

Amendment thus negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Third Reading

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central) [11.45]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [11.46]: I am sorry I have to rise to my feet in a situation such as this. I had already indicated to Mr. Baxter that it would be better for him to move the third reading tomorrow, and he agreed that he should. Then, following on other advice, he decided to move the third reading tonight. I had a purpose in asking him to move for the third reading tomorrow. I realise that I have asked for the suspension of Standing Orders, and when a request such as I have made is agreed to, the honourable member should adhere to his decision.

A difficult situation developed tonight, and when the honourable member was asked to move the third reading of the Bill tomorrow it was done with a view to giving him an opportunity to consult with others on a situation in which he now finds himself; namely, having had to vote for an amendment moved by Mr. Abbey against the interests of the Bill, but still finishing up with the Bill intact as Mr. Baxter desired it. It is too late now, because the honourable member has moved the third reading of the Bill.

As to Withdrawal of Motion

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: Would it be competent for me, Mr. President, to withdraw my motion in view of the remarks expressed by the Minister?

The PRESIDENT: I do not think I can agree to that request.

Debate Resumed

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Legislative Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 2.30 p.m. tomorrow.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 11.48 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 2nd November, 1960

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Retrenchments in the South-West

1. Mr. MAY asked the Premier:

(1) Is it correct that men have been retrenched from Main Roads employment in the south-west districts?

- (2) Is it also correct that employees on Public Works water supplies projects have been informed that they will shortly be dismissed from their employment and told to seek alternative employment?

Replacement by Mineworkers

- (3) Are these workers being retrenched in order to justify the promises made by the Government to mineworkers of alternative employment?
- (4) If this is true, does not the Government feel that it has an obligation to all workers in this State?
- (5) And further, if workers are to be retrenched in order to provide alternative employment for mineworkers, will not the effect be the same on Collie and all other south-west townships?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not any Public Works Water Supply employees in the south-west have been or will be retrenched for reasons other than the completion of the work for which they were specifically employed. Some retrenchments for this reason have been made at Wellington Dam on completion of the work of beautification.
- (3) No.
- (4) Answered by No. (3).
- (5) Answered by No. (3).

MINeworkers' PENSIONS

Increases

2. Mr. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

In view of the speed with which the Government is seeking to dismiss mineworkers, can it not use the same alacrity in increasing mineworkers' pensions in line with the Social Service pensions of 10s. per fortnight and the increases already made to retired coalmine workers in the Eastern States?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

The Minister for Mines does not feel obliged to answer a question couched in these terms, save to say that consideration will be given to the matter of pensions in due course, as it was during 1954 to 1959, in the years of the previous Government, when 613 persons registered under the Coal Mine Workers (Pensions) Act were displaced from the coalfield.

STATE HOUSING COMMISSION HOMES

Vacancies in Guildford-Midland Electorate

- 3A. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

What number of State Housing Commission houses are vacant at Eden Hill, Midland Junction, and Koongamia?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Eden Hill—Nil.

Midland Junction—One rental under offer.

Koongamia—One rental under offer and one reverted: sale price is being assessed.

McNESS HOMES

Erection in Guildford-Midland Electorate

- 3B. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

Are any Mc Ness homes being built or likely to be built in the Guildford-Midland electorate in the current financial year?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:
No.

RAILWAY SERVICE

Extension to Helena Vale Siding

4. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

In view of the support given to the Koongamia extension from the Bellevue rail service, will he arrange for a similar extension to be made to the Helena Vale siding to cater for foothills and Swan View residents?

Mr. COURT replied:

Following other requests for a passenger rail service to Helena Vale, the commissioner has had an examination made of the passenger potential and available transport in this area.

Only a limited railway service could be provided to the Helena Vale Station, and the number of passengers that could be anticipated from such an arrangement would not warrant the extension. The Metropolitan Transport Trust operates a bus service to serve this area, and any extension of the railway service to Helena Vale could have the undesirable effect of reducing the earnings of this bus service and making its future operation uneconomic.

MR. EDGAR ROSS*Visit to Western Australia*

5. Mr. O'NEIL asked the Premier:

- (1) Is it a fact that Mr. Edgar Ross, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Australia, recently visited Western Australia?

Association with Coal Strike

- (2) Had this visit any connection with the coal strike?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This is not known, but I am informed that Mr. Ross was met on arrival at the Perth Airport by Mr. W. S. Latter (President of the Coal Miners' Union), using the union car.

On Sunday, the 30th October, Mr. Ross addressed a Communist-sponsored meeting on the Perth Esplanade—which was advertised in the Communist newspaper *Tribune*—on which occasion he introduced Mr. Jack Marks, another well-known Communist, as “Mr. Jack Marks, a leading member of the A.E.U., who has been actively engaged in the past few weeks in the industrial struggle at Collie.” Mr. Marks opened his address by stating that he was, as described by the chairman, active in the Collie struggle.

EAST KIMBERLEY LEASES*Resumption from Absentee Landholders*

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

- (1) As no decision has been reached in respect of the resumption of the eroded areas (as referred to in Question No. 18 on the 27th October) can it be assumed that the Government and the representatives of the absentee leaseholders have come to an agreement?
- (2) If so, will he give the House full details of such agreement?
- (3) If not, have the absentee leaseholders made any request for the retention of those areas; and, if so, what are the terms of their request?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) Negotiations are proceeding satisfactorily although no finality has been reached. In the meantime work is proceeding by mutual arrangement to take full advantage of the seasons.

BANK HOLIDAY*Gazetted of Christmas Eve*

7. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is it a fact that he received a request from the Associated Banks to have Saturday, the 24th December, 1960, gazetted as a bank holiday?
- (2) Is it a fact that he refused this request; and if so, why?
- (3) Is he aware that all banks will be closed on that morning in the States of Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, and that the matter is under consideration in New South Wales and Queensland?
- (4) If the answer to No. (2) is in the affirmative, is it not a fact that this is the first instance where any State Government has refused to gazette a bank holiday when requested by the Associated Banks?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) A request was received from the Associated Banks in Western Australia seeking approval for bank holidays to be observed on Saturday, the 24th December, 1960; Monday, the 28th December, 1960; Tuesday, the 27th December, 1960; Saturday, the 31st December, 1960; and Monday, the 2nd January, 1961. After due consideration, and having regard to the needs of the State as a whole, Cabinet decided that Monday, the 26th December, 1960, Tuesday, the 27th December, 1960, Saturday, the 31st December, 1960, and Monday, the 2nd January, 1961, should be observed as bank holidays.
- (3) No.
- (4) This could be coincidental. It should be appreciated that the matter of Christmas and New Year holidays for banks is of real importance to the State as a whole, and that a decision was made only after full consideration had been given to all aspects. It will be noticed that Saturday, the 31st December, was granted, but in the interests of the people as a whole the Christmas Eve holiday was refused.

MIDLAND JUNCTION WORKSHOPS*Adequacy of Work Programme*

8. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Which individual shops at the Government Railway Workshops at Midland Junction are working less than full capacity?

- (2) How many additional men could be employed in the event of each shop being supplied with orders to enable work to be carried on at full capacity?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Departmental advice is that at the present moment all shops are fully employed.
(2) Answered by No. (1).

COLLIE COAL

Supplies to Government

9. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

- (1) Was the recent exchange of letters between the Government, Western Collieries Ltd., Amalgamated Collieries of W.A. Ltd., and the Griffin Coal Mining Company, covering future orders for coal, a transaction which is now legally binding on all parties concerned?
(2) If so, for what period?
(3) If not, what is the present legal position regarding the supply of coal to the Government for use by its appropriate instrumentalities?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) The only exchange of letters was on the 8th September, 1960, between the Railways Commission and the State Electricity Commission on the one hand, and Amalgamated Collieries of W.A. Ltd. and Western Collieries Ltd. on the other hand. These letters arranged for the purchase of coal on a fortnight to fortnight basis on the same terms and conditions as those in the contracts which expired on the 11th September, 1960.
(2) Answered by No. (1).
(3) Answered by No. (1).

Companies' Commitments to Government

10. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

What is the present total financial commitment of each coalmining company to the State as a result of—

- (a) Government loans;
(b) Government guarantees;
(c) other forms of Government help?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (a) Amalgamated Collieries of W.A. Ltd.—£8,319 (being the amount of principal involved in hire-purchase instalments yet to fall due).
(b) Griffin Coal Mining Company Ltd.—£252,459.
Western Collieries Ltd.—£326,000.
(c) Amalgamated Collieries of W.A. Ltd.—£3,965 (for hire of Mines Department's failing drill).

CLASSROOMS

Construction in 1959-60

11. Mr. SEWELL asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the total number of classrooms built in State schools for the year 1959-60—
(a) in the metropolitan area;
(b) in the country areas?
(2) What were the country towns in which the classrooms were built, and how many in each town?
(3) How many classrooms have been budgeted for in the 1959-60 Estimates?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) (a) 104.
(b) 134.
Total 238.
(2) Albany High 4
Bremer Bay 2
Busselton High 2
Banksiadale 1
Bunbury High 6
Bindi Bindi 1
Beachlands 2
Boyup Brook 4
Boddington 1
Brookton 3
Collie High 9
Carnamah 1
Carey Park 2
Derby 2
Fairview 2
Fitzroy Crossing 2
Goomalling 1
Geraldton High 7
Jerramungup 1
Kojonup 3
Katanning High 2
Kulin 1
Kellerberrin 1
Kukerin 1
Lockyer 2
Manjimup High 8
Mt. Helena 3
Mundaring 2
Merredin High 8
Mukinbudin 1
Margaret River 3
Mt. Walker 1
Merredin South 2
Mingenew 2
Moora 7
Naval Base 2
Northam High 4
Onslow 1
Pingelly 5
Pemberton 2
Pinjarra 2
Plawanning 1
Qualradling 1
Spencer Park 2
Wyndham 3
Walpole 1
Watheroo 1
Wundowie 2
Wyalkatchem 3
York 2
(3) It is assumed that this means the 1960-61 estimates. If so, the answer is 260.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

COMMUNIST PARTY

Premier's Connection

1. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Premier: You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that sometime ago you issued a circular to the members of this House setting out how and why questions may be asked. Included in that circular were these words—

Questions addressed to Ministers should relate to public affairs with which they are officially connected.

I now ask the Premier: Has he any official connection with the Communist Party?

Mr. Hawke: No official connection.

Mr. BRAND replied:

The answer is just "No."

AUSTRALIAN COASTLINE

Inclusion of Western Australia in Survey

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

Has he seen the following article in this morning's issue of *The West Australian*:—

W.A. Gets Bypassed in Survey: Western Australia's coastline will not be included in the Australian survey plan for 1961.

In Fremantle yesterday, W.A. Master Mariners representative Capt. C. R. Cox said: "I am surprised that the North-West is apparently going to be left unsurveyed for another five years. This is rather serious." Present charts were inaccurate and entirely out of date in many places, he said. Complaints about this had been made by ship master members employed by the State Shipping Service.

Will the Minister do all in his power with the powers that be to have the north-west included in the survey?

Mr. COURT replied:

First of all, the Minister has done all in his power to see that the north-west is included in the survey, and it will be included. The reference in this morning's issue of *The West Australian* to 1961 apparently refers to the completion of the current five-year programme of naval surveys.

The Navy Department, in order to have its equipment used on a rationalised basis, undertakes its

surveys on a five-year plan, and the current five-year plan is destined to end in 1961.

On the 24th October a conference was held at Canberra. It was convened by the Navy Department in order to ascertain the wishes and the views of the various State authorities and the views of any other bodies that might be interested in naval surveys on the coast of Australia and New Guinea. Western Australia was represented and a very strong case was put forward.

I am quite certain that under the new programme that is determined by the Navy Department, and after it has considered the priorities of the representations made by the various States, it will, in fact, include a fair share for Western Australia in that new five-year programme.

I think that covers most of the points raised by the honourable member's question.

LEGISLATION

Bills Still to be Introduced

3. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Premier: Can he indicate how many more Bills are likely to be introduced by Ministers during the present session?

Mr. BRAND replied:

When I moved for the suspension of Standing Orders I think I referred to five or six Bills that were yet to be introduced. I was not going to be tied down to any number. I think we have introduced one since then, but the position is still an open book.

MR. JACK MARKS

Association with Coal Strike

4. Mr. MAY asked the Premier: Will he indicate when and where the Mr. Marks, referred to in his answer to the question asked this afternoon, took part in any discussions with the Collie coal-miners?

Mr. BRAND replied:

I have supplied the information that was asked for in the question asked of me, which clearly indicated that Mr. Marks is taking an active part in the Collie coal-miners' dispute.

Mr. Andrew: That was only an assertion!

Mr. Hawke: So is the Employers' Federation.

Mr. BRAND: Quite right.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

First Reading

On motion by Mr. Wild (Minister for Water Supplies), Bill introduced, and read a first time.

FISHERIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

On motion by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Fisheries), Bill read a third time, and transmitted to the Council.

SIMULTANEOUS DEATHS BILL

Second Reading

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Attorney-General) [4.50]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I suppose at all times there has been some sort of risk that persons—particularly those closely related, such as husband and wife—would be killed in such circumstances as to make it extremely difficult to ascertain which of them died first.

The prospect of that occurring has been greatly increased in recent years, partly by the great increase in the number of road accidents due to the greater use of motor vehicles; and partly by the increase in the number of air disasters which occur from time to time, where frequently the whole body of passengers and crew of the aircraft are killed before any rescuer or rescuing party can reach the scene of the crash. In those circumstances it would be virtually impossible to decide, in connection with the type of persons I first referred to, which was the first to die.

While difficulties have always arisen in such circumstances, where such happenings occurred in the past, the possibility of their occurring in greater numbers in the future is quite evident. The devolution of property in such circumstances probably depends upon survivorship. As I have said, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to determine which of the persons died first.

In many countries on the continent of Europe, which work under the code known as the Code Napoleon, there is a presumption that the physically stronger survives the physically weaker. I suggest that is not a very sound basis on which to arrive at a conclusion in matters which can be involved in such cases.

There is no such presumption, however, in our law or in the law of England. In the United Kingdom, by section 184 of the Law of Property Act, 1925, it is provided that where after 1925 two or more persons have died in circumstances rendering it uncertain which of them survived the

other or others, such death shall, subject to any order of the court, for all purposes affecting the title to property be presumed to have occurred in the order of seniority, and accordingly the younger shall be deemed to have survived the elder.

There again it has been found that such artificial presumption can itself give rise to anomalies and to unsatisfactory results. For instance, where a childless couple are killed together, and the husband is the elder, the wife's estate will receive whatever proportion of the husband's property she is entitled to under his will or on his intestacy, and this may mean that a farm or other valuable property given to the husband by his parents will go to the wife's family.

The Bill which is now before the House proposes to take advantage of legislation which has been adopted, and has been in operation for some time in the dominion of New Zealand. This New Zealand Act departs both from the common law and the United Kingdom provisions, to provide in effect that in the case of two persons dying in the same accident, known as *commorientes*, the property of each person dying shall devolve as if he survived the other, but died immediately afterwards. The main provisions of the Bill are as follows:

Firstly, the property of each person so dying shall devolve as if he were the last to die.

Secondly, a *donatio mortis causa*, a gift of personal property given in prospect of death and consummated by the giver's death, made by a person so dying to any other person so dying in the same accident shall be void.

Thirdly, if the life of any person so dying is insured, and if any person so dying is entitled to the proceeds of the policy of insurance, those proceeds shall, unless the contrary intention is shown by the instrument governing the distribution thereof, be distributed as if the person insured were the last to die.

Fourthly, the property owned jointly and exclusively by persons dying in such circumstances shall devolve as if it were owned by them as tenants in common in equal shares. So a proviso attached to a joint tenancy of survivorship will not be applicable.

Fifthly, property which would have passed to the survivor of persons who have so died shall be deemed to have passed to them as tenants in common in equal shares and shall devolve accordingly.

There are special provisions in relation to powers of appointment and for the purposes of section 33 of the Wills Act, 1837. The Wills Act of 1837 was a statute which was adopted in this country and originated in the United Kingdom. It governs, in the main, the law relating to the making of valid wills and testamentary dispositions and is still in the main applicable to the

law in this State. For all other purposes affecting the title to property or the appointment of trustees, the Bill provides that the United Kingdom rule is to apply, and accordingly the younger shall be deemed to have survived the elder.

This matter has been the subject of representation from the Law Society for a considerable time, and has been given very careful consideration by the law officers of the Crown. It is deemed advisable to place on the statute book legislation governing this matter for the reasons which I stated when I commenced to address the House on this measure. As a result of those considerations and inquiries it seems that the New Zealand provisions would operate most fairly.

It is true of course that, very fortunately, simultaneous deaths do not frequently occur in this State at present; but there is a possibility always of an increased number occurring on some occasions. Therefore it is thought desirable to introduce this legislation, particularly as steps are being taken in other countries of the world to make some such provision, whether or not exactly on similar lines as these, but calculated to deal with the problem of simultaneous deaths when they occur.

I might say in further explanation that the central principle of the provisions embodied in this Bill is that in each case the property of each is administered as if the other had died first. That appears to be a more rational arrangement and one that gives rise to less difficulty. It is not confined to a husband and wife, but it is much easier to consider the case of a husband and wife. So if it could not be said which survived the other, the husband's property is disposed of as though his wife had already died, and the wife's property is disposed of as if the husband had already died. That, I think, can be said to be the fundamental idea embodied in this Bill.

The other clauses apply that principle in respect of certain types of property to which I have already made some reference and to which I could, perhaps, make some further reference, particularly in regard to the clause which I stated as affecting the appointment of trustees, because the question of who has the right to appoint trustees comes in.

Who would have had that duty when the trustees died? Let us for the sake of argument keep to the case of a husband and wife. If they had died in the one accident, the question would arise as to who would have the right to appoint trustees to an estate. That would depend surely upon the terms of their wills. But which will would prevail? That would depend upon who was the last to survive, and that depends upon the provisions in this Bill.

Mr. J. Hegney: Are there any Acts in any of the other States covering this situation?

Mr. WATTS: I do not know of any that cover the ground as well as this one does, although I think there are some provisions. However, this Bill does endeavour to provide a comprehensive proposal based on the law in New Zealand where, I understand, it has given broad satisfaction.

I do not think it is desirable or necessary at this stage to add anything further to what I have already said. The purpose of the Bill is quite clear. The proposals for handling the matter in circumstances that might arise by the simultaneous deaths of two persons are, I think, fairly clearly set out in the measure itself, and I have given details of them in broad outline. If the honourable member who is taking the adjournment of this Bill is anxious to have a little extra time to study it, I would not be unwilling to have the debate adjourned till next Tuesday. If this is not necessary, it can be continued with tomorrow.

On motion by Mr. Nulsen, debate adjourned until Tuesday, the 8th November.

TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Council's Amendment

Amendment made by the Council now considered.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair; Mr. Perkins (Minister for Police) in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: The Council's amendment is as follows:—

Clause 8.

Page 7—Delete all words after the word "device" in line 16 down to and including the word "generally" in line 20.

Mr. PERKINS: I move—

That the amendment be not agreed to.

It will be recalled that this clause deals with the power to make regulations. I think it is section 47 of the Act which contains quite a number of powers to make regulations about everything under the sun, one would think, as the section consists of about 15 pages. However, it so happens that although it was assumed for many years that the power to make regulations under this section of the Act extended to the control of advertising in taxis, it was found, as a result of a case brought before the courts in 1957, that actually action under this subregulation was *ultra vires*. It is for this reason that it is desired to alter the section to give the power to make the regulation.

I would emphasise that this merely deals with the power to make regulations; and that when such regulations are made they

have to be laid on the tables of both Houses of Parliament, whereupon it is possible for any member in either House to move for their disallowance. I think members will also realise that they have some further positive powers to deal with regulations under our Standing Orders.

I do not suggest that the advertising of charitable affairs, or merely some displayed postcard advertising a hotel, would fall under the ban on advertising; but I do not wish to go into those details at this stage, because I think it would be very much more appropriate to do so if any such regulation is gazetted and debated after it has subsequently been laid on the table of both Houses.

I emphasise that I have discussed this matter with members of the Taxi Owners Association several times recently and they have told me very definitely that they desire the power to be vested in the Government to make regulations to control advertising in taxis. It has been pointed out to me by reputable taxi owners that they do not desire any indiscriminate advertising in taxis. In short, they have told me that they desire this provision to be included in the legislation.

Mr. Tonkin: Who told you that?

Mr. PERKINS: The Taxi Owners Association.

Mr. Tonkin: Officially?

Mr. PERKINS: Yes, officially; in my office by way of a deputation. Also I gave the Taxi Owners Association an undertaking—and I repeat the fact here—that before any such regulations are gazetted, the association will be consulted. However, the matter has been debated at considerable length, and it was decided in this House that these words should remain in the Bill, and I continue to hold the opinion which I held when the matter was before the Committee previously.

Mr. TONKIN: Just as the Minister has not changed his opinion about this matter, neither have I changed my opinion.

Mr. W. Hegney: Neither have I.

Mr. TONKIN: It appears that the opinion which we held on this side of the House is the majority opinion which is held by the Legislative Council, strange as it may seem.

Mr. Brand: I am not surprised—we find so many strange bedfellows these days!

Mr. TONKIN: I just remarked on the fact in passing, not that I consider it carries any great weight, but it is so remarkable that it should so occur. We hold the view that it is unreasonable to provide that there should not be an advertisement in a taxi because it might offend a tourist. The main argument was that such an advertisement might offend the eye of the tourist; but the tourist who travels by aeroplane or who uses trains has advertisements confronting him all

over the place. As soon as one steps into an aeroplane one sees advertisements for this, that, and the other, and it is the same in the trains; and not only in this country but also abroad. It is part of the accepted way of things that advertisements should be displayed; and provided that they are neatly displayed in taxis, there should be no objection to them.

I know all about disallowing regulations in Parliament. It depends upon who has the majority; and if the Government wants to do something by regulation, it can do it, knowing very well that there is little likelihood of the regulation being upset in the House, especially when the supporters of the Government are disciplined to the extent that they are and the like of which I have never before seen. I am not prepared to place much faith in my being able to have regulations disallowed if I thought they were unreasonable. I would prefer to have the power set out clearly in the Act and not to give the Government power which I feel it would use quite unfairly. It has already given some evidence of its disposition in that direction on other matters. I cannot support the Minister in his opposition to this amendment from the Legislative Council.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I am astounded that the Minister should persist in his attitude in regard to a provision of this nature. This part of the clause giving the department power to make certain regulations to cover certain matters was debated at length. I think divisions were taken on this provision; and it was passed because the Government had the majority. But when it went to another place a majority of the members of that place decided to delete the paragraph which is now before the Committee.

Let us have a look at what the whole clause provides. It provides additional powers in connection with the making of regulations and says—

by adding after subparagraph (t) of paragraph (ii) of subsection (1) the following subparagraph—

- (u) prescribe special provisions for the control, operation and movement, in any prescribed area, of taxicars, generally; require any taxicar to be equipped with any mechanical device for the computing and recording of charges made to passengers and prescribe the maintenance and inspection of any such device;

That part is not contested. However, the following is—namely, powers to make regulations to—

prohibit or control the carrying or exhibiting of notices, signs, posters, placards or advertisements, in or on taxicars generally;

I well recollect asking the Minister, during the debate in Committee, how many instances had been brought to his attention of inappropriate or bad advertisements being displayed in taxicars; and how many passengers had complained to the department in regard to such posters, signs, labels, and placards being displayed. He was not able to give any substantial reply because apparently there have been no such complaints. He did say that it would leave a bad impression on tourists if they saw placards displayed in taxis.

I think we would find that there are very few advertisements—certainly nothing of a blatant character—being displayed in taxis in the metropolis; and I strongly object to Parliament restricting to an unnecessary degree the rights of individuals.

Mr. Perkins: Don't you want to stop those blatant, undesirable advertisements?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I said that as far as I know there are no blatant advertisements displayed in taxis. The Minister was invited previously to give some concrete instances, but he failed to do so. I can only presume there is no necessity for this extra power; and I suggest that Parliament should leave the public with as much freedom as possible and restrict its liberties only where it is necessary in the public interest to do so.

Let us deal with the Minister's contention that it is only a provision giving power to make regulations which could be disallowed. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition pointed out that it would be very difficult, once a regulation had been gazetted, to have such regulation disallowed. If this provision were agreed to by Parliament and Parliament rose on the 15th November, or 30th November, the Minister might cause regulations to be gazetted on the 3rd or the 10th December. If I know anything of the minds of Ministers, they will not want to reassemble Parliament until next September or October, which will be a period of about nine months. Something is bound to happen in that period.

Mr. Hawke: Hear, hear!

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Meanwhile the regulation has the full force of the law and a number of taxi drivers may be inconvenienced.

My main point is this: As I said before, a number of Bills have been introduced this session which to my mind unreasonably and unnecessarily restrict the rights and the freedom of individuals; and this is another clear example of that restriction. This is my main reason for refusing to agree to the Minister's proposition. He did say that taxi owners told him officially, in his office, that they were not opposed to it.

Mr. Perkins: They supported it, in fact.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I do not care whether they supported it or not. I am contesting this on a matter of principle. Although the taxi owners who saw the Minister may be members of the association, no ballot has been taken. I would like the Minister to say which representatives he met.

Mr. Perkins: The president, the secretary, and members of the committee.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: There are a number of taxi owners in the metropolis. Did the president and secretary consult the wishes of the majority? I think the average person who is driving a taxi would take strong objection to any Ministry having power to make these regulations. I will go further and say that if the Minister, during the next session, believes there have been a number of inappropriate, bad, or blatant advertisements, he should give examples to Parliament, and I am sure that every consideration would then be given to his proposition. But not in the present circumstances. I am very pleased that the Legislative Council is showing, on occasions, an independent spirit. It is a healthy sign. I hope there will be more of it.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment not agreed to.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

A committee consisting of Mr. Toms, Mr. Nimmo, and Mr. Perkins (Minister for Police) drew up reasons for not agreeing to the Council's amendment.

Reasons adopted and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

DOG ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Council's Message

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Assembly.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1960-1961

In Committee of Supply

Resumed from the 6th October, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair.

Vote—Miscellaneous Services, £4,662,177 (partly considered):

Item No. 27—*Western Australian Institute for the Blind*, £5,750:

Mr. TOMS: I see that for this year the institute is to receive the same allocation as for last year, although the expenditure for 1959-60 was £6,950. I want to know whether that extra £1,200 expended last year was taken as part of the grant in regard to architectural expenses for work performed by the Public Works Department.

Mr. BRAND: The information I have is that the main function of the Western Australian Institute for the Blind is to

run an industrial school for the blind at Maylands. The grant is a contribution towards costs. Included in the grant for 1959-60 was a non-recurring special item of £1,200. Additional assistance of £27,000 for building operations at the school was provided from the General Loan Fund and the final instalment of this grant was paid during 1959-1960.

Mr. HAWKE: I was interested in the explanation which the Treasurer gave in connection with this item. However, it would seem to me that this very deserving and needy institution would be entitled to some additional payment during the current financial year over the estimate for last year. The costs of running this institution must be increasing; and I should say, without knowing for sure, that the number of persons being catered for by the institution would also be increasing.

We know that blind people are probably the most deserving section in the community. We also know that a great deal of voluntary work is done in the running of this institution. I think all the members of the management committee, with the exception of the manager himself, give their services voluntarily. We also know that a considerable amount of money is raised for the institution by voluntary effort. I am not sure, but I would be inclined to think that the institution has been meeting increasing competition in the disposal of the products which are turned out by the blind and partially-blind workers in their factory at Maylands.

It could be that the Commonwealth of Australia Japanese Trade Treaty has been detrimental to the institution in regard to the sale of its products. It could also be that severe competition has developed from the Eastern States. Therefore I ask the Treasurer to have a very close inquiry made—not necessarily today, this week, or this month, but in the very near future—for the purpose of ascertaining whether it would not be justifiably advisable in the circumstances for the Government to make some additional financial help available to the institution over and above that which is set down in the Estimates.

Mr. BRAND: No-one is more mindful than I of the need to assist to the utmost such an institution as the blind institution at Maylands. I feel that blind people should be given the greatest assistance possible because theirs is the most severe disability of all. However, there are so many other organisations which perform similar work, such as the care of the deaf, slow learners, spastic children and the like; and as the Leader of the Opposition would know, there is a great demand upon the limited resources available to the Government.

In this case £27,000 of loan money was made available—the last instalment being made in 1959-60—with a view to helping the school with its capital cost problems, and a special grant of £1,200 was made

last year. I have no doubt that, like many other organisations and businesses, the blind school is facing increasing costs, and probably some competition in selling its products, such as brushware and caneware. I am prepared to make some further investigations as to the position; but I repeat that we have made as much money available as we possibly can, from the limited funds at our disposal, to help these needy institutions.

Mr. TOMS: I am pleased to hear the Treasurer say he will give further consideration to this matter. I would like you, Mr. Chairman, to inform the Treasurer that next year the blind school intends to go on with its big building programme. Some £133,000 has been collected from the public in the last three years through a special building appeal, and the work is anticipated to cost about £153,000. The institute will try to find the extra £20,000 needed, and no doubt it will be looking to the Treasurer for whatever assistance he can possibly give.

Item No. 30—Albany Municipal Council—Drainage Yakamia Creek, £2,000:

Mr. HALL: Last year the vote for this item was £4,500 and the expenditure £2,500. The estimate for this year is £2,000, a decrease of £500 on the amount spent last year. Can the Treasurer explain the reason for this?

Mr. BRAND: This is the balance of a grant of £4,500 made towards the cost of this drainage work, part of which amount was paid last year. The total scheme is expected to cost £10,940, and the balance of this sum is to be provided by the local authority. The scheme is designed to reduce flooding of the area to permit of its use for housing and town development. The area concerned is at present used for dairying and cultivation, and a large proportion of it is undeveloped. However, I imagine that as a result of the expenditure of at least £11,000, a very valuable area will be made available.

Item No. 35—Bunbury Municipal Council, £180:

Mr. HALL: On this item the vote last year was £180 and the expenditure was nil. This year the estimate is again £180. Can the Treasurer explain it?

Mr. TONKIN: This caught my eye, too, and knowing that you, Mr. Chairman, would be curious about it, and not in a position to ask the question yourself, I felt I should ask it to get the information for you.

Mr. Hawke: A very friendly gesture!

Mr. TONKIN: Last year £180 was provided but it was not expended; and the same amount is provided this year. I am curious to know what it is for, because one cannot do much with £180. Apparently the council thought so, too, because it did not do anything. If it does not propose

to use the money it is foolish to have the item still appearing on the Estimates. I would like to know what it is for; because, when I saw it, I thought that Melville might be missing out on something which it ought to be getting.

Mr. BRAND: On your behalf, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for being so interested. I do so, because you cannot do so yourself. This grant is the final Government contribution towards the cost of drainage of a housing area at Carey Park East. The total cost of the scheme is £25,000, of which the State Housing Commission provides £15,000, the Government £3,000, and the local authority £7,000. Incidentally, I think the member for Melville will ensure that Melville gets all, or more, than Melville is entitled to.

Item No. 37—Collie Drainage Improvements, £1,000:

Mr. MAY: Could the Treasurer tell me to what work this refers?

Mr. BRAND: This grant is a contribution towards the cost of work to improve the flow of the Collie River, in order to minimise the flooding of lower sections of the town.

Item No. 45—Health Education Council, £14,500:

Mr. BRADY: An increase of £2,300 is proposed for this item and I would ask the Treasurer to give some justification for it.

Mr. BRAND: The information I have here sets out that the annual grant towards the expenses of this council appointed under legislation passed in 1958 is to help it in its endeavour to improve the health of the community by educational programmes. In 1958-59, and in earlier years, the expenses of this body were met from Division No. 54, Public Health Department.

Item No. 46—Junior Farmers' Movement, £16,000:

Mr. MAY: Could the Treasurer tell me why this grant is made to the Junior Farmers' Movement?

Mr. BRAND: It is made to the Junior Farmers' Movement to help it in establishing a sound voluntary rural youth educational scheme. At present there are 102 clubs in operation, and the membership is increasing. A promise was made that funds would be found for the expansion of this service. The funds provide for premises at Subiaco and for the appointment of another extension officer.

Item No. 47—Library Board of Western Australia, £155,000:

Mr. BRADY: Could the Treasurer explain the increase of £36,000 to the Library Board? It seems rather large.

Mr. Watts: It is not nearly enough.

Mr. BRAND: It is obvious what it is for. The demand for libraries throughout the country under this scheme has been tremendous.

Mr. Brady: Is there anything for Midland Junction?

Mr. BRAND: As the Attorney-General said, the amount is not nearly enough to meet the demand for libraries throughout the State, or for the better class and standard of book. My notes say that the scope of the board's activities takes in the operation of the State Library in James Street, Perth. The increased provision is to meet the higher costs, and to allow for expansion of the scheme and participation in it by more local authorities. We are falling far short of the demand made on us by local authorities.

Item No. 51—Museum of Western Australia, £50,000:

Mr. HAWKE: There is an increase of £13,672 in the vote this year. It is a fairly large increase, and perhaps the Treasurer could give us a broad outline what it will cover.

Mr. BRAND: My notes indicate that this item provides for the operating expenses of the Museum Board of Western Australia. In the past the grant has been made available with funds for the Art Gallery; but under legislation passed in 1959, funds are now provided separately, based on estimates submitted by the board.

The increase of 37½ per cent. covers operating cost increases, and is to enable the board to appoint an anthropologist and other scientists and technicians. The increased staff will enable long-delayed research to be undertaken in the anthropological and the zoological fields, which will be of importance to science generally. In addition, the process of modernisation of the presentation of exhibits in the museum is being continued. Lectures for both schoolchildren and adults are organised.

Item No. 57—Royal Mint—Additional Grant, £85,000:

Mr. BICKERTON: Could the Treasurer inform me who owns the building in which the Royal Mint is housed, and what is the future of it? I understand there was some talk that the activities of the Royal Mint were to be transferred out of this State. Could the Treasurer enlighten us?

Mr. BRAND: My notes show that under the Royal Mint Act the State annually finds £25,000 to meet the expenditure of the Mint. The excess expenditure for the year is provided under this item. The Mint's two main functions are smelting gold received from producers, and minting coins under contract from the Commonwealth Government. All receipts are taken to revenue, and this year receipts are estimated at £119,000.

It is true that a great deal of publicity has been given to the possibility of the Royal Mints in Melbourne and Perth being closed down, and a national mint being established in Canberra. If a decision is made regarding a change to decimal coinage, this move could become more real.

With regard to the contracts let by the Commonwealth for the minting of coins, I think that for the most part we have the minting of halfpennies. The main function of the Mint is as a refinery. Approaches have been made to the Federal Treasurer by previous Governments, as well as by the present Government, and information has been sought as to whether the Mint is to be retained for minting coins or merely as a refinery. It is costing the State money, anyway. It is possible that ultimately the employees at the Mint in Western Australia will be taken over by the Commonwealth Government. The Commonwealth Treasurer has intimated that these matters are still under consideration.

Mr. FLETCHER: I am pleased to hear the Treasurer's remarks on this item. I, too, have some correspondence from the Federal Treasurer through the Federal member for Fremantle, on this matter. I would like an assurance that the employees are engaged on the minting of coins as distinct from, say, the smelting of gold; and that they will be looked after. Some of the men who belong to my union are highly skilled in the preparation of both the male and the female die. I would be reluctant to see the skilled workers leave the State; and the Treasurer should approach the Federal Treasurer to ensure that these men are offered alternative employment, if the Mint is moved to Canberra.

Mr. JAMIESON: On the question of the employees of the Mint being taken over by the Commonwealth, I understand that a number of these employees are Imperial civil servants, and not Commonwealth civil servants. Would provisions have to be made especially for them? I know it is not difficult to transfer State civil servants to the Commonwealth, because of the arrangement that exists; but what is the position of employees who are Imperial civil servants?

Mr. BRAND: I cannot give the undertakings asked for; but I assume that the Commonwealth, in the event of a change being made, will accept the obligation of employing these people, who do not number many, but who are skilled and expert in their line. We will do all we can to ensure a continuity of work for them either in the State or in the Commonwealth.

Mr. HAWKE: In answering the question asked by the member for Pilbara, the Treasurer omitted to say who owned the land, the buildings, and the plant on which the Royal Mint stands in Perth. I

would like to ask a question in relation to that. I understand the land and buildings, and at least some of the plant, are owned by the State; but the Commonwealth, on occasion, has tried to purchase the land and the buildings, if my memory serves me right. Would the Treasurer give us an assurance that the State will not dispose of the land and the buildings to the Commonwealth or any other authority—this need not necessarily be a binding assurance—unless it is found ultimately that the land and buildings are no longer of any worthwhile value to the State. I might add, in amplification of what I have said, that this land is fairly centrally situated; and with the expansion of the City of Perth it undoubtedly will take on increasing value and, of course, increasing importance.

Mr. BRAND: It is difficult for me to give assurances of this nature as it is obviously going to be a complicated exercise whenever it actually takes place. However, I would give the assurance that the Government would not sell the land and buildings to the Commonwealth unless they were to be retained for the purpose originally intended. With the passing of time it may become obvious that the correct line to take in the best interests of the employees will be to come to some arrangement with the Commonwealth, but only on the basis that the Mint remain a refinery for the State of Western Australia.

Item No. 61—University of Western Australia—Medical School, £198,537:

Mr. HAWKE: The increase in the vote this year over actual expenditure last year is quite substantial and, in all circumstances, understandable seeing that the medical school is developing from stage to stage. However, I would like the Treasurer to give us some outline of what additional work in sections of the medical school will be permitted by the increased expenditure as proposed in this vote.

Mr. BRAND: The only information I have available to me here is that this item provides the anticipated charge on Government funds for the running costs of the University of Western Australia medical school for the financial year 1960-61. This grant is also taken into account for purposes of attracting Commonwealth assistance available to the Western Australian University.

Presumably, an estimate has been taken out of the cost of running the school for this year. We are all aware of the increased number of applications for entry to the medical school; and presumably the large increase of £43,000, in round figures, is provided to at least do as much as possible to meet the demand made upon the school. As has been pointed out, it will attract a Commonwealth subsidy. I am not sure of this, but I think the subsidy is on a pound for pound basis.

Mr. HAWKE: I am thankful to the Treasurer for the information he has made available. However, I would ask him to arrange for his colleague, the Minister for Health, to provide information in more detail when that Minister is introducing the Estimates of the Health Department.

Item No. 62—University of Western Australia—Engineering School, £24,693:

Mr. HAWKE: I am intrigued very much by the fact that this financial year the amount of £24,693 differs by only £1 from the actual expenditure of last year, and coincides absolutely with the Vote of last year. I think that in this age of engineering development an increase would be more likely to take place this financial year over last financial year, and an increase of more than £1 would be justified.

Mr. BRAND: This position is explained by the fact that the item provides for the payment of principal and interest of £250,000 borrowed by the University for the construction of the engineering school.

Item No. 69—Freight concessions on stock and fodder in respect of areas affected by drought and fire, £1,500:

Mr. NORTON: I would like to know whether these freight concessions apply wholly and solely to rail freights, or whether they also include road and shipping freights. I would also like to know whether there were any claims which were not granted during the financial year 1959-60, as the estimate shows that nothing was paid out.

Mr. BRAND: This item covers mainly freight and shipping concessions on movement of stock occasioned by drought and fire. The concessions granted are—

- (a) the free return of stock sent from drought areas for agistment;
- (b) free transport of new breeding stock transported by rail to the station within two years from the time when the station is able to restock;
- (c) 50 per cent. rebate on fodder forwarded for relief of starving stock.

While this scheme has been in operation for a number of years, no expenditure was made in 1959-60.

Item No. 72—Rail freight rebate on flour, £34,000:

Mr. HAWKE: For the last financial year the Vote was £40,000, and £24,497 was actually spent. I would like the Treasurer to explain, if he has the information with him, why the actual expenditure was so far below the Vote. It might be due to the fact that less flour was manufactured in Western Australia last year, and therefore less rebate was called for. If that be a fair guess as to the cause, would the reason for the lower volume of flour manufactured be decreased orders from overseas countries for flour manufactured in Western Australia? If so, could the

Treasurer give us any reason why our flour is not selling in such great quantities as previously in overseas markets?

Mr. BRAND: It is a fact that we were unable to sell our flour overseas last year; although, according to the Minister for Agriculture, the market is improving this year. I should say the reason for our inability to sell our flour was keener competition from other countries providing flour, or necessary adjustments brought about by trade agreements between the various countries. I cannot give any further explanation because I am simply going on the general information which is available to me.

Item No. 73—Rent reductions on North-West houses—Reimbursement to State Housing Commission, £6,400:

Mr. BICKERTON: I would like to inquire whether this is brought about by the £5 disability or north-west allowance made on rents. If not, how is it arrived at?

Mr. BRAND: This is a concession provided for residents of the north-west. Occupiers of houses rented from the State Housing Commission in the north-west may, on application, have their rentals reduced to a figure equivalent to the rental of similar houses in Geraldton. This item recoups the State Housing Commission with the cost of such reductions.

Item No. 93—Gold Stealing Detection—Contribution to Chamber of Mines, £3,000:

Mr. MOIR: I would like to know why the Vote of last year of £484 and an actual expenditure of £483 has been increased this year to £3,000. Will the Treasurer inform me of the reason for the very sharp increase and what exactly are the purposes of the amount?

Mr. BRAND: The Chamber of Mines pays the whole cost of the police gold stealing detection branch. Stolen gold, when recovered, can rarely be identified as belonging to any particular mine; and its value is, therefore, paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund. Following a decision made in 1947, 50 per cent. of the proceeds of stolen gold up to a certain maximum, which is now £3,000, is returned to the Chamber of Mines in consideration of its expenditure on gold stealing detection. The limitation of 50 per cent. stems from the fact that all gold does not necessarily come from mines represented by the Chamber. I presume the increase of £2,517 is due to greater activity by the branch itself, as well as increased staff. I have no other information.

Item No. 101—Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust—Recoup of Losses, £456,000:

Mr. O'NEIL: I notice that in 1959-60 the loss was £48,917. However, this year the Estimates provide for £456,000. Is this recoup required because of the purchase of new buses or is it to recoup a loss?

Mr. BRAND: This item provides for a recoup to the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust of the losses incurred on the operations of the trust. Expenditure in 1959-60 represented the losses incurred in the two years 1957-58 and 1958-59; namely, £4,714 and £44,203, respectively.

Provision is made in 1960-61 to recoup the loss of £110,579 for 1959-60; and, in addition, to make advances towards an estimated trading loss for 1960-61 which, on account of the recent absorption of the Tramways Department, is expected to be greatly increased.

Item No. 104—Passenger Shelter Sheds, £700:

Mr. JAMIESON: I would like some information as to who receives this amount. Is it the Perth City Council or other local authorities? I assume it would be the Perth City Council because most of the other local authorities make shelter sheds available by arrangement with advertising firms. The Perth City Council is rather difficult in regard to this matter and is insistent that shelter sheds are the responsibility of the transport authority, whichever it might be for the time being.

Mr. BRAND: I will have to seek more information on this item. The advice I have is that the item is provided to encourage the erection of suburban bus shelter sheds. The Government agreed to pay half the cost of sheds constructed, the local authorities to pay the remaining half. Whether the Perth City Council—

Mr. Perkins: It is not in its area. It is in areas outside that of the Perth City Council.

Mr. BRAND: All right. We know it is not the Perth City Council. The provision in 1960-61 will continue this arrangement and will assist with the resiting of some shelter sheds on account of the alteration of bus stops.

Item No. 105—Pay Roll Tax, £345,000:

Mr. HAWKE: I would like to ask the Treasurer whether he and other Premiers at Premiers' Conferences have continued to press the Commonwealth Government to give direct relief to the State Governments in connection with the payment of this tax. I have always regarded it as a most iniquitous tax to be imposed upon State Governments. After the Treasurer has had a meal, I would like him to take the Committee into his confidence on the matter.

Mr. Brand: He will simply say, "Yes."

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Education, £9,427,690:

MR. NORTON (Gascoyne) [7.32]: I assume the Minister will not be introducing these Estimates, so I shall take the opportunity of speaking to them and of voicing the disappointment of the mothers of the outback at the suggested withdrawal of the itinerant teachers.

Since I last spoke here, I have had an opportunity of talking to a number of mothers living on stations—mothers who were educated in their early years by correspondence lessons. They pointed out to me the difficulties that their mothers experienced in educating them with just the correspondence lessons. They also pointed out the advantages they themselves received from the itinerant teacher; and they clearly showed the necessity for such an officer to be retained.

The 1959 annual report of the Education Department sets out the duties of the itinerant teacher, and it shows the advantages gained from him by the people in the outback. This point can best be emphasised by reading from the departmental report at page 16—

The itinerant teacher's aims are, generally, to introduce the children to as many classroom activities as possible, to discover their actual progress and advise their respective correspondence teachers; and, specifically, to introduce the children to group work such as singing, talks, literature, speech drills, oral reading for expression, miming a play; to give the children experience of competition; to give the children experience of classroom routine involving co-operation and delegation of activities such as cleaning boards, self-correction of work and good manners.

I understand the idea of removing the itinerant teacher is to supersede him by a school of the air. The idea of the school of the air is an excellent one; and when used in conjunction with the itinerant teacher, the school of the air could prove to be one of the best methods of education that could be evolved under the correspondence system.

I would like to compare the features in that paragraph I have just read, with the School of the Air. First of all, the paragraph states—

The itinerant teacher's aims are, generally, to introduce the children to as many classroom activities as possible.

It will not be easy for the School of the Air to introduce a child to classroom activities, unless the child is taken to a central school at least once or twice a year, there to join in with the school-children in that district. Admittedly that would be ideal; but there are many children who would not be able to do that, so

they would have to rely on the itinerant teacher in that respect. The report goes on to say—

To discover their actual progress and advise their respective correspondence teachers.

It would be difficult for the teacher in charge of the School of the Air to discover the actual progress of a child and report to his correspondence teacher, because the school of the air gives four sessions of 20 minutes each per day; and at the end of each session there is a period of 10 minutes which is used to treat the difficulties of individual children; to carry out parent-teacher discussions concerning the work of individuals; to work exercises from correspondence school papers; to discuss reports forwarded by the pupil's teacher; and to discuss the pupil's routine work. With 40 or 50 children, as there are within the Meekatharra radio network, a period of 10 minutes after each session of 20 minutes will not give much time to deal with these various items.

The itinerant teacher, however, makes routine calls, and he will stay at a station for at least one day. He, therefore, has ample opportunity to examine a child, find out in what subject the child is backward, and generally advise him along the lines set out in the report. The itinerant teacher is specifically to introduce the children to group work such as singing. That can quite easily be done over the air, but it is not easy for the teacher on the air to listen to all his pupils at once: he would get one of the biggest medleys ever heard over a microphone.

The itinerant teacher is to introduce children to speech drill; and I claim that cannot be done over the air. For one thing, when a child is reading, he has to concentrate on the script before him; at the same time he has to concentrate on using the microphone, which he holds in one hand. That would not be particularly easy for anyone, let alone for a child learning to read and do his best to enunciate words.

On top of that, it would not be easy for the master of the School of the Air to get a true indication of the diction of the child, because the only wave lengths available to the School of the Air will be the second-best wave lengths; the best wave lengths will be used for emergency calls. All in all, it would be practically impossible to give oral reading for expression, and the miming of a play over the air. As far as the School of the Air goes, that can be practically ruled out, and the itinerant teacher would naturally take over.

The next item on the list is giving children experience of competition. That is quite possible when an itinerant teacher is visiting a station, because in many areas there are group classes held on the stations when the itinerant teacher is in the

district; and this provides the children with an opportunity to experience competition and classroom routine, as suggested in the report. The classroom routine involves activities such as the cleaning of blackboards, self-correction work, and good manners. It would be hard for any master to assist children in these matters under the School of the Air routine.

Whilst those who have had the opportunity of availing themselves of the school of the air have been very pleased with it, they are disappointed to hear of the likelihood of the itinerant teacher being removed. It is evident that this will eventuate when one reads this section of the report, on the same page—

It is anticipated that the itinerant service, which has served an excellent purpose, will eventually be superseded by the more powerful medium of the radio school.

I very much doubt whether the School of the Air will be a more powerful medium than the itinerant teacher in the outback, when one looks at all sides of the subject, analyses it, and takes into consideration the atmospheric factors which govern radio, and so on.

It is rather surprising to me that the member for Murchison has not received similar complaints to those which I have had. The itinerant teachers, up to 1959, numbered three, and they covered three districts; namely—

No. 1 District—Kimberley and north-west.

No. 2 District—Carnarvon, Exmouth, Mullewa, Payne's Find.

No. 3 District—Meekatharra-Wiluna.

Those three teachers visited and instructed some 260 children. Not only did they instruct the children, but they helped the parents in many ways. They helped them with the method of teaching, which is hard to set out in a correspondence course; and they also helped them in many other ways which would take too long to explain.

Those teachers were exceptionally well received at the stations I visited. The children looked up to these teachers who, in general, acted as inspectors, and inspectors are necessary at all Government schools. Members could appreciate that if they could imagine one of the stations, with its small class of one or two children doing correspondence lessons, being a Government school. If a Government school is entitled to the services of an inspector, so are these people. The duty of an inspector is to assist and guide the teacher and to ensure that the child is being taught in a proper way. There is no doubt that if these itinerant teachers are removed there will be great disappointment among the mothers in the outback. I cannot see any good reason for their removal.

I cannot see that the Government has a case because of the cost, for each child in the north-west is entitled to a boarding allowance of £80 if the child is sent away to a school. The itinerant teacher, combined with the services of the School of the Air, costs about £61 17s. per child per annum. If a child were sent away it would be entitled to a boarding allowance of £80 a year, so the Government would not save any money in that direction.

Another cost to the Government which occurs throughout the agricultural areas, and even in part of the metropolitan area, is that of transporting a child by bus to the school. According to the 1959 report of the Education Department, the average cost of transporting a child to school by bus was £47 6s. 8d. per head, and the buses catered for 18,523 schoolchildren. So there again I cannot see why the out-back parts of the State should be deprived of the services of the itinerant teacher, because this service costs the Government only £24 13s. 4d. per child per annum.

It might be that a child in the north-west could be sent into or near Carnarvon in order to attend school. He could be sent to one of the plantations to board. In those circumstances, he would be entitled to £80 per annum as a boarding allowance, and would also be entitled to be transported to school by bus. Therefore, the cost to the department of educating that child would be £127 6s. 8d., plus the cost of his normal education which, according to Table 5F, would amount to another £46 5s. 7½d.

Therefore, I cannot see how the Government would be gaining anything by taking the itinerant teacher away and forcing these children from their homes to obtain their education at other centres. In fact, it could cost the Government considerably more. Should a parent be forced to send his child to the city it would be found that, in the case of a girl, it would cost him an average of £383 per annum, and to that amount must be added the cost of many extras. For boys, the school fees next year, according to one college, will range from £321 to £375 per year, plus extras. Also, the parent would have to bear the extra cost of transporting the child to the nearest aerodrome, plus the air fares. So I ask the Minister and the officers of his department to give every consideration towards keeping these itinerant teachers in the outback. The praise they have received for the services they are rendering well warrants the department waiving any claim to the saving of cost in education.

MR. HALL (Albany) [7:50]: In regard to education in Australia there is a tremendous burden thrust on the Commonwealth Government, and also on the shoulders of those administering this State, which has to depend on the Commonwealth for its finance. I sympathise with the Minister for Education because of the

many requests he receives to foster education by the building of more schools, additional classrooms, etc. We have to face the fact that education is a social problem, and if educational work were properly carried out it could have a great bearing on the existing problem of juvenile delinquency and also our general outlook.

I am fully aware that the Minister is extremely concerned about the position and that our teachers today are honestly endeavouring to do a good job. I believe it is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government to assist in the administration of education in the various States—and particularly this State, which is so sparsely populated—and it should give them every financial assistance. I do not think we can heap criticism on the Minister for Education in this State for the result of his efforts to improve our educational standards. He is definitely restricted by lack of finance in trying to handle a big problem, which is really one for the Commonwealth Government.

Even if the Commonwealth authorities gave each State a free hand to administer its own educational affairs, I am sure the States would meet the position provided they were granted sufficient finance to do so.

I would draw the Minister's attention to another point which although it is not entirely new, sounds new, and is something which is to the detriment of our outlook as ordinary Australians or old Australians. I refer to the use of the term "new Australian". In my opinion, the Minister should try to remove the term "new Australian" from the lips of our young Australians and also adult Australians, through the medium of adult education and child education. I say that in all seriousness, because the term seems to create class distinction.

After speaking on the subject with people who have come to this State from other countries, I am convinced that they would be very joyful if they were regarded as ordinary Australians instead of "new Australians". This term was coined when immigrants started to flow to this country; and, in my opinion, it is up to the teachers in our schools to break our coming generation of the habit of using it.

Another matter I would like to raise is the teaching of music in schools, which has its limitations. The problem, as I see it, concerns what I call "the poses and the supposes". This is most evident if we attend some places of entertainment and find youths, and even adults, imitating our best artists by miming to recorded music. By their actions and movements they interpret the music that is coming from the record, and I am quite sure that every one of them would be a potential musician if he were properly taught.

In 1959, Australia was visited by a celebrated saxophonist named Rischä Rascher; and at the time, he condemned

the Government for the embargo it places on musical instruments which, in most cases, are not manufactured in Australia. By the imposition of that embargo, the purchase of a musical instrument is placed well outside the means of most youngsters and even adults. The suggestion I wish to make to the Minister is that if groups were formed within the schools, as was done in English schools many years ago, instruments could be purchased for them at greatly reduced cost.

Some time ago I was associated with a man who learned his music at a primary school. He was a tremendously fine violinist, and he was always asking why Australia did not follow the policy adopted in England. At that time I could not see the point of his argument, because one could then buy an instrument reasonably cheaply. For instance, one could buy a saxophone for about £40; but now a similar instrument would cost £140. If we could take steps to reduce the cost of these instruments and enlist the services of good musicians for the purpose of teaching music thoroughly in our schools, we would begin to raise the culture of our State and would also put the spare time of our children to good use. Today our children, after they leave school, often find themselves at a loose end.

In the territory of the Minister for Education at the present time there is a movement afoot, as the result of one of the leading citizens leaving a special bequest, for the formation of a school band. I am led to believe that quite recently, after a little encouragement, the girls are playing trombones as efficiently as the boys, and the trend towards juvenile delinquency in that area has been reduced to a great extent. The time of the children at school has been extended so that they can have their musical studies, but they still have sufficient time to carry out their other educational work.

Our children are turning towards entertainment through mechanical means. This State now has television, as a result of which everyone watches someone else performing on the screen. I therefore ask the Minister to consider seriously the proposition of expanding the teaching of musical arts in primary schools. I would point out that in Germany the school-children are taught to play the harmonica and reed instruments; and I am sure that if the children at our schools were taught to play such musical instruments it would help to break down the present trend of juvenile delinquency.

In fact, such expansion in the teaching of our arts should not be limited to music. Dancing classes could also be conducted more thoroughly for the benefit of the girls. Possibly they could be brought up to ballet standard; and such instruction would help to develop their bodies, give them a clear mind, and create in them a better disposition towards life in general.

Another matter which I wish to raise is one with which members of this House are closely associated, but it is a subject they did not study very seriously until they entered this House. I am referring to the teaching of politics in our schools. We complain a great deal, and very strongly, about the fact that there is not much reference in our newspapers to politics and the business of Parliament in Western Australia, although I must admit that lately a little more space seems to have been given to politics in our daily Press.

Unless our citizens are educated to understand politics, they are quite satisfied to let things drift along; but if they were taught to become politically-conscious they would eagerly seek the political page in the daily newspaper and we would then be able to say to the editors, "You have to give us more space because the public demands it."

Quite often members bring classes of schoolchildren to this building, so that the affairs of Parliament may be explained to them, and the children seem to enjoy their visits to this place. I have also had the privilege of conducting elderly people through this building, and they have been amazed at what they saw, and very pleased at receiving the small brochure explaining the business of Parliament, which is generally handed to people who visit this building.

When people can start to learn at 50, I am sure that politics could be taught with advantage to the children in the primary schools. Such teaching could be carried out in the high schools, and from then on people would have a fairly good knowledge of politics. Even now our universities teach political science or allied subjects as a matter of course.

I would also like to suggest to the Minister that the teaching of trade unionism should be introduced in our schools. We hear so much about the general friction of life; but if we look clearly at it we find that a large percentage of our students must eventually become trade unionists or members of trade or allied associations. If the subject of trade unionism had been taught to them before they were introduced into that field, they would have been admirably fitted for their vocation in life and would not have to begin to learn the atmosphere that surrounds a trade unionist after he leaves school.

The suggestion I have made would not prove to be detrimental to the State. It would be a great aid to eliminating friction between the management and the employees, because both sides would be able to put forward their points of view. Trade union principles should be taught in primary schools so that youths would be able to enter the business world well suited for the requirements.

The same scheme should be applicable to the farmers' organisations and bankers' associations. The people engaged in those industries would know what they were working for and would not become subject to outside pressures. Trade unionism, music, and politics should be included in the curriculum of our schools.

Another point I wish to refer to is the effect of long travelling to school on the minds of our children. There is mental fatigue associated with such travelling. Members who travel great distances for part of the week and then sit in this House for the rest of it will realise that the travelling portion of their work is very hard. If travelling has an effect on the minds of the leaders of this State, it must have a greater effect on the minds of children, who get up at 6 a.m. and then journey up to 70 miles to school.

An attempt should be made to determine the effect of long travelling on the minds of schoolchildren, particularly when examinations are about to take place. When the pressure of studies becomes greater, the mental fatigue increases. An inquiry should be made to determine the maximum distance which schoolchildren should travel, so that their minds would not be affected. I do not deny that the best methods available should be used in the teaching of our children; but perhaps in implementing some of the best methods we are placing too heavy a burden on their minds.

I put forward one suggestion. Every schoolchild should have at least one hot meal at school per day. Some parents are improvident and not all children are provided with hot meals. I know that to implement such a scheme would require a great deal of finance. Certain children are neglected by their parents; and, as a result, some of the children suffer from malnutrition. If one hot meal were provided each day at school, all children would be supplied with the energy necessary to enable them to carry on with their studies. This scheme will enable the child who has the brains and ability to use them and to go ahead; their natural abilities would not be destroyed by malnutrition.

I also make a plea for the supply of uniforms to schoolchildren. It has been said that the cost of such a scheme would be exorbitant; but the Government has never been behind in supplying uniforms to the armed forces, particularly in times of war. If uniforms were supplied, a great burden would be taken off the parents, although a great responsibility would fall on the State and the Commonwealth Governments.

Many children who attend school and who are not provided with proper meals or clothing develop an inferiority complex which is very difficult to overcome. Invariably when these children leave school and draw their first wage they buy the

most gaudy articles of clothing to attract attention. The bigger percentage of delinquent children are in the group of those who lack parental control. No-one in this House can make the statement that there is not a lack of parental control in some homes.

This lack of control is brought about by many factors. Usually the parents are too busy trying to keep up with the Joneses, and the Joneses are too busy trying to keep up with the other Joneses. They all acquire possessions under hire purchase, and neglect the necessities for their homes and their children. The supply of free uniforms to schoolchildren would make all the children somewhat equal in the matter of clothing. I do not say that every school should have the same uniform. All children should be supplied with uniforms and one hot meal per day. By so doing we would overcome a great problem which faces the children and parents of today.

When children are properly educated they become a dominant part of the family. As the educated parent is dominant, so will his children be if they have a standard set by the parent. The training of our children rests largely on the teacher. With increased salaries, the teaching profession has become quite attractive. Trainee teachers should be carefully selected, and after their training sent to country areas. There is one failing: After teachers have been serving in the country for a period they are returned to the city. In my view some of them should be left in the country for a longer period, during which perhaps they might be married in the country and become more country-minded.

Trainee teachers should be well chosen. Human beings are creatures of habits. If people are taught bad habits, they carry those habits with them through their lives. The impression which the teacher leaves on the children is long-lasting, and that is evident in the case reported in today's newspaper in which the leader of Russia, Nikita Khrushchev, glorified the lasting effect of the teachings of his tutor.

Another point I would refer to is the effect of television on the community. It is a big problem which faces this country as well as other countries. Last session I asked several questions in this House about the type of films shown, and efforts have been made to improve them. There are people more capable of delving into the television field than I. I only want to point out that television and radio can have a tremendous influence on the children.

Regarding the needs of my electorate, I feel that we have been reasonably well treated. With the expansion in the area and in the district served by Albany, we will not be able to keep pace with the necessary development. Recently I asked the Minister whether a three-year-high-school site had been provided for Albany. The Minister stated that a site had been set aside, but a decision had not been made

for the establishment of such a high school. Prior to that, he had met the representatives of our parents and citizens' association to discuss this matter. I realise that when finance is available the Minister will proceed with the construction of this high school. A technical annexe is essential for Albany. The population covered by the road board and municipality totals 12,500.

The Government should look after the education of the children as well as that of the adults. It should establish a technical annexe to take up the slack in the education system. There is the engineering side as well as the wool-sorting side to be considered. We need technical education down there for the employees in the woollen mills, and such education could be incorporated with the other industries associated with the mills.

Another point I put forward concerns scholarships. I feel this is within the scope of the Minister for Education. Such scholarships should be awarded to people employed in industry and commerce. The selected persons should be rewarded by a trip of inspection to other industries within the Commonwealth or the State. By that means they would be able to gain great industrial experience which would benefit the industries or sections of commerce in which they work.

I do not say scholarships should be awarded to people holding university degrees. They should be awarded to employees in industry, so that those people would be given the opportunity to study and examine other industries. I am sure that this scheme would prove beneficial not only for the management of the industries, but also for the employees who were awarded the scholarships. If this suggestion were adopted, together with my other suggestion that trade unionism should be taught in schools, we would have better co-operation between management and worker.

Another point I want to refer to concerns the provision of a teachers' training college in Albany. A site was selected, but I do not know whether it has been retained. In the interests of decentralisation, such a college should be established in Albany.

I have covered several aspects of education, but there are many others which could be dealt with on a subject as wide as this one.

It is a national responsibility to improve the education of our children. One way is by establishing national fitness or physical fitness classes at the schools. Far too often the sporting facilities that are available in the schools are not used to the maximum. If children were taught physical fitness to a greater degree at the schools, half the delinquency in our youths would disappear.

MR. BICKERTON (Pilbara) [8.13]: The Minister for Education will recall that during the Address-in-Reply I referred to the necessity for high school facilities to be provided in Pilbara. By interjection the Minister said that I should obtain figures from the authorities as to the numbers that are available for some form of secondary education.

I take this opportunity to assure the Minister that those figures are being compiled. At this stage the road boards are collecting them on my behalf, with the object of bringing this matter before the Minister. In the interim I renew the plea on behalf of my district for secondary education facilities.

Recently the six road boards in the Pilbara area had a ward meeting and one of the resolutions passed requested the Government to look into the possibilities of establishing high school educational facilities.

I received a letter from that ward of road boards which reads—

The following resolution was carried at the recent half yearly conference of the above named association:

"That Mr. A. Bickerton M.L.A. be informed that the Ward supports the establishment of a high school and hostel in the Pilbara district and that board secretaries be asked to supply relevant details of potential scholars to the ward secretary for onward transmission to Mr. A. Bickerton M.L.A."

One of the greatest factors militating against the development of this area is the difficulty of attracting and holding an efficient labour force. One big reason why the labour in this district is so fluid is that if a family have children of high school age it must either leave the area or be put to considerable expense due to the children having to go to Perth or Geraldton for further study.

Further details will be supplied to you on this matter when the returns from member Boards are received.

When I receive those figures I would like to go into them with the Minister in some detail, because I firmly believe that the north-west has advanced as far as it can without some improvement in the educational standard.

By that remark I do not mean that the people in the north-west are uneducated, but that their advancement is greatly retarded because they are faced with the cost of sending their children out of that area when they have finished their primary education. We are restricted in that regard; and also—and this is a very important point—we cannot bring new people into the area, particularly technical

people, such as agricultural experts, schoolteachers, skilled tradesmen, and skilled labourers.

Only certain groups of people will go to those areas. Those groups can be classed as follows:—

- (a) Single persons.
- (b) Married persons without children.
- (c) Married persons with very young children.
- (d) Married persons with children who have finished their education.

Because of that fact we are losing the services of the group which would be, I estimate, in the 35 to 50 age group. Unless those people can afford to leave their children in boarding school—and the majority cannot afford to do so—and unless they are prepared to be separated from their children, we cannot acquire their services.

Even if it were agreed that high school facilities were necessary in the Pilbara area, no-one would expect that they would be provided tomorrow. A considerable period would elapse before they could be installed. Therefore I ask the Minister to view favourably an increase in this educational allowance of £80. I am not sure when the amount was last increased, bringing it to £80, but the matter was raised at the meeting of the boards to which I have referred, and the thought was that a request should be made for the amount to be increased to £100 or, preferably, to £125. If that were done, some assistance would be gained until the facilities became available.

The receipt of the increased amount by the parents would enable them to send their children away to receive education down south, that is, if they were prepared to be separated from them. Those who are not prepared to be separated from their children are, of course, lost to the north because the whole family moves.

I would appreciate it if the Minister would give consideration to this matter in order that while we are waiting for secondary educational facilities to be provided, the £80 now being paid may be increased to £125 which is the figure which was arrived at after much research was undertaken on the matter. I assure the Minister that as soon as I have the figures available I will discuss the matter with him. The reason for the delay is that I want to make sure the figures are accurate.

MR. O'NEIL (Canning) [8.20]: I will be very brief in my comments on this vote and will confine my remarks to one aspect of education, this being the activity of parents and citizen' associations. Although what I have to say is occasioned by a specific problem in my own electorate, I would first of all like to state that I am not

one of those who consider that the Government should provide all amenities in schools. One must remember that a child attends school for only one-fifth of the 24-hour day, spending roughly five hours at school. The school is not the major part of education. Education begins when a person is born and continues until he dies, even though that may not be till the age of 99 years or more.

Parents and citizens' associations play a vital part in the educational system, in that they contribute towards the amenities which are provided at schools. They also provide a permanent and direct link between the school and the home, which is very important. In England, where virtually all the needs in the school are provided by the Education Departments of the various county councils, I understand very little interest is shown by the parents in the schools. Fortunately in this State, and probably in the whole of Australia, parents take a great deal of interest in the schools, much more so than is the case in England. It is very important to have close parent-teacher relationship, which cements the value of education to the child.

Most parents and citizens' associations are assisted by the Government, usually on a pound for pound basis, in the supply of such amenities as film projectors—both movie and still radio equipment; and so on. The associations which have been established for 10 or 15 years have provided virtually all they can in the way of such equipment, and their task then becomes centred on obtaining finance for the maintenance and replacement of that equipment. Some of them are at a loss to know what to do with their energies and they have endeavoured to raise larger sums of money for greater projects.

One such project which comes to mind—and many associations are interested in it—is the building of an assembly hall if we can call it such. The idea is that a hall should be erected in the primary school grounds to be used generally for physical culture in the winter, concerts, folk dancing, and many other like purposes, and also for meetings. In some cases the hall could be let, thus assisting to raise money.

So far the department has found it impracticable to provide any money to assist in this regard. There is one association in the district which I represent which has over the past four years raised approximately £2,000. It has in mind the building of a hall which will cost between £10,000 and £12,000, which is rather an ambitious project. Whilst it may be thought that such a liberal construction is not warranted—and I am inclined to agree—I feel that this type of project is worth fostering.

Although I know it is impossible at the moment for the Government to assist, it should be able to establish some sort of

fund into which the department could put a certain amount of its grant every year and, from that fund, subsidise on a pound for pound basis those associations which prove to the department, firstly, that they are capable of raising money; and, secondly, that they can in fact raise the 50 per cent. required.

There are, I think, four main requirements. They are: (1) That a Government fund should be established for the purpose of setting aside money to assist in the building of school halls, on the basis of subsidising 50 per cent. of the cost; (2) that a priority list should be commenced; (3) that before any association is placed on the list it should demonstrate that at least one quarter of the total cost has been obtained and it should be able to submit details as to how the remaining quarter of the total cost is to be raised; and (4) that the Government should provide assistance to those on the priority list as funds become available. I think we should assume that the cost of these buildings would be about the £8,000 mark, which is a fairly reasonable figure. If the Government decided that it would assist two schools each year in this way, it would then have to find £8,000 a year—half the cost of each one.

I understand that a survey has been made in my district by the association to which I have referred, this being the Applecross Parents and Citizens' Association, and it has been ascertained that there are only three associations in the State which would be in the position to avail themselves of such an opportunity at the moment. Therefore there would be no great call on the State's finances, because, as I have stated, many of the associations have now nothing on which to spend their money. The establishment of a hall would provide them with a worthwhile project for which to work, thereby maintaining their interest in the schools, which is vitally important.

MR. FLETCHER (Fremantle) [8.26]: I desire to make a few brief comments on this very important vote. The member for Albany mentioned television as a medium of education, and I mentioned it during the debate on the Estimates last session. I believe that television has greater possibilities than school broadcasts, or even the projection of films. I visualise that a yearly series of lectures could be compiled on subjects such as physics and science.

If every school had at least one television set the students would be able to view these lectures and then the teacher could elaborate on the subject contained in them. One has only to watch children while they are engrossed in a television programme to know that a scheme such as I have suggested would be of inestimable value.

Mr. O'Neil: Do you think it would have a greater advantage than movie films?

Mr. FLETCHER: Yes; I do.

Mr. O'Neil: But it is exactly the same.

Mr. FLETCHER: Children are not as attentive when watching a film as they are when watching television. Their eyes never leave the set; so it can be imagined what value would be gained by a child if he were to watch a session on physics, or science, or any other like subject. Instead of the teacher writing a few things on a blackboard, the child would be able to see the actual demonstrations taking place in front of him on a television programme. Some of the television programmes I have seen are of a splendid educational standard, but unfortunately they are in the minority.

Mr. O'Neil: Most of the films shown on television are the ordinary Education Department films which are available to schools.

Mr. FLETCHER: If a television set were made available in each school, the cost being borne by the department and not the parents and citizens' association, I think great advantage would be afforded the Education Department, the teachers, and the children.

On the subject of teachers, I do not want to add to the ego of the ex-teachers among members present, but I would like to say that teachers are a splendid dedicated group of people who have the future of our country in their hands. I know from personal experience that they do more than is required of them. The average schoolteacher does not consider his work as just a job. He does a great deal extra in the way of teaching music and drama and similar subjects, which make the life of schoolchildren today more attractive than it was when I was a school-boy. To do this, teachers spend hours of their own time preparing pupils for performances in school and other concerts. I think, therefore, that they are worthy of commendation on an occasion like this.

They even take a personal interest in individual cases and individual types of pupils, who all have their different attitudes to life. No two children react alike; and yet the teachers, despite the overcrowding in the classes—and the classes are still far too large and there are not enough teachers available—attempt to take each child individually and try to help him. I do not blame the Government for the shortage of teachers. There is just not sufficient money available to employ more. I hope that classes will ultimately dwindle to a size that can be easily handled by teachers.

I feel there should be more Government scholarships, as distinct from private persons or firms making them available. I do not think these provide the total answer. More scholarships should be granted by the Government.

In my area there are a lot of children who leave school immediately they reach the age of 14 years. They have the scholastic ability; and if they had the economic ability to go on to higher education they would do well. I recently wrote out a testimonial for a schoolboy. I was pleased to do so, but I was sorry for the necessity of having to do it for a boy of his brilliance. He had academic ability; he was always top of his class; and he could have gone on to higher things. There should be more Government scholarships to assist pupils of that type.

I do not want to introduce a discordant note, but there should be greater Federal grants towards education. Irrespective of which Government is in power, the Minister should not have to get on his knees for more finance for such a worthy cause. We are being outstripped by other nations from the point of view of education. Our country will be only as important as strong as the educational qualifications of its future citizens.

With monotonous regularity over £190,000,000 is spent each year on alleged defence. I think a portion of that figure could be spent to the better advantage of our citizens. A member of the Federal Government recently maintained that £23,000,000 of that £190,000,000 had not been spent on defence. He was speaking about hypothetical enemies that exist on the other side of the world. I feel that a preponderance of that money could have been spent to greater advantage on education.

I wonder where the Education Department would be without the parents and citizens' associations. The association connected with the John Curtin High School has recently been successful in twisting the arm of our worthy Minister to the extent that he has decided to make available the finance necessary to build a canteen next year for that splendid school. I am very happy about that. The children have had to cross a busy road to get to a tuckshop on the other side. Although they are not unhygienic premises, they are inadequate, and it is a busy highway. I am therefore pleased that a canteen is to be provided.

MR. BRADY (Guildford-Midland) [8.35]: When speaking to the Address-in-Reply I mentioned that the Commonwealth Government should do more to help education in this State. I have received a number of letters from parents and citizens' associations throughout the metropolitan area, and particularly in my own electorate, urging members of this House to try to obtain more assistance from the Commonwealth Government.

I do not think I have to stress upon the Minister the necessity for obtaining more money for education. Probably he is more mindful than I am of the fact

that even though we are spending about £9,500,000 on education this year, it is not enough. I am reminded that in 1951-52, according to the index of returns that was handed to members, we were spending somewhere around £3,250,000 on education. That was 10 years ago. We are now spending approximately £9,500,000. Comparing the value of the pound 10 years ago with what it is today, the commensurate value of expenditure today would be about £12,000,000.

I know the Government has many financial calls on its purse strings, and I am grateful for what the Minister has done in my area, and also for what was done by the previous Minister in the Labor Government. Our position has improved almost immeasurably over the past five or six years. When I first came into this House there were about seven public halls being used for primary and secondary education. None of these halls is being used today and there is a much better set-up in regard to education.

I notice that the Minister recently opened some new activities at the Leederville Technical School. There are many thousands of young people in my district who, I believe, will be seeking improved technical school facilities in the near future. I hope the Minister will keep in mind the fact that we would like to have many of the educational facilities offered to technical schools in Perth extended to Midland Junction. There are four or five different activities in Perth that could quite well be introduced into the Midland Junction Technical School. We have a vast area where, for 30 miles around, people are interested in primary production. Those people could travel in buses or in their own vehicles and take advantage of any improved technical facilities offered.

I would like to suggest to the Minister that he try to get the advisory committees in the various areas to meet more than once a year. Since the late Mr. W. D. Johnson was a member, and during my time, the advisory committee in Midland Junction has met about once a year. I think it would be of assistance to the Minister if these committees could meet more than once because I think they could make worthwhile suggestions to the Minister and his department.

The parents and citizens' associations in my district is anxious about the fact that some of the hills children are going to be transferred to high schools further east. A deputation met the Minister recently, and the association is anxious to know what is to happen.

I was recently asked whether it is possible to obtain a subsidy to provide pianos for private schools. It was felt that music was an essential requirement and teachers with musical qualifications

were being sought. However, unless private schools receive a subsidy there will be difficulties.

Another school—the Eden Hill School—approached me with regard to obtaining assistance to construct playing fields. The parents and citizens' association has raised £5,000 to £6,000 in the past 10 years. It wished to lay out a three-quarter acre playing ground by mixing cinders and loam, and the project would have cost about £200. However, the association was discouraged by the reply it received from the Education Department. I telephoned one of the officers of the department and he agreed to send a Mr. Bailey to have a look at the project. I am hoping that the money will be provided. Any association that raises £4,000, £5,000, or £6,000 in a 10-year period should be encouraged.

Another school wanted to lay out a new playing area. New lawns were put in, but the school was told by the Water Supply Department that it could not use the water. I am referring to the Middle Swan school. I have made overtures to the Water Supply Department, which has agreed to help the school provided it uses the water at certain hours. The parents and citizens' association would like to have the water on for the whole of the seven days, if it is necessary.

The area served by the Koongamia School is expanding. Ultimately the school must become a junior high school; and I hope the Minister will erect new classrooms, which I understand will be needed early next year.

I was surprised to receive a reply from the Minister in answer to a question asked recently about Hazelmere. He said it was not possible for a primary school to be constructed at the present time, or in the near future. When I first came into this House I was at a meeting with the late Hon. Jas. Dimmitt, M.L.C., when the question of the Hazelmere school was discussed. I think the department had given an assurance that officers were looking for ground in the area on which to erect such a school.

This is a new area and I think there will be agitation for a primary school. If during the winter months children are forced to go to the West Midland Primary School, which is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles away, in order to get there they have to cross two creeks. If those creeks overflow the detour is about three miles and the position becomes difficult.

I would like to express my appreciation to the department for continuing to provide a part-time youth organiser in the district. The previous youth organiser retired from the position last year, and the new man is feeling his way into the job. He is doing a good job, and I hope he will be allowed to continue. He has now introduced some classes, and he is encouraging local youth to take part in the activities of the high school.

It is an economic waste to have a high school in the district providing every facility if local children are not encouraged to go there except for one-fifth of the day. I think the member for Canning said that the children are at school for only one-fifth of the day. But for the rest of the 24 hours both the buildings and facilities are there to be used. I think the community, or the State generally, could get a great deal more value out of our school buildings if we encouraged our youth to have concerts and engage in other activities at our high schools, where modern buildings and facilities are available.

Fortunately, the Governor Stirling High School has a marvellous stage, and I attended a Swan Homes concert there last Saturday week. There must have been 500 or 600 people present, and it was a marvellous success. The children gave of their best and I think the fact that modern facilities were available encouraged them, and the people of the district took a greater interest in it because of the surroundings.

I would like to express my own thanks, and the thanks of the people in my electorate, to the Minister for his continued interest in that high school. I hope that ultimately the technical school classes will be expanded which will be a great help in overcoming the problem of delinquency. I think the trouble with our youth today is that they have too much time on their hands, and there are not sufficient facilities available to occupy their minds. Some parents in my district are encouraging the youth there to take part in activities, and I happen to be the chairman of the youth advisory council. But even with all the work the council does, the technical school facilities which are available, and the sporting facilities which can be used, there seems to be a vacant spot somewhere in providing for our youth, and the suggestion about musical training made by the member for Albany earlier this evening might be the one bright spot on the horizon. If that suggestion is adopted it should go a long way towards helping to solve the problem.

That is all I wish to say on the Education Vote; but knowing how the parents and citizens' associations watch these matters closely, I felt I should mention the immediate requirements of my district, and in particular those which have been brought to my notice during the last three or four months.

SIR ROSS McLARTY (Murray) [8.48]: I am sure all members are pleased to see the very considerable increase in this vote, an increase for 1960-61 of £911,000. The estimate for the year is £9,427,690. If one looks at the general revenue to be received by the Government one sees that the estimate for 1960-61 is £69,040,000, while the Education Vote is almost £9,500,000. We

have to add to that the money spent on the University, which is another £500,000, although the money for the University is not under the control of the Minister for Education. I often wonder why, because it is a branch of education.

As has been pointed out by a number of members, there is a keen demand that the Education Vote should be substantially increased, and some educationists, in their keenness, appear to think that money is unlimited. I have not looked at the Loan Estimates for this year to see what is provided from that source, but that also would run into some millions of pounds. However, the amount provided in the Education Vote is substantial, and it is about one-seventh of the general revenue which the Government receives.

We have to take into consideration the fact that there are a number of other departments, and members are particularly interested in health. If we look at the votes which come under the control of the Chief Secretary and Minister for Health, we see that this financial year the total is £8,000,000 and of that sum £6,500,000 is for health. The same thing can be said by other honourable members in this instance—that more money should be spent on health. But as one who has had some experience of the Treasury I know what pressure is put on it to provide money. I know, too, that the only way the Treasurer can get money is by taking it from the people. To what extent the taxpayers of this country would be prepared to put their hands into their pockets any further is a matter which Governments have to decide upon.

It has been said that the Commonwealth should provide more money for education. I agree with the member for Fremantle that we have to maintain an educational standard at least comparable with that of the average Australian States, but in addition we have to keep up with the rest of the world.

Mr. Fletcher: Hear, hear!

Sir ROSS McLARTY: If we do not do that we will fall behind. In the event of the Commonwealth providing more money it is faced with the same problem as a State Government; it has to find the money from some source, and it can only get it from the taxpayers of this country. As an ex-Treasurer I know about these matters because when I was Treasurer I used to be confronted with the problem of getting money for education and for other departments. It was always said that there was not enough money for education; not enough money for health; and not enough money for many other things. But one has to look at what money is available and decide what is a fair allocation to the various Government departments. I would say of the Minister for Education that he must have exerted considerable pressure because he appears

to have done very well with the vote that he has—I mean very well in comparison to the general revenue received.

I have no doubt that if we gave him a few more million pounds he would find ways and means of spending it, and spending it to advantage. But it is a matter of what can be taken out of general revenue, and the best way to spend it.

I did not mean to say much on this vote. I really rose to say something about affairs in my own electorate; and I want to draw the Minister's attention to the difficult position in my district. In the town of Pinjarra we have a large primary school and also a junior high school. At the junior high school an assistant head-master as well as a senior master, are to be appointed this year. There is a house for the head-master, but no provision is made for the assistant head or the senior master; and as far as I know no provision has been made for the head-master who will be appointed to the primary school at Pinjarra.

I wrote to the Minister about this matter and I asked him if he would see that something was done. Teachers in my electorate are finding considerable difficulty in obtaining suitable accommodation. They have been used to good accommodation in their own homes, or with their own families, and they must find it very difficult when they are transferred to a country area and the accommodation is not suitable. Sometimes they have to share rooms, and I do not think that is a very desirable state of affairs. As we all know, the sanctity of our own bedroom is something which we all wish for, and privacy in life is largely destroyed when it comes to sharing accommodation, particularly a bedroom.

Mr. Rowberry: It depends upon whom you share it with.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order!

Sir ROSS McLARTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think, too, that it is very desirable for teachers to live in a district or town to which they are transferred. They are part of the community life, and not only the parents but also the citizens generally like to have the teachers living in the town. I know that at Pinjarra we are faced with a difficulty in that the teachers are unable to find accommodation in the town and some of them live at Mandurah. They have to travel backwards and forwards each day. I was told recently, at a function I attended, that the head teacher who is to be appointed to the primary school will only be in the town during the week and will reside in the city during the week-end.

I hope the Minister is giving some attention to what I am saying, and I will be obliged if he will tell me, when he replies to the debate, what is the department's policy as regards the provision of accommodation for teachers. It may be that it

is done in co-operation with the State Housing Commission; but I believe there is justification for spending some of the Education Department's loan money on the provision of houses for teachers. This should apply not only to head teachers and senior teachers, but also consideration might be given to the provision of hostels in certain country towns where accommodation is acute, so that teachers may live under reasonable conditions.

Mr. Toms: Particularly in the case of young girls who go to the country from the city.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: Yes. Of course they would have to pay a reasonable amount for their board; but in some towns, especially when they have to live at the hotel, they are asked to pay an amount for board which is much more than they are able to pay, taking into account the salary they receive.

Mr. Watts: You know they are subsidised.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: That is so; subsidies are paid in some cases. But here again I was wondering whether hostels, where a number of teachers are employed at a school, could be provided out of loan money. It would not involve the Education Department in much loss. I regard this matter as an urgent one, and I think some steps should be taken to rectify it. I believe the provision of hostels would be more satisfactory than the Government having to subsidise teachers where the cost of their board is much higher than they can afford to pay.

Mr. Norton: The subsidy is very limited as to time.

Mr. O'Neil: Three months.

Mr. Watts: It is more than that now.

Sir ROSS McLARTY: The Minister says it is more than three months; but no doubt they were given three months to enable them to look around to see whether they could find suitable accommodation. That is all I wish to say; but I considered the matter so important that I felt I should take this opportunity of saying something while the Estimates were before Parliament.

MR. J. HEGNEY (Middle Swan) [9.0]: This is possibly one of the most important votes to which the Committee has to give its attention. There is no doubt that the problem of education is increasing year by year because of the tremendous needs of the community. I would first like to support the remarks made by the member for Murray concerning the problem of accommodation in country towns for members of the teaching staff. There is no doubt whatever that teachers in country areas meet with considerable difficulties in regard to accommodation. This obtains even in the large country towns where accommodation is provided perhaps only

for the headmaster. The deputy headmaster and many of the married teachers must fend for themselves.

I do not think it would be impossible for the Housing Commission to provide houses which could be let on a tenancy basis to teachers appointed to country areas. This could be done in conjunction with the Education Department, which would be the owner of the houses, and which would let them under the same conditions as houses are let by the State Housing Commission. We know that banks find it necessary to provide accommodation for their staff when transferred to country areas. This is very necessary particularly as it refers to the married staff.

I am sure it would not be impossible to organise some scheme whereby houses could be provided by the Housing Commission in the various towns in which teachers are situated. My own son is a schoolteacher in a high school and is about to be married next year; and he is seeking accommodation at the moment. This problem also relates to the question of transport from one place to another. I have had many people come to me at various times and express concern at the lack of accommodation for their sons and daughters when they are transferred to country areas. So perhaps the Education Department will see whether something can be done, in conjunction with the State Housing Commission, to alleviate this problem.

I think it would be to everybody's advantage, because we train teachers and bring them to the standard of obtaining a university degree, and thus provide the children in country areas with facilities similar to those available to children in the metropolitan schools; and it is important that those teachers should be given accommodation comparable to that which they have left. The accommodation problem is, of course, an ever-increasing one, and it will no doubt continue to get worse over the years; but money must be found to educate the young people of this country. We all know that the State has its own difficulties.

I would like to illustrate my point by saying that the other day I was at a sports afternoon at Redcliffe. During the past six or seven years a new school has been built at Redcliffe, which has gone ahead by leaps and bounds. The number of children it accommodates is 470. Yet we find that a stone's throw away a convent school has been built—less than one-eighth of a mile from the State school—at which 430 children attend.

The parents not only have the problem of providing accommodation for their children but they are also confronted with the difficulty of providing the buildings as well. They have often asked me whether it is fair that they should have to provide classrooms, and the necessary

accommodation, as well as undertake the teaching of children, and so on. At least a quarter of the community are confronted with such difficulties. We all know that many of our children attend secondary schools, and then go on to leaving standard; and perhaps a certain percentage will attend the teachers' training college, and eventually become teachers. There is no doubt that very definite difficulties exist in this sphere.

The question was raised as to the provision of a hall. The Parents and Citizens' Association is keen to establish a hall on schoolgrounds, to be used for assembly purposes and for the purpose of raising funds. This matter was raised by me when the Hillcrest State School was in my electorate seven or eight years ago. It is now in the electorate of the member for Maylands.

I took the matter up with the department to see whether funds could not be made available to establish a hall at the rear of the existing buildings. The idea was a good one. The Parents and Citizens' Association proposed to raise funds in order to provide amenities associated with education. You cannot leave the Chair, Mr. Chairman.

(The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr. Heal) took the Chair.)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Heal): He has left the Chair.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: There is no question that the amounts provided by the parents and citizens' associations throughout Western Australia considerably supplement the Education Vote. Without that supplementation the extras which are supplied by the associations would not be available. In the main I think this is a good thing, because it brings parents themselves more vitally into contact with the schools, and with the teachers; and it at least induces them to make a contribution to help not only the school but their own sons and daughters, who are able to secure the amenities associated with education which they would not otherwise receive.

So their ideals are quite sound. In respect of finance, we know that we, as State members, have from time to time impressed upon the powers that be—and, through the powers that be, upon the Commonwealth—the necessity for further funds to be made available to increase the State's Education Vote. I remember that following the cessation of hostilities a conference of State Ministers was held at Adelaide for this purpose. That conference submitted a proposition to the then Federal Treasurer, pointing out that an extra £10,000,000 should be provided, and distributed throughout the Australian States for the purpose of increasing the Education Vote.

Unfortunately all Commonwealth Treasurers, no matter to which party they belonged, appeared to think that education is definitely a State matter; because they were not prepared to intervene. That was their attitude in respect of universities for a number of years. They would make no contributions towards helping universities. But eventually the finances of the universities were in such a parlous plight in all the States that the Commonwealth Government increased the grants to help provide university education for the youth of the country. I know how difficult the position has been in our State right from the time when the late John Willcock was Treasurer; it was most difficult to get financial assistance for our universities from the Commonwealth Government.

Because of their parlous position the universities were at last constrained to set up a Universities Commission to examine this question, and that commission fortunately reported to the Commonwealth Government that the universities should be assisted from the funds of that Government.

A similar commission should be set up to deal with primary and secondary education. After all, the Commonwealth does collect the greatest amount of tax from the people. People have different viewpoints on this matter, but I am sure the necessary money could be found to assist in alleviating the educational problem that exists in this State. Unless that is done, the Minister who holds the Education portfolio will be confronted with the difficulty of obtaining sufficient funds to extend the benefits of education.

There is no doubt that today more people are keeping their children at school much longer than they did previously. I have seen a good many of the high schools that have been set up throughout the State. They are well equipped, and prompt the parents to realise the full value of education. It is absolutely essential for the boys and girls of our State to be educated and trained as highly as possible. If that is not done their future will be difficult.

We will, of course, always have youths who do not possess the mental ability or capacity to continue their studies; and they, of course, will become the hewers of wood or drawers of water. There are others, however, who could be trained as scientists, mathematicians, and doctors. It is essential that the youth of the country be kept at school until they reach the leaving standard, or until they matriculate; and then possibly they will be able to go on to higher education.

We all know that students come to us from Asia, from Indonesia, from Malaya, and from other countries. We are helping them. They appreciate the necessity to educate their young people; they realise

that this will help to build their own countries. We, however, are faced with the problem of trying to secure additional funds.

I am certain the Minister for Education is administering the department in a fair and just manner. It is his job to see that the funds go around, and I am certain that all Ministers would endeavour to do the right thing throughout the State.

MR. ROWBERRY (Warren) [9.13]: I feel I would be lacking in my duty towards my electorate, towards the State, and towards education generally, if I did not make a contribution to this debate on the Education Vote. Like the member for Murray, I will begin by commending the Minister, and keeping on his soft side. I notice that by far the greatest amount of money that has been dedicated in the Estimates to education has been taken up by transport.

That, of course, highlights the difficulties confronting Western Australia and its scattered population. Members will also notice that the amount set aside for the transport of children is approximately nine times as much as that being spent on primary education. That should give us some idea of the difficulties with which the Minister and the department are confronted in dealing with education.

I was interested to hear the member for Fremantle mention that television and visual education could play a large part in the education of our children. I wonder whether part of the money spent on transportation could not be spent on a central visual education centre, so that instead of having numerous schools and teachers scattered all over the State and having to bring the children in to central schools, we could have them educated at the source, as it were.

I know there are difficulties associated with this. We are having difficulties in other parts of the State at present in regard to the cutting down of costs in one place and depriving people of employment in the same place. That is a headache I leave to the Minister. It is an interesting viewpoint whether we can devote to visual education, such as television, some of the money spent on transporting children. In my electorate there are many difficulties and headaches in getting children to school. The children are called upon to be away from home for long hours. Some leave their homes at 6 a.m. and do not return until 6.30 p.m.—and that is a long time for young children to be away.

I know the Minister is doing all he possibly can to alleviate this situation. He has done a remarkable job. I commend him for the manner in which he has overcome a number of difficulties in the way of transportation in the Warren area, and I render him my sincere thanks.

On the matter of housing for school-teachers and other Government employees, if I remember rightly I put up a proposition when I was speaking on last year's Address-in-Reply. I advocated or requested that a scheme be worked out between the State Housing Commission and the various Government departments whereby certain houses could be allocated to Government employees.

Even though those Government employees, in the course of their employment, are transferred from place to place at short intervals, it follows that the same number of Government employees are continually in each town. The same number will be present although they will not be the same individuals. Therefore, they should have an equal claim upon the allocation of State housing homes with anybody else in the community.

The Ministers concerned should get together and work out a scheme whereby Government employees would have a certain number of State housing homes allocated to them in a particular district; and those homes would be for Government employees alone. There would be no injustice in that scheme, because once it was known these houses were dedicated to schoolteachers, Rural and Industries Bank officials, Department of Agriculture employees, policemen, and so on, it would be readily understood and accepted by the population that the houses were for that purpose. I am of the opinion that each of the Ministers should look into this matter.

I, like the member for Fremantle, am not afraid to touch on controversial issues. The member for Murray said that if more money is spent on education, more money is taken from the people. That is not necessarily so. It is a question of allocation—a question of priority. I maintain—and have done so ever since I have been a member of this House—that the most important need in our community—and indeed in the world—is education. It is no good spending £190,000,000 on defence. We must spend more money on education so that people will be more aware of the stupidity of war.

Therefore, in my opinion, £90,000,000 of the £190,000,000 spent on defence should be allocated by the Federal Government to education. That would be a better safeguard against war than the spending of these millions on ideas and proposals on how to destroy people. It has been said of education that its code is to give life and give it more abundantly; not to destroy it. Therefore this Parliament and this Government should press the Federal Government for more money for education.

The people of this State are taxed to the limit of their capacity to pay; and the only other source of additional revenue is from the Federal Government. Therefore I say

the responsibility belongs to that Government. If the responsibility for the defence of the continent lies with the Federal Government, so also should the responsibility for education, which, in my opinion, is the safest and best means of protecting us from ourselves and from other people.

I remember that about 12 years or 15 years ago at a summer school at the University of Western Australia I spoke about our being outstripped in technical education. I was rash enough to get up in my place and compare our system of education with the system which then prevailed and still does pertain in Russia. I pointed out then that we were going to be outstripped in technical education—and that was long before the time of sputniks; it was years before they were even thought of. Unfortunately, all the response I received was to be condemned as a fellow-traveller.

One young lady came up behind me when I was leaving the lecture room and said to me, "You will be a marked man from henceforth." Even those ideas need taking from the minds of people. It should be possible to express one's views when making a comparison with another country, even though one does show up one's own country to disadvantage.

To me, education is not simply being trained in the art of making a living; and it does not matter really whether one is a hewer of wood or a drawer of water, as has been mentioned in this debate previously, provided one can live to one's full capacity. I remember one of the wisest men the world has ever known lived in a barrel. That was his only means of protection from the weather and from the rude gaze of the populace. So the standard we attain in society does not reflect our real education at all.

I want to add my commendation to that of other speakers in regard to the teaching staff of our schools, both primary and secondary. In my association with them—and it has been close over a number of years—I have found them to be dedicated and devoted. They place a very high value upon the importance of education; they put a very high value on their place in the community; and they are doing work of inestimable value in our community and are bringing up our young people in the way they should be brought up.

[The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) resumed the Chair.]

MR. W. HEGNEY (Mt. Hawthorn) [9.25]: I desire to speak briefly on these Estimates. The discussions tonight remind me of the mild criticism that was received by the previous Minister for Education when he qualified some of his replies in regard to the building of classrooms for the supply of necessary finance

for the development of playing fields, and so forth. I am not going to criticise the Minister for Education this evening, because he knows, as I and every other member know, of the continuing difficulties and the continuing problems that exist in this State, some of which will be accentuated in the next few years.

It is interesting to note from the report of the Education Department that in 1939, the number of schoolchildren attending State schools was 57,700; while in 1949 it was 65,750. That represented an increase of 8,000 children in 10 years. That was a fairly significant increase. In 1955, 93,400 children were attending our schools; while in 1959 the figure was 115,852. Therefore, in that 10-year period, there was an increase of 50,000 children—five times the increase of the previous 10 years. I stress that point to indicate that no matter what Government is in office in this State—whether it be a coalition Government comprising Liberal and Country Party members, or whether it be a Labor Government—the problem will continue for quite a period.

I notice that £2,414,000 will be allocated from loan funds for school buildings, including the additions to high schools in quite a number of places, and the provision of further classrooms for primary schools; and a further £9,427,000 will be provided from revenue for education purposes. Therefore, the total from loan and revenue will approximate £12,000,000. I am not criticising the Minister, but I think he will agree that this amount cannot meet all the requirements for education purposes. Although the money available from both loan and revenue may increase in the next few years, the amount will not be requisite to meet all the reasonable needs of the Education Department in Western Australia.

When I say "reasonable needs," I do not refer exclusively to primary education, nor, indeed, to secondary education. I would, if anything, step up all activities in regard to technical education. If the Minister is going to reply I would like him to give an indication as to what the position might be or could be in the next financial year in regard to the construction of the technical school buildings in the James Street area. In passing, I would point out that the necessary loan funds will not be available to meet all the requirements.

The member for Murray mentioned that quarters should be available to all school-teachers in the country. I do not think anybody will argue the point with him; but if I interpret the point aright, the Minister will be bound to indicate that a system of priorities must operate in regard to the Education Vote, and that first things must come first. If hostels are built, playing fields are developed, and other amenities are provided—shelter sheds and verandahs—there will be so

many fewer classrooms, and criticism will naturally come from the teachers and from the parents and citizens' organisations. It will be found that the system of priority must continue to operate for some time.

Just as an indication of the position, I wish to refer to a school in my electorate and one which is in an adjacent electorate. The Tuart Hill High School will be a five-year high school in due course. It has been raised to the status of a high school; and I understand that the present headmaster, who did a marvellous job at the Mt. Lawley High School and was later transferred to the Tuart Hill High School in accordance with the procedure of the department, will be transferred to another three-year high school, and a different headmaster will take over the Tuart Hill High School.

The students who will attend at Tuart Hill will come from Lake Guelup, Mt. Hawthorn, Nollamara, North Nollamara, Osborne Park, North Perth, Tuart Hill, Wanneroo, and Yokine. The Tuart Hill High School has a capacity of 1,500, and there will be 1,630 students at the school next year. I have not the figures for other high schools, but I assume they will be taxed to the limit. As a result, the Director of Education, the Deputy Director, and the staff will be required to do the best they can in the circumstances.

It has been suggested that some of the high schools are too large. In conjunction with the member for Leederville, I was discussing this matter with a departmental officer, and he mentioned that Eton in England was one of the largest public schools there, and that it had a great reputation.

Even if the Education Department, or the Minister for Education, or the Government decided that our high schools were too large and that their accommodation should be halved so that twice the number of high schools would have to be established, there would still be the problems of finance and of obtaining the requisite teachers. The obtaining of teachers would not be so difficult these days as the provisions of building and equipment to meet all the requirements.

The numbers of teachers are increasing; I think that in round figures we now have more than 4,500 full-time teachers. As the salaries—I am open to correction here—are still determined by the appropriate authority in this State substantially on the lines of the New South Wales determinations, it is likely that the standard of salaries will be if anything, raised commensurate with the nature of the work which teachers do.

It is pleasing to note—previous speakers have mentioned this; but I think we all agree with what they have said—that the tendency on the part of many parents today is to keep their children at school for as long as they possibly can. I know

many breadwinners who are not on a large margin and who have the everyday commitments that the ordinary salary earner is subjected to, but who are making sacrifices to give their children a good basic secondary education. After all, it is realised that the days of the unskilled labourer—the pick-and-shovel labourer—have long since passed, and that it is necessary for the nation to ensure, as far as possible, that the children are adequately educated to meet our complex future.

This brings me to the point that no matter which Government is in office it will obtain its Education Vote from the two sources I have mentioned—loan and revenue. If the Government of the day provides more than a certain percentage of its money for educational purposes, then some other branch of Government activity must suffer. I would say—this is not passing the buck; I think all members will agree with it—that with the rapid increase in school population in our State—an increase of about 5,000 a year; and the trend in the next year or two may be even greater—no apologies should be made for any State Government pressing the Commonwealth continually for increased grants to provide for the needs of education.

After all, the children of our State, and those of New South Wales and the other States, are children of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth has the prerogative in regard to such matters as external affairs and the armed forces—the Navy, the Army and the Air Force—and the Commonwealth draws a large number of young State citizens into the ranks of these services.

As the Commonwealth in the ultimate receives the benefit of the education provided for the children by the States, I suggest the responsibility is on the Commonwealth to provide extra money for education—and money spent on education is the best long-term investment I know of—to enable the State Governments to meet their expanding needs.

I have no figures in regard to what I am going to say now, but I have met a number of youths and young women who have gone through the primary schools; who have entered the secondary classes in our State schools and in the private schools; and who have then gone on to the University. Whilst at the various schools they have been treated as children and have been subject to a certain amount of supervision over their studies; and from these schools they took their junior and leaving examinations. A number of these children stepped from the sheltered halls of our high schools into the University where the atmosphere and the approach to education are somewhat different.

To my knowledge there is a fair amount of wastage between children who have attained leaving standard, and those who complete their studies at the University. I think attention should be directed to

ascertaining the reasons for that wastage. There is either some weakness in the high school system—I do not think there is—or there is something too stringent for the students when they go to the University. It is a pity that so many of our ambitious boys and girls should be denied, deprived, or frustrated in regard to continuing their studies at the University and qualifying in due course as well-trained and competent citizens of our community.

I have just one word to say on the matter of transport. Various members might consider that children should not travel the present distances to the consolidated schools. But if one were to suggest that there should be a reversion to the old order, one would meet with quite an amount of opposition. When I was the Minister, I used to make inquiries from the parents and from the teachers as to whether they considered the travelling by motorbus to and from school had a detrimental effect on the children. Usually the answer was satisfactory; they said there were no repercussions or reactions. The majority of the parents said that when the children returned home they were looked after and put to bed early so that they could have a good rest and be ready for school next morning.

Here we have our State spending, in round figures, about £1,000,000 a year—perhaps a little more—to transport country schoolchildren from their residences to their schools, and back again. I suppose that expense will increase in the next few years as the numbers of children increase, and as costs increase.

Altogether in Western Australia there are 150,000 children attending primary schools. I had a look at the statistics in the last report of the Director of Education, and I found that there are 36,500 children attending private schools. One would shudder to think what would happen if, overnight, the private schools decided to close, and all the children attending those schools had to go to the State schools. Such an eventuality would create a first-rate problem. However, I do not think it is likely to happen.

I have noticed over the years that the administrative staff of the department—there is nothing but commendation for the teaching staff: primary, secondary, and technical—are very much on the target. Sometimes one receives criticism from people in a particular area in regard to what is likely to happen in connection with intake of a certain high school in the following year.

I have found that almost invariably the officers of the Education Department, after consultation with the State Housing Commission and the local authorities in regard to building permits, and in conjunction with the headmaster in the nerve centre of the particular district concerned, are rarely out in their calculations.

They seem to know just what the position will be in February of the coming year in all of the schools; and they are ahead of the position in regard to finding out what the requirements will be in different growing districts, because they have the school-sites committee, which is very farseeing in its activities, to assist them. I think that, all in all, these people do a wonderful job in providing school-sites and in recommending to the Minister that provision might be made for so many classrooms here or a school there. Generally speaking, in the face of great difficulties with our increasing school population, they do a very fine job.

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Minister for Education—in reply) [9.43]: I thank members for addressing themselves so thoughtfully to these Estimates; and I express my regret that owing to an urgent telephone call just as the Committee was about to resume, I was unable to arrive here in time to forestall the completion of the Premier's Estimates, which I had every intention of doing.

I would like first of all to deal with some of the remarks that have been made by members. The member for Albany referred to the effect that travelling has on children. I entirely agree with the honourable member who has just resumed his seat, the member for Mt. Hawthorn, who said that, in regard to the great majority of children, there is no evidence of any detrimental effect on their health. If they are in normal good health the effect is undoubtedly beneficial owing to the social contacts and the opportunities for organised sport and the like which they receive as a result of their being transported to centralised schools.

As a matter of fact, some years ago, an investigation was made into this matter because the same point was strongly raised, and it was found that in very few cases indeed was there any suggestion that any detriment was suffered by the children, and most of those cases were due to the children being in poor health or suffering from some infantile malady which resulted in their being unable to stand the strain. It was found that, in fact, they would have been unable to stand the strain of attending a small school.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: The advantages far outweigh the disadvantages.

Mr. WATTS: Yes; that is quite correct. And, in the main, the benefit the children receive is very great which has, indeed, been demonstrated by these inquiries.

The member for Guildford-Midland, among other things, referred to the necessity, in his opinion, for the subsidising of pianos for schools, other than Government schools. As the honourable member ought to know, an amendment of the Act is necessary in order that such a subsidy could be paid, and for the information of the honourable member—although at the

moment he is unable to be present—I would like to tell him that such an amendment is in the course of preparation and I hope to submit it to the House during this session.

In regard to the remarks made by the member for Murray, I sympathise intensely with him in his desire to have quarters provided for the greater proportion of school teachers. A greater number of quarters have, in fact, been provided in recent years. They have, of course, been provided to meet the first priority; namely, when new schools have had to be opened. That applies particularly, as the member for Mt. Hawthorn knows, to newly-settled areas; that is, war service land settlement areas and other areas of settlement where schools have had to be opened and where there is no place whatever for the teachers to stay. There has also been a considerable number erected elsewhere; some of them by the Housing Commission.

However, the Housing Commission never contemplated building houses for departments; its policy was to build houses for individuals and difficulties are always arising in regard to the number—usually the limited number—that the Housing Commission can provide. However, I think that last year a total of something like 19 houses were provided for teachers in various parts of the State. Of course, it is quite clear that a reasonable house for a teacher costs very nearly as much as a classroom; and therefore, if a centre is suffering from a shortage of classrooms every house that is built from the same money resources lessens the number of classrooms that can be built.

As a result, there has to be a determination on what is most essential and what has the highest priority. The Bill that I introduced the other day in regard to high school hostels was designed to supplement to the greatest degree possible the funds available to the Education Department in order that they should not be overstrained by having to provide hostels for schoolchildren out of loan funds from which classrooms and quarters have to be provided. That, I hope, will enable us to perhaps do a little better next year in regard to the housing problem. I cannot hold out any hope of any substantial improvement on last year's figures during the current financial year.

I was interested in the remarks made by the member for Murray in regard to financial expenditure. As he said, the estimate is £9,427,690. That represents approximately 14 per cent. of the total revenue of the State anticipated for this year. However, if one removes from that total revenue the amount attributable to instrumentalities such as the railways and other similar departments which are really not revenue-producing in the ordinary sense of that term, it will be found that it reduces the approximate figure to about £50,000,000,

and therefore the estimate of £9,427,000 odd is nearer 20 per cent. or one fifth of the total revenue of the State which is being offered for revenue expenditure on education.

The amount has been considerably increased over that of last year, mainly due to the increase in salaries, students' allowances and cleaners' pay, which will raise the expenditure by something like £800,000. The balance is due to quite a number of factors—increases here and there, which would make a considerably long list, but which would provide very little in the way of information if it were made available.

On the loan side the actual figure which would be available to the department, including the amount which is allocated to the north-west as a separate item for the current year, is something like £2,575,000, which is approximately £600,000 more than the expenditure for the previous year. That represents approximately 13 per cent. of the total loan resources of the State for the same financial year, which is a considerably higher percentage—and that is the best criterion—than in any previous year during the last decade. So it will be quite obvious that in the State's resources strenuous efforts have been made to provide funds which will enable a considerable percentage of our difficulties to be overcome.

The member for Mt. Hawthorn was quite correct when he referred to the fact that last year there were approximately 4,500 children who entered the schools on the 1st February; that is, additional numbers. He thought that the same number, or a little more, might be forthcoming for the coming year. I would agree with him on the accuracy of the departmental estimate for last year. If my memory serves me aright, out of an estimate of 4,500, the department was actually only about 25 out, and as the estimate was made out about five months before the 1st February, I thought it was a remarkable achievement.

Therefore I am hoping that the estimate for the forthcoming year is correct. If it is, there will be a welcome measure of relief because the figure the department has given me today is 3,500. I can only express the hope that it will be correct because, if it is, it will save the pressure of approximately 40 or perhaps 60 classrooms, depending on what type of school they are providing for.

Last year, ending on the 30th June, there were 238 classrooms completed during the year. That was four more than were completed in the previous year. When one uses the term classroom one is inclined to lose sight of the fact that it involves a good deal more than a classroom itself. If the classroom is in new school premises then there are, of course, a tremendous number of school ancillaries

that go with it, such as ablution blocks, lavatory blocks, storerooms, a room for the headmaster, and so on.

All of these ancillaries have to be paid for, and when it comes to the question of payment, it is merely referred to as payment for seven classrooms and the rest are not counted. When it is a question of additions to schools, very often, to a lesser degree, the same thing happens. The ablution block has to be extended and so on. So when it is said that we have built two classrooms for £10,000, this does not mean that each classroom has cost £5,000. It could be that £2,000 has been spent on the added ancillary buildings and rooms.

This year we hope to build 260 classrooms. There will be some physical difficulty, no doubt, in building them. But as 238 were completed last year, I am hopeful that we will be able to achieve that number. That brings me to the question asked by the member for Mt. Hawthorn as to the prospect of the technical buildings on the northern side of the railway which, I believe, is now known as the cultural centre. I must say that I am extremely hopeful that a start will be made in the coming financial year on those buildings. At present designs are being prepared, and I have every reason to hope that a commencement will be made with them because it is becoming vitally necessary that that work should be done.

Ten years ago the emphasis was on primary education. The post-war groups were increasing in numbers, and they were about the age when primary education was warranted. About six years later the emphasis shifted to secondary education. It is still there to a substantial degree, but slowly but surely the emphasis is moving—as I think the member for Mt. Hawthorn indicated was his opinion—to the technical section. So our considerable problems of providing for some technical facilities not only in the metropolitan districts, but also in certain substantial rural centres, is rapidly growing.

Steps are being taken to provide a technical annexe at Bunbury, and another at Albany, and work on those should be completed within the next 18 months, so that a sound commencement can be made, under suitable conditions, on the provision of technical education for those young people who are available to receive it and require it in those provincial centres.

The time is rapidly approaching, quite obviously, when other places will have to receive some attention because, as their population grows, the demand must arise and increase in due course. In connection with technical education, one honourable member—I have forgotten who—made reference to the students from Asia. I say quite frankly that we are extremely glad to have them here. We are very pleased to be able to make some contribution towards the betterment of the conditions which exist in those countries.

Particularly, I say that of the Malayan students with whom I have had greater contact and who, in the main, have shown themselves to be a very fine group of young people to receive any benefit that we can confer upon them.

There is in the technical section at present about 200 of those students. They cost this State between £40,000 and £50,000 a year on a rough calculation. They are undergoing study as a result not only of Western Australian Government policy but also of national policy. Our representation to the Commonwealth Government that it should bear a proportion of the cost of providing this education has not been agreed to. These students are wanted here. We are providing the facilities without any distinction, and to the utmost of our ability. It would have been much better if the Commonwealth Government had agreed to accept some responsibility.

On the point of Commonwealth aid for education, this matter rests largely on provision of the capital funds required. Our greatest problem in this State is that we are wrapped up in a big building programme. If we were to do justice to all, we would be building a new technical institute on the north side of the railway line; making substantial improvements to technical education facilities in places like Midland Junction; proceeding faster with the motor trade technical school at Carlisle, which will make some progress and contribution to the State in the coming year; providing technical education facilities in various parts of the State; building at least one new teachers' college; and providing several other substantial buildings in the nature of gymnasia which are sadly lacking and which cannot be provided at the present. In addition, a list of other desirable projects could be drawn up. I should say the total cost of providing those buildings would amount to £6,000,000 to £8,000,000.

If some arrangement could be made to assist this State in the construction of those buildings over a period of four years, and the funds which are now available continue to be available without being diminished, to enable this State to catch up with the normal requirements, our problem would be seven-eighths solved, if not wholly solved, in the next six or seven years. When it comes to providing these additional buildings without the resources, and at the same time having to keep pace with the ordinary additional school accommodation and ancillary buildings, the difficulty becomes tremendous. It is true that at the conference of the Educational Council of Australia in Hobart last year the Ministers reached conclusions very similar to those I have just enunciated. What progress will be made in the furtherance of that idea I am not at this stage in a position to comment on.

I am hopeful that at least before this House meets again in the coming year we will know about it—whether it be good, bad, or indifferent.

In regard to the subject of teacher training there has been a steady increase in the number of students being trained, and the number must be maintained each year so long as there continues to be an increase in the number of children seeking admission to schools.

The majority of students entering teachers' colleges in 1961 will commence to teach in 1963. Hence, in deciding the intake, estimates of school enrolments for two years ahead must be considered. As a result it is thought necessary for 13,050 students to be in training in 1961, an increase of some 40 over the present year. Because of this increase in number and the marginal adjustment in salaries of staff, the allowance for students will increase by approximately £79,000 for the year. There will also be an increase in the supervisory staff, to provide adequate supervision for the increased enrolments in the schools.

As will be noticed in today's newspaper, Mr. Johnson, a very highly qualified teacher with great experience of inter-service instruction of teachers, has been appointed superintendent of inter-service training. I have not the slightest doubt—knowing something of Mr. Johnson—that he will do a very valuable service for teachers, in providing them with the opportunity which might be likened to a short post-graduate course, during the time of their services with the department. In these days of advanced knowledge and rapid changes there is no doubt whatever that every effort must be made to keep abreast of the times. I think that is what Mr. Johnson will have a great deal to do with.

I do not propose to cover very much more ground, because I have dealt with the more important matters which concern the department at the present time. I thank members for their reception of the vote and trust it will be agreed to.

Vote put and passed.

Votes—Crown Law Offices, £611,597; Electoral Department, £34,199; Licensing, £10,126; Arbitration Court, £33,129—put and passed.

Vote—Department of Industrial Development, £207,495:

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development and Minister for the North-West) [10.9]: The vote for this department has been increased by £30,659 for the year. Last year the expenditure was £176,836, compared with a vote of £183,595. This year the estimate is £207,495; and represents an increase of £30,659, to which I referred.

During the year considerable progress was made on the training of staff and the development of the department. The work of this department is a specialised type, and it is not easy to acquire the staff that is particularly suited to all phases of industrial development. However, I am pleased to report that some progress has been made.

The department is functioning in several distinctive spheres of industrial development activity. There is the promotion of local trade; that is, the sale of locally made goods within the State. There is the promotion of export trade; that is, the sale of Western Australian produced goods in the Eastern States and in other countries. There is the decentralisation drive that we are pressing on with. There is of course the entirely different technique that is necessary for the attraction of industry—whether it be to encourage local expansion of industry, or the attraction of capital and know-how from the Eastern States or abroad. Members will appreciate that each of these phases of industrial development calls for an entirely different technique.

Regarding attraction of industry and know-how, the emphasis has been on lining up a diversity of industries to give a broader basis to our economy. One of the difficulties is to encourage a great diversity of industry to come here, so that a greater selection of careers will be available to the young people of this State. If we are not careful there will be an over-emphasis on one particular type of production which in turn will severely restrict the availability of careers for young people.

An analysis of the situation will quickly reveal that if we are to retain the best brains and the best technical skills within the State, we have to so organise the industrial development programme that there will be ample opportunities for people seeking different careers to have a selection of careers available. It is not everyone who wants to follow a professional occupation; to become a tradesman; or to follow a particular line of business. It is becoming very apparent that we have to so organise our industrial development programme as to have ample scope for a diversity of careers.

In this regard there is a very close link with education. I want to pay a tribute to the Education Department for its willingness to co-operate with industrial development to ensure that technical training in this State is geared to the industrial development programme. Through the good offices of the Minister for Education, the Director of Education watches the situation very closely and keeps in touch with the Department of Industrial Development to make sure that when we arrange a new type of industry involving new technical skills, the necessary educational facilities are anticipated; so that when the skills

are required in the State they will, in fact, be available. For that reason it is very important for the Department of Industrial Development to maintain close liaison with the Education Department, particularly on the technical side.

One illustration, of course, is the agreement with Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd. This new industry will involve new technical skills which at present are not practised in this State. If the Laporte organisation is attracted to Western Australia as a result of current negotiations, further new skills will be necessary. New skills will be required for the maintenance of that type of plant, as well as for the chemical side of the industry.

Every time we attract a new basic industry to this State we are attracting a new pool of careers—attractive and diversified—for this State. That is the main reason we are casting our net as wide as possible to line up as many diversified industries as we can. It has, of course, the obvious benefit of giving a broader base to our economy, but I think the even more important benefit is the diversity of careers it offers for our young people.

To make sure that these industries are well and truly caught within the net, we are, of course, trying to enter into contractual commitments with these industries, and these are not always easy to negotiate; because once a firm of repute signs a contract obligating itself to come to Western Australia at a certain time to establish an industry of a certain size, it must then honour that obligation. These industries naturally prefer to be free to come when it suits them; but so far as the Government is concerned it is very important that it should have these industries subject to a contractual commitment.

This enables the Government to anticipate the educational, labour, housing, water, and transport requirements, and the like, in order that we will not get economic indigestion at the time these industries establish themselves. Particularly is this necessary if more than one major industry attempts to establish itself at the one time. Also, if we can make contractual arrangements with some of these major industries it assists us very greatly to iron out the highs and lows which have characterised the industrial development in this State in the last 20 years—highs and lows which bring frustration and a degree of dissatisfaction not only to the industries themselves but to the people who are seeking employment.

So as to stimulate the activities of the department and obtain the maximum use of the facilities available, we have co-opted some outside help. Firstly, on the staff side, we were able to obtain from the Commonwealth, two senior officers on temporary secondment. These are very useful to us because they are experienced

officers; and, quite apart from their administrative ability, they have had a lot of experience with Commonwealth departments.

One of them has had overseas experience; and at this particular time, when we are doing all we can to attract industry here, and find we have to negotiate on behalf of new industries with the Customs Department and on such matters as foreign exchange and so on, it is very useful for the department to have an experienced Commonwealth officer available to it, especially when he knows his way around those various departments. I think it has been a move which has been justified. It gives us the opportunity of training our own local people to assume these more senior appointments in due course.

The work of the Industries Advisory Committee has continued. This is an honorary body that gives very freely of its time. In fact, it never ceases to amaze me how much time these gentlemen are prepared to give for the welfare of this State. The three concerned are Mr. H. L. Brisbane (the chairman), Sir Russell Dumas, and Mr. J. F. Ledger. They give much more of their time than the average member probably realises. In fact, I could say without any fear of successful contradiction that these gentlemen give approximately two-thirds of their normal working hours to the service of the State without any remuneration for it.

They are very keen and their method of approach is appreciated by industrialists who have talked with them. They speak the same language and are able to answer the basic questions. From their own experience they are able to tell industrialists from the Eastern States and overseas, how the establishment problems have been overcome by them and their colleagues. We found that they were a great source of strength during the recent visit of the United Kingdom industrialists.

We also have an Export Committee which works in a voluntary capacity, the two members being Mr. C. T. Pullen and Mr. Ben Scott. We have appointed a permanent liaison officer to that committee to attend to the details of the department. That officer is currently in South-East Asia gaining experience with the Trade Commission in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore so as to better advise local industrialists on what they have to do to successfully export to those markets.

I am hoping that while that officer is there we will be able to arrange for him either to be briefed by an experienced person, or visit Borneo as well as Malaya, and Singapore, in order that he might become better acquainted with the techniques necessary to export to Borneo.

We find that there is a considerable amount of export from the Eastern States of Australia to Borneo, and we feel that

this State has a certain advantage in trading with those countries. It is not easy to attract export trade, but progress is being made and we will slowly but surely educate our local manufacturers on the techniques necessary not only in manufacturing goods down to a certain cost, but also in packaging and merchandising the goods.

I think it is only right and proper to mention the work of the Industries Advisory Committee and the Export Committee, because they have rendered an invaluable service to this State, and a service which has not been a flash in the pan but which has been very persistent and efficient. In fact, I do not know how we would have been able to keep up the pace over the last 18 months had it not been for those two committees.

The main increases in expenses are in respect of salaries, brought about by the increased activities of the department; and the freight concessions to decentralised industries. The other major increase is incidentals, including exhibitions, organisations overseas, promotion of industries for Western Australia, and the like. All of these reflect the increased activity within the department.

I might add that a much greater sum could be gainfully employed in promotional work, and I think members will have to accept the fact that if we are going to intensify the industrial developmental programme, we will have to provide bigger budgets for promotional work. Promotional work is a science which is very much better understood abroad than in our own country. We are rather limited in our outlook towards promotional work compared with those in Eastern States and overseas, where it is a very specialised and costly business. It takes on many forms and is not just a question of having a few advertisements in a paper, or a few salesmen. It takes on very highly specialised forms and more and more will we have to use these modern methods if we are going to obtain substantial industrial development for this State.

A balanced programme of public relations and personal representation will be necessary. It is no good having a big build-up of advertisements in overseas papers if we have no-one on the spot to interview the industrialist and follow up the openings and interest created from the normal publicity channels. For that reason we have been very selective in the use of overseas publicity because it is just a waste of hundreds of pounds to use one of these overseas financial journals, if we do not coincide it with someone on the spot to tell the Western Australian story.

And there is only one way of telling the story, and that is to have someone in person on the spot. It was this which prompted us to bring out a group of United Kingdom industrialists, together with the

leading financial writer of England, Mr. Harold Wincott. We felt it was time that something unusual was done to bring a group of responsible businessmen, representing the industries in the middle and lower groups, in order that they might see for themselves what a comparative handful of people have achieved and what a great potential there is.

I am quite certain that from that visit we will achieve our reward. Members will be interested to know that some of the group have already completed negotiations for an association with local firms. In some cases it is only in the form of manufacturing rights, but that in itself is very important because it means that something which previously was imported to Western Australia can now be made in Western Australia.

Others in the group are actively engaged in negotiations to have a direct local interest in Western Australia; and we are hoping that over the next few months we will be able to consummate those deals and see the establishment of some new industries as a direct result of this visit. But quite independent of that, I am certain that the great publicity value of this visit has been well worthwhile. We now have nine industrialists with a personal knowledge of Western Australia. Previously it was something vague in their minds, but today they have a first-hand knowledge.

We divided their time approximately equally between rural and urban inspections. They were able to go to Geraldton, Bunbury, Collie, and across to Albany, in addition to having a fairly thorough look at industry in the metropolitan area. I think it was wise to make certain that they received a balanced view of Western Australia and not just of the metropolitan area.

These men proved to be a most co-operative and able group of businessmen. I have never before been associated with a group of people who were prepared to work so hard and earnestly and to give us their advice. The closed sessions we had in discussion with them to gain the benefit of their advice were invaluable. They were very frank and very constructive in their views, and we learned a lot. As a result of their visit we can improve our technique in approaching other industrialists, locally, from the Eastern States or from overseas, in trying to induce them to establish themselves here.

Mr. Nulsen: I am afraid I missed a great opportunity in not having those people go into my area where there is a great potential for the future.

Mr. COURT: I can assure the honourable member that we gave them a very good and clear picture of Esperance, and that we also gave them some literature. They were very impressed with the people they

were able to meet who had firsthand knowledge of Esperance, and particularly some people who had invested in Esperance themselves and could talk with firsthand knowledge.

It will be appreciated that to persuade nine very busy and successful businessmen to come to Western Australia was no mean feat, because to get people to take themselves away from their normal business for so long is not easy, and they were very patient in the 10 days they were here in giving all their time between the metropolitan area and the country.

Mr. Nulsen: I am very grateful to you for painting the picture you have in regard to the possibilities down there.

Mr. COURT: We did all but sell one of them some land down there. Currently we are receiving unprecedented inquiries regarding industrial prospects in this State. I suppose that is the sure test as to whether the promotional work has been successful. But we are receiving an unprecedented number of inquiries by correspondence; and, what is very important, we are receiving an unprecedented number of visitors who are wanting to discuss industrial development. This highlights the dearth of trained people we have within the department who are available to confer with top-level businessmen when they come here, particularly when we have several groups here at the one time.

Mr. Chairman, I believe I will have to make my comments on each division separately.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): No. The Minister may introduce the lot at once.

Vote—North-West, £2,459,665:

Mr. COURT: I shall move on briefly to the north-west. There may, of course, be a number of items in regard to which members will desire information; but suffice to say there has been a substantial increase in the vote for the north-west, both from loan funds and from consolidated revenue. Of course, the north-west is competing with all the other departments for funds, and I think it can fairly be said that each and every one of the departments that has functions in the north-west has been generous in its attitude towards the north in the allocation of funds; and I personally have no quarrel with the attitude of the different departments in their allocation of a share of their over-all funds for work in the north-west.

We are starting to feel the increase in activity in the north. It is reflected in the shipping demand, which, of course, is one of the key indicators as to the development in an area, for the more projects we develop in the north the more acute becomes the one-way traffic. For instance, the ship we have had to charter, the *Denman*, will lose a lot of money, even on the reduced charter which the Commonwealth was good enough to negotiate

for us. As a result of representations to the Commonwealth Minister for Shipping, we managed to get a considerable reduction in the charter price of the *Denman*, but it will still be a heavy losing proposition during the six months that the initial charter is to operate, mainly because it will go up full and in the main will return empty.

I think the upsurge in transport will be more pronounced than ever in the next dry season, although we are doing all we can in the wet season to shift as much freight to the north-west by way of heavy material and equipment as is possible so that as soon as the dry season sets in we will be able to commence work there without delay. Of course, it is difficult to disperse this material and equipment when we get it to a port like Wyndham during the wet season; but at least we will have it in the area, and the movement to a point where it is needed for contract or in other work will not involve any loss of time.

The total vote is up by £137,222, which is a considerable increase, having regard for all the demands being made on the State's funds, but I think that the most dramatic increase was in the Loan Estimates. That reflects the degree of developmental work which, in the final analysis, will be translated into greater permanent activity in the north.

The question of administration of the north-west is still one which is causing the Government some concern. It was hoped that before now we would have installed an administrative system in the north which could have relieved the pressure on the administration of this vast area and given the local people some closer contact with the administration. However, on closer examination it was found not to be so easily soluble as we thought it was, and we have had to move rather cautiously. But it will be resolved; and in the meantime we are about to embark on a very careful analysis of all the projects that are current and in prospect for the north, and to evolve the best system of administration.

Originally it was felt that one administrator in the north, say, in the Kimberley, could effectively administer the whole of the northwest and the Kimberley. But when one looks at the problems of the area, and one examines the Pilbara and Gascoyne as distinct from the Kimberley, it is doubtful whether one person could successfully cover the whole of that area. Geographically, climatically, and in many other ways, the Kimberley is distinct from the Pilbara and the Gascoyne; and it may be that a system of administration will eventually be introduced for the Kimberley quite distinct from that for the Pilbara and the Gascoyne.

I am not saying that as a statement of fact or as a decision that has been taken; but the more we see of the development in

the north the more apparent it becomes that the Kimberley is assuming distinctive problems. The distance alone, and its detachment from other areas, bring with them administrative problems, and I can see many advantages in having a man who is solely responsible for the Kimberley as distinct from the other two areas.

Vote—Harbour and Light and Jetties, £422,560:

Mr. COURT: I do not think there is anything more I want to say about the north-west at this particular moment, but I want to make some brief reference to the Harbour and Light Department, which is the third division in my estimates. The estimate of expenditure for 1960-61 is £422,560, an increase of £145,502 as compared with 1959-60.

In previous years stevedoring wages paid were recouped from firms and credited back to expenditure, thus reducing the expenditure by the amount of the wages paid. As from this year, the system has been changed in that wages recouped are credited to revenue. Thus expenditure is gross, as is revenue. Expenditure has increased from £277,058 to £422,560, or a net figure of £145,502, and revenue has increased from £436,150 to £570,000, or a net figure of £133,850.

Those figures indicate the increased activity that has taken place in the north-west so far as the operations of the ports are concerned, and I am quite certain that this year, 1960-61, will reflect an even greater activity than we have estimated; because in spite of the best estimates made in respect of the shipping for the north, and in spite of the fact that there was a very close liaison between the State Shipping Service and the various Government departments directly concerned in northern projects, we still found that the tonnage was building up. I think that explains why the *Denman* had to be chartered. One problem, of course, is that of routine surveys which take some of the ships out of service, and another problem was the need to convert the *Dulverton* for the bulk handling of cement; because unless we did something like that we could not get the costs down.

We have to realise that cement for a project in the north of Australia is subject to very intense competition. Overseas ships coming to Australia by charter are anxious to bring a cargo like cement into Darwin, Wyndham, or in fact into any port in northern Australia because it is an ideal freight for them to bring forward when they are coming to Australia to pick up materials such as manganese and so on.

Mr. May: And iron ore.

Mr. COURT: Perhaps one day it will be iron ore. That explains why the competition for bringing cement into the Northern Territory and the north of this State is so terribly keen. One way of meeting it was

for the cement company to assist with its price, and for the State Shipping Service to take some special action to enable the freight to be handled cheaper.

Mr. May: Wouldn't the local producers have been able to supply it cheaper?

Mr. COURT: With a commodity like cement, which is produced in the Philippines and similar countries, the costs in Western Australia—in any part of Australia for that matter—are not comparable. We have to allow for the fact that the ships bringing the cement to these ports have Asian crews and there is no comparison with the freights. By bringing cement to Australia it is virtually back-loading for them so that they will have something in the ship when it comes to Australia to pick up manganese or some similar cargo. Costs are running against us two ways—one with the shipping freights and the other with the low cost of labour in those countries which are producing cement.

Mr. May: Would there be much difference in the standard of the cement?

Mr. COURT: We think there is. That is one reason why the local cement was selected for the Ord River scheme. The main reason was the fact that it was of a guaranteed standard. Cement produced in Western Australia at the Cockburn plant is of a slightly higher standard than the cement produced in most of the Australian States, and it is of a guaranteed standard; whereas there was some doubt about the cement from some of these other countries being of the same guaranteed standard. When one is building a project like the Ord River dam one cannot afford to have a mistake, and therefore it was very important to buy cement that could be guaranteed and in which the engineers and contractors would have complete confidence. I submit my estimates to the Chamber.

MR. MAY (Collie) [10.42]: I have little to say, but I think the Minister controlling the Department of Industrial Development will appreciate the interest I have in the activities of his department. I also realise that he may not be in a position to tell me all I want to know; but in the hope that at least he will be able to tell me something, I want to have a few words to say. No-one more than the Minister would be able better to appreciate the position and I am anxious to learn what he has in mind, or what is on the stocks, or what he anticipates in regard to industries at Collie. I will be very interested if the Minister can tell me what ideas he has in this direction.

I appreciate the difficulties that are attached to it, because I can remember years ago, when Mr. Fernie was in charge of the Department of Industrial Development, how many times overseas and interstate visitors who were interested in starting businesses in this State were taken

down to Collie so that they would have some idea of the set-up down there. I can remember the knock-backs we had because of the distance from the port to the town of Collie. I ask the Minister whether he can give us some hope regarding the establishment of industries at Collie.

I shall not take it upon myself to suggest what industries should be established, but it would be encouraging for the people of the south-west to learn there was some prospect of industries being established down there. There has been talk of a sponge iron industry and I do not know how much interest the department has in that, or in the prospects of an iron ore industry there. They are big industries, and perhaps the Minister has something smaller in mind.

When he replies to the debate I hope he will give us some information on this matter, because if industry can be established at a place like Collie it will go a long way towards assisting decentralisation. We must decentralise; if we do not, I can visualise the time when the metropolitan area will be so cluttered up with working people that they will not be able to make a living from those industries which are established in the metropolitan area.

I think it is a bad thing to congregate one's population in such a small area. If the Minister has anything whatsoever in mind I would be glad if he would let me know, or let the people in the south-west know. I might say that I am not married to the idea of big industry being established particularly in Collie. I fully realise that industry must be established where the conditions are most suitable; where power and light, and that sort of thing are available; where possibly the proximity to a port must be considered.

I know that all these things must be taken into consideration. I would take this opportunity, however, of asking the Minister to give me some indication as to what he has in mind. I do not want him to break any confidences, but it would be a great encouragement to the people of the south-west if they knew what was mooted in regard to the establishment of industries in that area.

MR. HALL (Albany) [10.46]: There are a couple of matters on which I would like to touch, and to which I would draw the Minister's attention. One of these in particular was brought to my notice, and I think it will prove detrimental to the interests of this State if allowed to persist. The matter does not interest me directly except in so far as it relates to the hump-back products in the manufacture of margarine. I asked a series of questions on this matter; and if I am permitted to read the answers it may clarify the point I wish to raise.

My reason for raising this subject is that we have two industries operating in this State today—one is operating full time

and the other half time, carrying somewhere between 13 and nine employees. From answers to questions I find we import tremendous tonnages of margarine, and yet the Act was amended to allow us to manufacture a total of 800 tons. We do not even manufacture that amount.

Although we have an industry that could be extended in this State, we are importing into Western Australia the overflow of this commodity from the other States. This will prove detrimental to our State because it will mean our finance flowing out of Western Australia; and that is what we are trying to resist in our endeavours to stimulate industry.

If we have agreed on the manufacture of a certain tonnage, I think—without going into a long explanation of the Act—we should be allowed to manufacture that total tonnage, without any adverse effect on the dairying industry. The Minister informed me that the manufacture of cooking margarine is practically unrestricted. The only conditions are that one must have a license and operate independent premises; and, in addition, one must manufacture *en bloc*.

On Tuesday, the 23rd August, 1960, I asked the Minister for Agriculture the following question:—

- (1) In view of the fact that this State imported 5,770,776 lb. of margarine for the year 1958-59, can he advise why the other States' manufacturing quota is in excess of their requirements, with the result that they are able to place excess production on the Western Australian market?

The answer given me was as follows:—

- (1) Importations include cooking margarine, manufacture of which is unrestricted. Quotas for the manufacture of table margarine were originally agreed upon on a basis of existing amount manufactured in each State, irrespective of points of sale.

There is a beauty! "Irrespective of points of sale," the Minister says. My next question was—

- (2) As the total consumption of margarine in Western Australia for the year 1958-59 was 6,517,696 lb., can he explain why, of the permissible quota of 800 tons (1,792,000 lb.) only 600 tons (1,344,000 lb.) were manufactured in this State?

The reply was—

- (2) The quota system was designed to protect the dairying industry. The manufacture of an additional 200 tons would not necessarily reduce importations.

I will not weary the House with all these questions and answers. We know that agreement was arrived at in 1952 for this

State to manufacture 800 tons of table margarine. When we have two industries, one operating on a full-time basis and the other on a part-time basis, I think it is time the Minister had a look at this matter to see what can be done.

If no action is taken we will fall by the wayside in respect of competition from the Eastern States firms which are bigger and more powerful, and which tend to flood the markets here with their products, to the detriment of this State. I hope the Minister will follow this up, and see that those industries get their just reward.

The other point to which I wish to refer concerns my own area, and the development of a scouring works at Albany. I have been hammering this matter as often as I have been able to, because I believe the area possesses all the attributes to justify the establishment of such an industry. When wool is scoured there is always a certain regain, and the regain would have a natural affinity in most of that area. It will have a good yield if it is scoured in that area. If it leaves the port, and unless it goes to some tropical country, it will pick up more on the regain. I would say that about 4s. 6d. per bale could be gained by scouring in a moderate climate.

Several firms are interested in the matter and the Department of Industrial Development should negotiate with them to see whether a scouring works cannot be established adjacent to the woollen mills. Quite apart from the question of scouring, we know that fellmongering goes hand-in-glove with it. I have mentioned this aspect before, and I repeat that there is a lucrative market in the pelts taken from the sheep; it is a market which we are certainly not enjoying today. Yet we find that France is enjoying the benefits from pelts taken from this country.

The pelts from this country could provide a most lucrative market for the manufacture of material, particularly that used by women. I am sure we have the chemical processes in Australia for this purpose; indeed I think they exist in this State. We could produce a commodity which would compete against that produced by the European countries, which is sent to America.

The amount of wool on a pelt is not a great deal at the time, but according to fellmongery there must be a certain proportion. Associated with wool scouring, and fellmongery, is of course wool-top manufacture. It was suggested that there was a firm interested, with which negotiations were undertaken by the previous Minister for Industrial Development. The firm concerned was Sir Isaac Holdens; a firm of high repute. As the Minister will know with reference to wool-top manufacture we might be exporting any one type; it does not mean that every wool top is of the same class. But those about which

I am talking could be established and provide a lucrative market without any detriment to the existing wool-top manufacturing industry in Fremantle. It would cater for a different type of clientele.

The next matter on which I wish to touch is that of mineral sands. Mention was made about Laporte Industries going to Bunbury. I do not know just how much the present Government had to do with the negotiations. I know there was an argument last session as to who was to blame for Laporte Industries not coming here. If Bunbury gets the industry for the extraction of mineral sands, perhaps it will be the result of negotiations undertaken by the previous Government and completed by this Government.

The point I wish to make, however, is that there are sands in the Albany area which have stood up to tests carried out by Jackson, Moore & Co., by research and chemical analysis. We find today that the Government has spent a lot of money on the Bentley laboratories in experiments to find out if those sands will give the highest percentage yield possible. The reports on the sands at Albany show that they contain a big percentage of high-grade ilmenite. Yet those sands have been completely neglected. There has been no drive to export the sands, let alone establish an industry in the area. I realise the market does fluctuate, and there has been a serious recession, but today it is agreed that the market is reasonably buoyant.

I would say that the industry could be put into operation. If that is not possible, then perhaps the sands could be exported to the benefit of the State. I think I have covered the point I wished to outline, but there are a few extracts from statistics which I would like to give. I am sorry I have not the later figures with me, but I will show the movement that has taken place in the Albany Road Board and municipality since 1955-56 in the industrial sphere. I would like to give the House the following statistics:—

Number of establishments: 1955-56, 76; 1956-57, 81; 1957-58, 83.

Employment (including working proprietors): 1955-56, 834; 1956-57, 856; 1957-58, 882.

Wages: 1955-56, £563,908; 1956-57, £636,876; 1957-58, £681,226.

Net productions: 1955-56, £1,242,985; 1956-57, £1,375,949; 1957-58, £1,406,302.

Output: 1955-56, £3,245,976; 1956-57, £3,873,693; 1957-58, £4,079,045.

As I said, I cannot give the figures for the development of that area for the past year.

I would now like to refer to the fishing industry in this area. At this juncture I would like to mention the canning side of the fishing industry, particularly in relation to salmon and herring. Mr. Hunt of

the cannery is introducing a new machine for the manufacture of his own cans; and this is virtually another industry coming to this State. Therefore the Government must do all in its power to stimulate the fishing industry.

I asked some questions recently of the Minister for Fisheries, and he has been co-operative. These were in regard to lower catches and whether the reason for this was the changed habits in fish or whether it was caused by trawling. I am of the opinion that the Department of Industrial Development, in association with the Fisheries Department, should carry out research, particularly in regard to industries pertaining to the fishing industry.

I have touched briefly on education and made mention of scholarships in industry. To bring these about, a close liaison between the Department of Industrial Development and the Education Department would be necessary. The scholarships would enable the workers in industry to travel and see other industries; and that would be to the advantage of industry itself and of the State as a whole. The people concerned need not have a university education; it is necessary only that they be conscientious and hard-working. As a form of compensation they could visit other industries; and they would learn a greater know-how as a result of the liaison between management and worker. I have covered all the points I wish to make, and I ask the Minister to bear them in mind.

Progress reported, and leave granted to sit again.

BILLS (2)—RETURNED

1. Paper Mill Agreement Bill.
2. Supply Bill (No. 2), £21,500,000.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

House adjourned at 11.5 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 3rd November, 1960

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

GOVERNMENT PROSPECTING SCHEME

Men Engaged, Cost, and Yields

1. The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN asked the Minister for Mines:
 - (1) How many men are prospecting under the Government subsidised scheme?
 - (2) What was the cost of this scheme during the last financial year?
 - (3) What number of fine ounces of gold was produced last financial year by prospectors working under this scheme?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) 60 men being assisted at present.
- (2) £12,443 13s. 8d.
- (3) 1,381 oz. 11 dwt.

GERALDTON HOUSING

Comparison of Roofing Costs

2. The Hon. A. R. JONES asked the Minister for Mines:
 - (1) How many houses were involved in the last tenders called for State Houses to be built at Geraldton?
 - (2) How many are to be roofed with—
 - (a) cement tiles;
 - (b) terra cotta tiles; and
 - (c) corrugated asbestos?