

member who asks a question. I am not asking for information for myself; I am asking for it on behalf of people who come to me about these problems and want to know the position. There are people who object to disclosing their age. Most of the complaints I have had have come from women, and I think they are entitled to object.

I do not think a person should have to carry all sorts of information about with him. I know the police consider it desirable to have everybody's fingerprints recorded; but it would not be desirable, at least in my view, if people had to carry a card in their pockets or in their wallets showing their fingerprints.

Mr. Crommelin: Some fellows are proud of their age. A young fellow in Claremont last year applied for and got his license at the age of 95. He did not mind putting his age on the license.

Mr. MOIR: He may be able to drive a lot better than some at the other end of the scale.

Mr. Crommelin: I wouldn't drive with him.

Mr. MOIR: On the other hand, he might not want to drive with you, either!

Mr. Evans: He may not vote for the honourable member if he reads *Hansard*.

Mr. MOIR: We all know some elderly people who are able to drive quite well—some of them a lot better than young people—and there are young people who cannot drive at all, although they think they are very good drivers. I think many accidents are caused by people who think they are a lot better drivers than they really are.

I hope, if I have a need to ask the Minister for Police questions about other matters, that he will not equivocate in this manner. Since he has been in Parliament I have had a fairly good opinion of him, but I must confess that the answers he has given me, and the answers he has given to some other members on this side of the House, have shaken my confidence in his veracity.

Mr. Craig: I will try to restore it for you.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Gayfer.

BILLS (2): RETURNED

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

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

House adjourned at 10.31 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 12th August, 1965

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The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (24): ON NOTICE

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN

Natural Parents: Inclusion of Names on Documents

1. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Child Welfare:

- (1) Where a married couple wish to adopt a child, is it essential that the names, addresses, and occupations of the natural parents should be shown on any of the documents which are viewed by the married couple?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) If not essential, then why is it done?
- (4) Could not there be many embarrassing and upsetting possibilities for the adopting couple, the natural parents, and the child itself, either currently or in later years?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The information is required under the Supreme Court "Rules of Procedure under the Adoption of Children Act, 1896" where a draft of the application is laid out.
- (3) See paragraph (2).
- (4) Possibly, but it is considered that there could be more upsetting and embarrassing incidents if the adopting parents were not given the information.

LOTTERIES CONTROL ACT

Conduct of a Lottery by a Club: Result of Draw and Commission's Reprimand

2. Mr. TONKIN asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) When the result of the lottery—which was the subject of questions in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday last—was published in *The West Australian* on the 15th August, 1964, why were only three winning numbers announced if more than three prizes were to be won?
- (2) How did it occur that there were only five prizes, comprising one first prize, three second prizes, and one third prize?
- (3) Were all five prizes which were paid actually drawn?
- (4) As no member of the commission was present and therefore "the system used in drawing the lottery is not known" to the members how is he in a position to state that all of the butts of the three series of tickets sold were included in the draw?
- (5) How can he presume (as he has done) that the coincidence of the three second prizes all having the same numerals also occurred with regard to the first and third prizes when it is known to the commission that only one first prize and one third prize were drawn?
- (6) Was the "severe reprimand" contained in the letter from the chairman dated the 7th October, 1964, the one which the commission considered "was sufficient" to meet the circumstances of serious breaches of the law which had occurred?
- (7) Was this "severe reprimand" phrased as follows:—

Despite the mistake of overprinting too many tickets your club must honour its obligations to pay the prize money to holders of winning tickets.

Needless to say my fellow Commissioners are very disappointed at this carelessness in the printing of tickets . . . Your club is not alone in this regard.

- (8) If the foregoing is not the reprimand to which he referred on Tuesday last, will he supply a copy?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) It was understood according to the permit that there were to be three prizes only.
- (2) There were no claimants for the remaining two first prizes and the two third prizes.

- (3) Yes.
- (4) On the advice of the club.
- (5) There were no claimants to the other prizes.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) Yes.

CIGARETTE SMOKING

Advertisements: Inclusion of Warning of Health Dangers

3. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will he give consideration to enacting legislation to require a health warning to be associated with all cigarette advertising—

- (a) by means of "warning labels" on cigarette packets;

- (b) warning statements on TV and radio advertising?

- (2) Does such legislation exist in certain American States?

- (3) If so, will he consider the health of our youth in particular in preference to the satisfaction of commercial interests?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (3) The subject of smoking in its relation to lung cancer and an appropriate advertising campaign was dealt with at a recent Health Ministers' conference, it being agreed that there should be co-operation between the Commonwealth and the States on issues involved. The States are awaiting advice from the Commonwealth on the subject matter.
- (2) According to *The West Australian* of the 29th July, 1965, President Johnson signed a Bill requiring a health warning to appear on all cigarette packets.

DENTAL TREATMENT AT NORTH PERTH

Cancelled Appointments: Fee Charged

4. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it correct that a North Perth parent is unable to obtain dental treatment at that clinic for his children, as a consequence of a 10s. debt arising from a phone-cancelled appointment due to family sickness?
- (2) Is such a charge made unless the cancellation is made personally or in writing?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) I am not aware of any specific case as referred to by the honourable member. However, the

situation with regard to this matter is that missed dental appointments cause a waste of time of professional staff and loss of appointments for persons on the waiting list.

Appointments may be cancelled by telephone up to 24 hours before the appointment, after which a missed appointment fee of 10s. 6d. is charged. The payment of the fee may be waived depending on the circumstances.

In the absence of an acceptable explanation a patient is required to pay the missed appointment fee before another appointment is made, but a patient would not be refused attention where emergency treatment or relief of pain is involved.

KALAMUNDA HIGH SCHOOL

Playing Field: Boring for Water

5. Mr. DUNN asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the total amount expended to date on boring for water for the Kalamunda High School playing field?

- (2) On what date was the last bore completed?

- (3) On what date was it tested and what was the result?

Total Expenditure

- (4) What is the total amount expended on the Kalamunda High School to date?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) £1,096.

- (2) The 29th December, 1963.

- (3) Tests commenced on the 29th December, 1963.

Tests completed on the 31st December, 1963.

Bore failed to maintain 500 gallons per hour.

- (4) £231,308.

PROPERTIES IN KALAMUNDA

Town Planning: Compensation Claims

6. Mr. DUNN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) How many claims for compensation for land to satisfy the requirements of town planning in the Kalamunda Shire area are outstanding?

- (2) Over what period have these claims been outstanding?

Revaluations

- (3) In the recent revaluation of the shire area, were the properties involved revalued?

Rates and Taxes: Increase

- (4) Was the land tax on these properties accordingly increased?
- (5) Have the shire rates on these properties been increasing over the past ten years?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Approximately 30.
- (2) April, 1964, to present date.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Yes.

7 and 8. *These questions were postponed.*

MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENT

Expenditure in Metropolitan and Country Areas

9. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Works:

During each of the last three financial years respectively, what sums have been spent by the Main Roads Department—

- (a) on works in the metropolitan area;
- (b) on works elsewhere in the State?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (a) Metropolitan Area (20 mile radius): 1962-63, £1,043,000; 1963-64, £1,178,000; 1964-65 (estimated), £2,211,000.
- (b) Outside Metropolitan Area: 1962-63, £9,165,000; 1963-64, £9,216,000; 1964-65, £10,473,000.

10. *This question was postponed.*

STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY

Midland-Kewdale Section: Tenders for Construction

- 11A. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Have tenders been let for building the standard gauge railway from or through West Midland to Kewdale?
- (2) If so, why is work not proceeding?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) A contract scheduled to be completed on the 6th March, 1966, has been let for earthworks to formation level in this section, including all necessary culverts and fencing and the construction of five bridges.
- (2) The contractor is working to programme and is at present concentrating on piling work on the Kenwick fly-over and the bridges.

RAILWAY STATION AT WEST MIDLAND

Provision

- 11B. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is a new station to be built at West Midland forthwith?

Up-platform: Removal

- (2) If not, why has half of the existing platform been demolished for over a month at West Midland?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) The West Midland station cannot be constructed until such time as the pedestrian subway, on which work is to be commenced forthwith, is completed.
- (2) After the platform had been demolished as a preliminary to construction of the new pedestrian subway, difficulty was experienced in letting a contract for the latter and this is responsible for the delay.

MAIN ROAD AT BASSENDEAN

New Bridge over Swan River

12. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it proposed to build a main road via the new bridge from Bassendean over Swan River and Swan Street, Guildford?

Acquisition of Properties and Commencement of Work

- (2) Have certain properties been purchased to enable the road to be built?
- (3) When is it considered the proposed new bridge and road works will commence?
- (4) How many properties are to be purchased for the project?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The Metropolitan Region Plan provides for a crossing over the Swan River at Bassendean just north of the existing railway crossing. However, at this stage the Main Roads Department does not have any firm proposals for putting this plan into effect.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) It will be many years before these works are put in hand. A decision regarding a commencing date will depend upon the growth of traffic and the need for improving the western approach into Guildford.
- (4) In the absence of detailed plans it is not possible to say at this stage how many properties will be purchased.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT PASSENGERS*Insurance Coverage and Claim of Mrs. Bell*

13. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Did Mrs. Bell meet with an accident on an M.T.T. bus when proceeding to Subiaco at 12.30 p.m. on the 12th June, 1962?
- (2) Is it a fact that such cases are not covered by insurance?
- (3) Has the Government refused to pay Mrs. Bell compensation for the accident and loss of her business following the accident?
- (4) Are fare-paying passengers now insured?
- (5) Does the Government intend to cover passengers in similar circumstances to Mrs. Bell against accident in future?
- (6) Does not the Government feel Mrs. Bell is entitled to be covered for all out-of-pocket expenses due to the accident, or should Mrs. Bell sue the conductor for damages?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Negligence has to be established against the trust or its servants before liability is accepted.
- (3) This case was heard by the Chief Justice and the claim was dismissed.
- (4) Passengers have always been covered against negligence by the trust or its servants.
- (5) Answered by (3) and (4).
- (6) Answered by (3).

14. *This question was postponed.*

DESALINATION OF WATER: USE OF ATOMIC PLANT*Information and Investigations*

15. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Did he read a news item, emanating from London, dated the 20th June, 1965, and published in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* of date the 21st June, 1965, headed "Desalination Plant"?
- (2) If not, would he please familiarise himself with this information?
- (3) Would he then consider having the Government communicate with the Minister for Agriculture whilst and if he is still in the United Kingdom, with a view to his investigating the claim that the atomic powered plant is capable of desalinating 30,000,000 gallons of sea water per day?

- (4) If the answer to (3) is in the affirmative, would he also seek from the Minister for Agriculture or the atomic energy authority concerned, further information in respect of the statements in the news item, that the plant "can be built at once anywhere in the world" and "in certain conditions it can be powered economically by a nuclear reactor"?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) See answer to (1).
- (3) and (4) The appropriate departments, including the Department of Industrial Development, keep closely in touch with these developments because of the importance to industry and the population generally. The Press report to which the honourable member refers is inclined to oversimplify a very complex matter related to volume and cost of power and the economics of freshwater production, conservation, and reticulation. I will confer with my colleague the Minister for Works and Water Supplies and try to obtain a summary of some of the more important points for the honourable member's information.

VETERINARIANS*Number and University Course*

16. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) How many veterinarians are there in this State?
- (2) What is the considered balance ratio of veterinarians per head of livestock in this State?
- (3) Has there been any decided move made by the Government to establish a faculty of veterinary science at the W.A. University?
- (4) Has there been any increase in the number of qualified veterinarians in the past three years and, if so, what was the increase for the respective years?

Mr. LEWIS (for Mr. Nalder) replied:

- (1) 55 (5 not active).
- (2) Approximately 2.5 veterinarians per million head of large livestock.
- (3) Yes. At the request of the Government the University has asked the Australian Universities Commission to make provision for a faculty of veterinary science within the University of W.A. during the 1967-69 triennium.
- (4) Yes.

1962-63	....	....	....	....	3
1963-64	....	....	....	....	4
1964-65	....	....	....	....	7

RAILWAY SLEEPERS*Mt. Newman Project: Shipment through Albany*

17. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Has final determination been made as to the shipping of sleepers through the port of Albany, for the Mt. Newman project?
- (2) If so, what are the intentions of the company concerned?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Plans for the Mt. Newman sleepers have not been finalised. The company does not expect to be able to determine its sleeper requirements or the delivery programme for two or three months.

WATER SUPPLIES AT BULLFINCH*Capacity of Main from Southern Cross*

18. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What is the size or sizes of the water main extension from Southern Cross to Bullfinch?
- (2) What volume of water daily is this main capable of pushing through to Bullfinch?

Average Daily Consumption

- (3) What is the average daily consumption at present?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) 15 miles 67 chains of 12 inch diameter pipe and 5 miles 54 chains of 10 inch diameter pipe.
- (2) 460,000 gallons.
- (3) 43,000 gallons over past 12 months.

RAILWAY PROPERTY AT MERREDIN: LEASES BY OIL COMPANIES*Number*

19. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) How many oil companies are located on railway property in Merredin?

Rental and Expiration

- (2) What annual rental is paid on each lease?
- (3) When do these leases expire?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Two.
- (2) £80 and £173.
- (3) The 31st March, 1966, and the 31st January, 1972.

RAILWAY PROPERTY AT MERREDIN: STOCKYARDS*Ownership, Cost, and Replacement Cost*

20. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) By whom are the sheep, cattle, and pig yards situated on railway property at Merredin owned?
- (2) If the Government is the owner, what was the cost of erection in each case?
- (3) What would be the approximate replacement cost at present?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Four livestock firms own saleyards on railway land leased from the Railways Department. In addition there is a departmental yard for the purpose of handling stock to and from rail.
- (2) The original cost of the departmental stockyard is not available.
- (3) This would depend on location and standards.

RAILWAY STATION AT MERREDIN*Construction, Rebuilding, and Additions*

21. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) When was the initial railway station at Merredin built?
- (2) Has the original building been rebuilt? If so, when?

Cost

- (3) What years were additions made, and what was the cost of the Merredin station as now in use?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Records are no longer available but construction was possibly in 1894 when the line was opened.
- (2) Yes, approximately 1926.
- (3) Numerous additions and alterations have been carried out, but these costs are no longer available.

METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD*Boundaries of Metropolitan Area: Definition and Alterations*

22. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Are the boundaries of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board as defined in the second schedule of the Act, the boundaries currently in existence, or have subsequent alterations been made?
- (2) If there have been alterations, when were they made, and what are their descriptions?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Alterations have been made to the area defined in the second schedule to the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act by Order-in-Council as provided for in section 7 of the Act.
- (2) Orders-in-Council giving descriptions were gazetted on—
 - 29th May, 1914.
 - 18th January, 1924.
 - 6th September, 1929.
 - 20th July, 1934.
 - 5th January, 1940.
 - 29th June, 1945.
 - 22nd September, 1950.
 - 19th December, 1952.
 - 4th February, 1955.
 - 25th January, 1957.
 - 22nd August, 1958.
 - 6th July, 1962.
 - 14th June, 1963.
 - 17th July, 1964.
 - 4th June, 1965.
 - 16th July, 1965.

Copies may be sighted at the office of the General Manager of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board.

COTTON GROWING AT ORD RIVER

Oil Extraction Plant: Financing

23. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for the North-West:

Who will be financing the proposed plant to extract oil from cotton seed, as recently announced in connection with the Ord River project?

Mr. COURT replied:

Negotiations are currently being undertaken about the establishment of an oil extraction plant at Kununurra.

There is interest in a number of quarters and until all aspects have been evaluated no decision will be made.

Mr. Tonkin: Is it likely to be a State plant?

Mr. COURT: There is no suggestion.

SUPERPHOSPHATE

Deliveries to Country Centres

24. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Railways:

What tonnages of superphosphate were delivered to the stations and sidings listed hereunder in the year ended the 30th June, 1965:—

Amery, Ardath, Baandee, Babakin, Badgaling, Ballidu, Barbalin, Beacon, Belka, Bencubbin, Bendering, Benjaberring, Bilbarin, Billaricay, Bodallin, Bonnie Rock, Booraan,

Botherling, Bruce Rock, Bullaring, Bullfinch, Bungulla, Bunketch, Burabadji, Burakin, Burracoppin, Cadoux, Carrabin, Cleary, Collgar, Corinthian, Corrigin, Cowcowing, Cramphorne, Cunderdin, Dalgouring, Dalwallinu, Damboring, Dangan, Doodlakine, Dornock, Dowerin, Dukin, Ejandring, Elabbin, Elphin, Emu Hill, Eriken, Eujinyn, Gabbin, Gnarning, Gnuca, Goddard, Goomalling, Hedges, Hines Hill, Hyden, Jingymia, Jura, Kalannie, Kalguddering, Karlgarin, Kellerberrin, Kirwan, Kokardine, Kondinin, Kondut, Konongorring, Koonadgin, Koorda, Korbel, Korraling, Korrellocking, Kulin, Kulja, Kununoppin, Kwelkan, Kwolvin, Liveseys, Mandiga, Mannanning, Marindo, Marne, Meckering, Merredin, Minnivale, Mollerin, Moonijin, Moorine Rock, Mukinbudin, Muntadgin, Nalkain, Nambaling, Nangeenan, Narembeen, Narkal, Nembudding, Nokaning, Noongaar, Nornakin, Norpa, Notting, Nugadong, Nukarni, Nungarin, Pantapin, Pederah, Perilya, Pingaring, Pithara, Quairading, Shackleton, Southern Cross, South Kuminin, Tammin, Tantagin, Trayning, Ulva, Wadderin, Wacel, Walgoolan, Welbungin, Wialki, Wogarl, Wongan Hills, Woolundra, Wubin, Wyal-katchem, Wyola, Yalbarrin, Yarding, Yelbeni, Yoting?

Mr. COURT replied:

Tonnages of superphosphate were delivered to the undermentioned stations and sidings during year ended the 30th June, 1965:—

Station.	Tonnage.
Amery	75
Ardath	1,855
Baandee	1,741
Babakin	1,443
Badgaling	2,223
Ballidu	3,173
Barbalin	372
Beacon	2,386
Belka	2,093
Bencubbin	2,531
Bendering	1,131
Benjaberring	1,067
Bilbarin	1,337
Billaricay	648
Bodallin	2,552
Bonnie Rock	935
Booraan	355
Botherling	714
Bruce Rock	3,291
Bullaring	2,535
Bungulla	1,273
Bunketch	470

Station.	Tonnage.
Burabadji	393
Burakin	1,073
Burracoppin	1,947
Cadoux	2,195
Carrabin	2,026
Cleary	1,881
Collgar	443
Corrigin	5,158
Cowcowing	367
Cramphorne	2,158
Cunderdin	6,157
Dalgouring	593
Dalwallinu	3,721
Damboring	565
Dangin	1,278
Doodlakine	2,657
Dornock	652
Dowerin	4,358
Dukin	738
Ejanding	1,757
Elabbin	178
Elphin	792
Emu Hill	211
Erikin	739
Eujinyn	989
Gabbin	968
Gnarving	551
Gnuca	476
Goddard	370
Goomalling	1,892
Hedges	403
Hines Hill	805
Hyden	6,267
Jingymia	751
Jura	816
Kalguddering	1,169
Kalannie	6,354
Karlgarin	1,533
Kellerberrin	5,165
Kirwan	1,477
Kokardine	1,417
Kondinin	2,469
Kondut	2,753
Konongorring	1,614
Koonadgin	438
Koorda	2,547
Korbel	1,097
Korralling	1,095
Korrelocking	1,267
Kulin	5,048
Kulja	1,146
Kununoppin	1,203
Kwelkan	353
Kwolyin	1,924
Liveseys	Nil
Mandiga	827
Manmanning	1,812
Marindo	460
Marne	1,141
Meckering	4,095
Merredin	1,879
Minnivale	1,818
Mollerin	885
Moonijin	1,771
Moorine Rock	1,838
Mukinbudin	4,465
Muntadgin	1,423
Nalkain	616
Nambling	621
Nangeenan	1,018
Narembeen	6,650

Station.	Tonnage.
Narkal	710
Nembudding	995
Nokaning	1,127
Noongaar	334
Nornakin	770
Norpa	545
Notting	449
Nugadong	1,505
Nukarni	1,458
Nungarin	2,954
Pantapin	1,768
Pederah	604
Pinjarling	1,593
Pitlura	2,405
Quadrading	3,882
Shackleton	1,652
Southern Cross	2,588
South Kuminin	672
Tammin	4,510
Tantadgin	705
Trayning	3,462
Ulva	512
Wadderin	1,037
Waeel	1,116
Walgoolan	2,475
Welbungin	1,037
Wialki	1,973
Wogarl	1,855
Wongan Hills	3,706
Woolundra	43
Wubin	4,550
Wyalkatchem	2,395
Wyola	937
Yalbarrin	350
Yarding	935
Yelbeni	1,775
Yoting	1,465
Bullfinch, Corinthian, Peril- ya—Section closed.	

QUESTIONS (2): WITHOUT NOTICE

LOTTERIES CONTROL ACT

Conduct of a Lottery by a Club: Result of Draw and Commission's Reprimand

1. Mr. TONKIN asked the Chief Secretary:

I feel there must be some misinterpretation of my question because the answer given I know to be false. Before I question the Minister further I would like to ask him did he read into this question which reads—

(3) Were all five prizes which were paid actually drawn? That the people who won the prizes drew them or that the winning tickets of all five prizes were drawn out of the barrel?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

This would make something like 35 questions that the honourable member—

Mr. Tonkin: It doesn't matter if I ask 65.

Mr. CRAIG: —has asked on this particular matter. If I answer him as best I can it is possible that will

lead to still further questions. If I may have the opportunity I would like to explain the circumstances as far as I am aware of them, because it would appear that so far the honourable member knows more about this than I do—or the Lotteries Commission, for that matter.

This club applied for a permit to conduct a lottery; and there is no question of hiding the name of the club. It is the Swan Districts Old Players' Association that conducted the lottery.

Several members interjected.

Mr. CRAIG: I would suggest to supporters of other clubs that they look to their consciences on this matter. A permit was sought by the club to sell 3,000 tickets at one shilling each. On this occasion, like so many others as applying to a permit, the club decided to print 9,000 tickets instead of 3,000. The first 3,000 were numbered 1 to 3,000. The second 3,000 also bore the same numbers but were prefixed with an "A"; and the further 3,000 tickets bearing the same numbers were prefixed with "B".

The club drew the raffle under circumstances which I conveyed to the honourable member on the advice that was given to me by the Lotteries Commission and according to the advice given to the commission by the club. In my own mind, possibly I feel the same as does the honourable member that it could be possible that not all of the 9,000 butts went into the draw but possibly that the 3,000 tickets of the original series went into the draw and the club was required—it was its obligation to do so—to pay out on the same number in the second and third series. That is the situation as far as I know it.

The other point was that I suppose the club was wise, in its own opinion, not to publish the numbers of the three different series, because that would have made public the fact that the club had committed a breach of the permit given to it. However, when the circumstances of this particular breach were made known to the commission, it took action which it considered was apparently sufficient to meet the situation. That is how the position stands. The commission has reprimanded the club and feels it was justified in doing so.

I might also say that this is a common occurrence with so many other permits granted to organisations. It is only natural an organisation or club will have more tickets printed than it is given a permit for, because it is natural to presume that not all of the tickets will be sold. I would like to leave it at that, so far as I am concerned.

Mr. Tonkin: Why not answer the question?

Mr. CRAIG: I suggest that if the honourable member has any more questions he place them on the notice paper. I think I have been fair enough.

Mr. TONKIN: The Minister is not going to get away with that rigmarole. It did not answer the fair question. Before I question him further, Mr. Speaker, I have to know whether he misinterpreted my question; because, if he did not, he gave a false answer to this House.

I think I am entitled to know whether he misinterpreted the question, because that could be the only excuse for a false answer—and I know his answer to be false; and when I say I know, I do know. I ask the Minister: Did he interpret from this question—

The SPEAKER: I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that questions without notice are not covered by Standing Orders and they are permitted at the discretion of the Speaker. I think I probably exercised a fair amount of discretion in favour of the Minister in allowing him to make a long statement which covered rather more than perhaps the question asked.

I can to some extent bear with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, inasmuch as it did occur to me that there could easily have been some misunderstanding on the part of the Chief Secretary, as his answers to questions (6), (7), and (8) were, "Yes". Question No. (7) read—

Was this "severe reprimand" phrased as follows:—

and the answer given was, "Yes". Question (8) was as follows:—

If the foregoing is not the reprimand to which he referred on Tuesday, will he supply a copy?

The answer given to that question was also, "Yes".

It is quite clear that there was some misunderstanding there on the part of the Chief Secretary. However, I do not think in the circumstances I can allow the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to go on with the suggestion that there was a wilful desire to mislead or to give an incorrect answer. I think the misunderstanding was apparent, and so apparent that one could not represent false motives to the Chief Secretary.

All I can ask is that in future the Chief Secretary read the questions rather more carefully; and ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition on this occasion to place his questions on the notice paper, because I think there has been a genuine misunderstanding here perhaps on both sides.

Mr. TONKIN: With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, I suggest you have missed the point at which I am driving. If the Minister declines to answer the question so I can determine whether he misinterpreted the question or not, I will leave that one and ask this further question: If all five prizes were drawn from the barrel, why did the club, in the return to the Lotteries Commission, indicate that only three prizes were drawn? Why did it refuse to pay more than three prizes; and did it not only pay the two extra second prizes when directed by the commission to do so?

The SPEAKER: Order! I do not think I can allow that question. Two of the questions involve the question as to why the club did or did not take certain action. The Minister cannot answer because he is not a member of the club's committee. He could answer the third one.

RESERVE AT WEMBLEY DOWNS: LAND RELEASED

Market Value

2. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier: Will he please reply to a question of mine which was not answered yesterday, which is as follows:—What is the estimated market value of the 3½ acres of land in Wembley Downs area recently released by the Government for a recreation reserve?

Mr. BRAND replied:

The honourable member gave me notice of this question and the reply is as follows:—

As previously stated, this area of 3½ acres will be part of the open space which the

State Housing Commission would have to contribute free of cost when it subdivided the Churchlands holdings. If such an area were now available for residential subdivision then the estimated market value would be £5,000 per acre.

Mr. Graham: And the rest.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 11th August, on the following motion by Mr. Rushton:—

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

May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

MR. GAYFER (Avon) [2.40 p.m.]: I support the Address-in-Reply and, together with other members, thank His Excellency for performing the important duty of opening Parliament.

I wish to say a few words on the passing of James Isaac Mann, my predecessor in this House as the member for Avon Valley. He died on the 19th June, 1965. Jimmie Mann, as we came to affectionately know him, served this Parliament for 32 years. He was born at Newcastle, which is now Toodyay, in 1893 and was the son of a Beverley pioneer who was also the town's first mayor. He was educated at Beverley and enlisted in the 10th Light Horse in 1914. He served at the landing of Gallipoli and eventually returned home to Western Australia in 1919.

He became a soldier settler on the old Avondale property in Beverley, his portion of which he renamed the Barracks. He entered Parliament as M.L.A. for Beverley on the 12th April, 1930. On the 25th March, 1950, he was elected as member for Avon Valley, in which capacity he served until his retirement in 1961.

James Mann had the respect of the entire electorate, most of which I represent, and he had the respect of everyone in this House. He was a forthright man and one who said as he pleased, and he did not particularly worry about whose feelings he happened to hurt at the time. On the 15th November, 1961, Jimmie Mann was too ill to take his seat in this House and as it was the closing of that particular session, tributes were paid to him in his absence by the present Premier and the present Leader

of the Opposition. I have looked up these tributes and I find that amongst them are statements such as this—

The member for Avon Valley was an outstanding character ... He was always straight from the shoulder. He did not care very much whether he offended or pleased. I think he adopted the same attitude in his electorate.

I would, as a beginner in politics, like to place on record my appreciation of the help and assistance Jim Mann gave me when I first entered the House, and I would like to express officially here this House's sincere condolences to Mrs. Mann and her family.

I wish to offer you, Mr. Speaker, my congratulations on your elevation to your high office for the third term in succession. I was reading a little booklet the other day entitled, "From the Speaker's Chair," and I noted a particular portion of it which I feel suits you most aptly. It reads—

The Speaker shall be a man of commanding appearance and personality,—

Mr. W. Hegney: You need not worry about Standing Orders in future.

Mr. GAYFER: Continuing—

—well versed in the use of arms and carrying with him his spiritual sword and his physical sword.

Of course you and I understand exactly to what that alludes, Mr. Speaker, and I would say that those words are very apt in your case—and I do not mean that in a derogatory sense.

However, for the benefit of some of the members who may not know, in the old House of Parliament, in the first instance the Speaker used to sit on the floor of the House with the full Parliament assembled around him. There was neither Government nor Opposition. They were all doing their best and deliberating under the excellent guidance of the chairman of the day.

Mr. Graham: They still do their best.

Mr. GAYFER: When a division was taken—and I understood these divisions were quite exciting—the Ayes went to the right and the Noes to the left, and they always used to form up three sword lengths away from each other, facing each other. The idea was that when they faced each other, some were not in accordance with the views of the others, so out came the swords, and the chairman had his sword, and he leapt into the fray as you did today, Mr. Speaker, and tidied up the argument.

Mr. Hall: How often did they change the Speaker?

Mr. GAYFER: The position of the Speaker as we know it came from the fact that the occupier of that high office

would have to report the proceedings of the day to the Sovereign. He would have to get down and say, "We, your servants humbly pray," and therefore he became what is known as the Speaker for the House of authority. Eventually, to show he had the authority of the Sovereign to conduct such meetings, he was, of course, given the mace as a symbol of sovereign authority. So much for that.

I would like to congratulate my ex-colleagues who have now become new Ministers. I say ex-colleagues because they have taken on a higher office within this Parliament, and I wish them well. However, there is one point that I have noticed since these Ministers have been appointed, and I am not quite sure I really like it.

Ministers, in my opinion, represent to the people a symbol of the Crown, or a part of the Crown. They are direct representatives of the Crown and, as such, they appear officially at different times. Yesterday I noticed out in the drive two ministerial cars; and what I am going to say really dates back to the time of one of my colleagues, the late Hon. C. C. Perkins. I do not like ministerial cars being any other colour than black. I sincerely think the car is a symbol of Ministers' authority. It is not their car to choose their own colour, but it is provided for them to serve the position for which it is allocated.

Mr. W. Hegney: They look like they are going to a funeral in black.

Mr. GAYFER: These are my views and I am entitled to express them.

Mr. Graham: What about blue and black.

Mr. GAYFER: As far as the colour black is concerned, if members are worried about the heat or any other such argument, the cars could possibly be given a white top, the same as in Queensland.

A member: Come on Swans!

Mr. GAYFER: I feel that the black is a symbol of authority, and I frankly believe that black looks 100 per cent. better on civic occasions. I feel that the Minister should take a black car the same as he takes on the office, and he should not be allowed to have a colour of his choice. He might not be using it for long, in any case.

Mr. Graham: Now you are talking!

Mr. GAYFER: I would like to congratulate the new members. I, of course, am also a new member. However, I happen to remember something which Walter Bagehot said in his writings on the English Constitution. It reads—

A Parliament is a big meeting of more or less idle people.

I do not think that generally applies to this Assembly. We know how hard working everyone is here. As a matter of fact

we can see that from the attitude they are adopting at the moment. It seems I have already driven them to sleep. However, we are all active politicians in this Assembly and are hardworking individuals. I feel we have much more to do in our electorates than our predecessors. The calls on us are more numerous, perhaps because we have motorcars. But we really are part and parcel of our electorates, much more than the old fraternity. So, if anyone does say that we are a meeting of more or less idle people, he should be treated with scorn.

The member for Maylands and the member for Balcatta have been very constructive with their thoughts about juvenile delinquency. The member for Balcatta wants to build an oval; but I do not quite see his argument, because he was talking about youth watching interstate matches. However, he did say that it could be used for youth displays and so on at a later date, and I agree with him on that point. However, as a football ground alone, I have different thoughts about that.

The member for Maylands also made some remarks referring to other centres which catered for the enjoyment of children after hours. He mentioned hours during the night, and spoke about billiard saloons and squash courts. Those are very nice avenues for recreation. It was also mentioned by that speaker, and also by the member for Murray, that there is child delinquency and parent delinquency; to which I would like to add another and say "paper delinquency."

I do not think the newspapers are helping us to try to control our children after they leave school or are helping us with regard to the enjoyment that is provided for them to share in at nighttime. I refer to certain advertisements which the newspapers allow to be placed in their editions. On Friday, the 6th August, *The West Australian* contained an advertisement for the Odin drive-in theatre.

Mr. Graham: It is in Balcatta.

Mr. GAYFER: That explains a lot. The picture advertised would entice quite a number of youngsters along, because it states, "Suitable only for adults." In my opinion that does not mean a thing. The picture contained in the advertisement shows two women cavorting around a tree called "The Fertility Tree" and another picture shows two women looking at each other above the heading "Women Marry Women." The picture is called "The Mating Urge." The main picture in the advertisement shows a bare beauty of Bali, and the film is about women when they are out to catch a man. I am not being facetious.

Mr. Bickerton: Neither are the women.

Mr. GAYFER: The advertisement says that the picture is "In Blushing Eastman Colour." For Heaven's sake, I ask: What

colour is "blushing"? I do not know what type of person this advertisement hopes to entice.

When a similar picture was recently showing at the Savoy, a friend of mine who is interested in youth work—he is a scoutmaster—went along to have a look because he had heard that the theatre was filled with children even though the picture was advertised for adults only. The picture was called "London in the Raw." The show is about what happens in London after nightfall. I cannot repeat in this House the exact words my friend used when he told me about the picture, but by and large it was not very much of a show. However, it was interesting to know that the average age of the people in the theatre and in the queue waiting outside the theatre was about 17 years. Those young people were queued up outside the theatre even though the picture was labelled "Suitable only for adults." That brings me back to "The Mating Urge" which was also labelled "Suitable only for adults."

On the same page in the paper there is another picture advertised at the Piccadilly which is called "Hot Enough for June." It contains a picture of a scantily clad woman standing alongside a man with a gun.

Mr. Graham: That is customary.

Mr. GAYFER: This picture was labelled "Not suitable for children." I want to know if there is a standard classification placed on films so that one is suitable only for adults and one is not suitable for children.

I think the newspapers should help us. We do not want to hide sex. That is not our object. Our object is to stop the lurid descriptions which only whet the appetites of those who go along expecting excitement for their enamoured being. I think something can be done by the newspapers to help us.

There has been a lot of talk about that taboo subject of traffic control. It is *sub judice* as my friend, the member for Melville, would say. It is a favourite expression of his, and it is a good one. I do think that in our safety drive and our urge to do something to help solve the traffic problem, we have lost sight of one occurrence which is fairly common within the city area. I am not a prude, but I do think that kissing and canoodling in moving cars should be just about out. Yesterday morning, when I was on my way to the House, I pulled up behind a car in Thomas Street and there were a couple in that car kissing at 8 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. W. Hegney: Perhaps they had been on night shift.

Mr. GAYFER: I think this is a matter which could be looked at and taken heed of. I feel sure that all of us, as we drive

along the roads, notice that this is not an uncommon occurrence. I cannot help but think that some police and traffic branch officers should be watching this action—

Mr. Graham: And the reaction.

Mr. GAYFER: —a little more closely. I am sure that members who have a sense of responsibility have noticed how ripe that sort of thing has become within the streets of our city. So much for that. As a member of the National Safety Council, I brought the matter forward and also brought it to the notice of Commissioner O'Brien, who is the late Commissioner of Police.

Mr. Graham: He is still with us.

Mr. GAYFER: I mean the ex-Commissioner of Police. After yesterday's Safety Council meeting he was almost the belated commissioner; but that is another story. When I drew his attention to this matter he told me that the police are watching for this type of offence among young people. It does not occur only with young people: Recently I saw a bald-headed man involved.

We seem to be in a boom period within the State, if I may say so. I quite agree that the boom period we are experiencing in the north-west of our State is definitely being reflected in the city area. The Premier and his Ministers, or Parliament, or the Government as a whole, or whoever has been responsible for setting the ball rolling has done an excellent job for Western Australia.

However, I do think the results of this boom in the north-west, or its reflection and effects, are somewhat misleading. The point is that some of our ideas, such as in regard to the Ord River, are not meeting with a ready acceptance in the Eastern States. I am hopeful that in the very near future the Ord River scheme will receive full support over there; and I think the Premier and the Minister for Industrial Development, and all the other people concerned with the project, are doing a very good job in trying to get some recognition of the scheme as a whole.

As a matter of fact, they have succeeded to a large extent, because I have with me a 66-page edition of *The Sydney Morning Herald* and in those 66 pages the paper was depicting progress throughout Australia. We rated pages 64 and 65, and so I think we did fairly well; we could have made page 66! When I say that, I am not slinging off at our efforts, but am merely pointing out the acceptance of Eastern States people of our projects as compared with their own.

I wish the Premier well in his negotiations for more money for our northern areas, but I fully realise the difficulties with which he is faced, particularly when one reads articles such as the one in *The*

Sydney Morning Herald. I would also like to compliment you, Sir, on the wording of the article under your name.

However, to return to the boom period about which I was talking, it is not reflected generally throughout the State. In the wheat and sheep areas that I represent, the economy of the farms at the moment leaves a lot to be desired, following two very bad years for wheat and low wool prices. We have to realise that the income of the State and the income of Australia as a whole are interdependent; and the money position at the moment is very difficult because more and more people are trying to borrow money from the banks to enable them to carry on.

When we look at the statistics we find Australia is the 13th largest trading country in the world, the third biggest exporter of agricultural and pastoral products, but the ninth largest importer of industrial products from overseas. We have to be a large exporter of primary products in order to pay for the goods that we want to import and which we cannot produce. Unless we can export large quantities of produce, it has an adverse effect on the economy of Australia generally. In fact, only twice in the last 15 years has Australia as a whole earned enough from her exports to pay for her imports, plus freight.

Mr. Rowberry: How does Great Britain get on?

Mr. GAYFER: I do not know. How does she get on?

Mr. Rowberry: She has an adverse balance with us.

Mr. GAYFER: She has a crook Government! Dealing with this adverse trading position, we must realise that wheat and sheep products represent the major portion of our income from exports. Australia's adverse balance in overseas trading last year was almost in direct proportion with her fall in farmer-earned exports. For instance, wool returns went down by £78,000,000; and with wheat, although in parts it was a bumper year the returns throughout Australia will be down considerably.

In Western Australia we have had two very bad wheat seasons—not throughout the whole of the State but in a large part of it—and this is having an adverse effect on the position of farmers generally. We have had many instances of farmers going to the banks for carry-on money and being knocked back. Some have been refused money to enable them to carry on and others have been refused an extension of their overdrafts. I noticed, on reading the *Parliamentary Debates* for the House of Representatives for the 27th April, 1965, the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, had this to say—

I have discussed this matter with the Reserve Bank, which has regular consultations with the trading banks.

The Reserve Bank has again assured me that it is well understood by the trading banks that preferential treatment in the provision of finance to rural industries is in accordance with Reserve Bank policy.

The trading banks are by far the largest group of suppliers of rural credit in Australia and, although most of their lending is by way of overdraft, which in form is repayable at any time, in practice much of it is longer term. Further, in April, 1962, special arrangements were introduced to enable the major trading banks to make fixed term loans for capital expenditure in the rural and other fields. Within the rural industries term loans are made available for the purchase of land for development, heavy equipment, building and fencing, land clearing, pasture development and herd improvement. Loans made under this scheme range generally from three to eight years or a little longer.

He went on to say—

The Reserve Bank has emphasised that it has been traditional for the trading banks to give specially sympathetic consideration to the requirements for bank finance of primary producer clients in areas adversely affected by seasonal conditions, and I have no reason to believe that they will not continue to do so.

In this State at present when a person goes to his bank and asks for an extension of his overdraft he comes up against the same old answer, "We have not got enough money to lend you or to extend your overdraft to enable you to carry on for another year," even though this year could be a good one following the two bad ones that we have just had.

If the State Government could make some representations to the Reserve Bank explaining that there are certain areas in the State which require special allowances because of seasonal conditions, as is the position in New South Wales because of the seasonal conditions in that State. I think possibly it would enable many farmers to carry on.

This is not a joke; times have never been so lean as far as I am concerned. Generally speaking, the financial position of most farmers is not good. It is impossible to get money from the banks. They have no money, irrespective of how willing they might be to lend money if they had it.

The economy of Australia as a whole depends to such a large extent on primary production that everything possible should be done to help the farmer so that we can increase our returns from exports. We can only increase our exports by greater primary production; not by holding back for two or three years in an effort to save

money and catch up on a lean period. Our income has increased by 91 per cent. since the war, but the cost of the commodities we have to buy in order to produce that income has increased by 141 per cent. Those figures can be checked by reference to statistical returns.

In Western Australia our wheat and sheep farms average out at a capital cost of £41,000 per holding, and for each holding the average gross return received by the farmer is in the vicinity of £11,100, which is a return of 25 per cent. on the capital invested. There is no other industry, secondary or otherwise, that has a capital outlay of that magnitude in order to receive the same financial return. The only way we can possibly do it is by increased production. If we increased production by 25 per cent.—and that is not difficult, because we have been able to do it in the last few years—our profits could be twice as much as they are at present due to the fact that the initial capital outlay has already been expended. The only way by which we can increase our production is to adopt the new methods open to us; that is, by the provision of water and even electricity supplies, because electricity supplies play a part in this when supplied to the farms in general.

If one were to visit the older farms in the old Avon electorate—which properties have reached the stage where they can intensively progress further—and look at them in the new light of increased production per acre yield one would ask oneself: 'Should our forefathers have denied this particular area the right of having water extended to the very doors of the farms?' At present these are the matters which are concerning us. They are essentials which we must have even if we have to install them ourselves. I say that because finance for bores and dams, such as is advanced in certain parts of the State, is even not available in my electorate.

Therefore, when we are trying to increase production in this old area of Avon, we must necessarily have Government capital works in progress because there is no other way that the farmers in that area can obtain water. I can think of turkey-nest dams and a dozen other schemes that are followed in various parts of the State to overcome lack of water, but we must have extra finance to carry out the work ourselves, or have the work done for us as it is in other parts of the State. It is possible to do so much in an old area such as the Avon Valley area provided the amenities are made available, and I regard water and electricity as being two of the most important amenities.

I would point out that there is hardly one extension of the electricity main to any farm in the whole of the York district. In the Shire of Corrigin, 98.9 per cent. of the community have applied

already for extensions of the electricity supplies despite the fact that they are aware that the S.E.C. will not make any extensions to that centre before 1968. Despite this, as I have said, they have already applied for the extensions of the electricity mains because they want them and most will pay cash.

Mr. Rowberry: What, on the bank?

Mr. GAYFER: Yes, from the bank; because, in my opinion, this system of farms being supplied with electricity and given 30 years to pay back the capital outlay is a good one, instead of the farmer having to lay all the money out in one hit. In other words, if the complete capital outlay is made by any one group the S.E.C. gets back only 3 per cent. of the capital each year. If greater inducement were offered towards getting cash paid into the S.E.C. I think electricity extensions could take place more rapidly than they are now.

Mr. Brand: We will be looking at this.

Mr. GAYFER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. I am pleased about that. Actually, I did not intend to bring it up this afternoon. The point is that the general impression held in the city is that farmers are wealthy men. The one idea seems to be that if one leaves the city and gets out on to a farm one will pay for it in no time. I can assure members of this House that this is an entirely wrong—

Mr. Rowberry: Conception.

Mr. GAYFER: Yes, conception; I thank the honourable member. It is an entirely wrong conception of what is actually occurring in these areas. I would be pleased to take anyone to the farming areas and let him have a heart-to-heart talk with any one of these worthy beings who produce so much wealth for Australia. I can recall looking at the back of one of the newspapers from Northam the other day and reading an article that was published by it. Evidently the waterside workers had visited Northam to enlist the sympathy of the farmers in that area before their intended strike on Wednesday last, which became a reality. The cartoon that was published by that newspaper was quite correct in what it was trying to convey. It depicts a farmer who is sitting on a garden seat and on his knee he is holding a weeping, terrifically big lump and the impression that apparently is being conveyed is that the waterside workers did not realise that the farmers were having such bad times themselves. This is quite true.

Generally, the farming areas that have enjoyed two lush years of wheat production—that is, in the last two seasons—are doing reasonably well this season, but there are tremendous areas stretching right through my electorate and through the electorate of Roe and further south where they have had two bad years. In some instances the situation appears to

be growing better, but members can rest assured that is not the case in places such as Gnowangerup and Many Peaks. Feed is dying right through those areas, and many farmers are facing their third year of adverse economy.

Last year the Government set up an authority known as the flooding water and erosion committee to investigate, throughout the whole State, flooding conditions in all areas and the tendency for salt encroachment which follows such flooding. It was instructed to give particular attention to such conditions during the last two years. That committee has already been carrying out its duties and I understand that in January last it published a report. This report on the areas it has visited is now before the Minister or Cabinet, and I would like to say to the Minister who has the responsibility of studying this report that if it is issued there are pros and cons with which he will be faced. Firstly, the question is: Is the benefit that will be derived from such an investigation sufficient to warrant the expenditure involved?

In my electorate I canvassed 23 farms which embraced 65,090 acres of land. The approximate acreage in that area which was subject to floodwaters was 11,590, representing approximately 16 per cent. of the whole. The salt land which is now within that area, and which has been claimed by every farmer to have been caused by floodwaters, represents 3,588 acres out of the total of 65,090; and the salt encroachment of the whole area over the last three years has been 11,080 acres. The uncleared land which is subject to flooding in an old area such as this is only 383 acres of uncleared land. When 16 per cent. of the land in one area which is in the centre of the Avon district has flooded conditions, a certain benefit can be expected from a project that is big enough to cover the damage caused by floodwaters. However, the question is: Is the project so urgent that other projects within the State which also need consideration are neglected?

This is a difficult one that can only be based, perhaps, on the opinion of those who are compiling the report. I have a letter here from the Minister referring to this question that says—

The years 1963 and 1964 were exceptional for the amount and intensity of wheatbelt rains. Under such conditions flooding of low lying areas appears inevitable. With a return to nearer average rainfall in amounts and intensities, it is expected that flooding will be reduced to a minor or local problem.

That is not so. This year has been an acute one so far as rain is concerned around Baandee, Quairading, out through Narembene, Hyden, and King Rock, and flooding is taking place. In comparison with the two previous years the areas

concerned are having only a mild rainfall. Already the Beverley Shire Council has approached the Commissioner of Main Roads asking for special assistance on a certain flood-crossing where the water has come out at the lake entrance in the uppermost part of the Avon River.

Of course, the important question is: Who is to pay for this, or contribute towards it? If one looks at the Victorian laws and the N.S.W. river and irrigation Acts, and all the other Acts, one must surely notice that this burden is accepted in some cases fully, and in other cases partly, by the Governments of those States. I do not think anything reasonable will be unacceptable to the farmers so concerned. The main thing they want is advice, and at this stage they need a co-ordinated plan dealing with the neighbouring areas that are being surveyed. This may be in the report.

However, I propose now to quote from H. G. Strom, who is rather an authority on drainage and river improvement. In a book of that very name—*River Improvement and Drainage in Australia and New Zealand*—Mr. Strom says under the heading "Need for Adequate Funds"—

The necessity for systematic execution of river works has been stressed, but unless funds for these works are readily available in adequate amounts, systematic control of a river in any reasonable time becomes impossible. The temptation is then to carry out works sporadically along the river at points where the need or the demand for them is strongest, and to leave the rest for another time.

I ask the Minister, or Cabinet—or whoever the report comes before—in their perusal of it to make certain of this important part of the development of this State; to make a good job of the entire holding or training of these waters which are taking so much of our land away from us. I suggest that we make a proper survey, and not just drive around in a motorcar and attend a few isolated meetings. We should see exactly what the opinions not only of the farmers but also of the departments concerned really are.

Admittedly there are engineers looking at this problem, but I do not think they are too well versed in farming practice as a whole. I only hope, sincerely, that if this matter is tackled it will be tackled on a large enough scale to give sufficient relief, as has been found so necessary in the Eastern States.

Finally I would like to say one word to the Minister for Works. I have written repeated letters and received repeated replies from the Minister in regard to the problem at Brookton, where the water is particularly discoloured. The water is supplied to Brookton from a dam which itself is filled by means of pipes from the Wellington Weir. At the moment

there is a dry cleaner at Brookton who is about to fold up his business because of this discolouration in the water. What makes it worse is the fact that this is one of the few industries we have in Brookton. The dry cleaner in question serves Brookton, Beverley, and the adjacent areas. The colour of the water, however, is such that he will be forced to give up his business occupation there and move somewhere else.

I repeatedly receive letters from the baker, and from the householders themselves, who ask why, if they have to pay a flat rate for water, they should not get the same water as other people who pay a flat rate. It is not a bad argument either. I know I have been told over the last three months that I have been wrong about this particular problem, and the Minister has said he is sending an investigator to look at the position.

If it is possible to put in a reservoir and let the water go from the Wellington pipes into the reservoir, and from that reservoir into the town supply it would be a much cheaper method of providing Brookton with water, than would the establishment of a filtration plant at the dam site. In cases of emergency the old dam could be used.

MR. SEWELL (Geraldton) [6.27 p.m.]: I wish to join with other members in congratulating you, Sir, on again being elevated to the position of Speaker of this House. I also join with members in saying that I believe you will carry out your duties in a correct and proper manner. I wish to congratulate the Chairman of Committees, and the Deputy Chairmen of Committees. To a lesser degree they will have to take their share of responsibility in the conduct of the House and see that it is run as it should be.

I would like to support the member for Avon in his remarks concerning newspaper advertising and the sensationalism enjoyed by people from some of the advertisements put forward not only for the theatres—as illustrated by the honourable member—but also from the methods of advertising clothing for both sexes in this country.

My criticism applies only to the metropolitan newspapers of this country; I am sure it does not apply to the country newspapers. It certainly applies in a greater degree to the periodicals printed here and to those brought in from other places. I do not think anyone who knows me would say that I am prudish; but I do think that the illustrations—and in some cases the straightout photographs—are deplorable, and are downright out of place in the society we like to think we enjoy in Western Australia. If the time ever comes when we will have some control over these matters, and if I am still here and my support is required, I will be quite prepared to

support any measure of control on this type of advertisement, or whatever one might like to call it.

I understand that in America, and now in Great Britain, there is talk about controlling advertisements on TV and in other places in relation to the advertising of cigarettes. Personally, I think the advertisements referred to by the member for Avon and by myself have a far more detrimental effect on the young people of our country than the advertisements for tobacco and cigarettes.

I now wish to deal with the electorate which I have the honour to represent. There is no reason to question that it is the most important one in this State. Naturally other members may believe their own electorates are the best, but figures prove that the Geraldton electorate is the foremost in Western Australia.

Before I continue I would like to congratulate the new members who have been elected to this Chamber. The older members have all been through the mill, because at one stage they themselves were new in this House. The newly-elected members might feel some sense of frustration in their first three years in this Parliament, but they will have to get over that. In all probability they believe that their electorates are the most important, and that the development and the public works required in those electorates should receive urgent consideration. They may wonder why money is not available to carry out the work. Those of us who have been through the mill know the story. It is a matter of waiting for one's turn, and of keeping one's case before the departments concerned; if that is done most of the needs of their electorates will be attended to.

Another matter which concerns the people of Geraldton and its district is the deepening of the harbour. We are getting to the stage when the land-backed wharf will be used for the export of iron ore from Yandanooka and Talling Peak. Members have heard a lot about this subject in this Chamber from the Premier, the Minister for Industrial Development, and myself in the last two years. It is a very important matter to our district. We are concerned that nothing definite has been put before us in connection with the letting of the contract to deepen the harbour and the approaches to the wharf at Geraldton.

We are aware that a contract has been let by Western Mining Corporation for the transport of iron ore to Japan. Apparently the ships using the harbour will be of shallow draught and of the old type, so for the time being the trouble will be overcome. But not many years will pass before it will become necessary to deepen the harbour in order to cope with the

larger vessels which will carry the iron ore and wheat from Geraldton. It is essential that the approaches to the wharf, and the harbour be deepened as soon as possible.

Another matter with which we are very pleased is the finding of gas and oil in the area which serves the port of Geraldton; that is, in the Greenough electorate, and also in the Exmouth Gulf area. What I am going to say will not be said by way of criticism of the people concerned. We know that oil has been found along various parts of the coast, and presumably large quantities of gas also exist in those areas. If this gas and oil can be produced economically, who will derive the benefit? Will it be Geraldton, Greenough, Western Australia, the Eastern States, or some foreign country? Because of the conditions which apply today, and the mineral wealth which is found in this State, within a very short period of years huge industries will be established for the manufacture of iron and steel.

If we allow the position to grow, as it seems to be growing, we will end up in the next generation or so in the same position as our goldfields. All we will have then will be a few holes in the ground, but the industries which that wealth will bring will be established in other parts of the State, or other parts of the world. Consideration should be given to protecting local interests where oil finds are developed; and industries should be established in those districts.

A further question I wish to touch on is the extension of water supplies for the Geraldton district. As the Minister for Works is aware, the position in Geraldton has improved to a large extent in the last year or two, but we are a long way from being out of the woods. The department is pushing on with the sinking of bores and the provision of pipes at Allanooka, and the town of Dongara will be served by this supply. It seems that the rate of progress is too slow. It is over 12 months since the decision was made to develop Allanooka as another source of water supply for the Geraldton and Dongara districts, and the proposed abattoirs at Narngulu.

Last year the Treasurer, in presenting the Annual Estimates, included £100,000 for work on the Geraldton water supply from Allanooka. On that occasion I drew his attention to the fact that in view of the rising cost of commodities the £100,000 would not go very far; I thought the amount should have been £300,000. I maintain that my guess on that occasion has turned out to be correct. In the initial scheme that £100,000 will not go very far in the sinking of bores, and in the provision of pumps, pipes, and other essentials. I hope the Minister will tell me that his department has already spent £100,000 on that work, and is prepared to spend more.

He should not take a great deal of notice of the amount which was shown on the Estimates.

The building of the abattoirs in my electorate, which has been spoken of a great deal in this Chamber and in the districts represented by the Premier and me, seems to have reached the stage where the people have become disappointed. Instead of having Government abattoirs, as was the intention in the first place, after the change of Government the present free-enterprise Government gave a certain amount of assistance and advice, or reached a decision that those abattoirs ought to be established privately by utilising a firm which now does most of the abattoirs work in the Geraldton area. We all know what happened to one of the partners of the venture. He fell by the wayside financially, and since then we have not been told what is to happen to those abattoirs, or how far the Government is involved to ensure they are established in the townsite of Narngulu.

Along with those abattoirs would naturally be an annexe and freezing works; and the intention would be that they would be controlled by a co-operative—that is, by the farmers themselves—for the purpose of slaughtering any surplus fat stock on their farms for export overseas. This would be separate from the abattoirs which would supply the market in Geraldton. We would like to know from the Government and from the Minister representing the Minister for Agriculture just what the position is at the present time so far as the provision of abattoirs for the Geraldton region is concerned.

The crayfish industry, in most cases, has enjoyed a very profitable season. There have been prosecutions for various offences under the Act, and I understand the Minister intends to strengthen his hand by making provision for more severe penalties. I am not one who believes in heavy penalties; but as the majority of fishermen in my area are quite agreeable to the penalties suggested by the Minister, I do not think there is very much I need worry about in that connection.

Apart from the Minister and the Director of Fisheries, I do not suppose anybody else would know the real value of the crayfishing industry to Geraldton. If that industry were to be cut down in any way through the fault of the Government, the department, or the fishermen themselves, even to the extent of 10 per cent., or 20 per cent., it would be a serious blow to Geraldton. I think the Minister would understand that.

Unfortunately there is not very much in the way of industries as yet in Geraldton, although the town is certainly progressing. It has made wonderful progress in the last few years; and if those concerned believe increased penalties will stop the poaching

of crayfish—if I may use that term—that is, the taking of undersized and spawning crayfish, they will be doing a service not only to the town of Geraldton, but to the industry generally.

I also understand from the Minister—if I may use this out of school, Mr. Minister—that in regard to the people who infringe the law and deliberately try to ruin the fishing industry, the conduct of the fishermen at Geraldton has been good. The department is pleased with the attitude of those fishermen, and the catching of undersized crayfish cannot be laid at their door. That is to their credit, because they know how important the industry is, not only to themselves as individuals and to their families, but also to the State and the Commonwealth of Australia. Therefore anything that might be done to help those fishermen in the way of amenities on their wharf—the fishermen's wharf, or jetty, as we know it—will be welcomed. The wealth they bring in to our town is much greater than most people would realise.

I now wish to speak about water, a subject mentioned by me previously in a small way. I refer now to the damming of the Chapman River. We have heard the member for Gascoyne speaking and asking questions in connection with the Gascoyne River and we all sympathise with that honourable member and agree that what he suggests should be done; but I believe that if the Government department concerned made officers available to check the flow and salinity of the Chapman River at various times and ascertain the right siting of reservoirs, we would find that £500,000 or £1,000,000 spent over a few years would be money well spent.

We know the river is brackish right through the summer months because the creeks that run from farmers' fields have been allowed to turn into salt or magnesia and they feed into the river. However, there are other times when the river would run fresh during the winter season and we are short of water, not only in that area, but all over the State. We heard the member for Avon speaking about the oldest settled part of the State—Beverley and York—being short of water.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.6 p.m.

Mr. SEWELL: We have heard a great deal in this Chamber, and we have read a lot, about the desalination of water. It has been thought that if this were accomplished it would overcome our difficulties in this State, particularly in the drier areas. However, unfortunately, to my knowledge nothing has been effected along these lines up to date. We are aware that the Minister has been answering questions in this connection this week, but until something very definite has been achieved by our scientists we have to rely on the sources we already have; and they are mainly bores and reservoirs.

Reverting to the proposition I mentioned to the Minister in connection with the Chapman River at Geraldton—the Gascoyne and Carnarvon areas can be dealt with by the honourable member concerned—I believe the Government should make a large sum available for engineers to explore the possibility of conserving water in the Chapman River.

It has been said that the water is brackish and not suitable for human consumption; and unfortunately that is correct. However, people do not realise how much progress has been made in the last 20 to 25 years. Even in this country a lot has been done with weirs and reservoirs involving both brackish and fresh water. Anyone who is inclined to doubt what I have to say in that connection, should consider the Murray River in South Australia, and particularly the area where the river runs into the sea at Goolwa. The inland sea known as Lake Alexandrina, which was as salt as the sea, has now been turned into fresh water. It has taken a great number of years, but the task is almost completed.

The proposition I have in mind would not involve a tithe of the money or time. The Chapman River needs to be tested to see for what purposes the water could be used. I believe it would be valuable for tomato growing, agricultural purposes, and for use in Spalding Park. This is an area set aside a number of years ago for the recreation of the people. It is endowment land and is one of the very few spots in our area which could be turned into a satisfactory park and tourist attraction.

If the water that was conserved in the first place in a smaller weir were not used for any other purpose than for making a park in the area, it would certainly be worth the money which was spent. There are no doubts in the minds of all of us who have any association with the area that it could be a place of real beauty. The Tree Society has taken great interest in the area and planted trees. A botanical garden has been commenced with the assistance of the people who control King's Park—Dr. Beard and his officers.

We have a lot of trees and plants which are not natural to the area. The soil will grow practically anything, provided it has water. We also had practical assistance from the Minister for Railways when he gave permission for the old Northampton-Geraldton railway bridge to come under the control of the council. All of these things have helped; and, if the Minister for Public Works has not had representations made to him in recent days, he will certainly receive plenty in the future for provision to be made on the Estimates so that something can be done to control and dam the waters of the Chapman River. I believe it is a wicked waste to see thousands and thousands of tons of

fresh water running into the sea during the winter months. It should be conserved for the growing of food.

Referring to the tourist industry, we know that the Treasurer is the Minister for Tourists in this State. I would say that, generally, the tourist bureau in the metropolitan area and the bureaux in the various country towns are doing a good job. Anybody who moves around will see cars not only from all over Australia, but from other parts of the world, driving through our countryside; and that must have a very good effect because, in most cases, the countryside is well worth looking at.

I have had representations made to me relating to tourists who wish to come to Western Australia from Queensland, South Australia, and portions of the drier areas of New South Wales. In our State we have the Warburton Range Mission, and a permit is required to travel through that mission. As I understand the position, the control by the native welfare department in South Australia is much stricter than that exercised over the native missions in this State.

As has been pointed out to me, tourists who wish to come to Western Australia have to go to Port Augusta, unless they want to cross a rocky desert further north. I think the distance is between 700 and 1,000 miles further. The proposition put to me was that if the tourists could come down through the mission stations in South Australia—perhaps taking in Ayers Rock—through the Musgrove Range and the Warburton mission, and then through to Laverton, Leonora, and the eastern goldfields, or across from Laverton to Meekatharra and Carnarvon, they could save 700 to 1,000 miles. When one looks at the map one can see the reasonableness of the proposition.

At this stage, nobody is asking for a black road, because the traffic, for a great number of years, would not warrant such a road. However, grading and forming would provide a track quite suitable for people who are holiday-bent and who wish to see this portion of the State. We know it is true—and perhaps the emphasis has been laid a little too heavily on the fact—that progress is being made in our north, particularly in regard to iron ore and mineral deposits.

I mention that matter for the benefit of the Minister who controls the funds of the Main Roads Department. I think the Federal Government should be interested in the proposition because it would be of great assistance to Eastern States people who wanted to visit Western Australia. Their journey could be reduced by 700 miles if they were able to cut straight across from Queensland and northern New South Wales to our goldfields. The proposition has much to commend it, and it has my full support.

Electric power is a subject about which we hear a lot in this Chamber, and naturally so, because it is a most important part of our way of living today. It is important not only for private homes, but also for industry. Geraldton is fortunate that it has its own power station. Because of the good advice given to our local authorities, they did not sell to the Government at the price proposed, which I considered at the time was a bargain.

The Treasurer may not agree with me but I have always maintained that where people have something which really belongs to them, such as the State Building Supplies—but that is another question—and, in places like Geraldton, Bunbury, and Albany, electricity supplies, the people look upon them as a natural birthright; and, if others want that birthright, in my opinion, they should be made to pay very highly for it.

We have heard the member for Albany complain—and rightly so—of the treatment Albany has received from the State Electricity Commission in connection with breakdowns since it has taken over the Albany power station. As I said, fortunately for Geraldton we have not yet been put in that position. The S.E.C. is in the area and has reached the town boundary and taken the power lines up to Northampton. At this stage, I believe it would not be a paying proposition; but I would be the last one to worry about that, because if ever a town needed power it was Northampton and the area around that town. My complaint is that progress is too slow.

The same thing applies in connection with our water supplies. The people in the Glenfield, Waggrakine, Utakarra, and Moonyoonooka districts are small farmers and tomato growers. The tomato growers have had a tough time over the last three or four years, but this year the season has been better.

Getting back to electricity, earlier today in this Chamber I heard the member for Avon mention how important it was to have electricity on the farm. Just as it is important for the farmer to have electricity, I think it is far more important that the small gardener should have it. The tomato growers and small gardeners have to depend upon electricity for pumping their water and operating the various grading machines on their properties. I would like the Minister for Electricity to make a note of the fact that I am again raising the question that I think the areas previously mentioned by me—and I repeat them: Glenfield, Waggrakine, Utakarra, and Moonyoonooka—need electricity. Narngulu will probably get electricity much sooner than the other areas mentioned by me because the abattoir and saleyards are to be put there.

Another matter that is causing a good deal of concern to people who have to pay freights on goods transported by road and

rail is the completion of the coast road from Geraldton to the metropolitan area. Recently the Premier told a deputation how much money had been spent on the present road, which, generally speaking, follows the Midland railway line. We have no quarrel with what is being done to that road. The department is making quite a good road of it, but still a lot of work has to be done in straightening out certain sections of it and removing corrugations.

However, the position is that with the provision of a coast road, the distance would be shortened by some 70 miles. Some people say it would be 60 miles, some say 70 miles, and others say 80 miles, so I will stick to 70 miles, which is half way. The building of a coast road would mean that goods for Geraldton, which cannot be grown or manufactured in that town, would have to be transported 70 miles less, with a consequent saving in freight rates. Members can imagine the huge extra cost involved in dragging goods for an extra 70 miles on each trip over a period of, say, 12 months.

It could be said that we should use the railways; but I would remind the House that a great deal of produce is carted by road transport because of the service provided as well as for other reasons. Members can realise the great saving there would be in freight on beans and bananas from Carnarvon if a coast road were built. The costs involved in operating a 15-ton or 20-ton truck are considerable, and any distance that can be saved in travelling means a consequent reduction in freight charges.

So, in view of the so-called progress of the State, about which we hear so much, I think the Government should give serious consideration to making an all-weather or black road available along the coast to link Carnarvon, Northampton, and Geraldton with the metropolitan area. If the building of this road reduced the cost of living by only a small amount it would be worth while.

There is also the other road to which I referred previously, and it has also been mentioned by the Treasurer—I refer to the road which serves the midlands and the north midlands as well as people travelling through to the Murchison. The money that has been spent on that road has by no means been wasted, because it is serving a useful purpose. I repeat that I think careful consideration and thought should be given to the building of a new black road along the coast, and to the maintenance and improvement of the old road through to Geraldton.

The Geraldton Regional Hospital, the building of which was such a vexed question for a great number of years, is nearing completion, and the people of the Geraldton district are rightly proud of the

new structure. There is only one regret I have in connection with it. Recently our old and esteemed friend, Emil Nulsen, who was one of nature's gentlemen, asked me how the regional hospital was progressing. I told him we were all very pleased and satisfied with the progress that was being made, and he was very pleased to hear it. My only regret is that he will not be here to see the opening of that hospital.

However, that is the way things go, and I was very pleased that I was able to tell him before he died how well the hospital was progressing. Members will realise, of course, that Mr. Nulsen was an ex-Minister for Health, and, as Minister, he had a great deal to do with the early negotiations and plans for the hospital.

Other hospitals in the district, including the one staffed by the Sisters of St. John of God, the Government hospital, and the maternity hospital, are being maintained in good condition, and the hospitals and grounds are well cared for. As far as I know there are no complaints about any of them, and I would be the first to know if there were, as members would realise, because the same sort of thing happens in all districts. The department, the matrons, and the staff of the various hospitals are to be commended on the work that is being done.

The regional hospital, when it comes into operation, will be of great assistance and will provide facilities which will help stabilise Geraldton as the natural centre for that part of the State. The same applies to schools. We in Geraldton seem to be particularly fortunate with the schools we have and with the staff who are transferred there by the department from time to time. However, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister for Education to the fact that we still require an assembly hall for the high school. I would also draw the Treasurer's attention to this matter, because he has practically promised that something will be done. In addition, a canteen is urgently required; and I am sure the parents and citizens' associations of both schools—the primary school and the high school—will not let anybody rest until an assembly hall and a canteen are provided.

A new school has been built at Bluff Point on a new site, and this has replaced the old school, which has outlived its usefulness. That school is a credit to the architects, to the department, and to the contractors who built it. The grounds are not all that the parents would wish them to be, but they are being improved as quickly as the parents can get the work done.

At Rangeway, a new suburb, we have a completely new school, and provision has been made to upgrade it. At present it caters only for students up to the third

standard, but I understand it will be upgraded and new classrooms will be built as required. In view of the large number of new homes being built in the area by the State Housing Commission, and others—but particularly the State Housing Commission—it will not be long before additions to that school will be required. If the department has not already been asked for money to be provided for those additions, it will not be long before that request is made.

Mr. W. Hegney: Where is Rangeway?

Mr. SEWELL: It is on the Mullewa-Geraldton road, just before one gets to Uta-karra. As regards housing, generally, Geraldton, like every other town in Western Australia, is short of homes. When the shortage will be completely overcome I do not know, but the department seems to be doing its best to meet the position. We can only hope that it will not slacken in any way in its efforts, but will get into still higher gear; and if, for instance, instead of providing us with 10 houses a month, it can provide us with 15 or 20, it might overcome some of our problems.

I should like to draw the attention of the Minister for Housing to the question of flats for elderly people. The provision of these flats was first advocated by the member for Balcatta, when he was Minister for Housing, and the first units were built during his regime. As far as my area is concerned, these flats have served a very useful purpose and the only complaint I have is that there are not enough of them. They are ideal for elderly couples because they are not too big and there are not many rooms to clean up. Also, everything that anybody wants is in them, and they are very popular.

In addition, there is the question of housing for single people, and we do not seem to be making much progress in this direction. A few years ago I was fortunate enough to get a grant of £12,000 from the Lotteries Commission for the building of flats for two-unit families—this was before the State Housing Commission started building these flats—on a reserve vested in the local council.

The latest information made available to me by letter from the committee that controls the building of these flats—thanks to the Lotteries Commission—is that the Pensioners' League of Western Australia is now more or less taking control of this area and has initiated a move to have flats built for single units. That will be all to the good; and, in my opinion, any assistance that is forthcoming for such purpose will be welcome. Flats have been constructed for similar units in the metropolitan area, particularly for widows and elderly women; and I think that similar amenities should also be provided for such women in the country, particularly in the district of Geraldton.

I now wish to speak on the vexed question of central traffic control. This is a subject which is the centre of controversy throughout the State. So much has been read of the points in favour of traffic being under the complete control of the police and, conversely, the argument that a better job is performed by the local authorities. Now that the Government has decided to set up a committee to investigate this problem, I hope a thorough probe will be made; and that, from the findings, a sound system will be put into operation for the handling of traffic as soon as possible for the benefit of everyone concerned.

We have been told that the control of traffic in the country should be taken away from the local authorities and placed in the hands of the police; but would this result in a lesser number of accidents occurring on our main roads? We know, of course, that it would not, because, unfortunately, we seem to be living in an age when speed is the paramount consideration for a large number of people. For the sake of speed this group of motorists seem to throw caution to the winds. Among the accidents which have occurred in my district in the last six months, the three or four that come to my mind were not fatal. In a stretch of a few miles of perfect road several cars have overturned. They were not even negotiating a bend or a curve, and the drivers of the vehicles were not intoxicated. The principal cause was excessive speed. Unfortunately drivers of light cars do not know the dangers they face when they drive at excessive speed, and the fact that their vehicle can overturn so easily.

The lessons that can be learnt every day in travelling along our highways seem to have no effect on such people. There is no doubt that the safest way to travel from one side of the city to another is to get into heavy traffic and follow it because it is under control and one is much safer; but how that can be achieved when one is driving in the country, I do not know. Unless the police can extend their activities to maintain control on our roads all the time, the present rate of accidents will continue. Therefore one can only express the hope that those who will be appointed to this committee to investigate traffic problems will be men who have a full understanding of the situation and carry out their task thoroughly and efficiently.

Too many valuable lives—mostly young people—are being lost as a result of road accidents today, some of which have been their own fault and some have been the fault of others. The sooner this toll is arrested the better it will be for the whole nation because it is a complete waste of life, limb, and property.

It has occurred to me that perhaps a separate body could be appointed to control traffic throughout the State. This body need not necessarily have power to issue licenses or to receive money for registrations, but it could be given complete control over traffic. Some people will immediately say, "You would only be setting up another department and appointing more officials, which would mean the expenditure of more money." However, as far as I am concerned, if the establishment of a new department, no matter how much it cost, resulted in the saving of the lives of many young people and, in turn, prevented the grief that is experienced by their mothers and parents in general, it would have my complete support.

I am fully aware that such a suggestion would be subject to criticism; and I suggest, in all sincerity, that the investigations of this proposed committee be started as soon as possible so that a report can be made to the Minister in charge of traffic for the ultimate consideration of his fellow Cabinet Ministers, and that the findings of the committee, whether it recommends that the control of traffic be in the hands of the police or shared by local authorities in the country, be implemented as expeditiously as possible.

MR. DAVIES (Victoria Park) [4.36 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, I join with previous speakers in congratulating you once again, on being re-elected to the honoured position that you hold in this Legislative Assembly. I appreciate the assistance you have given me over the years. When I say "years" it sounds as if I have been here a long time. That is not so, because I have been here only four years. Nevertheless, I am grateful for the guidance you have given me, and I know it has been extended to the newly-elected members in this House; and that, irrespective of party, those members can always rely on you for guidance and assistance.

I also congratulate the newly-elected Ministers and hope they will not conform—as the member for Avon desired them to do when speaking this afternoon—by having black cars, the same as their fellow Ministers. One of the greatest dangers in Australia today is the desire to conform. Probably it has been considered for too long that Ministers should have a black car, and I can only hope that the newly-elected Ministers will stick to their own principles not only in respect of this matter, but also in respect of other matters on which they consider their opinions are right, either inside or outside the Cabinet room.

It has been so long since Parliament last sat that it is rather a problem to know where to begin to speak on various matters that one would have liked to air in this Chamber in the intervening period

between the last session and the current one. In fact, there are so many subjects that could be raised that it takes one a long time to work out which are the important ones, which are the ones that can wait, and which are the ones that one was unable to handle successfully by correspondence and regarding which one is left with the only alternative of airing them in this Chamber.

I had hoped that the Government would decide to hold two sessions of Parliament every year. I know that sittings of Parliament impose a strain on the Ministers, but I do not think any greater strain would be placed on them if we had two sessions annually. It would certainly spread their parliamentary work over an extended period. I think we will eventually have two sessions every year, and if we keep hammering away at it our suggestion will be implemented sooner than we think. I say that because many matters that have been propounded from this side of the House have found favour with the Government and steps have eventually been taken to follow the suggestions that were put forward.

I do not have to remind members that suggestions which have come from the Opposition side of the Chamber in the last four years on matters which have been favoured by the A.L.P. have subsequently become Government policy, or were suitably attended to in this House.

In speaking to the Governor's address made at the opening of this Parliament, I do not suppose it is wrong to say a few words about what was contained in it. During this debate I have not heard much comment on it; and I suppose, in point of fact, there is not much comment that one can make about it, because it is a recital of the position of the State in various aspects of government which merely brings us up to date and repeats much of what the newspapers have already published; or it perhaps acquaints us with what the newspapers have omitted to mention.

I think most members are interested in the legislation which is forecast in the Governor's Speech when opening Parliament each year. I have come to learn that it is not the matters that are forecast that are of interest, but the matters that are left unmentioned which usually provoke the greatest debate and dissension.

In commenting on the legislation that is forecast, I would say there is very little to excite us during the pending session. His Excellency mentioned a Bill for an Act to amend the Coal Mine Workers (Pensions) Act. That has been brought about by the unfortunate flooding of the Hebe mine. In the circumstances the Government could not do much less than offer some relief, by an amending Act, to help the unfortunate people concerned.

Among other legislation which was forecast is a Bill for an Act to amend the State laws to provide for the introduction of decimal currency. This, of course, is contingent upon the action taken by the Federal Government, and is not a brain-child of the present State Government. Also mentioned is a Bill for an Act to amend the Fisheries Act to increase penalties and to provide stricter control of cray-fishing. Of course we have been talking about this for the last four years to my knowledge, and it was only when the Press mounted a campaign that the Minister for Fisheries took any action at all.

It is little comfort for us on this side of the House to know that we have been right all along; that what we said was correct; that the crayfishing industry was running down fast. However, thanks to the Press—and we must thank the Press sometimes—some action is to be taken to control and protect the crayfishing industry.

Another piece of legislation that was forecast by His Excellency was a Bill to establish a housing death benefit scheme to help, when the breadwinner dies, families who are buying State Housing Commission homes. I think proposals in this regard were brought down by the Australian Labor Party in the election before last, and we have spoken about this matter for some time. I am pleased to see the Government has taken it off us, and that it will be introducing legislation itself. The Government knows a good thing when it sees it.

It was also forecast that the Government would introduce a Bill for an Act to enable the distribution of certain petroleum products in certain country areas to be subsidised. This, however, again depends on action to be taken by the Federal Government. I think we have been waiting for action in this direction for two years, and apparently the question is likely to be brought to a head this year. It will be brought to a head at some cost to the community, and we shall watch with interest the type of legislation that is brought down.

The last measure forecast is one in which I have been particularly interested. It is a Bill for an Act to permit the subdivision of buildings into separate units or lots, and to permit titles to be granted in respect of each unit or lot. This is a matter in relation to which I asked one of my first questions when I came into Parliament; and I have asked several others since. That was four years ago; and although four years may not be long by Government standards, I should certainly have thought that something would transpire before this. However, we are thankful for small mercies, and we shall expect suitable legislation to be brought down. A lot of people are concerned, and a number of men will have some of their

housing difficulties overcome if they can obtain separate titles to home units or duplex units.

I would like to say a word of appreciation of the Prime Minister's action in at last agreeing to a matter that has been for years advocated by the Australian Labor Party. I refer, of course, to the appointment of an Australian as Governor-General. I was surprised, indeed, to see that Lord Casey was appointed, but I was nevertheless delighted. The mere fact that he is an Australian will ensure that he is good for the position, irrespective of what we think about whether or not we should have a Governor-General, or whether we need one. I do not think we do. But while we have one I am pleased to see that Lord Casey has been appointed, and I congratulate the Prime Minister on his choice.

I wonder, however, whether the Prime Minister is not having some second thoughts on this appointment, because in *The Australian* of the 10th August under the heading, "Casey: Asia Socialism Not Bad" we find the following:—

The Governor-General designate, Lord Casey, said last night that socialism was not a bad thing for Asia.

Speaking in a television interview, he said: "I am not sure that if I was in their position, I would not be a socialist too."

I am sure this will shock the Prime Minister; that it will come as a blow to him; because, after all, Lord Casey must remember he is only an Australian—an Australian who, at last, has been appointed Governor-General. Perhaps Lord Casey might have to watch his step, if he keeps on saying things like that.

Incidentally, although this article was on the front page of *The Australian*, I did not see it reported in the local Press, but perhaps I ought to know better than to expect articles like that to be reported in our Western Australian newspapers.

I would also like to congratulate the new members who have come into this House, although we are sorry to see them here from a political point of view. I would like to remind them that they have replaced many good members from this side of the House, as we, and as other people, would agree. We nevertheless recognise that this is the game of politics and we welcome those new members here. It has also been most refreshing to find that some of them have already spoken to this debate. There are some members on the other side of the House whom I have not yet had the pleasure of hearing speak, and for that reason it is very good to see the new members hop into the debate.

I might warn the new members, however, that this is possibly the last time they will have an opportunity to speak this session. They may not be aware of the fact,

but the Government does not like its private members speaking; it likes to handle things itself. If members look at the records since this Government has been in office they will find that very few private members have spoken on matters before the House. All the debate has been left to the Ministers; not because the private members are not capable, but because this is the policy that has been adopted.

However, we hope this will not be the case, and that we will hear their contributions to the debates. They are always welcome, because we always like to hear other people's points of view; and as long as the new members do not step out of line, I should imagine the Government might be prepared to allow them to speak occasionally.

I said earlier that the Ministers should not change the colour of their cars to please the member for Avon; that they should not conform, because this question of conformity is a matter of great concern to many Australians. I am constantly amazed at the lack of interest people show in matters outside their immediate sphere. These days they seem to believe they are getting along all right and do not need to think for themselves; they are not interested in debating any question, apart perhaps from the football, or the cricket, or the racing results, and that seems to be as far as they are prepared to go. They do not want to be disturbed. They are well off, and they are enjoying an affluent society for which they must be thankful to the many hard-working people who made this country what it is today.

Today the average Australian does not want to be disturbed. He is a generous person and will donate 10s. or whatever he can afford to a charitable appeal. He will support extremely generously flood relief, spastic, and other similar appeals; but that is as far as he will go. If he were to be asked to go out and act as a collector in some appeal, to help in a youth club, or to give an hour of his time to transporting aged people around, I think in most cases he would give this answer, "I am sorry, but not this week." It always seems to be an inappropriate time.

The average person seems to want to move in his own circle, and to conform. As far as Australia is concerned that is a danger. The people have grown up among radicals and they have a fine record of fighting to make this country a better place to live in; but now that some degree of affluence has been established, I feel there is a danger of it slipping, because of a lack of interest, and because of complacency. People do not seem to want to upset anybody.

I have found this being extended to the University in regard to a recent matter on which I asked some questions

in this House. For reasons best known to itself, the University was not anxious to assist in the conduct of a teach-in which was recently organised; and it was hoped to hold it in the University. This was a teach-in to discuss the position in Vietnam.

Teach-ins are a relatively new form of discussion. In fact, *The Australian* of the 1st August, 1965, said that they were commenced only in the middle of last year in America. They are described as discussions on particular subjects by all parties concerned, to represent all viewpoints, with the idea of giving anyone interested the opportunity of hearing the discussions and forming his own viewpoint. I would like to quote from that article. It states—

Hasluck Not Happy—But Teach-Ins Are In.

Because of his stormy reception at the Monash University teach-in, the Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Paul Hasluck, may never speak at another—but his presence gave the teach-in movement the seal of Government recognition.

Mr. Hasluck on Thursday night spoke to a sceptical audience and is reported to have fared badly against speakers like Dr. J. F. Cairns, Labor MHR, and Professor W. Macmahon Ball.

The article went on to give the history of teach-ins, and pointed out that they had been held very successfully throughout the U.S.A.; that they had been held in the Queensland, the Australian National, and the Monash Universities; that teach-ins had already been planned for the Sydney and the New South Wales Universities; and that Melbourne, Adelaide, and Western Australia were expected to follow.

Earlier this year the Church and Community Committee on Vietnam was formed. This was composed of a number of lecturers and academics from the University; several Labor supporters, of whom I was one—I represented the Parliamentary Labor Party—and members of the clergy. I do not recall any member of the Roman Catholic Church taking part, but most of the Protestant faiths were represented. The committee comprised 16 to 20 in all. They held a very successful silent vigil in the Wesley Church grounds on the lines of the one conducted in Canberra. I say it was successful, although efforts were made by some right-wing parties to disturb it.

The Church and Community Committee in furthering its activities decided to hold a teach-in on Vietnam. This appeared to be a highly desirable idea, because the R.S.L., through its national

president, has stated twice in recent days that Australians do not know why Australia is fighting in Vietnam, and that greater efforts should be made to acquaint the public with the reasons for our troops being there. It would appear that many people do not know what is going on, or that there is a desire to have some form of discussion to acquaint them with the position.

Apparently the Church and Community Committee on Vietnam applied to the University for the use of Winthrop Hall to hold this gathering. I did not know the committee had applied, and the first I knew of the application being refused was from an article which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 3rd August stating that the Senate had not given any reasons for not allowing the hall to be made available for the purposes stated. The final paragraph of that article is as follows:—

Professor C. J. B. Clews, acting vice-chancellor of the university, said last night he could not comment on the senate's decision because it had been made in committee.

It having been made in committee, that was the proper comment to make.

However, I was not satisfied with the position. I was disturbed to learn that a ban had been placed on the discussion of such an important subject, and that the teach-in could not be held at the University. I therefore posed a question to the Premier in this regard on the 4th August. Although it was not incumbent on the Premier to obtain the information I desired, he went out of his way to do what he could. My question was—

Was permission given by the University authorities to an organisation to conduct a "Teach In" on Vietnam in the University Arts Lecture Theatre on Thursday, the 5th August, 1965?

The answer given by the Premier was—

Permission was not sought.

That rather surprised me, in view of the article which had appeared in the newspaper. I discovered I had made a mistake. I asked whether permission had been requested to use the Arts Lecture Theatre at the University by an organisation. In fact, permission had been sought through a member of the faculty for the use of that theatre, and that request was denied. No official request had apparently been made to the senate at that time.

Subsequently I learnt the Church and Community Committee had made a request, so I proposed a further question to the Premier. Again he was good enough to get me the answer, which was on the following lines: The Church and Community Committee had applied for the use of Winthrop Hall, the request was rejected by the

Senate of the University, and the reason for the rejection was that that committee was not a recognised education organisation.

The day I got the answers to that question, Professor Clews must have had second thoughts about his various statements and there appeared in *The West Australian* an article under the heading, "Speech Not Restricted at University" and Professor Clews said he wanted to allay any possible fears that open discussion was being stifled at the University. There was no reason given initially for the refusal to allow the use of Winthrop Hall, but Professor Clews, two days later, decided to give the reason and it was that the request was refused because the committee was not a recognised organisation.

I want to know when an organisation becomes a recognised one. What do you have to do to obtain the recognition of a body such as the University? Did the University endeavour to find out who the committee represented? Was the University aware that there were many of its own staff concerned with the proposed teach-in and desired some help from the University?

Mr. O'Neil: Do you know the reason why they specifically asked for it to be held at the University rather than some other public hall?

Mr. DAVIES: When I started to explain what teach-ins were I said they were also held at the Australian University, the Monash University, the Queensland University; they were proposed at the Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide Universities; and started in America where the form of discussion was sponsored by universities.

Mr. O'Neil: I can give you a copy of an American magazine, *The Saturday Evening Post*, which tells about the growth of teach-ins in America and how it came about.

Mr. DAVIES: I have given my reasons and have answered the questions from information I have been able to get; and I would suggest that even *The Saturday Evening Post* slants articles the way it wants them to be slanted. I have not seen the article, but I can say that after teach-ins started in America, President Johnson apparently sent out what he called, "truth squads" to try to put his point of view.

The important point is that it made people think an avenue was being provided for discussion to let those interested know what was going on. At the teach-in which was subsequently held at Kingswood College, there were all kinds of speakers. There was the miniature Menzies, Gordon Freeth, a Labor senator from South Australia, the secretary of the Communist Party of W.A., the secretary of the D.L.P., lecturers in law, lecturers in philosophy,

and a South Vietnamese student. They are the ones I can bring to mind at the present time. This gave an opportunity for one to hear all points of view so one could make up one's own mind. I might say it was very successful indeed. There were some 500 or 600 people there and they were fairly orderly, except on one or two occasions when provoked. Some sections were well represented. I know for a fact that on the afternoon of the teach-in word went out and the Young Liberals were busy organising members to attend.

Although the organisers of the teach-in had hoped it would be a reasoned academic discussion, the fact that sections of the community tried to make it political destroyed its purpose to some degree. However, after Mr. Freeth had had his say and provoked a lot of people, the rest of the evening went off very well. It is interesting to note that in the air-mail edition of the *Daily News* of the 6th August appeared the front page headline, "Freeth Provokes Angry Scenes," but this headline in the local edition was altered and the article transferred to an inside page.

The important point is that there appeared to be fear by the University that if it allowed an open discussion on a subject such as this, it would upset somebody—probably the Federal Government. I do not think it would have any concern about upsetting the State Government. After all, it gets a lot of money from the Federal Government; and when the Government speakers at these teach-ins started to get a bit of a thrashing, I am sure the Government would not be happy about that continuing. Perhaps this could be the only justifiable reason—I do not think it is a justifiable reason—for not allowing the teach-in to take place at Winthrop Hall.

Subsequently, the Australian Student Christian Movement made an application through the Guild of Undergraduates for the right to use one of the physics lecture theatres; but, here again, apparently because of fear of somebody being upset, nothing came of the application. I cannot find out what transpired because no-one is prepared to speak, but I understand the application was made to the registrar and no official reply has yet been received. However, the verbal reply was that this affiliated body—an apparently recognised body—could not have the use of the physics lecture hall. I do not think the University is being quite honest; indeed, I think it is being childish. I look upon it as a restriction of free speech at a time when we would be happy to see the University and the community getting closer together. Instead, they are getting further apart. I say it was disappointing and disheartening to see the University wanting to conform. That is all I want to say about that.

A mystery to many people is the accounts they receive from the State Electricity Commission. Here I had better make myself quite clear, or I will be accused of attacking everyone in the State Electricity Commission. My remarks are directed against the top administration of the State Electricity Commission and its attitude to the public.

Matters recently under discussion in this House have been the cost of gas and the cost of electricity. We all know that in 1963 a new method of assessing electricity charges was introduced under which a flat rate of 10s. appears to have been added to all accounts. No public announcement accompanied this change, and no-one knew anything about it until the accounts were sent out. Queries were then raised, and the State Electricity Commission stated that it had introduced a new system of accounting.

If members look at an account for electricity, they will find there is a reading of the total number of units consumed and the total cost. It is not possible, from seeing the account, to work out whether one is being overcharged or not. There is nothing on these accounts to indicate what the price per unit of electricity is.

Yesterday I asked the Minister representing the Minister for Electricity when the commission ceased to indicate on the accounts, the charges for electricity. His reply was, "Approximately 15 years." I cannot blame the Minister for the reply he gave because it would have come from the State Electricity Commission itself. However, apparently someone in the commission has a very poor memory because I have here two accounts from 1960, and the electricity rates are shown. Of course 1960 is not 15 years ago, and the rate is shown in a very concise manner and enables anyone with an elementary education to check the calculations on his account.

The fact that the rates were shown five years ago would indicate that the commission either does not want to have the rates put on or that it cannot put them on. The official reason for not including them was—

The capacity of the billing machine in use would not allow the printing space required to show the rates when assessed to the second decimal place.

The best I can do is be charitable and say that the commission did not understand my question, because even when the rates were shown on the accounts five years ago they were not shown where the billing is done. I asked the Minister—

Would it not be reasonable to show the cost per unit of electricity so that consumers can check the calculation of accounts?

There was no reply given to that particular question. Apparently the Minister has no opinion on it at all.

If the commission could do it five years ago, why not now? Are people not entitled to know what they are paying for electricity? Does the commission want to change the rates again without advising anyone? Up to date the commission has altered the rates, and no-one is any the wiser as to the reason until inquiries are made.

The same applies to gas accounts. We all know that from the 1st June—probably we all do not know—a service charge of 3s. a month or 9s. a quarter was added to all accounts. One month later the Chairman of the State Electricity Commission (Mr. Jukes) deigned to advise the public on this; and that was probably instigated by having to reply to a letter which had been written to *The West Australian* asking the reason for the 9s. charge.

Mr. Bovell: Mr. Jukes is the general manager, not the chairman.

Mr. DAVIES: By golly, I am sorry! I apologise, Mr. Minister.

Mr. Bovell: The apology is accepted.

Mr. DAVIES: I apologise to the Minister and Mr. Jukes. I will now call him the general manager.

Mr. Jamieson: You should apologise to the chairman, too.

Mr. DAVIES: Yes. I cannot imagine Mr. Jukes apologising at any time, but will say a few words about that later. The S.E.C., in reply to a letter to the paper, announced that the new system of accounting was adopted to conform with other Australian States. Mr. Jukes does not say all of the Australian States, but the implication is that it is done in all the other States, and we are doing it here. However, the system is not adopted in Queensland or in New South Wales. Whether the article in the paper was deliberately worded that way or whether it was rewritten at the newspaper office, I do not know; but the fact remains that a service charge was imposed and we were led to believe it was imposed in all the other States.

This service charge applies to all gas accounts. It does not matter whether the consumer uses 12 units of gas or 3,000 units. Apparently everyone pays a flat rate of 9s. a quarter. At the time the charge was imposed it was claimed that a reduction had been made in the price of gas; and this is so because, according to an answer the Minister gave to me yesterday, there is a reduction of .05d. for the first 3,000 units.

Each unit costs a twentieth of a penny, so there is a saving of a twentieth of a penny for every unit used up to 3,000 units. Therefore if a consumer uses 2,160 units he will have saved his 9s. service charge. However, I would say that no

domestic user would use anything near 2,160 units. The most he would use would be 600 or 700 units; and so once again the small consumer is paying more and the large consumer is paying less, because the more he uses the more money he will save. Many industrial concerns or business undertakings would use more than 2,160 units, and so their accounts each quarter would be much cheaper than under the old rates.

The same applies to the electricity accounts, on which a charge of 10s. was added. The only people who were really hit were the small consumers, including the pensioners. This is typical of the attitude of the present Government to certain sections of the community. Those who are in the best position to pay are the ones who are enjoying the greatest benefit, while those who are least able to afford to pay are the ones bearing the brunt; and these, of course, include the pensioners, from whom I have received letters complaining about the method of assessment. Mr. Jukes stated that the proposed new charges would bring about £70,000 a year to the commission. He stated that on the 2nd July, but on the 11th August the Minister stated that the amount would be approximately £50,000.

I want to emphasise the attitude of the S.E.C. to the consumer. The charges are altered and no-one knows anything about it until complaints are made. In the case to which I referred a complaint was made a month later, and that is when the information was divulged. The same attitude is adopted in many of the dealings the commission has with members of the public. However, this does not apply so much to the general clerk or the ordinary office worker. The higher up in the administration we go the worse the attitude becomes; and when we get to the top, to the general manager, we do not get anywhere at all.

I had some personal experience earlier this year when a brand new church in my electorate wanted the electricity supply connected to a certain point. However, this did not conform—here is that word again—to what the S.E.C. desired. The commission had no regard for the aesthetic appearance. It said that all the connections were made to such-and-such a point, and the same was to apply to the church. I am not going to weary the House by relating what transpired, other than to say the church authorities were able to answer every objection raised by the commission as to where the meter box should be put.

In one of my letters to the Minister I stated that if the commission could demonstrate that the request made by the church was impracticable, unreasonable, dangerous, or seriously breached established principles, the church would be only

too happy to comply with the commission's directions. But the commission could not. It was impossible to justify any of its arguments, but it had the law on its side and it won. The commission said where the electricity was to be connected, and there was nothing that could be done about it.

I took the minister of the church on a deputation to the Minister for Electricity, and with him was the general manager, Mr. J. B. Jukes. I might say that the Minister for Electricity need not have been there for all the contribution he made, because Mr. Jukes did all the arguing. In fact he was over-anxious to argue, very often interrupting in the middle of a sentence to put his point of view without listening to the other side.

I was very disheartened by the attitude of this man, and no doubt many other people have had similar experiences. I will quote one or two. One person wrote to the Ombudsman in connection with the extension of the electricity to his establishment in Jandakot. The reply he received commenced as follows:—

Pity the poor consumer if he gets the same run-around from the SEC as I got.

When I approached SEC manager J. B. Jukes about your problem he told me he refused to do business with consumers through the newspaper. His only suggestion was that you should again see the SEC's relevant department.

It was the same suggestion he gave me—go back and see the officers, knowing all the while that no-one has a chance, no matter how reasonable his argument, of upsetting the decision already made. I do not know whether the officers are afraid to depart from a strict interpretation of rules and regulations, but that is the opinion I formed.

Another reply the Ombudsman gave when dealing with a disgruntled consumer was—

Dealing with the SEC is always a wearying experience and in about seven days of inquiries I accomplished no more than your seven years of battling for power in Victoria Road.

It is quite apparent that the S.E.C. feels it has a monopoly of power supplies and can do what it likes, because that is exactly what it is doing. It is about time a more reasonable approach was made to the representations made to the commission. Surely it can listen to argument; and, if it is beaten on all points, it should be able to unbend and not fall back on the fact that it has a monopoly and has the law on its side and can therefore do what it likes because no-one can

do a thing about it. I have more extracts here but I am not going to weary the House with them.

I would now like to ask the Government to try to do something about noise in the community. Members might recall that earlier this year in Victoria Park an open air picture theatre gardens, no longer in use for that purpose, was used for a teenagers' stomp. This occurred over the Christmas period and early in the New Year. Not only did it drive the local residents crazy for some miles around, but they in turn gave me a considerable amount of worry. They also gave the Lord Mayor a considerable amount of worry, and they gave the Commissioner of Police a considerable amount of worry because of the nuisance that was coming from this dance. I spent many hours at the dance at times, right through until 2.30 in the morning.

A member: Were you making the noise?

Mr. DAVIES: No; I was not making a noise, although I was there on New Year's eve. The teenagers at the dance enjoy themselves, and there is nothing very much that one can take exception to in their behaviour. On the whole, they were a pretty ordinary run-of-the-mill crowd of teenagers. When the rougher element appeared, they were quickly marched on their way.

The origin of the trouble and complaints came from the band. Apparently the band can only play for an hour at a time, and as soon as one band finishes another one starts. On the hot evenings this cacophony of sound carries up to two miles. I was getting complaints; people were ringing me at midnight and, later, asking what could be done. As I have said, they were not only ringing me but were also ringing the Lord Mayor, councillors, and the Commissioner of Police.

Of course, this has always been a problem and it has been with us for a long time; that is, noise coming from entertainment. Apparently, because this problem has been with us for a long time, that is sufficient reason for nobody to do anything about it.

I have been doing some research into the matter; and, incidentally, I have had several letters written to me reminding me that some action will need to be taken in case a similar dance opens in the same place next summer. During the research I carried out on this problem of noise, the best I could find was the final report of the Committee on the Problem of Noise. This committee—a British committee—carried out investigations for several years from all aspects into the problem of noise. The report provides rather fascinating reading, and it scotches several myths about noise and brings out several

other attitudes which I had not even considered. The report is well worth studying. For instance, when dealing with the effects on health the report reads as follows:—

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely an absence of disease and infirmity."

That is the definition of the World Health Organisation. It goes on to say—

For the most part, people's well-being is diminished by noise, so in this sense of the term there is no doubt that noise affects health.

The report then points out that there are a great number of noises in the community; but that, in point of fact, there is no evidence that those noises affect the health of the community either physically or mentally. However, they do so when there is repeated interference with sleep. This is least to be tolerated, because prolonged loss of sleep is acknowledged as being injurious to health.

This, of course, was where the stomp, which was conducted in Victoria Park, was creating a nuisance: it was loss of sleep not only to adults, but also to children. As we all know; on summer evenings most houses have their windows and doors open, and the music from the stomp was carrying up to two miles away. I heard it myself from two miles distant. It always depended on which way the wind was blowing. Some residents would complain at one time, and when the wind was blowing from the opposite direction I would get it.

At the time, everyone was concerned and making statements in the paper and saying that something would have to be done; the noise could not continue; but at the same time the teenagers had a right to enjoy themselves; and so on, including one of two comments by myself, of course. Since then nothing appears to have been done about the problem. The Perth City Council was going to amend the by-laws to provide power to take action similar to the method whereby it can restrict the use of loud speakers for advertising.

Although the dance is public, it takes place on private premises; and, provided the Health Act and health regulations are being complied with, there is little the council can do. Apparently, however, the Perth City Council was unsuccessful in amending its by-laws.

Of course, this is not a matter that applies only to the Perth City Council. There are complaints from all parts of the country about all kinds of noises.

In 1960 the British Government introduced a law known as the Noise Abatement Act, and it became the law of the land on the 27th November, 1960. Under this Act, in certain circumstances, there are provisions for three separate people

to make complaints to a magistrate, or to make complaints through their local authority to have noises stopped or abated. Of course, the Act sometimes clashes with local by-laws; and I believe there are some 400 local authorities in England and about 20 local Acts containing provisions similar to those in the Noise Abatement Act.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Crommelin): The honourable member has another four minutes.

Mr. DAVIES: Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker. That will be the end of my noise! The point I want to make is that although this report recognises it is a difficult problem, and that there is a clash of State law with local government by-laws, nevertheless, an attempt has been made, and apparently quite successfully, to introduce some sort of legislation to try to control noise.

I do not propose that the Government should set up a committee to investigate the matter. Goodness gracious me, we have enough committees in operation at present! But I think officers who are already working in the Public Health Department and in the Police Department could examine this report and from it see what could be done to bring into being in this State some simple legislation to overcome the problem. As the community grows we will have more troubles with noise, and now is the time to attack the problem; to see whether we can grow up by limiting noise as much as possible and where there are genuine grounds for a complaint, to provide an avenue for people to do something about it.

At present, as members will no doubt be aware, there is nothing that can be done, as was evidenced by the position in Victoria Park where a nuisance was created by the playing of band music. The police could not do anything; the council could not do anything; and the Government could not do anything. It is a problem that should be tackled now; but, as I said, I do not want to see a committee appointed to inquire into the position. All that need be done is for the officers I have mentioned to read the report and they will find all aspects of the problem are dealt with, and those officers can then apply the remedy to this State. It is only a matter of the department taking an interest in the problem, and it is a great problem.

The problem was in Victoria Park last summer, and it could be in any other electorate next summer. Some law should be introduced to control it; and as it seems the local authorities are not going to take action, we will have to ask the Government to do something about it.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. I. W. Manning.

House adjourned at 5.35 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 17th August, 1965

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The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.