

Legislative Assembly

. Thursday, 1st November, 1951.

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

ASSENT TO BILL.

Message from the Administrator received and read notifying assent to the Wheat Marketing Act Amendment and Continuance Bill.

QUESTIONS. RAILWAYS.

(a) *As to Fire Caused by Locomotive, Kondinin.*

Mr. PERKINS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

(1) Is he aware that a serious fire originated from the railway line south of Kondinin last Friday?

(2) Was the engine fitted with a spark-arrester in good order and did the fire start from a spark from the funnel or from coals or clinker from the ash tray?

(3) Had the grass on the railway reserve adjacent to the line been burnt by railway employees, and if not, why not?

(4) What steps have been taken to prevent similar disastrous fires in other areas?

(5) Will the Government compensate the farmers whose property was damaged by this fire at Kondinin?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) The Minister is aware that a fire occurred at Kondinin on Friday, the 26th, but details as to the cause of the fire have not yet been received and investigations are in hand.

(2) The engine working the train out of Kondinin was fitted with a spark-arrester in good order. The cause of the fire has not yet been ascertained and is still under investigation.

(3) The grass on the railway reserve adjacent to the line near Kondinin had not been burnt off by railway employees because the District Engineer concerned stated that he had not commenced burning off in the area as in his opinion he could not obtain a satisfactory burn.

(4) All locomotives are fitted with an approved type of spark-arrester and burning-off of railway reserves is undertaken as soon as conditions permit. Fire-breaks are also ploughed on the boundaries of the railway reserve.

(5) This can only be determined when the cause of the fire and the department's legal liability are ascertained.

(b) *As to Diesel Car and Bus Operating Costs.*

Mr. PERKINS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

(1) In view of the answer given me on Tuesday last, indicating that a diesel rail car must have at least 25 passengers in it to pay for wages, fuel, maintenance and depreciation (at 50 pence per mile) and allowing nothing for general administration or permanent way, and other capital charges or interest on loan money invested, is he aware that a 38-passenger railway road passenger bus operates for 32 pence per mile covering all operating costs, including fuel, administration charges, maintenance, and interest on capital invested?

(2) In view of the anxiety of the Premier and Treasurer about the State's financial position, will he order the Railway Com-

mission immediately to substitute road buses for diesel railcars on sections of routes where the average passenger patronage is less than 25, thus saving at least 18 pence per mile of running?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) The Wildflower diesel electric rail cars with two trailers have seating capacity for 128 passengers and space for five tons of goods while the Governor class with trailer has accommodation for 76 passengers and ample room for parcels and perishables. A comparison of their running costs with those of a 38-seater bus does not take full account of the service rendered.

(2) The Commission has the matter of utilisation of diesel electric rail cars constantly under examination.

(c) As to Fire Caused by Locomotive, Wagin.

Mr. NALDER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

(1) Is he aware that fire-breaks have not been ploughed along the Wagin-Collie railway line?

(2) Is he aware that the train travelling from Collie to Wagin on Friday, the 26th October, started a fire near Wagin?

(3) Will he pay any damage caused by fires before fire-breaks have been ploughed by his department?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) Yes. This work is normally done by contract and for the Wagin-Bowelling section only one tender was received. This tenderer is at present completing another section of track for the department. Arrangements have been made to hand chip the dangerous parts of the Wagin-Bowelling section by the gang. The Bowelling-Collie section has already been chipped.

(2) Yes.

(3) All reports of fires received by the department are fully investigated and all claims for compensation are treated on their merits.

EDUCATION.

As to High School Manual Training Centre, Northam.

Hon. A. R. G. HAWKE asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Has a contract yet been let for the erection of a new manual training centre building at the Northam High School?

(2) If not, when is a contract likely to be let?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Tenders close on the 6th November, 1951.

(2) Answered by (1).

STATE BRICK WORKS.

As to Delivery and Time Lag.

Hon. J. T. TONKIN asked the Minister for Housing:

(1) On what date was the first delivery of bricks made by the State Brick Works on the release issued to Mr. R. O. Williams, of Armadale?

(2) At that date, what was the time-lag at the State Brick Works in brick deliveries to clients generally?

(3) As Mr. Williams lodged his order for bricks on the 15th March, 1951, how was he able to obtain early delivery months ahead of clients whose orders were lodged in 1950?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The 22nd May, 1951.

(2) Eighteen to 24 months.

(3) Special appeal was made by Mr. Williams for priority to enable him to vacate his present residence for his foreman mechanic, who had indicated that, unless better accommodation was provided, he would not be prepared to continue in his employ. Release was in the nature of a reciprocal trade arrangement, as Mr. Williams is engaged in timber and log hauling and has, over a number of years, assisted the State Brick Works in haulage of firewood when urgently needed for brick kilns.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: So they do grant favours!

WHOLE MILK INDUSTRY.

As to Inquiry by Royal Commission.

Mr. HOAR asked the Premier:

(1) Does he remember this House carrying a motion on the 25th October, 1950, recommending that a Royal Commission be appointed to inquire into all phases of the whole milk industry, and that in reply to subsequent questions he stated the matter was receiving the attention of the Government?

(2) Was the question ever considered by Cabinet, and if so, with what result?

(3) Does he not think that members have been entitled to some statement by him over the past 12 months in connection with this matter?

(4) What explanation does he give for disregarding the wishes of this Chamber in this connection?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes. It was not considered that an inquiry was necessary.

(3) All forms of primary production are considered from time to time and statements are made when warranted by circumstances.

(4) Price fixing authorities exist for dairy products and these give consideration to various phases of the industry and their decisions are published.

WATER SUPPLIES.

As to Pipeline, Wellington Dam-Narrogin.

Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Works:

(1) What is the total distance of the proposed pipeline from Wellington Dam to Narrogin?

(2) What length of pipe has been laid in each of the following sections—

(a) from the dam terminus at Narrogin;

(b) in the opposite direction?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Eighty-one miles.

(2) (a) Nine and a half miles; (b) Twenty-three miles.

SELECT COMMITTEE—PERPETUAL EXECUTORS, TRUSTEES AND AGENCY COMPANY (W.A.) LIMITED ACT AMENDMENT (PRIVATE) BILL.

Report Presented.

Mr. Totterdell brought up the report of the Select Committee, together with a typewritten copy of the evidence and correspondence referred to in the report.

Ordered: That the report and recommendations be printed.

SELECT COMMITTEE—WEST AUSTRALIAN TRUSTEE, EXECUTOR AND AGENCY COMPANY LIMITED ACT AMENDMENT (PRIVATE) BILL.

Report Presented.

Mr. Totterdell brought up the report of the Select Committee, together with a typewritten copy of the evidence and correspondence referred to in the report.

Ordered: That the report and recommendations be printed.

BILL—ACTS AMENDMENT (SUPER-ANNUATION AND PENSIONS).

Introduced by the Premier and read a first time.

BILLS (2)—THIRD READING.

1. War Service Land Settlement Agreement.
2. Gas Undertakings Act Amendment. Transmitted to the Council.

BILLS (2)—REPORTS.

1. Constitution Acts Amendment.
2. Prices Control Act Amendment (No. 2). Adopted.

BILL—CO-OPTED MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES FOR THE NORTHERN PORTION OF THE STATE.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 30th October.

HON. A. H. PANTON (Leet

[4.41]: I think this is one of the Bills which comes before Parliament with which everybody is generally pleased, particularly those members who are dealing with the North-West where medical attention is so sparse. As already explained by the Minister, the object of the measure is to co-opt medical men—who are Commonwealth medical men in the Northern Territory—so that they can be brought down to Western Australia if the necessity arises. These men can be brought down at least to the 22nd Parallel; that is the limit. The reason for that is that all medical men in Western Australia have to be registered in Western Australia before they can practice, for which they pay three guineas a year.

The Minister did not tell us, but I would like her to do so if she can, whether these men whom it is proposed to co-opt will also have to pay the three guineas a year to be allowed to practice in Western Australia, or will they be permitted to do so free of charge. If the latter is the case I would like to know whether the Minister has consulted the Medical Board, which is the controlling body of registration fees. If she has done so, I have no further complaint to make in that regard. As a matter of fact, there is only one clause about which I am a bit doubtful, and which perhaps the Minister can explain. Paragraph (c) of Clause 5, the one to which I refer, reads as follows:—

Where, in a case of emergency, a practitioner, whose services have not been co-opted, renders professional services to a person, whom he reasonably believes to be in need of those services, the Minister may declare in writing that the services shall be regarded as having been co-opted, and the declaration shall, for the purposes of this Act, have effect in all respects as if the services of the practitioner had in fact been so co-opted.

In effect, that means that if there happens to be a medical man in the Northern Territory whose services have not been co-opted and he is called upon in an emergency, after he has done the job he will be declared for that particular case a co-opted medical man by the Minister under this Bill. I do not know who will decide that it is an emergency case, and it seems as though this medical man is to be the sole arbiter as to whether it is an emergency case or not. As a humble member of the Opposition I would like to make a suggestion to the Minister which I think will save her department and herself a great deal of trouble. If there is an agreement between the Commonwealth Department and her own department that all the medical men belonging to the Commonwealth in the Northern Territory should be automatically co-opted then I think the Minister will save herself considerable trouble in an emergency case.

I do not think anybody will have any objection to a medical man being called in to an emergency case, but there may be discussion or argument afterwards as to whether it was an emergency case or not. Alternatively, it may be possible that the man who is called in is not a co-opted man, which might start an argument and delay when there is an accident on a station, and might mean the difference between life and death to the person who has been involved in the accident. I see no reason whatever, after the Bill becomes law, why all the Commonwealth men up there, who I presume are practically all Commonwealth civil servants, should not be automatically co-opted for this purpose.

As I have said, this will save the Minister and her department a great deal of trouble and will also prevent a lot of discussion about it afterwards. Apart from that, I welcome the Bill. I am very pleased to think that the Medical Board and the B.M.A. have seen fit to agree to this because it will fill a longfelt want in making all the medical profession—or those necessary—available to the great stretches of the North-West, whether it be down to the 22nd Parallel or not. Personally, I am rather sorry that the 22nd Parallel has been included in the Bill at all; I should like to see it struck out. I have sufficient faith in the medical profession to know that if there was no boundary or imaginary line such as we are providing they would not take advantage of it. However, it is there and I do not propose to try to alter it. I have pleasure in supporting the Bill.

MR. MARSHALL (Murchison) [4.47]: I find myself in agreement with the Minister's proposals as contained in this measure, but I would like further information about its ramifications when it becomes law. In the first place, I do not want the State Medical Department to arrive at some arrangement for co-opting doctors for the purpose of displacing appointees of the State authority for medical and dental service in the North-West. It could easily be that the State department, to avoid having local doctors at these different centres of the North-West, would contend that as they can co-opt doctors from the Northern Territory there is no necessity to appoint doctors of our own who practice in the State. I do not want the Minister to permit any abuses like that because I think a doctor at, say, Broome, Wyndham, Onslow or Marble Bar, appointed there and stationed there, would be more readily available to render service than those who may be co-opted from, say, Darwin.

In the Bill I also notice that the doctors and dentists that are to be co-opted are, according to the wording of it, in the main doctors and dentists in the employ of the Commonwealth in the various branches of the Armed Forces. Can the Minister inform us whether there are any doctors or

dentists in private practice in Darwin? If there are some, the proposal of the member for Leederville would be the better one. At times, the doctors in the Armed Services would perhaps be unavailable and so it would be better to make arrangements for others also, if there are any, to undertake to attend emergency calls.

The Minister proposes to negotiate for the registration of certain men but, if they are Commonwealth appointees attached to the Armed Services, they may be here today and gone yesterday, as the Irishman said, in which event we shall have to be constantly negotiating with the Commonwealth to get the replacement men registered. These matters are very important, because it will be of little use registering a co-opted doctor if he is likely to be sent away from Darwin tomorrow and replaced by somebody else. Service doctors are on the move practically all the time and, in the event of war, they might be suddenly moved away.

Negotiations should be opened with the Commonwealth with a view to doing something more comprehensive. If the Minister does that, she will earn the blessing of the people living in isolated parts. It is difficult to get dental and medical services in those parts. It is difficult enough to get doctors for more central districts and, while a shortage exists there, they are not likely to go to the outback places.

Efforts should also be made by the Minister to ensure that somebody, apart from the person who calls for medical attention, should contribute a great deal towards the cost of the transport of the doctor. I hope that the experience of Meekatharra and Wiluna will not be repeated. Anyone at Wiluna who wants the services of the doctor at Meekatharra has to pay for transport of 230 miles, and that is terribly expensive. I believe that the Commonwealth would be only too willing to allow its service doctors to attend such cases and bear the cost, but of course any doctors in private practice in Darwin whose services were required would have to receive their expenses.

While there are probably many people in the North-West who could afford to pay the heavy fees for the attendance of a doctor or dentist in case of emergency, there are many who could not. Miners, prospectors, kangaroo and dingo hunters could not possibly afford to meet such expense, though where it was a matter of life and death, they would probably undertake the financial responsibility and be in debt for years afterwards. Consequently, the State department or the Commonwealth Government should render some material assistance towards the cost of transport.

The proposals contained in the Bill will be welcomed by all. Such service is one of the most urgent needs in that part of the State, and I wholly subscribe to the

provisions of the measure, but I hope the Minister will keep in mind the points I have mentioned. I believe that a more comprehensive scheme could be arranged. I know the need for providing such a service. A military doctor at Darwin made two flights to Wyndham in response to urgent calls and such flights have been going on for some time, but I should be surprised if any action were taken against them for having practised in the State without being registered here.

MR. RODOREDA (Pilbara) [4.56]: With the two members who have spoken, I welcome the Bill, but the benefits likely to be derived from it are so meagre that we should not waste too much time on the subject. I had difficulty in hearing the remarks of the Minister when she was moving the second reading. Members sitting in this part of the House always have difficulty in hearing her.

I should like to know how many doctors or dentists would be available under the scheme. The people living in the Kimberleys are the only ones who can possibly benefit from such an arrangement, because it would seem to be stretching things too far to expect a Darwin doctor to travel to Onslow to attend an emergency case. I think the line should be just south of Broome. In no circumstances could I imagine a doctor travelling as far as Port Hedland, Marble Bar or Onslow. If we have to take advantage of the services of doctors and dentists who may be available in Darwin, it is a frank admission on the part of the State Medical Department that it is not doing its job for the North-West. If we had our own doctors and dentists stationed on the spot, there would be no need for us to look to doctors in the Northern Territory to provide this service.

The Premier: The job is to get the doctors.

MR. RODOREDA: How does the Territory get them?

The Premier: We get them, too.

MR. RODOREDA: I am not too sure of that. There is a doctor at Port Hedland who has to attend to seven or eight centres distant as far as about 400 miles. There is no doctor at Onslow, Roebourne, Wittenoom Gorge or Marble Bar, and all of those places are reasonably large centres. The one doctor at Port Hedland has to attend to the lot. The Kimberleys are reasonably well served on the medical side, but lack of dental service is the disability under which people of the North-West suffer most. Two or three instances have come to my notice in the last three or four months of people in the back country having to spend up to £50 in order to get a tooth extracted. There is the cost of their transport from the outback centre to the airfield, the plane fare and the cost of accommodation. Yet

we talk about populating the North. Everyone talks about populating it, but the essentials for existence are not there. I asked the Minister, or someone in the Medical Department, why Government dentists were not sent there.

The Minister for Health: We cannot get them.

MR. RODOREDA: From where has the Minister got them for the Dental Hospital? I am told that if dentists are sent from the Dental Hospital to the North, they resign and go elsewhere. That is not a reply, but an excuse.

MR. YATES: Have you ever tried to induce a dentist to go up North?

MR. RODOREDA: It is not my job to do that. It is the job of the Medical Department. The Minister is appointed for that purpose.

MR. YATES: You could give some assistance towards inducing dentists to go there.

MR. RODOREDA: I suppose I could put £500 of my salary towards it.

MR. YATES: I did not suggest that at all.

MR. RODOREDA: What does the hon. member suggest?

MR. YATES: Have you approached one dentist and tried to get him to go there?

MR. RODOREDA: What is the Minister for?

MR. YATES: It is a member's job to help.

MR. RODOREDA: If the member for Canning does his job as well as I do mine, he need have no qualms about being heaved out at the next election. I have for 18 or 20 years been trying to get medical and dental services for the North-West. The position today is worse than it has ever been. I ask the Minister to do something rather than depend on a doctor or dentist stationed at Darwin, which is "polling" on the Commonwealth.

I have no objection to the Bill. I think in an emergency a doctor could slip across the border. The doctor at Wyndham might be ill, or away on leave, and we could take advantage of these provisions then. But what is suggested here cannot be taken as a substitute for dentists and doctors for the North-West being provided by the Medical Department. I tell the Minister for Health and the Premier that the lack of dentists, particularly, and of doctors is the greatest handicap that the North-West suffers from. Members can well imagine the pain and suffering that people go through in the back country owing to even as simple a thing as an aching tooth. There is no dentist in the whole of the North-West.

MR. MARSHALL: There is not one in the whole of the Murchison.

Mr. RODOREDA: The department sent one or two dentists there, and they did some extractions and made out reports saying, "This has to be attended to." Who is going to attend to it?

The Premier: When did you last have a school dentist in those areas?

Mr. RODOREDA: I think we had one there this year. The school dentist goes there reasonably often—say once in two years—but he only does extractions. He does nothing for others than the children unless he has a day to spare, which is not often. The school dentist does a good job, but we want a dentist stationed in the Kimberleys in connection with the flying doctor service, and one at Port Hedland also. Dentists are just as vital to the health of the community as are doctors, and we are suffering from a lack of both. The sooner the Minister and the Government get on to the question of alleviating the position in the North, the better it will be for the residents there and, in addition, the Minister will have done something worth while.

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH (Hon. Dame Florence Cardell-Oliver—Subiaco—in reply) [5.4]: I thank the members for Leederville, Murchison and Pilbara, for accepting the Bill so kindly. I would like first of all to deal with the point raised by the member for Leederville on Clause 5. I think the reason for the provision is that sometimes it is impossible through a change of doctors in the Northern Territory for us to know their names and register them, so we take it for granted and give the right to the Minister, no matter who the doctor is who comes across the border, to register him even before knowing his name. The information to hand from the Director General for Health discloses that the employment of medical practitioners in the Northern Territory, so far as we are interested, is governed by the following:—

- (a) Commonwealth Public Service Act.
- (b) Naval Defence Act (Naval Force Regulations).
- (c) Defence Act (Military Regulations).
- (d) Air Force Act.

It appears that any practitioner employed by the Commonwealth in the Northern Territory is appointed under one of the above Acts. As it is desired to confine the operation of the Act under consideration to practitioners holding office under or performing services in the name of the Commonwealth, it may be necessary to specify the above Acts. Only a few weeks ago the doctor at Wyndham wanted help urgently in connection with an operation, and the doctor at Darwin flew over and assisted him. The Commonwealth authorities wanted to know what we were likely to pay and I replied that we would render a similar service when they were in distress.

The point is that the number of doctors who come from the Northern Territory will be, I think, quite sufficient to carry out the work that we shall require to be carried out; and the same applies to the dentists. The member for Pilbara must know that the Commonwealth van has already visited parts of the North-West. I was in Wyndham the other day and the people there were anxious that this Bill should be passed quickly so that the van could return, because it necessarily goes over some of our roads when it visits places in the Northern Territory.

Mr. Rodoreda: It has not visited my area.

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH: The people at Wyndham were anxious that the van should do again what it did before. The dentist saw the people at Wyndham. The member for Pilbara has stressed that we must get doctors and dentists to go to the North-West. The hon. member must know, because he visits my office on numerous occasions, the difficulties the department has in getting doctors for the North-West. They will not stay in places where there is not sufficient work. One doctor that we had quite recently appointed left because there was not sufficient work for him. It was not a matter of money, but of work.

Mr. Rodoreda: He was in the wrong place.

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH: It is most difficult to get dentists to go to places much nearer to the metropolitan area than the North-West; and also to get doctors. The member for Murchison knows this too, because he applied only within the last day or so to see whether I could get a doctor for Big Bell. The hospital there is a board hospital and it is the board's affair to get a doctor, but even so the department helps if it can. It is most difficult to get medical men to go into the outback areas, even though they are to be well paid. I will take a note of what members have said and let them know of any developments. I thank them for supporting the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

BILL—COUNTRY TOWNS SEWERAGE ACT AMENDMENT.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

BILL—TOTALISATOR DUTY ACT AMENDMENT.

Message.

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

Second Reading.

THE PREMIER (Hon. D. R. McLarty—Murray) [5.12] in moving the second reading said: As members will see, the Bill is to amend the Totalisator Duty Act, 1945-46. The amendments proposed are to allow country race clubs, which will include trotting clubs outside the metropolitan area, to retain an increased amount of the funds invested by the public on the totalisator.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: You would not want this at Pinjarra. The club there is a wealthy one.

The PREMIER: At present, all clubs, metropolitan and country, are allowed by the Act to take 13½ per cent. of the gross amount invested on the totalisator. Of the 13½ per cent., the Government receives 7½ per cent. and the race clubs 6 per cent. Out of the 6 per cent. the clubs are expected to pay all operating costs, etc. of the totalisator, including patent fees and the license to Totalisators Ltd.

The Bill proposes to give some additional assistance to clubs outside the metropolitan area by altering the distribution of the 13½ per cent. deduction so that the Government will receive 3½ per cent. and the racing clubs 10 per cent.; or a reduction of 4 per cent. of the Government quota. The same proportion of distribution applies to fractions and unclaimed dividends which are very small at country meetings. A concession is allowed in the Eastern States to country clubs by permitting a higher rate in the totalisator percentages as against that allowed to city clubs. The amendment proposed in the Bill will bring the country clubs in this State reasonably into comparison with country clubs in other States. The Government has had many requests from country and Goldfields racing clubs for financial relief, and the clubs' requests have been supported by members on both sides of the House.

Hon. E. Nulsen: I am pleased to see the amendment, as I suggested it many years ago.

The PREMIER: In order to help the clubs in 1939, prior to the war the Government used to refund to them the entertainment tax and that helped them to keep financial. As members know, the entertainment tax is now under Commonwealth control and some other form of assistance has been requested. Investigations proved that the country race clubs needed some relief, financially, from taxation, if they were to continue to cater for the entertainment of our people in country and Goldfields areas. The Government, therefore, as from January, 1951, has allowed the race clubs the assistance proposed in the Bill. The 4 per cent. relief, as proposed, is refunded by the Treasury and the funds for such refunds are shown on the Estimates now before Parliament.

Hon. E. Nulsen: It will be of great help to the country clubs.

The PREMIER: Since we allowed the concession many expressions of appreciation have been received from the country and Goldfields racing fraternity, who have expressed the feeling that this little help will enable their respective clubs to carry on.

Mr. Marshall: Under what authority could you make a concession of that kind?

The PREMIER: I made the concession, believing that Parliament would agree to it.

Mr. Marshall: Have you a validating provision in this Bill?

The PREMIER: No, but it is proposed that if the Bill becomes law—as I believe it will—the concession will apply as from the beginning of the year.

Mr. Marshall: I understood you to say that you had already been making this concession?

The PREMIER: Yes, and provision is made for it in the Estimates. It is felt that without some such assistance a number of these racing clubs would have had to cease operations. I would point out that this Bill does not impose any additional tax on the investments on the totalisator. The existing 13½ per cent. tax stands, and the Bill simply amends the proportion in which the tax is divided between the Government and the racing clubs outside the metropolitan area. The existing position is that the Government receives 7½ per cent., and under the new rate will get 3½ per cent., whereas the country clubs under the existing rate get 6 per cent. and under the provisions of the Bill will receive 10 per cent. Metropolitan clubs are not affected. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Styants, debate adjourned.

BILL—INSPECTION OF MACHINERY ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING (Hon. G. P. Wild—Dale) [5.19] in moving the second reading said: This is a small Bill to amend the Inspection of Machinery Act. It contains two main provisions, the first of which seeks to amend Section 34 of the Act which embraces the inspection of certain machinery, in country areas, on which repairs have to be effected. The second amendment is to Section 53, which requires that there must be certificated personnel in charge of cranes and which, with the introduction in recent years of fork-lift trucks, has had application to them as coming within the definition of "a crane." At present repairs may be required to be effected to machinery in the country, and when the Inspector of Machinery is acquainted with the position it becomes

necessary for him to go to the centre concerned, as soon as possible, in order to see that the repairs, which were either ordered by him or put into effect by the mining company, have been properly carried out. Subsection (2) of Section 34 reads—

Any person having effected repairs to any boiler shall furnish a report to the inspector of the district, giving full particulars of the nature of the work done and any other particulars as may be required by the inspector.

Subsection (3) states—

This section shall not apply where repairs have been effected in accordance with a notice to effect repairs given by an inspector under the powers hereinbefore contained.

If a report were furnished by the mining company to the inspector that the repairs had been effected it would not be necessary for him to make that trip.

Mr. Marshall: This applies to any boiler in the State, and not only to a mine.

The MINISTER FOR HOUSING: Yes. Anyone having repairs effected will have to notify the inspector, who need not do the inspection until he happens to be again in that district. The next amendment is to Section 54, which brings in the fork-lift trucks that are being used mainly on the wharves at Fremantle. These machines come under the provisions with regard to the crane-driver's certificate. Members representing the Fremantle district know that to be able to drive a fork-lift truck one requires only an ordinary traffic license, and an average man of common-sense can learn to drive one of these machines in two or three hours.

At present, however, the fork-lift truck comes within the definition of "a crane," and it is therefore necessary for the operator to have six months' experience before he can sit for the ticket which entitles him to operate the machine. It is intended to amend Section 53 to exempt any fork-lift fitted with a detachable jib. They are two simple amendments which have been found necessary by the department which is under the control of the Minister for Mines, in order to bring the Act into line with modern conditions. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Marshall, debate adjourned.

BILL—PARLIAMENTARY SUPER-ANNUATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Message.

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

Second Reading.

THE PREMIER (Hon. D. R. McLarty—Murray) [5.23] in moving the second reading said: In view of the drain on the fund's resources, because of loss of membership, deaths, etc., it was decided last year to obtain an actuarial report on the financial stability of the fund. The report disclosed that the income of the fund was inadequate, and it was recommended that the deficiency should be met either by increasing contributions from members or by obtaining a subsidy from the State. In all other State and Commonwealth Parliamentary Superannuation schemes, the Government provides a subsidy.

It was agreed that if members' contributions were increased from £48 to £52, thereby increasing the annual total of members' contributions from £3,840 to £4,160 and the State provided an annual subsidy of a like amount, viz., £4,160, the income of the fund, slightly more than £8,000 per annum would be, in the opinion of the actuary, sufficient to place the fund on a sound and satisfactory basis. The Bill, therefore, is designed to give effect to those suggestions; that is, to increase members' contributions to £52 per annum and to provide for an annual subsidy of £4,160 by the State.

The other proposals in the Bill cover a correction of an anomaly in respect of widows' pensions, and provision for the payment of pensions to members who resign under certain conditions. The proposal in relation to the widows' pensions arises out of an anomaly in Section 11 (5) when compared with Section 11, Subsections (1) and (4) which deals with pensions to members. Under Section 11 (1) of the Act, a member who was contributing to the repealed Members of Parliament Fund is entitled to the payment of the benefit he would have received under that Act, that is, a lump sum of £600, or, if he was a contributor for less than seven years, to a payment equal to twice the amount actually subscribed to that fund, as an advance payment of the pension benefit for which he qualifies under the present Act.

The pension benefit under this Act does not commence until the expiration of the period which would accrue if the amount due under the Members of Parliament Fund had been paid by way of a weekly pension at the rate of pension applicable under the present Act. The benefit the member would receive, over a period of ten years, would not vary in total; whether he received the lump sum payment, or, as a member who began his service in Parliament after the present Act commenced its operation, he was entitled only to actual pension benefits under this Act.

I have had prepared an example to put before members, and it is as follows:—Member (A) who receives a £600 lump sum under Section 11 (1) and is entitled to a

pension benefit of £5 per week for the first ten years would receive payments as follows:—First, a £600 lump sum. After 120 weeks—the period which would require to elapse before the actual pension commenced—he would receive £5 per week for the remaining 400 weeks, or a total pension of £2,000. The total payment would be £2,600.

Hon. A. H. Panton: Is that over the ten years?

The PREMIER: Yes. Member (B) would not receive the lump sum of £600 but would receive £5 per week for the full period of ten years, and in total would receive $520 \times £5$ or £2,600. Therefore a member who was a contributor to the Members of Parliament fund would not, over a period of ten years, receive any greater benefit than a member who was not a contributor, beyond the fact that he would receive a lump sum payment instead of a weekly pension over part of the period. In arriving at the widow's pension entitlement, the principle expounded should be maintained, i.e., the widow of member A and member B should, over the total period during which benefits are payable, receive the same amounts.

The present wording of Section 11 (5) of the Act, however, determines that the period of disqualification is to be arrived at by dividing the lump sum payment received under Section 11 (1) by the rate of pension for which the member would have qualified. Therefore, as the Act now stands, the widow who receives the lump sum benefit would receive overall a substantially higher amount than the widow whose husband had not been a contributor under the repealed Members of Parliament Act.

Example (a) Where lump sum is payable under Section 11 (1): Husband qualified for pension of £5 per week. The widow's pension ($\frac{2}{3} \times £5$), £3 6s. 8d. is payable for five years (first period). If the lump sum of £600 is exhausted at £5 per week, the period of disqualification is 120 weeks and pension at £3 6s. 8d. is then paid for the balance of 140 weeks ($140 \times £3 \text{ 6s. 8d.} = £466 \text{ 13s. 4d.}$)

	£	s.	d.
	466	13	4
Plus lump sum	600	0	0
Total	1,066	13	4

(b) No lump sum payable:

Pension payable for 260 weeks @ £3 6s. 8d.
Total benefit = $260 \times £3 \text{ 6s. 8d.} = £866 \text{ 13s. 4d.}$ or £200 less than in Example (a).

It is proposed, therefore, to provide that in the case of the widow of a member who was a contributor to the Members of Parliament Fund, the lump sum she receives shall be deemed to be exhausted at the same rate of pension as would be paid to

her if her late husband had not been a contributor to the Members of Parliament Fund. The proposal in respect of the members' benefits to which I previously referred is the position under present conditions, where a member decides after 20 years' service in Parliament that he has had a sufficiently long public life and resigns his seat. Unless he satisfies the trustees that his reasons for resignation are that he is either infirm or that he is over 70 years of age or some other such good reason, he is liable to receive only a refund of contributions.

Hon. A. H. Panton: I have them all.

The PREMIER: The trustees have given the matter some thought and it was decided that where a member had served for not less, in the aggregate, than 20 years and had attained 55 years of age, he should receive the pension benefit for which he had otherwise qualified.

Mr. Cornell: In view of that, do you not think you should get the member for Avon Valley to resign?

Mr. Marshall: You can give me my money back, and I will be well satisfied.

The PREMIER: No, the hon. member would not. Some members may not be conversant with the conditions under which they qualify for benefits under the Act. They are, briefly—

- (a) The benefits (if any) to which they were entitled under the repealed Members of Parliament fund, and
- (b) if the member has served in Parliament for more than 14 years in the aggregate and has been a contributor to the fund (both Members of Parliament fund and the present fund) for more than 14 years, he would receive a pension of £6 per week for ten years, reducing to £3 per week for another ten years. The pension would not actually commence until he had exhausted the lump sum payable at the rate of pension to which he had qualified.
- (c) If the service is more than 14 years, but his period of contribution is less than 14 years but more than seven years, the pension would be £5 per week for ten years, reducing to £2 10s. per week for a further ten years. The lump sum would also be exhausted at the weekly rate of pension commenced.
- (d) If the period in Parliament is more than seven years but less than 14 years and the contributing period is more than seven years, the pension is £3 per week for a total period of ten years.

- (e) If the period in Parliament is more than seven years, but the contributing periods are less than seven years, pension would be £2 10s. per week for ten years.
- (f) Where both periods are less than seven years, the member would receive a refund of contributions plus interest at 2½ per cent.

Those are the proposed amendments and I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Graham, debate adjourned.

BILL—LOTTERIES (CONTROL) ACT AMENDMENT.

Second Reading.

Debate resumed from the 30th October.

HON. J. B. SLEEMAN (Fremantle) [5.38]: I fail to find anything contentious in the Bill and have pleasure in supporting it. Firstly, it proposes to include airmen in the definition of "charitable purpose." Previously, only soldiers and sailors came under that definition. Another amendment provides for the raising of the aggregate fees payable to all members of the Lotteries Commission in any one year from £1,400 to a maximum of £1,700, from which the chairman shall be entitled to receive £900 per annum and the other three members a sum not exceeding £266 13s. 4d. It also proposes to give the Commission authority to dispose of the premises that it owns in Murray-st. but which it does not require because it has premises on the opposite side of the street that are of more use to it than those it desires to sell.

Another clause of the Bill proposes to amend Section 15 of the Act to allow the Commission to furnish accounts of groups of lotteries instead of one, as in the past. The Act at present provides that within 30 days after conducting each lottery the Commission has to furnish a report. During recent months, the Commission has not been complying with that provision, and the Auditor General has called attention to the fact, but sees no objection to the Act being amended to allow the Commission to report on a group of lotteries. Another purpose of the Bill is to amend the definition of "charitable purpose" by striking out the words "are substantially State-wide" and to insert in their place the word "include."

Previously, the Commission could assist any organisation which was in difficulties provided its activities were substantially State-wide, which meant that the Commission could not assist anybody unless it came within that definition, but the amendment will allow the Commission to assist a charitable institution the activi-

ties of which are not State-wide. The secretary of the Commission told me that there are several organisations throughout the State in such a position, and one at Kalgoorlie in particular, which is an association of pensioners, and the Commission has not been allowed to assist it because it has not come within the definition laid down in the Act. Another amendment in the Bill is a safeguarding provision which will protect the Commission in regard to the payment of prizes. The relevant portion of the Bill reads—

The Commission may pay out the prize money payable in respect of a prize-winning ticket on receipt of the ticket purporting to be endorsed by the person purporting to be the holder of the ticket with his signature and address.

The Commission shall not be obliged to satisfy itself that the person purporting to be the holder of the ticket is the lawful holder of the ticket, that the signature is genuine, or that he is not an infant or person under other legal disability.

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, whether relating to infants and persons under other legal disability or otherwise, payment of prize money by the Commission pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph shall constitute full satisfaction by and a full and valid discharge to the Commission.

I have been told there is a doubt whether, if the Commission paid out prize money to a minor, it might be possible for him to make a further claim after having reached the age of 21 years. The purpose of the relevant clause in the Bill is to ensure that the Commission may not be legally sued for any such claim. I support the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

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

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1951-52.

In Committee of Supply.

Debate resumed from the 30th October on the Treasurer's Financial Statement and on the Annual Estimates, Mr. Perkins in the Chair.

Vote—Legislative Council, £4,955.

MR. BUTCHER (Gascoyne) [5.45]: After listening to several members who spoke on the Estimates, I find that each seemed to have fears respecting the future of our economy. Though their suggestions for a remedy appeared to be so varied, it is still, to my way of thinking, important

that this aspect should be considered. I listened with great attention to the Leader of the Opposition when he spoke on this subject, and I must say I was impressed with his reference to the danger of the collapse of our economic system.

It was my belief in that possibility that made me determine to gain a seat in this House, because I believe it will only be through co-operation and toleration on the part of members of this Chamber that that catastrophe can be averted. I was also in agreement with the member for Northam when he blamed the system which the Chifley Government introduced as a war emergency, namely, the cost plus system. I believe that that cut the ground away from the very foundation of private enterprise which, in my opinion, built up this country so quickly and so well.

Hitherto private enterprise had to rely upon efficiency for its profits, but by the introduction of the cost plus system, the position was changed overnight and a premium was placed upon inefficiency. That vicious circle continued, for instead of employer and employee having the same basis that formerly existed of a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, there was again a change. From then on it was only a question of a fair day's pay—and profits could be secured on that basis. Therefore, efficiency on the part of both employer and employee failed.

I believe now there is one way only of getting us out of the dilemma. We must step up production, and to do that there must be an incentive. I do not for one moment believe, as apparently some members do, that we should get back to the 44 hour week. In effect, a lot of people are working 48 hours a week now, with overtime and penalty rates. Still, production is not there. What we must do is to get back to that state of affairs where the employer and the employee acted as one, as it were, and the employee had a pride in his job that seems to be lacking today. An incentive must be found to restore the position because I do not believe that the payment of high wages is wrong. If we have high production, then high wages will not matter a rap.

I remember full well that on the last mine I controlled, a machine miner consistently earned his £5 per shift, yet that man was the cheapest employee I had on the show. He did as much work as three other men put together. He had only one man servicing him whereas the other men had three. He had one man for compressed air as against three, and so on. I have always maintained that the more a man could earn, provided the price was satisfactory, the cheaper he was for the job. I was impressed on my first day in this Chamber when I heard the Leader of the Opposition express his belief in the necessity for co-operation, because it appeared to be a very good omen indeed.

There is another point on which I wish to speak. It is second only in importance to that with which I have just dealt. I refer now to that great stretch of country from the banks of the Murchison River right through to the Timor Sea. We who live there term that area "The Forgotten Land"—forgotten by the people who dwell down south. The time is overdue when a statesman should arise and do for the northern sections of the State what statesmen did for the south-western sections in earlier years.

We recall the fact that statesmen of past years pumped water all the way from the weir at Mundaring to Kalgoorlie, built a railway line through to Kalgoorlie and on to Laverton, another from Geraldton to Meekatharra and Wiluna and on to Sandstone, opening up the goldmining industry, which at its best is a wasting industry, because every ton of ore extracted shortens the life of the mine. And it paid big dividends. Those statesmen built up an industry that produced some £300,000,000 worth of gold.

On the other hand, the North-West has produced to date £80,000,000 worth of wool and millions of pounds worth of mutton and beef, of pearlshell and gold. In that part of the State the mineral resources are really wonderful and they hold great possibilities, if only we had some incentive to open them up. Companies are definitely afraid to put money into such ventures as a lead mine, even though today lead is more important than gold, and even more so than when it was first discovered in Australia. In this atomic age we must always have lead. On the Pilbara field, lead to the value of £34,000 was mined last year, and in the Ashburton £50,867 worth was produced. That lead was extracted by a few prospectors or small working syndicates. The opportunity is there for big capital to operate, but big capital will not touch it because it is afraid of the labour position.

Just as an incentive must be found to put the nation back at work, so must an incentive be found for the opening up of the far North. There is one way of doing it, and it is to provide a taxation exemption up to £5,000 per year. That, of course, does not seem a great amount when we consider some of the very high cheques that have been handled. We must realise, however, that it is population we need. We require small business people, transporters and all the others so necessary, together with workers on the stations and the mines; but even so, we must have the incentive to encourage people to go to these outback districts and live. I know it is not a matter for this House to decide, but the Parliament of this State could support a motion to press the subject heavily indeed upon those who do control taxation.

There are so many things we must do in the interests of this country. In the Carnarvon area there is a river settlement scheme which produces something over £250,000 worth of fruit per year and some £40,000 worth of beans annually. Despite those returns, industry in that part of the State is not getting the assistance it is entitled to. We have not a decent road from the head of the line to Carnarvon. I mentioned earlier the railways that were constructed to the Goldfields, and we also find in that part of the State many first-class bitumen-sealed highways. With all the wealth that the North is producing—the industries there are not wasting assets; the industries are there for posterity as well—we have not a decent road from Northampton to Carnarvon or northwards to where the settlements are.

How did we get the money in the early days that enabled the Government to construct the railway lines and the roads I have referred to? Why cannot we do the same thing today? I say that we can! Take the position at Shark Bay—a little place where one freezer alone processed £38,000 worth of fish last year, yet the facilities necessary there are denied the people. It is no longer a seaport; it is an inland village because the ships pass it by. All freight in and out of the town is overlanded at a cost of £21 per ton whereas the normal boat freight is between £5 and £6 per ton. All that has come about because Governments in the past, as well as in recent years, have failed to spend a few thousand pounds to put out a staging so that labour could handle the cargo at the port.

Under present day conditions when a ship arrives, it is met by a barge into which the cargo is discharged. It is then pulled in a few miles where it is discharged into a punt which is taken to the staging where it is landed. I must confess that I am really astounded at the neglect from which these people are suffering. When the pearlshell industry collapsed, the residents there endeavoured to make a living—and they are doing so—out of fishing, yet they are receiving no Government help whatever. They have asked for a slipway to attend to their small boats. Not even that has been given them. Why? The answer is, "No labour." But I say that is no excuse. We have just got to do something for the North or the North will die. The population is much less than it was 20 years ago and, in view of all its potential wealth, that is wrong. Either we want that portion of the country or we do not. It is up to this Chamber to decide. We must do something for the North, and I confidently hope we will.

MR. GUTHRIE (Bunbury) [6.1]: The following is an extract from the "Daily News" of the 31st October:—

Seven Ships Make up a New Rottneest Queue.

Seven ships—four to load cargo and three with cargo to land—were anchored in Gage Roads today awaiting vacant berths inside Fremantle Harbour.

Berths can be provided at present only for tankers and ships calling for fuel. A spokesman for the Fremantle Harbour Trust said today that the seven ships now in the Roads would not berth before the week-end.

I think that is a pretty bad state of affairs. We have a harbour in Bunbury and surely some of those ships could be transferred there. They are not all big ships; there must be small ones amongst them. I discovered by previous inquiries that a ship from India loaded with gunnies, etc., by-passed Fremantle and went on to Adelaide. What we want in Bunbury is a transit shed. That has been long delayed and the people of Bunbury want to know what I am doing. I can only say I am trying to do my best.

Then there is the matter of the double line from Perth to Bunbury and from Brunswick to Collie. In two weeks' time all the trucks will be taken from Bunbury to load coal from Collie to Perth. That is wrong. If the double line were constructed, it would be possible to clear much more coal from Collie and to keep up the supply continuously. Two lines are essential for that purpose. On the train we discussed the matter of direct control which is going to be adopted, and a lot of railwaymen are opposed to that and consider that a double line is the only solution.

It is pleasing to know that the Government is establishing a girls' hostel at Bunbury and it is gratifying that so much money is being spent on it. The people of my electorate, however, hope that the building will be opened earlier than is believed. The hostel will accommodate 25 girls and will be quite handy to the school. But the railway position is the most important problem about which I would like the Government to do something. With only a single line from Collie to Brunswick and between Perth and Bunbury, there will always be a scarcity of trucks at the port.

MR. McCULLOCH (Hannans) [6.51]: I desire to say something about the Goldfields. We have heard rumours of the proposed increase in the price of gold, but to me the matter seems to be hanging fire a bit too long. I think the position will arise under which the 25 per cent. above sterling which we now have will be lost. It is my opinion that the object of the Menzies-Fadden Government is to bring sterling back to parity to make us

lose that 25 per cent. The following telegram from Canberra appeared in "The West Australian" on the 25th October:—

Gold sales will be discussed with representatives of the goldmining industry on November 1.

The Treasurer (Sir Arthur Fadden) said today that any decision to sell portion of Australian gold production on the world's premium market would be postponed until after that date.

No major financial policy changes are likely during the next fortnight, while the Prime Minister (Mr. Menzies) is ill.

Many financial questions are also involved in the conference between officers of the British Commonwealth fixed for London on November 19.

This conference, on the official level, may declare an agenda for a Ministerial conference on finance in London next January.

The plans for this conference have been held up by the British election.

Up to date I have not heard of any result from that conference. Now that the British elections are over, I think it will be easier for the Commonwealth Government to do away with the 25 per cent. If the Australian pound is brought back to parity with the pound sterling it will be the death of the goldmining industry. Why the goldmining industry is not allowed to sell its gold on the premium market is a mystery to me. We have been battling for this for a long time and, as the Premier knows, the industry is in a serious position at the moment. I do not know what was the decision arrived at by the conference today, but I hope something has been done to relieve the minds of the mining companies so that developmental work may be proceeded with.

The greatest difference that has ever existed between the Goldfields and metropolitan rates under the basic wage was 15s. 6d. in favour of the Goldfields. That was in 1941, but in 1942 the metropolitan area received an 8s. increase under the National Security Regulations, while Mr. Willcock was Premier, and that reduced considerably the difference in favour of the Goldfields worker. The lowest advantage that the Goldfields has ever had in comparison with the metropolitan area was 4s. 2d., in April last, and at present it is 5s. 3d.

I think my leader made a mistake when he said we were slipping back because, since April, we have received that increase of 1s. 1d. The Government has said that, since it took office, the cost of living has not increased, but everyone is aware of how the cost of living and the basic wage

have continued to spiral upwards. In "The West Australian" last month there appeared the following:—

The Acting-Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. S. R. Carver) attributed the rises to increased prices for bread, potatoes, sugar, onions, butter, bacon, milk, meat, clothing, footwear, drapery, household utensils, fuel, rents and (in two States) fares. The cost of living in Perth is now 111.4 per cent. above that at the outbreak of World War II. Clothing is up 241.9 per cent., food 113.9, rent 21.7 and miscellaneous items, which include household drapery and utensils, fuel, union dues, medicine, newspapers, smoking, fares and school requisites, 74.5 per cent.

It is difficult to understand why the Goldfields margin over the metropolitan area should come down, but of course the statistician's figures are accepted in the Arbitration Court. It is difficult to believe that the cost of living on the Goldfields has fallen as compared with that in the metropolitan area, though that is what the figures seem to indicate. The Government is certainly not keeping the cost of living stabilised and it is not putting value back into the pound, as it promised.

In his Budget speech the Premier mentioned expenditure of £33,000,000. Not long ago the Government brought down a Bill for the Muja-Centaur coalmine railway, to authorise the spending of £40,000 on the laying of four and a half miles of railway to serve private enterprise, but I have been trying for a long while to get the Government to build a spur line to the Kalgoorlie State Battery at a cost of about £10,000. Unfortunately the Government will not build that spur line. It says there is not sufficient ore going to that battery to warrant the building of about 200 yards of railway, which would enable prospectors to take their dirt right to the battery instead of having to cart it 200 yards by motor truck, dump it, and then load it into trucks again to take it to the bins.

That is the answer of the Government, yet it is spending £40,000 for the benefit of the Muja-Centaur coalmine, without protest. I still maintain that the spur line to the Kalgoorlie State Battery should be built. I do not blame this Government alone, because for years prospectors have tried to get the spur line constructed, so far without success. It costs the prospectors about 6s. 2d. a ton to cart the ore into the battery and the Government has decided to subsidise them to the extent of 3s. 1½d. per ton of dirt taken in.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. McCULLOCH: Before tea I made reference to the difference in the basic wage as between the Goldfields and the metropolitan area. The time has come when the Government should instruct the rent inspectors operating in the metropoli-

tan area to make visits to the Goldfields areas, especially Kalgoorlie and Boulder. The basic wage is made up from a regimen which includes various items, among which is that of house rents.

Neither house rents nor any other item in the regimen has been reduced in comparison with the reduction in the margin of the basic wage as between the Goldfields and the metropolitan area. The sum allowed in the basic wage for the renting of a five-roomed house on the Goldfields is 23s. 9d. a week. I am certain there are very few five-roomed houses—you would not even call them houses—available on the Goldfields for that rental. It is possible to rent shacks around Wiluna, or perhaps around the Murchison, for that figure, but even they would not be five-roomed places.

So, it is about time that a rent inspector was made available to the Goldfields areas. The salaries of these men are paid from taxes imposed on every taxpayer in the State and the people on the Goldfields should be given some service in that direction. There are many homes in my electorate—ordinary three-roomed weather-board and asbestos, iron-roofed places—where the rent would be at least 30s. a week and some of them would have a much higher rent than that.

So I impress upon the Government the necessity of having a rent inspector made available to go round and ascertain the true position on the Goldfields, especially around Kalgoorlie and Boulder. I do not know how statisticians work out these figures, but I understand that for the Goldfields area the rent would be an average of probably Wiluna, Leonora, Gwalia, Broad Arrow and all other towns situated in the Goldfields areas. Consequently, that acts most unfairly upon Goldfields workers.

Advertisements have appeared in "The Kalgoorlie Miner" recently calling for tenders for 10 workers' homes to be built in the district. I believe there is some difficulty in getting any person to tender for these homes because of the materials position. Many builders have left the Goldfields and have migrated to the metropolitan area because they say that materials are easier to obtain down here than they are in the country. I believe that tenders close tomorrow or the next day and then we will be able to find out whether any person has tendered for these houses.

I draw the attention of the Minister for Works—although I suppose he has already noticed it—to the fact that two men were killed recently on the Great Eastern Highway. I have spoken on several occasions about that particular part of the road between Yellowdine and Karalee. It is a most dangerous section and, I would say, possibly the worst part of that road. Nothing has been done to

it recently and I previously pointed out the fact that I had seen a truck, with a trailer, carrying about 50 tons of merchandise, travelling along that road. The road, especially the gravel section of it, is badly cut up and I suppose the car in which the two men were travelling got caught in a rut and turned over. It is time we stopped these heavy trucks from cutting up our gravelled roads. If we do not do something soon we will have many more serious accidents in the future.

I now come to the question of housing in the metropolitan area. For some time I have been endeavouring to get a home built for a fairly close relation of mine. This particular person received a permit to build in 1949 and as yet that home has not been completed. We heard all these promises being made to soldiers while they were away fighting, as to what they would receive when they returned to Australia, but very little has been done for these ex-Servicemen.

This particular boy was a prisoner of war for 3½ years and at present, with his wife and family, is living in a humpy. The place has been condemned by the Housing Commission for the last three years and, unfortunately, as a result of living in this place the lad was recently sent to Hollywood with T.B. That boy served his country and yet this is all the gratitude that is extended to him when he returns. He was on the "Perth" when she was sunk off Java and he was a prisoner of war for 3½ years. As a result of being a prisoner of war the boy's health has been badly affected and he has been waiting for his home for some considerable time. At the moment, as I said, he is living in a humpy at Rockingham or Palm Beach. It is a one-roomed place, with a concrete floor, and in the winter the rain just pours in.

Yet we find that people coming from other countries are able to get homes immediately. The people next door to where I am living arrived in this country in May and they were in a home of their own in June. That is the position. Our own people—the people who fought for this country—are prevented from getting homes while people who come from other countries can get them immediately. That is what this Government has done for our people and yet it told our young men that there would be a new order when they returned from the war. We have heard a lot about communism in this House. Is it any wonder that people turn to communism when that sort of thing happens to them?

There is another matter that I have brought before the Government on many occasions, and that concerns jury fees. Quite a number of my electors of recent months have been empanelled to serve on the jury. Most of them are married men, working on the mines, and quite a few of them are not on the lowest rate, which

is approximately £2 10s. per shift. The result is that when they are called to serve on a jury, which may last three days in a week, they receive the handsome sum of 25s. a day. The Government could at least say, "We will make up the difference between your award rate and the fee allowed for a jurymen." That would be only fair. After all, these men cannot go home to their wives with only half of their normal pay.

The rent has to be paid and, on account of the high cost of living, they cannot make ends meet on 25s. a day for three days a week. I have spoken on this matter before, but apparently the Government takes no notice. The Premier did ask what they were being paid last time I mentioned the fact and he was told, but that is as far as it has gone. The answer that these men generally receive is that they are performing a public service, and that they should feel honoured at being called to sit on a jury. I have some doubts as to that honour. These men are naturally upset because their pay is much less than it would normally be.

My friend, the member for Moore, is now advocating a 44-hour week, giving as his reason that it will tend towards greater production. But he did not cite any industry that was producing less under a 40-hour week than it was under a 44-hour week. It is not hard for any individual to pick up any periodical or journal dealing with finance, such as Rydge's, which sets out the profits that are being made by these big business concerns. Are any of them showing a loss today? It is quite obvious that their production must be greater or else they would not be carrying on and, further, they are showing greater profits today than ever they were. We heard that same argument for a 44-hour week years ago. We were told that a 40-hour week would bankrupt the country and do a lot of other things.

Since the 40-hour week has come into operation no production has been lost thereby and, in some instances, the production per man hour has been increased. The 40-hour week was granted by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court. It worked out all the statistics, knowing what the country could stand, and it awarded a lower working week and I therefore maintain, without fear of contradiction, that the economy of the country has not suffered as a result. What does the member for Moore want? Does he want to stockpile coal, for instance, and bank up supplies for three or four years without the men having to go underground so that the employer can tell them, "You will take what we give you." That is what has happened before. If these big chain stores in Perth are visited it will be noticed that their shelves are well stocked with toys. What good is that for industry? If the Government wants production why does

it not transfer labour from industries manufacturing such things to industries that are of real value.

Every day we can see the shelves in the shops cluttered up with a lot of rubbish. There is no necessity for such goods whatsoever. Instead of a 44-hour week I consider that there is more likelihood of an advocacy for a 30-hour week before long. The member for Moore also referred to Russia and what she was doing in Persia, Egypt, Malaya and various other countries. Russia is supposed to be behind the iron curtain, but I do not know why we have to worry about her. I am certainly not worried about Russia. She is doing today what the British race did 30, 40 and 50 years ago.

The British Empire controlled such countries as India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma and many others which, I admit, she has relinquished and Russia is probably doing the same with the European countries today. Can we blame her for that? What did we do? Because Russia has taken over Czechoslovakia and other countries I cannot see why they should rise up and fight against the British. I remember, in 1912, when the great Japanese warship, the "Congo," pulled into South Africa. She was one of the greatest warships afloat at that time and had 14in. and 8in. guns on her. All her men had been trained by the British, but did Japan fight with us when we went to war? Most certainly she did not! She fought against us!

I cannot see that, because Russia is getting amongst these other countries, they will fight against us. Why should they face up to Russia? I was agreeably surprised when she was able to enter the last war after a period of only 15 years recovering from the Bolshevik rebellion. I was greatly surprised that she did recover and was able to stand up to Germany. I prophesied that she might last for three months, if that. However, I say it was just as well that she came in on our side instead of on the other side.

Mr. Hutchinson: She was attacked by Hitler. She was forced into it.

Mr. McCULLOCH: That is what I was saying. It is just as well that she was with us instead of against us.

Mr. Griffith: You do not think she would fight with Germany after being attacked by her?

Mr. McCULLOCH: We worry too much about these communists. How many have we in Western Australia? This House could wipe them out itself. They are yellow! They are like a matchstick with the top scraped off! None of them would put up a show. Why should we be frightened of the communists? If there is any trouble in Malaya, in Burma or in any other country we immediately say that it is the fault of the communists.

Mr. Griffith: Is it not?

Mr. McCULLOCH: I do not think so at all. We had these troubles years ago; we had them in the North-West Frontier of India where we were fighting at the time; we had them when we were fighting against Africa and when we were fighting certain other people. Did we call them communists? People today do not understand the philosophy of communism. I am not going to take up much more time on this matter, Mr. Chairman.

I would, however, like again to refer to the case of the prisoner of war who fought for three and a half years for his country and who was in Hollywood hospital with tuberculosis. I have here a cutting from the "Daily News" dated the 1st October, advertising two new brick homes, and which reads as follows:—

Two new brick homes nearing completion. One ready for occupation within a week. Situated at Inglewood these homes comprise large lounge connecting with dining-room, two bedrooms and beautifully finished kitchen and bathroom. Special features include hot-water system serving bathroom, kitchen and laundry, deep sewerage, texture and marbled walls, fluorescent lighting, back verandah with grano. floor. Prices £4,100 or £4,350 for one on corner block and with slightly larger lounge and dining-room.

These houses have not been built for anybody and here is the firm of Cecil Dent and Ray Cargeeg advertising them for sale. Yet we have our own kith and kin who fought for their country and are unable to get a home. They cannot afford to pay the prices asked in this advertisement; they would not have half that amount. This man whose case I have mentioned has been waiting for two years for a home; he has fought for his country and has finally finished up in Hollywood hospital with tuberculosis, and this is the treatment he gets.

The sooner the Minister for Housing inquiries into this deplorable position, the better. Others seem to be able to build without priorities, and yet this man who has one has not had his home built yet. The money is with the builder but he has been given all sorts of excuses; he is told that bricks cannot be obtained; there is a delay in getting asbestos—just one excuse after another. This man and his wife and kiddies are living in a house that has been condemned by the Housing Commission. The Minister is in the Chamber now, and I would like him to find out how it is that people can get houses built for £4,100 and £4,350 within six months, and yet this couple and their kiddies cannot get a home for which they have paid and for which they have had a priority for two years.

MR. OLDFIELD (Maylands) [7.54]: I would like to draw the Premier's attention to the grant of £2,800 that has been provided for the Blind Institute. I hope he will see his way clear to increasing this grant as it has been in existence now for 24 years at that figure. Since that time we know what has happened to costs and how wages have gone up. This Blind Institute is not altogether a charitable organisation. It is doing a wonderful job for people who are suffering a disability; it is not only providing them with a decent living but also keeping them happy by virtue of the fact that the afflicted person realises that he is doing a job that is worth while.

There are only 100 persons employed at the school—some returned soldiers with other serious disabilities besides being blind. Many of them have their arms off; one has both arms off; yet he is employed. The school has found something for him to do by fitting attachments to his stumps.

The school is producing a lot of stuff that is good for the economic welfare of the State. It is producing £40,000 worth annually and that is mainly in goods not produced in Western Australia and possibly even in Australia; goods that have to be imported from overseas. So I hope and trust the Premier can see his way clear to do something for the school. They will refuse nobody who is blind, no matter what their disability.

Recently a New Australian was injured in a quarry; he was blown up and lost the sight of his eyes, and also lost his arms to within four inches of the shoulder. The school is trying to find something for this man to do; it will find something he can make by fixing attachments to his arms. He will then be put into useful employment and will be able to earn £8 or £9 over and above his pension, so that he can give his family a decent standard of living. Besides this he will feel that he is producing something for the good of everybody and is not altogether idle.

The Minister for Education is not here at the moment but I would like to congratulate him on the state of the schools in the Maylands electorate. They are in splendid order and nothing is required to be done to them at present. There is, however, a good deal for the Minister for Works to do and I hope he will be kind enough to assist. The main problem, which also concerns the member for Middle Swan, is the reconstruction of Guildford-rd. Several attempts have been made to have this road gazetted as a main road but for many years that has been refused. The amount involved is beyond the economic resources of the local authorities through whose territory the road passes. It is now carrying four Government metropolitan bus routes and every country route that goes through to the north-east of the State. Another matter

is that there have been no further gas extensions for 15 years in the Caledonian avenue area. This is a very thickly developed area now and I do not think it would be difficult for the gas department to give a little consideration to this area, which has been so long neglected.

It is 15 years since any sewerage extensions were made there. The estimated cost of sewerage extensions for the Caledonian avenue area is £51,000. That is a lot of money, but if it is not spent in Maylands it will be spent somewhere else. There are several large drainage problems confronting the electorate which are beyond the resources of the local authority. There is a particularly urgent one that requires attention immediately; it floods every winter and it will cost £5,000. The local authority has not enough money to construct a drain, let alone any other work.

Again I would seek the support of the member for Middle Swan in regard to transport. I hope the Beaufort-st. bus will replace the tram at a very early date. Up to date there has been no success in representations that have been made for the creation of a circular route to connect the Beaufort-st. bus with the Francis-st. bus that runs to Bayswater. It is most essential that at some time or other that circular route should come into being to serve the area that is being developed in the eastern suburbs. It would be advisable if arrangements could be made to have conductors placed on the buses in order to expedite the trips. The member for Victoria Park has commented on the service to his district and I think the only way of improving the service is to have conductors employed on the buses.

The overhead bridge at the Maylands railway station is in a very bad state of repair and requests have been made for the steps to be replaced with ramps. Hundreds of people, including blind people, cross the bridge every day and there have been many accidents on the steps, and I trust that, in spite of the shortage of material, some action will be taken to effect an improvement.

Dealing with housing, I should like the Commission to give greater encouragement to builders of homes under the self-help and group schemes. The Commission issues a permit to a self-helper to build a home up to 15 squares and the same applies to an applicant under the group scheme. The man picks up his release for material for 15 squares, and then tries to get the material. In some instances that is quite impossible. There are quite a lot of people who would build self-help homes if only they could be assured of getting supplies of material.

Mr. W. Hegney: Why cannot they get it?

Mr. OLDFIELD: I will tell the hon. member. Some of these people have reached the stage of telling the Housing Commission that they have abandoned the idea of building and now want a rental

home or a war service home. I suggest that a pool of material should be established so that, when a permit is issued, the material will be there for the applicant. Failing that, the merchants should be directed to supply the order. The reason why these people cannot get supplies is that pressure is being applied by big builders and contractors, who say to the merchants, "If you supply self-helpers, we will cut you out. We will go on building for 50 years, but these people build one house or a few in a group and then they have finished." Some of the merchants have told the self-helpers that this is the reason why they cannot be supplied. The Master Builders' Association is endeavouring to cut out the self-help building. I hope never to see the day when a person in a free country has not the right to build his own home.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. OLDFIELD: I trust that consideration will be given to the matter of establishing a pool of material so that people will be encouraged to build homes for themselves. It should be possible to tell them, "If you want to build, there is the material." Then they would be spared the necessity of wasting time trying to get a few lengths of timber.

Mr. Hoar: But this Government believes in private enterprise.

Mr. OLDFIELD: If the Minister for Housing were not kicked around—

Mr. Graham: By you.

Mr. OLDFIELD: If the hon. member did not waste so much time, the Minister would have more time in which to do his work.

Mr. Graham: What! Go around gathering timber at 11 o'clock at night?

Mr. OLDFIELD: The Minister for Health, who for the moment seems to be interested in reading a book, knows that we require a parcel of land that her department is holding for a site for a home for mentally deficient girls. The site selected was most unsuitable and is required for foreshore improvement. Suitable land is available for a home of this description and I cannot understand why the Minister cannot find it.

The Minister for Health: I asked you to find it.

Mr. OLDFIELD: The department is holding 5½ acres but we were told that 16 acres were required. I cannot understand why such a large block should be needed for the purpose. I hope the Minister will give the matter serious consideration.

I have been amazed at the persistent attacks made by the member for South Fremantle on the member for Moore. I do not know what members opposite have against him, but all of them seem to attack him. They all want to have a shot at him. I do not agree with him in everything, but

I do not argue with him all the time. Members opposite might save the time of the Chamber and enable us to get more work done by remembering that none of us can be right 100 per cent. of the time.

The Premier: Hear, hear!

Mr. OLDFIELD: Woodrow Wilson said it was his ambition to be correct 75 per cent. of the time and Dale Carnegie, the greatest student of human nature since Socrates, said that a man could not expect to be right more than 55 per cent. of the time. A man of average intelligence would be 50 per cent. right.

Mr. W. Hegney: Are you commending or condemning the member for Moore?

Mr. OLDFIELD: I am saying that he is not the terrible person that members opposite try to make out he is. A mutual pooling of brains, views and ideas for the progressive welfare of the people of the State is what we require.

Mr. Marshall: Someone should defend him. He cannot speak for himself.

Mr. OLDFIELD: I was amazed at the attitude adopted by the member for South Fremantle that all the problems regarding housing could be eradicated by neglecting the defence of the nation. I disagree with the statement that the United Kingdom is 10,000 miles nearer a potential enemy than we are. We have a potential enemy to the north of Australia—Indonesia, Burma and Malaya.

Mr. Graham: And they have not a sampan between them to get here.

Mr. OLDFIELD: The member for Hannans asked why we should be afraid of Russia. I will tell members why. I notice that the member for Hannans rather proudly wears an R.S.L. badge and is a distinguished soldier. That applies to the member for South Fremantle, too. They may be interested in the current issue of "The Listening Post" which contains a good article on why we should be afraid of Russia.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: There is a good article in it, too, on the rent Bill.

Mr. OLDFIELD: I am talking about communism, not the rent Bill. The hon. member has had his say on that matter. This article is on page 4 and is headed, "Attila Rides Again." It is written by one calling himself "Iconoclast".

Mr. Grayden: Is that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition?

Mr. OLDFIELD: The hon member might learn something, too, if he will listen.

Mr. Marshall: It would not be difficult for you to teach him something.

Mr. OLDFIELD: This article reads as follows:—

When in 1941 the German armies were crashing through Poland to Soviet Russia, an apprehensive Stalin went to Moscow railway station to farewell

Matsuoka who was returning to Japan, Stalin's valedictory remark was cabled round the world, "Remember I too am an Oriental".

Were I to ask you to name definitely the enemy against who we now arm ourselves, I should receive a variety of answers; some would say "Communism"; some "Russia"; some "Stalin"; some perhaps "China." Each of these answers would be correct, but only in respect of a component and not the whole. I would define our enemy more precisely as "Mongol Imperialism", or more broadly as "Oriental Imperialism"—an Imperialism created by Communism and as true to type as those which have preceded it through the centuries; ruthless, barbaric and totally indifferent to all human values. A Mongol Imperialism which, while itself Communistic, will use communism to propagate its power over the entire globe—if it can.

Mr. Rodoreda: Would you say that is right?

Mr. OLDFIELD: I would say he is pretty right in this instance. He may be wrong in the next article, but he is right in this one.

Mr. Hoar: You mean you want him to be right. The wish is father to the thought.

Mr. OLDFIELD: If he is wrong, I am wrong. Let the hon. member prove whether we are wrong.

The CHAIRMAN: I think the member for Maylands will get on better if he addresses the Chair instead of arguing with members.

Mr. OLDFIELD: The extract continues—

Discussing Soviet Russia some years ago with a European diplomat who had lived there for some years, I asked him: "Would you say there were about 20 million real communists in Russia?"

He replied, "I should hesitate to say there were even 2,000,000 real communists in Russia."

What he meant was obvious enough. Communism, while retaining at all times its infamous character, could nevertheless change its aspects with bewildering frequency from time to time as expediency demanded. Lacking any quality of permanence, it had proved to be utterly impracticable in its application as a political ideology. It remained what it was: An agency to power, used as such by the most unscrupulous elements in a community; it is Russia's chief weapon for softening up her prospective victims. When we read that Stalin's daughter wore a wedding dress valued at £100,000, there seems to be very little which is "communistic" in the Stalin "Royal"

family; and it is much the same with the rest of the "upper crust" in Soviet Russia.

When the A.I.F. left Europe after World War I, they left behind them much of their interest in European affairs; they were soon wholly pre-occupied with their own rehabilitation problems at home, and communism—well that belonged to the other side of the world, anyway, and "It couldn't happen here". Australians who had never been abroad had no standard of comparison by which to form any conception of the terrible shape of things evolving in eastern Europe. The generations which grew up between the wars, knowing nothing of the factual history of communism in Europe, formed their own romantic ideas, based on pretty theories and abstractions, on what appeared to them a new and interesting cult, and no-one troubled to disillusion them; herein lay the tragedy. They fell ready victims to clever propaganda in a propaganda-ridden world and so it was difficult, if not futile, to start from some intermediate point in the tortuous course of world communism and try to inculcate in people generally an awareness of the perfidy of this alleged ideology; it had been persistently presented to them as "a political philosophy" when, in fact, it was neither "political" nor "philosophical" in the sense we understand these terms.

But let us take a short flashback over the years and note some of the more salient points of progress in the twisted course of communism. We start with a gospel of slaughter as enunciated by Marx in his own paper "Die Neue Rheinische Zeitung" of May, 1849: "... when our turn comes, revolutionary terrorism will not be sugar-coated . . . There is but one way of concentrating the death agony of the old society, as well as the bloody labour of the new world's birth—revolutionary terror." "... So far from stopping so-called 'excesses', one must not only tolerate these examples but lead and conduct them."

This policy was heavily underscored by Lenin in 1903 when he said "... It must be bloodshed on a colossal scale. We must revolt, and when we revolt there shall be no mercy. In Russia first, and then from one side of Europe to the other . . . They must perish, down to the man who keeps a stall in the street!"

I heard the Deputy Leader of the Opposition say he would lead a revolution. I do not know whether that is the one he was talking about.

Mr. Graham: You would not understand if he told you.

Mr. OLDFIELD: The extract continues—

I quote these two "directives" because no matter what other plausible political theories they may have enunciated at other times, these were carried out to the letter during and after the revolution.

In 1905 certain interested groups in America subsidised the propagation of communism among the 50,000 Russian prisoners held by Japan.

In 1913, there was a suggestion of communism having come to Australia in the person of Peter the Painter—an escapee from the Sidney-st. shooting affair in London, when a communist plot of sorts having backfired the gang holed up in a house and held up armed police, the Scots Guards and the R.H.A. for a short while before being shot up. Peter the Painter was never traced, but the author of the whole dirty business was, though by then he had flown. His name is on record in Scotland Yard as "Josef Stalin."

Then came the war, and in 1917 Australia (in common with other British forces) opened her first account with communism, but I'll show you how later.

In Russia, the Revolution was followed by the establishment of communist regime and an appalling orgy of butchery; there was then no Iron Curtain—on the contrary they seemed to glory in publicising their bestiality.

Professional torturers who specialised in flaying people were brought to Moscow where their skinning of living victims was playfully referred to as "taking off their stockings;" and another pointed feature was the hanging of enceinte women of the bourgeoisie and leaving them partially eviscerated. There were numerous other refinements of cruelty.

By 1923, 30 million persons had been liquidated in various ways. The Cheka's own figures of executions by firing squads was around 1,800,000; but most killings had been through organised "famines" and exposure in the concentration camps of the Arctic circle.

The evil figure of Bela Kun appeared in Hungary and in the short period he was allowed to remain there 35,000 persons were liquidated. He disappeared for a time but turned up again in Spain as a director of the Spanish revolution. The wholesale massacre of priests and nuns was made a special feature, many being first mutilated and then soaked in petrol and set on fire. Estimates of persons so massacred range from 150,000 to 300,000.

By 1926 the "thieves" had fallen out and Stalin, wiping out his rivals, became virtually supreme ruler of Russia, and communism merged easily into Mongol or Oriental Imperialism. Fear was the basis of rule common to both; a new "aristocracy" was evolved, the whole crystallising into some sort of unholy trinity, but at the same time separated by blurred lines of demarcation—hence our difficulty in precisely naming our enemy.

After 1926, down came the Iron Curtain, but the liquidations continued and still continue. Persons held in bondage for slave labour are estimated at over 12 million—a third more than our entire population.

I watched two white-faced fanatical young women communists at a recent political meeting, squeaking their vapid interjections and I pondered the tragedy of it. Just babes—what did they know of communism? We have been accustomed to revere woman as the creator and cherisher of life, but these young women made me think of other young women trained and used as execution squads under Bela Kun . . . the ultimate debasement of young womanhood!

Mr. Hoar: Who was that written by?

Mr. OLDFIELD: Members of the Opposition remind me of some little rubber dolls that we used to buy—every time we squeezed them they squeaked. This article was written by "Iconoclast" and appears in "The Listening Post," the official journal of the R.S.L.

Mr. Graham: He is ashamed to put his name to it.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: Tell us about Arty Fadden's Budget.

Mr. OLDFIELD: What I have read shows who our enemy is. As the writer of the article has so well put it, it is oriental imperialism.

Mr. Hoar: How do you know his facts are correct?

Mr. OLDFIELD: If the hon. member made some research, he would find they are.

Mr. Styants: He has not the courage to put his name to the article.

Mr. Grayden: They just do not like it.

Mr. May: Tell us about the No. 18 tram.

Mr. OLDFIELD: I shall refer now to our immigration policy. The member for South Fremantle said he would castigate the Commonwealth Government because of its immigration policy. I would remind the hon. member that the Commonwealth Government is only carrying out the immigration policy laid down by Mr. Calwell.

Mr. Lawrence: That is not correct.

Mr. OLDFIELD: It is. If we are to develop this country and hold it for Europeans against Asiatics, it is essential that we continue with the immigration policy.

Mr. Lawrence: Why not do it properly and improve our own population?

Mr. OLDFIELD: That alone is not speedy enough.

Mr. Lawrence: That is right. Give us migrants. We do not want Western Australians!

Mr. OLDFIELD: We have no right to hold the country against Asiatics, if we do not develop and populate it.

Mr. Lawrence: You are not developing it.

Mr. OLDFIELD: We cannot develop it without manpower.

Mr. Lawrence: That is so. Manpower is our true wealth. Let us have our own children and not migrants.

Mr. OLDFIELD: It is not 50 or 100 years hence, but now, when we want the population. We may not have all that we desire in Australia, but what we have is better than anything elsewhere in the world, and it is worth holding. I come now to the dispute at the markets. I am surprised that the members for South Fremantle and Mt. Hawthorn became concerned in this matter, although I can to some extent understand why the member for South Fremantle did, namely, because the Spearwood district comes within the area he represents. But I do not think he was too sure of his facts.

Mr. Lawrence: We did a little research on this.

Mr. W. Hegney: Which dispute is this?

Mr. OLDFIELD: The markets dispute! The Market Gardeners' Association represents a small minority in this State.

Mr. Lawrence: Rubbish!

Mr. OLDFIELD: What is the membership?

Mr. Lawrence: That is for you to say.

Mr. OLDFIELD: Its membership is less than 100, and there are 1,400 registered growers within a few miles of Perth. There is another association, the Vegetable Growers' Association, which has a membership of close on 300. This organisation is a federated body.

Mr. Graham: You are making up the figures as you go.

Mr. OLDFIELD: The Vegetable Growers' Association is affiliated with the Vegetable Growers' Federation of Australia.

Mr. W. Hegney: What did you say it was that I had done wrong?

Mr. OLDFIELD: I was surprised to see the hon. member take up with Mr. Cruikshank. I did not know he was a friend of the hon. member.

Mr. W. Hegney: He is no friend of mine. He is secretary of the Market Gardeners' Association.

Mr. OLDFIELD: Yes, and he has a history, too.

Mr. Lawrence: He was elected by members of the Market Gardeners' Association.

Mr. OLDFIELD: Yes, and that association is a communistic body. Its history is that in 1940, when Mr. Menzies was Prime Minister and banned the communist party, some members of the party, including Mr. H. D. Mountjoy, an avowed communist, put their heads together, and formed the Market Gardeners' Association, so that it was only a branch of the communist party.

Mr. Lawrence: Some people got together at one time and formed what is called the Liberal Party.

Mr. OLDFIELD: These people formed the Market Gardeners' Association, which was a communist organisation. The association created so much strife, and kept saying in the Press so much about what the market gardeners did and were going to do, that the other 1,300 growers decided the time had come for them to start an association because the Market Gardeners' Association was being regarded as the official mouthpiece when it was not. Not all the growers are of foreign extraction. A large percentage of them are British, and more than 50 per cent. of the produce that goes across the floor at the markets comes from British growers.

Mr. Lawrence: What has that to do with it?

Mr. OLDFIELD: Ninety per cent. of the British growers are financial members of the Vegetable Growers' Association.

Mr. Lawrence: Link that up with your migration policy. If a man is a foreigner you say he is a communist.

Mr. OLDFIELD: I am pointing out the people with whom some members opposite align themselves. I am sure the member for Mt. Hawthorn would not have done so had he known this body was communistic.

Mr. W. Hegney: What is the dispute about?

Mr. OLDFIELD: This show is nothing but an organisation run by the communists to create mischief. Mr. Cruickshank has done nothing but create mischief all his life.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: That is a lie. You do not know anything about it except for the last few years.

Mr. OLDFIELD: What following has he?

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: It is a damned lie. It is an attack on a man who is not here to reply for himself.

Mr. OLDFIELD: Cruickshank has been a mischiefmaker for 30 years, like the rest of his friends.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Maylands must address the Chair.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: Why not go outside and attack him?

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Fremantle must keep order.

Mr. OLDFIELD: Cruickshank stood for office on the Producers Co-operative Marketing Board and was defeated—

Mr. W. Hegney: The member for Wembley Beaches might not have been where he is had it not been for Mr. Cruickshank.

Mr. Nimmo: I know what you are referring to—that I got the communist vote, but that is quite wrong. I can tell you all about it.

Mr. Lawrence: Even the Government may have been defeated without him.

Mr. OLDFIELD: Cruickshank is jealous of the Standard Crate Exchange that has been started by the Vegetable Growers' Association and that is why he has brought up this bag dispute.

Mr. Hoar: Does the Minister for Agriculture agree with your views?

Mr. OLDFIELD: The "W.A. Grower," the official organ of the Vegetable Growers' Association, says—

Members of the Western Australian Vegetable Growers' Association and non-organisation growers satisfied.

They are not the 100 growers from around the corner of Curtis and Main street. I worked among them for two years and among the Spearwood growers for a while.

Mr. Lawrence: The hon. member might like a beer and I might be a wowser, but each is entitled to his own opinion.

Mr. OLDFIELD: To continue—

As Vegetable Growers' Association growers and non-organisation growers have declared themselves satisfied, at present, with the recent arrangements regarding bags and containers, the President and Committee of the V.G.A. have decided to issue the following statement with a view to presenting you with a full and clear conception of the position.

(1) Agents and Bags (half dump): At the request of the V.G.A., the Auctioneer-Agents have, since 10th September, 1951, included the weight of the bag (in its dry state) with the contents of all vegetables bagged and sold by the pound.

(2) Bagged Cabbages: At the suggestion of the V.G.A., bagged cabbages have been fixed at the

minimum price of 10s. instead of the former 6s., to compensate for the cost of bag.

Mr. Lawrence: What is the cost of the bags?

Mr. OLDFIELD: I will go into that later. This article continues—

The Auction-Agents cannot see their way to concede to further requests at present and the V.G.A. and non-organisation growers declare themselves satisfied with the above arrangements.

(3) As far as containers are concerned, standard crates are practically in universal usage in this State, for which crates the grower pays a hire charge of less than half the cost of a new crate. The buyer plays his part by returning the crate to the depot to recover his deposit of 6s.

(4) Growers: Withholding of vegetables from the market at any time can only end in one way. Disaster to the grower!

I think members will agree with that. To continue—

(5) Co-operation and Democracy: Disputes must be settled at round-table conferences. These always prove satisfactory to all parties concerned. This is the only clean and honest way to handle a dispute—the only way in which organisations can retain the spirit of co-operation without which success and progress cannot continue.

(Sgd.) W. R. STEVENS,
President.

Mr. W. Hegney: What organisation asked you to bring this up?

Mr. OLDFIELD: I am answering the member for South Fremantle, who brought it up in his speech the other night.

Mr. Lawrence: From where did you get your information about the members?

Mr. OLDFIELD: From a reliable source.

Mr. Lawrence: From the Minister for Agriculture?

Mr. OLDFIELD: No, I have not spoken to him about the matter.

Mr. Lawrence: Why not ask him about it?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. OLDFIELD: This dispute has been brought about because they wanted to boycott one of the markets on some pretext so that the growers would not have any stuff on the floor.

Mr. Lawrence: What pretext?

Mr. OLDFIELD: I know they are going to try to get their own co-operative market going, because Cruickshank could

not get control of the Producers Co-operative Market. Ten years ago when the communist party was banned and they formed the Market Gardeners' Association, they said they would eventually have control of the metropolitan markets and this is the agency by which they are attempting to do it.

Mr. Lawrence: Do not you realise that the Act covers that? You should read it.

Mr. OLDFIELD: On the subject of bags, the woolgrower provides the pack at a cost of 16s. and its weight is deducted from the wool. The wheat and barley growers also provide the bags.

Mr. Lawrence: Neither the farmers nor the woolgrowers seem to be starving at the moment.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. OLDFIELD: The member for South Fremantle quoted bags at 4s. 9d. each and that is the price of secondhand chaff bags.

Mr. Lawrence: What do you put cabbages in?

Mr. OLDFIELD: In bags worth 1s. 6d. or 1s. 9d. which are not fit to hold chaff.

Mr. Lawrence: Are they new bags?

Mr. OLDFIELD: They are bags no longer fit to hold chaff.

Mr. Lawrence: Then they are second-hand.

Mr. OLDFIELD: They are fifth and sixth hand, patched and sewn.

Mr. Lawrence: Tell me where I can get bags for 1s. 6d. each and I will be rich tomorrow.

Mr. OLDFIELD: The hon. member can buy them at less than 2s. each, good enough to hold cabbages.

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Maylands would get on much better if he ignored interjections and addressed the Chair.

Mr. OLDFIELD: The half-dump bags which are those most used by market-gardeners can be obtained from the Jew at the market at from 4s. to 6s. per dozen. How is it that these bags are sold so cheaply? The reason is this. When the bag merchant goes round to the shops he sees the shop-keepers, and goes through their piles of bags and assesses and grades them. The bag merchant puts aside the half-dump bags, telling the shopkeepers that he does not want them and that he is taking only the good bags. He says to the shopkeeper, "They are cut in half and I cannot use them." Whereupon the shopkeeper says, "They are only a nuisance to me, you might as well take them." So the bag merchant gets the half-dump bags for nothing and he sells them for 4s. or 6s. a dozen.

Then the grower put his peas and beans into these half-dump bags, which have cost him about 4d. or 6d. each, and the grower receives 1s. 4d. or 1s. 6d. a lb. for his peas or beans. Included in that he gets the weight of the bag which is about 1 lb. Therefore, when peas or beans are about 1s. 4d. or 1s. 6d. a lb., the grower is making 1s. profit from his bags. It is true that when peas and beans come down to 3d. or 4d. a lb., the grower is only receiving 3d. or 4d. for his bag, but at the end of the season he finishes up in front.

Mr. Lawrence: What about giving him back his bags?

Mr. OLDFIELD: He is being paid for the bag, or the weight of the bag, which is about 1 lb. For that bag he receives the price of 1 lb. of peas or beans, which-ever happens to be in that bag.

Mr. Lawrence: He wants to be fair. He does not want to be paid for the bag. Give it back to him and he will be satisfied.

Mr. OLDFIELD: That is exactly the mischief which is being created. The grower comes along with his bag to the market and tips his stuff out on to the floor, and takes the bag away in an effort to try to defeat what the Standard Crate Exchange brought about.

Mr. Lawrence: Tell us who are the shareholders in the Standard Crate Exchange.

Mr. OLDFIELD: It does not matter who they are. The Standard Crate Exchange has done a lot for the growers of this State and has made it possible for the market to function smoothly. Before the Standard Crate Exchange started the buyers had to buy their crates and they had to stand the total cost of them. When the exchange started to operate the growers were able to hire rockmelon cases for 6d., lettuce crates for 10d., cauliflower crates 10d., and of that latter amount the grower has to pay only 4d. because the buyer pays the other 6d. to make up the full amount. The relations between buyers and growers were quite happy until Mr. Cruikshank and his disciples came along. There is another point, too. When there is a glut, or the produce is inferior and it is not sold on the market floor, there is no hire charge on the crates used. The grower does not have to pay anything for the crates in that event. I want to quote another article from the "W.A. Grower." It states—

Let it be understood that there is no dispute between growers and auctioneers at the metropolitan markets, as reports in the newspapers may indicate; further, that headlines of events at the markets last week tend only to flatter a small section of growers whose objective is not to extort an extra few pence from retailers but to disrupt other grower organisations and associations whose efforts over the past years have placed our

industry on a high ethical plane above suspicion and discontent, as may be evident in other parts of the Commonwealth.

The secretary of the Market Trust has truthfully put the position when he stated that for the past week growers have received up to 3s. 3d. for their containers and desires to be informed whether an additional 10d. is required or whether growers are prepared to accept 10d. instead of the 3s. 3d.

A request to the Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries for a charge to the retailer for containers was originally made by Mr. Davies, secretary of the W.A. Vegetable Growers' Association, earlier in the year. Realising the impracticability of converting market floors to a bag exchange and the cost involved in securing additional staff, members of the Agents' Association agreed that the grower should be paid for the weight of the bag at the price realised for its contents.

This has been faithfully adhered to by agents and accepted by growers and retailers alike.

Finally, let me again reiterate that there is no difference or dispute between agents and growers. In fact, it can be truthfully said that the close co-operation of the Agents' Association with all grower organisations, the cleanliness and lay-out of our markets and the manner in which the trade is conducted in this State, is the envy of the industry in other States of the Commonwealth.

I know that I would rather believe what I read in this paper than believe any statement that Mr. Cruikshank made to the newspapers. I realise that I have not convinced the member for South Fremantle.

Mr. Lawrence: What about mentioning the member for Mt. Hawthorn? He is in this, too.

Mr. OLDFIELD: I may have convinced the member for Mt. Hawthorn of the error he has made in this dispute.

Mr. W. Hegney: I do not think you have convinced anybody.

Mr. OLDFIELD: I have put the position of this market dispute as it really exists.

Mr. Lawrence: Why do you not listen to some of the gardeners?

Mr. OLDFIELD: I have listened to them on many occasions.

Mr. Lawrence: Why do you not listen to all sides of the question? Why do you not attend some of their meetings?

Mr. OLDFIELD: I do not attend communistic meetings so I am afraid I will not be attending meetings of the Market Gardeners' Association. I have attended functions of the Vegetable Growers' Association.

Mr. Graham: They have 27 members in all.

Mr. Nimmo: Who?

Mr. Graham: The Vegetable Growers' Association.

Mr. Nimmo: Cut it out!

Mr. Lawrence: They are a Liberal movement.

Mr. OLDFIELD: The member for East Perth is one of those people who says a lot and really thinks he knows a lot.

Mr. Graham: Only ten minutes ago I got it from a committee member of that organisation.

Mr. OLDFIELD: I would like to close on that point.

Mr. Graham: I think you should, too.

Mr. OLDFIELD: I have given the position as I see it, and I think I have given a clearer picture of that position than that presented by the member for South Fremantle or of the views held by the member for Mt. Hawthorn.

MR. GRAYDEN (Nedlands) [8.47]: I believe that in Australia today we are faced with some very serious financial and economic problems.

Mr. W. Hegney: I am.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I do not believe that those problems are insuperable and I feel that they can be overcome.

Mr. Graham: A change of Government would help.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Those problems must, at all times, receive the earnest and grave consideration not only of the Commonwealth Government but also of the State Government, and others who have anything to do with the spending of public funds. Since the war we have had in Australia a favourable trade balance. That favourable trade balance has been largely forced upon us by circumstances, by the terrific rise in the price of our wheat and wool, the high prices for our exports, and for the reason that we have not been able to obtain the imports that we would otherwise have brought into Australia. For that reason we have not been able to spend the money we have gained from our exports, and thus we have been creating a favourable trade balance and building up our London reserves.

Up to the end of the last financial year we had built up our London balance to the very high figure of £750,000,000—the highest figure that has ever been reached in the history of Australia. But now it seems that our export income may be starting to drop because the prices of our

primary products are falling, or showing signs of beginning to fall. In the Press yesterday there was a very significant news item, which reads as follows:—

Huge Adverse Trade Balance of Australia.

Canberra, Tuesday.—Australia faces her worst oversea trading year on record unless there is a dramatic change in the direction of trade.

During the first quarter of the financial year there was an adverse commodity balance of £111,038,000, according to the figures issued tonight.

This already exceeds the highest adverse balances ever recorded in a full year.

Annual adverse balances in the three closing years of the war ranged from £51,000,000 to £109,000,000, and the only other five trading deficits of the past 40 years were all below £20,000,000.

Exports for the first quarter rose from £133,586,000 in 1950 to only £144,800,000 in 1951, but imports rose from £171,506,000 to £255,838,000.

Imports in September were worth a record £94,959,000, a rise of 70 per cent. on those of September, 1950.

Exports for the month were worth £39,075,000, a decrease of 15.6 per cent.

Mr. J. Hegney: Would you not say that some of it is due to the dollar loan and that we used our funds on that?

Mr. GRAYDEN: These are purely trade balances. The hon. member is becoming confused with the balance of payments, which is a separate thing and makes allowance for loans and invisible exports. What I am referring to are purely trade balances; exports and imports. That newspaper article is very significant. It means that for the first quarter of this year we have already piled up an excess of imports over exports of £111,000,000 which is more than we have ever built up in a single year before and, at the same rate, the figures for the year would show an adverse trade balance of somewhere about £450,000,000.

Mr. Hoar: There is an explanation for that, is there not?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I shall come to that. I am merely pointing out that the balance of trade is swinging against us. But up to now we have enjoyed this favourable trade balance and have been exporting more than we have been importing. However, now, due perhaps largely to a decline in the rate of rise of our exports and a terrific acceleration in the rate of our imports, the balance of trade is swinging against us. For the last quarter, however, our exports did rise as compared with the previous year. They rose from £133,000,000 to £144,000,000, an increase of £11,000,000. Imports rose from £171,000,000 to £255,000,000, an increase of £84,000,000.

So it can be seen that imports are accelerating at a terrific rate and, if that is maintained, it will mean that our imports will amount to more than £1,000,000,000 a year.

I do not think we are importing into Australia today many non-essential goods, but if our export income drops it will mean that we no longer have the income and the overseas balances to pay for these necessary imports. That will mean, if we cannot obtain overseas loans, that we will have to cut down our volume of imports and make them selective, which would mean a reduction in the import of many consumer goods. If the prices of wheat and wool fall to the pre-war level, we would have to cut down on many of the essential goods necessary for defence, development, immigration and housing.

Mr. Graham: Do you not think that if the prices of wheat and wool fell to the pre-war level, the cost of our imports would fall correspondingly?

Mr. GRAYDEN: That could be, but that was not the actual experience we had during the last depression. When the price of primary products fell the price of the imported goods fell also, but not to the same extent. It may be found that manufactured goods are more steady in the rise and fall than are imported goods. The amount of food that a worker consumes is not a very great part of the cost of the finished article. Admittedly, it is portion of the cost, but it has nowhere near the same effect as when the exports are mainly primary products, and when there is a full rise and fall of the price of them.

If this drop in our export income does arrive—and there are indications that it has already arisen because our September figures, as compared with last year's were down 15.6 per cent.—it will cut down on one extremely potent inflationary factor today, namely, the income accruing from the export of our goods. Undoubtedly, that is inflationary. No-one will argue that that huge amount of money accruing to those people, which they can use to put on the market in order to purchase goods in Australia, is not inflationary. If we have to scale our imports down the things we will have to cut out will be the consumer goods, and so they should be; but if we do that, the effect will be inflationary because it will mean that there will be less consumer goods to meet the Australian demand.

To a large extent, therefore, one will be counteracted by the other. This will mean, if we are to meet the huge commitments for defence, development, immigration and housing, that we will have to produce them in Australia unless we can obtain those goods from overseas by way of loan. We are not doing that at present and, if we were forced by circumstances to do it, it would mean that we would have to divert capital and labour from consumer industries into capital industries. If we cannot bring in the steel, cement and

machinery which are necessary for industries in Australia we shall have to produce them here and, to do that, we will have to divert the material and resources that are used in the production of consumer goods at present to the industries producing capital goods.

The effect of that will be highly inflationary. It will mean that there will be less consumer goods on the market to meet the demand, and yet our defence, our development, our immigration and housing expenditure would be giving the public the money to purchase without having those goods on the market. So, we would have that highly inflationary effect. There would be a demand for the consumer goods that were available and people would be prepared to outbid each other in order to obtain them. What alternatives have we? We could raise loans to keep up our volume of imports; we could borrow from America to bring in machinery and cement and steel or we could cut down the standard of living, which is in effect what it will mean if we cannot achieve production. We can only purchase goods that are on the market and if we cannot import them, and if we are diverting people away from production of consumer goods in Australia, it will mean that they are not on the market; and if they are not on the market they cannot be consumed, and it is on goods and services that are consumed that the standard of living depends. So the achievement of our objectives may mean lowering the standard of living.

I am putting forward the alternatives, and that is one way of meeting our defence and developmental expenditure. There is one other answer—one other—and that is production. I feel that in the end production is the only real and lasting answer to the problem. There has been a lot of talk about production and how we can achieve it, but there is one essential element in the achieving of higher production—and it is sheer hypocrisy to ignore it—and that is harder work or longer working hours. We can achieve more efficiency and use more machinery and so on, but that vital element of harder or longer work is always there.

Mr. W. Hegney: You agree with the member for Moore that hours should be increased?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Not necessarily. I say we shall be forced into that position, whether we like it or not. That to maintain our standard of living we must either borrow from overseas or work harder or longer; otherwise our standard of living will go down.

Mr. J. Hegney: Although they work harder and longer, the standard is still down.

Mr. W. Hegney: How much harder do you say workers should work?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Experts have calculated that to meet our national commitments on defence, development, immigration and

housing—if we desire to meet them and keep our economy on a sound basis—there must be at least 10 per cent. more production in Australia.

Mr. Hutchinson: That is fair enough.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I would like to refer members to what appeared in the "Institute of Public Affairs Review". This deals with an article by a man who recently toured the United States making a special study of economic conditions in America. It is indeed a very interesting article, because it shows the difference in the answers that the Australians and the Americans have provided in the post-war world. It shows that American production has achieved miracles since the war.

Mr. Lawrence: There is unemployment in America.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I pointed out once before to members of this House that 4,000,000 unemployed in America means absolutely nothing unless we know where that 4,000,000 unemployed come from. I do not want to digress from my main speech but surely the unemployment figures are misleading unless we know on what they are actually based; whether they include seasonal unemployment, frictionary unemployment and so on. In a great industrial nation like America, I would say that 4,000,000 unemployed was quite a reasonable figure. If it deals with the real unemployed, leaving out the unemployables, I would say it is a high figure. But the hon. member does not know what the basis of those figures is, and neither do I.

Mr. Lawrence: You tell me; you made the statement.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Figures by themselves mean nothing; we must know from where they are drawn.

Mr. Lawrence: You are quoting a lot of them.

Mr. GRAYDEN: But I know from where they are drawn. In his article, this person stated—

American production is one of the world's miracles. Total industrial production in the States is well over double the pre-war volume. The output of steel is now double the pre-war level, over 100,000,000 tons a year. Moreover, plans are in hand to expand the capacity of the industry by another 17,000,000 tons within the next two years. This increase would be equal to the total capacity of the British steel industry. At a luncheon given me by the directors of a large industrial concern, I was asked how Australia's steel production compared with pre-war. I said it was slightly greater, around the 1,000,000 tons mark. The silence that followed was shattering and embarrassing to my Australian pride. The Americans, incidentally,

are very fond of Australia and the Australian people, but they often find it hard to understand why we are not progressing and developing this great continent much more rapidly. There is a danger that we could place a severe strain on this friendship unless we convince the Americans that we are really doing a worthwhile job of work. The capacity of the aluminium industry in June, 1950, was 750,000 tons a year. It is planned to raise it to 1,300,000 tons by 1953. Electric power capacity at the beginning of 1951 was 67,500,000 kilowatts. In the next three years it is hoped to add a further 22,000,000 kilowatts.

I quote those figures to show the extent to which American industry is progressing. They are great steps in production; they are not stopping there, they are progressing. The article continues—

What is the secret of the American production achievement? There are many reasons, ranging from rich primary resources to the large home market for the finished article, but deep down the fundamental reason is to be found in the American attitude of mind; the American zest for living, his abounding confidence in America, his strong urge always to self-betterment, this all adds up to the "American way of life." The Americans it is true, are more material-minded than any other people although this may be a somewhat different thing from materialism. From his zest for the material things of life springs his willingness to make great sacrifices on the altar of efficiency and productivity. He works hard, often under considerable strain. He is not afraid of competition; he accepts, although not altogether without question, the penalties imposed by the specialisation of the individual in a simple single task. Americans will readily admit to the sacrifices, but they believe them to be well worthwhile and justified by the outstanding results achieved.

America has a solution to our problems and, as I said before, the only real and lasting solution is production.

Mr. Marshall: With all that production and capacity, will you explain why inflation is worse in America than it is here?

Mr. GRAYDEN: The hon. member is a very strange person. He believes that, because prices are higher in America, according to our currency, therefore, inflation in America is higher than in Australia. He overlooks that we are on a deflated currency.

Mr. Marshall: Do not talk nonsense! We were told a few weeks ago by Alger Hiss that inflation was worse in America than it is here. Now explain that in view of America's capacity and production.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The hon. member has an inexhaustible store of questions.

Mr. Marshall: You B.A.'s can go along with all that rubbish from the University.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The hon. member had a lot to say about the Federal Budget. I believe he has a motion on the notice paper dealing with the subject. I do not intend to refer to that now; rather do I wish to deal with some remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition in reply to the Premier's Budget speech. I believe that in some respects the Federal Budget is tactless. I do not agree with the tax on razor blades, women's shopping bags and so on, but I do agree with the objective that it is sought to attain. I agree with that entirely.

The Leader of the Opposition said that the Budget was highly inflationary and that, of course, was echoed by the member for Murchison. On what grounds do they base that argument? They say that the manufacturer adds the taxation to his costs and passes it on to the consumer in the price of the commodity, and therefore it is inflationary. I intend to quote from a book written by one of the leading economists of the world—Professor Estey. The book is in the Parliamentary Library, and I am quoting from the second edition, 1950, at page 397, the chapter on "Administration and Finance." The writer says—

The instruments of fiscal policy:

The fiscal devices at the disposal of the government fall into two general classes.

He is dealing in the book with the question of business fluctuations—the business cycle of inflations and depressions—and the best means of combating them. He says—

(1) Variations in the aggregate of such governmental expenditures, as can be varied, deliberately or by some automatic arrangement, with stabilising effects. Such stabilising expenditures lie in two major areas: (a) expenditures on public works, or communal goods such as roads, schools, post offices, hospitals, parks, and the like; (b) transfer payments, not representing any current equivalent in goods or services, such as interest on the public debt, payments to veterans, farm benefits or other subsidies, relief payments, unemployment insurance, and social security benefits.

Thus, depending on the amount the Government outlays, it will have a tendency to inflate or depress business activity, whether by public works or utilities or by giving members of the community money to spend in some way or other. He says that the second policy open to the Government is—

(2) Variation in tax yields or tax rates or the tax structure in such wise as to encourage or restrain private

expenditures on consumption or investment. These variations may consist in reducing or increasing taxes in general, or by so modifying the structure of taxes as to increase or decrease the share of income after taxes falling to the classes with a high propensity to consume.

The essential purpose of these fiscal devices is to prevent total outlay from falling below or rising above the volume required to maintain a desirable level of output and employment. If private expenditures bring outlay below these levels (which would usher in a period of deflation as in (1929-1932) public expenditures should be expanded, taxes, especially on consumption or on the classes with a high propensity to consume, should be reduced and the government should incur a deficit. If private expenditures bring outlay above these levels (which would usher in a period of inflation as in 1946-1948) public expenditures should be restrained, public works postponed, and taxes should be maintained or raised, especially on consumption. Thus the government should accumulate a surplus, which could be used to reduce deficits previously contracted. Thus by alternating deficits and surplus, the government might be able to hold total expenditures to more stabilised levels.

That is a statement by a leading economist of the world, and no economist of any repute would deny it. In times of inflation public expenditures should be restrained, public works postponed and taxes should be maintained or raised especially on consumption. That is exactly what the Federal Budget is doing; that is exactly what the increases in the sales tax are doing. The most direct way to put a tax on consumption is by means of the sales tax and so, in times of prosperity and inflation, there should be high taxes on consumption.

Mr. Graham: Do you think high taxes will put value back into the pound?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Surely the best way to put value back into the pound is to stop inflation—

Mr. Graham: According to you, it is to increase prices.

Mr. GRAYDEN: —and to put a curb on consumption.

Mr. Marshall: They put on a curb in 1930 and they are doing it again. We had plenty of that rubbish in 1930. You have a lot to learn yet.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The member for Murchison is something like a man learning to drive along a road. He says "I must keep the car in the middle." So he drives along and his car starts to turn to the left, so he gives the wheel a violent swing to the left and crashes.

Mr. Manning: He is a Leftist.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Then he gets another car, and going along the road he says, "I must keep to the middle." His car starts to turn to the right; and he says, "I turned to the left last time and crashed." So this time he swings to the right, and over he goes again. That is how his argument goes. He says that because a thing happened in the depression and had a wrong effect, exactly the same thing must be wrong in inflation and that is entirely false.

Mr. Marshall: You are a worthy representative of the University of Western Australia, without any doubt!

Mr. GRAYDEN: Thank you, but the hon. member's argument is entirely false. He says something has a deflationary effect during a depression and is bad.

Mr. Marshall: Why talk nonsense?

Mr. GRAYDEN: When he says that we should not do anything of a deflationary character during inflation, he is completely and utterly wrong.

Mr. Marshall: That is the sort of nonsense one hears almost every day.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Because a thing is wrong in one circumstance, that does not mean it is wrong in another.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: You leave yourself wide open with that statement. Take the depreciation of the Australian currency during the depression! We still get a depreciated currency during a period of inflation.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Exactly! But I rather think that the time to appreciate our currency, if ever, was around 1947-48.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: Which was a period of inflation! You just said so. A few minutes ago you read out that that was the period of inflation, from 1946 to 1948.

Mr. GRAYDEN: It was an American book from which I quoted, not an Australian.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: I do not care if it is a Calithumpian book. That is the statement you made.

Mr. GRAYDEN: If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition thinks that because one country has inflation, exactly at that same time another country has inflation, he is entirely mistaken. If he likes to look up the record of any country he will find that depressions do not occur exactly at the same time in different countries. They are inter-related and occur in roughly the same period, but not by any means necessarily in the same years.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: Was 1948 a year of inflation in Australia?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Yes; but by 1948 the American inflation was beginning to level off. They have gone through the stage we are going through now.

Mr. Marshall: That is funny!

Mr. GRAYDEN: The Australian economy was just beginning on the sharp upward trend. I have a graph which I will show the hon. member afterwards. This indicates that in 1949 in America the wholesale price indexes were coming down. That is what I meant when I said that he did not know the figures. He claimed that the United States in 1949 was having a period of inflation; yet its wholesale price indexes were coming down. Therefore, how could it be having an inflation?

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: Are they still coming down?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Perhaps they are going up again now. I do not know. I have not had a look at the latest figures; they are not available. The member for Murchison does not know either. He dealt largely with a theory which was discarded somewhere about 50 years ago and which was not a complete solution to the situation at all. I feel that the Federal Budget, far from being a shocking thing foisted upon the people of Australia, is a very real and courageous attempt to use fiscal policy to its fullest extent to meet the problems facing Australia today.

It is the first time in Australia's history that any Government has had the courage to adopt a real economic policy of taxing more heavily during an inflation, and of building up substantial reserves for use during any future depression. Our very system of politics makes it hard for any Government to do that, because economic cycles tend to run in eight-year to ten-year periods, while Parliaments tend to run for three-year periods. So a Government may introduce some measure during its three-year period, such as this one, which may prove unpopular, and then be thrown out of office as a result, even though that measure might have been in the best interests of the people. Then the other side, which opposed the measure, takes office and reaps all the benefits. The Commonwealth Government was, therefore, very courageous to take a risk like that with a view to doing what it believed to be the right thing for Australia.

Mr. Rodoreda: Tell us about the big reserve they were going to build up!

Mr. GRAYDEN: Is the Commonwealth Government not budgeting—

Mr. Rodoreda: For a deficit!

Mr. Marshall: Did you see how Sir Arthur Fadden proposes to spend the money? Have you not read anything about it?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I have read as much as has the hon member.

Mr. Marshall: Then you know what he said he was going to do with the surplus. He said he was going to spend it. He made that statement in the House.

Mr. GRAYDEN: He knows what he is doing.

Mr. Lawrence: Nobody else does!

Mr. GRAYDEN: I am sure, because everything else in the Budget aims at that objective, that he will have it in mind and will create those reserves. In his speech, the Leader of the Opposition said that there was a big crash coming. He said that our inflationary spiral would go on and on for a while—not a long while—and then there would be a crash.

Mr. J. Hegney: That is what Professor Copland said yesterday.

Mr. GRAYDEN: He said, and he believes, that there will be a complete economic collapse in Australia within a short time. I consider it is quite likely that very serious economic problems will face us, but not in the way the Leader of the Opposition envisages. While we keep up our defence, development, migration and housing expenditure, which we will do, there is no earthly hope of any depression coming, because the terrific flow of investment needed for those programmes makes any depression impossible.

The problem which will have to be overcome, and could mean a reduction of living standards, is the problem of supply. Depressions are caused by the problems of demand, but our problems are problems of supply. There will be no lack of demand because, as I pointed out earlier in my speech, it is extremely likely that the quantity of consumer goods available within the country will be reduced. So there may well be a forced reduction in living standards, but there certainly cannot be a depression because things will be in such short supply that we must continue full employment for a long time yet. I feel there is no need whatsoever to concern ourselves with the problems of depression, except in so far as it is necessary to make provision for reserves for public works in the future, but rather that the fullest attention should be given to the position of supply, because unless we can face up to these problems we will not be able to carry out the great commitments facing the nation today.

During the course of the debate on the Budget we heard an interesting speech from the member for South Fremantle. I was most interested in what he had to say. I listened attentively because I never thought to hear such views expressed in this Chamber.

Mr. Lawrence: You can always learn.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I learnt a lot. I remember the hon. member saying this, that often he had wanted to call the members of his waterfront union out on strike, and had rung up Healy, the communist secretary of his union.

Mr. Lawrence: You are making a misstatement.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Did not the hon. member say he had telephoned Healy?

Mr. Lawrence: I did not say what you just said that I said.

Mr. GRAYDEN: What did the hon. member say?

Mr. Lawrence: You wait and read it in "Hansard."

Mr. GRAYDEN: I took very liberal notes, and I beg to differ from the hon. member. I am quite sure he said he wanted to call these men away from work.

Mr. Lawrence: I said that I was not sure in my mind what action to take; not that I wanted to call them out on strike.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I did not say the hon. member wanted to.

Mr. Lawrence: Yes, you did. I shall check what you say in "Hansard."

Mr. GRAYDEN: The reply the communist leader gave to the member for South Fremantle was, "Don't be silly; get back to work." If they were still at work, how could they get back to work? If that is not what the hon. member meant, why that reply from this communist leader? The whole inference is clear, namely, that when a man replies, "Go back to work" you are not at work, but are on strike; and those are the very words the hon. member used.

Mr. Lawrence: I agree.

Mr. GRAYDEN: So, if they were not at work, they were to go back. But if they had been at work all the time, why say to them, "Go back to work?"

Mr. Lawrence: Do you know anything about the waterfront?

Mr. GRAYDEN: The words were, "Don't be silly; go back to work." I am glad they stayed at work. I only wish the hon. member had accepted the other half of the communist leader's advice.

Mr. Lawrence: I shall take you there and inform you a little of the ways of industry.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I think the hon. member has been on one side of industry—the worst side—and therefore has a very unbalanced view of it. He went on to say this—which was surprising coming from a man with his good war record—

Mr. Lawrence: Have you checked up on my record?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I read it on the election hustings, and I saw it printed at the time of the election, and I judged that the hon. member had a good war record.

Mr. Lawrence: You judge a lot of things you know nothing about.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I did not think I was being insulting to the hon. member when I said he had a good war record. If he wants to have a bad one, I am easy.

Mr. Lawrence: I asked why you thought it. You think a lot of things that may not be right.

Mr. GRAYDEN: If the hon. member likes to say the opposite, I am easy. He went on to say—

The war was completed, and fortunately the allies won. We won all right, but we won with disastrous results both to the victor and the vanquished in that we lost, this country and other countries of the world, our true wealth. We lost our young men and women. Despite the terrible lesson that should have been of paramount importance to the people or the governments of the countries of the world, hardly had the guns been silenced than the Liberal Government of Australia—the Commonwealth Government—comes out and says, "There shall be another war in three years." What a true and just reward for the people who went to the war and fought for this country to be told that. That has been stated by the Prime Minister.

I know those are the exact words of the hon. member, because I took notes of them.

Mr. Lawrence: You must have taken them down in shorthand.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The hon. member only thinks so.

Mr. Graham: He knows you got them from upstairs.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I point out to the member for South Fremantle that it is hardly up to this State Government, or the Commonwealth Government, to say whether or not there will be a war. Does he really believe that the Commonwealth Government would, without cause, attack another nation? In what way is the Commonwealth Government responsible for instigating a war?

Mr. Graham: For rearming Japan and agreeing to it.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Does the hon. member think that within three years Japan will have so many armaments that she will be able to engage Australia in a war? If he does, he is ridiculous.

Mr. Lawrence: If Japan cannot, how can any other nation?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I think the member for South Fremantle must have talked with Mr. Healy about other things than strikes, because he is a very convenient

outlet for communist propaganda. I do not say the hon. member is not sincere in his statement, and really believes it, but I do say that this is just the sort of thing the communists want us to think.

Mr. Lawrence: Probably you do not like the truth.

Mr. GRAYDEN: How does the hon. member like this for truth—Russia has 6,000,000 men under arms. Australia numbers a few thousand. Are we a danger to Russia, or is Russia a danger to us?

Mr. Lawrence: Did I hear you say a few thousand?

Mr. GRAYDEN: How many men has Australia under arms?

Mr. Lawrence: How many has she in Korea?

Mr. GRAYDEN: About 3,000 or 4,000 in Japan.

Mr. Lawrence: Would they be under arms?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Yes.

Mr. Lawrence: How many men training here are under arms?

Mr. GRAYDEN: We have a permanent Army of one brigade and another brigade is being formed. The hon. member knows, from his army experience, how many men are in a brigade—about 3,000.

Mr. Lawrence: That makes about 7,000.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Well, that is a few thousand. When we talk of armies, we talk of millions of men. Even if we had 50,000 men under arms, does the member for South Fremantle think we could menace the 6,000,000 Russians under arms? That country has the most powerful air force in the world, in addition to which it has the atom bomb and the greatest submarine fleet of any nation.

Mr. Lawrence: How many men has America under arms?

Mr. GRAYDEN: America has nowhere near the same number of men under arms as has Russia.

Mr. Lawrence: I did not ask that, but how many men she had.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I am not conversant with American military secrets. Probably only the communists and the top American generals are.

Mr. Lawrence: You get news from America but not from behind the iron curtain.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The information I got came from a British Labour Minister. If the hon. member likes to call that Labour Minister a liar he is free to do so, but I prefer to think that a Labour Minister in a country such as England would tell the truth.

Mr. Lawrence: A figment of the hon. member's imagination.

Mr. GRAYDEN: If the member for South Fremantle believes that, after seeing it in the "Daily News" and "The West Australian" time and again, I really believe he should take the advice of the communist leader and stop being silly.

Mr. Lawrence: Does the hon. member insinuate that I am so silly that I take notice of everything printed in the "Daily News" and "The West Australian"?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Does the member for South Fremantle insinuate that those newspapers would falsify figures given by British Labour Ministers?

Mr. Lawrence: Possibly so.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I am stuck for an answer to that. I really believe that if any member adopts that point of view he must have swallowed, hook, line and sinker, the whole of the communist propaganda about the capitalistic Press.

Mr. Lawrence: I can prove it.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I have no doubt that newspaper reports do sometimes become distorted but, as the hon. member knows, figures given by a Labour Minister could not be printed wrongly without some correction appearing later.

Mr. Graham: Yes, they could.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The figures given by a Labour Minister?

Mr. Graham: The member for Guildford-Midland gave an instance of it the other night of where he was misquoted.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The Press do not worry about poor little fish like us, but they do have full regard to the Minister for Defence in Great Britain and I am sure they would print the right figures. If the members for South Fremantle and East Perth wish to think otherwise they may do so, but I am sure that other members will agree that the Press could not print the same figures time and time again if they were incorrect.

Mr. Lawrence: We will call a division on that one.

Mr. Griffith: Surely that finishes this feeble argument.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The member for Hannans asked, "Why should Britain kick up about Russia? She did the same as Russia. She had India, Burma, Persia and Malaya and other places and Russia is only doing the same thing with Czecho-Slovakia and Poland," but I am sure that members opposite are the first to criticise Great Britain for her activities in that direction. Why do they not criticise Russia?

Mr. Griffith: They will criticise England now that there has been a change of Government there.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Why do they not adopt the same attitude towards Russia? If it is wrong for Great Britain to do something when dealing with uneducated people, surely it is equally wrong for a barbarous people like Russia to do it to cultured and civilised countries. If members opposite adopt that viewpoint regarding Britain's activities, why do they not take the same attitude in the case of Russia? Is it because Russia is supposed to be socialistic and Britain capitalistic?

Mr. Graham: What about condemning both of them?

Mr. GRAYDEN: If members opposite were consistent in their attitude I would give them marks for sincerity, but I cannot do so while they condemn Britain and praise or whitewash Russia for the same thing.

Mr. Graham: We are answering your condemnations, which are one-sided.

Mr. Lawrence: Can the member for Nedlands tell me when any member on this side of the House praised Russia?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I said "whitewashed."

Mr. Lawrence: You said "praised."

Mr. GRAYDEN: The hon. member seems to wish to differ about everything.

Mr. Lawrence: I must differ from some of the statements that the member for Nedlands makes.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Perhaps the hon. member would like to look up "Hansard" to see what I said. Would he like me to rehearse my speech beforehand so that I would be sure of every word I was going to say? When one uses words that one does not intend to use one qualifies them later, and I think that is fair. I do not think the hon. member has any kick coming about it.

Mr. Lawrence: You did the same thing to me tonight.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The hon. member was quoting the communists. The member for South Fremantle claimed that Britain was 10,000 miles nearer the centre of aggression than we were, and said we did not need, therefore, to spend the same amount per head on armaments as Great Britain spent. At least he admitted that the seat of aggression was Russia.

Mr. Lawrence: I did nothing of the sort.

Mr. GRAYDEN: What other possible aggressor is 10,000 miles nearer to Britain than to Australia?

Mr. Lawrence: The member for Nedlands is making a practice of misconstruing facts tonight. If he says he has quoted the exact words I said, I must correct him. I said England was 10,000 miles nearer to the supposed enemy.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The hon. member said, "10,000 miles nearer aggression."

Mr. Lawrence: I said "10,000 miles nearer to the supposed enemy."

Mr. GRAYDEN: The hon. member is relying solely on his memory and, as I have relied on copious notes, I think I am as likely to be right as he is.

Mr. Lawrence: We will have a side bet on it if you like.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I say that 10,000 miles nearer or not, we are in it just as much as Great Britain is.

Mr. Lawrence: Hear, hear!

Mr. GRAYDEN: And just as much as America is.

Mr. Lawrence: No.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Australia's frontiers today flow along the Rhine and the Yangtse. They are Australia's frontiers because it is there that the great danger to Australia lies, and if Britain falls we fall. Let no member of this House be under a misapprehension about that. If Britain goes we go and so we must stick together.

Mr. Lawrence: What happens if America goes?

Mr. Bovell: We go too.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The only way Britain can survive against potential aggression is with the active, willing and wholehearted aid of the great United States of America.

Mr. Lawrence: It took a long time to come into the last war when England was on her knees.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The Americans did everything possible within the limits of their constitutional and electoral handicaps to assist Britain in the recent war. They instituted lend-lease, by means of which they virtually gave to Britain billions of pounds worth of armaments. They withdrew 50 destroyers from their Navy and gave them to Britain to assist in the war against submarines. They sent thousands of aircraft and patrolled some of the seas with their Navy in order to release British ships from convoy duty.

Mr. J. Hegney: And Britain did the same for Russia.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Yes, Britain was trying to assist Russia.

Mr. J. Hegney: Of course, in her own interests.

Mr. GRAYDEN: That was Britain's way of assisting Russia, and America did the same thing in a wholehearted effort to assist Great Britain.

Mr. J. Hegney: Churchill is talking of going to see Stalin in the cause of peace.

Mr. Lawrence: Why does not the member for Nedlands tell us what caused the last war and how to avert war?

Mr. GRAYDEN: The last war was caused by a dictator who had an entire nation under his hands. He was a man who would brook no opposition and he had a propaganda machine training his people for war. He had an army and air force with which to go to war, and so he launched his country into war.

Mr. Lawrence: From where did he get his finance and materials?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Russia today has a dictator in complete control, with a propaganda machine preparing his people for war. He has an army and air force and so is capable of launching a war. If Britain had been alert to the danger last time, and had prepared all her forces in full readiness, it is very likely that aggression would not have occurred.

Mr. Graham: She armed Germany.

Mr. Lawrence: You have got the Legislative Council in this State; that is a virtual dictator.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The hon. member is extremely Left of Left.

Mr. Hutchinson: They will not declare war on us.

Mr. Lawrence: They have declared war on the Government.

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: War on the tenants.

Mr. Marshall: They put the atomic bomb on the rent Bill.

Mr. Manning: Just what it deserved!

Mr. GRAYDEN: We have the position that there is in the world a nation which is capable of smashing the rest of the world.

Mr. Marshall: How do you get all this information about the strength of Russia?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I learnt how to read, and perhaps the hon. member might do the same.

Mr. Marshall: Do not make a bigger fool of yourself standing up than you do sitting down.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. GRAYDEN: The hon. member makes a fair enough fool of himself sitting down.

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Mr. Marshall: You have more information about Russia than the rest of the world.

Mr. GRAYDEN: There is a nation in the world which is capable of waging an aggressive war, and no British Labour Ministers, or ex-Labour Ministers, as they are now—

Mr. Griffith: And will be for some time!

Mr. GRAYDEN: —would deny that. They were prepared to spend about £32 per head of population to meet that threat of aggres-

sion and to build up their defences. Would a socialist Government, which the Opposition is always claiming as a Government aiming at peace, spend £32 per head of population for defence, unless it had to? Of course it would not.

Mr. Graham: The Yanks have them under their thumb, and you know it.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Then the hon. member is admitting that the British socialists, the same as those in Australia, knuckle under to anyone.

Mr. Graham: I did not say the same as Australia.

Mr. Lawrence: You knuckled under to Menzies on the butter subsidy, did you not?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Members opposite are always ready to acclaim the British Labour Government if it has done something good, or done something which supports their arguments; then it is the greatest thing in the world. But when the British socialists do something against the arguments put forward by our Opposition, it is a different thing altogether. They say, "We have nothing to do with them. They might be socialists and we might be socialists, but we have nothing to do with them."

Mr. Graham: We praise you when we think you are right.

Mr. Marshall: And that is not too often.

Mr. GRAYDEN: No, the member for Murchison is rather stingy. But while there is the threat of a potential aggressor and there is no effective international organisation to control aggression, then every nation must be prepared, because to the aggressor there is no better invitation to war than a defenceless nation that has nobody prepared to come to her aid. That is the best way of inviting one nation to attack another.

Mr. Lawrence: That is what I said in my speech; build up your true wealth.

Mr. Hutchinson: At the expense of defence.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The hon. member must realise that it is not purely a question of manpower. We do not fight with cudgels or sticks or stones. If we did that, China would thrash us every time.

Mr. Lawrence: That was practically all they had at the beginning of the last war.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Exactly! Yet the hon. member says we must not spend money on defence, and if there were another war, our wealth, as he calls it—our young men—would be condemned to be thrown into battle without training and without equipment.

Mr. Lawrence: You are carried away with your enthusiasm.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I think any man should be enthusiastic about the defence of his country.

Mr. Lawrence: I told you I believed in a defence policy.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Every man should be enthusiastic about that.

Mr. Lawrence: I am, too.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The hon. member was not too enthusiastic the other evening.

Mr. Lawrence: I said I believed in a sound defence policy, in the same way as every other member in this Chamber does.

Mr. GRAYDEN: That is so, but the hon. member did not tell us what he considered a sound defence policy to be, except that we should build up our true wealth, as he calls it.

Mr. Lawrence: That is correct.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Surely to goodness the hon. member must realise that it is not possible to have a man as a member of an army, and leave it at that; there must be something else.

Mr. Lawrence: You funny man!

Mr. GRAYDEN: I thought that was rather funny on the hon. member's part.

Mr. Marshall: This is what we get from the University of Western Australia.

Mr. Graham: We must reduce that Vote.

Mr. Marshall: We certainly should.

Mr. GRAYDEN: It struck me as being very funny.

Mr. Lawrence: Small things amuse small minds!

Mr. GRAYDEN: The hon. member seems to be amused fairly easily.

Mr. Yates: What about the Australian troops who went to Singapore in the last war? They did not have anything to go with.

Mr. GRAYDEN: It struck me as funny to think that any member would have an army consisting only of men with no uniforms, guns or anything else. When there is the slightest danger of war we must be prepared until there is an effective international police force or an effective international authority to stop aggression. There is no such thing at present. Until that occurs, we must be prepared.

Mr. Marshall: That is the international Jews organisation.

Mr. Lawrence: The member for Nedlands is looking for a dictatorship now.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The hon. member seems strangely averse to seeing reason. He thinks that because the British Government spends £30 odd per year per head on defence it is absolutely wrong; that America is wrong and that every other democracy in the world is wrong.

Mr. Marshall: Democracy is right!

Mr. GRAYDEN: Even Mr. Chifley must have been wrong when he built up Australia's defences after the war; when he purchased an aircraft carrier, and so on.

Mr. Graham: He believed in the development of this country.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Yes, but would the hon. member deny—

Mr. Graham: Menzies believes in putting our young people into camps.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Members opposite are not consistent.

Mr. Lawrence: Would the hon. member cease his attacks on me if I went to the back of the Chamber?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I am not attacking the hon. member; I am replying to his numerous interjections.

Mr. May: You do not have to.

Mr. GRAYDEN: But I do not want to let him get away with them. The best investment this country can make is the investment of defence. The first duty of any Government is to ensure the safety of the nation because, unless that safety is ensured, everything else can go by the board. It is for those reasons that I feel our present policy on defence, on immigration, on development and upon housing, and the great strides we are taking to build up Australia in terms of population and industry, are well-merited and deserve the support of everybody.

MR. SEWELL (Geraldton) [9.58]: Tonight, as on other nights, we have heard a lot about finance—international, Commonwealth and State finance—but I must admit that my interest for the time being at least is mainly concerned with State finances, and just how much our Treasurer will make available to the various departments. Prior to World War II, we had the spectacle, in this country at least, of having plenty of material, plenty of manpower and being told, day after day, week after week, that there was no money with which to utilise those commodities. Since this war, we have been told repeatedly, by various Governments and Ministers, when they are asked to do certain urgent public works, that there was plenty of money available but no materials or manpower. I believe that we are once again coming to the stage, through various reasons, where we will once more be told that money is not available for these urgent public works.

The people in my district are most perturbed about the condition of our harbour, and I want to ask the Minister for Works to make sure that that harbour is properly surveyed. I also ask him to see what can be done about the rock formation and, if possible, get divers at work to see if that

rock formation can be removed. If the ships using that harbour are to be loaded to full capacity, then certain repair work must be done on our harbour.

Although I think the Minister has been doing his best to improve our water supply, in the last two or three weeks we were again short of water. I understand the cause is that the rising mains in Geraldton are too small. Work was commenced recently on the holding tank in the Wichering area, which is all to the good. We were promised that 12 months ago and fortunately the work has now been commenced. There has been no work done on the foundations for the pumping plant and until it is done we cannot achieve very much.

Mr. Graham called attention to the state of the Committee.

Mr. Marshall: There is no doubt this is a great institution. Members fight like the devil to get here and then when they do get here they do not want to stop here. It is a pity their bosses did not have a look and watch how they sit. They would sack a lot of them in smart time if they did.

Bells rung and a quorum formed.

Mr. SEWELL: I urge the Minister for Works to ensure that we get our fair share of the steel supplies coming into the State in order that the work necessary for our water supplies in Geraldton may be completed. Work is also proceeding on the Greenough-road and the Greenough bridge. The Geraldton-Northampton-road is in a bad state and in need of reconstruction, and the Northampton-Carnarvon-road needs re-grading, particularly in the area of Binna and Ajana. The farmers in that area will be carting their wheat shortly and, as the road is badly corrugated, it is not fair to let those men who are asked to go into the back country to produce wheat cart their produce over such roads.

In regard to the Geraldton hospital, we have had assurances from the Minister at times, but we have not reached any definite decision as to when the building of the Geraldton regional hospital will be commenced. I ask the Minister for Health to ensure that something is done to speed up the preparation of plans and the calling of tenders for the erection of that hospital. I also appeal to the Minister for Mines to make provision, in the near future, for the diamond drilling of the Northampton lead field. I believe that that field has a large potential and it only needs to be tested by diamond drilling to prove its worth. We all know the value of lead and copper to the British Empire and to Western Australia in particular.

I would again draw the attention of the Minister for Housing to the fact that Geraldton is lagging behind in the construction of rental homes and war ser-

vice homes. In Geraldton there are war service homes which were commenced before last Christmas, but very little progress has been made with them since. The skeletons of the houses are up and have been left at that stage. Contractors have had difficulty in getting materials and, in some instances, they have left Government contracts and taken on private work which apparently brings them in a greater income. I would like the Minister for Housing to pay some attention to that work and urge the local contractors to finish some of the houses they have started.

The Geraldton Municipal Council, in common with other local authorities, has had a great deal of trouble in trying to get copper wire for the extension of its power mains for its electric light supply. I would also like to draw the attention of the Minister for Supply and Shipping to the fact that Geraldton, together with other parts of the State, is suffering from the severe shortage of processed milk. For some reason we are placed in the same category as a country town, but I do not know why. I assure the Minister that we have no dairy herds in our district, and we should be granted the same quota of powdered and processed milk as is granted to the Goldfields.

At present our crayfishermen and fishermen generally are having an extremely lean time because certain of the fishing grounds are closed. I would be pleased if the Minister for Fisheries would approach the C.S.I.R.O., and also his own officers, to ascertain whether there is any possibility of opening up other fishing grounds in order that the Geraldton fishermen can continue with their livelihood. At present, with the closing of the Abrolhos Island for crayfishing and the lean period they are having in the fished-out waters, I can assure the Minister that these men are having an extremely lean time.

I support the member for Cottesloe in the remarks which he directed to the Treasurer concerning the grant made to surf clubs. I would ask the Treasurer, if possible, if he could see his way clear at a later date to increase the grant to all surf clubs in this State. They are doing an excellent job and are worthy of the consideration of the Government.

MR. YATES (South Perth) [10.7]: It is my intention to deal with one subject only, namely, the St. John Ambulance Association of Western Australia. On occasions, I have spoken in this House to point out the parlous financial position of the Association and the difficulty that confronts it from time to time in trying to operate in these difficult periods of rising costs. At present, the Perth centre of the St. John Ambulance Association which, in turn, controls the Fremantle and Midland

Junction centres, covers the whole of the metropolitan area. Those centres are finding it most difficult to operate efficiently to the benefit of the public. The Association has had to make approaches to the State Government from time to time for financial assistance in order that they may continue their services.

Last year, after the Association had pared its expenses to an absolute minimum and had gone without many essential needs for the successful running of its ambulances, it suffered an extreme financial loss. So much so that it had to approach the Premier to give it financial relief in order to keep going until it had conducted its street appeal or until other money had come in. This state of affairs has been deteriorating for some time and is rapidly worsening. As members know, the organisation is run by an honorary body formed into a council of business men, professional men and medical men and they have been racking their brains for a long period trying to find ways and means of procuring finance to keep the affairs of the Association solvent. I know that the Premier is most concerned not only with the financial position of the St. John Ambulance Association but the same position that faces many other worthwhile organisations.

Mr. Marshall: Are you talking about the St. John Ambulance? It is a national responsibility.

Mr. YATES: I agree with the hon. member that all ambulance associations throughout the State and the Commonwealth should be a national responsibility; I entirely endorse those remarks. But unfortunately they are not; they are not even a State responsibility.

Mr. Marshall: They are not because there are charitable people so disposed to keep them going.

Mr. YATES: I would like to know who those charitable people are, because the association is not aware of them. Donations made to the association are very limited.

Mr. Marshall: There are people who make grants to it, otherwise it could not exist.

Mr. YATES: The actual donations last year amounted to £63 14s. I know that they have street appeals, and that local authorities contribute to their upkeep because of the good work they get from the association. They also get a Government grant but there is no set figure.

The Premier: I very considerably increased it.

Mr. YATES: The Premier has increased the figure and has treated the association as generously as possible.

Mr. Marshall: The care and transport of the sick are a State responsibility.

Mr. YATES: The Association has many problems. In the first place it is faced with staff problems. Every man who works on a St. John Ambulance in Perth works 72 hours a week—there is not a man who works under 72 hours a week or who is not on duty between that period. There are four men at the main headquarters on duty during the day; they commence at 8 a.m. and finish at 6 p.m. Three men then take over at 6 p.m. and work through until 8 a.m. They work for a period of four days and have a 24 hour break; that is, if they finish at 6 p.m. on one day they commence duty again at 6 p.m. the following day. Each man does four day shifts and three night shifts, making a total of 72 hours.

What is the reason for the men working such long hours? The main reason is that the association cannot afford to increase the number of men. It has not sufficient finance to employ three more men to break the working hours down to 56 a week; that would cost the association £2,500 a year in extra wages—quite apart from the extra uniforms, which I will mention later. Because of its restricted finance it has to limit the number of staff it employs for the simple reason that it has not the money to pay that staff. It is a dreadful state of affairs that such a worthy association, operating for the benefit of mankind, should have its staff working 72 hours a week when people are talking about a 40-hour week and a 44-hour week; and no one seems to be doing anything about it. They actually work hard and long hours. The work they do is constant and the vans are going all the time.

Last Monday, the 29th of October, they had 25 calls in four hours; they also had four accident calls in the space of four minutes. The association was so pressed for men that even the station superintendent had to leave his work and go out with an ambulance to an emergency job. That happens frequently. The work of the station superintendent is to look after staff problems, the maintenance of vehicles and so on, and yet he is often called out on accident cases. The work is increasing daily not only in Perth but in Fremantle, Midland Junction and other parts of the State. At the moment I am dealing only with the metropolitan area as it affects the central headquarters.

Each day more new vehicles are going on the road and each day the accident risk is becoming greater and greater. That has been proved by the ever-increasing figures supplied to this House from time to time. The growing number of accident cases means more work for our hospitals and more work for St. John ambulances, which in most instances are called out to the scene of the accident. I propose

to quote a few figures which I think will be most illuminating to members. These are for the period from the 1st January to the 30th September. The association attended 744 collapsed cases; a total of 141 bicycle accidents—that is, individuals involved in accidents on bicycles; 300 motorcycle accidents; motorcars, trucks, etc., total 114; other cases of accidents with vehicles 580, making a total for that period of 2,179.

Some 25 to 30 years ago the work of St. John Ambulance in accident cases was practically non-existent. It has grown steadily throughout the years with the ever-increasing number of vehicles on our roads, and with the greater danger to the motoring public caused both by the congestion on the very narrow streets and the bad layout of the main roads. Medical cases transported totalled 5,415 and this is a very important item also. The vans were called out on no less than 91 cases when they were not required. Including those 91 calls, the total calls from the 1st January to the 30th September were 7,735. The association had eight vans operating from the Perth centre—there are more vans but some of them are generally under maintenance. This is an average mileage of 9,000 miles for each vehicle.

The association has had many major accidents to deal with. Members may recall an accident at Byford some time ago when ten people were injured. There was a major bus accident at Scarborough in which 20 people were injured; another at Araluen where 23 people were injured; and one at Subiaco where eight people were injured. There was a major accident at Clontarf in which 23 boys were injured; and there was one on the Welshpool road where the vehicles had a number of boys aboard, 18 of whom were injured. The large number of cases the association has had to transport taxes the existing resources to the limit. Not only have the drivers to be called out but the station staff also have to go out, man the ambulances and drive to the scene of the accident. The men are fully aware they are not drivers. They also know that the association is not big enough and that its finances will not permit of an increase either in its staff or its services.

The Premier: It is only in the last year or two that the Government has given the association any subsidy at all.

Mr. YATES: That is quite correct. It is not only going to accidents that is the main cause; there are other factors in relation to the van being called to accidents that have to be kept in mind. At the scene of the accident, the ambulance driver may be delayed for an hour or so attending to an injured person, making preparations for the splints, bandages and so on, and may even have to inject morphia. Often it is necessary to administer oxygen as well. Payment is made only on

a mileage basis. A large number of bandages, especially triangular bandages, are lost at hospitals when accident cases are taken to the casualty wards.

Recently a patient was taken to the hospital and the unfortunate victim had 12 bandages securing splints to broken limbs. Those bandages had to be left on the victim until he could be attended to by a doctor. The ambulance man had to return to the depot and later on the driver went back to the hospital to collect the bandages. In that case the doctor had found it necessary to cut through the bandages, so that they were rendered useless. Those bandages cost the association 2s. each, which meant that on that case alone a loss of 24s. was sustained. If members will recollect the number of accidents I mentioned as having been attended by the ambulances during the year, they will get some idea of the cost entailed in connection with accident cases in the provision of splints, equipment, medicine, bandages and so on. In these days of rising costs, that is becoming increasingly expensive.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: Does the association get any assistance from the Lotteries Commission?

Mr. YATES: Yes, it receives some assistance, as I shall indicate. Last year a Government grant was received, and it had to be split up between the different centres at Perth, Fremantle, Midland Junction, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie and Norseman. The share of the Perth centre was £534 and its receipts on account of subsidies were £670. Under that heading the money is derived from the Perth City Council, the Perth Road Board and from the many other road boards throughout the metropolitan area.

Last year's street appeal brought in approximately £1,230. The association received from the racing clubs and the speedway, for the services of ambulances attending the meetings of those organisations, approximately £265. Last year the Lotteries Commission made a grant to the Perth centre of £915. From all these sources the revenue of the association, on account of accident cases and patients, totalled, approximately, £5,515, and the aggregate income for the year was a shade over £9,000. The organisation showed an absolute loss of £900 for the year. That is, it finished the year worse off financially by £900, which was money the association did not have. That is why it has made urgent approaches to the Premier to ascertain whether anything can be done to furnish it with greater financial assistance.

The association has great ideas, and members will agree with me that the time must soon arrive when it will be necessary to have smaller centres. Take the position regarding an ambulance call at Victoria Park at peak traffic time! The ambulance has to wend its way through heavy

traffic and over the congested Causeway, pick up the patient and then fight its way back to the casualty ward at the Royal Perth Hospital. If subsidiary depots were built at Victoria Park, Cottesloe and Baysendean, they could be in direct communication by phone or wireless with headquarters, and calls could be responded to in those particular districts more quickly. In many instances it might be the means of saving life.

At the headquarters in Perth there is no room to place one more vehicle in the garage. At present it holds 12 vehicles in a space where in any Government garage normally two or three would be housed. A foot of space separates the vans and there is absolutely no room for an additional vehicle. If the association is to expand, it will be necessary to extend the premises in Perth and have subsidiary depots in the metropolitan area. That procedure has been adopted in other States. The associations there have wireless vans and staffs and depots scattered throughout the metropolitan areas. Thus, when the necessity arises to transport a patient by ambulance, a wireless call goes out to the depot concerned and the patient is attended to. This means a great saving in time, less running costs, and more expeditious transfer of the victim or patient to hospital.

Another important adjunct of the association is the St. John Ambulance Brigade. It may surprise members to know that in this entirely honorary organisation there are 1,200 working members. There are approximately 30 nursing divisions attached to the brigade on the women's side and approximately the same number on the men's side. All work in connection with the brigade is on a voluntary basis. Uniforms are supplied by the members themselves at a cost of £20 each for men and £12 each for women. The work of these people entails attendance at public functions and sporting fixtures such as football matches, cycling and road events—in fact, any fixture where there is a danger of accidents being sustained by members of the general public.

Unobtrusively, the brigade members attend these functions, often unnoticed by those at the gatherings. They are there to render service if required. On People's Day at the recent Royal Show I heard two urgent calls over the loud-speaker for the services of ambulance men, and I saw two elderly men running across the arena with their small bags on the way to assist whoever was in trouble. These people have done a splendid job for the people as a whole. Where is the association to find the necessary finance to enable it to continue its operations?

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: From the Treasury.

Mr. YATES: The Government has been good enough to provide a grant for the St. John Ambulance Association, but there

are many other organisations clamouring for financial support. The Treasurer is at his wits' ends to know where to get the necessary funds to enable further assistance to be provided to assist the organisation, which is rapidly growing. Of all those seeking assistance, one of the most important is the St. John Ambulance Association, which has done such a splendid job of work in the metropolitan area ever since the inception of the organisation. The work being done is phenomenal. We may see the van driving along the street, sometimes slowly, sometimes quickly, going to an accident or a medical case, but the work is constant. The number of calls is but a small indication of the work being done, and these people work around the clock 24 hours a day and they are doing it for the benefit of humanity.

Perhaps the Government is not financially capable of giving the association the necessary financial assistance. When any organisation approaches the Government for finance, it is almost unlikely to receive assistance if it has surplus money in its funds. Whether it be the St. John Ambulance or any other association, if it has a surplus of funds there is not much chance of getting assistance from the Government. St. John Ambulance has no funds, but it needs them. It needs a reserve account for motor vehicle replacement, maintenance of vehicles and future building activities, if it is to expand in the metropolitan area and the country, as I have suggested.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: What about taking £1,000 off the super. subsidy?

Mr. YATES: I intend to suggest a scheme to the Government to which I hope the Premier will give close consideration. It may not be the best of suggestions, but it is at least an attempt to assist a very worthy organisation. Before outlining the scheme, I have one or two further observations to make. A portion of the revenue received by the St. John Ambulance Association is obtained from the Motor Vehicle Trust, which has to provide a certain amount of money for each mile travelled in accident cases. The contribution from the trust is for transporting accident cases to the various hospitals. That sounds quite satisfactory.

Mr. J. Hegney: Is not the association paid for that?

Mr. YATES: No.

Mr. J. Hegney: It could make a charge.

Mr. YATES: I shall come to that. Last year the total collections by the association from the fund amounted to £620, calculated, as I have stated, on a mileage basis. The Act was passed four or five years ago and a figure was fixed by regulation. I shall quote the regulation from the "Government Gazette" of the 12th August, 1949, at page 1994, as follows:—

The sum to be paid under Section 12, Subsection (1), paragraph (b), subparagraph (iii), to any person who conveys in his vehicle an injured person from the place of the accident shall be computed at the rate of one shilling per mile of the nearest practicable route from the place of the accident to the place to which the injured person is conveyed, with a minimum payment in any event of two shillings. Provided that if the injured person can with safety to himself and without unreasonable delay or inconvenience be conveyed along part of the said route upon a railway, the person so conveying the injured person in his vehicle as aforesaid shall be entitled to receive and shall be paid a sum at the rate aforesaid only in respect of that part of the route from the place of the accident to the nearest point on such railway at which the injured person can be placed on a train for further conveyance.

Provided further that in the case of any recognised ambulance service the abovementioned rate shall be one shilling and sixpence per mile for the first ten miles and one shilling per mile thereafter, with a minimum payment in any event of seven shillings and sixpence; and such mileage shall include the distance travelled from the ambulance depot until return to the depot, in each case by the nearest practicable route.

In the metropolitan area the distance travelled is not excessive, but the delay is often great. These workers are held up by traffic and at the case being attended, and they use bandages and other equipment for which they receive an average of about 7s. 6d. per case. That would not pay for axle grease, let alone cover the cost of oil and petrol. What was the cost of oil and petrol last year? Nearly £1,220! Another expense was over £300 for replacement of tyres and the expenditure is increasing all the time, just as the work is increasing. Yet an ambulance is expected to reach a case inside of five or ten minutes. Unless assistance is forthcoming, one day somebody will ring and the ambulance will not turn up because of the necessity for curtailing the service. If that happened, there would be a public outcry. Therefore it is up to us to do something before the time arrives when somebody, perhaps one of us, will die as a result of not getting an ambulance quickly for transport to hospital.

So I propose to submit a scheme that should receive full consideration. This is a scheme that I myself have thought out with the object of raising revenue for a worthy organisation. A great portion of the association's work is being caused by the motoring public, and it is the motorist I am going to ask to contribute a fair share

towards running the association. In the metropolitan area, taking in the whole district from Fremantle to Midland Junction, we have, according to the latest figures supplied by the statistical department, 32,504 private cars registered. I propose that each private car on the road shall pay an insurance fee of 5s. for ambulance service.

There are 8,776 motor cycles, and I suggest that they also pay 5s. ambulance insurance fee. Private motor wagons number 12,788 and they would pay 5s. Hire vehicles, including buses and trailers, of which there are 943 and motor wagons for hire, 1,673, at 10s. each; a total in all of about £15,000 for the association. This insurance fee would carry ambulance insurance for all persons injured by a motor vehicle or by persons injured within a motor vehicle. In other words, it would be insurance similar to the charge made with our licenses for third-party risks.

I cannot see that any individual motorist in the metropolitan area would object to paying 1d. a week for ambulance insurance in the event of an accident, knowing that if he injured a person, or were himself injured, or if a passenger of his were injured, there would be an ambulance on call within a few minutes to transport the injured to hospital. If the scheme were adopted it would bring in vitally necessary revenue amounting to approximately £15,000, which would be apportioned between the Perth, Midland Junction, Fremantle and Kalgoorlie centres. The difficulties that confront the Perth centre are just as acute at the port and at Midland Junction. Where Fremantle and Midland Junction encounter difficulty is on account of the greater distances they travel. The Fremantle men may be called to Rockingham and the Midland Junction men as far away as 20 or 30 miles along the track.

This scheme would embrace the whole of the metropolitan area and give free insurance to all people injured in a motor accident, even if they came to Perth from the country. In the country centres, the local authorities collect the motor license fees, and this scheme might well be adopted in each country centre where an ambulance was set up. This could be a contribution towards the running of a worthy organisation. Let it be borne in mind that it is the motorist who is causing the association's headaches—the motorist and the motor-cyclist. The bulk of the quick and dangerous work of the association has been due to the alarming increase in the number of motor vehicles on our highways.

If the Premier could give consideration to having this provision included in the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act, or some other Act, so that the motoring section of the public would pay its share towards the running of this service,

it would provide the association with finance that is vitally needed and—what is also very important—would allow the money raised by the annual street appeal—from which over £1,200 was received last year—to be transferred to the St. John Ambulance Brigade, in which there are 1,200 serving members, and whose total income is £200 per year, which comes from the Lotteries Commission.

The members of that brigade all buy their own uniforms and travel at their own expense from their homes to the places where they assist the public, and to demonstrations and lectures. All this is done for the benefit of the public, and I cannot imagine any section of the public complaining, especially motorists, about a scheme such as this, which would give them adequate cover against accident and would enable the association to increase its activities, and put some money aside for building purposes connected with the establishment of depots throughout the metropolitan area in time to come.

Mr. May: In Collie, deductions are made from the miners' wages.

Mr. YATES: That is another scheme too.

Mr. May: That is subsidised by the companies, pound for pound.

Mr. YATES: Kalgoorlie has a scheme also; but I am concerned chiefly with the metropolitan area, because it is there that the traffic fees are collected through the Police Department. In country centres, where ambulances operate, traffic fees are collected by local authorities, but the scheme could be adapted for the benefit of those districts. If my plan is not suitable, or members of the motoring public think they are being taxed—though I suggest this would not be a tax but an insurance—let the Premier alter the Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act so that an amount could be added to the premium to cover ambulance services. Collections would then be made automatically through the Traffic Department. If this plan is adopted, it will absolve the Government from paying to the association certain sums per year so that it may remain solvent.

The Government's contribution to the scheme could be the cost of collection, which would not be great. On the motor license at present there are two items requiring payment—one is the license, and the other the third party insurance premium. It would be no trouble to have included a third payment of 5s. by way of motor ambulance insurance. If the Premier thinks that the association would get too much money by this means, the proposal could be reviewed. This is only a suggestion. It might not even work; but I think it would. If that proposal is not

acceptable, a similar scheme could be adopted by adding an extra amount to the motor vehicle insurance premium so that collections would be made by that means and quarterly payments rendered to the association when the money was received.

I commend this scheme to the Premier and trust that he will give full consideration to it, because the activities of the association have reached a stage where, if we do not do something about it, the organisation will be faced with the grave danger of having to curtail its services, or asking the Government to take over a body which has remained voluntary since its inception. I would not like to see the association taken over by the Government. It must not be forgotten that if that occurred the cost of running it would be four or five times greater than it is now, because the unions would play a part. The employees would have to be members of a recognised union and would not be able to work 72 hours a week, but would have to do three shifts. Instead of there being only a few men employed, three or four times as many would have to be engaged.

Mr. May: They should not have to work 72 hours.

Mr. YATES: They do.

Mr. May: They should not.

Mr. YATES: The reason is that the association has not the finance to employ more.

Mr. May: We shall have to form a union!

Mr. YATES: If that were done, I think the men would be happy about it. I submit to the Premier the scheme I have suggested, and trust that he will give consideration to its adoption, or alternatively will bring forward another scheme that might be of benefit in obtaining the finance necessary to keep the association alive in the metropolitan area.

Progress reported.

House adjourned at 10.46 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 6th November, 1951.

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

QUESTIONS.

TIMBER.

As to Kent River Sawmill.

Hon. A. L. LOTON (for Hon. J. Murray) asked the Minister for Transport:

Will he inform the House as to—

(1) the total cost to date of the Kent River sawmill;

(2) the expected further expenditure prior to handing over to the purchaser, or lessee;

(3) whether the mill is being sold or leased, and on what terms?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) £89,232 14s. 2d. to the 31st October, 1951.

(2) Approximately £29,000.

(3) The mill is to be leased with option of purchase, and terms are being negotiated at present.

NORTH-WEST.

As to Slipway Site, Denham.

Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for the North-West:

(1) Has a site been chosen for the proposed slipway at Denham, Shark Bay?

(2) If so, when is work likely to commence on its construction?