

2 of the 1957 *Hansard* on this subject—a letter was sent to the then Premier by the then Acting Prime Minister, which made it clear that we were not to be permitted—nor was any State of Australia—to sell iron ore overseas; most certainly not to Japan if the ore to be processed in Australia was sponsored or financed by Japan before export. That was made quite clear.

The Government has enjoyed considerable advantage in this matter in spite of one or two refusals, one of those refusals being made because of the ghosts of certain people that were still hanging around the buildings at Canberra. It would have embarrassed the Commonwealth Government had it granted an export permit at that time. I can see the Minister for Mines knows to what I am referring.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I haven't a clue.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: The Minister looks that way. That would have been very embarrassing for the Commonwealth Government. In any case, there was no necessity for the Government to be worried about it. However, that was the reason for the refusal—it was suggested that there was something invalid or improper in what was being done, which I do not concede at all. But here we have it in black and white from the Commonwealth; and that unless it has been altered, will cause our present Minister for Mines a lot of trouble, not merely in his endeavours to negotiate agreements—one of which has already been signed—but in other directions, particularly in later agreements, if we cannot have any sponsoring or financing by Japan before export.

We now find, however, that a remarkable change has come about. An enormous deposit has been found in the Pilbara district. It has been referred to as a massive deposit and is said to contain untold millions of tons of iron ore. It is spoken of as one of the biggest deposits in the world—at least that is what the President of the Kaiser Steel Corporation called it. We have that opinion expressed in 1962, a few short years after the Commonwealth refused all export on the ground that there was not more than a 35-year capacity of iron ore in Australia.

I could read extracts both short and long to show how disproportionate to today's attitude was the attitude of the Commonwealth in 1957. I could read the criticism of one member of the Liberal Party and the seriousness of the Commonwealth thinking in this matter. Be that as it may, today we have arrived at the situation where hundreds of millions of tons are said to be available in the Pilbara district, even though they are not in one

concentrated deposit; whereas two years ago at the peak of the Scott River discovery a hundred million tons was thought to be gigantic.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Men must have walked and travelled over this area in a hundred different ways.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: The 21-year old embargo which was initially placed on iron ore exports by the Lyons Government, has since been removed, and, as I understand the position, exports from proven old deposits will be approved; and as an incentive 50 per cent. of newly discovered ore bodies will be free from export control. That in essence is part of the public release from the embargo placed on iron ore exports from this State.

I hope that not only will the Mt. Goldsworthy agreement bring about the development envisaged in towns, in transport, in ports, and in harbours, but also that there will be no prospect of interfering with the gigantic capital necessary to work these ores for the betterment of Australia.

There is little time to lose in acquiring markets, because of the highly competitive nature of iron ore throughout the world, as has been pointed out by the Premier himself. So far as Western Australia is concerned, and particularly so far as the north-west is concerned, the mineral deposits in the Pilbara district—these fortuitous gifts of nature—could, perhaps, provide the greatest fillip towards progress, and towards soundly based towns and industry, that it has been our good fortune to experience. That is the position as I see it. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery.

House adjourned at 6.11 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 31st July, 1962

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

CONDOLENCE

The Late Mr. G. F. Roberts, M.L.A.

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

That this House desires to place on its records its profound sense of the loss sustained in the passing of the late Mr. George Frederick Roberts, a member of this House, and formerly Chairman of Committees, and that an expression of the sincere sympathy of members be conveyed to his widow and family by Mr. Speaker.

I am sure each and every one of us would readily support such a motion. The very sudden and untimely death of the member for Bunbury was a severe loss to this House. We all knew George Roberts as a very cheery personality, with a great sense of duty and loyalty to his party, and as a very hard worker for the electorate which he represented. Everyone who witnessed the funeral at Bunbury did see evidence of the great tribute which the local people and the district paid to him.

As Chairman of Committees, Mr. Roberts was a most diligent officer of this House and did everything that he could to maintain decorum and order. He was also a member of the House Committee and, as far as I am aware, attended very regularly and looked after the responsibilities with which he was charged.

Our thoughts naturally go to his widow and three very young children, and each and every one of us feels very sorry indeed for the situation in which they find themselves. However, his widow and children can take great consolation from the fact that as a citizen and member of Parliament he did his very best whilst he was there and was well respected by all who knew him. I would like to express our sympathy to his mother and to his family: a very old Bunbury family, and one which has been respected there for many years.

MR. HAWKE (Northam—Leader of the Opposition) [4.35 p.m.]: This is clearly a very sad occasion. I support the Premier in the words which he has spoken in relation to expressing our deep regret at the passing of George Roberts and also in connection with offering to his widow and children, his mother, and other near relatives, our heartfelt sympathy at the sudden and tragic bereavement which they have suffered.

George Roberts was indeed a very keen and capable representative of his people, and he was certainly a very efficient Chairman of Committees in this House. He was, I think, on the very best of personal terms of friendship with members on both sides, not only of this House but also of the Upper House.

When we last saw him he was in the brightest of spirits and the best of health, and at that time we were all sure and certain he would easily reach the threescore years and ten. Yet, within a few weeks, he was stricken down with this fatal illness and medical science and medical skill were not able to preserve his life beyond a few days.

I think it might be wise to say that public life does place upon men and women who enter into it a far greater strain than is usually accepted in the general mind of the public, and this is indeed one further instance of just how severe and how fatal the strain can ultimately prove.

On behalf of all members on this side of the House I say that we regret very deeply the fact that George Roberts is not with us this session; and we all join, as I said at the beginning, in offering our very deepest sympathy to those most closely affected by his passing.

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Deputy Premier) [4.38 p.m.]: I would like to endorse the remarks that have been made by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, and express great regret at the sudden passing of a very valuable member of this House. I would say that Mr. Roberts was a very hardworking member who spent a considerable amount of time attending to the responsibilities of his office as Chairman of Committees; and, as the Premier has said, the evidence of the high esteem in which he

was held, not only by his own electors but by people throughout the State, was manifest by the large crowd which followed his remains to the cemetery.

George Roberts was a friendly and approachable person, and there would be few to equal him in that respect. I think most members here would agree that his personality engendered a feeling of kinship. We will miss him from this House. We will miss the fairness with which he approached his responsible position as Chairman of Committees. In my experience we have had few Chairmen of Committees to equal Mr. Roberts in ability and, I repeat, in the fairness with which he approached his position.

I would like to be associated with the expressions to be conveyed to Mr. Roberts's relatives. We sincerely trust that the knowledge of his valuable assistance as a member of this House and as the representative of his electorate will help them to bear their sorrow. I support the motion.

Question passed; members standing.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

Revenue and Source

1. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:
 - (1) What was the total amount of revenue income from rates, water sales and sundry income for the year ended the 30th June, 1962?
 - (2) Of this total, how much was for water supply?
 - (3) What amount of the revenue income related to water supply was obtained from—
 - (a) rates;
 - (b) charges in lieu of rates;
 - (c) domestic excess?
 - (4) What was the over-all Revenue Account result for the year ended the 30th June, 1962, on water supply, sewerage, and main drainage respectively?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) to (4) The department's accounts for the past year are not yet finalised. It is expected that the information requested will be available in one week's time.

WATER METERS

Readings During 1961-1962

2. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:
 - (1) What was the total amount of meter readings taken during 1961-1962?

- (2) Of this total, how many readings were taken in the April-June quarter?
- (3) What districts were covered by meter-readers during the April-June quarter?

Installations During 1961-1962

- (4) How many properties which were unmetered had meters installed during the year?

Unmetered Properties

- (5) How many ratable properties are still unmetered?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) On the assumption that domestic readings only are required—212,711.
- (2) 63,419.
- (3) Claremont, Graylands, Swanbourne, Cottesloe, Peppermint Grove, Mosman Park, North Fremantle, Bayswater, Bedford Park, Morley Park, Hampton Park, Bassendean, Guildford, Middle Swan, Wexcombe, Caversham, North Caversham, Midland Junction, Greenmount, Swan View, Helena Valley, Gooseberry Hill, Maida Vale, South Guildford, Bushmead, Rivervale, Belmont, Redcliffe, Cloverdale, Kewdale, Queen's Park, Cannington, Wattle Grove, Kenwick, North Kenwick, Maddington, Orange Grove, Gosnells, Gosnells South, Gosnells North, Seaforth, Kelmscott, Roleystone, Armadale, Armadale West, Forrestdale North, Westfield, Wungong, Byford, Canning Vale North, Riverton, Riverton East, Riverton South, Bentley Park, Manning Park, Tuart Hill, Osborne Park, Westminster, Innaloo, Balcatta, Doubleview, Karrinyup, Scarborough, North Beach, Marmion, Leederville, Wembley, Floreat Park, City Beach, North Perth, Perth North, Perth South, Perth East, Perth West, Perth Central.
- (4) 12,843, a few of which were other than domestic.
- (5) 21,350 improved properties including business areas of Perth and Fremantle.

RENTAL AND PURCHASE HOMES

Applicants Awaiting Allotments

- 3A. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:
 - (1) What is the number of applicants for rental homes awaiting allotment of houses?
 - (2) What is the number of applicants for purchase homes awaiting allotment?

- (3) How many applicants who have been approved as emergent cases are still awaiting allotment of houses or flats for immediate accommodation?
- (4) What is the extent of the time lag concerning—
 - (a) applications for rental homes;
 - (b) applications for purchase homes?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) For whole of Western Australia: June, 1962, 3,246; June, 1959, 5,904.
- (2) For whole of Western Australia: June, 1962, 1,090; June, 1959, 2,081.
- (3) For whole of Western Australia: Physical check at 27/7/62, 78; (not available 1959).
- (4) As at the 30th June, 1962:
 - (a) Metropolitan from 5 months up to 2 years 4 months; rural from: No waiting up to 2 years.
(As at 30th June, 1959: Metropolitan from 6 months up to 3 years 2 months. Rural from no waiting up to 3 years.)
 - (b) As at the 30th June, 1962: Metropolitan: 6 months—1 year. Rural: 6 months—1 year 6 months.
(As at the 30th June, 1959: Metropolitan: 13 months—2 years 9 months. Rural: 13 months—2 years 6 months.)

TRADESMEN FROM OVERSEAS

Accommodation

- 3B. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing: Will the tradesmen who are persuaded by the special mission which recently went abroad, to migrate to Western Australia, be guaranteed accommodation?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied: The Government has set out to obtain the services of specialised tradesmen. It is realised that housing must be made available, and the Government is planning to this end.

MR. JOHN CAVANAGH

Financial Assistance for Experimental Work

4. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Industrial Development:
 - (1) What was the total sum involved in payment of accounts for experimental work for analytical chemist, Mr. John Cavanagh, in connection with the development of his new protein-refining process?

- (2) When did Mr. Cavanagh make his request for financial assistance from the department?

Tabling of Papers

- (3) Will he table all papers in connection with Mr. Cavanagh's application?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) £107 18s. 7d., apart from research undertaken at the request of the Department of Industrial Development by the Government Chemical Laboratories and not charged. Approval had been given for expenditure to a maximum of £2,000 on experimental work for a period of 12 months from the 22nd September, 1960.
- (2) There have been a series of requests and discussions dating back to the 13th July, 1960. These include requests for technical as well as financial assistance. The latest request currently under consideration was made on the 19th July, 1962.
- (3) It is not usual to make available confidential papers of this nature as this would destroy public confidence in submissions to the department.
- In the circumstances I do not consider it desirable to make these papers public.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Work Done by Developmental Architects, 1961-1962

5. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What was the total value of public buildings for which designs and working drawings and specifications were prepared by the architectural branch of the Public Works Department during the financial year ended the 30th June, last?

Work Done by Private Architects, and Cost

- (2) What was the total value of public buildings for which similar work was done by private architects during the same period?
- (3) What was the total cost to the Government for the work done by private architects?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) to (3) The answers to the questions as asked cannot be provided at present. However, the following information hereunder should cover the points raised by the honourable member.
- (a) Expenditure (excluding drawing office charges) for the financial year ended the 30th

June, 1962, on public buildings for which designs and working drawings and specifications were prepared by the architectural branch of the Public Works Department was £5,353,860.

- (b) Estimated departmental charges for the year ended the 30th June, 1962, on works as above: £227,000.
- (c) Expenditure (exclusive of architects' fees) for the same period on public buildings for which designs and working drawings and specifications were prepared by private architects was £956,800.
- (d) Architects' fees paid for the year ended the 30th June, 1962: £46,154.

STATE BUILDING SUPPLIES

Impact of Sale on State Finances

6. Mr. TONKIN asked the Treasurer:
- (1) Has it been possible yet for the Auditor-General to make any assessment of the impact on the State finances of the sale of State Building Supplies to Hawker Siddeley?
- (2) If so, what are the conclusions which have been arrived at?
- (3) Compared with the financial year ended the 30th June, 1961, to what extent was the State Revenue Fund deprived of benefit from the operations of State Building Supplies because of the sale of that enterprise?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) and (2) The accounts of the State Building Supplies have not yet been finalised.
- (3) In the financial year 1960-1961 the State Building Supplies contributed £175,565 to Consolidated Revenue on account of interest, sinking fund, and employer's share of superannuation. In the same year, the concern's loss of £35,371 for 1959-1960 was charged to Consolidated Revenue.

In 1961-1962 an amount of £36,000 was paid into Consolidated Revenue, being interest received from Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies on the balance of purchase price, and £5,125 was taken into revenue on account of employer's share of superannuation for the quarter ended the 30th June, 1961. An amount of £68,858 was charged to Consolidated Revenue, being the loss for 1960-1961 of the State Building Supplies.

CENTRAL ROAD TRUST FUND*Credit at the 30th June, 1962*

7. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

(1) What was the amount of the credit in the Central Road Trust Fund at the 30th June, 1962?

Allocations

- (2) What were the total amounts which have been paid to—
- local authorities not within the metropolitan area;
 - local authorities within the metropolitan area;
 - the King's Park Board, respectively, in accordance with section 11A of the Traffic Act?

Mr. WILD replied:

- £2,112,158 6s.
- (a) £518,385 12s. 4d.
(b) £425,279 15s.
(c) £2,567 5s.

HAWKER SIDDELEY BUILDING SUPPLIES PTY. LTD.*Timber and Hardware Stocks: Proceeds from Sale.*

8. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- How much has Hawker-Siddeley Building Supplies Pty. Ltd. obtained on account of the sale of timber and hardware stocks, respectively, which it accepted on consignment?
- Of the amount so received, how much has been paid to the Government?

Responsibility for Fire Insurance

- Was the Government obliged to arrange for fire insurance in respect of any timber and hardware stocks accepted by Hawker-Siddeley on consignment? If so, for what value, and what was the amount of the premium involved?
- Have any negotiations taken place, since the sale, between the Government and Hawker Siddeley for a lesser book value for any items of timber or hardware stocks? If so, with what result?

Book Debts Collected

- What is the amount of book debts which Hawker Siddeley has collected on behalf of the Government?

Mr. COURT replied:

- to (4) In view of the poor sale prospects of much of the stock originally intended to be on consignment and the length of time

that much of it had been held by State Building Supplies, the Government initiated negotiations to arrive at a satisfactory total sum for this stock and thus avoid any risk of further deterioration through slow-moving stock, particularly karri.

A figure of £545,000 was arrived at; and this, together with £109,563 for brick stocks, work in progress, and general store trading stocks, making a total of £654,563, becomes payable with interest under the terms of the main agreement.

Under the revised arrangement, Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies Pty. Ltd. accepted complete responsibility for insurance of the stock.

- £384,204 to the 30th June, 1962.

SWANBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL*Criticism of Planning*

- 9A. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- Is he aware of the criticism which appeared in the March issue of the *W.A. Teachers' Journal*, alleging faults in the planning of rooms in the new Swanbourne High School?
- Was it true that, in one manual training room, a planing machine which needed a clearance of 8 feet, had been placed within 4 feet of the wall, and that wood-working and metal-working machines had not been installed in separate bays, but were mixed together?
- Would not the provision in staff rooms of book shelving and lockers for staff clothing and personal belongings have been more desirable in the Swanbourne High School than the mosaic facings with which the building was adorned?
- Would it not be advantageous to consult members of the Education Department who are concerned with the requirements of special rooms before such rooms are designed?

Designers

- Was the Swanbourne High School designed by the Public Works Department or a firm of private architects?

Mr. WILD replied:

- Yes.
- No. The planing machine was placed after delivery adjacent to the wall. This was only awaiting fixation in a position to give adequate clearance. Woodworking

and metalworking machines are not in separate building bays, but are grouped separately in the same room and are not mixed together.

- (3) Yes. There would be very little difference in the over-all cost of mosaic facing compared with conventional covering. The provision of mosaic facing is not the reason for the absence of shelving and lockers. This matter was overlooked, and action has now been taken to provide them.
- (4) Yes. Consultations are carried out.
- (5) By a firm of private architects.

HIGH SCHOOLS: COST

Comparison with Those in United Kingdom, etc.

9B. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has he any comparative figures for the cost per place for each child in our new high schools, as against the present cost per place per child in other States and in the United Kingdom?
- (2) If comparative figures are not available, would it not be wise to endeavour to obtain them, especially from the United Kingdom, where a great deal of research has been done with a view to ensuring the most economic use of the funds available for the erection of school accommodation?

Mr. WILD replied:

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

OFF-COURSE BETTING

Revenue for 1960-1961 and 1961-1962

10. Mr. TONKIN asked the Treasurer:

- (1) What was the total revenue derived from off-course betting for the financial years 1960-1961 and 1961-1962, respectively?
- (2) Of the amount received in 1961-1962, how much was from Totalisator Agency Board Betting Tax and the Investment Tax, respectively?
- (3) During the last financial year, and on account of the increase of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in totalisator duty specially imposed for the purpose, how much money was taken, and given to the Totalisator Agency Board from the investments on the totalisator, of patrons attending racing and trotting meetings?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) 1960-1961—£635,400.
1961-1962—£666,808.
- (2) Totalisator Agency Board Betting Tax—£323,220.
Investment Tax—£179,804.
- (3) The amount taken and payable to the Totalisator Agency Board was £34,443.

BETTING TAXES

Receipts in Excess of Estimate

11. Mr. TONKIN asked the Treasurer:

- (1) Did the total of betting taxes received for the financial year just closed exceed the estimated revenue from that source by £103,000, as reported in *The West Australian* of Friday, the 13th July?
- (2) Which particular betting taxes exceeded the estimate and by how much in each case?

Effect on Subsidies to Racing and Trotting Clubs

- (3) Did racing and trotting clubs receive a larger subsidy from the Government than would otherwise have been the case because anticipated revenue from betting taxes had been underestimated?
- (4) What was the total amount paid to racing and trotting clubs by the T.A.B. and the Government during the last financial year?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) The total of betting taxes received for last financial year was £111,400 above the estimate.
- (2) Totalisator Duty and Licenses—£6,043.
Boomakers' Betting Tax and licenses—£17,885.
Totalisator Agency Board Betting Tax—£98,220.
- (3) No.
- (4) £208,638.

STATE SHIPPING SERVICE

Investigator's Recommendations

12. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

- (1) Has consideration been given by the Government to the report of the investigator appointed to make recommendations concerning the organisation of the State Shipping Service?
- (2) Is it intended to give effect to any of the recommendations which have been made?
- (3) What recommendations, if any, has it been decided to reject?

- (4) Was the investigator requested to advise whether the State Shipping Service should be placed under a form of management like a private shipping company and, if so, what did he recommend?

Cost of Investigation and Report

- (5) What was the cost to the State of the investigation and report?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) to (3) Captain William's report is receiving consideration by a Cabinet sub-committee. No final decisions have been made on his recommendations.
- (4) The full terms of reference, including the one more specifically referred to in the question were—

- (i) To investigate the present organisation of the State Shipping Service and to recommend change therein, having due regard for the responsibilities of the State to ensure reliable communications to the North-West, the Kimberleys, and to Darwin.

- (ii) To investigate, amongst other matters—

- (a) Sailing and operational methods.

- (b) The adequacy, or otherwise, of the present State Shipping Service fleet.

- (c) The adequacy, or otherwise, of the northern ports, and the method of working them.

- (d) Freight and passenger rates.

- (iii) To advise as to whether the service should be placed under a form of management such as a private shipping company.

- (iv) To examine the practicability of certain of the ships, in certain seasons trading in co-operation with private lines to Malaya, Singapore, and other nearby places.

- (v) Generally to advise on such matters as may assist the Government in making policy decisions in respect of the State Shipping Service.

Captain William's recommendation in respect of No. (iii) was—

That a commission comprising three members be established to direct and control the affairs of the State Shipping Service in accordance with Government policy from time to time.

- (5) No account has yet been paid. It is expected to approximate £3,500.

MEDICINES

Responsibility for Control

13. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does he agree with the opinion expressed by Federal President, Eric Scott, of the Pharmaceutical Service Guild of Australia, that control of the claims for and formulations of certain medicines is necessary and that this is a politician's job?

- (2) Does he intend to take any action to protect the public against the false claims of cure contained in advertisements for the sale of some medicines, the blame for which has quite wrongly been placed upon chemists?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) Measures are necessary to control the advertising of certain proprietary medicines and preparations so as to prevent false and misleading claims.

At the end of last year agreement was reached between the National Health and Medical Research Council and publishers, advertising agents, and industry on the terms of a voluntary advertising code to be used as a guide to manufacturers and advertisers in the advertising of proprietary medicines. The object of this agreement is to prevent false and misleading claims in this advertising which results in a profit to manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers in the trade.

The Code is to be administered by a censor appointed by the industries concerned, and would be revised every five years or as required, by the agreement of all parties.

It is considered that this method of voluntary control should be given a trial before other measures are considered.

WORK FORCE

Accommodation of Additional Workers

14. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

Assuming that his estimate is correct that the State will need an extra 2,000 workers a year for the next three years above the 4,000 yearly increase which has been taking place, what steps, if any, has he taken to ensure that such additional workers, if obtained, will be adequately accommodated?

Mr. BRAND replied:

The Government has this problem well in mind and will take whatever action it considers necessary to provide accommodation as required.

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

Stealing and Misappropriation of Funds

15. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many instances of stealing or misappropriation of funds of the Totalisator Agency Board have come to the knowledge of the Chairman of that Board?
- (2) How many persons have been suspended or relieved of their employment for misappropriating money which belonged to the Totalisator Agency Board?
- (3) In how many instances have offenders been prosecuted?
- (4) How many offenders have made restitution and what is the total amount which has been repaid?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) Three.
- (3) Two; and judgment for the amount owing has been secured in the third case.
- (4) One has made restitution, another is liquidating his debt by instalments and the other is awaiting trial. The full amount repaid to date is £58 3s. 4d.

T.A.B. BETTING SHOP

Siting Near Hotel at Nollamara

16. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) Has the proposal by the Perth Shire Council to re-zone part of the site of the John Barleycorn Hotel, Nollamara, to enable a T.A.B. betting shop to be established on land which was previously licensed premises, received ministerial approval?
- (2) Is he aware that one of the councillors speaking in support of the T.A.B.'s request was reported as having told the shire council that "As the T.A.B. had pointed out, betting shops and hotels went together. Betting shops near hotels were much more successful than those that were far away"?
- (3) Was it not stated by the Government at the time that one of the objectives for which the licensed shops were being superseded by the T.A.B. was to remove incentives which promoted off-course betting?

- (4) Was it not said on behalf of the Government, in criticism of licensed off-course betting shops, that they were "sited to tempt wage earners within their doors"?
- (5) Is it not obvious that the proposed betting shop for Nollamara is intended to do the very thing which the Government said it was aiming to prevent?
- (6) If the Government acquiesces in this scheme, is it not leaving itself open to being charged, justifiably, with rank hypocrisy?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No. I have no particular knowledge of what was said at the shire council meeting.
- (3) Yes; and all figures available indicate this has been achieved.
- (4) Yes; I believe it was.
- (5) and (6) No. In July, 1961, the board was anxious to establish a totalisator agency in the betting shop in Hillsborough Drive, Nollamara. However, the owner of the shop, who was then the licensed premises bookmaker, advised the board that the premises were not available to the board.

Early in 1962 the owner of these premises agreed to a proposal submitted by the board for the board to erect a totalisator agency at the rear of such premises which, at that time, were being used for another type of business. The matter was referred to the shire council by the board's architects but the shire council turned down the proposal on the grounds that it did not comply with the requirements to have a frontage to a road or street, the only access being by means of a right-of-way intended to service the rear of the shops.

The matter was referred to me by the then Minister for Police; and, after inquiry, I supported the decision of the shire council. Subsequently, the board was offered premises located in the grounds of the picture theatre gardens. However, the board turned down these premises because it considered that the entrance to the totalisator agency would be too close to the entrance of the picture gardens.

The board has made every endeavour possible to secure suitable premises in the shopping area but has been unsuccessful. Nollamara is a large and expanding area and the public are entitled to facilities for betting in a legalised manner.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY*Supersession of Department by a Board*

17. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware that during the recent by-election for Darling Range, in which the Liberal Party took the seat away from the Country Party, it was publicly stated by a Minister of the latter that the Country Party would not agree to legislation designed to set up a board to administer metropolitan water supply?
- (2) Will this difference of opinion between the parties in the Government on a matter of major policy result in the abandonment of the proposal to establish a board to supersede the Metropolitan Water Supply Department?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) and (2) No.

STATE BUILDING SUPPLIES*Valuations of Assets*

18. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

What valuations have been agreed upon between the Government and Hawker-Siddeley respecting the following assets of State Building Supplies:

- (a) Brick stocks and works in progress at the 30th June, 1961, respectively;
- (b) general store trading stocks?

Mr. COURT replied:

	£
(a) Brick Stocks	33,141
Work in progress	58,172
(b) General Store Trading Stocks	18,250
	<hr/> £109,563 <hr/>

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) £2,374 representing fees paid to the members of the appeal board exclusive of departmental representation.
- (2) Appeals heard, 1,716. Appeals awaiting a hearing, 15.
- (3) 654.

Charge by Commonwealth for Valuation Work

20. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What is the charge made by the Commonwealth Government to the State for carrying out valuations of properties in the metropolitan area for the Water Supply Department?

Personnel Engaged in Valuations

- (2) How many officers who were previously engaged on this valuation work for the State are now being employed by the Taxation Department on the work?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) The arrangement with the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation is for the charge to be on the basis of actual cost. The Taxation Department has been paid the following amounts:—

1960-61—£9,830.

1961-62—£22,575.

These charges include expenses involved in work associated with appeals, but exclude salaries paid by this department to officers pending transfer to Taxation Department.

- (2) Seven officers of the Metropolitan Water Supply Department were taken over by the Taxation Department. However, the disposition of their duties is unknown.

EYRE HIGHWAY MOTEL SITES*Tabling of Papers*

19. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What is the cost to date of the appeal board which was set up to consider appeals against departmental valuations?

Results of Appeals

- (2) How many appeals have been heard and how many are still awaiting a hearing?
- (3) In how many instances were valuations reduced?

21. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

Will he please lay upon the Table of the House all papers associated with the granting of sites on the Eyre Highway for a BP motel and for a motel operated by W. L. McDonald, of Cocklebidy, via Norseman?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Yes.

The papers were tabled.

WATER SUPPLIES: VALUATIONS OF PROPERTY*Cost of Appeal Board*

RICE: CAMBALLIN AREA*Cost and Dimensions of Barrage Dam*

22. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What was the total cost of the barrage dam on the Fitzroy River which was built to serve the Camballin rice project?
- (2) What were the dimensions of the barrage dam?
- (3) Was any difficulty experienced in its construction; and, if so, what was it?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) £397,402.
- (2) Height, 13 feet 6 inches. Width, 503 feet.
- (3) No.

GASCOYNE RIVER*Cost of Kennedy Range Dam*

23. Mr. NORTON asked the Premier:

- (1) Was he correctly reported in *The West Australian* of the 16th June, as stating that the approximate cost of a dam across the Gascoyne River at the Kennedy Range was £750,000?
- (2) If this figure is correct, will he advise who made the estimate?

Work Done Since Scott and Furphy Report

- (3) Has the Public Works Department carried out any work such as surveys and testings of water and materials since the Scott and Furphy report was received?
- (4) If the answer is "Yes", will he give full details of the work carried out?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) and (2) I was correctly reported, but there was some misunderstanding on my part regarding the cost of the dam and the cost of certain other aspects of the scheme. No estimate has been made of the cost of the dam.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The following surveys and investigations have continued since the Scott and Furphy report was received and are proceeding at the present time:—
 - (a) Boring on a close grid in the river sands upstream of the Gascoyne River Bridge to locate subterranean water supplies.
 - (b) A reconnaissance survey of three possible dam sites on the Gascoyne and Lyons Rivers was completed during 1961.

- (c) More detailed surveys of the Kennedy Range dam site have been undertaken and will be followed by similar investigations of the Chalby Chalby site during August, 1962.
- (d) A preliminary river gauging station has been established at the Gascoyne River Bridge.
- (e) Salinity testing of the main river and tributaries has been carried out as conditions have been suitable.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS*Acclimatisation Committee Appointees*

24. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What are the names and qualifying particulars of the Acclimatisation Committee set up under the Zoological Gardens Act?
- (2) Who are the life appointees and who are those appointed for a three-year term?
- (3) When is each of the term appointees due for reappointment?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) A. C. Shedley, B.Sc. (For.), President and Trustee (ex. Assist. Conservator of Forests); L. J. Parks, Trustee (ex. Tourist Bureau); F. C. Smith, J.P., Trustee (Under-Secretary for Lands); C. R. Bunning, B.C.E., A.M.I.E. (Engineer and Business Executive); C. F. H. Jenkins, M.A. (Government Entomologist, President of Gould League and well-known biologist); J. E. Lloyd, M.T.P.I., F.A.P.I. (Town Planning Commissioner).
- (2) The first-named three are appointed for indefinite terms, the remainder for three-year terms.
- (3) On the 1st March, 1964.

NULLARBOR PLAIN*Land Grants for Pastoral Purposes*

25. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Lands:

Why have local applicants for grants of land, for pastoral purposes, in the Nullarbor Plain area, been refused, and subsequently overlooked when the department has decided to advertise such areas open for selection in the Eastern States Press?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

As each application is dealt with on its individual merits, the honourable member is requested to supply details of the applications to which he refers.

ESPERANCE LAND AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Cost of Land for Sale

26. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Has he seen the recent statement by Mr. V. E. Rockhill that the Esperance Land and Development Co. is disappointed with the small number of inquiries it received from Australians in buying its land at Esperance?
- (2) Is this because of the high price the company has found it necessary to place on its parcels of land to cover cost of development, and a profit margin for its investors?
- (3) Would it not be a better plan for the Government to do all early development on such ventures, to keep the cost down to a bare minimum, and thus encourage additional interest from people with limited capital to go on the land?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) The basic principle was established by the Hawke Government; and the agreement, which is being adhered to, was ratified by Parliament.

ALBANY SLOW LEARNERS' GROUP

Availability of Land in Spencer Park Area

27. Mr. HALL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has the State Housing Commission withdrawn its offer of land to Slow Learners' Group, Spencer Park area, Albany?
- (2) If not, what is the price asked for the land?
- (3) What is the area of land offered and where is it situated?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) At cost—which is now being finalised.
- (3) Three acres two roods five perches, corner Warden Avenue and Reidy Drive, Spencer Park.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES AT ALBANY

Retention of Kelly Street Power House

1. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Is he aware of the article appearing in the "Daily News" on Monday, the 30th July, concerning a two-hour blackout at Albany?

- (2) If the answer to No. (1) is "Yes," will he, in view of the seriousness of such power failures to industry, and domestic and commercial life in Albany, give a guarantee that the Kelly Street power house will be retained as an emergency power supply until a ring-main system is established, so as to provide Albany with an alternative means of power supply?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No; it is not economical to do so. The recent occurrence was due to a most unusual lightning strike.

IRON ORE: MT. GOLDSWORTHY DEPOSITS

Ratification of Agreement for Development

2. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

Will the Minister indicate to the House when it is likely that the agreement between the Government and the company developing the Mt. Goldsworthy iron ore deposits will come before the House for ratifications?

Will the Minister also give consideration to bringing the agreement before this House early enough to enable members to have, at least, a fortnight's adjournment of the debate?

Mr. COURT replied:

This question should, more properly, be directed to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines. However, I will undertake to discuss the matter with the Premier, and have the answer given to the honourable member through the proper channels.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Position in Western Australia

3. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Premier:

Is he aware that three years ago both inside and outside of this House there blazed forth from the housetops the fact that this State was on the eve of a great and exciting leap forward—

Mr. Brand: And still is.

Mr. ROWBERRY: —and in the meantime a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the apple and pear industry? There is a crisis and consternation in the wool industry because of the impact of synthetic fibres. There is consternation and concern in the potato industry.

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Hearman): The honourable member had better get on with his question.

Mr. **ROWBERRY**: Is the Premier aware of these things?

Mr. **J. Hegney**: There is also concern in the tobacco industry.

Mr. **ROWBERRY**: Is the Premier aware that the State has apparently lost, or completely lost the tobacco industry? Is he aware that during this time 90 men have been dismissed at Pemberton, and they were retrenched by the Hawker Siddeley timber mills? Is he aware that in this State the unemployment figure has reached over 5,000? How does he relate these facts to one another?

Mr. **BRAND** replied:

I am aware of all these things—they are most regrettable—and with respect to them, we did the same as the Labor Party would have done.

Mr. **Graham**: We would not have allowed that to happen.

Mr. **BRAND**: With regard to the tobacco industry, we all realise that the situation which brought about the depressed state of the industry—it was almost the abolition of the industry—was beyond the control of any of us. This is an Australia-wide problem, if not even a bigger problem than that. I want to make reference to the fact that we now have more people employed in this State than at any time in our history.

Mr. **Graham**: And there is more unemployment now than there has been for a long time.

Mr. **BRAND**: That is just not so.

Mr. **Graham**: Of course it is!

Mr. **BRAND**: With 1.8 per cent. of the work force unemployed we have just .1 per cent. greater than the lowest figure for Australia.

Mr. **Graham**: So what?

Mr. **BRAND**: Although we desire a lower figure of unemployment, I believe that by comparison with the standards everywhere else the figure for Western Australia represents quite a worthy effort. I would say to the honourable member that in spite of all these things, Western Australia is a very prosperous State and is on the eve of greater development, despite all his pessimism, and despite the pessimism of some people on the side of the House on which he sits.

Mr. **Rowberry**: Go to Pemberton and Manjimup and tell the people that.

SITTING DAYS AND HOURS

On motion by Mr. Brand (Greenough—Premier), ordered:

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.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Precedence

On motion by Mr. Brand (Greenough—Premier), ordered:

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

PARLIAMENTARY SUPERANNUATION FUND

Appointment of Trustees

On motion by Mr. Brand (Greenough—Premier), resolved:

That pursuant to the provisions of the Parliamentary Superannuation Fund Act, 1948, the Legislative Assembly hereby appoints the member for Boulder-Eyre (Mr. Moir) and the member for East Melville (Mr. O'Neill) to be Trustees of the Parliamentary Superannuation Fund as from this day.

SUPPLY BILL, £25,000,000

Message: Appropriation

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

Standing Orders Suspension

Mr. **BRAND** (Greenough—Treasurer) [5.18 p.m.]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable resolutions from the Committees of Supply and of Ways and Means to be reported and adopted on the same day on which they shall have passed those Committees and also the passing of a Supply Bill through all its stages in one day; and to enable the business aforesaid to be entered upon and dealt with before the Address-in-Reply is adopted.

Question put and passed.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Appointment

Mr. **BRAND** (Greenough—Treasurer) [5.20 p.m.]: I move—

That the member for Wellington (Mr. I. W. Manning) be appointed Chairman of Committees.

Question put and passed.

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Appointment

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): I wish to announce that I have appointed the member for Claremont (Mr. Crommelin), the member for Narrogin (Mr. W. A. Manning), and the member for Perth (Mr. Heal) to be Deputy Chairmen of Committees for the session.

SUPPLY BILL, £25,000,000

In Committee of Supply

The House resolved into Committee of Supply, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. I. W. Manning) in the Chair.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Before I commence my duties as Chairman of Committees I desire to express my thanks to the Premier for proposing me, and to members for electing me to this high position. I am conscious of the responsibilities of this office, and it is my aim to maintain the example set by my predecessors and to endeavour to attain the very high standard set in the past. I shall need the co-operation of members to enable that standard to be attained.

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Treasurer) [5.22 p.m.]: I move—

That there be granted to Her Majesty on account of the services of the State for the year ending the 30th June, 1963, a sum not exceeding £25,000,000.

In accordance with our parliamentary practice a Supply Bill is passed early in each session to provide funds for the services of the State. This action is necessary pending the introduction of the Estimates to Parliament for consideration.

The Bill now before members requests supply of £25,000,000 which is identical with the amount made available in the first Supply Act of 1961. This amount of £25,000,000 will finance activities until September when further supply will be requested from Parliament. The components of the amount now requested are:—

	£
Consolidated Revenue Fund	18,000,000
General Loan Fund	5,000,000
Advance to Treasurer	2,000,000
	<hr/>
	£25,000,000

The detailed Estimates for 1962-63, for both the Consolidated Revenue and General Loan Fund, are in the course of preparation and will be presented to the House as early as possible. At that time members will have an opportunity of perusing the Estimates and obtaining any desired information from the Ministers controlling the various departments.

Question put and passed.

Mr. H. MAY: I draw your attention, Mr. Chairman, to the fact that that motion was not seconded.

The **CHAIRMAN** (Mr. I. W. Manning): This is the Committee stage and there is no need for a seconder.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

In Committee of Ways and Means

The House resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. I. W. Manning) in the Chair.

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Treasurer) [5.24 p.m.]: I move—

That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty for the services of the year ending the 30th June, 1963, a sum not exceeding £18,000,000 be granted from the Consolidated Revenue Fund; £5,000,000 from the General Loan Fund; and £2,000,000 from the Public Account.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

First Reading

In accordance with the foregoing resolutions, Bill introduced and read a first time.

Second Reading

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Treasurer) [5.31 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

MR. HAWKE (Northam—Leader of the Opposition) [5.32 p.m.]: The Premier has not placed very much information before us in regard to the financial position of the State. Naturally, like all Treasurers of the past—

Mr. Brand: Hear, hear! I did a bit more than some Treasurers have done in the past.

Mr. **HAWKE**: —he is very anxious to get the Supply Bill through; because I think there is no greater relief to a Treasurer during a parliamentary session than to get a Supply Bill through. Once this has been achieved, the Treasurer and his departmental officers have legal approval to proceed to expend moneys from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, from the General Loan Fund, from the Public Account, and from other sources.

However, I hope that before these proceedings are concluded, the Treasurer will make some information available to us, particularly in relation to the financial set-up as it continues between the Federal Government and the various State Governments, and especially the Governments of the smaller States, such as ourselves and Tasmania.

I have no doubt that some very interesting discussions and arguments took place at recent meetings at Canberra between the Commonwealth Government and State Government representatives. We all know the Commonwealth Government is in the box seat financially in relation to the raising of taxation in Australia, and consequently in relation to its distribution. I have no doubt the Treasurer on this occasion, as other Treasurers on past occasions, tried very hard to obtain from Commonwealth financial resources a greater share than he was finally allocated.

I doubt very much whether any Prime Minister or appropriate Minister of the Commonwealth Government has for many years past made a frank public statement of the financial resources really available to the Commonwealth Government. We know, for instance, the Commonwealth Government, out of taxation which it obtains without cost from the Australian people, indulges in the practice of lending money to the States on occasions and lending it as a repayable debt to the Commonwealth, upon which interest has to be paid regularly from time to time during the life of the loan.

Various State representatives from year to year have condemned that practice as being politically immoral, if not worse; but no easement of the situation seems to have come to pass. I remember myself on one occasion at a Premiers' Conference arguing that the Commonwealth should make some of this surplus money, which it holds and which it has obtained cost-free from the taxpayers, available for the purpose of expanding greatly the educational system in Australia; and I moved on one occasion that a Royal Commission be set up to investigate every phase of education—public and private—in Australia with the idea that such a commission would carry out investigations similar to those carried out by the Murray Royal Commission into university finance in Australia.

I think most members will recollect the Murray Royal Commission was set up by the present Menzies Government some years ago. As a result of its investigations, report, and recommendations, the Commonwealth became much more heavily involved in subsequent years in providing finance for universities; and I think the State Governments, as a result, also became more heavily involved in that direction.

From what I read lately in the Press, the Premier of New South Wales moved a similar motion at a recent Premiers' Conference, and I understand the Premier from Western Australia—and probably the Premiers from all other States—supported that motion. I have no doubt the Prime Minister told the Premiers the matter would receive consideration; and I suppose that if the Premiers are prepared to allow

the matter to rest there, it will go on receiving consideration for a great many years to come.

The financial relationship of such States as Western Australia and Tasmania with the Commonwealth authority is very unsatisfactory indeed. I know that Premiers from the larger States make the same complaint, and maybe they make it with some justification. However, I think the justification which is entitled to exist is certainly entitled to exist to a much greater degree in the less populated States than in the more populated ones. Therefore, should the Treasurer be in a position before we finalise this Bill to make some information available in connection with the matters I have mentioned, I think all members of the House would be very grateful to him. I am not asking, nor do I expect, that he should go into a great deal of detail in connection with the subject, because opportunities will be available later in the year for more detailed discussions.

I read in the speech with which His Excellency was pleased to open this session of Parliament that the financial deficit in this State for the last financial year was £964,013, and that members of the Government considered this result very satisfactory in view of the downturn in the economic activity experienced during the last 18 months. I presume that was referring to the downturn in the economic activities experienced throughout Australia during the period as the result of the economic policies practised by the Commonwealth Government some 18 months to two years ago.

Well, I have never known of a Government which was not satisfied with its handling of the finances. It did not matter whether the Government was Federal or State. Every Government in its public statements was well satisfied with its handling of the finances. I would not go so far as to say that is what members of the Government said to each other privately. They probably expressed, on some occasions at any rate, some quite different views.

It is certainly true that views upon public finance have changed dramatically over the last 25 or 30 years. Twenty-five or 30 years ago a deficit in public finance was looked upon as bordering on ruinous; and any Government which developed a deficit of any size in any financial year was very strongly criticised by newspapers, by financial pundits, and by many people in the community.

The argument then used to be that no Government was entitled to spend more than it received by way of income. Any Government which broke that rule in those days was looked upon as incompetent, inefficient, and even reckless, and on quite a few occasions was defeated at an election almost entirely because of its handling or its mishandling of public finance.

Well, after the first world war public opinion about money seemed to change rather drastically. I think that was due to the fact that before that war started there was not enough money for education, for public health, for water supplies, and for all the other essential requirements of a civilised community; and yet, soon after that first world war got under way, there was no limit to the amount of money which could be made available for war purposes. So I suppose that, in the circumstances, it was only natural the public outlook in regard to governmental finance should become very much relaxed; that the strict rules and observances which had been regarded as vitally important in previous years, now were allowed to drift, and governmental deficits in finance were accepted as the rule of the road.

That situation has, of course, been very greatly expanded since the second world war and, perhaps, for the same sort of reason. I take my mind back to the last Federal election campaign, when the Federal Leader of the Australian Labor Party came forward with a policy or proposal to incur a deficit of £100,000,000 in the finances of the Commonwealth Government in one financial year for the purpose of putting into operation throughout Australia a policy of full employment. I imagine that all members on thinking for a moment about that policy or proposal will be stunned by its magnitude, even though they might approve of the total objective which the policy was expected to achieve.

However, at the time the policy was put before the people of Australia, Mr. Calwell and those associated with him in the policy, or proposal, came in for unmeasured criticism. The Prime Minister, the Federal Treasurer, and many other leading public figures in Australia condemned the policy, describing it as reckless and ruinously inflationary; and as a policy which, if it were put into operation, would throw Australian finance and industry into turmoil. But I would not be a bit surprised if the next Federal Budget does provide for a deficit of approximately £100,000,000.

So it seems that we will increasingly go on mortgaging the future to provide for the needs of the present; and maybe the time will come when a future generation will have to face up to very serious consequences in respect of all the deficits in public finance which will have accumulated through the years, which will still be accumulating, and which will appear certain to go on accumulating at a far more rapid rate in the next several years than previously.

Mr. Graham: Inflation looks after that.

Mr. HAWKE: Inflation does look after it, too, to some extent, as mentioned by the member for East Perth.

Mr. Evans: The member for Balcatta.

Mr. HAWKE: Yes; I am sorry—the member for the new district of Balcatta. However, inflation—as we all know—has detrimental effects in other directions. It might cushion down the effects of heavy deficit finance in public accounts, but it tends to keep pushing up the cost of living and, therefore, the cost of production; and if Australia were a totally self-contained country in regard to all of its needs and requirements, the situation would not, I think, require any worry from anybody.

However, we depend to a very great extent in Australia, and even to a greater extent in Western Australia, upon our exports to markets outside of Australia. In some of those markets we have the advantage of preferences, but in some of them we have no advantage and no protection at all. In other words, a percentage of our total exports is subject to the fierce winds of world competition; and so long as the costs of production in Australia keep going up, then, to that extent will it become more difficult for us successfully to compete in those world markets where we have no preferences and no protection.

In this regard, the probable entry of Britain into the European Common Market underlines to some substantial extent the question with which I am dealing; and one must, at this stage, express regret that a Minister of the Australian Federal Government should have lost his head metaphorically—and politically, too—because, a few days ago, he made a statement in which he believed. I might say that I do not agree with his statement at all. I very much more agree with the statements made in England, in America, and also in Australia by the Prime Minister and the Federal Minister for Trade, in connection with this matter.

I think it is as certain as can be that in the event of Britain entering the European Common Market, unless she enters on terms which broadly safeguard the interests of Australia's primary industries, some of those primary industries must suffer severely from the loss of preference and from the loss of the advantages which they now receive in the markets in Britain itself.

So I suppose when we look at our State deficit of slightly less than £1,000,000 for a full financial year, and compare it with what is happening in some of the other States and what is likely to happen in the Commonwealth sphere, the deficit does not appear to be anything really serious, or something likely to cause any dislocation in the reasonably near future. What it does, however, is to increase the State debt and, therefore, the burden of interest upon the State and upon the people.

I have spoken on previous occasions on the question of this debt burden and the complementary burden of interest which is associated with it; and if any

member cares to check up on the total public debts of all the States and of the Commonwealth, and on the total interest bills of the States and the Commonwealth. I think he will find something which will stagger him, because the figures are, in fact, astronomical.

I am inclined to think that if we had any real concern for our children and our children's children, we would not so easily and so cheerfully go along doing the things that we have been doing and accepting as the rule of the road the heavy financial deficits which have been occurring; the heavy public indebtedness which has been built up; and, of course, the terrific interest burden which is upon the people.

I think that almost from the beginning of time, or almost from the beginning of the use of money as a medium of exchange, the interest factor has been a source of constant worry to all earnest thinkers in any particular community, because they see that this burden is, for the most part, a burden which cannot be carried continuously. It is easy, perhaps, to carry it for a period during which commodity prices and national income are high, and when work is reasonably plentiful and most people are employed. But if we care to look back over the period of the last 20 or 30 years, we can see the economic slumps which, periodically, came to pass; and we all know, generally, what happened when these periods of economic slumps came to pass.

The burden of interest has become too heavy for individuals; and, for Governments, the burden of debt has become too heavy. Consequently there has been untold hardship and misery. Parliaments have had to consider emergency legislation of various types, and that emergency legislation has been put upon the statute book in various forms in order to cushion down the situation and in order to ensure that there shall not be total and absolute collapse. A situation of that kind could, in my judgment, quite easily develop throughout the world in the not-very-distant future.

Only the other day I was reading some messages that had come from America regarding the state of the economy in that country, and some of the information was quite a bit alarming; and it was information which came from authoritative sources—it was not scare propaganda; it was not party-political propaganda. I would not be a bit surprised if the economic situation in America becomes very serious in the next year—much more serious, indeed, than it should be necessary for it to become.

I think the situation in America will be aggravated by the attempts which will be made to try to persuade the majority of the people there that President Kennedy

is a menace to America's progress and prosperity. That would be a viewpoint with which I would not agree. However, it is clear to see, on reading newspaper despatches from America, that President Kennedy has been marked down for slaughter by certain powerful, wealthy, influential groups in that country; and it all seems to date from the time he attacked the steel interests in America, which was not very long ago.

Members who read about that episode in America will know that the steel interests came out with a public announcement that the prices of steel were to go up so much a ton. President Kennedy came out with a scorching declaration in condemnation of the proposed price increases, and made some very severe threats against the steel interests should they put their proposals into operation.

Under this blistering attack from President Kennedy, the steel interests very reluctantly and very bitterly dropped their proposal and from that time until now there has been this very vicious attack against the President; and I think we know enough about the power of propaganda even in this State, to know what can be done in relation to the public mind by newspapers if they set out to destroy a public man or a Government.

So it could easily be that the big business interests of that country will cause economic and industrial conditions there to become worse than they should become, in the hope that President Kennedy and his Administration will receive most of the blame, and in the hope that he and his colleagues will be driven from office at the appropriate time. We know what has happened in this State in regard to the same sort of question, and what has happened in most parts of Australia.

We have, of course, different ways of measuring what is called progress. Some people measure the progress of a community by balance sheets, and especially the balance sheets of the bigger companies—the monopoly companies, the combine companies—and I am sure that those associated with combines and monopolies follow the same line of reasoning, which is quite understandable. They are associated with their organisations; they are part and parcel of them; they are responsible for their operation and for trying to make their organisations bigger and more powerful, and so naturally they do their utmost to expand; and they do their utmost in that direction without much thought of the public welfare, or of the results of their operations upon the public welfare. I cannot imagine a more dangerous yardstick of real progress for a community than the yardstick of big company balance sheets. That could be the most dangerous and most misleading yardstick of all. I think we have seen enough in,

say, the last 20 years to know that monopoly capitalism is growing at a very rapid rate in Australia. We know that the continued growth of monopoly capitalism means the destruction of a great many people in business in a small way. We have seen what has been happening in the retail world, and we have seen the huge and successful takeover bids in the wholesale world and in the industrial world.

Logically enough, as the bigger become bigger and stronger so those down below will most likely become less and less in number, and even those of them who remain will become so weak financially they will have to accept the terms which are dictated to them by the more powerful combines and monopolies. I am not putting this forward or arguing it as a party political proposition this afternoon, but I am putting it forward as something which is charged and supercharged with extremely grave consequences for the Australian people in the years to come.

I am sure all of us know enough to know for certain that these big powerful groups in many instances become more and more power hungry; and, consequently, they seek not only to influence Governments but also to influence Parliaments; and, unfortunately, they sometimes succeed in both spheres. In my view it is not possible to have in a community monopoly capitalism of very great proportions and of very great power and, at the same time, real true democracy. I am positive in my own mind that they cannot exist together.

So if this tendency and this sweep towards monopoly capitalism in Australia continues in the next 20 years as it has developed during the last 20 years, to that extent will real true democracy in this country be reduced and the people become far less effective in their influence upon Government and upon Parliament, with the result that the trend of legislation in those future years, instead of being for the protection of the people in the community, will be the other way.

I know members on this side of the House would have quite different opinions to those of members on the other side of the House as to how the public might be protected or should be protected against a situation such as that. We, on this side of the House, feel that there should be legislation to protect the public, including the smaller men in the business world, because these powerful companies have no more mercy for the small man in business if he gets in their way than they have for the ordinary man or woman in the street.

So far as I am aware there is no legislation operating at the present time in this State for the protection of the public against the unfair trading practices of the powerful companies and those amongst them which are ruthless, and those

amongst them whose only concern is for their own progress and their own expansion. I know there is some legislation upon our statute book, but it is not being operated, because this Government has decided not to operate it.

Mr. J. Hegney: It is a dead letter.

Mr. HAWKE: It is a bad thing for any Government to make a decision of that kind to advantage a small section of the community and thereby to disadvantage practically the whole of the community, and the decision was made deliberately by this Government to cease the operation of that law and to prevent its operation from continuing so long as this Government remained in office. That was an act of great political dishonesty; and the Government is perpetuating its act in that direction, which act is deserving of very severe condemnation.

There is another law upon the statute book which could give the public some protection against the situation which was dealt with in this House this afternoon by way of question and answer: the question having been put by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and the answer having been given by the Minister for Health. This subject has to do with the public advertising of various products.

I am sure every member of the House has had experiences in recent years, and especially in recent months, of reading advertisements in the newspapers which he knows are untrue in some respect or other. One reads them every day. In fact, there was a full page advertisement in *The West Australian* newspaper the other day inserted by some faith healer. He promised to make the dumb to talk, and the deaf to hear, and the lame to walk, and so on. That was £400 worth of advertising: one full page of the newspaper. It may have appeared in more than one issue of the newspaper for all I know. The week-end newspaper published an article condemning the individual and his claims; and, in fact, condemned him very greatly.

Mr. Jamieson: He did not advertise with them.

Mr. HAWKE: I do not know whether he advertised in the week-end newspaper or not, but I will give the newspaper the benefit of the doubt. It felt that his claims were grossly misleading and false and were imposing terrific cruelty upon those members of the public who believed that he could do all that he claimed. Of course, he should have been prosecuted; and, in fact, should have been in Fremantle Prison by now.

In this regard I ask the Government to have a look at the Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act to see whether the section which deals with false advertisements could be effectively implemented in relation to false claims that are being increasingly made in advertisements which

are made public and which influence a great many people in regard to the products they buy.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: There is a section in the Health Act which covers this to a certain extent, but I do not know whether you are familiar with it. Unfortunately, I have not a copy of it to hand.

Mr. HAWKE: No; I am not familiar with the appropriate section in the Health Act. However, I will ask the Minister to have a look at the appropriate section in the Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act. Perhaps it does not come within his jurisdiction; perhaps it comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Labour.

Mr. Brand: The Minister for Health raised this question the other day when addressing the Pharmaceutical Guild.

Mr. HAWKE: Yes, he did; and as a result of that, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition placed upon the notice paper the question which the Minister for Health answered this afternoon. At the moment, however, I am not concerned about any particular advertisement. I am concerned with the general increase in false and exaggerated advertising and I ask the Premier to confer with his Minister for Labour for the purpose of having the Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act examined very closely by the officers of the Labour Department; and, if necessary, by one officers of the Crown Law Department to see how effectively it can be applied. If there are reasons which make it difficult for the Act, in its present form, to be applied effectively, I hope the Government will bring down some amendments to the legislation in order that it can be strengthened very considerably so that it can be effectively applied as an instrument to protect people from advertising, much of which is deliberately false and a great deal of which is exaggerated very considerably.

We might say that in this sort of situation the public should be able to look after itself. However, we know that many members of the public are not able to look after themselves. We know there are various types of salesmen, most of them, I think, good and honest; but we also know there are other types who are go-getters in the worst sense of the term. We know that many of them not only make false and exaggerated claims about what they have to sell, but also they make false and exaggerated claims about the terms of repayment of the hire purchase agreement and consequently they are able to get away with murder, as the saying goes.

Mr. J. Hegney: They exploit the weakness of the community.

Mr. HAWKE: They do, too. That is the worst feature of the situation. In the main, the people they take down are the people who can ill afford to be taken down. I think it is our duty as a Parliament to protect those people to the greatest

possible extent, and I think it is the duty of any Government to take steps to the maximum extent possible to ensure that there is legislation upon the statute book which provides an adequate measure of protection.

The very fact that adequate legislation and proper legislation does exist is of itself a tremendous help because even the go-getter type of salesman will not break the law, if breaking it is materially to involve him in, firstly, the loss of his job; and, secondly, in either a fine in the court, or imprisonment. So the disciplinary effect of this legislation in a community is in itself greatly worth while. In addition to that, of course, the legislation, when it is available, can be used where necessary to deal with offenders; to deal with individuals who try to make money dishonestly by imposing upon various members in the community. Again I ask the Premier to confer with his Minister for Labour to ensure that a close examination will be made of the Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act.

Mr. Brand: Cabinet has actually discussed the case of the faith healer, the one mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. HAWKE: Yes; and I can assure the Premier that should that legislation require amending, members on this side of the House will be unanimous in supporting any amendment that is brought down to strengthen the Act and to make it much more effective than it might be at present.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

MR. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [7.30 p.m.]: This passage of the Supply Bill is related to a very historical occasion and is steeped in history. It would appear that in early English history—the history of Parliament as we know it—the occasion was similar to a contract in which the Commons—who were the people's representatives—agreed, or at least finally agreed with the Crown that, in consideration of passing the Supply Bill, they would have the opportunity to voice their grievances.

On this occasion I want to use the opportunity that is available to me, and to make use of a quotation from Lewis Carroll as follows:

The time has come, the Walrus said,
to speak of many things.

I want to do just that this evening. I was interested to hear the Leader of the Opposition mention the Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act; and I am glad the Minister for Railways is present now because I want to, not facetiously but quite seriously, draw his attention to a pamphlet that has been published by the Railways Department.

On the cover the pamphlet depicts the *Westland Express*. This is a lovely picture and quite attractive; to anyone not

acquainted with the *Westland* it could be quite dramatic. But in detail it is not quite true as a representation of the *Westland Express*. It does give a wrong impression, because not one second-class coach is shown in it at all.

As I turn to the inside of the pamphlet I see a coloured plate headed "First-class facilities"; and several are mentioned. Then additional facilities are listed, including refrigerated drinking water and paper cups provided at the end of each car. I have travelled on the *Westland* often; and I made inquiries recently only to discover that paper cups have not been supplied to first class passengers during the period since I last travelled on the *Westland*; in other words, these cups are not available for the first-class passengers on the *Westland*.

I understand they are available at present for second-class passengers, to those who are fortunate enough to travel on the new coaches; but they are definitely not available in first-class coaches. Yet they are depicted in this pamphlet as additional facilities.

Further, we see in the pamphlet a picture of the dining room on the *Westland Express* and fruit is shown on the dining tables. There has not been fruit on the dining tables for some years; yet it is shown there. This is the best one of all: Among the facilities is included a shoe-shine service obtainable from the conductor. If any passenger were to ask the conductor for this service I am sure he would receive a very unexpected reply. I have never heard of shoe-shine service on the *Westland Express*; yet it is advertised in this pamphlet. I am sure the Minister for Railways will have a look at this matter. I assure him that I am speaking seriously and not facetiously.

I now pass on to another subject altogether. I want to draw the following matter to the attention of the Minister in this Chamber who represents the Minister for Mines. I am sure he will be interested in what I have to say on the administration of the Mine Workers' Relief Act. I have placed a question on the notice paper for tomorrow, but I feel I should not let this opportunity pass without drawing attention to a certain state of affairs.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I would point out to the honourable member that the Minister for Lands represents the Minister for Mines in this Chamber. There has been a change in representation.

Mr. EVANS: I thank the Minister for that information. I was going on past experience and thought he represented the Minister for Mines. I am sure the Minister for Mines will learn about my inquiry. Perhaps it is not a complaint, but I feel it is.

I have here a letter which was sent to a retired worker on the goldfields who, as a result of the 1961 amendment to the Mine Workers' Relief Act, became a recipient under the fund established by that Act. In due course he received a letter from the Secretary of the Mine Workers' Relief Fund—that is, from the Kalgoorlie Office—which reads as follows:—

Dear Sir,

Your case has been considered by the Board and I have been directed to inform you that benefits at the rate of £2 per week each in respect to yourself and your wife will be made available to you from 8th May, 1962 inclusive in accordance with Section 56 (a) and Scale I, Second Schedule, Mine Workers' Relief Act.

The last paragraph of that letter reads—

There will be no necessity for you to further contribute to this Fund whilst you are in receipt of the aforementioned benefits.

He received the letter on the 16th May of this year, but on the 1st June, only a fortnight afterwards, he received a letter from the Superintendent of the Mine Workers' Relief Fund which reads as follows:—

Dear Sir,

Your registration under section 50 of the Mine Workers' Relief Act has been renewed for a period of 12 months as from the 24th May, 1962 subject to your continuing to regularly contribute to the Mine Workers' Relief Fund at the prescribed rate of 1s. 9d. per week.

It is important that you keep your contributions to the Fund up to date at all times, as your failure to do so precludes you from the protection which registration otherwise affords and may also cause your registration to be cancelled.

There is a complete conflict. One letter states there is no further necessity for the person concerned to contribute, but the second letter says there is. I have placed this matter on the notice paper, but I do want to draw the attention of the Minister to it on this occasion.

Another matter concerns water on the goldfields. It is related to the amendment that was made during 1960 to the Country Areas Water Supply Act in which the rate was increased as I still claim, by 50 per cent. from 2s. to 3s. in the pound on the annual rental valuation. Last year when the increase was first levied, only 6d. in the pound was added; in other words, the rate was increased from 2s. to 2s. 6d. in the pound.

I cannot help but think—I cannot be blamed for thinking so—that as last year was election year the Government was not

prepared, and was not interested to add the full levy. It reluctantly agreed to impose half of the maximum increase which it was entitled to make under the amendment to the Act passed in 1960, and only added another 6d. in the £1.

This year the elections have passed and the full increase is payable. People on the goldfields complained bitterly, particularly those on fixed incomes and business people who do not have the opportunity to use their extra allowance of excess water. Several people did not even use their previous allowances, yet they are being charged the higher rates. This applies particularly to people in the main street.

I have in my hand a letter from the Shire of Kalgoorlie dated the 25th July, and I am going to read it because that is what I have been asked to do. It is addressed to me and reads as follows:—

At the latest meeting of this Council held on 20th inst., concern was expressed over the recent increase in water rates.

Opinions expressed were that it was unjust and an iniquitous imposition on the people of the Goldfields and it was resolved to request that all Local Members register an emphatic protest on behalf of the Goldfields people, and that enquiries be made on cost structure of water sold on Goldfields.

In keeping with my opening remark that I have many subjects to dwell upon tonight, I pass to the question of State housing, and I would like to have the attention of the Minister who in this Chamber represents the Minister for Housing. I hit the correct target this time, Mr. Speaker. I come to the subject of State Housing Commission interest in the electorate of Kalgoorlie. At the present time there is no interest, and I have a letter here to prove it.

However, before coming to that, I would like to go back to the session of, I think, 1960—it might have been 1959—when I asked the Minister for Health, who in this Chamber represents the appropriate Minister, if he would convey to that Minister a request of mine that he send an officer of the State Housing Commission to make an on-the-spot investigation of the quality of the housing available and the needs of the people in respect thereof in Kalgoorlie.

I give the Minister for Health the credit for passing my message on to the Minister for Housing; but that is where my credit must stop. The Minister for Housing did send an officer to Kalgoorlie; quite true. However, I feel the manner in which he went up there and the way in which he obtained the information for his report were most shabby. I had seen many things and heard many things from people which prompted me to ask that an on-the-spot investigation be made in Kalgoorlie, and I naturally told those people I had passed on the request and that I felt it would be met.

Time went on and I heard nothing. I wrote to the Minister and was told the matter was still being considered.

Then one day I had a phone call at home from Mrs. So-and-So who said, "An officer of the State Housing Commission called on someone in the street. I know he is up here and I would like to see him. Could you tell me where to find him?" I did not even know he was up there. I had not been told; yet it was I who asked for him to go there. I believe he was like the dry-cleaning slogan, "Back in a day": up there and back again. I am told on good authority—at least the authority of the Minister when I made inquiries in relation to the matter—that the officer went to the Clerk of Courts in Kalgoorlie and drew most of his information from the estate agents there.

Do you, Mr. Speaker, feel that these people would be fair judges of the needs of the people? They would know their needs; but I do not feel it would be in their interests to put up a good case to enable these people to get new homes, particularly when they are making huge profits in turning over old homes. The officer of the State Housing Commission did not go to the right people, and he did not stay in Kalgoorlie long enough. I could have advised him on the spot of the needs of the people and of the condition of the houses in Kalgoorlie.

I am sure that if the Premier, the Minister for Water Supply, or the Minister for Health—the Minister for Housing has been there several times—were to go to Kalgoorlie they would be amazed to see the difference between the standard of homes there as compared with that in other parts of the State, even country areas. This chap who came to Kalgoorlie went back with a report which stated that the need for housing in Kalgoorlie was neither great nor urgent. They were his famous last words, because that is the last we heard of him.

I have made several representations in this House, but still there is no interest being taken by the State Housing Commission in Kalgoorlie. At one stage application forms were not even available in Kalgoorlie; but I give the Minister for Housing credit in this respect, because he made them available. As a result of this, several applications have been lodged; but until people can see some tangible evidence of interest by the State Housing Commission, it is not going to persuade or encourage others to lodge applications. A lady did lodge one, and this is the reply she got—

Referring to your application lodged on 5th April for assistance at Kalgoorlie, I have to advise that at the present time the Commission does not have rental homes in this area.

However, your request has been noted—

A lot have been noted!

—and should the Commission be in a position to assist at some future date, your application will receive every consideration.

There have been several of these requests as people have taken the initiative to lodge applications, but nothing has been done about them. I am concerned about this; and I feel that if this Government is true to its label—the Liberal and Country League—it should uphold the Country League wing of the party and do something for that important part of the country, the goldfields.

I now wish to refer to the Workers' Compensation Board, which performs a very important function in this State. Like the majority of the other jurisdictions in the Australian States it was intended on its formation that it be distinct from an ordinary court of law. Prior to its formation, workers' compensation cases in this State were heard in the various local courts, but now cases are heard before the Workers' Compensation Board.

I suppose the reason why reports of litigation heard in workers' compensation cases were not reported regularly was that it was considered desirable to get away from the strict formality of a courtroom. Therefore, they were not being regularly reported as is done with other cases, such as those heard in the Supreme Court. However, over the years the Workers' Compensation Board has spasmodically issued certain reports, although they are by no means issued regularly. I would like to see these reports issued regularly.

My further complaint is this: I know of several cases in which the worker seeking compensation has appealed to the board and his claim has been rejected on the grounds of some other case of which no report has been available and of which the worker was completely ignorant. The board is able to quote findings of its own from past cases, and a worker's claim is rejected. Yet the worker has no prior knowledge of these reports because no report is made. The board of course would keep copies of findings and the reasons for them, but these are not made available to the persons who would be interested. I feel that that matter could be looked into and appropriate action taken.

Another matter which concerns my electorate is the opening of the School of the Air, a very important and historical occasion in Kalgoorlie and one which will prove of great benefit to the children of the outback. The actual broadcasting centre is in the heart of my electorate, in the Kalgoorlie Infants' School. However, when it was opened, I did not even receive an invitation to be present. The Minister for Education was present for the opening of the extensions to the high

school, but I did not receive an invitation to be present the next day at the opening of the School of the Air. I knew it was to be opened because I had read of it in the Press. Although I know the School of the Air does not serve my district, its centre is in my district and I believe I should have received an invitation.

Mr. Lewis: It was sprung on me a bit, you know.

Mr. EVANS: In fairness to the Minister I must say I understand that is so, but I feel there has been a "blue" somewhere along the way.

I would like to address my next remarks to the Minister for Railways. I might mention here that I have placed questions concerning this matter on tomorrow's notice paper. I would very much like the Minister to investigate the situation with regard to the level crossing in Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie. He was pestered by me on this subject a great deal last year, or the year before, and also received a similar request from the shire council and the conference of local governing bodies in that area.

The Minister did refer the matter to the appropriate committee set up to investigate these claims, but apparently this committee came to the conclusion that the crossing did not warrant any flashing signals. Consequently the Minister had stop signs installed. However, these have proved completely unsatisfactory, not only in the opinion of the motorists but also in the opinion of the pedestrians and those who attended the conference of local governing bodies which was held a few weeks ago. I was present at that meeting, and it was decided to take the matter up with the Minister.

This crossing is in the main street of Kalgoorlie which leads initially to East Kalgoorlie in which there are some 400 adults, mostly aged pensioners. I do not know the exact figure, but that would be the approximate number. Beyond that area the road leads out to a very important centre—Parkeston—the western terminus of the Commonwealth railway line and the centre from which the transhipment activities are now carried out.

That road is a busy one, firstly because of the pedestrian traffic, the old folk having to go into town for their bread as there is no bread delivered in Kalgoorlie; and, secondly, because of the vehicular traffic travelling to and from Parkeston with goods.

At the time the requests were made to the Minister, there were two accidents there which could have proved fatal. In one accident a motor vehicle was struck; and, in the other, the driver was able to reverse off the line, and the only damage was to the radiator and bumper of his car. Apart from shock, the driver was unharmed. However, those accidents drew

attention to the state of affairs and to the amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic which uses the road.

Another factor which makes this crossing dangerous is that the trains which travel to and from Boulder on this line do not run to any regular timetable. They are notorious for this fact. Therefore people cannot even know when to expect a train on the line. As I have said, these accidents indicate how important it is that some warning signals should be installed at the crossing instead of the present "Stop" sign.

The situation is ridiculous because drivers have to stop at the crossing whether there is a train in sight or not, merely because there is a stop sign. As a matter of fact some drivers have been prosecuted for not stopping. I do ask the Minister to give further consideration to this matter and place it before the crossing lights committee to see whether flashing signals could be installed.

As I have requested the expenditure of a certain amount of money by the Government, it is of course necessary for me to support the second reading of this Bill.

MR. TONKIN (Melville—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [7.56 p.m.]: There are a few matters which I desire to raise at this stage, some of them being financial. First is the question of water supply and the proposed board which we may or may not have.

During the election campaign the Liberal Party, in order to extricate itself from the mess in which it fell—

Mr. Brand: The people of Subiaco did not think so, in spite of your valiant efforts.

Mr. TONKIN: —made an announcement without any prior investigation whatever, and with no more idea of the question than the idea that it would be good; with no information at all available to it to study—

Mr. Brand: That is not right, of course.

Mr. TONKIN: Oh yes it is! The Liberal Party said it would establish a board.

Mr. Brand: Yes.

Mr. TONKIN: Now the Country Party did not make any such pronouncement, so it is not in its policy. But since the election it was announced that the Minister for Water Supplies was, during his visit east, to make inquiries into the operations of boards—

Mr. Brand: What is wrong with that?

Mr. TONKIN: —and I presume that the Government—that is, the whole of the Cabinet—was aware of this intention on the part of the Minister. So I assume from that that although the Country Party had not intended this in its election

policy, it had been brought around to the same way of thinking as the Liberal Party.

To my amazement, during the Darling Range election when I was addressing a meeting at Forrestfield, I was asked whether I was aware that at a meeting which had been held prior to mine and which had been addressed by a Country Party Minister, the Minister had stated from the platform that the Country Party was not in favour of this proposal, and would not support it. It seems the Premier does not get about much—

Mr. Brand: Doesn't he!

Mr. TONKIN: —because I asked him a question today—No. 17—as to whether he was aware of the fact that a Country Party Minister had made such a pronouncement. He said he was not aware of it.

Mr. Brand: Quite right!

Mr. TONKIN: Everyone in Forrestfield is.

Mr. Brand: I am not.

Mr. TONKIN: One of those present at my meeting informed me that she had attended all three meetings; and she had heard the Country Party Minister in question make the statement referred to at question time. Let us look at the answers the Premier gave today to my questions. My first question was—

Is he aware that during the recent by-election for Darling Range, in which the Liberal Party took the seat away from the Country Party, it was publicly stated by a Minister of the latter that the Country Party would not agree to legislation designed to set up a Board to administer metropolitan water supply?

Mr. Bickerton: A split in the parties.

Mr. TONKIN: My second question was—

Will this difference of opinion between the parties in the Government on a matter of major policy result in the abandonment of the proposal to establish a Board to supersede the Metropolitan Water Supply Department?

The answer to both questions was "No". It is an astonishing fact that the Premier is unaware that the Country Party Minister in question made this statement.

Mr. J. Hegney: The Premier doesn't know what is going on around him.

Mr. TONKIN: I cannot aver positively that the statement was made, because I never heard it.

Mr. Brand: Neither did I.

Mr. TONKIN: However, the evidence adduced at the meeting points very strongly to the fact that the Minister did make such a statement.

Mr. Brand: The Minister may have made a statement on which the Country Party had not made a decision.

Mr. Jamieson: What sort of a procedure is that!

Mr. TONKIN: No fear he didn't!

Mr. Brand: You have already said they did not have it in their policy speech.

Mr. TONKIN: In His Excellency's speech it was stated that this proposal is to be proceeded with.

Mr. Brand: Is to be given consideration.

Mr. TONKIN: Given consideration? What, after the statement has been made that it is going to be done? Does that not bear out what I said when I started to speak on this subject: That without any knowledge at all of the proposition, the Liberal Party said it was going to do it; and now, having secured office on that statement, the matter is going to receive consideration? What a Government!

Mr. Graham: You can say that again!

Mr. Brand: What a Government!

Mr. TONKIN: A positive proposal placed before the public that this would be done; and hailed by *The West Australian* in a leader as being the very thing to take this away from political control. But when the Darling Range election became necessary it was essential to show that this was not going to be taken away from political control; because if it were, it would be impossible for the Government to carry out its promise. So, to meet that situation, the Country Party said: "Do not worry; this will not be taken out of Government control. We will be able to carry out this promise all right, because the Country Party will not support the proposition."

Mr. Lewis: How do you know they said that?

Mr. TONKIN: I do not know. But that is what I was told. Do you want me to go to Forrestfield—

Mr. Brand: Yes.

Mr. TONKIN: —and tell the electors what a lot of liars—

Mr. Lewis: Not necessarily.

Mr. TONKIN: You were the Minister, were you not?

Mr. Lewis: I was not the Minister who said that.

Mr. Brand: There is no other Country Party Minister.

Mr. TONKIN: A little later on I shall prove there are some liars in the Government. I do not want to be told that there are some more of whom I did not know.

Mr. Brand: You have been trying to prove this for years.

Mr. TONKIN: I will prove it all right, and the Premier is the man in question. He will not be able to laugh this one off.

Mr. Brand: I heard that last session.

Mr. TONKIN: We have the extraordinary situation—

Point of Order

Mr. GRAYDEN: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I think the Deputy Leader of the Opposition should withdraw his statement that there are some liars in the Government. We, on this side of the House, know that some of the statements made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition during the last general election were completely untrue. I think his statement should be withdrawn.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): I will suggest to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that the objection has been taken.

Mr. TONKIN: The member for South Perth is not a member of the Government.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): The member for South Perth is a supporter of the Government. He is a member of this House who is taking exception to language being used in this House. I am not prepared to rule that it is unparliamentary language, but I would suggest that we should be careful to see that the language used does not offend any member of this House.

Debate Resumed

Mr. TONKIN: In view of the action of the member for South Perth, I think it appropriate that I should at this stage prove what I have said. If I cannot prove it, I will withdraw my statement unreservedly.

Mr. Brand: Fair enough.

Mr. TONKIN: On the 19th January, I wrote the following letter to the Premier:—

Hon. D. Brand, M.L.A.,
Treasurer,
Treasury Department,
Perth.

Dear Mr. Brand:

During last year you were making payments to racing and trotting clubs from Consolidated Revenue—

Mr. Brand: The T.A.B. again! I might have guessed it!

Mr. TONKIN: Does the Premier admit it, then?

Mr. Brand: Go on with your story.

Mr. TONKIN: I thought the Premier was going to throw in the towel straight away.

Mr. Brand: Then you have another think coming.

Mr. TONKIN: So has the Premier.

Mr. Brand: We now have the fiftieth edition of the T.A.B.!

Mr. TONKIN: The letter continues—

—in accordance with an undertaking which you have given the racing bodies that they would receive financial assistance for a period following the establishment of a totalisator agency board.

You indicated that this assistance from Treasury would not carry on indefinitely and I gathered from your utterances that it was probable that the special assistance would cease probably in November of last year.

I shall be glad if you will kindly let me know whether, in fact, you have discontinued making payments from Consolidated Revenue to the racing bodies, and if so, what was the end of the period from which you have made or propose to make payments.

It would be appreciated if you would also be good enough to let me know the total amount which the racing and trotting bodies have or will receive by way of direct subsidy.

The Premier replied on the 31st January, 1962, as follows:—

In answering your letter of the 19th January, I wish to advise that the arrangements under which a proportion of the revenue received from off-course betting taxes was paid to racing and trotting clubs has now been terminated.

The last payment made to the clubs was in respect of collections for the month of November, 1961. The arrangements therefore covered a period of eleven months and total payments amounted to £95,696.

Here is an intimation from the Treasurer that he gave £95,696 from Consolidated Revenue to the racing clubs. I accepted that all right. Imagine my amazement when, on the 26th February, the following appeared in *The West Australian*:—

David Brand, Premier: Opposition Deputy Leader Tonkin insists that the Government has been over-generous to racing and trotting clubs. Yet the only subsidy to clubs in recent years was £46,692 paid in 1959 under a Labor Government scheme to compensate for falling attendances on the course.

Mr. Brand: Isn't that so?

Mr. TONKIN: The only subsidy! When the Premier had already admitted that last year he had paid the racing clubs £95,000. He told me that in a letter, but he told the public of Western Australia that the only subsidy paid was one paid by Labor. But let me go on—

Under this Government subsidies have not been needed. Both the Government and the clubs will gain from the Totalisator Agency Board . . .

Mr. Brand: So they have and so they will.

Mr. TONKIN: I am not dealing with that! I am dealing with this lying statement that is in the paper.

Mr. Brand: It is not a lying statement.

Mr. TONKIN: Of course it is a lying statement!

Mr. Grayden: It is a play on words.

Mr. TONKIN: It is not a play on words. It is a straight-out lie.

Mr. Graham: The member for South Perth ought to apologise.

Mr. Grayden: You ought to know all about lies.

Mr. TONKIN: I consider I have fully justified the statement to which the member for South Perth took exception.

Mr. Brand: Nothing of the sort.

Mr. Graham: Apologise.

Mr. Grayden: Mr. Speaker, I think the member for Melville—

Mr. TONKIN: Sit down!

Mr. Grayden: —ought to apologise because I say the words are unparliamentary.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order! Is the member for South Perth raising a Point of Order?

Point of Order

Mr. GRAYDEN: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the words are unparliamentary; and if they are not then it follows that other members could use them in the future if the occasion warranted it.

Mr. Graham: If it were proved to be, yes.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order! The use of the word "liar" has been ruled unparliamentary; and I did not mention to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that I would prefer references of that nature to be couched in other terms. I believe that in a case such as this the Premier is the one who would be mostly directly affected, and should he feel disposed to take exception he has every right to do so. I would prefer the exception, in cases such as this, where an individual is being attacked, to come from the individual who is being attacked. However, I do not want to encourage the use of the words "liar" or "liars", or other epithets of a like nature; and I am sure the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is well able to make his point, or establish his point, in language which is in no way offensive to the accepted parliamentary practice.

Debate Resumed

Mr. TONKIN: Mr. Speaker, no one regrets more than I do that I have to prove that it is a lie; but what I have said is a fact and that is all there is to it. If people do not want to be charged with telling lies, they should not tell them. That is the best way to avoid it.

Mr. Graham: It is as easy as that.

Mr. Brand: Go on with the lesson.

Mr. TONKIN: I do not want to go any further; but that is what happened.

Mr. Brand: When did we pay the subsidy and on what basis?

Mr. TONKIN: The basis has nothing to do with it. The Premier told the people of Western Australia that the only subsidy paid in recent years was the one paid by Labor, when he knew that was not true.

Mr. Brand: That was a straight-out subsidy.

Mr. TONKIN: What is a subsidy?

Mr. Brand: You tell us! You know all about these things.

Mr. TONKIN: It is a gift; a subsidy is a gift; and the Premier made a gift of £95,000 to the racing clubs out of Consolidated Revenue, and I proved it.

Mr. Brand: That was the arrangement at the changeover.

Mr. TONKIN: I do not care what the arrangement was.

Mr. Brand: It was agreed to by this House.

Mr. TONKIN: The Premier said, "Under this Government subsidies have not been needed."

Mr. Brand: No, not subsidies such as you talked about.

Mr. TONKIN: The Premier said, "Subsidies have not been needed."

Mr. Brand: Certainly not.

Mr. TONKIN: If subsidies have not been needed under this Government, what was the Premier thinking of when he paid £95,000 to the racing clubs?

Mr. Brand: It was part of the arrangement when we established the T.A.B.

Mr. TONKIN: Have we reached the stage where he says the subsidy is not needed?

Mr. Brand: There has been no need.

Mr. TONKIN: Yet the Premier paid £95,000 to the clubs; and let me remind him that the only recommendation of the Bush Fires Royal Commission which was not adopted by the Government was the one that would have cost the Treasury a few bob. The only recommendation which the Government turned down was the one recommending subsidies to country bush fire brigades. The Treasurer turned it down on the ground that he did not have the money.

Mr. Brand: It is no good looking over there; you will not get any support over there.

Mr. TONKIN: That is the sort of thing we have to deal with. I am told one thing by letter, and the general public are told something different—they are told something that is quite untrue; as indeed

they were, too, by members of the Government with regard to the Esperance superphosphate works.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that prior to the general election there was some unrest in Esperance because of the proposed siting of the superphosphate works. Some people were perturbed because they felt that the fumes and dust from the works would seriously interfere with the convenience of residents in the town. To allay that fear the people were told by members of the Government that pyrites were not to be used in the manufacture of superphosphate, and, therefore, they had nothing to worry about.

We are supposed to be fostering Western Australian industry; and pyrites are produced 100 miles from Esperance, at Norseman. This Government and its predecessor have been paying a freight subsidy to enable Norseman Gold Mines to bring pyrites to the metropolitan area for use in the manufacture of superphosphate. Here was a golden opportunity. A superphosphate works to be established close to the Norseman Gold Mines could have afforded an excellent outlet for the product; and so I was absolutely astonished when I heard that the Liberal candidate for Boulder-Eyre, supported by Ministers in the Government, was telling the people that pyrites were not going to be used.

When I was told this I said that I did not believe it; I did not believe that the people of Norseman would be so quiet about this if it were a fact, and so I deliberately set myself out to test the situation. When I was passing through Norseman the local authority very kindly gave me a civic reception, and when I had an opportunity to speak I expressed amazement that the people of Norseman should take so quietly a public announcement that pyrites were not going to be used at Esperance. I put the pressure on hoping that I would cause the man who was the defeated Liberal candidate for Boulder-Eyre to get up and say something; because he was the manager of the Norseman mine. Before long he got up and said that he wished to assure me that pyrites would be used at Esperance. He asked what did I think he would be doing allowing the Government to establish a superphosphate works at Esperance which was not going to use pyrites. You do not like the use of the word "lie," Mr. Speaker, but what other noun can I use with regard to that situation; because somebody was telling one?

Mr. Court: Who said they were not going to use pyrites?

Mr. TONKIN: The Liberal Party candidate.

Mr. Moir: It was said within your hearing when you were visiting Esperance.

Mr. Court: Not to my knowledge. I was there with the Premier, and it was not mentioned whilst we were there.

Mr. TONKIN: Will the Minister for Industrial Development kindly tell me for the record whether pyrites are to be used?

Mr. Court: As far as I know pyrites will not be used because the Commonwealth subsidy cannot be applied to a new works. It is as simple as that.

Mr. Hawke: Why not?

Mr. TONKIN: There you are! The Minister says that pyrites will not be used.

Mr. Court: For very obvious reasons.

Mr. TONKIN: But at this civic reception the Liberal candidate, to counter the remarks I made, said that pyrites were going to be used. He asked me what I thought he would be up to, to allow the Government to establish superphosphate works in Esperance without using pyrites.

Mr. Court: In fairness to the candidate, he did press the Government for the use of pyrites at the super works.

Mr. TONKIN: The plant was being designed to use both pyrites and sulphur. I think it is a shocking thing that the Government should allow anybody to establish a superphosphate works at Esperance without insisting absolutely that the product of Norseman be used in the manufacture. If pyrites can be railed 500 miles under subsidy to be used in the manufacture of superphosphate, it can be railed 100 miles to keep the town of Norseman prosperous.

Mr. Court: But the subsidies from the Commonwealth, which are very heavy, cannot be made available for new works; and for good reason.

Mr. TONKIN: The Minister for Industrial Development can move mountains, such as the selling of the State Building Supplies to Hawker Siddeley, so he should be able to get over that one.

Mr. Court: I do not run the Federal Treasury, and you know the ground for the granting of the subsidy; and you also know that your Government was talking about reducing the freight concession. How do you explain that if you are so keen about the use of pyrites?

Mr. TONKIN: Quite easily. I am glad the Minister brought that matter up because I intended to say something about that aspect.

Mr. Court: Why did you want to reduce the freight concession?

Mr. TONKIN: I will tell the Minister. A prudent Treasurer—as most Treasurers are—thought that here was a possibility of effecting some saving; because surely the industry might at last be on its feet. So he proposed a reduction in the subsidy. Immediately those who were most concerned about the continued use of pyrites made representations to the Government. The position was further examined and the Government agreed to continue the subsidy for a period.

Mr. Court: And we have helped them even further.

Mr. TONKIN: That has nothing to do with it.

Mr. Court: Yes it has.

Mr. TONKIN: The Minister attempted to create the impression that we were against the continued use of pyrites because we were going to reduce the subsidy knowing—

Mr. Court: That is the *prima facie* evidence. Apparently you were not very concerned about it.

Mr. TONKIN: Never mind about the *prima facie* evidence! Why did we not discontinue the subsidy then?

Mr. Court: Because they raised a hue and cry.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order!

Mr. Court: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. TONKIN: The fact remains that the Hawke Government did not reduce the subsidy, but continued it with the express purpose of enabling the mine to continue to produce pyrites. If I had been a resident of Norseman and I had heard the announcement of the building of a superphosphate works at Esperance, I would have thought, "What a great thing this is for Norseman because it will ensure a further opening for the produce of this mine." But what do we find? We find the Minister saying that the superphosphate works are to be constructed and pyrites will not be used. If ever a golden opportunity was lost to foster a local industry it was lost there.

Mr. Court: No.

Mr. TONKIN: Oh, yes, it was!

Mr. Court: We have taken positive measures since we have been the Government to ensure that the present quantities of pyrites are used.

Mr. Moir: Is that why they are dismissing men from that mine at present?

Mr. Court: We increased the freight concession in order that they might keep up the production of pyrites.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order!

Mr. TONKIN: If I may return to this question of water, I want to say a little more about what happened at Forrestfield. The late member—I mean the ex-member; I am glad he is not the late member because I hope to see him back here very soon—for Darling Range had, for some considerable time, been endeavouring to obtain water for Maida Vale and Forrestfield. I can recall the ex-member for Darling Range bringing a deputation to me about the matter, and at the time I told him that the population was too low in density to justify the expenditure at that stage, but I thought that, possibly, in two or three years' time the situation

would be different. I have no doubt that if we had continued in office Forrestfield would have had a water supply by this time.

However, the present Government attained office and the ex-member for Darling Range never ceased to make his representations for water in Forrestfield. Up to about a fortnight before the campaign in the Darling Range electorate got well under way, some members of the same party as the ex-member for Darling Range made inquiries at the Water Supply Department to see whether there was any possibility of getting a water supply for Forrestfield; and, mark you, Mr. Speaker, this is a coalition Government and its policy should be the policy of each component part. Each part should take the same responsibility for what is being done, and have the same advantages.

When representatives of the Country Party, represented by Mr. Owen, made inquiries authoritatively they were told, "There is no chance of a water supply for Forrestfield." Then a fortnight later the Minister for Water Supplies went to Forrestfield and pulled the rabbit out of the hat. He said, "You will have your water supply. I have already approved the expenditure of £30,000 to give it to you."

Mr. Wild: I suggest you read the file that is on the table, and read the letter—

Mr. TONKIN: I do not want to read the file; I am going to read this letter.

Mr. Wild: No, because you will find the truth there. Have a look at the letter written to Mr. Baxter on the 3rd July.

Mr. TONKIN: That is all right. I have in my hand a letter signed by the Under-Secretary for Water Supplies—and I presume he knows what is going on in his department; he did when I was there, anyhow—

Mr. Hawke: An optimistic presumption.

Mr. TONKIN: This letter is under date the 10th July, 1962; and if the Minister wants to check this the file number is 640998/61.

Mr. Wild: That letter is on the file there.

Mr. TONKIN: The letter is addressed to Mr. Don May, M.L.A., Parliament House, and reads as follows:—

The possibility of extending the water main to serve the property of Mr. Koopman, Lot 381, Grove Road, Wattle Grove, and two adjoining properties, has been already given consideration following representations from the Gosnells Shire Council, on behalf of Mr. Guira. However, there are two factors which debar approval being given to the work.

Until it is practicable to strengthen the supply, by the construction of a large and costly feeder main along

William Street, extensions from the existing reticulation cannot be considered.

Even assuming the hydraulic position to be sound, funds are not available to expend £1,738 on 2,900 ft. of main to serve three improved properties. A substantial contribution towards the cost would be required to enable favourable consideration to be given, but until the hydraulic position is rectified it is of little use calculating possible contributions.

But according to the Minister, the decision had already been made to rectify this; because the very next day he told the people in Forrestfield that approval had been given for this expenditure to rectify the hydraulic position.

Mr. Wild: I suppose that is my prerogative. Was it not yours when you were the Minister?

Mr. TONKIN: What is the Minister talking about?

Mr. Graham: To stab the Country Party in the back.

Mr. TONKIN: I think that before the Minister made a public announcement in support of a member of his own party against a member of the other party in the coalition, it was his prerogative to inform the Country Party representatives who went to the department and got a negative answer that he had changed his mind. That is what I think about it.

Mr. Graham: A member who had voted for the Government for three years in every division.

Mr. TONKIN: I think it was a scurvy trick.

Mr. Hawke: It was a terrific double-cross.

Mr. Grayden: Why don't you have a look at the file.

Mr. TONKIN: Why is there any need for me to have a look at the file when I have the important thing which concerns the subject with which I am dealing? What do I want with the file?

Mr. Wild: The trouble is that you will find the truth on the file.

Mr. TONKIN: Is not this the truth?

Mr. Wild: That is only part of it.

Mr. TONKIN: How can the whole truth be in direct opposition to part of the truth?

Mr. Grayden: You are frightened or you would have a look at the file.

Mr. TONKIN: Why should I look at the file, if I think I can make my speech with one letter from the file? That is the position. Anyway, what opportunity have I had to have a look at the file?

Mr. Grayden: Do not speak on it until you know something about it.

Mr. Graham: It is not in the Chamber.

Mr. Hawke: I have had a look at the file, and the position is much worse than the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has stated.

Mr. TONKIN: Perhaps we might satisfy the member for South Perth later when we have had an opportunity to look at the file when dealing with the other aspects he is talking about. I am not certain whether the Minister went there on the 10th July or on the 11th July. It was either on the same day or the day after. I thought it was on the 11th, but I have heard interjections saying that it was on the 10th. It is an astonishing situation that the Under Secretary of the department should say on this day—

Mr. Graham: Tuesday was the 10th.

Mr. TONKIN: —that it was no good going into the question of what contribution had to be made until the hydraulic position had been rectified when, according to the Minister, the decision had already been made to rectify it. Some people in my electorate are very concerned about the costs of water.

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

Mr. TONKIN: That is a pity; but I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I will take advantage of every one of them. The people to whom I have referred in my electorate have written to me as follows:—

We the undersigned electors strongly protest about the reduction of the amount of domestic water allocated, and the exorbitant increase in excess water charges. These are creating hardship to many people.

The maintaining of a reasonable lawn and garden is almost impossible under these conditions, but is required by the State Housing Commission tenancy agreements. We request that you raise this matter urgently as soon as the House meets, so that the amount allowed and the rates charged are at least restored to the previous level by next summer.

We consider that a public meeting would be useful to enable ratepayers to air their views on this subject, and request you to call a meeting as soon as possible.

So, in pursuance of the request of those people, I have taken advantage of the first opportunity available to me to mention the matter in Parliament. The Minister will hear about it later when more time is available to me to deal with the subject. But this petition is adequately signed, as can be seen. I have not counted the names, but there are quite a number, and I am assured they are all residents of the electorate of Melville.

On their behalf I protest to the Minister, as I have on past occasions, against the alteration which has taken place, which

was a camouflage, of a reduction of 6d. in the £, but with an increase in the cost of rebated water, which meant one had a greater reduction in the quantity of water available, the result being that one was forced into excess much earlier. Some people had astronomical bills for excess water. I came across bills of £40 and £50.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: They should use less water. Be sensible about it.

Mr. TONKIN: I hope *Hansard* has not missed that interjection—that people should use less water—because later on the people of the Minister's electorate will be told, "That is the answer to your question. Do not grizzle about the little you are paying for water; use less." That is what the Minister for Health says. That is his contribution to this problem.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: There is a lot of wastage of water. People leave their hoses on far too long.

Mr. Graham: Have less baths.

Mr. TONKIN: The Minister can make his contribution towards the using of less water in due course.

Mr. Hawke: The Minister has too much water in a certain place!

Mr. TONKIN: If this proposal for a water board does get here—mark you, Mr. Speaker, it is only under consideration, and we have gone back a few yards—then it will be interesting to see what happens. My prediction is that this Government will never establish a water board in Western Australia. But if it has the temerity to bring the proposition here then the opportunity will be afforded to go very thoroughly into the question; and the Minister will find, if he looks at what has happened in Victoria, that the board there is 1,000 houses behind with ordinary reticulation—houses which are already erected and with people living in them—because it has not the money to put the water on.

The board is 100,000 houses behind with its sewerage, because it needs £10,000,000 a year for its operations, and can only get £7,000,000. So it is impossible to carry out its programme. The authorities in Victoria, because they have to borrow their money on the open market, pay more for it than they would if they borrowed through ordinary Government channels.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): The honourable member's time has expired.

MR. ROWBERRY (Warren) [8.41 p.m.]: At the time of the introduction of the Supply Bill it is usual to throw our thoughts on to financial systems, deficits, and such like. I want to follow the line of thought which was introduced by the Leader of the Opposition when he said that nowadays a deficit is not looked

upon with so much disgust or disapprobation as formerly. In fact, most of us work on a deficit. Nearly every organisation, industrial or otherwise, works on an overdraft or a deficit. Individuals, farmers especially, work on deficits.

Mr. Bickerton: And members of Parliament.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I have been reminded that members of Parliament also work on deficits. Because they work on deficits, I find it very difficult to oppose this Bill. Referring again to a deficit, in so far as the Budget of a country is concerned, it represents the amount of money that has been spent on the community; it represents something of which the community has not been deprived. Despite the fact that we are putting our future into debt, and despite the fact that eventually our children and our children's children will be called upon to deal with these deficits, I want to remark that last year I read an item in *The West Australian* which stated that the British Government had wiped off £100,000,000 from the national debt and no-one was any the poorer; I do not suppose anyone was any the wiser. If that can be done by the Mother of Parliaments I do not see why our own puny Treasurer should worry about the deficit of this State.

Also, I would not worry about deficits, especially when I consider that this State is spending millions and millions of pounds on public works—on the creation of dams and irrigation projects, and then handing them over to private enterprise at half the price, or at no price at all. I wonder how much of the capital expenditure on the Ord River Dam will be paid back to the Treasury by private enterprise to whom the Premier contemplates selling! Will it be recouped in full, or will it become just a nominal payment as in the case of the sale to Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies?

Here again we have the advent of big business being pandered to and given the priceless possessions of this State on a plate for nothing. I am reminded also that this company, Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies, contracted under clause 10 of the agreement between the Government and itself, to expend £500,000 in the extension of its business in Western Australia within the next five years. I wonder how much of that is represented in the retrenchment of 90 men at Pemberton! That is exactly what we can expect from the advent of big business in Western Australia. It has been said and said again that this State is on the threshold of a great and exciting—the word “exciting” has been used pretty often—leap forward; but where and in what direction is anybody's guess.

Mr. Brand: If you want to know where we got it from, it was from your trade mission that went overseas.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Whereas a project like the building of the standard gauge railway to Fremantle 10 years ago could have provided employment to, perhaps, thousands of men, that is not the position today. With the introduction of heavy earth-moving machinery and mechanisation, very few men are required for such work at the present time, compared with the number that used to be employed on similar projects.

So we can see that the great and exciting leap forward will not result in a diminution of the number of unemployed in Western Australia; in fact the number of unemployed in this State—I say this again despite the Premier's allegation that it is pessimistic to say so—has risen to over 5,000. Where does the leap forward come in? Is it contained in the balance sheets of the big monopoly companies; or is it to be found in the pockets of the ordinary people?

Earlier this afternoon I asked the Premier a series of questions relating to some vital primary industries in this State; namely, wool, tobacco, apples and pears, and potatoes. When I presented him with the facts—I did not invent them, but merely related the facts to the Premier—he replied that despite all my pessimism, and despite the pessimism of some people on this side of the House, we are still experiencing a great leap forward.

I had the pleasure of attending a conference of woolgrowers at Narrogin a few weeks ago, and every speaker impressed upon the audience, which was composed of woolgrowers from all over the south-west, that the wool industry was in a state of crisis because of the impact of synthetic fibres. They pointed out that the wool-grower was receiving something like 8.5 per cent. of the 100 per cent. which represents the selling price of the finished woollen product. The woolgrower of this State represents the greatest number to benefit from the growing of wool. Certainly some people connected with the transport of the wool to the railhead, with the handling of the wool in and out of the sheds, and with the handling of it in transit do benefit; and so do the small number connected with the manufacturing of wool into woollen articles in Western Australia; but the greatest number to benefit from it are the farmers themselves.

We have often been told that the farmer, by growing wool and building up export earnings, is enabling the State to buy things in other countries. This is something which is not easily demonstrated. It is not easy to demonstrate at what period in time the earnings of the woolgrowers in the countries to which the wool is exported become available. Often and often it has been said that we ride on the sheep's back; but we only ride upon the sheep's back to the extent that wool costs in Australia—or in whatever country the wool is produced—are distributed in the production of that wool.

It has been said that the building up of a great export surplus in Great Britain enables Australia to import to Australia; that the funds obtained from wool in Great Britain enable us to pay for our imports from Great Britain. Here is another fact that is not easily demonstrable. In point of fact, that sum never becomes available to the public or to anybody else.

If, say, we wanted to import Austin cars from England, how would we go about it? Would we write a cheque on the surplus income we have built up in Great Britain? Could we? Of course we could not. It is not available in any way. What would happen is this: The company that sells Austin cars in Australia or Western Australia, would order, say, 100, Austin cars from England. To pay for the 100 Austin cars the company would transfer the balance by credit note to a bank in England. When that balance was transferred to the bank in England, the Austin cars would be exported to Australia.

That brings in mind this fact—and let us not forget it when talking about costs; it was one thing that was impressed on the audience at Narrogin—that the sale of wool depends on the money in the pockets of the consumer. Where does the money in the pockets of the consumer come from? It comes from the costs to industry. So let us be careful about this idea of costing ourselves out of the market. In fact, it could be demonstrated that the greater the cost to produce wool in Australia, and the greater the number of people we employ in the production of wool, the more it would mean that we could pay for the Austin cars I have just told you about. Do not think I am just dreaming this.

Do not think I have just imagined this. I have been in contact with the import manager for a firm in Perth that imports Austin cars. I put this question to him: Do you at any time have access to the credit balance in England which is built up by our exports? He said, "No, definitely not." I said, "What do you do when you want to import Austin cars?" He said, "The same as any other business. We transfer a credit balance from Australia to the bank in England, to the credit of the people who build the Austin cars. When that is done they send us the cars." I said, "Then your ability to import Austin cars depends upon your bank balance in Australia, and your bank balance in Australia depends on the ability of people to buy these Austin cars, and this in turn depends upon the distribution of the costs in the form of wages and salaries." It is just as easy as that.

So do not let us have the Premier saying that we have to look after our costs or we will cost ourselves out of the market. The best way to cost ourselves out of the market would be to reduce costs so that they are too low. In those circumstances we would not be able to trade at all.

I now wish to refer to the fact that there is consternation among the potato-growers of this State. Some of the members of this House had the opportunity of attending a meeting at Harvey last year, or some months ago, when the point was stressed that owing to the high moisture content of potatoes grown in Western Australia—the highest moisture content in the world—the potatoes were unsuitable for drying or making into potato chips. Because of the amount of moisture they do not lend themselves readily to drying and to the process of packing as a ready-cooked article.

The future of the potato market will lie in the selling of processed potatoes. More and more married women with homes are going out to work, and they are looking to these processed products which can be cooked and made ready in a few minutes. Therefore, unless something is done to develop a potato which will stand up to storage and which will lend itself readily to processing, I am afraid that the fears of the Potato Growers' Association are firmly based. Despite this, when we bring this fact to the notice of the Premier, he says, "Do not be pessimistic," or words to that effect.

Mr. Brand: Well, why be pessimistic?

Mr. ROWBERRY: Is it pessimism to look facts in the face?

Mr. Brand: No.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Is it not realistic to look these things in the face and do something about them before it is too late?

Mr. Brand: If you look them in the face you will not be pessimistic; you will be optimistic.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Our potatoes are driven out of certain markets because they will not store under tropical conditions. Because of that we are restricted in our markets, and have to depend very much on the home market. However, the home market will be at the mercy of the Eastern States market if something is not done. This is a matter at which the Minister for Agriculture can have a look.

Questions have been asked about it, and it has been ascertained that our soil is exactly the same as that where potatoes are grown in the Eastern States. Yet, the moisture content of potatoes in Western Australia is 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. higher than that of potatoes grown in exactly the same type of soil in the Eastern States. This is a matter which calls for investigation, yet the Premier says, "You are pessimistic; look on the bright side."

The Premier referred to the state of the tobacco industry as being just too bad. He is awfully sorry and all that, but there is nothing we can do about it because it is beyond the control of anyone. When we talk to some people about this they say, "You cannot make manufacturers buy something which they do not want." But

can't we? Is this not being done all over the world? Why do the primary producers call out for protection and subsidies? Why do industries in Australia ask for protection from imports into the country? It is to prevent the people from buying something they might want to buy. So I do not think there is any sense in that argument.

I discussed the tobacco industry, and the type of leaf which we grow in Western Australia and the methods used in the growing of it, with the officer of the Agricultural Department who recently went overseas to make a research into the growing of tobacco. I asked him whether there are any countries in the world which have as great a chlorine content in tobacco as Western Australia, and he said that there are. I therefore asked him how they go about getting the manufacturers to buy the tobacco, and he replied that the reason was that some countries have a total embargo on imported tobacco.

Apart from the help which I believe our Premier and his Government could give the industry, more pressure could be brought to bear on the Federal Government in order that greater protection could be afforded to our tobacco-growers. An investigation should be made into the statement that tobacco grown in Western Australia is of an inferior quality and is not acceptable to the manufacturers or smokers of Australia. At a recent sale, by far the largest portion of the tobacco did not receive a bid on the floor; yet subsequently at a private sale that tobacco which had been rejected—which had not even been looked at—received the highest price paid for tobacco during the sales in Australia this year.

Mr. Nalder: In Western Australia; not Australia.

Mr. ROWBERRY: In Western Australia. I stand corrected. That fact indicates that the *bona fides* of the manufacturers' representatives who attend these sales are suspect. This situation affects not only Manjimup but the whole economy of Western Australia. What is happening now is that these skilled tobacco-growers—and our Manjimup growers are definitely skilled men who could hold their own with any growers in the world, because they have had to fight against natural deficiencies in the soil and the high chlorine content—are packing up and intend to grow tobacco in Queensland and Victoria at the request of the representatives of manufacturers. For three, four, or five years, these buyers, representing the big firms, have been bringing pressure to bear on the growers at Manjimup to entice them to transfer to the Eastern States to continue their tobacco-growing there.

Mr. Graham: Shame!

Mr. ROWBERRY: I say something could have been done and that the Government did not show any willingness at all to do

anything. The paltry allowance offered to enable the tobacco-growers to continue in the industry was not the solution to the problem at all. The solution lies in protection for these tobacco-growers and in orderly marketing as is required in the wool industry. It is the growers themselves who should control the marketing of the wool, thereby cutting out the middle man.

I was reading in *The Farmers' Weekly* this morning that some of the farmers' representatives on the Wool Board allege that their wool is sold three or four times before it goes to the manufacturers and every time it is sold a profit is made, but the farmers remain with their 8½ per cent. So members must realise that there is room for legislative action and for vigorous governmental action in these matters.

There has been much talk of the great leap forward this State has made. This all stems from one point in history and that was when the Federal Government allowed iron ore to be exported under license. The minute the Federal Government took away the embargo on the export of iron ore, it became possible for the State of Western Australia to make this exciting leap forward. It was for no other reason. There is a strong suspicion that the embargo was not lifted until a certain ex-Federal politician became interested in the export of iron ore from Western Australia. This appeared to put an entirely different complexion on the whole situation.

Mr. Brand: Who was that?

Mr. ROWBERRY: A bloke called Fadden. Has the Treasurer heard of him—the ex-Federal Treasurer?

Mr. Brand: That was very unfair; very, very unfair indeed.

Mr. ROWBERRY: It was after Mr. Fadden became interested in this market that the embargo was lifted; so there remains a strong suspicion that he was behind the move to lift the embargo.

Mr. Brand: In fact, it was the contrary.

Mr. ROWBERRY: The line which is going to be extended from Kalgoorlie to Kwinana depends upon iron ore. It could be truthfully said that the whole of the Government's success depended upon the Federal Government lifting the embargo on iron ore. I want to ask the Treasurer what assistance, when he was in Opposition, he gave to the present Leader of the Opposition in his efforts to have this embargo raised. What assistance did he give? None at all. He kept it back.

Mr. Guthrie: Is Koolyanobbing iron ore going to be exported?

Mr. ROWBERRY: The member for Subiaco would not be able to put two and two together and make four.

Mr. Guthrie: Don't avoid the issue. Just answer the question.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Where does the member for Subiaco think he is? In court?

Mr. Bovell: This is acknowledged to be the highest court in the land.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order!

Mr. ROWBERRY: As soon as it became necessary to raise the embargo on iron ore and give a license to certain people to export it, it became necessary for B.H.P. to extend its operations to Western Australia; otherwise the company would have found itself left behind. There is your answer.

Mr. Guthrie: That is no answer at all. Is B.H.P. going to export iron ore?

Mr. ROWBERRY: On one occasion I attended a conference at the University of Western Australia. I asked the lecturer a question.

Mr. Guthrie: The place must have jumped when you walked in.

Mr. ROWBERRY: The lecturer did not answer the question to my liking. In fact, I think he evaded the question.

Mr. Guthrie: That is what you are doing.

Mr. ROWBERRY: The lecturer said that for some people the answer to any question was the one that fitted their thinking; and I think the member for Subiaco is in that category. Unless the answer to the question fits what he thinks, then it is no answer at all.

Mr. Hawke: He can't get away with that in the courts. He thinks he can get away with it here.

Mr. ROWBERRY: The member for Subiaco cannot browbeat this witness. He is worried about the notice of motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition earlier this afternoon.

Mr. Guthrie: I am not worried about any notice of motion. I will be very pleased to hear it.

Mr. Graham: That makes two of us.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I now come to what is perhaps the greatest tragedy of all. The great sell-out of the State Building Supplies, and its subsequent impact on the people of Pemberton.

Mr. Hawke: Hear, hear!

Mr. ROWBERRY: It is likely to be said that the Government made arrangements to provide the people of Pemberton with alternative work. The Government will point proudly to the fact that nearly everyone was found alternative employment. Letters appeared in *The West Australian* from people in Pemberton to the effect that everything in the garden was lovely; that everything was beautiful. At least one of the letters must have given the Minister for Industrial Development

considerable comfort. However, I now hear that pressure is being brought to bear upon those who were re-employed in the Forests Department at Pemberton. Pressure is being applied to force these men to find other work.

It is strange that the Forests Department was suddenly able to find room for these people; to find that it required 60 extra men in its operations at Pemberton. Had this applied to Nannup I might have believed it; but it is a strange thing that all of a sudden, without provision being made in the Estimates, there should be this increase of labour in the Forests Department at Pemberton.

Mr. Nalder: Are you opposing it?

Mr. Wild: Do you disagree with it? Would you sooner see these people out of work?

Mr. Graham: The State is bearing the burden which should be the responsibility of Hawker Siddeley.

Mr. ROWBERRY: That is the point towards which I am leading. The State is the employer of these men. They are so employed because a private company put them out of work.

The Premier, prior to the election, said at Bunbury of this great and powerful financial monopolistic company from England, that our timber industry had received a great shot in the arm with its advent into the timber industry.

Mr. Wild: And so it has.

Mr. ROWBERRY: One wonders on which part of the anatomy the people of Pemberton got the shot.

Mr. Hall: It might have been buck-shot!

Mr. H. May: They got it in the same place as Collie got it.

Mr. ROWBERRY: The Treasurer has no compunction whatever in building up a deficit to enable a private company to shed its employees, and then re-employ them by the State at a loss. I wonder how the Treasurer is going to account for that?

Mr. Brand: The men are giving value for money. They are doing work which is necessary.

Mr. ROWBERRY: The fact is that had the Government not given the mills away it would not have been necessary to re-employ these men in the Forests Department. They would have been employed in their former positions and the village of Pemberton would have remained intact.

Mr. H. May: And some of the unemployed would have been employed.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Prior to the disastrous fires a few years ago, we had two major mills at Pemberton. One based its intake on 60 loads in the round, and the other

on 40 loads. The 60-load mill was burned down. To relieve the situation, both shifts were employed in the 40-load mill. One of these shifts has recently been dispensed with; yet this company has the same timber concessions it had when the two mills were operating. It has the same timber leases for 40 loads as it had for a permissible 100-load intake. These leases were based on the capacity of the forest around Pemberton to maintain two mills, and upon a certain number of men being employed.

The situation now is that only one mill, of 40-load capacity, is being operated. The forest that made possible the intake of 60 loads should be leased to another timber company which would be willing to establish another major mill in the area and relieve the employment situation.

If the Premier believes in private enterprise, why did he not solve the problem in that manner? Why did he not call for tenders so that another mill might be established?

Mr. Bovell: There has been some difficulty in recent years in selling karri.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Of course there has been difficulty; but do not tell me that Hawker Siddeley was the only company that had difficulty in selling karri! Other timber companies had the same difficulty, but they did not reduce their manpower. Only Hawker Siddeley did that—Hawker Siddeley, the great and powerful company which was going to give us a shot in the arm. Only such a company could rise to such heights and destroy a town!

The Minister need not talk to me about difficulties in the timber industry. I am more aware of them than are some of the members of the Government. I know that private companies have incurred losses over the past three years. Because they wish to keep their work force intact, they suffered these losses; but, at the same time, they approached the Government to provide them with some protection from the Federal Government in regard to the import of foreign timbers, especially American oregon. Now that this protection has to some degree been granted we can look forward to an advance in the sale of karri.

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

Mr. ROWBERRY: I think we can look forward with hope to the fact that karri will come into its own.

As regards the disposal of karri timber by Hawker Siddeley, and the fact that it is often said that Pemberton is the centre for karri timber and has one of the biggest karri mills in Western Australia, I would say that other people in the industry are willing to balance their sales of jarrah against their inability to sell karri, and thus are able to continue in existence. Yet

Hawker Siddeley, which had one of the finest stands of jarrah in Western Australia, given to it by the Government as a concession at the last minute through the Government forcing the railway mill to be handed over on a plate when the bargain sale took place, could not balance its sales of jarrah with its production of karri, even though the conditions so far as Government contracts are concerned are the best available in the State. No; that company had to dispose of the men; and the Government, of course, as obliging as ever, took them on and so increased its deficit. So if this is part of the great and exciting leap forward that this State is going to have, then Lord keep us from any more of it!

MR. HALL (Albany) [9.22 p.m.]: I speak to the second reading of the Supply Bill with some trepidation, but there are a few points I would like to mention. Today I asked the Minister for Electricity two questions, the first of which was—

Is he aware of the article appearing in the *Daily News* on Monday, the 30th July, concerning a two-hour blackout at Albany?

To which the Minister replied, "Yes." My second question was—

If the answer to No. (1) is "Yes," will he, in view of the seriousness of such power failures to industry, and domestic and commercial life in Albany, give a guarantee that the Kelly Street power house will be retained as an emergency power supply until a ring-main system is established, so as to provide Albany with an alternative means of power supply?

The Minister replied that it was not economical to do so, but I can tell him, without any fear of contradiction, that people in industry, and in domestic and commercial life in Albany, are already thinking about some duplication of power supplies. My view is that the Government should retain the Kelly Street power house to provide an alternative supply until such time as the direct main from the south-west scheme is tried and proved. The only alternative is to have a ring-main system established with power coming from one source or another to provide electricity for industry, and for domestic and commercial life.

The 6VA radio station had provided itself with an emergency system even before the power from the Bunbury supply was switched on. I believe that, in case of emergency, it would be an economical proposition for the Government to retain a power house which already exists, and which could be overhauled. It could be on hand as a watchdog, as it were, in the same way as our policemen and firemen are on hand if the necessity to use them arises. But apparently the Government

thinks it is more economical to allow private enterprise to duplicate the service in case of emergency.

I cannot remember, from 1958 until now, a complete blackout in Albany under the old system; but within a few days of the power supply from the south-west being used we find that we have a total blackout. The position is desperate for any industry which depends on power for its existence. A power failure could result in a loss of thousands of pounds; and if such a thing happened I wonder who would meet the loss? Is there any authority to sue the supplier for a reimbursement of expenses involved, or of any losses occasioned through the total failure of electrical power? All these points have to be considered when looking at the economics of a certain proposition.

Mr. Nalder: An accident like that is not likely to happen again.

Mr. HALL: I do not believe that; because at Bunbury, where the power is produced, there were two or three failures last year. If the Minister cares to go back through *Hansard* he will find where I drew the previous Minister's attention to this fact; and this happened less than 10 miles from the power house. If that sort of thing can happen within a few miles of the power house, what can happen at some other place about 250 miles away?

The first blackout occurred at Albany almost as soon as the power supply was switched on; and if I were to ask the Minister a series of questions, the answers would prove that there has been no total failure of power supplies in Albany for some years. There have been some partial failures, but they have been quickly remedied. This does not affect me as an individual, but it does affect me as the member for the district, because I have to stand up here to protect the interests of the people in the district.

Probably the ultimate scheme will be a sound economic one; but we have to face up to the fact that the retention of the present power house, for use in an emergency, would give the people of the district a feeling of security. It would also be of help in getting people to establish businesses in Albany, because they would realise that there was a guarantee of a continuous supply. How many business people would establish an industry in a town if there was no guarantee of a continuous supply of electricity? These are all matters that the Government should face up to because we must have decentralisation of industry. If we want industries to be established in country districts, we have to assure them of a continuous supply of electricity and water.

The other point I would like to mention concerns unemployment in the Albany electorate. As members know, the Albany district is growing tremendously and

today its population is almost 13,000—that is, including the shire council and the municipality. Because of the growing population the demands for public works must be greater.

The volume of shipping increased considerably over the last year, and statistics show that 133 ships used the port and that well over 1,000,000 tons of cargo were handled. The regional hospital has been completed; and harbour works, and sewerage and drainage work have almost ceased. Because of all this, the unemployment figures are increasing, despite the statistics of the Department of Labour. The department's figures are taken on an over-all basis and are therefore not really exact.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: We hope to build a prison for you before long.

Mr. HALL: I am happy to hear that. I hope that when it is to be started the Minister will give some consideration to the work being done by the Public Works Department. I know that private contractors in Albany have enjoyed certain advantages, but I believe that the Public Works Department should be considered too. Skilled workers are employed by the Public Works Department as well as by private contractors.

However, it is the unskilled workers about whom I am most concerned. They come to be regarded practically as nonentities. Some of them obtain work for one or two days, which is only enough to deprive them of their social service benefits. However, if we keep up this continuity of works it should not cause any great drain upon Government finance, despite the fact that I realise we have this great tentacle of development spreading throughout the State; and I am glad to see that the amount of shipping entering Albany harbour is increasing.

I cannot agree with the claim of the late member for Bunbury that increased expenditure should be made on the Bunbury Harbour because, in my opinion, the money would be wasted in view of the fact that it has almost reached finality so far as its expansion is concerned, except perhaps on the industrial side. All it can hope for is expansion and trade to be derived from some new agricultural zone.

Mr. Brand: Don't you think that Bunbury has any future?

Mr. HALL: I cannot see that it will extend any further except industrially in other areas.

Mr. Nalder: You look after Albany.

Mr. HALL: I intend to, and I have plenty to do there.

Mr. I. W. Manning: You come down to Bunbury and I will show you how it is expanding.

Mr. HALL: I will; but I am sure I will not see anything there regarding which Albany cannot give it 10-on. In this respect I now wish to direct my remarks to the Minister for Works; and I might mention that I have a very bulky file of correspondence between the Minister and myself, some of which is rather belated. However, when I finally got to him he did make reference in a letter which I have here to the matter which I am about to raise. The letter is dated the 18th July, 1962, and reads as follows:

Dear Mr. Hall,

I refer to your letter of the 28th June regarding unemployment in Albany.

I might mention to the House that this is the last letter I received from the Minister but there are quite a few before this. The letter continues—

At the outset I would point out that no town can expect to have a continuous high incidence of expenditure on public works, and employees associated with such type of works cannot continue to be kept resident in the one area.

May I pause at that point to say that many of these people in Albany have grown from boyhood to manhood in this centre and have now established their homes there and are raising families. Therefore, they have become permanent residents of the town and I do not see why they should have to lift up their anchor, as it were, because they have been transferred to another portion of the State, or be faced with the alternative of keeping two homes because there is no employment offering for them in Albany. I think it is their just right that they should remain in Albany; which they have accepted as their home town. Therefore, I cannot agree with that part of the Minister's letter. The next paragraph reads—

As you are aware I have only a limited allocation of loan funds each year, and Albany has received a large share of this allocation. For the year ended 30th June, 1962, £517,000 was spent in the town of Albany and this included the completion of such a large project as the regional hospital.

I might mention here that the magnificent building of the regional hospital, as the Minister for Health well knows, was started by the Hawke Government and completed by the Brand-Watts-Nalder Government. So, in regard to that project, I can only say that the determination by the Labour Government was terminated by the Brand-Nalder Government. I do not intend to say anything further on that point, but I will mention that the Minister could quite easily go on with the foreshore road development; and, in answer to questions put to him, he assured me he would visit Albany last week-end for the purpose of

inspecting public works and the roads in that district. I have not asked him any further questions about this, but I intend to ask him privately. What his answers will be I do not know, but I will write to him again or put the questions on the notice paper.

I notice that several new members have entered this Chamber, including the member for Stirling and the member for Roe. I wish to pay great tribute to the previous member for Roe, the late Mr. Charles Perkins, especially for the way he worked in trying to channel, by means of road transport, the goods from the Albany zone to the port of Albany.

This brings me to another point which I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister for Railways. I consider he might give consideration to the Watkins plan, which proposes a rail link from Albany to the town of Karonie on the trans-line. If this were done it would provide a direct route through 5,000,000 acres of land from that town to the port of Albany. This might be a big project, but it is one that could easily be examined to ensure that it is not overlooked and discarded. Road transport could be used to convey goods through the area.

At this stage I would like to pay a tribute to the Premier for his endeavours to promote the sealing of the Eyre highway, because if this were done it would give a direct route from that area to Esperance and through Chester Pass to the port of Albany. This would promote the flow of both exports and imports from and to that particular district. It would add great strength to that area—to the port of Albany and the surrounding districts generally.

Further, the construction of a road along the coast should be speeded up. The road I am referring to is that running from Mara Crossing and Pallinup. This would give us a direct link to South Australia from the port of Albany.

Before resuming my seat I would like to say to the Minister for Housing—unfortunately that Minister does not sit in this Chamber, and therefore I will have to direct my remarks to his representative—that what we would like most in the municipality of Albany is some provision for recreational centres for our young children in all the State housing areas. This is a pressing need in many portions of the State where the Housing Commission has established large housing centres. With regard to Albany, I refer particularly to the Spencer Park area, which is growing rapidly because of the tremendous increase that is taking place in the building of homes.

Mr. Nalder: Cannot your local authorities assist in that regard?

Mr. HALL: They may do so. We are making representations to the Housing Commission, through the progress association and the parents and citizens' association in that area for the setting aside of a tract of land for recreational purposes. I know we cannot always expect the commission to give away a large area of land which it considers valuable for home sites, but the loss of one child's life as a result of an accident on the roads would be far more serious and more costly than the giving away of some land in order to provide children—who are mostly the children of working men—with recreational centres in order to discourage them from running on the streets.

I am sure that every member has noticed from the official figures published by the Police Traffic Branch or the National Safety Council that a great many children are killed on the roads. Therefore, if we looked at the problem from that angle perhaps some finance would be forthcoming, even from the traffic authorities, in order that we might take these children off the streets and enable them to play on properly-equipped recreational reserves where they could be taught sports; and, by doing so, their parents would be relieved of any worries. This is something that is urgently needed in the State housing areas. It is a matter which we will have to investigate urgently; otherwise both the Government and members of the Opposition will be subject to censure and ridicule for not meeting the problem in the way it should be met.

I now want to touch on the subject of industrial expansion. In referring to the provision of recreational facilities for children, I would like to mention that I know of one club in Albany which has 300 children, whose ages range from eight to 12, and who play football on a ground in the Spencer Park area which is adjacent to the school and which belongs to the school. As a result, the school is subject to the risk of damage.

A question I would like to ask is: What is going to become of these 300 children who are now playing sport? What jobs are we going to find for them in the future? The problem to be faced is an immediate one. Industrial expansion is a definite possibility at Albany if we are prepared to face up to the matter truthfully. For example, last year in the shearing season—that is, the 12-month shearing season—100,000 bales of wool were sold privately on the farms. When we consider that other wool is taken away from Albany because it has to be scoured, and so on, I am sure members will appreciate what a tremendous loss this is. Unfortunately it does not stop there.

This trend retards development, and it prevents the decentralisation of industry; the equity and the guts of industry are taken out of the agricultural zone, and all

the advantages are given to the metropolitan area. The establishment of scouring works and fellmongering works is more than a possibility. Last year we had four sales. This year we have four schedules, with the possibility of a fifth sale.

This question of private buying, which has been covered by the conferences which Mr. Rowberry had the pleasure of attending, is killing our marketing system; it is killing the very industry which is breeding it. The figures prove that the bulk classes of small lines of 64's, a good line reclassified on a bulk basis, showed 78d. in the fourth sale at Albany.

I cannot quote all the figures here tonight because they are very lengthy, and it would take me several hours to get through them. The 78d. was higher than the floor price of the best bale of wool and it was reclassified on a bulk basis. If the wool is placed on the auction market system we believe that the bulk classing of wools is the only solution, provided we give the producer a standard rate and let him take the advantage of his gain by reclassification. If it goes into the sale at 56d. and is reclassified in bulk with small lots added together, and we get 78d., it proves conclusively that the sensible solution is the bulk classing of wool by perfect classification and perfect classifiers.

Mr. Runciman: How are you going to make the growers agree?

Mr. HALL: I do not think there will be any difficulty if they get a greater return. If they get 78d. they must come out in front.

Mr. Nalder: Too many farmers have been caught by the methods you are advocating.

Mr. HALL: If we check the balance sheet we will see that we get a first-class return. Furthermore, if a scouring works were established at Albany I am prepared to wager that on a scoured basis the wool would show a greater return and a greater natural affinity for its own moisture than in any other part of the State.

I ask the Minister for Industrial Development to look carefully at the question of establishing scouring works at Albany: I ask him to approach the Eastern States firms to establish such a scouring and fellmongering works at Albany, which is the obvious place for them to be established.

Mr. Court: We have done a lot of work on this.

Mr. HALL: I know that; and so have I. I was given to believe that one company purchased a block of land; though I cannot reveal the name of the company, because I was asked not to do so. I have contacted the firms concerned and they realise that eventually they must decentralise.

When we consider the scouring works at Fremantle, we find that they work seven days a week for 24 hours a day at their peak; when they are not busy they work six days a week for 24 hours a day; and during their slack periods they work five days a week, for 24 hours a day. Yet there is no move to decentralise this industry to the obvious advantage of the State. There is no denying that the State would gain tremendous advantages by the decentralisation of these industries. This would also help stimulate the port of Albany, quite apart from taking up the question of unemployment and the expansion of industry itself.

I was very pleased to see that Narrogin is breaking into the field of abattoirs. I congratulate Narrogin and wish it well in that direction. I discussed this question with the Minister for Agriculture before he attained Cabinet rank. At that time I told him there was a great possibility for the export of sucking pigs. We can still fatten them and send them to Malaya where there is a tremendous market. The abattoirs at Narrogin will provide great relief and we will be a step further towards decentralisation.

I cannot speak much more on this subject, because I will be cutting into my speech on the Address-in-Reply. I hope the Ministers concerned will give some consideration to the points I have raised and see what can be done in this direction.

MR. FLETCHER (Fremantle) [9.48 p.m.]: I propose to be brief. I address myself to the subject of Supply with some trepidation, particularly as it refers to the subject of economics, which we are told is a most abstruse science. There are, however, certain things which do cause me concern; and when I say I touch on the subject with some trepidation I refer particularly to the possible repercussions which might attend Britain's entry into the European Common Market, and their impact on the Australian economy.

I wonder whether the Premier and Treasurer, whilst in the Eastern States, raised this matter; whether he took the necessary precautions to ensure that Western Australia did not suffer as a consequence of Britain's entry into the Common Market. Whilst I agree that a Labor Government, or a Conservative Government, cannot see around corners or tell what the ultimate impact will be, I feel a great concern at the policy espoused by both the State and Federal Governments, because of the detrimental effect it is likely to have on Western Australia and on the Australian economy.

I feel well qualified to express an opinion on what has happened to the economy through inflation over the years as a result of the activities of both the Menzies Government and the present State Government. I think it would have been

preferable had the Premier taken cognisance of this fact and raised the matter while in Canberra, when showing such concern about the possible shortage of loan money as a consequence of Britain joining the European Common Market. Preference and protection are in jeopardy; they are in a state of flux until such time as this situation is determined.

This situation is one which has caused me concern and I have raised it in the House previously. I say this in particular to Country Party members. I say they should share my concern in regard to the freight rates which are being charged by overseas shipping companies.

There is no restriction on the charges which these interests can impose on us. As I said before, the farmer is the backbone of our economy and the Country Party people can grow all the produce of Australia; yet they can be ruined by the overseas shipping companies which are able to price these commodities off the world's markets. The Governments of Australia, both State and Federal, have no control over the price which the overseas shipping companies can charge the people of Australia for transporting overseas the produce that is grown in Australia and Western Australia.

I am disappointed on this occasion with the lack of interjections because, as a rule, someone from the front bench opposite interjects and says that it is the Waterside Workers' Federation which is responsible for the slow turnaround of ships and for the high shipping rates. They have in the past continued to say that, but they might have now changed their minds. I frequently hear an interjection from members opposite that the slow turnaround of ships is responsible for the high shipping rates overseas.

Figures demonstrate that there is not a slow turnaround of ships at Fremantle. We are handling a bigger tonnage today than previously, owing to increased mechanisation and owing, to some extent, to the lack of industrial strife. I say it is the high overseas shipping freight which is responsible for pricing our goods off the markets. Britain's entry into the European Common Market will affect us greatly, and it is the responsibility of both the State and Federal Governments to take this matter into consideration in relation to the possible effect on loan moneys available to this State and because we may suffer as a result.

Freights can increase, and this is something which is inconsistent. Overseas shipping companies can inform the Government of Australia or Western Australia that shipping freights will be increased by 10s. per ton from the middle of next month, and we can do nothing about that. Yet immediately a trade unionist seeks an increase of 1s. per day in his wages he is brought before, or is

told to approach, the Arbitration Court. Why is that restriction placed upon trade unionists and not placed on overseas shipping companies which are able to hold the country to ransom? I take strong exception to that, and that is why I am on this side of the House.

I cannot understand why Country Party members give their political support to private enterprise, which condones the very thing I have pointed out. I say it is wrong for the shipping companies to do that. To try to draw public attention away from these matters, *The West Australian* and other capitalistic newspapers have made use of the Waterside Workers' Federation as the wicked boys; they do that to distract public attention from the real facts.

Mr. J. Hegney: The Commonwealth Government could do something if it wanted to by establishing its own shipping lines.

Mr. FLETCHER: We would reach the stage where the economy of this country would be strangled by Britain's entry into the European Common Market. Here is another point which causes me concern: Having strangled our economy, these private shipping lines could turn their attention elsewhere where markets exist. They would say, "It is too bad that Australia cannot now economically export its produce to Europe, or import goods from Europe, so we will take our ships elsewhere."

What redress have we if private shipping companies take their ships off our coast? We have no redress. At one stage we did have some redress; that was when we had our own shipping lines. Where would we be at the present time if the private shipping companies took away their ships? We do not have any shipping lines of our own, as we had previously.

Members on this side of the House and our colleagues in the Commonwealth Parliament are fully aware of the fact that the Bruce-Page Government—I am only harking back into history to show what happened then; and it could conceivably happen again—gave away the Commonwealth Shipping Line. That was Liberal-Conservative Party policy. It makes me wonder how the farmers can condone that sort of action. Many farmers opposite will remember when the Commonwealth Shipping Line was in existence, and when it was able to transport our produce to European markets at a fraction of the cost at which the private shipping lines were prepared to transport it. The Minister for Industrial Development is well aware of that fact.

Mr. Court: Didn't that nearly send us broke?

Mr. FLETCHER: It did not. That line did the farmer and the community a lot of good, but the Minister and his Liberal

colleagues at the time believed in putting it out of existence at the first opportunity. The farmers were happy with that shipping line. If only we had it now we could thumb our noses at the private shipping lines. We could offer them competition in the transport of the produce overseas. Today there is a monopoly, and I take exception to it. The Commonwealth Shipping Line did transport the goods and produce at a cheaper rate than the private shipping companies were prepared to offer.

I wonder whether the Premier has brought these matters to the attention of the Commonwealth Government; namely, that we on this side of Australia are in a very vulnerable position because there is no Commonwealth shipping line in existence to take up the slack should the private shipping companies turn their attention elsewhere? Are the Country Party members conscious of this menace to our economy, and can they see the danger? I often wonder how the farmers have been able to put up with everything, including having their produce priced off the world's markets by the high freight rates. They had to put up with drought, red mite, kangaroos, and rabbits, and now they have to put up with these overseas shipping lines.

Mr. Nalder: The Agriculture Protection Board has overcome the rabbit menace.

Mr. FLETCHER: That might be so, but not the high shipping freight menace. Having grown the produce, the farmers and Australia are likely to suffer as a consequence of the policies which the conservative party espouses. I am surprised that farmers are sitting on the opposite side of the House. They ought to be over here on this side in their own interests.

There is one word which seems to frighten them; it is the word "socialism." We are accused of being socialistic, as though it was some cardinal sin, for condoning the establishment of Government shipping lines. I ask those members: Do they object to the lights in this Chamber being switched on, and the electricity being supplied by a Government instrumentality? Do they object to the Government providing water supplies, roads, and bridges; and do they object to being able to obtain water by turning on a tap? Do they object to the Government constructing bridges, and establishing the post and telegraph system?

Mr. Oldfield: Do they object to education being provided by the Government?

Mr. FLETCHER: Immediately we advocate the starting up of a Government shipping line it is claimed that that is some form of socialism and is detrimental to private enterprise, so they jump on such a proposition with both feet.

Mr. Graham: They prefer a socialised railway service to the private enterprise road hauliers.

Mr. Evans: And private enterprise S.P. bookmakers.

Mr. FLETCHER: Private enterprise can charge what it likes for anything it sells. Even if a farmer wants a cog, chain, or elevator part for his agricultural equipment he pays the price set by private enterprise, and it is exorbitant. I say the St. George's Terrace farmers do better than anybody, including the farmers on the other side of the House.

Mr. Graham: Absolutely!

Mr. FLETCHER: Is it necessary to put up with the St. George's Terrace farmers as well as the rest of the encumbrances I have already mentioned? When freights are taken into consideration, we are being priced out of world markets.

I do not wish members to be alarmed at the colour of the pamphlet which I hold. It is not red; it is brown, and produced by the trade union movement. I would like to read a few revealing facts to those on the other side of the House who lie awake, thinking of ways and means to fleece the general public. There are a lot of good trade unionists—members of the A.C.T.U.—who carry out research into the malpractices that Conservative Tory Governments indulge in. These men have compiled figures, and I will read some of them. I will state round figures rather than take up the time of the House in doing otherwise.

The heading of this pamphlet is, "Australia's Economy Endangered." It is my intention to interpolate in parts in order to dispose of the pamphlet quickly. The next subheading is, "Britain's Entry into the Common Market." Here is my interpolation: Australia must have cheapest possible freight rates to overseas markets. The next subheading in the pamphlet is, "Exports in Jeopardy." In round figures they are as follows: Meat, £21,000,000; Sugar, £18,000,000; Canned fruits, £9,000,000; Silver, lead, zinc, £6,000,000; Cheese, £3,000,000; Leather, £2,000,000; Wheat, £18,000,000; Butter, £16,000,000; Apples, Pears, £6,000,000; Dried Fruits, £4,000,000; Eggs, Ham, £3,000,000; and Wine £750,000. All Country Party members on the other side of the House produce some or all of these commodities. If one were to add these figures up one would see the amount of exports from Australia. As I have said, the exorbitant freight rates charged take away a big percentage.

All these commodities are in jeopardy, not only as a consequence of Britain's possible entry into the Common Market, but because we have not any shipping line of our own to take the place of the private shipping lines if they leave Australia as

a result of finding more remunerative trade for countries on the other side of the world. The pamphlet continues—

Loss of exports to Britain and Continental Europe could total £200,000,000. This would mean whole industries in danger and surrounding communities devastated.

One can see a repetition of what is going on in the electorate of the member for Warren. As I have said, all these things show that the need to have our own overseas shipping line is vital if we are to retain our present markets and seek new ones.

Mr. O'Connor: What would be the cost of a line like that?

Mr. FLETCHER: We already have some ships trading on our own coast. In answer to the honourable member, I will quote later from this pamphlet. We have the ability to provide our own shipping line. Incidentally, I will inform the House who was responsible for this splendid publication. It was my own splendid union, of which I am still a financial member. The unions responsible include the A.E.U., the Blacksmiths' Society, the Boilermakers' Union, the Electrical Trades Union, the Moulders' Union, the Plumbers' Union, and the Sheet Metal Workers' Union. Just because they are unionists, do not think that this pamphlet has no value or is untrue! They are all members of the A.C.T.U., which is comprised of some clever people.

Mr. Graham: What is your union?

Mr. FLETCHER: The Amalgamated Engineers' Union, which keeps the lights on and keeps the wheels of industry turning in Western Australia. Continuing to quote from the pamphlet—

Australia needs her own overseas shipping line through sheer necessity. I think I have put a case for that already. Continuing to quote—

Our economy, being inseparably linked with primary produce, demands cheap freights.

I am sure many members on the other side of the House will agree with that. Continuing to quote—

Australia, paying £150,000,000 freight on imports a year and a similar amount on exports, is burdened with the highest ton-mile freights of any major trading nation, with the following discrimination:—

On steel to Singapore, pays freight of 170s. a ton, yet freight between Britain and Singapore, over twice the distance, is 120s. per ton.

Why do we pay 170s. per ton?

Mr. Rowberry: No wonder we cannot sell potatoes in Singapore!

Mr. FLETCHER: Continuing—

On steel to Hong Kong, pays 179s. a ton, but between Britain and Hong Kong only 144s. a ton is charged.

Mr. Grayden: Where are you getting these figures from?

Mr. FLETCHER: Trust the honourable member to bring that up to offset the good case I am producing! This pamphlet has been produced by experts, and not by the member for South Perth.

Mr. Grayden: We are exporting manganese at a fraction of that cost now.

Mr. FLETCHER: Continuing to quote—

On steel to Indonesia, pays 175s. a ton, yet between Britain and Indonesia the cost is 163s. a ton, yet look at the comparative distances!

I ask members to do that. Continuing to quote—

Suffers by not getting a fair deal from overseas shipping lines who carry our canned fruit to the U.K., as the Australian Canned Fruit Board in its Annual Report stated that our competitors in the canned fruits market in the U.K. were given much more lenient freight rates and that added to the 58 per cent. increase in freights since 1951, was serious.

It is serious. There has been a 58 per cent. increase in freights since 1951, yet the member for South Perth says these figures are not factual. Does he think the trade union movement as a whole would produce a pamphlet to mislead the public?

Mr. Grayden: The shipping lines have different rates.

Mr. FLETCHER: Continuing to quote—

Japan is buying Australia's wheat, milling it and underselling us on our own Asian flour market by £5 a ton. She can do this because of her freight advantage.

This leads to another point, which is as follows:—

With the European Common Market merging with the British-led European Free Trade Area, the ships of these countries would in fact become Market Ships, and as the Common Market rules provide for Common freight, wages, navigation standards, and even a Common fleet flag, Australia already facing impossible trade discrimination, would also have to meet further crippling freight burdens that the Common Market shipping combines will impose to protect their own exports.

Here is a strange contradiction, and I quote—

Switzerland and Czechoslovakia with no coastlines, have large fleets of vessels.

Norway, population 3,000,000 has a vast fleet, as has Sweden.

New Zealand, population 2,000,000 has 25 overseas ships manned by New Zealand seamen, while Australian seamen walk the streets for months.

I know this to be a fact from what I have seen in Fremantle. These are a few examples of what Australia has to put up with for being the only country in the world without a suitable ship trading overseas. I say it is the responsibility of the Treasurer—whatever his political complexion—to make this known to the Federal Government and to see that a Government overseas shipping line is created for the purpose of assisting us. To continue quoting—

India refused to submit to the demands of foreign interests, and now has its own fleet.

This is because it would not be blackmailed into accepting the freight rates charged by private shipping lines.

Indonesia, a so-called backward nation, is now developing its own overseas fleet.

Most other countries, such as Canada and America, protect their ships, shipbuilding, and seamen, by providing subsidies and restricting use of foreign ships.

Someone asked: "How could we do it?" We have proved our ability to build and man successfully our own shipping line. We have done it in the past.

After World War I we had a fleet of over 60 vessels sailing overseas; this kept the freights down and showed a profit in its own right.

Yet the Minister for Industrial Development said they were running at a loss.

Many of those ships were built here, and the *Forsdale* and *Fernsdale*, refrigerated ships of 12,000 tons, were fine examples of Australian shipbuilding.

They were two ships disposed of together with the other ships.

This fleet of ships, the Commonwealth line, was so successful in keeping freights down, that pressure from foreign interests resulted in the ships being disposed of to the foreign combines at a small fraction of their value.

An historian at the time, referring to this sell-out, stated that intelligent creatures such as the kangaroo and emu, should be replaced on our coat-of-arms by a shorn sheep.

I think this is very appropriate. Australia was fleeced in the process by the giving away of this shipping line, thus placing us in jeopardy.

Shipbuilding in Australia then went into a decline and did not revive again until World War II, when because of the loss of shipping we found it necessary to build our own ships.

Starting from scratch, and with a shortage of skilled labour and materials, and saddled with cost-plus racketeering, we built 16 merchant ships, 3 destroyers, 11 frigates, 60 corvettes—

of the type I have mentioned—

—2 boom defence vessels and 1 floating dock, while 16 other ships have since been built or are being built as replacements to the coastal fleet.

I have mentioned there is a coastal fleet in existence. It is an overseas shipping line we want.

In the war years, 11,987 ships, totaling 51,000,000 tons, were repaired or overhauled.

All this has been achieved in spite of the comparatively small number of men we have engaged in the shipbuilding industry; 15,700 compared with 243,100 in U.S.A., 228,000 in Britain, 140,000 in Japan, 94,000 in Germany, 57,000 in Holland, and 55,000 in France.

Newcastle (N.S.W.) State Dockyard is an example of how modern ships can be built in Australia. It produced ships such as the *Bass Trader* and the *Princess of Tasmania*, both of which were completed ahead of schedule.

The *Princess of Tasmania* is a roll-on-roll-off type of ship. The trucks can run straight into these ships, go over to Tasmania, and run straight off. They also carry what are called "seatiners", which have revolutionised the quick handling of freight to and from the States. As I have said, there is a greater tonnage handled now by waterfront men than there ever has been, owing to the seatainers, and ships of the type I have mentioned.

I could make other quotes from this publication, but I say that we need our own shipping line to meet the challenge of the Common Market on equal terms; to meet Australia's already crushing freight burden; to increase farmers' and other exporters' cheques; to open vital new markets to Australian produce and secondary goods; and to provide extensive employment in rural, transport, shipbuilding, metal, maritime, and many related industries.

I have attempted to show that our economy is in danger, and I have no doubt that our Treasurer is as well aware of it as I am. But I hope that when he is in the Eastern States in connection with loan moneys, he will make the Federal Government aware of at least some of the points I have mentioned.

I am concerned, and as a consequence I have spoken in this vein on this particular subject. I could have mentioned it later on in the session, but I did think that when dealing with the Supply Bill would be the more appropriate time.

MR. OLDFIELD (Maylands) [10.16 p.m.]: In speaking to this Supply Bill I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the unemployment existing in Western Australia today. I know the Government will dispute the claim that there is a great amount of unemployment in the State. Although the Treasurer claims that this State has fewer unemployed than any other State, except one, that is no excuse. Comparisons are odious especially when dealing with the livelihood of people, and the Treasurer should know full well that there is nothing more degrading or dispiriting than for a person to be out of work and unable to find gainful employment.

This Government has been claiming at election time in recent years something about a great leap forward; that we are all on the threshold of a prosperous new era. The real brutal truth of the matter is that although we may have fewer unemployed than any other State, apart from one other, if it were not for the Empire Games there would be far more unemployed in this State than in any other State.

If the City of Perth were not expending millions of pounds for venues of sport, such as the stadium and the pool and various other facilities to be established around the city; and in addition, if some of next year's housing allocation were not to be provided this year for accommodation during the games, this State would have a tremendous amount of unemployment, despite the fact that the Minister for Industrial Development speaks about great new industries here or to be brought here. These industries are not being established here; we are looking for them. We are looking for factories. However, the only thing which has been achieved so far is the Hawker Siddeley sell-out. That is the only overseas company which has moved in recently.

The truth is—and we have to face up to the reality of the situation—that from November next we are going to have a lot of unemployment in Western Australia. This unemployment will emanate from people who are now engaged in building these various structures for the Empire Games, including the Games Village itself. Therefore I think the Government of the day is duty bound to turn its attention to what it is going to do with this army of workers which will cease work on these projects in November of this year. Unfortunately, it looks as though with the forthcoming by-election a Labor Government will be returned to office, and it will have the responsibility of pulling the State

out of a mess once again. The present Government will not be in office after November.

Mr. Hawke: Why should it be in office that long?

Mr. OLDFIELD: I am talking about November because that is when the danger point will be reached. We should again turn our attention to what is going on in the Games Village. As I understand it, the money being made available to provide this accommodation for the visiting athletes is coming out of next year's housing allocation. This money would normally be available next year to provide modest housing accommodation for the workers of Western Australia.

The homes which are being built at City Beach are each a £7,000 proposition. They are not in the £2,500-£3,000 class, which is the normal-priced home for housing areas. Such homes are less than that, in some instances. I understand that the cheapest home at City Beach costs about £6,000, plus the land.

Mr. Rowberry: What working man can afford that?

Mr. OLDFIELD: The Games Village has been financed out of next year's housing allocation. The people who really require the housing—those for whom this scheme was introduced—will not benefit. This so-called lovely new housing estate is to have everything provided—such as roads, power, and water. The pioneering spirit, similar to that needed by workers in other areas, will not be necessary. In other new areas there is not always a bitumen road, or even a footpath. People have to wait for water to be laid on before they can even lay one brick. Often they are held up from moving into their newly-built homes because of the lack of power. But at the Games Village everything is being provided.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: What would your party consider should be the cost of these houses?

Mr. OLDFIELD: Modest homes were built for the Olympic Games Village at Heidelberg, in Melbourne. They cost between £2,500 and £3,000. After the games the houses were sold to those people for whom they would normally have been intended if the Olympic Games had not been held.

The unemployment position will be further aggravated following the games in Perth, in that the only new building still to be completed will be the Perth Town Hall. There will be less money available next year for housing, because most of it will have been used up this year on the Games Village. Unemployment will become a real problem next year; and the Premier, if he is still Premier—and I do not think he will be—will not be proudly throwing out his chest and making statements that this State is second to none regarding employment.

In addition to the unemployment situation, we will be heading rapidly towards a housing crisis. The houses in the Games Village will be sold to the sons of professional people. The money spent on the Games Village could have built twice as many homes for the workers of this State and for those young people who urgently require housing. We are on the threshold of a period of record marriages, emanating from the record birth rate of the war and post-war years. It is forecast that within the next seven years we will require more homes per year than ever before in order to keep pace with those young married persons who were born between 1942 and 1950.

Money is being frittered away on luxury homes for overseas visitors—to accommodate them for 14 days to three weeks—when those visitors could have had more modest accommodation, similar to that provided at Heidelberg during the Olympic Games.

Mr. Bickerton: That would not suit the member for Wembley.

Mr. Graham: He would not want the workers to live in Wembley.

Mr. OLDFIELD: A problem which has arisen in Western Australia during the past 3½ years concerns the Government's policy regarding apprenticed tradesmen. The situation today in the Public Works Department's building section—

Mr. Brand: On which side of the House were you when that happened?

Mr. OLDFIELD: I was not sitting on the Premier's side; I was sitting at the back of the House. When sitting there I spoke on this very matter, and voiced my opposition to it. I voted against it, and the Premier knows that.

The policy of the Government has reached the stage where, in the Public Works Department, there are no apprentices other than fourth-year apprentices. All of them will finish their time next year.

Mr. Wild: Don't be silly! They are taking them on all the time. They recently advertised for 25, and they engaged nine or 10.

Mr. OLDFIELD: The department did not take on an apprentice for three years.

Mr. Wild: You know!

Mr. OLDFIELD: Of course we know! We well know how many the department could handle. It has not sufficient tradesmen to handle the apprentices. The same policy is adopted by other Government Departments, such as the Railways Department and the State Engineering Works.

The Government's policy has resulted in a dearth of skilled tradesmen for this State. The Premier makes statements to the Press to the effect that we will need skilled tradesmen from overseas in the

next four or five years to assist in his so-called great leap forward, when our own personnel could be trained in the various sections of industry which require these skills.

Mr. Hawke: Quite right!

Mr. OLDFIELD: We will have the position where our youths will be leaving school after receiving their Junior and Leaving Certificates, and will be unable to receive apprenticeships. They will be unable to gain this technical skill, and they will be unable to apply such skill to the benefit of this State.

Rather than train our own skilled labour, it is the Government's intention to import labour. This is in keeping with the Government's policy. The attitude of the Minister for Industrial Development is that nothing should be owned by Australians, but that everything should be owned by overseas people. This is evidenced by the Hawker Siddeley give-away.

Will the Minister for Works tell the House why the Government of which he is a member did not sell the State Building Supplies and the Banksiadale mill to one of the local timber firms which were anxious to purchase this State trading concern, and which were prepared to pay a higher price than was eventually paid, and to provide far better conditions than Hawker Siddeley?

The attitude of the Government is that anything worth while owning in Western Australia should be owned by somebody from the "Old Dart." The Government adopts this policy, and the Minister for Works is adopting this policy in the department under his control. The Minister's policy is that if we are to have skilled tradesmen in Australia they must be imported from England; that Australians are fit only to be labourers for his kindred souls from overseas.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order! I am not going to have this cross-talk across the Chamber, particularly after the honourable member has been called to order. If I have any more of it I shall take more definite action. This is the first sitting and I have had to pull members up two or three times. Just address the Chair!

Mr. OLDFIELD: I am very sorry, Mr. Speaker. In conclusion, I would like to point out to the House that many of the advantages we expect to accrue from the building of a standard gauge railway from Kalgoorlie to Fremantle will, I feel, be lost unless the Government makes a strenuous and successful effort to prevail upon the Commonwealth Government to connect the standard gauge from Port Pirie or Port Augusta to Broken Hill. I understand—and in fact I have seen it—that at Dinan, a railway goods terminal

just outside of Melbourne, there is a system whereby the wheels of the loaded wagons are changed from one gauge to another—I am referring to the bogies—within a period of about 20 minutes. Also, they have developed a system of flat-top railway wagons with large containers braced upon them which can be jacked off by one man, within about 10 minutes, and on to a prime mover, and a set of axles, and these containers are then towed away as semi-trailers.

It is obvious that if everything we get from places like Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle, Pt. Kembla, and Brisbane, is to come to Fremantle or Perth through Melbourne, the freight costs will be much higher than if they come the shorter distance through Broken Hill without any break of gauge.

Despite all these innovations that have been introduced in Melbourne—and they are quite good in changing over from the 5 ft. 3 in. to the 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge, and vice versa—and we know they will improve and probably reduce the time spent in changing the wheels and off-loading these containers on to semi-trailers, the cost of transporting goods to Western Australia from places such as I have mentioned would be much less if the goods could be brought on a standard gauge rail through Broken Hill. If all our goods from the eastern seaboard—and by that I mean from New South Wales and Queensland—are to come through Melbourne and Adelaide, it will add to the cost, not only because of the longer distance over which the goods have to be hauled, but also because of the extra handling at the break in the gauge at Melbourne and Port Pirie.

I should like the Minister for Railways, now that he has resumed his seat, to give the House an indication at some time during the debate, regarding his intentions and also what he thinks his chances of success would be in getting the Commonwealth Government to agree to the building of the 180 miles, or whatever it is, of standard gauge railway from Port Pirie to Broken Hill, or alternatively from Port Augusta to Broken Hill, to complete the standard gauge from Fremantle to Brisbane. I support the Bill.

MR. GRAYDEN (South Perth) [10.35 p.m.]: I did not intend to speak to the Supply Bill, but a few of the statements that have been made tonight should, I feel, be corrected. The first one to which I wish to make reference is one just made by the member for Maylands. In the course of his speech he said that this Government was implementing a policy which did not ensure that sufficient apprentices were engaged each year to keep up with the demand for skilled tradesmen in Western Australia.

Mr. Graham: Hear, hear!

Mr. GRAYDEN: He made some reference to the railways and said that apprentices were not being taken on in the railway system in Western Australia.

Mr. Oldfield: Not in the same numbers as they were.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The statement is completely without truth.

Mr. J. Hegney: Rubbish!

Mr. GRAYDEN: It is quite untrue. If the member for Maylands had much experience with youths in this State seeking employment as apprentices he would know that currently the Railways Department is putting on in excess of 250—or 200, anyway—apprentices each year.

Mr. Rowberry: Since when?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Yet the member for Maylands makes a statement in this Chamber to the effect, or tries to give the impression, that virtually no apprentices are being put on in Government departments.

Mr. Graham: Quite right.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The second statement to which I wish to refer—

Mr. Jamieson: How many boiler-making apprentices have they put on lately?

Mr. GRAYDEN: All types of apprentices are being engaged on railway work, and they are putting them on in very considerable numbers.

Mr. Rowberry: Who is your authority?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Incidentally the number this year will be greatly increased. One would expect a Labor Opposition in this House to know something about industrial matters, and the question of apprentices is an industrial matter. Yet, as I said, the member for Maylands makes statements of that kind which are completely untrue.

Mr. Fletcher: The numbers are not so great as when we were in office.

Mr. Oldfield: Less than half.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition earlier this evening made reference to the action of the Minister for Works in announcing during the recent Darling Range by-election—

Mr. Jamieson: He made mention of his £30,000 investment.

Mr. GRAYDEN: —that over the next two years water would be provided for residents of the Forrestfield area.

Mr. Oldfield: Where did the Minister get the £30,000?

Mr. GRAYDEN: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition in introducing this subject—

Mr. Oldfield: He must have got it out of Avon.

Mr. GRAYDEN: —put it in such a way that I believe it cast an unwarranted slur on the Minister for Works and also on the member for Darling Range. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition gave the impression that there was something unfair about the action of the Minister.

Mr. Jamieson: You wouldn't say there wasn't!

Mr. Oldfield: Ask your mate alongside you what he thinks.

Mr. GRAYDEN: He implied that the money had suddenly been made available to influence the final result in the Darling Range by-election.

Mr. Graham: For what other reason?

Mr. GRAYDEN: As we can see from the interjections, members of the Opposition are continuing to reiterate this view.

Mr. Graham: For what other reason?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I suggest that if the member for Balcatta and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had bothered to look at the file they would have seen the statements which they are making are completely untrue, and that the charges they imply against the Minister for Works and the member for Darling Range are completely unwarranted. Had they bothered to look, they would have seen—and I might mention that this file was laid on the table of the House by the Minister—that he had nothing to hide. The Minister laid the papers on the table of the House, but members opposite refused to look at them. Had they looked at them they would have seen that the decision on this proposed extension of the reticulation system into the Forrestfield area was made public months and months ago.

I shall not go back too far into the file; in fact, I shall go back as far as February of this year, and we will see that there is a letter from a Mr. Palfrey.

Mr. Bickerton: Be careful and read the lot. You know what happened last time.

Mr. GRAYDEN: On this file there are many letters from Mr. Owen. I think that everybody will find that the Premier, during his policy speech in the Darling Range electorate, gave full credit to the efforts of Mr. Owen. I personally attended some of these meetings, and the same remarks apply to the new member for Darling Range.

Mr. Jamieson: Has the Minister's minute been inked over since then?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Let us now go well back on the file where there is a letter from A. G. Palfrey who, at that time, resided in Hale Road, Forrestfield; and I presume he is still residing there. He wrote to the Premier and the Minister for Public Works, and subsequently received a letter in reply. The Premier's letter, dated the 28th February, 1962, reads as follows:—

I refer to your letter of 9th February concerning your desire to have a water service at Forrestfield.

The Hon. Minister for Works and Water Supplies has reported on the position as follows—

He then quotes a minute from the Minister for Public Works, which reads—

The residents of Maida Vale and Mundijong have been seeking water supplies for as long as Forrestfield, and both propositions are far less costly and more economical than Forrestfield.

The fact that a number of Forrestfield residents are willing to contribute towards an annual deficiency does not provide the funds for a project costing £145,000, nor does it make the scheme economical.

I will not bother to read all of the letter but this is the vital paragraph and it is repeated again and again on this file—

The Department advises that a full report on the economics of the scheme will be submitted towards the end of this calendar year for consideration with the possibility of a commencement in 1963/64.

That is exactly what the Minister for Public Works said when he made his statement at Forrestfield.

Mr. Tonkin: No he didn't! He said he had approved the expenditure of £30,000 for a main in William Street.

Mr. GRAYDEN: That has nothing to do with the reticulation system in Forrestfield. The whole of the Forrestfield scheme depended on the replacement of a 4 in. main for a 12 in. main in another area.

Mr. Tonkin: In what area?

Mr. GRAYDEN: In an area running along Welshpool Road to William Street. So, in the ordinary course of events, the department intended to increase the size of the water main there from 4 inches to 12 inches. In doing so it made it possible for the Forrestfield area to have its reticulation. The Minister at the time mentioned that it revolved around this scheme and he had nothing to do with the department deciding to increase the size of that main. He also said they would have reticulation in Forrestfield within two years, but the Labor Party promised that it would be granted within 12 months.

So much for the letter dated the 28th February, 1962. In more recent times we can produce a letter addressed to Mr. Baxter, M.L.C. Mr. Baxter was making representations for the residents of that area. Again, the representations made by Mr. Baxter must have had a great deal to do with the obtaining of this scheme. In the letter written to Mr. Baxter the Minister replied in the same vein. He repeated the statement which had been made months before to the residents of Forrestfield and which was well known to the residents in that area.

Mr. Tonkin: What is the date of that letter?

Mr. GRAYDEN: It is dated the 3rd July, 1962, and reads as follows:—

Further to your discussion with the Chief Engineer and myself, concerning water reticulation in Forrestfield, I am enclosing copies of the letters which you had in mind but had been unable to locate.

Although no reference is made to Forrestfield in the Hon. Minister's reply, there is no doubt that that area must be coupled with Wattle Grove as far as promise of scheme water is concerned.

I would reaffirm previous advice that a review of revenue potential will be carried out within the next few months and with the assistance of information supplied, per medium of Mr. Ray Owen's survey some months back, the economics of the proposition will be put to the Hon. Minister well before the draft Loan Estimates for 1963-64 are prepared in February next.

This is the significant part—

—well before the draft Loan Estimates for 1963-64 are prepared in February next.

There we have the Water Supply Department again saying to Mr. Baxter that it is going to go into the matter of a water supply scheme before these draft Loan Estimates are drawn up. Then, on the day the Minister went to Forrestfield, apparently somebody from the department went up to him and said, "This may be of interest to you" and naturally—

Mr. Tonkin: Are you sure it was not the day after?

Mr. GRAYDEN: These facts are on the file, and I repeat that everybody in Forrestfield knew months ago that this project was going to be considered for inclusion in the Loan Estimates for 1963-64; and, in fact, that is when they are going to get the reticulation system.

So when we hear statements of the kind that have been made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition we can say they are completely without foundation, and that everything I have said can be borne out from the evidence on the file; and, further, had not the Minister made that statement on that particular night, then Mr. Baxter would certainly have made it on the following night when attending a meeting in that area. I would say further—and this might be illuminating to members of the Opposition—that the letter addressed to Mr. Baxter—which I have quoted—was read by the Minister for Public Works to that meeting when he made the announcement.

Mr. Tonkin: That makes it worse.

Mr. GRAYDEN: In those circumstances, in view of the fact that that letter has actually been read, can anybody at this stage make accusations of the kind made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition? His statements are completely unwarranted. They are an unwarranted slur on the Minister for Public Works and the member for Darling Range.

Mr. Tonkin: Which officer do you think handed the file to the Minister?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I do not know which officer handed him the file, but we could soon find out.

Mr. Tonkin: Do you think it was the under secretary?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I have not bothered to find out, but I soon could if the Deputy Leader of the Opposition desires the information. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition made another statement which was equally defamatory. He made the statement that members of the Government had made statements which amounted to lies, and that there were some liars on this side of the House. I believe that such language is completely unparliamentary, and, of course, it is completely untrue. If there is one person who could be placed in that category it is the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for making statements of that kind.

If we are going to challenge the statement, I had better remind you, Mr. Speaker, of some of the statements to which he objected. He objected to some obscure candidate in the Esperance area saying that no pyrites were to be used in the manufacture of superphosphate at the superphosphate works to be established at Esperance. He said that was a lie.

A couple of minutes before he had said that members of the Government had told lies. Then he said it was not a member of the Government who had told the lies, but an obscure candidate in the Norseman area. Then he went further and said he did not know whether it was a lie or not, because he asked the Minister for Industrial Development whether pyrites were to be used in the superphosphate works.

When the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who is a responsible man in our community, makes a statement such as that, and accuses members of the Government of having made those statements when, in fact, they did not make them, what credence can we, or the people of Western Australia, place on anything else he might say?

He referred to other statements which he alleged were made by members of the Government. One of these statements was in respect of the T.A.B., and it was simply a play on words; it was a matter of being at cross-purposes. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was referring to one thing, and the members of the Government were referring to another. He alleged that the

person who made the statement was a liar. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition should know about liars, because some extraordinary statements were made during the last general election in Western Australia by members of his own party.

These statements were made by the Leader of the Opposition and other members who sit on the bench with him; and also by those who sit behind him and support him. I have a list of such statements somewhere and my only regret is that I have not got that list with me. I would like to draw the attention of the House to some of those statements. I would first refer to the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition in respect of the sale of iron ore. In his policy speech the Leader of the Opposition accused this Government of giving away £600,000,000-worth of Yampi Sound iron ore to B.H.P.

By what method does the Leader of the Opposition arrive at that figure of £600,000,000-worth of iron ore? Is he taking into consideration the freight to send it to the other side of the world—it would not be the freight to send it to the eastern seaboard of Australia. If he did take such freight into consideration he still could not arrive at the figure of £600,000,000. Yet he made that statement.

Mr. Hawke: No he did not; not in respect of Yampi Sound.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I presume the Leader of the Opposition coupled it up with the Koolyanobbing iron ore.

Mr. Hawke: That is so.

Mr. GRAYDEN: But the Leader of the Opposition is splitting straws. He did make the statement. The point is that he said that this Government was giving away £600,000,000-worth of iron ore; and he took the freight into consideration. That was a dishonest thing to do. But even by doing so he still could not arrive at that figure.

Mr. Hawke: He certainly could.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Let us consider the price of this iron ore. It is worth 6s. a ton *in situ*. But the Leader of the Opposition has added £10 freight to it. Is that honesty in politics? Is that the sort of thing the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is prepared to overlook from members of his own party, and yet have the temerity to criticise members on this side of the House when they make comparatively minor statements in error, or because they happen to be talking about a different subject?

I might also mention that in order to build up this picture in the public mind the Leader of the Opposition said that the Government had given £600,000,000-worth of iron ore to B.H.P. at 1s. 6d. a ton. However, he conveniently forgot to tell the electors of Western Australia, because the

general elections were not far distant, that he, as a member of the Willcock Government, and as a Minister of that Government, subscribed to a deal which the Willcock Government was trying to put through, to sell the same deposit of Yampi iron ore to Japan on the eve of the outbreak of the war, not at the handsome figure of 1s. 6d a ton as obtained by a non-Labour Government, but at 3d. a ton.

His party tried to sell Yampi iron ore deposits to Japan at 3d. a ton. It did not try to sell a mere 15,000,000 tons, but 50,000,000 tons. That is the amount it wanted to sell, and at a price of 3d. a ton. So how is it possible for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition at this stage to criticise the Government for action of the kind to which he has referred? There were many similar statements of the kind I have mentioned made by the Leader of the Opposition during the last general election. In one of them he referred to the Hawker Siddeley question. We can recall how the debate on that sale went on in this House month after month during the last session, when all sorts of figures were quoted here, but at the most it was said that the Government was selling it for £1,000,000 under cost.

Mr. Tonkin: For what was it sold?

Mr. GRAYDEN: But when the general elections came around members of this House may know—and particularly will the members of the Opposition know, because they made the statements to the electors of Western Australia—that the Leader of the Opposition, and the people who sit behind him, said that the State Building Supplies had been sold to the Hawker Siddeley Group for £4,000,000 less than its true value.

These members had conveniently forgotten everything they had said in this House. They forgot everything which has now been recorded in *Hansard*, and they made a statement which was a deliberate lie, with the sole purpose of misleading the electors of Western Australia.

Mr. Tonkin: For what was it sold? It was sold for £1,000,000.

Mr. Court: No it wasn't!

Mr. Tonkin: Yes it was; the Auditor General said so.

Mr. Court: Some of it for £1,000,000.

Mr. Tonkin: It was given away.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order!

Mr. GRAYDEN: Anyway that statement was made by the Leader of the Opposition, and it was completely untrue. But in spite of that we have the Deputy Leader of the Opposition coming here and making allegations that members on this side of the House were liars. He said he was going to prove his statements but he did not do so. I have proved the

statements I have made: the proof is in the reading room of this House, and can be referred to at any time.

We can also go a bit further and talk about a startling pamphlet that was produced by the Labor Opposition during the election campaign. This pamphlet was headed, "The Million Pound Water Grab." It was a pamphlet designed to give the people of Western Australia, and particularly those residing in the metropolitan area, the impression that they were going to be fleeced of £1,000,000 by this Government, because the Government had switched to the "pay-as-you-use" scheme.

Can the Deputy Leader of the Opposition get up in this House now in this debate and justify that statement? I have no doubt that the honourable member will be in Bunbury for the by-election, and I would like to know whether he will get up there and justify the statements he has made. He told us earlier he was going to prove some of the statements he made, but he conveniently forgot to do so.

Mr. Tonkin: Which statements did I forget?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I am asking the honourable member to justify the statements to which I have referred. Will he justify the heading that appeared on the pamphlet to which I have referred—"The Million Pound Water Grab"?

Mr. Tonkin: You are giving me a job to justify your statements.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I have already had complaints in my electorate which have arisen as a result of propaganda of this sort. I took the opportunity of going to the Water Supply Department to ascertain what the department had obtained from the South Perth district. I wanted to compare that amount with what the department had obtained in previous years. After reading the pamphlet to which I have referred I fully expected to find that the figures were tenfold more than those that were obtained in the past in respect of South Perth.

I went to the Metropolitan Water Supply Department and was shown returns which it had prepared assessing what consumers in South Perth would pay under the new scheme. I was pleasantly surprised when I found out how much South Perth as a district will have to pay; it was far less than it had to pay under the old system.

When I went further into the matter I found the same situation applying to nearly all of the other metropolitan electorates in respect of which the department had information. That was an extraordinary state of affairs; yet the electors of Western Australia were told that they were to be fleeced of £1,000,000. Let the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and his supporters, who have plenty of opportunity

during this debate, justify the statements which they made. Let us have a bit of integrity in politics.

During the last election campaign the Opposition went out of its way—in a way which had not been attempted before in Western Australia—to mislead the public. It repeatedly made statements of the kind I referred to. Unfortunately the members of the Opposition were aided by the new medium of television. People sitting in their homes watching television programmes were confronted with the spectacle of the Leader of the Opposition on the screen before them, looking straight into their eyes and telling blatant lies.

It is one thing to read in the Press a statement of the kind I refer to because the following day one may be able to read a denial of the statement; but when a responsible person—such as the Leader of the Opposition, who has been in politics in Western Australia for a long period—can look into the eyes of the people and tell them about a £1,000,000 water grab—although there is not a vestige of truth in the statement—is that a desirable thing for democracy? Does that give us in Western Australia hope in the future?

Again, the Leader of the Opposition looked into the eyes of the television audience, and in his guileless way told them that the iron ore reserves of this State had been given away to overseas companies or to the B.H.P. for £600,000,000. Naturally the people who heard this statement and saw the Leader of the Opposition through television making the statement were inclined to believe it. That is deplorable.

Such a state of affairs gives rise to the need for serious consideration being given to the medium of television for party propaganda during elections, because it is a medium with which we have not been confronted in the past. We have had, principally, the Press as a medium.

Mr. Hawke: It is a pity the Liberal Party would not put you on television.

Mr. GRAYDEN: When we hear statements of the kind I referred to on television it seems to me that some legislation should be introduced to prevent some political party from exploiting the medium in the blatant manner in which it was exploited by the Labor Party during the last election.

I rose simply to reply to one or two statements which were made in the course of this debate. I repeat that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had no right at all to make the statements which he did make—statements which in one instance were an unwarranted reflection on the members of the Government; and, in the other, an unwarranted reflection on the Minister for Water Supplies and the member for Darling Range. In actual fact the statements did a great injustice to all those persons.

MR. NORTON (Gascoyne) [11.5 p.m.]: I am afraid I cannot put on an exhibition such as the one I have just seen. However, I want to make some factual statements which are worth recording. Firstly, I want to bring to the notice of the Premier a pamphlet which has been issued by the Tourist Bureau, and which I brought to the notice of that bureau. It contains a slight misstatement.

It is a pity that good pamphlets, well printed and produced, are sometimes not actually true in fact when they are issued, especially to tourists who look for certain features mentioned therein. The member for Kalgoorlie, in his contribution this evening, mentioned a similar thing. Whilst the article I am referring to is not a very serious one, it does give the idea that pamphlets may not be true in every respect.

I am referring to a pamphlet on the North-West, containing a number of fine photographs. The caption under the photograph of the Gascoyne Bridge reads: "A photo of the Gascoyne Bridge showing the water at a very low tide." We know very well the tide does not come within nine miles of the Gascoyne Bridge. It is such small mistakes which spoil a good pamphlet.

I brought this matter to the notice of the publicity officer of the Tourist Bureau. I believe that at an appropriate time that mistake will be rectified. Such errors do not give good publicity to Western Australia, at a time when we are trying to give the State a good name.

Early in the last financial year the Minister for Housing was reported in the *Northern Times* as saying that Carnarvon was to be allocated 12 houses for that year. Towards the end of the financial year I was in Carnarvon and found that only four houses had been built, and no further tenders had been called for the building of any more.

I got in touch with a colleague of mine in another place and asked him to inquire as to what was happening in regard to the balance of the houses that had been allocated to Carnarvon. He was informed by the State Housing Commission that it was experiencing considerable difficulty over blocks of land, and in getting them graded and so on. He was told it was not possible for the commission to build any more of the houses which had been allocated.

I knew that the Housing Commission had another four building blocks levelled and made ready for building. A made road had been built in front of the blocks, and both power and water were available on the adjoining block, so there was no reason why another four houses could not have been built. The commission had asked the Main Roads Department for two quotes for levelling approximately another 20 blocks, but had not come to a decision

in any way in respect of them. It is my opinion that the Main Roads Department was getting tired of setting up estimates and not getting anywhere with them.

The housing position in Carnarvon is quite acute, and there have not been fewer than 30 or more applicants urgently waiting for houses. To members representing electorates around the metropolitan area that number might not sound large, but in a remote district such as Carnarvon, where there is no alternative housing and where a person cannot rent a house from a private landlord, the State Housing Commission is looked on to supply the housing needs of the people in the district. If we are not able to house those people who have young families they will leave the district, and the area will be short of labour.

With the development of the fishing industry in that district the need for housing is becoming greater. I wonder where the eight houses which were allocated to Carnarvon went to? I wonder if they went into the development of the Empire Games Village, or if they were allocated to Kalamunda or some such district? They must have been allocated to some other district, because they are not available in Carnarvon. The town council has also made representations for the building of more houses in the area.

In 1960, after the very severe cyclone which we experienced, the Minister for the North-West promised to build five houses for the native families in East Carnarvon. He said—and this will be found on page 488 of *Hansard* dated the 17th August, 1960—that he expected the houses would be completed and occupied by December of that year. Last year I asked the late Minister for Native Welfare a similar question, and he told me that six V-type houses would be allocated to Carnarvon as soon as land on which to build them was available.

The argument all the time appears to have been that there is no land available on which to build houses; yet in answer to a question on the 3rd November, 1960, the Minister for the North-West said there was an area of four acres in East Carnarvon. He said that each house would have a frontage on Shellcross Street and the land could be subdivided to take at least four houses. There is no reason at all for one to hear the excuse that there is no land available.

Why is it that Carnarvon has not yet been allocated a house for coloured people? When the Minister was recently in Carnarvon I asked him about this and he told me that one house, or two at the most, would be provided if land was available. Again, "if land was available". Land is available, even though it may not be in the exact spot which the particular department wants. However, let these people have houses! They are just as much entitled to housing as anybody else.

In 1960 an allocation was made for five houses costing £1,400 each. Where has that money gone? Has it been allocated to some other district, so leaving Carnarvon short? Or was it just a sop to keep the member quiet? Was the allocation for 12 houses last year a sop to keep the member quiet at the end of the year? All this is very misleading. One gets these misleading statements from various Ministers at different times and then has to try to explain them away.

Mr. Lewis: I never made any misleading statement.

Mr. NORTON: I did not speak on a personal level. I said that one gets these misleading statements from time to time. I can quote them from *Hansard*. As a matter of fact, I have just mentioned some.

Tonight the Premier answered a question regarding a dam on the Gascoyne River. What prompted me to ask that question was an article which appeared in *The West Australian* on the 16th June headed: "Finance for Gascoyne Dam Sought". It reads as follows:—

W.A. has asked the Federal Government to give financial aid for the building of a dam on the Gascoyne River to provide Carnarvon plantations with an assured water supply.

Premier Brand and North-West Minister Court made the request in Canberra talks this week with Acting Prime Minister McEwen, Federal Treasurer Holt, and National Development Minister Spooner.

Mr. Brand said yesterday that the proposal was in line with the report of consulting engineers Scott and Furphy, which said that the Gascoyne could be dammed at the Kennedy Range, about 100 miles east of Carnarvon.

A rough estimate of the cost was £750,000.

Mr. Brand: That was my mistake.

Mr. NORTON: That article appeared in *The West Australian*, and I think a similar article appeared in the *Northern Times*; but no steps were taken to correct it as far as I know. The article has left the impression with the people in Carnarvon, particularly the planters, that it will be possible to build the dam for £750,000 and that the Premier and the Minister for the North-West have already approached the Commonwealth for that amount of money to build the dam—

Mr. Brand: It was not so.

Mr. NORTON: —whereas, in essence, the dam could not be built for less than three or four times that amount.

I also asked the Premier what steps had been taken since the Furphy report was tabled in respect of the dam site. From the answer given, I would say that, apparently very little has been done, with the

exception of the salinity tests along the river and some surveys. He mentioned grid drilling of the river upstream of the Gascoyne bridge, but I would say that most of that was done prior to the Furphy report. As a matter of fact, I believe quite a bit of it was done some two years ago.

This again is a misleading report, which the Premier admits is misleading. It was his mistake. It was something about which he was misinformed; but the point is that no attempt was made to correct the misstatement so that the people in the district would know exactly what was going on.

I also asked a question today of the Minister for Works in respect of the barrage dam on the Fitzroy River at the Camballin rice project. I asked questions as to the size and cost; and I cannot reconcile the Minister's statement with one which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 6th July this year, and also a statement which I read in *The West Australian* last year in the form of a report of the chairman of directors of the parent company of Northern Australian Development Pty. Ltd. The chairman of directors in his annual address to the shareholders said he was very pleased that the Western Australian Government was spending over £1,000,000 on the damming of the Fitzroy River for irrigating the rice project at Camballin.

Portion of the report in *The West Australian* of the 6th July last, written by Mr. Chris Griffith, reads as follows:—

Watered from the £1,000,000 Fitzroy barrage dam, the crops have yielded up to 30 cwt.—a promising yield but not yet enough to ensure lucrative commercial returns.

Once again reference was made to the dam as a £1,000,000 project; but in reply to my question regarding the total cost, the Minister quoted £397,402. Either the paper is wrong or the Minister is wrong. One is a misleading statement.

Mr. Wild: The barrage dam is very distinct from the whole of the work.

Mr. NORTON: *The West Australian* report refers to the £1,000,000 Fitzroy barrage dam.

Mr. Wild: That is not our statement; it is a statement of the newspaper reporter.

Mr. NORTON: He must have obtained the information from someone so that he could publish it. I think it is a pity that these things are published when they are not correct. They are misleading, and people do not like being misled.

Mr. Wild: I suggest you put a question on the notice paper asking for a break-up of the total cost of the whole of the project by the Government, and you would see that the figures given you today would be part of the whole and refer only to the barrage dam. That was the question you asked.

Mr. NORTON: I think the Minister has an opportunity to speak on this Bill, and it would be of interest to hear him give a break-up of the cost of this project.

Mr. Wild: If you want the information, ask the question; do not make stupid statements.

Mr. NORTON: I am not making stupid statements.

Mr. Wild: You are talking through the back of your hat.

Mr. NORTON: This is printed matter, and it proves that what we read in the paper we cannot always believe.

Mr. Jamieson: What are they paying their Press agent for if he is not getting decent stuff in the Press?

Mr. NORTON: Some two years ago the Minister for Fisheries said that a full investigation would be made into the trapping of snapper in the Shark Bay waters. An investigation was made in the first season and a report was issued. It was very interesting but not conclusive. Now we find that my fears are being realised and that the trapping of snapper is depleting the supply.

In *The West Australian* on the 4th July this year, the following article appeared:—

Snapper Catches Drop 50 p.c.

Snapper catches from Shark Bay were down to about 50 per cent. of those for the same period last season, Fremantle Fishermen's Co-operative manager J. P. Pupazzoni said yesterday.

The greatly increased use of fish traps was damaging the fishing grounds and causing the depletion of fish in the area, he said.

Last year boats had used only five or six fish-traps each but some were now using between 30 and 40 traps, as they did in cray-fishing.

Yesterday morning an 8,000 lb. catch of snapper was delivered to the Co-operative by freezer truck from Geraldton. The fish were taken in the Shark Bay area by the fishing boat Rex.

A similar statement was made in the Press last year as to how much the snapper catches had dropped—due, it was said, to the use of traps.

If we are going to preserve the industry, we must take some steps to see that the breeding areas, which are the spawning areas, are protected, even if it means that the fishermen will find it harder to get a haul. They will be at least assured of a haul. Those are the only matters I wished to raise during this debate.

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [11.22 p.m.]: I want to make just a few remarks before this debate closes, one being in relation to the false statements made at election times. I will have a few words to say on

this subject about the member for South Perth, because I have a collection of pamphlets he has issued over the years, and I will bring along a few of them containing very erroneous statements, and many with not a skerrick of truth in them. We will see if he can justify his standard on such issues—being such a moral person—when it comes to political publications and advocations during the course of an election.

However, we have heard his orations with a by-election pending, and now we will have to put up with them until the 1st September when the moon will set in the right direction and we will have some amount of peace.

My remarks are now directed to the European Common Market problems. Ten sessions ago, when I was a new member here, I made representations to the Minister of the then Labor Government with regard to seeking other markets closer to us than they have been before. I have made representations on this line ever since in every session of Parliament. I see finally that the Minister for Industrial Development has caught on, and the statement was released not so long ago that we were very close to markets on the Asian seaboard. It may be that the powers that be are becoming enlightened and are contemplating doing something about the situation. However, I fail to see where they have done anything constructive. They continue to appoint commissions and extra staff to the Agent-General's office in London.

I have expressed the sentiment before that the Agent-General's office in London is fast becoming a useless organisation. The sooner we shut it up and put the money to the dispersal of many agents around the markets for our products, the better we will be served. I see no point in the office in London. It is one of those things that we, along with other States, have clung to since the beginning of Crown colonies. His office seems to deal only with contracts and such like; and we find, as in the case of diesel locomotives, that after the Agent-General did all the work there, Flower, Davies & Johnston raked off the royalties for being the local agents. They should have done the work, anyway.

The office in London serves no purpose other than to use up finance which would be much better put to work on behalf of the people in this State in establishing agents in those markets that are near to us. In my opinion—which may not coincide with that of some of the economists or would-be economists in this community—it is far too silly that we should persist for any great length of time in trying to maintain our markets in Europe when there are ready markets available to us. It is as silly as it would be for a person, living in Nedlands and wanting to buy

groceries, to go to Bellevue to buy them, when the same groceries could be bought in Nedlands. We need people to go out after markets, and they are there for sure. This was realised when the trade ship went around last year. This State had a section on it, and many of the lines had been sold out before more than two or three ports had been visited.

Therefore, if the necessity arises—and surely it must if we are going to cry calamity, from the Prime Minister right down, that if the European market goes we are all going to die, starve, and all sorts of stupid things—we will have to go after other markets. If we do not we are going to finish up where we deserve to be.

Again, using a local example, it is like a man in a corner store. If he is not prepared to compete when a self-service store starts up a few doors away, he is going to go out of business. If we are not going out in the right direction to find the right markets for our produce, we will go out of business, and it will serve us right.

The member for Fremantle pointed out that we need the right kind of shipping to obtain the right kind of markets; and I agree. We are more fortunate, perhaps, than other States, because we have the nucleus of a shipping service. Indeed, for many years we used to trade with Asian companies, and it was to our advantage when we did. We are now, of course, subject to overseas shipping lines, and the competition which was referred to by the member for South Perth of course does not exist, because of the shipping conference, as it is called.

This expression is used for want of a better name. The original name used to be a "combine," but "conference" is now used because it sounds a little better. This conference makes sure that there is no undercutting in freights, or lessening of trade quota. This conference is interested only in its own merchants, and for that I do not blame it. That is its business. However, it is our business to get produce to those markets at fair and reasonable prices. This we will not achieve until the Government is bright enough to send agents to be on the spot to arrange the sale of the goods.

If it is necessary to call one of the State ships off the service for two or three months to send it up there as a floating warehouse, it would be much better for the State to do so. Let us go and do the job, and not rely on being asked to take part in someone else's project, as has been the case in the past. We are concerned with what is happening in Europe—12,000 miles away; and we are not giving enough thought to what is happening on our own doorstep—two or three thousand miles away. We could market more of our products with a little more thought, and possibly with the help of the world bank we could overcome our problems.

I am surprised that the Country Party members of the Government have not pursued this issue. I have discussed the matter with various members. They say, "Yes, we know the markets are there, and something should be done." But that is as far as they go. They are prepared to howl about the markets we are going to lose rather than do anything about securing new markets or maintaining our present ones. They decry the fact that the markets which now exist will no longer be available.

If we are likely to lose markets in one area, we should go somewhere else in order to make up our losses. There are plenty of places where we could make up our losses. My remarks on the European Common Market situation embody what I think should be done—and not done in 10 years' time by a future Government.

Steps should have been taken by the Labor Government. It reflects no credit on the Labor Government that it did not have agents seeking new markets, and it reflects no credit on the present Government which is faced with the European Common Market situation which did not exist when the Labor Government was in power.

I now deal with the transcontinental train service to and from this State. I recently sent the Premier a copy of a letter I wrote to the Federal Minister for Transport. I did this because I feel we are being "taken for a ride" with regard to the train service being provided by the Commonwealth Government.

The Commonwealth Government receives a profit of something like £1,500,000 per year from the transcontinental line to Western Australia; yet the Commonwealth Government is cutting down on passenger services. The standard of the train service provided has fallen off deplorably. Some of the trains were introduced in 1952 and were estimated to have an operating life of 12 years. This estimate was not realistic. These trains are subject to heavy wear and tear, and the Commonwealth Government should consider replacing them. It seems as though the Commonwealth Government is adopting a dog-in-the-manger attitude and will not move in the matter until the standard gauge line is established to Perth; and then it will enter into an agreement with the State Government concerning the provision of passenger trains.

Passengers travelling from the Eastern States will be left with a very poor impression. Once a standard is set, it is necessary to set a higher one. One cannot go back; yet, most assuredly, the Commonwealth railways have gone back. Its rolling stock consists of much old equipment—sometimes even lounge cars are not provided. The Commonwealth Government

knows full well the need for additional rolling stock, but has consistently failed to do anything about it.

It seems to me that this matter is of very little concern to either the Commonwealth Government or the State Government. It matters little whether or not the line functions as an efficient passenger transport service. Very little has been done about it. Nobody seems to care. The Premier recently travelled over the line; but most Ministers fly over the Nullarbor.

If the Commonwealth parliamentary members from this State were, from necessity, to use the transcontinental line more often, the service would be of a higher standard than it is today. However, the "pollies" from Western Australia fly to and from Canberra, and visiting State Ministers do likewise because of the time factor. There has been little pressure from this quarter to have the line maintained at a high standard.

I am indebted to my colleague, the member for Warren, for handing me information he was able to obtain last year concerning apprentices. We were chided by the member for South Perth that we should know these figures. The member for Warren desired to know some figures regarding apprentices and junior workers in the Midland Railway Workshops for the period 1956 to 1960. "These figures are not readily available" was the answer given. How are we to obtain that information if, when it is sought, the figures are not readily available—in other words, if the information is hidden from us?

The only information in which the member for South Perth will believe is official information. If we should come along with some information obtained from the union, it would be like the pamphlet my colleague read out a short while ago: the member for South Perth would say it was hypocrisy, and that not one word of it was true. We will see how truthful the member for South Perth is when I trot out some of this propaganda he has used. There is not a word of truth in it.

Point of Order

Mr. GRAYDEN: The member for Beeloo has made a statement which reflects on my character. There is not a word of truth in what he says, and I ask that it be withdrawn.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Crommelin): I would ask the member for South Perth to state exactly what he objects to.

Mr. Bickerton: Be truthful!

Mr. GRAYDEN: The words were to the effect that I had published pamphlets which were completely untrue.

Mr. Hawke: Quite right!

Mr. GRAYDEN: It is completely false, and I challenge the member for Beeloo to produce any pamphlet, or refer to any statement I have made, which is untrue.

Mr. Hawke: You have made half a dozen tonight.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Crommelin): I ask the member for Beeloo if he will withdraw his statement.

Mr. JAMIESON: I did not make that statement. I cannot withdraw a statement I did not make. I would like to know what the member for South Perth wishes to have withdrawn. I have not made the statement which he thinks I made; but what I have said I will back up with solid evidence, which he will not be able to refute and no member of this House will refute.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Am I to understand that the member for Beeloo has made no statement to the effect that pamphlets I have had published contain statements which are untrue?

Mr. JAMIESON: I do not wish to indulge in any further debate with the member for South Perth. I prefer to continue on from my last few words.

Mr. Grayden: That is one way of getting out of it.

Mr. JAMIESON: We will get around it. There will be plenty of other occasions before the 1st September. Our friend, the member for South Perth, will quieten down after the by-election.

Debate Resumed

Mr. JAMIESON: Again I say that the Ministers do not appear to be concerned about the European Common Market situation. I think they are more concerned with ways and means of winning the Bunbury by-election. The European Common Market is important to Australia, but it does not appear to be as important to the ex-apple-seller as it should be. It is so important that somebody should go out and do something about it, and not just sit back like the Premier and fall in behind the Prime Minister, or somebody else, and reiterate what he says about it. We are in a far more dangerous position because of it than any other State in the Commonwealth, and the Premier should realise that. Unfortunately he is not prepared to do anything; all he wants to do is to sit back in his chair and follow the lead, or the lack of leadership of these other people who are prepared to have a few words to say about it.

MR. J. HEGNEY (Belmont) [11.41, p.m.]: This evening I have listened to a great many statements by the member for South Perth. Among the statements was one that the Leader of the Opposition had said in his election propaganda that this new water scheme that was to be put into operation by this Government

would saddle the consumers on the metropolitan scheme with an extra £1,000,000. The honourable member said that that was a tall statement and that he had made it his business to see how it applied to the electorate of South Perth. To this end he went to the department to find out whether people in the South Perth area would pay more or less under the new scheme and, to his surprise, he found they were paying less.

I have in my hand some answers given by the Minister for Water Supplies to questions asked this afternoon. The first question read as follows:—

What was the total amount of meter readings taken during 1960-61?

The answer was—

On the assumption that domestic readings only are required, 212,711.

The next question was—

Of this total, how many readings were taken in April-June quarter?

and the answer was—

63,419.

That is the number of readings taken in the April-June quarter.

Mr. Tonkin: Yes, after the election.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: Yes; that is so, and also when the excess amounts would be debited to the consumers of water. Question No. (3) was—

What districts were covered by meter-readers during the April-June quarter?

All the districts are set out in the Minister's answer, which I have in my hand; and the South Perth district is mentioned as being one of the districts in which readings were taken in the April-June quarter—not in the quarter before the election. Yet the honourable member says that the Leader of the Opposition made extravagant statements. Obviously when the member for South Perth went to the Water Supply Department he did not get the correct information. The department could not give it to him because the readings had not been taken. The honourable member certainly vacillates from one statement to the other just to suit his purpose.

There was some discussion this evening regarding the apprenticeship system, and one side of the House affirms that there has been no diminution in the number of apprentices being trained in the State while on this side we affirm that the number of apprentices has been allowed to dwindle considerably, this being due to the fact that the training ground for apprentices in this State—namely, the State instrumentalities, such as the Public Works Department, the Railway Workshops at Midland Junction, the State Engineering

Works and so on—are not now engaging the same number of apprentices as previously.

So far as the building industry is concerned, we have always had difficulty in this State because apprentices are apprenticed to the Arbitration Court. The reason for this is that when a boy starts off as an apprentice bricklayer, carpenter, or other building tradesman, he may continue with the same employer for two or three years and then the builder to whom he is apprenticed suddenly goes out of business or, because of inactivity in the building industry, can no longer afford to employ staff.

It was found in earlier years that many of the apprentices finished up by becoming just general labourers; and because of this, and also because of requests from the trade union movement, Labor Governments introduced a system under which apprentices in the building industry were apprenticed to the Arbitration Court so that they were assured of continuity of employment and eventually, after a period of five years, of becoming tradesmen.

That is the system which operates in private industry; but at establishments such as the Midland Junction Workshops, the State Engineering Works, and the Public Works Department, boys were trained and remained in employment until they became competent tradesmen. However, when this Government came to power large numbers of workers who were associated with the Public Works Department, particularly, were retrenched. At the Midland Junction Workshops, while the Government did not retrench workers immediately, it did not re-employ others when workers left the workshops, for reasons of their own, or died. Because of this the number of personnel in the Railways Department diminished; and, because of the reduced number of trained artisans, the number of apprentices also had to be reduced. Under the Arbitration Court awards a certain number of tradesmen have to be employed before one apprentice can be engaged. Because of the reduced number of artisans the apprenticeship system has been affected considerably.

The Government is finding difficulty in getting trained artisans to carry on certain works which are supposed to be coming to light in the near future, but that is why there is a dearth of tradesmen—the apprenticeship system has been interfered with. In my view it is important that we should train our own boys in this State—boys who come from our own schools.

Mr. Fletcher: Hear, hear!

Mr. J. HEGNEY: Many of these boys have their Junior Certificate; and some, the Leaving Certificate. But for the most

part, even if they do not reach that standard, they can become competent tradesmen by being trained in subjects which are required for their work, such as arithmetic, practical mathematics, drawing, and so on. The State does train boys in these subjects.

The Premier has sent a committee of three abroad to seek out trained artisans from overseas countries, particularly the United Kingdom and even from countries on the Continent. The same sort of thing has happened in days gone by. From my own experience I know of journeymen who have been brought from overseas; and because of this our own boys did not get the opportunity of becoming apprentices and eventually skilled artisans. They just became the labourers to work for trained personnel who came from overseas.

There is another point, too. These tradesmen who are to come here have to be assured of employment, and we have to be assured that they are not going to displace our own tradesmen who are already in employment. That is an important consideration. That is why trade unionists are often apprehensive of the effect of such schemes when they are brought into operation. However, time will tell just what the effect of this scheme will be.

I rose principally to deal with one or two matters in the electorate of Belmont for which I happen to be the first member. They are educational matters; and I am pleased the new Minister for Education is in his seat, because I will now direct these matters to him. I have here a copy of a letter addressed to the Director of Education, copies of which have been sent to the Minister for Education, the local health inspector of the Shire of Belmont, and J. Hegney, M.L.A. This is the tenor of the letter addressed to the Director of Education—

Dear Sir,

Your Department's reply of 30th March, 1962, in regard to our request of 6th March, 1962, reference new brick toilets for the Belmay Infants' P. & C. was viewed with alarm by the P. & C.

- (i) The points outlined in our letter of the date stated are again drawn to your attention.
- (ii) As you are aware Infant pupils and Primary School pupils are separated in their play yards, surely you must appreciate how the five year old children fare in the restricted areas of the toilets.
- (iii) The overcrowding of toilets in times of epidemics is most undesirable.

- (iv) The existing toilets are sited alongside the classrooms used by the Primary grade students thus requiring the youngest pupils to walk the longest distance in the wet weather.
- (v) Appended is a table of toilet accommodation for Schools laid down by the Public Health Department and reference to this shows the deficiency of male and female toilets for both teaching staff and pupils.
- (vi) Your urgent efforts to have separate brick toilets erected on the Infants' School site are again requested.

Yours faithfully,

J. McIntosh,
Hon. Secretary,
Belmay Infants P. & C.

That letter is dated the 19th June, 1962; and I have also another, dated the 18th June, 1962, which is addressed to the Director of Education and of which copies were also sent to the Minister for Education, Mr. J. Hegney, M.L.A., The Hon. H. Robinson, M.L.C., The Hon. A. Griffith, M.L.C., and The Hon. R. Hutchison, M.L.C. That letter reads as follows:—

Dear Sir,

Further to your reply of 30th March, 1962, stating that due to the shortage of classrooms you are unable to rebuild schools, you are advised as follows:

- (i) The members of the Belmay Infants P. & C. are not satisfied with this reply from your Department, particularly in view of the new brick infants' schools that have been erected at Odin Road, Innaloo and other suburbs.
- (ii) The P. & C. stress that this is not a request for the "rebuilding" of a school but a request for the establishment of an infants' school at Belmay. The classes are at present conducted in part of the Belmay Primary School.

Belmay is near the airport in Belmont. Continuing—

- (iii) Your Department is requested to arrange an inspection of the Infants' School accommodation by a competent officer of your Department in conjunction with the executive of this P. & C.

Our correspondence of 6th March, 1962, refers.

Yours faithfully,

J. McIntosh,
Hon. Secretary,
Belmay Infants P & C.

The point which the parents and citizens' association is making is that it needs a new infant school because of the considerable influx of infants to the locality and because of greater building activities which are taking place. The provision of this new infants' school is a matter of urgency, and therefore the P. & C. is distributing its propaganda among the members for the district in both the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council, and the Director and Minister for Education. The P. & C. also submitted to me an appendix, the preamble of which reads as follows:—

Appendix

The recommended scale of ablutions and toilet facilities issued in the health inspectors' course of instructions reveals the following deficiencies at the Belmay Infants and Belmay Primary Schools:

I do not intend to read out all the figures which are tabulated in this appendix, but I will quote the salient points. At the present time there are about 360 infants or very small children attending the Belmay Infants' School, and about 530 children attending the Belmay Primary School, making a total of over 900 children attending both schools. The P. & C. is contending that there is insufficient toilet accommodation for the infants, particularly when they have to travel over to the toilet block which is used by the children of the primary school.

The P. & C. also points out that there are deficiencies in the facilities not only for the children but also for the teachers. It is pointed out that they are deficient of 11 washbasins, two additional toilets for the female teachers, and one for the male teachers. In the boys' toilet block another three toilets and 12 ft. of urinals are required.

The representatives of the P. & C. association have buttonholed me several times about this unsatisfactory state of affairs. These children are part of our rising generation and will be our future citizens; and in view of the fact that we are debating a Bill to grant Supply amounting to £25,000,000, I am asking the Treasurer to see whether a small portion of this amount cannot be allocated for this purpose.

I now wish to deal with another school in my electorate called the Tranby State School, which is situated in the Rivervale area. A short time ago I received a letter from the Tranby Parents and Citizens' Association concerning the conditions under which the 11 teachers at that school have to eat their meals at lunch time. I have visited the school to inspect the conditions under which they are having their midday meal and there is no question that the facilities available to the teachers there are totally inadequate.

I can tell the Minister that the P. & C. was advised that provision had been made in the forthcoming year's estimates for improved facilities; so I hope that arising from what I have had to say tonight in this regard he will be able to expedite the provision of improved facilities for the teachers at that school.

I will not avail myself of the opportunity of discussing other matters during this debate on the Supply Bill, because I consider that the questions I have already raised are those which are most urgent.

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. Brand (Treasurer), and transmitted to the Council.

*House adjourned at 12.2 a.m.
(Wednesday).*

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 1st August, 1962

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The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

IWANKIW CASE

Payment of Damages

1. The Hon. J. M. THOMSON asked the Minister for Mines:
 - (1) Has a decision yet been reached between the Crown, Police Union, and V. S. Marshall as to who will pay the amount of damages assessed by the Supreme Court and unanimously upheld by the Full Court, resulting from an incident by Marshall while arresting Iwankiw. Injuries which, according to medical evidence, could have proved fatal?
 - (2) What was the date on which the Supreme Court gave its decision in Iwankiw's favour?
 - (3) On what date did Marshall lodge his appeal?
 - (4) When did the appeal eventually come before the Full Court?
 - (5) If the answer to question No. (1) is "No," in view of the apparent long delay to date in meeting this financial obligation on the part of the party ordered to pay would the Minister be agreeable to press for an early finalisation of this matter?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The 5th July, 1961.
- (3) The 17th July, 1961.
- (4) The 21st March, 1962.
- (5) At the present time the matter rests as between the Police Union and V. S. Marshall, and no approach has been made to the Minister for Police.

SHIRE COUNCILS

Operations Under Section 533(2)(c) of Local Government Act

2. The Hon. N. E. BAXTER asked the Minister for Local Government:

How many shire councils are operating under subsection (2) (c) of section 533 of the Local Government Act, 1960, for the purpose of making up their rate books?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

There are at present no shire councils using a private qualified valuer under the authority of section 533 (2) (c) of the Local Government Act.