion permitted; the traffic could wait its turn to get through.

As a result of the advice it received, however, the Main Roads Department saw fit to install a series of lights without allowing for a right-hand turn arrow light for people who might be coming from the city. Provision was made for access to the highway from Cornwall Street, but no provision was made to get back safely. As a consequence, buses and other vehicular traffic were forced to go through the red light if they wanted to get into Cornwall Street, because by the time the lights changed from the two directions there was such a bank-up of traffic it took two changes of lights to clear it. Because of this, people took a chance and went through the red lights and this has been the cause of several lives being lost.

Despite protests from the member for Victoria Park when these lights were installed, and despite my supporting protest to the officer in charge of lights in the metropolitan area, nothing was done until several fatalities had occurred. I asked the officer concerned to turn the lights off straight away and had this been done a number of problems and a number of deaths would have been avoided. However, the powers that be apparently knew better than I did in this matter.

Mr. Davies: They said you were a nuisance.

Mr. JAMIESON: It was suggested that I had a nuisance value because I was interfering with the situation. Finally, however, I wrote to the Commissioner of Main Roads and pointed out the situation and said I felt something should be done about the matter. I did not receive an immediate reply, though I received a reply a week or so ago indicating that the position would be rectified in the near future. The new and changed set of lights had been in operation at that time for about five days. One wonders, therefore, who is advising whom on the procedures adopted, because the very suggestion which was initially made by the member for Victoria Park and myself was that a right-hand turn arrow light be installed at this junction. The engineer said there would be no difficulty; that it was wired to take this; and that it could be put in in a few hours, which eventually was done.

Mr. Davies: After a fatality.

Mr. JAMIESON: That is so; and it was most difficult to get through the heap of glass in the middle of the road. It is not good enough. When a member representing a district brings to the notice of the officers concerned the danger that exists in a particular area some action should be taken. Members of Parliament do not make these representations for no reason at all. They are made for a purpose: to draw the attention of the people in charge

to the fact that some action should be taken. It is most regrettable that no action was taken for some five weeks or so and that buses should have been permitted to take the risk of going through the red lights. I have personally observed this on a number of occasions.

On one occasion I was third in the line to turn right and I waited for five changes of lights, because the person in front quite correctly obeyed the rules of the road and did not take the risk of going through the red lights.

That is a foolish situation to be placed in. Any of the officers could have observed what was taking place during peak hours or at any other time, had they cared to do so. It was not until it was too late that they took action to provide the right-hand turn light. I suggest that in future, when representations are made in all seriousness by a person who uses a road access to the city at least several times a day, they will be given every consideration. Obviously some departmental officers did not have the information before them, otherwise they would have taken action earlier in the instance I have mentioned.

With those comments I suggest that certain departmental officers responsible for the Clean Air Act or in the Main Roads Department pay more attention to the representations which are placed before them by people in an earnest endeavour to achieve something for the State.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Lewis (Minister for Education), and transmitted to the Council.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Graham (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), and read a first time.

House adjourned at 9.25 p.m.