

was one way of looking at the study of the behaviour of persons in regard to criminal offences.

When these people looked at the penalties provided for violation of the law they concluded that it was necessary to make undesirable acts painful, by attaching punishment to such acts and making the amount of pain entirely definite, so that a prospective criminal could make his calculation that the pain exceeded the pleasure. Such persons must know that the pain exceeded the pleasure, and they must know that the penalty was definite.

This attitude in some degree is reflected in our Criminal Code; but in some of our *quasi* criminal offences there is no calculation for criminal responsibility; in other words, anyone who commits a particular offence must suffer a definite penalty.

This school of thought later attracted others who claimed that the central idea was right, but that in principle this doctrine had to be modified to take in the fact that young persons and insane persons could not calculate pleasures and pains, so they should not be regarded as criminals and punished as such. This school, known as the neo-classicists, extended the principle to take in other considerations, such as mitigating circumstances, and criminal responsibility became a factor of importance in criminal law.

The final school of penology was the positive school. This was an Italian group of theorists who contributed a great deal to the study of criminal law. They denied the individual responsibility of any criminal. They maintained that a crime, as any other act, was a natural act, just as a cyclone or a storm was a natural phenomenon. They therefore denied the desirability of punishment. They admitted that in self-protection the group must do something about crime, just as it must take precautions against storms or cyclones. They maintained that such precautions, even if they involved death or premature segregation of the criminal, should not be considered punishment any more than methods to deal with the insane should be regarded as punishment.

These people contended that criminals who could be reformed should be reformed, and that it was important to modify the conditions which produced the criminal. Those remarks are of such significance as to be written into our Criminal Code and offered as advice to legislators: offenders who can be reformed should be reformed, and we should try to modify the social conditions which produce the criminal.

I mention these things trusting that some cognisance will be taken of them by the Crown Law Department which, after all, initiates a great percentage of the legislation that emanates from this House. Very little important legislation which is

drafted by the Crown Law Department leaves this Chamber in any other form than that which was presented for the consideration of the Legislature. I feel that these are ideas of treatment rather than punishment; and ideas of crime prevention rather than punishment are such that we, in 1961, must cast our eyes upon, remembering that our criminal code in 1961 is, by and large, the same code that was commenced in 1902.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Davies.

*House adjourned at 11.1 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 31st August, 1961

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

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

### NATIVES AT GOOMALLING

*Amenities*

2. Mr. LEWIS asked the Minister for Native Welfare:
- (1) Is it intended to provide at Goomalling this year—
    - (a) any cottages;
    - (b) ablution facilities, for the use of natives?
  - (2) If so, when will a commencement be made with the work?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) (a) Three cottages at present under construction—
  - One Type 2.
  - Two Type 3.
- (b) No.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).

- 3 and 4. *These questions were postponed.*

## PENSIONERS UNDER 1871 ACT

### Legislation to Assist

5. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

As approximately 90 of the more than 200 pensioners under the 1871 Act received no increases under the legislation passed through Parliament last year, and as some others received only very small increases, does the Government intend to introduce legislation this year to assist the pensioners concerned to meet in some degree the increase in the cost of living which has taken place?

Mr. BRAND replied:

No. In this respect it should not be overlooked that additional income could be obtained by pensioners on the lower rates on application for social service benefits, which will be increased shortly.

## TOBACCO INDUSTRY

### Assistance

6. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Premier:
- In view of the parlous state of the tobacco industry in this State will he make known, at the earliest opportunity, any intention he has of affording financial, material, or credit assistance to the industry so as to prevent its extinction?

Mr. BRAND replied:

It is expected that the problem will be discussed by Cabinet on Monday next.

## SHOPS

### Legislation for Five-day Week

7. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier:
- (1) The Government having announced its intention of legislating for the purpose of allowing a five-day week for banks, is there any intention of taking similar steps respecting shops?
  - (2) If not, what are the reasons for the differentiation?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) In legislating for a five-day week for banks, the Government will be conforming to a practice which has either been adopted or will shortly be adopted in most, if not all, of the Australian States.

8. *This question was postponed.*

**BURGLARY AND ROBBERY***Males and Females Arrested or Convicted*

9. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Police:

What, approximately, has been the proportion of males to females arrested, or convicted (whichever is the more convenient) during the last five years for such offences as—

- (a) burglary;  
(b) robbery?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

		Males	Females
(a)	1956	663	5
	1957	816	31
	1958	924	6
	1959	808	3
	1960	1086	17
(b)	1956	14	Nil
	1957	6	Nil
	1958	6	Nil
	1959	6	1
	1960	10	Nil

**CRIMINAL CODE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA***Investigation by Royal Commission*

10. Mr. EVANS asked the Attorney-General:

- (1) Has the Criminal Code of Western Australia been the subject of a Royal Commission in this State?  
(2) Have any of the recommendations of a Royal Commission inquiring into the Queensland Criminal Code been reflected in amendments to our Criminal Code?

*Provision of a Supplement*

- (3) Is he, or the Crown Law Department, familiar with a publication known as *Queensland Criminal Code Supplement* by McLeod?  
(4) Is it considered that a similar supplement to the W.A. code would prove useful and justify its existence?  
(5) If so, would he give consideration to having the Crown Law Department prepare, or have prepared, such a publication?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) No.  
(2) No.  
(3) The department has a copy of the publication, which was published 46 years ago.  
(4) Carter's *Criminal Law of Queensland* (1958) is regarded as an adequate supplement to our code, which follows closely the Queensland code. Carter's book includes references to Western Australian case law.  
(5) Answered by No. (4).

**KANGAROO MEAT***Use in Sausages*

11. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has he read an article in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* of the 29th August, 1961, under the heading of "Complaints Kangaroo Meat Used in Sausages"?  
(2) As the situation described in this article may disconcert the public generally, and may also place butchers as a class under some suspicion, would he make a statement on the subject of kangaroo meat being used in sausages?  
(3) When is it likely that the contemplated new set of Food and Drug Regulations will be issued?  
(4) Is it intended that these new regulations will define the subject of kangaroo meat more closely?

Mr. BRAND (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

- (1) Yes.  
(2) Provided the kangaroo meat is wholesome, there is nothing to prevent its being used in sausages if there is no implication that the sausages contain another variety of meat.  
(3) Two to three months.  
(4) This has not been considered necessary.

12 to 14. *These questions were postponed.*

**WATER RATES***Kalgoorlie Increases*

15. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

As a result of the Government Bill to increase water rates, under the Country Areas Water Supply Act—

- (1) What actual increase per the A.R.V. was made to consumers in Kalgoorlie this year, as indicated on the latest assessments issued?  
(2) What was the actual amount of increase imposed by 1961 assessments on Kalgoorlie consumers per £ on the A.R.V.?  
(3) If that increase mentioned in No. (2) was less than 1s. in the £ on the A.R.V., is it intended to recoup the difference between that increase actually imposed and the total amount of increase under the Act?  
(4) If the answer to No. (3) is "Yes," when and how will this recoup be made?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Apart from new buildings or additions to existing buildings there have been no increases in the annual values in Kalgoorlie this year.
- (2) 6d. in the £. The rate was increased from 2s. in the £ to 2s. 6d. in the £.
- (3) and (4) Water supply operations in the State show an ever-increasing loss (£1,671,454 in 1960-61) and in view of this loss it is essential to obtain all revenue available. It will be necessary to increase the rate in the £ to 3s. at Kalgoorlie eventually (as will have to be done in other towns on the Goldfields water supply line), but the date on which this will be done has not yet been decided. The maximum rate of 3s. in the £ has been levied for years on other country towns water supplies.

#### WORKERS' COMPENSATION

*Hospital Ward Rate: Position at Kalgoorlie District Hospital*

16. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Would he agree that the Minister for Labour was correct when he stated, in reply to question No. 14 (1) on the 22nd August, "that in practice the major hospitals charge the daily rate fixed under the Act for all compensation cases regardless of where the patient has to be placed for treatment"?
- (2) If the answer is "Yes," will he arrange for the Kalgoorlie District Hospital to follow this course?

Mr. BRAND (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes, but the rate charged by the major metropolitan hospitals is 68s. per day.

This rate applies also at the Kalgoorlie District Hospital as well as the lower rate of 56s. per day, depending on the type of bed occupied. However, if a workers' compensation case occupies a single room the charge is 80s. per day, but 68s. per day is the maximum payable under the Workers' Compensation Board determination. The difference between 68s. per day and 80s. per day is payable by the patient unless he is not in a position to pay.

#### WYNDHAM MEAT WORKS

*Air Beef Pty. Ltd. Indebtedness*

17. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) With respect to the indebtedness of Air Beef Pty. Ltd. to the Wyndham Meat Works, which was

written down on his authority from £6,211 10s. 11d. to £2,500, when did the company first complain that it had been overcharged from and including the 1955 season?

- (2) Did the manager of the Wyndham Meat Works concede that the company had been overcharged, and did he recommend that the indebtedness be written down to the extent that it was subsequently done?
- (3) How did it come about that any customer could be overcharged to the extent that Air Beef claimed?
- (4) Is it possible that during the same period there were other customers who were overcharged?
- (5) Would seven-eighths of the amount which was written off Air Beef's account be at the expense of the growers?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) From inception, Air Beef Pty. Ltd. was dissatisfied with the rates charged for treatment of its products. Correspondence and discussions on the question of the company paying the amount of £6,211 10s. 11d. culminated in a conference between Air Beef Pty. Ltd. and officials of Wyndham Meat Works early in June, 1960, at which the secretary of the company further pressed his company's claim that it had been overcharged from and including the 1955 season.
- (2) The manager of the Wyndham Meatworks did not concede the company had been overcharged. He agreed with the suggestion to accept a compromise if immediate payment was made to close the matter.
- (3) Answered by Nos. (1) and (2).
- (4) No. The special service involved applied only to Air Beef Pty. Ltd.
- (5) The amount written off is being borne by the Wyndham Meat Works and the necessary adjustments are being made.

#### OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY

*Increase in Incidence*

18. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Has there been any discernible increase in the incidence of offences against property in the period between February, 1961, to present date, compared with the corresponding period in 1960?
- (2) If so, could he give some details as to specific offences?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) There has been no appreciable increase in offences against property for the period stated. The figure for the corresponding period in 1960 was 2,953; and for 1961, was 3,120, showing an increase of 167.
- (2) This information is not available.

## DRIVERS' LICENSES

### *Eyesight Test*

19. Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Does an applicant for a driver's license have to undergo any tests for eyesight before obtaining one?
- (2) Can the holder of a driver's license continue holding same without any test as to eyesight and medical condition, so long as he cares to drive?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) Yes; a standardised eyesight test chart is issued to all police stations in Western Australia and the required standards are set by the District Medical Officer in Perth.
- (2) Yes, save in certain circumstances where it comes to notice that there is some deterioration, in which case renewal is refused until production of a satisfactory medical certificate. Also, if a person allows the license to lapse for 12 months or more he is required to pass a further eyesight test.

## RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT

### *Preferential Treatment for South Australia by Federal Government*

20. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Premier:

- (1) Can he explain what appears to be preferential treatment as between South Australia and Western Australia in connection with developmental as distinct from standardisation railway assistance? For example, it is reported that the grant of £1,325,000 will be made available to the South Australian Government to convert the Port Pirie-Broken Hill line to diesel service, the State to repay only 30 per cent. of the expenditure over 50 years; whereas Western Australia has to repay 70 per cent. of expenditure on developmental railways over 20 years?

### *Tabling of Standardisation Agreements*

- (2) Is he going to table the agreement between Commonwealth and State in regard to the broad gauge standardisation?

- (3) Will he, if not in possession of the South Australian agreement, endeavour to obtain a copy for early tabling?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) There has been no preferential treatment afforded South Australia as compared with Western Australia, for the reason that the proposed new rolling stock for the Port Pirie-Broken Hill line is to be so constructed as to be suitable for use, after modification, when the line is ultimately converted to the standard gauge of 4 ft. 8½ in. and will therefore form part of the ultimate cost of standardisation.

The proportion of the total Western Australian £41.2 million project that has been agreed as standardisation, namely one-half or £20.6 million, is being financed by the Commonwealth on the same basis as the £1.3 million for South Australia, i.e., the Commonwealth to provide all the funds and accept 70 per cent. of the cost. The State repays its 30 per cent. from Consolidated Revenue over 50 years.

- (2) The agreement between the Commonwealth and State will be presented to both the Commonwealth and State Parliaments for ratification. It is unlikely that a copy of the agreement would be tabled before ratifying legislation is presented.
- (3) A copy of the South Australian legislation, which includes a copy of the agreement, will be obtained and tabled.

## NATIVE CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS

### *Applications Granted, Rejected, and Withdrawn*

21. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) How many applications for citizenship have been made since the Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act of 1944 was passed?
- (2) How many applications were—
  - (a) granted;
  - (b) rejected;
  - (c) withdrawn?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) 2,199.
- (2) (a) 1,652.  
(b) 346.  
(c) 65.

The balance of 136 consists of adjourned cases and those awaiting hearing.

**DOMESTIC WATER METERS***Charge for Testing*

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

- (1) What is the present charge for testing a domestic water meter?
- (2) When was this charge fixed?
- (3) What was the charge previously?
- (4) Is any concession made to aged or invalid pensioners in regard to water-testing charges?
- (5) If the answer to No. (4) is "No," will he give this matter some consideration?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) 15s. for up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch meters.
- (2) As from the 1st July, 1952.
- (3) 12s. 6d.
- (4) No. The department has knowledge only of pensioners who are actually granted exemption from payment of rates under the Pensioners (Rates Exemption) Act.
- (5) The position will be examined.

23. *This question was postponed.*

**TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD***Bets: Closing Time for Acceptance*

24. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) In what way has the T.A.B. prescribed a closing time for the acceptance of bets on local races to meet the requirements of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 20?
- (2) If this has been done by regulation, as required, what is the number of the regulation?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

No closing time has been prescribed. It is not necessary or obligatory for the board to do so. The board receives bets up to the scheduled starting time of a race and transmits them unless it is impracticable, in which case it retains them as authorised by the section.

**RAILWAY SLEEPERS***Supplies by Banksiadale Mill, and Cost*

25. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What percentage of the sleepers supplied to the W.A.G.R. were supplied by the railway mill during the years—
  - (a) 1958-59;
  - (b) 1959-60;
  - (c) 1960-61?
- (2) At what price per load were such sleepers charged to the W.A.G.R.?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) (a) 35 per cent., approximately.  
(b) 25 per cent., approximately.  
(c) 30 per cent., approximately.
- (2) The price at which sleepers were charged from Banksiadale to the W.A. Government Railways was a transfer price used during each of the years in question and was subject to adjustment through timber prices adjustment account based on the results of the mill's operations for the year.

The transfer figures used for the years in question were—

- (a) £22 10s. 10d.
- (b) £19 13s. 8d.
- (c) £18 2s. 0d.

These did not include any charge for interest or an adjustment for the mill results.

The transfer prices adjusted for these factors would vary according to the formula used, e.g., if these adjustments were spread over railway use timber and sleepers only the figures would be approximately—

- (a) £19 18s. 10d.
- (b) £18 4s. 8d.
- (c) £22 3s. 6d.

If spread over all timber produced the figures would be—

- (a) £20 8s. 5d.
- (b) £18 11s. 9d.
- (c) £22 19s. 4d.

In practice only a lump-sum adjustment has been made.

The variations in the above figures indicate that the method of transfer used was not completely reliable but shortage of time has not permitted the necessary research to reassess the figures on other bases.

*Tender Prices, and Quantities*

26. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What were the prices per load for W.A.G.R. sleepers submitted by suppliers and accepted by the department when tenders were called last year?
- (2) What quantities of sleepers were contracted for in each price group?
- (3) What were the corresponding figures of No. (1) for this year?
- (4) What were the corresponding quantities of No. (2) for this year?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) £19 12s. 6d. per load.\*  
£20 per load.\*

\*Subject to rise and fall in respect of future basic wage adjustments.

- (2) 20,000 at £19 12s. 6d. per load.  
200,000 at £20 per load.
- (3) and (4)—
- |   |
|---|
| 11,000 only untreated—£19 per load              |
| 70,000 only untreated—£20 per load              |
| 10,000 only untreated—£20 per load              |
| 100,000 only end treated—£20 2s. 2d. per load   |
| 13,000 only end treated—£20 7s. 6d. per load    |
| 156,000 only end treated—*£21 0s. 10d. per load |
| 360,000   |

\*Subject to basic wage rise or fall  
(1s. for each 12.).

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: TWELFTH DAY

### Motion

Debate resumed from the 30th August on the following motion by Mr. Craig:

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

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

**MR. DAVIES** (Victoria Park) [2.32 p.m.]: Whilst I am honoured to have been returned to this Parliament by the people of Victoria Park, I must say that I very much regret the circumstances which made my election possible. I have been pleased to hear in this Chamber the eulogistic references to Hugh Andrew, and can only add that I whole-heartedly agree with them. He was a man of integrity; a man who believed in social justice; a man whose primary concern was the welfare and happiness of people. I know that during my long association with him he was always happiest when he had been able to be of some assistance to the working man. I can only hope to do as good a job for the electorate of Victoria Park as he did; and I have pledged myself accordingly to the electors.

I am most conscious that being a member of Parliament places upon me a very heavy responsibility, and I trust that I will be able to measure up in all directions to it. I suppose that members here will know how I have felt over the past two or three days. They all know how one becomes nervous and does not know quite what is ahead; but I would like to say how much I appreciate the warmth with which I have been welcomed by members on both

sides of the House. I think that without exception I have been welcomed and congratulated in a spirit which I did not know existed; but which I am happy to have discovered.

Members from both sides of the House have given me encouragement and advice. I do not know whether I will take all the advice, but I know that some of it must be good because members of opposing political factions have given me the same advice. I shall look forward to further co-operation and help such as I have received over the past two days. This co-operation and help has made me feel that I have been a member of this House for much longer than two days.

There are, of course, one or two matters which I would like to bring before the notice of the Government today. As is well known, I have been canvassing widely in my electorate over the past few weeks and, therefore, have perhaps come closer and more recently in contact with my electors than have many of the other members here. Naturally there were certain matters which were raised time and again by the people.

The matter which was raised most frequently was that of unemployment. I do not want to be a calamity-howler about unemployment, because I do not think that we or anyone else should make capital out of anyone's unhappiness; but I feel I must draw to the attention of the House the fact that over and over again I found people distressed and worried about employment prospects. While in many cases the main breadwinner of the family was still employed, there was often a child or a youth who had just left school and who was having difficulty in finding work. Also there were plenty of married women who had budgeted in the expectancy of continuing to work for some considerable time, but they had found the family income had been halved.

I think it is a distressing state of affairs that in a country so prosperous as ours there should be any unemployment at all. It is soul-destroying to the men concerned when they have the ability to work but are unable to find a position. This situation calls for every possible action to be taken to relieve it because it is causing so much distress and worry to so many people.

We know it has been said that things are going to be all right in two, four, or six months' time. It has even been said that everything is going to be all right tomorrow. However, as far back as February I sat as a member of the Trade Unions Industrial Council with representatives of the Employers' Federation. At that time we were concerned with immigration and the allied question of unemployment. At a second conference held, there was produced for our edification a great list of works that were going to be undertaken within the next two or

three months. The optimism of those at the conference was very great; and we were told that we had nothing to worry about, because at the end of two months there would not be enough men to fill the vacant positions.

That was last February. Since then, as we all know, the position has deteriorated. We wonder whether we are going to be told again that everything will be all right in two months; and whether, if we are, things will be all right. This is a matter which needs urgent attention in order that something might be done to rectify the position.

Another matter which was raised, and which is second only to unemployment, was that of water rates. The people throughout the electorate have not long had their half-yearly readings taken; and they were aghast and most irate to find that whilst they were paying more rates than they had been in 1959, their water allowance had been substantially reduced. Time and again people came into the committee rooms and threw down on to the counter cards, accounts or notices so that we had the whole story there before us. They were complaining bitterly about it.

One man, who did not drink or smoke, had put all his money into his garden, and it was a beautiful one. He had spent over £400 on it. As he was in rather a desolate area he had bought trees for the street, and had even donated one to the school across the road; and he kept them all watered. They provided the only shade around the place. This man has now decided that he will confine his garden to within his own fence; and that same attitude has been expressed by many people. All this has happened at a time when residents are being asked to beautify the streets in connection with the forthcoming Empire Games. But it is quite apparent that they are not going to worry very much; and I can assure the Government that it can look forward to increased hostility over the matter of water rating.

Another question which has concerned us somewhat is the provision of a hospital for south of the river. There is a plan, I believe, to provide a hospital at Queen's Park in 1964 or 1965. I suggest that the site that has already been reserved in the Collier Pine Plantation for a hospital would be far better than Queen's Park where, of course, there is no site reserved up to the present. I believe there were 50 acres reserved on the edge of the Collier Pine Plantation; namely, in Jarrah Road. Although part of that has since been alienated for another purpose, there would still remain plenty of room to provide a most suitable hospital.

That location, to my mind, would be an ideal place. If we look at the map we will see that all around that area there are a great number of houses being erected; and the site would be central for

districts such as Riverton, Rossmoyne, Beeloo, Wilson, Canning, Manning, Victoria Park, Carlisle, and Rivervale; in fact, for the whole of that area. There are, of course, a number of private hospitals within the electorate of Victoria Park. Whilst these serve a particular purpose, there is a need for a general hospital; and I hope the Government will give consideration to immediately planning and commencing the work out there; and possibly this would help to relieve some of the present unemployment.

Another matter which is of great concern, and which needs early attention, is traffic control. Into the Causeway come roads leading from many points in the south-west, and the Causeway forms a natural bottleneck. This problem has been relieved somewhat by the provision of the Narrows Bridge, but the Causeway still carries a terrific amount of traffic. Albany Highway is at all times particularly busy, and not only during peak periods. On the Albany Highway, Shepperton Road, Berwick Street, and right through that area, road hauliers—apart from general transport—constantly travel backwards and forwards; and it would appear that instead of this volume of traffic relying on the Causeway, some provision should be made for another outlet. This is very necessary.

It has been mooted, of course, that a road bridge should be built across the Swan in the vicinity of the Bunbury railway bridge—where the south-west railway line crosses the Swan at East Perth—and this would appear to be an ideal suggestion. Such a bridge would divert a lot of the northern traffic out to the eastern suburbs; and possibly a road could be built along the railway line to take some of the traffic which now makes the Albany Highway, in particular, and Shepperton Road, road hazards. We could press to have Shepperton Road widened, and this is a matter which requires early attention.

Many other matters were brought to my notice at the time of canvassing. However, these will be attended to in due course. A number of organisations and associations in the district are already attending to many of these matters, and I will be only too pleased to throw in whatever support I can behind their efforts.

*[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Crommelin) took the Chair.]*

There are one or two industrial questions that I would like to bring, briefly, to the attention of this House. One is the question of the basic wage. You will remember, Sir, that for many years our basic wage has been adjusted each quarter on the "C" series index. Earlier in the year there was a great amount of agitation, through the medium of the Press, for the new consumer price index to



be used. At the declaration of the basic wage on the 31st January, 1961, the President of the Arbitration Court, Mr. Justice Nevile, said—

In view of certain suggestions that have been made recently I think I should point out that under the Act the Court is directed to consider the index figures supplied by the State Statistician. It has been suggested we should consider the consumer price index numbers. The State Statistician index numbers are based on the "C" series index mainly because the consumer price index would be totally unsuitable, and in fact impracticable for our purposes as only one index is compiled for this State, that is for the metropolitan area and there is no separate index for the goldfields and the remainder of the south-west land division. So it is impossible for us to consider the consumer price index.

That was in January, 1961. Some months later, however, the trade union movement was very surprised that the court decided to adjust the basic wage on the consumer index. This, of course, would be a story in itself; but I will not attempt, at this stage, to concern the House with the pros and cons of the requirements under the basic wage.

When the industrial advocate for the trade union movement attempted in the Arbitration Court to argue with the President as to his right in using the consumer index, he was told it was not a matter for the court to deal with; that it was a matter for the Government to deal with; and that the trade union movement should make representations to the Government.

This, the trade union movement did earlier in the year—back in May—after it had considered the matter fully. The Acting Premier at the time wrote in reply to our letter asking for a deputation and said that he did not think it was necessary to have a deputation and that the trade union movement should present its case in writing.

The matter was brought up at the meeting of the T.U.I.C., which is the supreme governing body of the trade union movement in this State, and the Acting Premier was advised that the trade union movement was gravely concerned over the basic wage and considered that before any written submissions were made there should be a round-table discussion on the matter. Reams could be written on that; and surely to goodness the trade union movement was not asking the Government to make any concessions! It merely wanted to present submissions so that the matter could receive further consideration. Although a letter was written on the 19th of June last, expressing the grave

concern of the trade union movement, no reply has been received from the Government.

I feel that the Government should receive a deputation without any further delay in order to discuss this most urgent and pressing matter, which affects every worker in the State.

As an ex-railway union official I would like to mention one or two matters concerning railway workers. First of all, the men are most concerned about the amendments that were made to the Government Railways Act last year. Although assurances were given at the time that the amendments were, in effect, only tidying up the Act, we pointed out that railway employees could be punished twice for the same offence—once by the Police Court and once by the department. However, we were told that everyone would be treated fairly and that the men would receive every consideration and we need have no fears.

However, that is how we felt about the matter after the amendments had been made; and since then we have found that on two occasions employees have been punished for offences in the Traffic Court, and have then been dismissed from the railways or have had some other action taken against them by the department. That is contrary to every concept of British justice; and a man should not have to suffer as much as these men did for what is not a major crime but could be a matter of circumstance. As the Act stands at present, even for a minor traffic offence a man can be dismissed from the Railways Department; then his case would have to be taken to the Punishment Appeal Board. That is a waste of departmental officers' time, advocates' time, witnesses' time, and the court's time; but, as the Act stands now, it has to be done to get a man back into his job.

In my view some more realistic approach is necessary in regard to the handling of many staff matters. I had a case recently of a couple of young lads who had illegally used a rowboat at Rockingham. They had gone to the Fremantle Police Station to report the matter to the police; and, in doing so, they put themselves in. The chap who owned the boat said he was going to ring the police; and after they had waited for half an hour, and no-one had arrived, they went voluntarily to the police station and told the police what they had done. They had simply rowed this boat 100 yards up and down two or three times and they were fined a nominal amount in the Children's Court. But the point is that they were sacked from the Railways Department because they had a police court conviction.

Surely to goodness there is no justice in that sort of thing! It was only a boyish prank; no harm was done, and no damage was done; no-one suffered any loss, delay, or inconvenience. But because of that

boyish prank these two lads found themselves without a job. That was the attitude adopted by the department; departmental officers took the view that that was the rule, and they lost their jobs because they had a conviction against them in the police court. Fortunately we took the matter up with the Punishment Appeal Board, and the board had no hesitation about reinstating them.

But that action need not have been necessary. We had to waste the magistrate's time, departmental officers' time—at £2,500 a year—union officers' time—at much less than £2,500 a year—and the advocates' time simply because there was no realistic approach to the handling of staff matters. So I implore the Minister to try to get the Railways Department to adopt a more sensible and humane approach to many of the matters that come before it.

All railwaymen have welcomed the news that there is a likelihood of standardising the gauge in the near future. As railwaymen we have always said that there is a great future in the railways and that they cannot be done without; and many railwaymen have taken great pride—and still do—in their work. But we very much regret the cheeseparing methods that have been adopted in regard to staff. As members know, many railway officers have to transfer from place to place, and over the years may have a great many transfers. They are put to a great deal of inconvenience because of this; and at one time when a transfer was arranged it took place within a very short period. However, now, because of the attitude that has been adopted with regard to staff, we find that a man, say, at Geraldton, who has been appointed to a job at Lake Grace, could have to wait for 18 months before the transfer actually takes place.

It is commonplace for a man to be four, five, or six months waiting for his transfer to take effect; and the average time is nine months before men actually take up their new positions. As the award provides that they are to be paid at the increased rate after three months, in effect they are getting more money while they are not carrying out the higher duties which are involved. But at the same time they have their household goods, furniture, and everything else half packed, waiting for the actual transfer to take effect. As I said, the average waiting time is about eight or nine months.

With the appointment of one or two extra staff this problem could be obviated; and those extra men would not go amiss because they would ensure that the waiting time for transfers would be cut down and men could take up their new positions expeditiously. If that were done the men would be made to feel that they were more a part of the railway service, and that they were not forgotten and left out in the country somewhere.

The appointment of only two or three extra men on relief would overcome many of the difficulties that exist at present. The department has said that if these extra men are appointed there will not be any work for them to do at some time of the year. But it is obvious that the delays in transfers are not slowing down, and there would be ample work for them to do either in effecting transfers or in clearing annual leave.

With the railways, housing is still a great problem and men have to forgo promotion because they cannot get suitable accommodation. This happens time and time again. While some years ago we were getting a few amenities in the railways, at present amenities seem to be non-existent; and men are often left working in most unsuitable places simply because a few pounds cannot be spent on improving their office accommodation.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to speak for much longer; but I would like to express my appreciation for the tolerance I have been shown this afternoon. I know it is an exceptional circumstance, and it is something I cannot always expect in the future. However, I would like to say, once again, that I am appreciative of the welcome I have received and the way that you have received me this afternoon.

**MR. J. HEGNEY** (Middle Swan) [2.58 p.m.]: I feel I should make a few references to the Speech which His Excellency was pleased to deliver to Parliament. I have read the Speech over and over again; I listened to His Excellency deliver it in another place; other members have quoted from it; and it appears in *Hansard*. But the same thing happened on this occasion as happened last year: that is, there is practically no reference in the Speech to matters of importance to the workers of this country. One would think that the workers of this country were of no concern to the Government when one looks at the legislation that is foreshadowed for this session.

I should like to mention some of the legislation which is to be introduced. The first mentioned in the Governor's Speech is an amendment to the legislation covering judges' salaries and pensions; the second concerns an amendment to the Pig Industry Compensation Act; then come the Fire Brigades Act, and the Bank Holidays Act.

As has been mentioned by several speakers, the Government has shown no indication of its intention to amend the Workers' Compensation Act, which is so important to the workers engaged in industry in this State. Apparently the Government has no desire to bring the Act up to the standard of the legislation in New South Wales. Therefore, I can come to no conclusion other than that the Government is not interested in the workers, particularly from the point of view of

workers' compensation. Over the years, we have come to realise the attitude that is adopted by the Government towards any amendment to the Workers' Compensation Act. It is opposed to bringing this legislation up to the standard that is met by other States.

The honourable member who has just resumed his seat pointed out that representatives of the trade union movement had made endeavours to have a discussion with one of the Ministers in connection with the Arbitration Act and the value of recognising the consumers' index as against the "C" series index. He mentioned that a request had been submitted to the Minister for such a discussion, but he replied that any submissions in regard to what was desired should be made to him in writing. A further approach was made to the Minister to grant a discussion on the matter, but since then there has been no communication from him. Apparently he has just brushed off the trade union movement and has shown no concern for the workers in this State.

When it comes down to taints the Government of the day represents all classes of the community, but it is apparent from the attitude of its Ministers that it does not represent the workers and does not care about them. If the Government had any concern for the workers it would endeavour to do at least the liberal and proper thing for them. There is other industrial legislation which requires amendment to bring it up to date, but no attempt has been made by the Government to do so this session. Admittedly, it has given notice of its intention to amend the Bank Holidays Act for the purpose of giving bank clerks and others in the banking industry the right to have a holiday on Saturday morning.

You, Mr. Acting Speaker, were present in this Chamber when, in successive sessions, Mr. S. E. Johnson, the former member for Leederville, who was an ex-bank clerk, brought down Bills to amend the Bank Holidays Act. Those Bills had the support of the Government of the day, but when they went to another place they were rejected by the members of that Chamber who belonged to the party that now proposes to introduce a Bill to amend the Bank Holidays Act. I say now that the Government has no intention of giving effect to that legislation. No doubt the Bill will be passed, but the Government has no intention of giving effect to it.

A Labor Government in Tasmania has already introduced the Saturday morning holiday for bank officers. The Government of this State now proposes to introduce an amendment to the Bank Holidays Act; but unless all the other States of the Commonwealth agree to a similar amendment, it will not put this amending Bill into effect. I guarantee the Government

will not come into the picture as early as the Government did in New South Wales. In that State the Government has paved the way in regard to this matter; the bank clerks in New South Wales have enjoyed the Saturday morning holiday for years.

In regard to those members who voted against a similar Bill introduced by the ex-member for Leederville on previous occasions, it will be interesting to see how they vote when the Bill proposed by the Government is introduced to the House. I repeat that I consider the Government has no intention of giving effect to the amendment. Therefore, it is a lot of eye-wash for the Government to introduce this Bill and to have it passed to provide that bank clerks will be given a Saturday morning holiday—if the legislation is not implemented.

I should have made reference earlier to the late Mr. Hugh Andrew who represented the Victoria Park electorate for many years. He served his electors conscientiously. His electorate adjoined the Middle Swan electorate; and on many occasions I joined forces with him in regard to various matters that affected our constituents, and he always co-operated readily.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate the newly-elected member for Victoria Park on the eloquent speech he made this afternoon, the impression he has created in this Chamber, and the manner in which he has put forward the matters affecting Victoria Park. I feel certain that Mr. Ron Davies has a bright future in this House and that we will be hearing from him on many occasions during this session.

Unemployment is a matter of paramount importance, as has been emphasised already by several speakers. Nevertheless, I do not think that this problem can be emphasised too strongly, regardless of whether the figure of unemployed is 2 per cent., 2.5 per cent., or some other percentage. What is of paramount importance is the number of men who are unemployed at the present time. Unfortunately, I am not in a position to assist these unemployed men as they desire to be assisted, because I do not know where any employment can be obtained; but from time to time unemployed men seek my assistance to find jobs for them.

I have had a good deal of experience with the migrants who have been brought into this country. Only last week I came in contact with an Englishman and his family—there were five of them in all—who had arrived in Western Australia in the early part of August. This Englishman has been unable to obtain any employment because, unfortunately, he arrived here in the middle of the credit squeeze; and the possibility of his obtaining employment in the near future is remote indeed.

At the same time, I have had brought to my notice the case of a Maltese who is a British subject and who has special qualifications in regard to signwriting, painting, and so on. He has been in Western Australia for two years, but has had employment for only one month during the past year. He has a wife and four children to support and he is in great difficulty. Mr. Chamberlain of the Trades Hall brought his case to my notice with a view to seeing whether he could be assisted. It was discovered that he lived in my electorate and that was the reason his case was passed to me for attention. I discovered he was living in a rented home at £4 10s. a week and his total income from social services was less than £10 a week. By the time he had paid his £4 10s. a week rent and his fares in order to reach the metropolitan area to report to the employment office, and so on, he had about £5 a week left to keep himself and his family.

He was threatened with eviction from his home by the owner, who was a woman. I saw her and appealed to her not to take action against him because if she did the costs would be given against him and he would be unable to pay them. I asked this woman if she would hold her hand for the time being to give me an opportunity to ascertain whether I could obtain a State Housing Commission home for him. Subsequently the commission found a house for him in Bentley. I was also successful in securing a job for him; but this employment petered out after a month, and consequently he has been unemployed ever since.

There is no doubt that the unemployment question is acute. Although the income of an unemployed person is whittled down week after week he still has to meet his various commitments, the first of which is the payment of his rent. After having to pay for hospital benefits, insurance, and other similar commitments, the amount left to these people for food and clothing is very small indeed. As the member for Victoria Park has just said, it is distressing, and most disconcerting, to find these people suffering in this manner as a result of unemployment.

At the beginning of the week I had the opportunity to see a television debate which took place between the Commonwealth Treasurer, the Commonwealth Minister for Labour (Mr. McMahon), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Calwell), and his Deputy Leader (Mr. Whitlam). It was a most interesting debate. One group contended that there was only a certain percentage of unemployment, while the other group put forward the view that the percentage was much greater.

There is no doubt that quite apart from those people who register at the unemployment office there are many throughout the Commonwealth who are working on a part-time basis. This means, of

course, that less income is coming into the home and the people have less spending power; and this, in turn, has its repercussions on industry throughout the Commonwealth.

I do not think it can be denied that when the Commonwealth brought down its Budget last November, and when it introduced its credit squeeze, it certainly gave commerce and industry throughout Australia a severe bashing. The result was that unemployment grew steadily throughout the country. One of the Commonwealth Government's own Ministers admitted that the Government did not expect the effect of its credit squeeze to be as severe and as widespread as it was.

Today we find that representatives of both the Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Manufactures are making guarded statements as to when this problem is likely to be solved, and how soon the effects of the easements that have been made will be felt by the people, and will enable them to get back into employment. There is no doubt whatever that the manner in which the economic situation has been handled in the Commonwealth sphere has resulted in severe repercussions throughout the States of Australia; and that, as a result, the people are suffering greatly.

We all know that the State Government has its own difficulties, but that does not alter the fact that it is the Government of the day. I know that when the present Government was in Opposition it attacked the then Labor Government in respect of a similar and most urgent problem. Accordingly it behoves us, at this stage, to emphasise the seriousness of the position, and to impress on the Government of the day that it should do everything possible in its power to find work for the people who are unemployed.

It would be interesting to know whether the Minister for Labor, or the Minister for Works, calls for a report each morning with a view to finding out just how many people had been employed the day before or in the week past, and to find out what jobs are likely to be available and how many men can be employed. That is the only way in which this matter can be adequately tackled. From the Government's point of view it is a most urgent and serious problem.

The other evening the Premier had published in the Press a statement in respect of the Chevron-Hilton hotel. We all know that the company involved is in financial difficulties and that it is not likely to be able to proceed with the erection of the hotel. It is rather startling to find the ease with which these people came to Western Australia during the first session of this Parliament; made representations to the Government; and, after being glorified by photographs which were taken of their representatives together with the

Premier, the Acting Premier, and the Minister for Industrial Development, demanded from the Government the best site in the city for the building of their hotel. From their point of view no other site was suitable. We then found the Government being requested to accommodate the principals of the Chevron-Hilton group with a view to having built this £2,000,000 hotel.

The hotel was to be constructed at the corner of St. George's Terrace and Victoria Avenue, and it was to be used for the purpose of glamorising our State, and for the accommodation of visitors during the Empire Games. An agreement was drawn up between this company and the Government, which was presented to Parliament; and Parliament was told that it must accept the agreement, because if it did not the Chevron-Hilton group would not proceed with the erection of the hotel. The agreement was discussed at length in Parliament, and there is no doubt that Parliament also fell for the proposition and allowed the wool to be pulled over its eyes. Yet, two years later, we find the project is no nearer completion than it was when the agreement was signed. The whole thing is still in the air.

It is doubtful whether the building of the hotel will proceed. Apparently the Chevron-Hilton group has washed its hands of the whole proposition. We do know that another financial organisation called Latex appeared to be interested; but the last submission made was that the Government itself should provide the money for the completion of the hotel. The building of this hotel was supposed to provide large-scale employment for those engaged in the building industry, but it would seem that the plans will not come to fruition. I am really amazed at the ease with which these people were able to come here from overseas and pull the wool over the eyes of the Government of Western Australia.

Mr. Court: They did not pull the wool over anybody's eyes.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I do not think the Minister for Industrial Development can deny this group certainly pulled the wool over the eyes of the Government. The Premier himself says he has no idea whether the work is likely to be continued or not; and I am sure the Minister for Industrial Development cannot be more specific.

The same was the case with the Key West proposition on the south side of the river. That fell through in a very short time. There is another project which is still being negotiated with the South Perth Municipal Council, but that has not reached finality. I feel it is not at all a satisfactory state of affairs for a company to be given the best piece of ground in the city—that at the corner of Victoria Avenue and St. George's

Terrace—merely on demand. The Christian Brothers who were in occupation of it probably derived more benefit from the transfer than did anyone else. The proposition suited the city council, but the land was owned by the State; yet the Government agreed to sell it to a company which had succeeded in pulling the wool over its eyes.

[The Speaker (Mr. Hearman) resumed the Chair.]

I now wish to refer to a few matters in my own territory which are of some importance to the shire council administering the Local Government Act in Belmont. The authorities there are complaining bitterly about the heavy trucks—particularly those owned by Bell Bros., and others—which are engaged in carting material for the extension of the airport at Guildford. These heavy vehicles damaged a number of roads in the district. The Belmont Shire Council complained to the Police Department, and that department sent one of its officers to make an inspection and to apprehend the offenders, and he claimed that he could not apprehend them. The shire council cannot take any action against this firm for damaging the roads unless it can establish a case; but the police say they cannot apprehend the offenders.

There is a belief that the police are being tipped off when the trucks of Bell Bros. are operating over those roads. The trucks move out of the way when the police come around. I am sure that if the police wanted to apprehend the offenders they could do so quite easily. These trucks carry a 40-ton load over roads which are not constructed to carry such loading. The shire council has to foot the bill to repair any damage done to the roads by these trucks.

For that reason I intend, at the request of the Belmont Shire Council, to move for the disallowance of a traffic regulation. I am taking this opportunity of voicing a complaint against the offenders. A story has been bandied around that Bell Bros. throw a very big party at the Boomerang Hotel every year during the Christmas break-up, to which many of the senior officers of the civil service are invited. I have no doubt that many of the officers of the Main Roads Department, the Police Department, and the Public Works Department who are connected with the operations of Bell Bros. receive invitations. It is questionable whether these civil servants should attend the functions. I am making this suggestion because the police do not seem to be able to catch the offenders who are damaging roads in that district.

Another matter I wish to touch on relates to the extensions at the airport at Guildford. These extensions will bisect Maida Vale Road, which connects the Belmont district with Kalamunda and

Maida Vale and which links up with Kalamunda Road. The people living on the eastern side of this district, where the extensions cut across Maida Vale Road, will have to travel over a longer route to get to the city. The existing route will be altered considerably. The Belmont Shire Council and the Darling Range Shire Council will face a difficult problem in establishing an alternative road system through to Perth.

The Commonwealth Government has agreed to extend the airport at Guildford, so that it can accommodate jet aircraft. I think the State Government made a blunder in permitting these extensions. It ought to have insisted that the jet airport should be established at Gnangara, as recommended by Professor Stephenson, because the noise from the jet aircraft will have a detrimental effect on the residents around Belmont and Guildford. We all realise that noise and exhaust gasses from aircraft and motor vehicles are some of the curses of this modern age. The extensions will, no doubt, have a detrimental effect on the development of Belmont and Maida Vale districts.

The Minister for Health has been a great advocate for the airline companies, and their efforts to get these extensions to the civil airport at Guildford. In days to come many people in this State will be sorry that that airport has been extended to such a large extent. The proper location for a modern jet airfield is at Gnangara where there is ample space; and that would have been a more satisfactory place in which to establish the jet airport. Helicopters could have been used to convey the aircraft passengers between there and Perth, and that would have overcome the difficulty of the long distance.

There are other matters affecting my electorate, but I shall await the introduction of the annual Estimates before I address the House concerning them.

**MR. JAMIESON** (Beeloo) [3.25 p.m.] : There are a few matters I want to deal with in the debate on the Address-in-Reply. One of them relates to a matter on which I have asked a number of questions in this House recently; that is, the supply of water to people who possess water rights on the Canning River. It would appear that 160-odd persons are entitled to such water rights, and they pay a fee of £1 each per year.

Some of these people are located within the area which is covered by the Kent Street Weir, which is a salination-stopping weir situated on the Canning River. It was established to supply the needs of a number of settlers who, some years ago, reached agreement with the Government and the local authority concerned for the provision of the amount of sinking fund on a three-part basis. However, many of the original landowners who came under

the agreement have long since left the area, and the contract was not sufficiently binding to cover the people who took over. Of the original 63 landowners bound by the agreement only 40 remain, and they are paying their share of the upkeep of the scheme, and of the sinking fund.

One aspect which concerns me as a suburban member of Parliament is the information furnished by the Minister for Works in answer to a question. He gave figures of the amount of water that is being released from Canning Dam into the Canning River, in order to supply the needs of the settlers who pay only a nominal fee of £1 per year each, as required by the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act. Whilst metropolitan water users have to pay something like 2s. per thousand gallons, these people who pay, in all, a fee of £161 a year—which is a very nominal amount—were supplied with no less than 120,790,000 gallons. That quantity of water was released to these settlers during last summer, and is out of all proportion to the amount they are paying, compared with what metropolitan water consumers pay. After all, the latter are paying for the cost of maintenance and upkeep of the reservoirs, yet those other people are sucking from the Canning River this vast amount of water which is being released.

The most amazing part about it is that last summer there was twice as much water released as in the previous summer; despite which, the people who had received water rights and had been associated with that scheme around the Kent Street Weir, were unable to get water because the people further upstream erected barrages and dams, and installed pumps. As a result, they were sucking the water as fast as it came down from the Canning Dam. At £1 for a year's supply of water they were on a very good thing. They were able to receive this water to irrigate their holdings.

It is true that under the provisions of the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act they are only supposed to take something like 5,000 gallons per week for their various holdings in connection with stock, feed and that sort of thing. However, as far as I can see, there is no guarantee that only that quantity will be taken. As a matter of fact, I fail to see how any check can be kept on people who have their own pumping equipment and who are prepared to take as much water as they require from that which is released down the Canning River.

The ironical part about this is that with the exception of the 40 residents who are within the Beeloo electorate, the rest of the people reside in the territory that is under the present Minister for Water Supplies. It appears to me to be very unfair that the metropolitan water supply should be used for this purpose. That was never the intention; the water was

meant to be used for the purpose of supplying the metropolitan area. As I said before, if any people have a right to this water, it must surely be those who are close to the Kent Street Weir. However, those people received little or no water during last summer. As a matter of fact, during last summer the Canning River was the driest in its lower reaches that it had been for many years. This was brought about because of the amount of water that had been used further upstream.

In reply to representations made to him, the Minister said that more water than ever was being released; and the reason for that is very clear. There was considerable rain on Easter Monday, and the flow down the Canning River was very great. However, the result was that on account of the rain, the people further upstream did not require water for irrigation purposes and the water released from Canning Dam then became available.

But it was too late in the summer to be of use in many orchards. Some of the orchards in the vicinity of where the Minister lives had fruit dropping off the trees, because those trees had been constantly under irrigation for many years. I am referring to citrus trees. Their root systems were developed because they had been fed by irrigation water; and when they could not get enough water, many of them died right back.

The Minister should look keenly at this problem and limit the amount of water that can be taken by the people along the Canning River, even if this means an amendment to the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act. People who receive so much water for £1 per year should not have greater rights than those in the metropolitan area who pay according to the reading of their water meters, or who pay rates according to the valuation of their land. If this position is not adjusted, the people in and around Perth will have a very good argument to throw at the Minister in their claim that he is not very interested in their welfare.

Some time ago I took up with the Minister for Local Government the problem of the representation of the ratepayers in the Victoria Park ward of the city council. As a matter of fact, I took this matter up with Ministers over a number of years; but it is only in recent times that any move has been made to try to adjust the disparity of representation that exists between the three ward members representing approximately one-third of the population of the city of Perth area and the other 21 on the west side of the river.

Now, however, there has been a move on the part of the city council—despite the fact that it has decided on the new boundaries which would give two wards to the Victoria Park area and, indeed, much better representation—to ask the Minister to allow it to withhold implementation of

the representation. At the time, I wrote to the Minister saying that I thought this would be very unjust, having in mind the long time that it had taken to get action. In reply, the Minister wrote that he had no authority to do anything about it. I then pointed out that under section 64 of the Local Government Act he did have authority. However, he further advised me that, in his opinion, that section did not apply until the boundaries were drawn.

I say that now the boundaries have been drawn—and they are before the Minister—some action should be taken within a specified time. The reason for what has happened is rather obvious. As I said before, the Perth City Council, as at present constituted, is retaining a vested interest because of the Empire Games. That statement is borne out by a discussion I had with a city councillor when I asked him, "Why can't this be done earlier?" He said, "You will have everybody putting in to become a city councillor because of the Empire Games."

That is very little comfort to the people of the Victoria Park ward of the Perth City Council. Indeed, to them, it is a great disadvantage. The holding of the Empire Games is not something that should be the concern of the Minister or the Perth City Council when making a determination. They should go ahead and make their determination now, in order to get rid of the acrimony which exists in Victoria Park, and any ideas the people have regarding secession from the Perth City Council. I feel that would be unwise on the part of the citizens of Victoria Park; but if they become incensed with the actions of the Perth City Council, they will be entitled to adopt the attitude of wanting to secede from that council.

I would like now to mention a few undesirable actions in regard to the arrears section of the State Housing Commission. Not very long ago I had a case where some people were given final notices; and every time I represented their case to the Housing Commission I was told that the notices should not have gone out—that they were the result of the over-zealous efforts of some particular officer. That reply was not very satisfactory to the persons who received the notices, especially as they had been good payers of rent, and none were in arrears. As a matter of fact, they paid regularly every time the rent collector came around. They either paid the rent to him, or left it with a neighbour.

After a lot of investigation it appears that the arrears for which they were being given eviction notices accumulated some years ago because these people were either away on holidays or away for some other reason. In the meantime no action had been taken. Finally, because of some audits which were made way back into the books, the mistake was found. But instead of these people being asked to see someone at the commission because there

appeared to have been an underpayment or mispayment some years before, the commission sent them notices to quit. That is a very poor reward for a tenant who has undertaken many repairs to a property and has painted it throughout at his own cost.

The officers of the Housing Commission should be very careful, particularly when they examine the accounts and find that a person has been consistent in his payments. It would be a different matter in regard to a person who did not pay regularly or who had caused some damage to a property, or anything like that. The commission would be quite justified in taking any action it thought fit against such people, and it would have my whole-hearted support. It certainly does not have my support for taking action against people who have demonstrated by the records that they have been regular in their payments and not damaged the property in any way. This sort of action does nothing but upset people, who would otherwise be living in harmony and looking after the property which was theirs, for the time being at any rate.

I would now like to say a few words about the crayfishing industry. I have been prevailed upon by several people concerned with the industry to raise this matter. They are dissatisfied that the Government has granted to Ross International Fisheries the sole right of entry to the National Parks Board's area at Yanchep Beach. At the time, I approached both the Minister for Lands and the Minister for Fisheries to see whether some consideration could not be given to other people who have interests in the crayfishing industry. However, they replied to the effect that nothing could or would be done, because of the inability to track down people who left debris on the beach and smelly bait in bags and old oily drums, etc., at Yanchep. They also said the road was not satisfactory to carry heavy haulage.

During last Easter I went to Yanchep to investigate for myself; and I found that with the exception of a very small piece of road between Yanchep Park reserve and the beach, there is a magnificent road that would take any number of vehicles. When I reached the actual beach I realised that the reason given for granting the right of entry to Ross International Fisheries only was just too silly for words. I say this because the people who have it now have a transit or storage shed on the beach in which there were many bags of obviously putrid bones or meat. This could be smelt before the beach was reached. As a matter of fact the general state of putrefaction around this particular area possessed by Ross International Fisheries was disgusting to say the least of it.

For the National Parks Board, behind the Minister, to say that right of entry should be given to only one firm because

it is not possible to detect those responsible for debris and unnecessary offal left at Yanchep, is just too absurd. It would appear that there is more than that behind it, and I would suggest to the Minister that he have a very good look-see at the problem to ascertain whether these other people cannot have the right of entry if they are prepared to enter into guarantees that they will not leave offensive debris on the beach. Obviously Ross International Fisheries have not given this guarantee up to date.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.5 p.m.*

Mr. JAMIESON: Before the afternoon tea suspension I was discussing matter pertaining to the crayfishing industry. I would like to make a few more comments on this subject. They are in connection with the unfortunate—and I use the word "unfortunate" deliberately—industry which has grown up in connection with the peddling of under-sized crayfish.

The Minister, in reply to questions recently, said there was some peddling of under-sized crayfish, but this practice has lessened. I would like to tell the House for the benefit of the Minister, that this practice has not lessened. As a matter of fact, it is a growing trade; and unfortunately, it is being cultivated by some of the bigger companies that are processing crayfish.

I intend to give the House some idea of just how this trade is growing. Many of the crayfishing boats are removing the tails; and, indeed, some of them are cooking them at sea, and cutting up the meat into sections, and putting the meat into bags as cray-meat. Several of the bigger companies are selling this cray-meat to restaurants and similar trading establishments around the city; and, no doubt, interstate.

Under the circumstances, it is becoming very hard to apprehend the people concerned. I suggest some way must be found to break this industry; otherwise the crayfishing industry will become somewhat fished out before many years have passed.

A discouragement should be placed on the sale of such cray-meat, and the dissecting of crayfish before the fish arrive at the wharves should be prohibited. There should also be a prohibition on cooking crayfish unless this is done at registered shore bases. The measures would prevent this trade growing to the extent that it has done. Once the small crayfish—the furries—are processed they are freely peddled among the merchants of Perth. Many of the crayfishermen, or their agents, who are peddling these under-sized crayfish, are refusing to sell standard-size or regulation-size fish unless merchants are prepared to handle a proportion of these small crays.



It would appear that an undue number of small crays are reaching the markets of the city; and no doubt quite a number more are being processed on the boats and being sent away as cray-meat. So the Minister must study this matter very closely to see whether it is necessary to bring down some regulation, or amend the Act, to prevent any practice that could lead to the present regulation, in respect of the size of crayfish, being evaded.

While it is usually accepted that crayfish have certain breeding grounds, and that their habits vary from year to year, depending no doubt on the seasons of the ocean, as we have different seasons on the land, we have to protect this useful export commodity so that we can be assured of a continuing industry instead of its being a temporary one, as would appear could be the case if some adjustment to the regulations is not made soon.

Yesterday I asked a question in regard to fishing in the Peel Inlet and the Murray River estuary, and the restriction of net fishing. I was interested in the Minister's reply, which reads as follows:—

The taking of any fish whatsoever by means of fishing nets in the waters of Harvey Estuary and Peel Inlet (Murray River Estuary) is prohibited during the periods commencing at 8 o'clock in the forenoon of Friday in each week and ending at 4 o'clock in the forenoon of the Sunday next following.

If an area is closed to net fishing, it should be closed to all, and not to only one section of the community. Those who fish with nets must be licensed; and the amateur, of course, is restricted to a certain length of net. But these days there are many people who have week-end cottages, and the like, around the Peel Inlet; and it is obvious that the regulation referred to is merely aimed at those people. It is not aimed at the professionals, and it would appear to be most unjust. If it is right to prohibit fishing in any particular area, as is done in the Swan River—where the taking of fish is prohibited in certain areas—then it is right that everybody should be prohibited for a set time.

But to have a regulation, such as has been framed in this instance, which completely prohibits the amateur, or the people who own premises around the Peel Inlet, from taking fish, is quite wrong. In any case these people would not take very many fish—possibly only enough for themselves and their friends; whereas the professionals who use these inlets net fish willy-nilly, I understand; and they are the people who must be prohibited from taking big quantities of fish from the spawning grounds. Where that occurs, regulations which prohibit the taking of any fish by any person are quite justified.

However, as I said previously, in my view the regulation which now refers to the Peel Inlet is aimed at one section of the community—unfairly so—and should never have been proclaimed in the first place. Either it is right to take fish from an area, or it is not right to take them; and it is certainly not right to prohibit one section of the community from fishing in an area while allowing another section to take what they like at a certain time.

Another matter, which was to some extent dealt with by my colleague, the member for Victoria Park, earlier in the day, is that concerning a hospital south of the river. This has been a burning question for a number of years, and that part of the city is said to have one-sixth of the population of the State: I refer to the area between the Helena River, the Swan River, down to Fremantle and out to Armadale. Despite the fact that it has such a large percentage of the population, the area concerned has very few hospital facilities available to it.

Some years ago the then Minister for Health—the present member for Eyre—set aside a site in the Collier pine plantation, and the local authorities and the people in the area were reasonably happy with the idea that there would be some decent central hospital facilities available to them. However, for some reason or other—it does not seem to be abundantly clear why—the present Government decided to quit that site, and most of it has now gone to the Swan Cottage Homes and various other organisations which are providing cottages for the aged in that district; and the site would now appear to have been lost for all time as the place for a hospital.

As a matter of fact, in a statement made some six or seven weeks ago, the Minister indicated that there would be much development in hospital facilities over a period of years. He even named, as the member for Victoria Park indicated, the site for a hospital in the Queen's Park-Cannington area. The members of the local authority there were rather intrigued; because, knowing the area well, they were doubtful whether there would be a suitable site available for a major hospital; and having some knowledge of the area myself—having been the member for some eight years—I, too, was rather concerned at the announcement and the fact that a suitable site is just not available in the district.

After the shire of Canning had requested information from me as to where the hospital would be built, I wrote to the Minister; and he replied to my letter as follows:—

I acknowledge your letter of the 13th July concerning recommendations made by the recently appointed hospital planning committee for a hospital in the Queen's Park area. The

financial implications of this report are being reviewed prior to further consideration by the Government.

I want members to bear in mind that one of the early developments proposed, irrespective of whether the Government went on with any of the other major schemes, was the hospital in the Queen's Park-Cannington area. The Minister's letter continued—

Meantime the Town Planning Commissioner has been asked to co-operate with departmental officers in a survey of the Queen's Park area in an effort to secure a suitable site for the proposed hospital.

It would be just about as sensible to say that we will have a major hospital in Hay Street and then we will find the site later. It is most unreal and unreasonable that any organisation, particularly a department such as the Minister has, should come at this sort of rot and put it up to the public. As a consequence, when I received that letter I wrote to the shire of Cannington enclosing the letter and also appending my comments. For the record, I think I should read the whole of the letter to the Cannington Shire Council. It reads as follows:—

#### Re Queen's Park Hospital Site:

Your shire council's request to me to endeavour to ascertain from the Government the proposed hospital site for the Queen's Park area, has met with rather negative results. It would appear that the Government in their recent statement of establishing a hospital in the Queen's Park area within the next two or three years, had not taken into consideration as to whether a suitable site would be available in such a locality. This seems an amazing move on the part of the Government and one wonders whether the statement at all was genuine in setting out the proposals for the future hospitalisation of the metropolitan area. For your shire council's information, I enclose the letter from the Minister for Health and will continue to endeavour to obtain any further information on the hospital site, if and when one is finally found in the Queen's Park area.

Having thus commented, and having been somewhat annoyed that the site which had been allocated previously had been usurped and used for other purposes, I felt I was quite justified in expressing those comments on behalf of the people in that particular area which I represent.

Evidently the Minister did not seem to think so; because when my comments were read to him, he was reported in the suburban section of *The West Australian* dated the 23rd August, 1961, as having said this—

When questioned on Mr. Jamieson's statement to the council, Health Minister Hutchinson said that if this was

the sort of politically-biased comment and report made to the council by an M.L.A., he would urge the council to find other means of obtaining information.

What a colossal hide and cheek he has after making the statement he did in regard to the proposed site for the hospital and after the representative of the district had made great efforts to obtain some information in regard to the site for a hospital in that area! The Minister has a great deal to learn about ethics in so far as they concern the members representing the various districts, if he is going to continue that sort of ballyhoo and rubbish.

Last session we heard a great deal more than we have heard this session about tourism. The Premier has been busy lately with his duties as Premier. However, having kept a constant vigil on this subject, I took the opportunity to make some investigation into it whilst I was visiting the Eastern States recently, particularly concerning the number of tourists who were coming to this State. I discovered, from no other places than our own tourist bureaus in the Eastern States, that there is a complete bottleneck in regard to rail accommodation which the Government has not taken any steps to overcome. It would appear that the reservations for visitors to this State are insufficient to meet the number of passengers that might seek accommodation, but there is accommodation available for both air and sea travellers. However, rail travel is the principal means of transport used by visitors to this State from the Eastern States.

This information caused me great concern, especially when the various officers at these tourist bureaus informed me that their main problem was that train accommodation was limited; and I was even more concerned when I found that the standard of the rail service had fallen considerably. I discovered this during my visit to the Eastern States earlier in the year.

So concerned was I that I wrote to the Commonwealth Commissioner of Railways about the decline in the service, the falling off of facilities on the train, and other attendant matters. At the same time I also drew his attention to the apparent bottleneck due to his rail service being unable to provide sufficient through-train accommodation for the various Western Australian tourist agencies in the Eastern States. The Commonwealth Railways Commissioner was inclined to place the responsibility on someone else, because he had this to say—

This Department's enquiries over a period of years have led us to believe that alleged shortages of accommodation for rail travel to Western Australia are due mainly to the present

method of booking. As you are no doubt aware, bookings in the Eastern States are controlled by the State Railway Systems and are spread over four States. Therefore, a person enquiring in one State may be advised that accommodation for a particular train is fully booked when, in actual fact, there may be many vacant berths available for booking in other States. On many occasions, this matter has been taken up with the State Railway Systems, but little if any improvement in this regard has resulted.

There is definitely a bottleneck associated with the transportation of people to this State from other parts of Australia. It is staring us right in the face. Surely the ticker-tape system could be instituted on the Commonwealth Railways in these modern times and, together with an intra-railway system, the problem could be overcome in a few months at the most.

Due to the fact that the Premier has not travelled interstate by rail for some time, he may not be able to make true representations to the Commonwealth in regard to the lowering of the high standard of the facilities provided on the Commonwealth Railways in previous years. On the first occasion I travelled to the Eastern States, earlier in the year, the lounge car that was normally made available on the train was not provided. Apparently there had been a fire and one of the lounge cars had been burnt out, and a converted lounge car had been attached to the train. When I was returning from the Eastern States, the train had a lounge coach attached, but the dining car was of the old-fashioned type. Therefore that, too, was a shuffle-up sort of an arrangement.

The next time I made a trip by rail to the Eastern States there was an old-style lounge car and dining car attached. Returning to this State, on that same trip, there was another makeshift arrangement with a double unit; and when it left from Port Pirie it even had converted coaches with old-style first-class accommodation. No lounge car whatsoever was provided. However, there was a dining car attached which maintained the previous good standards. It is true that there were certain factors that caused these inconveniences, including a one-day rail stoppage in South Australia, which the Commonwealth Railways Commissioner put to me as being the reason.

There was no lounge accommodation for first-class passengers; and this was even more upsetting when one studied the make-up of the train, because the second-class passengers had lounge car accommodation and had some coaches of good standard available for them. Therefore, there is much to be desired in Commonwealth rail travel. It is obvious that the

Commonwealth Government needs to provide another two complete train units if this State is to be given the service it deserves.

Perhaps the Premier has no knowledge of these conditions; because I should imagine that, for various reasons, in the main—especially over the last few years—he would have been a constant air traveller and possibly this state of affairs on the Commonwealth Railways has not been brought to his notice. In my opinion, it is inconveniences of this nature which, more than anything else, will deter tourists from coming to this State. To encourage their coming here we must have a good straight-through rail service, particularly now when a large number of tourists are prepared to put their cars on the train at Kalgoorlie and take them off at Port Pirie in order to avoid motoring over the Nullarbor Plain; and the same, of course, applies to visitors from the Eastern States—they rail their cars at Port Pirie and then drive from Kalgoorlie to Perth.

However, I feel sure that they would not do that if they were aware of the type of first-class train services provided by the Commonwealth Railways. I suggested to the Commonwealth Railways Commissioner that even although the railways were beset with many difficulties, surely it was incumbent on those in authority to advise the people of the reason for the inconveniences as soon as they reached Port Augusta. Apologies could have been made to the passengers to the effect that due to certain factors the accommodation on that particular trip was not up to the usual standard. The commissioner's reply to that was that the chief conductor should have advised the passengers along those lines. It is not reasonable that first-class passengers should be subjected to such accommodation problems.

Whilst I was not particularly interested in laying down the law in so far as these inconveniences affected myself, I was particularly interested in the conditions, and I listened to the views and comments of many fellow-passengers who had to stand around in passageways during many hours of the journey. Indeed, the train was delayed for quite a time during one of my trips to the Eastern States, and the passengers were kept standing around for a long time in these circumstances.

I would now like to make some comment on the Chief Secretary's Department, and deal with the question of overcrowding in the gaol. The Minister made a statement in recent times that the overcrowding in the gaol was not only this Government's responsibility, but that it had been inherited from past Administrations. That, of course, may well be.

The main reason for gaol overcrowding, to my mind, is the economic conditions that prevail in the community. If one

followed the trends of those conditions, together with the number of persons in gaol, one would find that the graph would be almost identical. These people are those whom I would class as less responsible; and it stands to reason that when things get tough, and men are put off work and run out of cash to buy their tobacco, their beer, and their other needs, they will resort to stealing.

It will be found that as soon as economic conditions obtain which result in people being unemployed, the gaols at once begin to fill. One of the best ways to overcome overcrowding in the gaols is to get the economy of the State to the point where there is no unemployment. Then, and only then, will we be able to cure the problems associated with the gaols at the moment.

However, by this I do not mean to imply that the accommodation in the gaols does not need improvement. My worthy colleague, the member for South Fremantle, drew attention to the many deplorable features that exist in the Fremantle gaol at present. I feel it is high time that some Government took action to build another gaol, because the one we have at the moment has far outlived its usefulness. It should be turned over as a site for a Fremantle community centre, or whatever might be proposed in the Fremantle town-planning scheme. That would be a far better solution than maintaining the institution in its present form.

Mr. Curran: It is a valuable piece of real estate.

Mr. JAMIESON: It certainly is. Earlier in the year, members will recall, a newspaper article was published with respect to the number of medical students who, though having passed their second year, were not permitted to continue their studies, mainly because of the lack of accommodation in training hospitals associated with the Medical School.

I feel that the medical profession has no more right to be a close preserve for only a limited number than any other professional body. Provision should be made for medical students if they are capable, and if they so desire, to continue with their studies. I do not know whether our worthy friend, the member for Leederville, was a top ranker in his grade during his academic career; but it has been the general experience that many medicos who were not brilliant on the academic side once they passed out and were fully qualified became brilliant medical practitioners.

It is a great shame that the amount of study put in by these students should be terminated by the inability of the State to cope with their numbers due to a lack of suitable training hospitals. I recall very

clearly the occasion when the Minister for Repatriation was in the West. He made certain comments about the number of students being refused further tuition in the medical schools on these grounds, and added that in the Eastern States a number of repatriation hospitals were made available for such practice. So it would seem that somebody has slipped up along the line, because if the students are available they should be taught and given every opportunity.

Dr. Henn: Are you referring to post-graduate work?

Mr. JAMIESON: No, not so much to post-graduate work as to the elementary training associated with the hospitals. The Minister said that this would be available; and I feel sure that the situation could be met with the availability of the Hollywood Hospital and the general section of the Chest Hospital, together with the availability of other hospitals in the metropolitan area.

This, of course, again brings up the point as to where hospitals should be situated; though I feel it has no great bearing in this motorised age when students can be transported from one place to another in quick time; provided, of course, the distance involved is not 50 miles or so. All the hospitals I have named should have facilities available for the tuition of medical students so that they might be accommodated by the University of Western Australia.

When we hear of these students being eliminated and not permitted to continue their studies on the grounds that their marks were not high enough—even though they did pass—one wonders whether it is not a plot to keep this a close preserve, and to limit the number of medicos in the community. At this point I would say that if there are a large number of accountants in the community they generally find their own level. This, of course, would also apply to doctors. There is certainly room for plenty more doctors; and we should encourage these young students and find ways and means of overcoming the problem. They should be given all the instruction they need.

There are a number of other items with which I wished to deal, but at the moment I will confine myself to the attendances at race meetings and trotting meetings. I take an interest in this subject every year from purely an academic point of view; mainly to see what is happening in relation to the various systems of off-course betting.

It is interesting to note that in the 1959-60 season the average attendance was 4,055 at the 47 meetings held at Gloucester Park. In the 1960-61 season—at least in the latter part prior to the Totalisator Agency

Board operating; and the T.A.B. was supposed to be responsible for bringing the people back to the courses—the average attendance over 42 meetings was 3,963. It will be seen that the figures actually dropped.

When considering the trots at Richmond Park, we find that whereas in the 10 meetings held in the 1959-60 season there was an average attendance of 4,894, in the 1960-61 season the average attendance for 12 meetings was 3,630. So it will be seen that the Totalisator Agency Board, which was to be the answer to our racing ills, and which was going to be responsible for bringing the people back to the courses, has not had a very great effect, at least not so far as the trots are concerned.

Mr. Burt: There is really not much of the year you quote—

Mr. JAMIESON: There is still a fair amount of the year, because of the tapering off of activities. A number of the bookmakers had turned in their licences. So what was said by the member for Murchison, and those like him, that the closing down of S.P. shops would drive the people back to the courses is not altogether factual; because when these shops were closed the attendances did not increase either at the races or the trots. I will correct that statement and say that in the 1959-60 racing season the average attendance was 2,252 for the 57 meetings held. This year, however, there was a slight increase, and for 50 meetings the attendance was 2,373; but the increase in attendance is very small. There was an increase because during several race days there were no off-course betting facilities, particularly during the Australia Day week-end when, in the past, attendances at the races were very high and the interest was very keen.

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

Mr. Burt: Have you the attendance figures relating to the period before, and the period after betting shops came into existence?

Mr. JAMIESON: Yes. The figures showed a general trend towards a decrease, even before the betting shops were legalised, on about an even scale. The figures are all shown in *Hansard*.

The Minister for Industrial Development has denied that he has association with certain business interests in this State; he said he only had association with certain businesses in a ministerial capacity. We on this side have always had our doubts about his association. Every now and then he just about convinces the House that he has no business associations except in a ministerial capacity, and he

nearly convinces me; but, unfortunately things do occur from time to time which indicate that what he says is not correct.

Despite the denial by the Minister of any association with Sir Halford Reddish and his group of business enterprises, a fortnight ago a courier came into Parliament House with this envelope, which I have in my hand. The letter was not sealed and it was addressed to the Hon. Charles W. Court. It was not addressed to him as Minister. The flap on the envelope bears the inscription of the Cockburn Cement Coy. Pty. Ltd.

Mr. Grayden: Where did you get it?

Mr. JAMIESON: It was found in the Strangers' Room where the Minister's esteemed friend had left it.

Mr. Grayden: That is a nice thing to do.

Mr. JAMIESON: The very next day this headline appeared in the Press—

Reddish Challenges Labor Leader.

I doubt whether the Labor Leader had very much to say about Reddish which he was not prepared to say outside Parliament. In reply to the challenge of the Minister for Industrial Development, I certainly would not say outside Parliament what I say about Reddish in this House, because he could break me before I got out of the first court of law. The Minister for Industrial Development knows that very well. Sir Halford Reddish has a financial empire to back him and could go on for ever and a day taking legal proceedings.

The Government should be careful in its dealings with this person. I understand it is now contemplating building a railway to his works. This same gentleman got the English Government to build a canal and railway to one of his works in England; but what did he do when they were built? He did not use either, but instead he put in a road transport system. The Government's association with such a person will not benefit the State.

Mr. Brand: The railway was part of the agreement.

MR. MOIR (Boulder) [4.44 p.m.]: Firstly I want to congratulate the newly-elected member for Victoria Park. I regret the circumstances which made the by-election necessary. I know the new member will be a worth-while addition to Parliament and will be a worthy representative of his electors.

I am not too happy with the way in which questions are answered by Ministers in this House. Sometimes the answers are not in accordance with the facts—as ascertained from reliable sources outside the

House. One matter which causes great concern to people on the goldfields and elsewhere is hospitalisation of injured persons, who are covered by the Workers' Compensation Act. One provision in the Act sets out a certain amount for hospitalisation payments, and that amount cannot be exceeded. Under the Act the committee has power to determine the daily rate that is to be paid.

Here we have a rather peculiar set of circumstances. The Minister for Labour, in answer to questions, implied that the daily rate allowed to injured workers was 68s. I am informed by a member of the Workers' Compensation Board that the amount fixed under the Act is 70s. per day. There is a difference of 2s.; although this may not be a very large amount when considered daily, if a person is hospitalised for a long period the total could become an important factor. The amount of 68s. per day was given by the Minister in answer to a question, but we find that 70s. is provided under the Act.

I draw the Government's attention to a reply given by another Minister to a question asked in this House. The Minister for Health stated that the minimum daily rate charged in Government hospitals was 56s. per day. I expected that to be correct at the time. Following a further question to him as to what amounts were charged by hospitals for workers' compensation cases he had something different to say. Today I asked him the following question:—

- (1) Would he agree that the Minister for Labour was correct when he stated, in reply to question No. 14 (1) on the 22nd August, "that in practice the major hospitals charge the daily rate fixed under the Act for all compensation cases regardless of where the patient has to be placed for treatment"?
- (2) If the answer is "Yes," will he arrange for the Kalgoorlie District Hospital to follow this course?

His reply was as follows:—

- (1) and (2) Yes, but the rate charged by the major metropolitan hospitals is 68s. per day.

This rate applies also at the Kalgoorlie District Hospital as well as the lower rate of 56s. per day, depending on the type of bed occupied. However, if a workers' compensation case occupies a single room the charge is 80s. per day, but 68s. per day is the maximum payable under the Workers' Compensation Board determination. The difference between 68s. per day and 80s. per

day is payable by the patient unless he is not in a position to pay.

Here the figure of 68s. per day is mentioned. There is no doubt that the member of the Workers' Compensation Board who supplied me with the information that the provision in the Act is 70s. per day is correct. It appears that hospitals are claiming 68s. per day, and if there is a greater charge the patient is left to foot the bill.

The main aspect I am concerned with is the part of the answer which states that at the Kalgoorlie District Hospital the lower rate of 56s. per day is charged. I am led to believe on very good authority that a person who enters as a patient under the Workers' Compensation Act is not charged 56s. per day, but 68s. per day; that is, when he can get a 68s.-a-day bed he is charged that amount. If such a person has to be placed in a small ward or a private room he is charged the full amount applicable to such accommodation.

A serious part of the complaint is that a worker who is injured has no say as to where he is to go for hospitalisation. He is taken to hospital by ambulance and is admitted on a doctor's certificate. The hospital places him in whatever ward the hospital authorities think fit. It may happen that, because of the nature of his injuries and the treatment that is required, he is placed in a single-bed ward or a two-bed ward. Of course, if the charge is over the maximum allowed under the Workers' Compensation Act, the injured person has to pay that out of his own pocket. He would have to pay it out of the weekly amounts of compensation allowed him for the maintenance of his family while he is ill in hospital.

Again, we have a position which very often arises in Kalgoorlie where a patient is transferred to a three-bed, two-bed, or single-bed ward; and the patient has no say as to which ward he will be placed in. Even if he were in a fit state to query it, it would not make any difference. As we know, when people are injured they sometimes arrive at the hospital in an unconscious state.

The Ministers concerned are not in the House at the moment, so I suggest to the Government that it take heed of this: Where a patient is placed in a particular ward for which a higher rate is chargeable, and this is done at the convenience of the hospital—I am talking of Government hospitals—the hospital should bear that expense. I think that is a fair and reasonable request. Since the Ministers concerned are not here at the moment, I will take that matter up with them at a later date.

Along with other people from the goldfields, I am pleased to see that the Federal Government has seen fit to raise the limit of gold on which a subsidy is payable. The Federal Government has been paying a subsidy of £2 8s. per oz. up to 500 oz. of gold; but as soon as 501 oz. were produced the subsidy ceased. Naturally, this had the effect of limiting production. If a small mine-owner produced 500 oz. of gold, he would be foolish to go beyond that figure because not only would he receive no subsidy for all gold in excess of 500 oz., but he would get no subsidy at all. That has always been a bone of contention.

Now, the Federal Government will pay a subsidy up to 1,075 oz. While this represents a certain gain to the people who produce the ore, I cannot help feeling the position still reflects the parsimonious attitude of the Federal Government to the goldfields. As soon as production rises above 500 oz., a reduction of 1d. per oz. takes place in the subsidy until it completely disappears when 1,075 oz. have been produced. An article in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* of the 29th August, shows the rather peculiar method adopted to assess the gold subsidy. It reads as follows:—

The method of assessing gold subsidies for production of more than 500 oz. a year has been clarified by Mr. Peter Browne, M.H.R. The Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders' Association has been told that the subsidy rate for 600 oz. is calculated at £2 8s. less 100 pence, or £1 19s. 8d. a fine ounce. The total subsidy payable is £1,190. Similarly the subsidy for 800 ounces would be calculated at £2 8s. less 300 pence a fine ounce, making a total of £1,000 payable.

So there is a dropping off of the amount paid when production rises above 500 oz. It appears to me that not a very large sum is involved; so surely to goodness in the interests of giving prospectors and small mine-owners a real boost, that subsidy could have been paid on the full increased number of ounces without any strings—without a penny per ounce reduction.

At this point I would like to mention copper production. As we all know, there has been a shortage of oxidised copper to add to superphosphate which is used on copper-deficient soils. There are reasons for this. We have quite a lot of copper spread about various areas in Western Australia, but some is either too far away to be an economic proposition, or is of too low a grade. Nevertheless, we have copper that is situated in areas where the mining of it is payable, but production has not reached the proportion that it should. There is a simple reason for this. Quite a lot of the people who are producers of

copper, or potential producers, feel that they are at a disadvantage because after they mine the copper they have to send it to one of two firms in the metropolitan area where the copper is processed. These firms determine what the percentage is, and those mining the ore are paid on that percentage.

I have been told by some producers that they feel they are not getting as much for their copper as they should—and some of these men are experienced and good assayers. They say that from one firm they do get what could be considered reasonable treatment, but that the treatment meted out by the other firm leaves much to be desired. In my opinion, the answer to the question is that the Government should set up a grinding plant for the treatment of copper ore on the same basis as the State batteries which crush the gold ore. We know that after gold ore is crushed at the State batteries, it is very seldom that a dispute arises in regard to values or what the final payment should be. These crushing plants would not only be beneficial to the people who produce copper, but they would also be a great help to the people who use copper in superphosphate. I leave that suggestion with the Government.

A matter of concern to many people is the quality of milk. I was rather astounded to find a report in *The West Australian* of the 18th August, stating that there is an amnesty in existence whereby producers of under-quality milk will not be prosecuted. I think that is a rather extraordinary thing. It seems to me that everything works the way of certain people in the community, and consumers are not considered at all.

Mr. Nalder: I think you are not properly informed.

Mr. MOIR: I do not want to engage in any crossfire debate with the Minister for Agriculture.

Mr. Nalder: The board still has authority to prosecute.

Mr. MOIR: I would like the Minister to listen to what I have to say, and if I am wrong he can correct me. This article is headed, "Extension of Truce on Milk Sought," and reads as follows:—

Local authorities will be asked not to prosecute dairy farmers for under-standard milk for another year.

An amnesty protecting farmers against prosecution has been operating for the past 12 months.

Health Minister Hutchinson said yesterday he hoped agreement on the extra period could be reached between

local authorities, the producers and the Government departments involved.

He said the previous system of prosecutions had proved unsatisfactory.

Public Health Commissioner Dr. L. Henzell would ask all local authorities to support an extension of the amnesty.

The Minister said he had been told by Agriculture Minister Nalder that an extension would help the department's programme.

The programme of educating farmers in animal husbandry was beginning to take effect and the extension would enable the department to continue the survey of the seasonal variation in the quality of milk it began in January, 1960.

The survey included 13 herds representing dry land and irrigated farming areas, and about 800 cows were being tested.

The Perth City Council will ask Dr. Henzell to call a conference on the amnesty.

I am not going to read it all but the significant part is the conclusion which is as follows:—

A report by the council's chief health inspector said that milk samples taken from producers during the past year in a number of cases showed no improvement in the solids-not-fat content.

No action had been taken by these producers to withdraw their milk from the whole milk market.

Details of these samples would be sent to the Commissioner of Public Health for his comments.

It seems to me that the consumer comes last in these matters. In one part of the article it is stated that a conference was to be called on the amnesty and that those to be present were a representative of the public, a representative from the Health Department, one from the Department of Agriculture, one from the Milk Board, one from the producers, and one from the council. There is not one word mentioning that a representative of the consumers should be asked to attend. All these arrangements are to be made and the consumer is completely disregarded.

Mr. Nalder: He is represented on the Milk Board.

Mr. MOIR: As long as the Health Act is not being infringed, everything is considered O.K. As a matter of fact, even if things are going on that are detrimental to the consumer, it does not seem to matter

a great deal. I say this because I noticed in the paper the other day that one of the milk distributing firms in Perth was charged with having supplied milk in a filthy bottle. The firm was found guilty and fined only £5. It is evidently all right to pass off dirty milk to the public.

I now desire to say a few words about monopolies. We have heard a great deal in this Chamber about monopolies. When those on this side of the House were in office, those on the other side—the present Government—heaped coals of fire on our heads because of the restrictive trade practices measure in operation at that time. That measure was vilified not only in the State, but throughout the Commonwealth and in overseas countries. The Labor Government thought it was very necessary to have legislation of that nature; and other Governments thought so, too, including the Federal Government, which has now come to the conclusion that it should introduce similar legislation. The following is an article from *The West Australian* of the 18th August:—

#### Govt. Plans To Curb Monopolies.

CANBERRA, Thurs: The Federal Government is going ahead with its plan to seek authority to control monopolies and restrictive trade practices in Australia.

It will be unable to introduce legislation until after the elections because it is awaiting the reactions of the State Governments to the Commonwealth's draft proposals.

The Federal Attorney-General, Sir Garfield Barwick, has asked the States if they are prepared to pass complementary legislation to strengthen the constitutional force of measures proposed by the Commonwealth.

The extent of their assent will likely determine the final form of legislation for submission to Parliament.

The draft proposals were prepared after detailed examination of the anti-monopoly and restrictive trade practices laws operating overseas, particularly in Canada and the U.S.

That is a rather interesting article because we know that for many years there have been such measures in those countries; and in America the penalties are very severe indeed: so much so that there have been instances of many powerful people not only being heavily fined but also receiving gaol sentences. I refer to the directors and some of the leading men in the General Electric Co.

In the *Kalgoorlie Miner* of the 22nd August there was another item pointing out that a further three American firms were to be indicted for alleged conspiracy to fix higher prices in connection with



antibiotic and other drugs. The time at my disposal does not allow me to read the whole article, but no doubt I will have the opportunity another day.

We know that restrictive trade practices are going on in Australia to no small extent and that they have a very bad effect on the economy. No-one can deny that unduly high profits play a major part in the cost structure of certain goods; and, in my opinion, inasmuch as profit is excessive it is taking money out of people's pockets because they are paying more than they need to for goods. I do not think I could do better than read an article from the *Kalgoorlie Miner* of Thursday, the 17th August, as follows:—

Paper Company Executive Fires  
Salvo at A.P.M.

"Dictates" Just About Everything  
Except Wrapping Up The Rubbish.

Melbourne, Aug. 16.—A paper company executive told the Tariff Board today that his company was barred from purchasing paper from Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd. and thereby acquiring full rights of ownership over the goods.

He was Ignacy Feuer, managing director of Cello Paper Co. Pty. Ltd., of Sydney.

Mr. Feuer said that when A.P.M. sold goods it retained rights over them, dictating selling prices, to whom the goods were allowed to be sold, how the paper was to be used, at what prices paper products made from such paper had to be sold and to whom.

The board is conducting an inquiry into whether assistance should be given the manufacturer in Australia of certain paper and paperboard (other than newsprint).

Mr. Feuer's company is opposing any assistance.

Mr. Feuer said that importers like his firm could not buy from A.P.M. either as merchants or manufacturers.

The penalties for non-compliance with A.P.M. directions were set down by the association, and were either direct cash penalties or expulsion from the association, resulting in the loss of special discounts given by A.P.M.

Answering the board chairman, Sir Leslie Melville, he said that he had documentary evidence of these clauses in an A.P.M. agreement.

Wrapping Paper Assoc.

Mr. J. Murray, a board member:  
"What association is this?"

Mr. Feuer: The Wrapping Paper Association, the Bag Makers' Association.

Mr. Feuer also claimed that A.P.M. was selling "exactly the same paper" as sack kraft at £119 a ton, as bag kraft at £143 4s. a ton and as processing kraft at £155 a ton.

He could substantiate this claim with samples, he said.

"The main difference between these papers is price and name," he said. "There are other minor differences which, however, do not justify the enormous price variations."

This is only one instance. We know there are many others of a like nature taking place. This sort of thing is fairly widespread so it is not surprising that the Federal Government has come to the conclusion that something must be done about the situation. Of course, knowing the composition of the Federal Government, one may be pardoned for being a little sceptical as to the strength and effectiveness of the measure it will introduce. We know that it, like this Government, has a very tender regard for the people who make profits and those who make these restrictive agreements. I say that because of the utterances of prominent members of the Government in this Chamber in the past when various matters have been debated. I think that no later than last night, one of our members pointed out, while quoting a statement made by a member on the other side of the House, that so far as profits were concerned the sky was the limit.

We know of instances given this House of rather extraordinary profits being made; and members of the present Government have found nothing wrong with these excessive profits. We, on this side of the House, believe that people are entitled to fair profits; but not to hold the consuming public to ransom, and to operate all sorts of snide agreements and, indeed, to enter into a conspiracy in some secluded place and decide on what they shall charge; who shall get their goods; and who shall not be allowed to retail their goods. If that is allowed to go on in any economy, it is very bad indeed.

I am deliberately curtailing my speech in order to co-operate with the desires of the Government. However, I cannot resume my seat without commenting on the fact that it is lamentable to note that this Government has seen fit to transport stock on what is regarded as purely a passenger train; and I refer to the Kalgoorlie express.

I do not know whether there are any other civilised countries where such a thing is done. The Kalgoorlie express has operated for many years as a passenger express. It is one of the few paying passenger trains—probably the only paying passenger train—in Western Australia. Yet

this Government has seen fit to load cattle on that train, but not at the Perth Railway Station where the public would see the Kalgoorlie express departing with two or three trucks of bullocks behind the engine. Oh, no! I do not know whether the cattle trucks are attached to the train under cover of night; but they are taken up to Northam, and at night-time they are attached to the train.

I hope the Minister for Railways is not trying to convey the impression that he is surprised, because I know this practice is not a surprise to him. Protests were lodged with him and he said that this practice was followed in the interests—I may be wrong here; it may have been the Minister for Agriculture, but I think it was the Minister for Railways. I think the Eastern Goldfields District Council of the Australian Labor Party protested.

Mr. Court: I will check; I cannot recall it.

Mr. MOIR: The Minister for Railways said it was in the interests of getting those cattle to Kalgoorlie quickly and, in effect, so that the people of the goldfields could get tender meat. I feel that the passengers would sooner put up with the rather mixed sort of meat we have been getting up there than have their nostrils very strongly assailed between Northam and Kalgoorlie with the odour of these bullocks—particularly the passengers in the second-class carriages, which would be immediately behind the cattle trucks. We often hear about the advantages of a farming atmosphere and how healthy is the air; but I like my fresh air without any contact with bulls.

I have just received, through the courtesy of the Minister for Railways, a copy of a letter sent to a member in another place. It outlines certain renovations that are to be made in connection with rolling-stock on passenger trains. Studying that letter, these renovations appear to be very nice indeed. However, I think it is a rather ridiculous situation if we are going to have nice coaches—and the Minister mentions pastel shades—if those coaches are to be polluted with the very strong odour of cattle being transported on the Kalgoorlie express.

Mr. Court: Sweet-scented music for you.

Mr. MOIR: When the Minister is doing a good job, he should not, for goodness' sake spoil his efforts in this manner. In fact, I have some doubt as to whether he is doing a good job, because I understand that the *Westland* coaches have been renovated and a high standard has been reached. They are very good indeed—there is no doubt about that. It is a tribute to the designers and the workmen who carried out the work.

I understand, however, that the renovated Kalgoorlie express coaches will not be of the same standard as the *Westland* coaches. I would like to ask the Minister why that is so. Surely to goodness the people of Kalgoorlie and those along the line, who use that train are equally entitled to have nice coaches, with pleasant colours and good seating as the passengers who use the *Westland*!

However much we appreciate the influx of tourists who travel on the *Westland* express, the people of Kalgoorlie patronised that train for many years and contributed heavily towards the expense of running the railways; and these latter people are here all the time. A tourist probably makes one trip in a lifetime, or in a matter of several years; but the people who reside on the goldfields are points in between, and who use that train are here all the time. A lot of those people would use that train at least once a year and many would use it a good deal more. I do not wish to delay proceedings and will therefore conclude by asking the Government to take note of my remarks.

MR. GRAHAM (East Perth) [5.18 p.m.] May I, first of all, pay a tribute to the memory of the late member for Victoria Park, whom it was my privilege to know over a period of some 30 years. I would like also to take advantage of this opportunity of extending a formal welcome to his successor who, I am confident, will be an adornment to the Western Australian Parliament.

In addition, I would like to thank members on both sides of the House for the messages and good wishes I received in considerable numbers during the period I was confined in hospital and was otherwise indisposed last year.

I wish now to deal with matters on a less mutual basis; in other words, in respect of which I find myself at odds with the Government. I would like to make at least passing reference to a whole pack of nonsense that was ventilated in this Chamber, and subsequently in the Press. Indeed, it became so important that international affairs were brushed aside, and on at least two occasions it became almost full front-page news.

I am referring to something known as the Moola Bulla episode. As we all know, that was a diversion created by the member for South Perth in the hope of distracting the attention of the people of Victoria Park from the shocking thing that was done by this Government in respect of the disposal of public assets previously known as the State Building Supplies and the railway mill at Banksiadale, about which something has been heard and about which far more will be heard—

Mr. Hawke: Hear, hear!

**Mr. GRAHAM:**—during this session. If the party of which I have the honour to be a member becomes the Government in a few months' time, most assuredly there will be a Royal Commission, not only into the transaction but also into the *bona fides* of the persons responsible for it; and even if it means waiting three years beyond that time, the same action will be taken. I am certain that there will be an impeachment of the most serious nature against certain public figures in Western Australia.

**Mr. Court:** That's what you hope.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** That can only be ascertained by an authority that has the power to investigate. Ordinary people in the community cannot do it; and even when members of the Opposition have been endeavouring to obtain information the Minister for Industrial Development and others in harmony with him have been as evasive as it has been possible to be.

**Mr. Court:** We have given you information very generously.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** I will give a few examples in a minute to illustrate my point; but first I want to conclude on the Moola Bulla episode. The most extravagant language was used by the member for South Perth for the reasons just outlined. Members may recall that a few short years ago that same member indulged in a tirade of abuse against reputable people; and I quote from a document entitled *The Origins of the Eastern Goldfields Water Scheme in Western Australia*. On page 13 of that document the following is recorded:—

On 30th October and 12th November, 1947, Mr. W. Grayden, a grandson of Mr. Harper, then member of the Legislative Assembly for Middle Swan, raised the question in the Assembly.

The question was as to who was responsible for the conception of the Goldfields Water Supply Scheme. To continue—

Mr. Grayden restated the evidence which was considered to prove Mr. Harper's case, and accused the Historical Society's committee of bias and wilful distortion of evidence.

There is just one other quote—and this is a report signed by Professor Walter Murdoch, who was appointed an arbitrator by the Government then led by the present member for Murray—

Mr. Grayden's innuendo in the House on November 5th, 1947, (*Hansard* page 1734) to the effect that the Historical Society had distorted the truth "even to the extent of predating documents," is entirely without foundation in fact. His statement, on the same day, that a passage in Mr. H.

M. Wilson's report on the beginnings of the goldfields water supply contained "a deliberate lie" is also without foundation in fact. I do not know the extent to which "parliamentary privilege" allows a member to make such statements; but I think that, by ordinary codes of honour, Mr. Grayden owes an apology to the Historical Society and another to Mr. Wilson.

That statement is signed by Professor Walter Murdoch.

**Mr. Grayden:** Everything I said was fully substantiated. You read the debate.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** He was the arbitrator appointed by the Liberal Party Government to examine these hysterical outbursts impugning the honour of certain individuals. All I am seeking to do now, as I pass from this point, is to emphasise to members that we had another episode of a most irrational and irresponsible outburst by the same person now occupying a different seat in this Parliament, but for certain purposes.

**Mr. Grayden:** Every word was substantiated, and you know it.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** Apparently the member for South Perth is disputing the umpire's decision. I leave the matter there. But the tirade of the other night, of course, was designed to have a political effect; and the member for South Perth failed miserably even if his earlier attempt in maligning well-respected citizens did gain for him a certain reward to which he was looking forward.

Now let us forget about the member for South Perth. I made a few remarks that the Minister for Industrial Development—and he is not the only one—has been indulging in evasions. Questions are asked of him and they are deferred; or, when alleged replies are given, they do not give the information which is being sought; and it is obvious to him and everybody else.

**Mr. Court:** That is not fair. We have given you very generous treatment.

**Mr. GRAHAM:** Let me conclude this point. I asked a whole series of questions regarding the assets, locality, valuation, and so forth of the State Building Supplies. After waiting for more than a week, I was told by the Minister that much of the information I sought was well known to all members in a broad and sufficient way. The Minister went on to say that he was of the opinion that the special staff work that would be involved to extract in detail all the information requested was not reasonably justified.

**Mr. Court:** That is a fair answer.

Mr. GRAHAM: One question was—

What area of land is owned by the State Building Supplies and the railway mill?

I was fobbed off with that sort of answer.

Mr. Court: That's the answer you deserved.

Mr. GRAHAM: I can tell the Minister that it was 490 acres freehold.

Mr. Roberts: Then why did you ask the question?

Mr. GRAHAM: Why did I ask it?

Mr. Court: You were the Minister for three years. Good heavens!

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not know what that has to do with it. I think if a member of this House asks for particulars relating to a public matter—a matter of great public interest and concern—that member is entitled to receive the information.

Mr. Hawke: Hear, hear!

Mr. GRAHAM: I asked what acreage of timber was contained in the permits. Again I was fobbed off by the Minister for Industrial Development; but I can now tell him, because I made inquiries about it—and this will surprise members—it involves 668,375 acres.

Mr. Court: Where does that get you?

Mr. GRAHAM: Approximately 1,045 square miles. Where does it get us? Surely we as members of Parliament are entitled to know what it was that the Government made a present of to the Hawker Siddeley Group.

Mr. Court: It was not a present. You know they were ordinary timber permits.

Mr. GRAHAM: I know a few other things, too. I know that the agreement says that the Hawker Siddeley Group shall not dispose of the properties within a period of seven years.

Mr. Court: That is so.

Mr. GRAHAM: But in the course of the past several weeks the company has sold part of the previous S.E.S. property at Carlisle.

Mr. Court: That is by an understanding which I explained to you in the answer to the question.

Mr. GRAHAM: Notwithstanding the over-generosity of the agreement, there is a section in it under which the Minister for Industrial Development can vary any of the conditions in the agreement.

Mr. Court: There must be some elasticity in these things.

Mr. GRAHAM: Why put these conditions in the agreement if they have no meaning whatever?

Mr. Court: You must have an agreement.

Mr. GRAHAM: I also asked the Minister a question as to the number of dwellings that were being passed over. I can tell him that if I had been the Minister in charge of the State Building Supplies, I could have supplied the answer to him in five minutes. Yet he has said, three weeks later, that he has still not been able to get the answer. That was another deliberate attempt to deny to members of Parliament and the public the full facts to which they are entitled.

I regret to say that other Ministers have done the same sort of thing, and I now wish to make reference to the Chief Secretary. I do not hold him responsible for this, but the Minister for Housing in another place. On the 3rd August, 1960, I was told that a decision was made by the State Housing Commission to increase the minimum deposits payable for State Housing Act Homes from £50 to £100, and that this was based on an analysis which had been made. On the 11th August, 1960, I asked for a copy of the survey, and I was told by the Chief Secretary that the question would have to be postponed as the answer required considerable research. That is what I was told, notwithstanding that a decision had been made months before on a research or analysis which apparently had been undertaken.

On the 16th August, 1960, I was supplied with some figures. Several weeks ago I called for the file, and I found that the figures supplied to me in August, 1960—for which I had to wait about a fortnight—had been on the file since September, 1959. In other words, through the Chief Secretary, I was being told lies. Furthermore, the papers are still on the file; but there is something phoney about it because nobody made any request for a survey to be undertaken. No officer has signed the report on the survey. There is a typed copy of one of the pages, which comprised three in all, and another is a carbon copy.

I was an officer of the Public Service for many years and a Minister for six years, and I have handled many thousands of public documents; and I say that this is not a copy of the *bona fide* papers concerning a supposed analysis that was made and upon which the Minister for Housing made his decision. It is a serious statement when one says that a Minister has lied in supplying an answer to a private member. However, it is perfectly true, and if any member cares to check the marked pages of this *Hansard* and peruse the file which I have in front of me he

will be satisfied beyond any shadow of a doubt that what I am saying is true. Unfortunately this is the sort of treatment we get from this Government and to which we have become accustomed.

Mr. Court: What is your assertion: that the Minister has taken papers off the file, or that the papers are not correct?

Mr. GRAHAM: If the Minister considers that these are the papers on which an analysis has been made, I say they are untrue because such is not the case.

Mr. Court: How do you know, if that is the file and he has tabled it?

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not wish to spend any more time on it, but I repeat that the *Hansard* and the papers are here for anybody to inspect.

Mr. Court: We want to know what your allegation is.

Mr. GRAHAM: My allegation is, firstly, that a change of policy had been made because an analysis or survey had been undertaken. Then I was told that I would have to wait for my information because it would require a great deal of time to get a copy of the analysis, despite the fact that it was already on the file, if this file be true. Why was I told that?

Mr. Court: I do not know.

Mr. GRAHAM: Neither do I.

Mr. Court: Apparently the Minister had a good reason.

Mr. GRAHAM: Perhaps the Minister for Housing can think of some good reason why he did that. The position is, of course, that the so-called survey deliberately included native houses for the purpose of giving a false result. I was aware of that, and that is why I called for the figures; but I did not want to be told a lie in that they were preparing an analysis when it had already been made.

At this stage I would now like to pay a tribute to Mr. A. E. Clare, who for many years was the Principal Architect in this State, and who was also one who graced the office of chairman of the State Housing Commission for several years. It was my privilege to recommend his appointment to that position. It is unfortunate he has reached—in fact, even passed—the retiring age, because he has been an outstanding public servant. I make this observation as a result of my association with him on housing matters during his service and not in regard to his duties on public works. However, that association was sufficient to enable me to have a true appreciation of his worth.

Naturally enough he has not said anything to me along the lines I am now about to express, but Mr. Clare, who served this State for so many years, left the public service with a broken heart because this Government passed a vote of no-confidence in the Principal Architect and his staff. Apparently in the eyes of the Government they were no longer good enough to carry out the task for which they had been appointed, but instead it was considered that the work had to be given to private architects outside the department.

Mr. Brand: That is not right.

Mr. GRAHAM: I am aware that many top-ranking public servants are similarly heartbroken because of this attitude of contempt shown towards them by the present Government. It is a very poor reward for men who have virtually devoted their lives to their work, notwithstanding the salaries and other considerations they received. Many of those men worked irrespective of the time of day or the days of the week because they believed in their State and gave of their best in every respect.

I now wish to make a few comments on housing. I have already criticised the Government for increasing the minimum deposit to be paid on a State Housing Commission home from £50 to £100. This, in fact, is a workers' home scheme. The members of the Government and those behind it perhaps think the difference between £50 and £100 is not much; but to an ordinary working man with a wife and family, or to a young man just setting up house, the additional £50, together with the other necessary expenses, is indeed an excessive burden for them to bear.

Mr. Fletcher: It costs about £140-odd to get into a State Housing Commission home.

Mr. GRAHAM: It costs more than that, having regard to transfer fees, transportation, and so on. Members of this Government apparently overlook the fact that the State Housing Commission is, under its present name, the old Workers' Homes Board, which was created for the purpose of assisting those people on low incomes and treating them as if they are people with far greater means. I was disgusted to read in the Press recently an announcement by the Minister for Housing that a £325,000 plan has been sponsored jointly by the State Government and the Rural and Industries Bank to help more young people own their own homes. Of this amount £75,000 is being supplied by the Government and £250,000 by the R. & I. Bank. That £75,000 has been taken from the workers. That is money which should have been spent in the ordinary way by the State Housing Commission to provide homes for persons in the lower income bracket.

This is a wicked thing the Government has done, because the previous Hawke Labor Government introduced a second mortgage scheme and a housing loan guarantee scheme for the purpose of assisting people who were short of finance after they had paid their deposit on their home. Surely that was sufficient to meet the position the Government is now trying to meet! It should be, because these persons are in receipt of incomes higher than those of workers and are therefore ineligible to obtain homes from the State Housing Commission. They are now able to help themselves from the £1,000,000 a year that goes to the building societies. Further, they can draw on the building societies' own resources, and there are builders and agents who sell houses on easy terms. Then there are the insurance companies, banks, and other financial institutions available at the present moment to that class of home-builder.

Surely it should be the purpose and object of the Government to assist these little people of whom I speak! The net result has been that, a couple of weeks ago, people went to the R. & I. Bank, received their money, and have proceeded to build their homes. But the underdog and the worker, for whom the Government should be doing something, is told that he is on the end of a very long waiting list. If the Government had satisfied the working man within the definition of the Act then, and only then, would it have been entitled to go outside that definition.

But this is so consistent with the attitude of this Government. The bigger the interest, or the higher the income of any group, the more patronising this Government becomes. It is endeavouring to give itself some credit for having become tougher in regard to the collection of arrears. In other words, the amount of arrears owing by tenants is not as great today as it was several years ago.

I will admit it is a desirable thing to keep arrears to a minimum; but again this Government must realise that the occupiers of the tenancy homes, and the purchasers of the homes for sale, are little people, with small incomes; and, in the great majority of cases, with young families. In very many cases these families are increasing; and, from time to time, they do get into certain difficulties.

But this Government has gone from excess to excess. I would give what I think is a classic example; and I do not mind using the name and the other details. The gentleman concerned is Albert Harry James Parker, of 13 Kennard Street, South Perth. He went into a Commonwealth-State rental home in July, 1948, with a wife and three children. Throughout the 13 years he has been in that place, he has never been in arrears. He has been a good tenant. All that the Housing Commission

had to do was to replace a burnt-out chip bath-heater. It painted part of the interior and repainted the exterior quite recently.

In March of this year Mr. Parker received from the State Housing Commission a notice to quit on the grounds that he was 25s. in arrears. That is about two or three days' rent.

Mr. Grayden: That means nothing. That is routine. They allow it to get as high as £30 or £40 in arrears.

Mr. GRAHAM: That is not so. If the member for South Perth will contain himself, it may be possible for me to continue these few remarks. Here we have a man who has been in a house for 13 years; and, because he is 25s. in arrears to the Housing Commission he is given notice to quit by the Crown Law Department.

Mr. Grayden: That is purely routine.

Mr. GRAHAM: I say he was only two or three days' rent in arrears.

Mr. Grayden: It is purely routine; it does not mean a thing.

Mr. GRAHAM: It may be routine to this Government, perhaps. Whilst in this rental home this gentleman has spent on it about £1,000. He has painted every room of the interior; he has fly-wired the house completely; he has put in formica-topped cupboards in the kitchen; he has put into the house a gas bath-heater; he has erected a car-port, and has built concrete paths completely around the house. Apart from this, he has modernised the fireplace; and outside, there are trees and shrubs in a garden which would be a credit to anybody.

This man, the Housing Commission thought—and I emphasise the word "thought"—was 25s. in arrears, and because of that he gets from the Crown Law Department a notice to quit; he is told that he has to vacate his premises because of his arrears. This is a man who, even if he were indebted to the tune of 25s. at that time, had never in the previous years been one day late with any of his payments. Here we have a person, who is a most admirable citizen; almost a perfect tenant in every respect; and yet we find he—and unfortunately many others—is being harassed by departmental officers. I am told that the Housing Commission now disregards all factors; the only thing it is concerned about is the rent. Whether a person has been a good tenant or a bad tenant; whether he has struck good fortune or misfortune, or anything else, is of no account.

Mr. Grayden: He has not been evicted.

Mr. GRAHAM: I know the member for South Perth is getting upset because the person concerned is in his own electorate.

Mr. Grayden: Quote one case of an eviction.

Mr. GRAHAM: I have quoted a case. If the member for South Perth wishes I will quote the file number.

Mr. Grayden: He has not been evicted. If he is £25 in arrears he will not be evicted.

Mr. GRAHAM: That is entirely false. It is on a par, I am afraid to say, with a great many expressions of the member for South Perth. I repeat that this man was issued with a notice to quit. As a matter of fact, he was issued with a summons to appear before the court.

Mr. Grayden: He only had to go to the Housing Commission.

Mr. GRAHAM: After the Housing Commission—after several calls—found it had made a mistake, it still wanted this gentleman to pay £1 ls. which it alleged was owing to the Crown Law Department for the issue of the summons.

Mr. Grayden: I can give you 20 cases where people are well and truly in arrears and where there have been no evictions.

Mr. Tonkin: That makes it worse.

Mr. GRAHAM: Of course it does. I am merely appealing to this Government to have a little bit of sweet reason. Instead of having regard for the fact that the great majority of tenants or buyers of Housing Commission homes are decent, honest Western Australian citizens, who would prefer to do the right thing rather than the wrong, they are being treated almost as criminals. From this Government's point of view the important thing is the annual report of the State Housing Commission saying that the arrears are down to a certain figure.

Mr. Brand: That is certainly not right.

Mr. GRAHAM: We must not forget that the Housing Commission, whilst it finances itself completely—unlike most Government departments—is, in part, a social service department; and there is an obligation upon it to help people who are in distress, and who have fallen on unhappy times. But this Government is concerned with things other than that. I am appealing to it, as I have done on so many occasions, to have a little heart for the ordinary people, instead of having so much concern and affection for the wealthy interests.

Mr. Roberts: That is quite unfair. This Government has given serious consideration to a number of destitute cases.

Mr. GRAHAM: If it were not for a promise given by myself to the Premier to the effect that I would resume my seat in no longer time than three minutes from now, I would give the member for

Bunbury chapter and verse—because the evidence is here—and he would probably be surprised at the enormous list, and the harsh attitude of the Government towards ordinary average Western Australian citizens, as distinct from the munificence and the generosity with which it deals with the wealthy elements of the community.

Mr. Tonkin: Air Beef, for example.

Mr. Roberts: Nonsense!

Mr. GRAHAM: The member for Bunbury may continue with his interjections of "nonsense"; the only expression he seems to know is: "That the question be now put." If it were possible, as it is, to produce the evidence, the member for Bunbury still would not be satisfied. I make no pretence of endeavouring to satisfy him in connection with this. In compliance with the undertaking I have given, I now resume my seat, and will make further observations with regard to housing and other matters on another occasion.

Mr. Grayden: Before you resume your seat: What did you think of the action of the member for Beeloo in taking envelopes out of the rubbish baskets belonging to Ministers?

Mr. GRAHAM: The member for Beeloo did not take any papers out of the waste-paper baskets.

Mr. Grayden: Do you mean they were left on the table?

Mr. GRAHAM: I am aware of the circumstances involved; and, as usual, the member for South Perth, with his sewer-like mind, is endeavouring to make a situation out of this. He might be able to bluff anybody who is not aware of the circumstances; but I am. I prefer to leave the situation with the people of Western Australia thinking of the member for South Perth as they indicated last Saturday.

Question put and passed; the Address-in-Reply thus adopted.

## BILLS (20)—INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Health Education Council Act Amendment Bill.
2. Fire Brigades Act Amendment Bill.  
Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Watts (Attorney-General) for Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Health and Chief Secretary), and read a first time.
3. Unauthorised Documents Bill.
4. Criminal Code Amendment Bill.  
Bills introduced, on motion by Mr. Watts (Attorney-General), and read a first time.

# Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 5th September, 1961

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### 5. Pig Industry Compensation Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.

### 6. Companies Bill.

### 7. Companies Act Amendment Bill.

### 8. Welfare and Assistance Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Watts (Attorney-General), and read a first time.

### 9. Explosives and Dangerous Goods Bill.

### 10. Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Watts (Attorney-General) for Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Chief Secretary), and read a first time.

### 11. Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Native Welfare), and read a first time.

### 12. Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Transport), and read a first time.

### 13. Metropolitan Region Improvement Tax Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Police), and read a first time.

### 14. Civil Aviation (Carriers' Liability) Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Transport), and read a first time.

### 15. Spearwood-Cockburn Cement Pty. Limited Railway Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Railways), and read a first time.

### 16. Alumina Refinery Agreement Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development), and read a first time.

### 17. Western Australian Marine Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Wild (Minister for Works), and read a first time.

### 18. Fruit Cases Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.

### 19. Death Penalty Abolition Bill.

### 20. Painters' Registration Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Graham, and read a first time.

House adjourned at 6.11 p.m.