

probate duty is in the vicinity of \$6,000,000. I do not think the reforms I have suggested would make a great deal of difference to the State collections, but they would overcome many of the legitimate causes of concern which I have attempted to deal with.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. E. C. House.

House adjourned at 5.40 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 19th August, 1970.

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

QUESTIONS (61): ON NOTICE

1. EDUCATION

Meckering School

Mr. McIVER, to the Minister for Education:

(1) Will the new school at Meckering be connected to the deep sewerage?

(2) If not, why not?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) See answer to (1).

2. EDUCATION

Wundowie Junior High School

Mr. McIVER, to the Minister for Education:

(1) Does he agree that the staff room at Wundowie Junior High School is most inadequate?

(2) When will funds be made available to overcome the problem?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) The department has this work listed for consideration in the current building programme.

3. HOUSING

Northam

Mr. McIVER, to the Minister for Housing:

(1) Would he itemise the commission's building programme for Northam in 1970-71?

(2) Would he indicate the localities where they are to be constructed?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

(1) Ten cottages are planned for commencement about February, 1971.

(2) These units are to be built on Lots 15, 16, 17, 19 Rushton Crescent; Lot 20 Fernie Street, and Lots 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 Toodyay Road.

4. and 5. *These questions were postponed.*

6. *This question was withdrawn by the Member for Warren.*

7. *This question was postponed.*

8. ARGENTINE ANTS

Infestation

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Has there been any significant increase in infestation by argentine ants in the last three years?

(2) In what areas have new infestations been reported and proved over the past three years?

(3) How many stock have been killed from spray used to combat infestations prior to and during the last three years?

(4) In what locality and over what acreage are the argentine ants infesting?

(5) What has been the cost of the argentine ant protection programme since its inception and for each of the last three years?

Mr. NALDER replied:

(1) No.

(2) Albany, Augusta, Margaret River, Balingup, Bunbury, Busselton, Harvey, Jarrahdale, Metropolitan Local Government Districts, Wagin.

(3) Since the inception of the campaign in 1954 until 1967, 16 cows and 13 horses have died. In the last three years, two horses have died. These deaths were due in each case to disregard of advised safety precautions.

(4) Metropolitan local government districts—658 acres.

Country districts—6 acres.

Containment areas—2,300 acres.

(5) Cost of the argentine ant campaign since its inception—\$1,784,575.

Cost 1967-1968 \$53,977.

1968-1969 \$57,664.

1969-1970 \$56,778.

9. RURAL AND INDUSTRIES BANK

Homes: Land Tax

Mr. LAPHAM, to the Treasurer:

(1) Do purchasers of homes through the agency of the Rural and Industries Bank have to pay land

tax for a full year even when the land was Crown land for a major portion of the year?

- (2) If "Yes" for how long has this policy been operative, and for how long is it to be persisted with?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) No.
(2) Answered by (1).

10. ASSOCIATED INVESTMENT AND MERCHANDISING PTY. LTD.

Bona Fides

Mr. FLETCHER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is he aware—
(a) of an organisation known as Associated Investment and Merchandising Pty. Ltd.;
(b) that the name does not seem to be in the telephone book?
- (2) At what address are they established?
- (3) Are they a registered company under the Companies Act?
- (4) Am I correctly informed—
(a) that 50,000 one dollar shares are available and that only two shares are fully paid up;
(b) that the aim is to establish a card operated supermarket;
(c) that 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. discount will be available to card holders;
(d) that "supervisors" and "distributors" shall invest on the basis of \$850 and \$350 respectively;
(e) that in the event of the supermarket not being established prior to the end of 1971, or going out of business prior to 1981, "supervisors" shall get back only \$210 of each \$850 contribution and "distributors" shall receive only \$70 for each \$350 contributed?
- (5) What are the names and addresses of the principals of the organisation?
- (6) Are they Australian citizens; if not, what was their country of origin?
- (7) Having in mind recent financial losses by members of the public associated with "Perpetual Pools Promotions", will he have the *bona fides* of Associated Investments and Merchandising Pty. Ltd. investigated to ensure the financial protection of those who might be influenced into subscribing to such an enterprise?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) (a) The company named Associated Investment Merchandising Pty. Ltd. was incorporated in Western Australia on the 3rd July, 1970.
(b) Yes.
- (2) The records of the Registrar of Companies disclose that the registered office of the company is situated at 10th Floor, St. George's Court, 16 St. George's Terrace, Perth.
- (3) Yes. See (1) (a).
- (4) (a) No. The company is registered with a nominal capital of \$50,000 divided into 50,000 shares of \$1 each. Documents filed with the Registrar of Companies show that 28,000 shares have been allotted as fully paid.
(b) Yes, brochures issued by the company disclose that its aim is to establish a card-operated supermarket.
(c) Brochures issued by the company indicate that a distributor earns 10 per cent. commission and a supervisor 15 per cent. commission each time an authorised buyer's card is used.
(d) Yes, according to the company's brochures.
(e) Yes, according to the company's brochures.
- (5) Documents filed with the Registrar of Companies show the names and addresses of the directors of the company to be—
Gillie Champigny, 21 King George Street, Victoria Park.
Melvin Moore, 21 King George Street, Victoria Park.
William Gerald Askin, 83 Glenariff Drive, Floreat Park.
Murray George Vivian, Flat 1, 320 Canning Highway, Bicton.
- (6) The records of the Registrar of Companies do not disclose whether or not the directors of the company are Australian citizens. I am informed that Messrs. Champigny, Moore and Vivian were born in Canada and recently arrived in this State from that country.
- (7) Some inquiries have been made. Evidence of a breach of the Companies Act or criminal law has not been revealed by those inquiries. As is the case with any person contemplating making payments of some substance to any company, independent legal advice should be sought as to the nature and soundness of the investment or transaction.

11. WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

Amendment

Mr. JAMIESON, to the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Would he indicate whether it is proposed to legislate for increases in weekly rates of workers' compensation?
- (2) If so, is he to be advised by the Workers' Compensation Inquiry Committee on the proposed rates?
- (3) In view of the current basic wage inquiry and the tie-up between these rates and the basic wage, at what stage of this Session is it likely that this legislation will be introduced?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. This committee was appointed to perform a specific task, which has been completed.
- (3) As soon as possible.

12. EDUCATION

Primary School Libraries

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Education Department school library service recommending that primary schools should have a central library containing reading books totalling 15 books per student enrolled?
- (2) Will he give the department's present policy relating to provision of books and accommodation for primary school libraries?
- (3) Will he give his department's short and long term objectives towards library facilities in primary schools?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) The Education Department favours, as a long-range objective, the provision of central libraries in large primary schools. No fixed objective of 15 books per pupil is specified but a school with this number of books per pupil would be very generously supplied.
- (2) The department's present policy is to support the purchase of books and the erection of library accommodation by providing subsidies.
- (3) The short term policy is as given in (2). The long term policy is to provide central libraries in large primary schools as funds become available.

13. KING'S PARK

Development: Master Plan

Mr. TONKIN, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Was Dr. Beard, ex King's Park director, required to submit a master plan for the development of the park and the botanic gardens which the King's Park Board intended to be a place for the display and experimental study of Western Australian plants?
- (2) Was the master plan prepared?
- (3) If "Yes" was it approved, and on what date?
- (4) When was the advice received from the curator of Kew Gardens which led to the Government's decision to reverse its policy of housing the herbarium and curator in the botanic gardens?
- (5) When did the Government make the decision on this change of policy?
- (6) In view of the proud way in which he announced the Government's proposals in February, 1960, should he not have advised the public of such an important change in policy?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
 - (2) Two separate plans were prepared, one for a botanic garden in King's Park and one for future development of the park.
 - (3) A five year plan for a botanic garden approved in principle on the 19th February, 1962. A three year plan for development of the park approved on the 17th October, 1963.
 - (4) to (6) The Curator of Kew Gardens visited Western Australia in March, 1965, when it was decided against duplication of herbarium facilities. The first five year plan was acknowledged in principle only. Therefore, the question of policy change did not arise.
- I am at a loss to understand the phraseology used in (6) in which the Leader of the Opposition referred to the proud way in which I announced the Government's proposals. I consider that I am a most humble person, and I am at a loss to understand his words.

14.

LAND TAX

Assessments: Number

Mr. TONKIN, to the Treasurer:

How many landowners were assessed for land tax for the years 1965-66, 1966-69 and 1969-70, respectively?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

Assessments of land tax, metropolitan region tax, vermin and noxious weed rates were—

1965-66	....	Not known.
1968-69	....	179,258.
1969-70	....	82,700.

No separate record has been kept of land tax assessments.

15. MR. J. C. R. McMANUS

Police Court Charges

Mr. TONKIN, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Why was James Cornelius Ronald McManus handcuffed?
- (2) Did the policeman who put on the handcuffs sustain any injury before or after doing so?
- (3) If "Yes" what was the nature of such injury and who caused it?
- (4) In view of the outcome of subsequent court proceedings which occurred does a question of wrongful arrest arise?
- (5) How many police constables were on duty at Rottnest and actually in attendance (or able to be) at the incident in which Mr. McManus was involved?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) For resisting after arrest upon a charge of disorderly conduct by creating a disturbance.
- (2) Yes—before handcuffing McManus.
- (3) A slight abrasion to the left temple was sustained by the constable when he fell to the ground during a scuffle with McManus whilst en route to the Police office.
- (4) No.
- (5) One.

16. STAMP DUTY

Receipts

Mr. TONKIN, to the Treasurer:

What amounts have been received from stamp duty on receipts—

- (a) for the financial years ended the 30th June, 1969 and 1970, respectively;
- (b) for the month of July, 1970?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (a) 1968-69 \$5,213,045.
1969-70 \$5,317,854.
- (b) \$359,085.

17. HOSPITAL

Carnarvon District

Mr. NORTON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

What alterations and/or additions are to be made to the Carnarvon District Hospital, and when?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) As an interim measure, a new outpatient section, which will provide three consulting rooms, medical records store, treatment room, clerical office, and patient waiting area is to be provided in the form of transportable units. These are already under construction in the factory in Perth and should be on site in about three months. This will free space within the hospital for other use, particularly in the operating theatre and administration areas.
- (2) A scheme for major extensions to the hospital is being designed, and a great deal of exploratory work and preliminary design has been completed. It will provide in permanent form additional ward space, a new operating suite, a new outpatient department, and a new administration section. Extensive remodelling of existing areas will follow.
- (3) Because the redevelopment of the hospital is a major undertaking which will involve large sums of money, the planning both in regard to buildings as well as capital expenditure will need to be spread over a lengthy period. However, present planning schedules anticipate a start on the building programme during the 1971-72 financial year.

18.

HOUSING

Carnarvon

Mr. NORTON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applications is his department holding for State rental homes at Carnarvon in respect of—
 - (a) two unit families; and
 - (b) three or more unit families?
- (2) How many applications are held for purchase homes?
- (3) What is the waiting period in each case?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) (a) Seventeen.
(b) Sixty-four.
On experience over the last two years, about 60 per cent. of these will require accommodation.
- (2) Five.
- (3) The commission is at present dealing with June, 1968, applications from two unit families, and October, 1968, applications from larger families.

19.

MINING ACT

Amendment

Mr. LAPHAM, to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to bring down new or amending legislation dealing with the mining industry this session of Parliament?
- (2) If "Yes" will he ensure that such is before the House in ample time to allow members to give it adequate attention?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) The Government has appointed a committee to inquire into the Mining Act and it has commenced hearing submissions from interested parties.

When the committee has completed its inquiries it will report to the Minister for Mines.

In view of the scope of the inquiry and the number of persons and organisations who intend to make submissions, it is unlikely that the report of the committee will be available in time for legislation in this session.

- (2) Answered by (1).

20. DOMESTIC REFRIGERATORS

Safety Precautions: Children

Mr. LAPHAM, to the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

What steps has the Government taken or does it propose to take to ensure that domestic refrigerators not in constant use do not become death traps to young children?

Mr. NALDER replied:

The draft model by-law made under the provisions of section 204 of the Local Government Act and adopted by the majority of municipal councils is hereby Tabled.

The draft model by-law was tabled.

21.

ROAD TRANSPORT

Geraldton-Perth

Mr. SEWELL, to the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is he aware that on Sunday, the 9th August, there was a breakdown on a unit of the W.A.G.R. road transport service transporting tomatoes from Geraldton to Perth markets, this breakdown costing growers valuable sales?
- (2) Is it possible to improve the standard and extent of mechanical maintenance to road service units so that this type of breakdown would not occur?

- (3) If not, would he ensure that the rail connections ex Geraldton on Sunday get into Perth earlier on the Monday morning, thus giving time to market produce on that day?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. O'Connor) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Every effort is made to ensure the maximum efficiency of vehicles and this will continue. The failure which occurred in this particular instance is unlikely to recur.
- (3) As the Sunday train is a passenger service, earlier arrival at Perth would be unsatisfactory.

22. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Albany

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

In view of the importance of the large gypsum deposits at Lake Grace to the port of Albany, would the Government consider offering special incentives to the companies concerned to have the gypsum shipped through Albany and the establishment of a cement plant at Albany?

Mr. COURT replied:

Any proposals relating to special incentives such as freight concessions for transport of gypsum from Lake Grace to Albany or elsewhere, and for establishment of a cement industry, would be considered on their merits when firm propositions are available.

23.

RAILWAYS

Standard Gauge: Lake Grace-Albany

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Railways:

In view of the large gypsum deposits at Lake Grace and the kyanite deposits south of Jerramungup, will he undertake a feasibility survey aimed at examining the economics of building a standard gauge line from Lake Grace to Albany?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. O'Connor) replied:

When an approach is made with a request for transportation by individuals proposing to develop the Jerramungup deposit, all alternative methods, including a standard gauge line, will be evaluated. This is our normal practice. In respect to the Lake Grace deposit I would point out that unless tonnages are very substantial, the

existing narrow gauge line, up-graded if necessary, is likely to produce a lower transport cost for the developer and a lower total operating cost for the W.A.G.R. than a new standard gauge line.

24. HOUSING *Albany*

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What number of applicants were there for rental and purchase homes in Albany in the years—
 - (a) 1965-66;
 - (b) 1966-67;
 - (c) 1967-68;
 - (d) 1968-69;
 - (e) 1969-70?
- (2) How many of the 24 houses to be built in 1970-71 are for rental and how many are for purchase?
- (3) How many of the 24 units in the form of flats and terrace houses to be built in Albany in 1970-71 are for rental?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Applications were received as follows:—

	Rental	Purchase
(a) Records not kept		—
(b)	154	20
(c)	122	26
(d)	163	34
(e)	152	24

It is pointed out that the numbers quoted refer to new applications received. The number of applications outstanding at the 19th August, 1970, is 206. This figure cannot be taken as an indication of new houses required. Some applicants are offered vacated dwellings, and experience shows that allowing for wastage, approximately 120 of these applicants will require assistance.

- (2) The applicants to whom these houses are allocated may elect either to rent or purchase.
- (3) The 24 units in the form of flats and terrace houses are all for rental.

25. PORTS

Bunbury and Geraldton: Access Roads

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Works:

Will he make available the financial arrangements entered into—

- (a) with the Bunbury Town Council for the survey and construction of the access road to the Bunbury Harbour; and

- (b) with the Geraldton Town Council for the survey and construction of the port access road from the Great Northern Highway to the harbour?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (a) No arrangement has been entered into with the Bunbury Town Council to provide assistance for any specific access road to the Bunbury Harbour. Discussions are still taking place with the Council with respect to an access road and other facilities related to planned harbour developments.
- (b) Financial assistance, generally on a 2 : 1 basis, has been given to the Geraldton Town Council to construct a ring road in Geraldton which not only serves the harbour but also provides for a bypass of the town for through traffic.

26. LIQUOR ACT *Amendment*

Mr. LAPHAM, to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is he aware that since the operation of the Liquor Act children are being taken into hotel bars, lounges, and beer gardens, in ever increasing numbers?
- (2) If "Yes" does he intend to allow this to continue or does he intend to amend the Act to minimise or eliminate this practice?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The matter is currently under investigation.

27. HOUSING *Exmouth*

Mr. NORTON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many project houses are to be built at Exmouth this financial year?
- (2) How many houses are to be built for the R.A.A.F. at Exmouth this financial year?
- (3) What assistance by way of finance is the Commonwealth giving in respect of the building of the project houses and the R.A.A.F. houses?
- (4) How many Commonwealth-State rental homes are to be built in Exmouth this year?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Twenty-six.
- (2) The final decision of the Commonwealth has not been conveyed to the State.

- (3) In respect of R.A.A.F. housing, answered by (2). Project houses are to be financed on a \$2 Commonwealth \$1 State cost sharing basis.
- (4) This will depend on the Commonwealth decision referred to in (2).

28.

EDUCATION*Metropolitan High Schools*

Mr. MAY, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many high schools have been established in the metropolitan area over the past five years?
- (2) During this period, how many high schools have been upgraded to five year high schools?
- (3) Of the high schools which are not five year, will he indicate the name, locality, and maximum grade of these schools?
- (4) What high schools in the metropolitan area will be definitely upgraded to five year status within the next three years?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) 8.
(2) 14.
(3)

Name	Locality	Maximum Grade, 1970
Metropolitan—		
Balga	Balga	Year 1
Como	Como	Year 2
Eastern Hills	Mt. Helena	Year 3
Kalamunda	Kalamunda	Year 3
Kewdale	Kewdale	Year 4 (terminal 4th year courses)
Morley	Morley	Year 1
Rossmoyne	Rossmoyne	Year 3
South Fremantle	Beaconsfield	Year 3
Country—		
Bridgetown	Bridgetown	Year 3
Carnarvon	Carnarvon	Year 3
Esperance	Esperance	Year 4 (terminal 4th year course)
Harvey Agric.	Harvey	Year 3
Margaret River	Margaret River	Year 4
Mount Barker	Mount Barker	Year 4
Newton Moore	Bunbury	Year 3

- (4) The only definite decision is with regard to Rossmoyne High School which will be upgraded in 1971.

29.

HOUSING*Land: East Manning*

Mr. MAY, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What is the area of land owned by the State Housing Commission at East Manning?
- (2) What area of this land has been set aside for war service homes?
- (3) Have any representations been made to the commission to purchase or obtain portion of this land?
- (4) If so, by whom, and what acreage is involved?

- (5) Does the commission propose to release any of this land for other than residential development?
- (6) Has the final plan been completed regarding residential development?
- (7) When will residential development commence?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) One hundred and ninety-seven acres.
- (2) Thirty acres approximately.
- (3) No.
- (4) See answer to (3).
- (5) Some fifty-five acres have been designated as park and recreation under the City of South Perth Town Planning Scheme No. 2. If this scheme is approved, the commission will seek compensation for that land.
- (6) The overall design proposals have been prepared and are now being examined against the requirements of the City of South Perth Town Planning Scheme No. 2.
- (7) As the sewer main from the Institute of Technology through the commission's land has only limited capacity, and full-scale residential development would have effect upon sewerage mains serving south of the river areas, as well as the fact that it does not appear possible that these can be upgraded within two years, the commission has not planned to utilise this land in 1970-71 or 1971-72.

30. **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT***Nickel Smelter: Siting*

Mr. T. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

When is the decision as to the siting of the proposed nickel smelter likely to be known?

Mr. COURT replied:

It is not possible at this stage to indicate the date of any decision regarding the siting of a nickel smelter but, as previously advised to the member by the Premier in answer to his question on the 6th August, the Government is at present actively reviewing possible nickel projects.

31. **GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE***Telephone Directory: Precedence over "Hansard"*

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Is it a fact that Commonwealth Government work such as the telephone directory is taking precedence over the printing of *Hansard* at the Government Printing Office?

- (2) If so, would he please give reasons?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) No.
(2) Answered by (1).

32. KANGAROO SHOOTERS

Licenses

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

In view of the fact from 400 applications he received from kangaroo shooters seeking a license to operate in the red kangaroo industry only 111 of these applications have been approved, will he advise—

- (1) How many licenses are intended to be issued to this industry?
- (2) What qualifications must a kangaroo shooter have to qualify for this license?
- (3) What effect will the restriction of these licenses have on the pet food industry?
- (4) Will it mean our State will have to import pet foods from the eastern states at a higher cost?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

The Minister for Fisheries and Fauna has asked me to read this rather long answer because of the interest that has been shown by members in kangaroos and these particular matters.

There appears to be some misconception by members about what action has been taken by the Department of Fisheries and Fauna towards conserving the red kangaroo, upon which the kangaroo industry is based.

A notice under the Fauna Conservation Act has been published which had two main purposes—one to reduce the "firepower" on the red kangaroo in areas where shooting of the animal was unnecessary and was biologically unacceptable, and the other was to allow property holders to destroy kangaroos causing damage to their property when kangaroo numbers were over-abundant.

With the build-up of commercial exploitation of the kangaroo in the last eighteen months, pastoralists became worried at the number of shooters on their properties, and the existing kangaroo industry was concerned about the future stability of the industry, especially after 1969 when some 375,000 animals were processed and more shooters

were preparing to come from the Eastern States. Biologists and conservationists became concerned that the red kangaroo population could not withstand the continued impact of 400,000 animals being exploited annually, especially when in previous normal years 150,000 to 175,000 kangaroo skins were sold to Western Australian skin merchants. Immediate action was taken to establish a red kangaroo population management scheme which would crop populations with the co-operation of the kangaroo industry; the aim being to stabilise the numbers of red kangaroos being exploited by the kangaroo industry.

Discussions have been held with various interested associations and there has been a general agreement that—

- (1) The property holders shall retain the right under all circumstances to select which licensed shooter can operate upon his property.

(2) In the initial year of licensing, licensed shooters will be those who have been fully involved in the industry for some years and who have taken substantial numbers of animals annually. Persons with this background and shooting capacity will need to be licensed if numbers of kangaroos are to be contained within range carrying capacity.

Also pastoralists who applied for a commercial license and who have been substantially involved in the kangaroo industry as commercial shooters for some time before applications for licenses were called, would be accepted as having previous participation in the industry. This is to protect existing commercial activities of some pastoralists.

(3) In the long term if the harvest of over-abundant numbers of kangaroos is to be successfully carried out in order to safeguard the interests of the pastoralists, preservation of the mobility of the kangaroo shooter is essential. When kangaroo numbers are reduced on one series of stations, the shooter must be able to move to counter problems elsewhere. With this in mind the majority of persons who will be licensed will need to be the present type of full-time professional.

It is realised there will be teething problems in this first practical step to blend the aims of

conservation of the red kangaroo population with the need for pastoralists to protect their properties from damage by over-abundant numbers of kangaroos. There will be a need for all parties to compromise to achieve these goals.

The Minister trusts that this statement will help to clarify the present situation.

In reply to Mr. Bateman's specific questions:—

- (1) It is intended to issue between 40 and 60 licenses to shoot red kangaroos.
- (2) Persons who have been shooting red kangaroos for the kangaroo industry in a full time capacity during the years 1968, 1969, and 1970, and have been taking substantial numbers of animals. Pastoralists who applied for a commercial license and who have been substantially involved in the kangaroo industry for some time before applications were called, would be accepted as having previous participation.
- (3) In the initial year it will reduce the present production of the kangaroo industry to slightly above its former levels of 1967 and 1968.
- (4) This is difficult to assess because intended legislation will require full utilisation of any carcass taken by licensed shooters. Previously animals were often shot for skins only. In recent years Western Australian pet food firms have been selling kangaroo meat to the Eastern States, whose shortage of supply has been brought about by recent stringent controls of kangaroo shooting brought in by the South Australian, New South Wales and Queensland Governments. Victoria has allowed virtually no shooting for a number of years. This action by Eastern States Governments has increased the demand for meat and particularly kangaroo skins from this State.

33. ST. JOHN AMBULANCE *Government Subsidy*

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Treasurer:

To what extent does the Government subsidise the St. John Ambulance Association?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

The grant to the St. John Ambulance Association for 1970-71 has been assessed at \$265,000.

The St. John Ambulance Brigade receives an annual grant of \$5,000.

34.

POLLUTION

Swan Portland Cement Company

Mr. DAVIES, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Are the settling pools for collection of waste liquids from the Swan Portland Cement Company on land owned by that company or Crown land?
- (2) If on Crown land, by what arrangement is the company permitted to discharge waste into these pools?
- (3) What is the nature of the waste liquid which has had the effect of apparently destroying most forms of plant and animal life?
- (4) Is he aware that the surrounding land shows abundant evidence of waste material settling over a wide area?
- (5) Is he aware that a pipeline beneath the southwest railway line allows drainage directly into the Swan River?
- (6) What safeguards are provided to ensure no pollution of the Swan River occurs?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) On company land.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) In the knowledge of the Swan River Conservation Board the waste liquid is lime impregnated water from manufacturing processes. This is contained in earth banked dams and clay holes for settling; it then seeps to the drainage system, thence into the Swan River by a concrete pipe under the railway line. The board issues a permit for this seepage to enter the river.
- (4) I am aware that some waste material did find its way into the drainage system. Action has been taken by the Swan River Conservation Board and the company management to prevent a recurrence.
- (5) Yes, this is a normal stormwater drain.
- (6) The lime impregnated water from the company is settled out before seeping to the drainage system and remaining liquid in the ponds is re-circulated through a dust

collector system. Regular quarterly tests are taken in the river upstream and downstream of the drainage outlet and recent tests indicated no pollution.

35. FISHING

Survey: Wilson Inlet

Mr. H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

- (1) When is it anticipated that a fisheries survey of Wilson Inlet by a departmental research officer will commence?
- (2) What are the aspects of study which will be undertaken?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) A fisheries research officer will be commencing a research programme on estuarine fisheries in October, 1970. The order of priorities in which estuaries and inlets will be surveyed has not yet been determined.
- (2) The order of priorities and aspects of study to be undertaken will be reviewed and recommended by the Western Fisheries Research Committee, which will be meeting in early October.

36. INSURANCE

Ministers of the Crown

Mr. JAMIESON, to the Premier:

- (1) What insurance coverage is carried by the Government on each Minister of the Crown?
- (2) How extensive is this coverage?
- (3) What insurance coverage is carried by the Government on Ministers' wives when attending functions with their respective husbands?
- (4) With which insurance authority are these coverages obtained?
- (5) What premium is paid in respect of each such coverage?
- (6) How long have such coverages been in existence?
- (7) Do the Ministers contribute any part of the premiums paid?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) (a) Personal accident air cover only.
- (b) Motorists' personal accident cover.
- (c) When travelling overseas, an all-risks personal accident cover may be taken in lieu of the cover referred to in (a) and (b).

- (2) (a) \$30,000.
- (b) Premier—\$15,000.
Other Ministers—\$10,000.
- (c) Premier—\$40,000.
Other Ministers—\$30,000.
- (3) \$10,000 motorists' personal accident cover only.
- (4) The State Government Insurance Office.
- (5) (a) Personal accident air cover only—\$2.25 per flight day per person, subject to a minimum deposit premium of \$50 on the group policy covering all Ministers.
- (b) Motorists' personal accident cover—
Premier—\$34.60 per annum.
All other Ministers—\$293.15 per annum.
All Ministers' Wives—\$176.40 per annum.
- (c) All-risks personal accident cover when travelling overseas—The premium varies in accordance with individual journeys.
- (6) (a) Personal accident air cover only—
\$2,000 cover was first effected as from the 28th July, 1938.
Increased to \$10,000 as from the 30th August, 1949.
Increased to \$20,000 as from the 9th January, 1957.
Increased to \$30,000 as from the 10th May, 1967.
- (b) Motorists' personal accident cover—
(i) Premier—
\$2,000 cover was first effected as from the 1st January, 1948.
Increased to \$6,000 as from the 12th October, 1954.
Increased to \$15,000 as from the 15th September, 1966.
- (ii) Other Ministers—
\$2,000 cover was first effected as from the 1st January, 1948.
Increased to \$6,000 as from the 12th October, 1954.
Increased to \$10,000 as from the 15th September, 1966.
- (iii) Ministers' wives—
\$6,000 cover was first effected as from the 3rd December, 1959, because Ministers' wives are not covered under the Premier's Department policy covering all passengers

travelling in the department's vehicles when their husbands are driving.

Increased to \$10,000 as from the 15th September, 1966.

- (c) All-risks accidents cover when travelling overseas—

No definite dates are recorded.

This form of cover is in lieu of personal accident air cover only and motorists' personal accident cover, as the latter is limited to the area of the Commonwealth of Australia.

\$20,000 all-risks cover was effected for the then Premier in 1953 when the personal accident air cover only was \$10,000. \$40,000 all-risks cover was effected on an occasion in 1963, the personal accident air cover only having been increased to \$20,000 in 1957.

- (7) No.

37.

POTATOES

Imports: Price Structure

Mr. H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) By what tonnage is it expected that the Potato Marketing Board will be unable to meet local requirements of potatoes from State sources?
- (2) What amount of potatoes is it anticipated will be imported?
- (3) What is the anticipated cost per ton of potatoes landed in Perth from the eastern states?
- (4) How will the price of potatoes to wholesalers be fixed during the period when both local and imported potatoes are on sale in Western Australia during the shortage of local supplies?
- (5) Will local growers suffer any loss in financial returns, or will a dual price structure be implemented?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) The estimated deficit is 1,600 tons.
- (2) It is intended to meet the estimated deficiency by importations.
- (3) This is unpredictable and will vary according to the market situation.
- (4) The price will be adjusted to cover variations in costs (if any) of imported potatoes.
- (5) The adjustments in (4) above are intended to safeguard local growers' returns.

38.

WATER SUPPLIES

Goldfields Pipeline

Mr. MOIR, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What has been the extent of the work carried out, and the amount of money spent, on upgrading the pipeline from Mundaring to the goldfields?
- (2) Has any part of the funds involved been obtained from mining companies?
- (3) If so, what is the amount?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Since July, 1968, the upgrading of some 90 miles of pipeline, the replacement of three original steam stations, the construction of six additional booster stations and the provision of additional pumping units in eight of the existing pumping stations. The total estimated cost to December, 1970, is approximately \$9,000,000.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Approximately \$8,000,000.

39.

RAILWAYS

Standard Gauge: Kalgoorlie-Esperance

Mr. MOIR, to the Minister for Railways:

What has been the result of inquiries carried out on the possibility of building a standard gauge railway from Kalgoorlie to Esperance?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. O'Connor) replied:

The final decision in regard to these inquiries will be dependent upon the result of negotiations currently in hand with the Commonwealth Government and potential users.

40.

TRAFFIC

Street Lighting: Intersections

Mr. CASH, to the Minister for Traffic:

- (1) What has been the result of research into providing increased road safety at night by better illumination of street corners and four-way intersections?
- (2) To assist in this regard, could special coloured street lights or a series of lights be installed at street corners?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Research is continually being carried out by the Standards Association of Australia to provide for improvements to street lighting.

Results of this research are embodied in the S.A.A. Lighting Code, which has been accepted by the State Electricity Commission, the street lighting authority in this State.

- (2) The Standards Association of Australia specifically recommends against frequent colour changes along any one route.

This recommendation, which has been adopted locally, allows the unique application of sodium lighting of pedestrian crossings which in turn engenders safety to this type of facility.

It is considered that the extension of such lighting to other situations would largely discount the safety potential at pedestrian crossings.

41. NATIVES

Gnowangerup Farm School

Mr. YOUNG, to the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) What was the cost of setting up the Gnowangerup farm school?
- (2) How much does it cost to maintain and conduct annually?
- (3) How are these costs allocated?
- (4) Is a follow-up record kept of native boys graduating from this farm school?
- (5) If a record is kept what are the individual details?
- (6) If (4) is "No" why are not these records kept?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) (a) Native Welfare Department—Purchase of property, initial renovations and subsequent provision of accommodation for teacher, 2 dormitories, kitchen/dining room, electricity, water supply, furnishings, etc.—\$134,804.

- (b) Education Department—School buildings, equipment and farm plant—\$19,500.

- (2) Annual operating costs for 1969-70—

Native Welfare Department—		\$
Stores	.....	8,448
Staff wages	.....	7,895
General administration	.....	7,152

Education Department—		
Teachers' salaries	.....	10,395
Instructional materials	.....	6,000

- (3) See (2) above.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) This information is personal and thus confidential.
- (6) See answer to (4).

42.

NATIVES

Children: Malnutrition

Mr. YOUNG, to the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) Is it conceded by him that a disproportionate percentage of native children are suffering from malnutrition?
- (2) If "No" what facts and figures can be present to refute this largely held opinion?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) If by "disproportionate", comparison with an advanced European type community is meant, probably yes.
- (2) See answer to (1).

43.

NATIVES

Gnowangerup Area: Convictions

Mr. YOUNG, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many convictions of natives were recorded in the Gnowangerup area for the years 1968-69 and 1969-70?
- (2) How many of these convictions were thought to be attributable to the inability to handle alcohol?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) 1968-69—289.
1969-70—206.
- (2) 1968-69 (drunkenness)—105.
1969-70 (drunkenness)—70.

44.

DREDGING

Swan River: West Midland

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has any arrangement been made for dredging the Swan River at West Midland to enable filling to be provided for school playgrounds and recreation grounds?
- (2) If not, will he state anticipated activities in regard to dredging around the area referred to?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Investigations of proposals for dredging and reclamation at the confluence of the Swan and Helena Rivers will be commenced in October. Subject to these investigations proving viable, proposals for improvements in this area could commence towards the end of 1972.

45. FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

Bunbury

Mr. JAMIESON, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Why has the benefit of fluoridated water supplies not been made available to the people of Bunbury?
- (2) Have any locally controlled water suppliers refused to fluoridate because of cost?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) It was considered desirable to ensure that Government personnel acquire adequate experience in fluoridation techniques and the operation of fluoridation plants in order to train private water supply authority personnel, before requesting any local authority to fluoridate its private water supply. However, the matter is now under consideration.
- (2) No. No locally controlled water suppliers have as yet been requested to fluoridate their supply.

46. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Jandakot Area

Mr. TAYLOR, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

With regard to the Jandakot area—

- (1) What is the number of industrial lots and what is the total area of those lots which have already been made available to purchasers by the Department of Industrial Development?
- (2) What is the number of lots and the total area of those lots still held by the department and available for selection?
- (3) What is the number of industrial lots and the total area of those lots known by the department to be available for purchase from private developers?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) In Jandakot townsite the number of industrial lots dedicated to provisions of the Industrial Development (Resumption of Land) Act is 58 lots. The total area of those lots made available and being sold by the Department of Industrial Development is 25 acres 2 roods 27 perches.
- (2) Thirty-six lots, comprising a total area of approximately 22 acres, are still held by the department. As 22 of these lots are only 1

rood each in area, some amalgamation into larger sizes is likely, depending on future requirements of applicants.

- (3) In Jandakot townsite, eight lots, comprising a total area of 14 acres 2 roods 16 perches, are privately owned and thought to be available for purchase.

47.

MINING

Open Cut Coal: Collie Area

Mr. JONES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the report which appeared in the *South Western Times* of the 11th August, 1970, wherein he is quoted as saying that the State Government has banned open cut coal only from export, correct?
- (2) What are the proven reserves of open cut coal in the following areas—
 - (a) Muja open cut;
 - (b) Western Collieries No. 4 open cut area;
 - (c) other areas at Collie?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) No. On a recent visit to Bunbury the Minister for Mines was asked to comment on a statement that had apparently been made to the effect that the State Government was opposed to the export of coal from Collie. The Minister for Mines commented that whilst the State Government would be anxious to have available the cheaper open cut coal for power house purposes, it was not opposed to the export of coal from Collie.
- (2) (a) 70 million tons.
(b) 3 million tons (Western No. 5 Open Cut).
(c) 1.5 million tons.

48. WELSHPOOL-FREMANTLE HIGHWAY

Overpass, and Traffic Lights

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it a fact high tension wires are causing the delay in construction of the overpass over the Welshpool-Fremantle Highway at Rossmoyne?
- (2) If so, what action is anticipated to rectify the situation?
- (3) Where on the new highway will the traffic lights be situated?
- (4) Would he consider traffic lights at Tudor Avenue, Riverton?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No. It is expected that construction of the overpass will commence in September.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) Traffic lights have been installed at North Lake Road and will be installed at Stock Road and Carlington Street when construction is completed.
- (4) Should increase in traffic volumes and potential traffic hazard indicate the need for such facilities consideration will be given to their installation having regard to the requirements of other intersections in the metropolitan area.

49. *This question was postponed.*

50. HOUSING

Building Societies: Nomination of Insurance Companies

Mr. DAVIES, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is he aware that at least one building society in the city allegedly requires persons who receive loans, to arrange insurance through the company nominated by the society?
- (2) As the rates are allegedly dearer than those obtainable elsewhere, would the Government be prepared to legislate for the individuals concerned to be given freedom of choice in regard to insurance matters in such cases?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) A condition whereby the mortgagor must insure and keep insured the buildings with a public insurance office nominated by the society is included as a clause in mortgages of all building societies throughout Australia, and, in fact, in the mortgages of most lending authorities.
- (2) A lower premium does not necessarily provide the same cover, and as building societies have the responsibility of the security of other people's money, they usually select companies of the Fire and Accident Underwriters Association. All mortgages must be covered at all times, and continual cover can be economically arranged when dealing with one particular company, even if premiums are unpaid.

There are over 125 insurance companies operating in Western Australia, and if a society were obliged to deal with a number of companies, all policies would have to be examined and a continual

check maintained to ensure payment of premiums. In consequence, there would be an increase in administration costs to be met by borrowers.

In view of these facts, the current position appears quite satisfactory.

51.

HOSPITAL

Collie District

Mr. JONES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does the department pay for the installation of cardiac monitor defibrillators in public hospitals?
- (2) If so, will he advise if it is intended to install a machine at the Collie District Hospital, and when is it anticipated the installation will be made?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Cardiac monitoring and defibrillating equipment is expensive and when installed in major country hospitals assistance from local funds will be required.
- (2) Supply of this equipment will be on a priority basis and therefore no date can at present be given for Collie Hospital.

52. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Albany

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Would he detail action taken and the action he proposes to take to allow Albany to be used as a port of call for the Japanese tuna boats?
- (2) Would he make available the report prepared by the Albany Industrial Committee showing the advantages to shipping lines of shipping wool through Albany, and also the paper "A case for regularly scheduled cargo services out of the Port of Albany to the United Kingdom and continent"?
- (3) Is it correct that ships belonging to Overseas Shipping Representatives Association member lines are not sent to Albany to pick up whale oil if there is no other cargo offering?
- (4) Would he detail action taken or proposed to promote Albany as a bunkering port?

Mr. COURT replied:

These questions should more correctly have been addressed to other Ministers but in the interests

of expedition I have conferred with them and give the following answers:—

(1) Appropriate inquiries and discussions took place when the matter first arose. However, it should be appreciated that the final decision is essentially one for the Federal Government where foreign ships are involved. The decision taken was to protect the Australian tuna fishing industry. Also, so far as the State Government is concerned, it should be appreciated that our objective has been to develop a major tuna industry of Western Australian origin based on Albany which would have greater economic as well as other advantages to Albany than the use of the port as a port of call for foreign tuna boats.

(2) These reports were not prepared by my department. No doubt they would be available from the Albany Industrial Advisory Committee and the Director-General of Transport respectively.

(3) I understand this is so.

(4) Albany is promoted as a port in departmental promotional literature, and this will continue, with specific mention being made of bunkering. The Albany Harbour Board does its own promotion work but we emphasise the importance of all regional ports, as it is basic to the Government's policy.

53. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Kwinana Power Station: Delay

Mr. FLETCHER, to the Minister for Electricity:

(1) When is Kwinana power station expected to contribute to load?

(2) Has any delay been associated with damage caused by "barring gear" being engaged during a recent running up test?

(3) If so, were there any cracked castings, distortion to shaft or bearings or other damage?

(4) If so—

(a) to what extent;

(b) how long will this take to rectify?

(5) If any damage has been caused, will the State Electricity Commission or contractors be responsible for associated expense?

Mr. NALDER replied:

(1) Within the next two months.

(2) Yes, but the delay was minor and any expense is the contractors' responsibility.

(3) to (5) See (2).

54.

EDUCATION

Albany District Schools

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Education:

(1) Did the department give an undertaking to the Albany Junior Primary School Parents & Citizens' Association last year that the school would not be downgraded?

(2) Has it now been downgraded?

(3) Is it correct that there are two empty classrooms at the Albany Junior Primary School and three empty classrooms at the Lockyer School?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) No.

(2) No, but it will be downgraded from the 1st January, 1971.

(3) Yes.

55.

EDUCATION

Albany District Schools

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Education:

(1) How many classrooms does the department plan to build in time for the commencement of the 1971 school year in Albany—

(a) at Spencer Park;

(b) at Yakamia?

(2) Is it correct that all Spencer Park new enrolments and grades one to five will be transferred to Yakamia in 1971?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) (a) None.

(b) Six.

(2) No.

56.

EDUCATION

School Bus Transport: Albany

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Education:

How many children is it anticipated will travel on the Millbrook and/or Napier buses in 1971?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Millbrook—67.

Napier—55.

57. **EDUCATION***Spencer Park School*

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Education:

What are the commencing and finishing times for Emu Point children at the Spencer Park School each day?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(a) 9 a.m. (bus arrives at 8.50 a.m.).

(b) 3.05 p.m. (bus departs at 3.10 p.m.).

58. **TRAFFIC BRIDGE***Swan River: Guildford*

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister for Works:

(1) Has consideration been given to building a bridge over the Swan River to take road traffic from Walter Road, Bassendean to Swan Street, Guildford, to save routing via two level crossings and James Street, Guildford, having to be used?

(2) What is the latest planning by the Main Roads Department for the area in the vicinity of Swan Street, West Guildford, where property has been purchased for road purposes?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) A crossing of the Swan River joining with Swan Street, Guildford, is shown on the 1963 region plan as part of an important regional road. No plans have been prepared for this work as further investigations will be required into the overall road pattern in the area.

(2) Answered by (1).

59. *This question was postponed.*

60. **MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES***Pensioners: Concessions*

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Police:

What is the Government's attitude towards concessional vehicle licenses being granted to age pensioners?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

This matter has been a subject of review by governments for many years past and is now again receiving consideration.

61. **MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS***Number and Terms of Employment*

Mr. TONKIN, to the Premier:

(1) What authority, other than Executive prerogative, exists for the making of "ministerial appointments"?

(2) How many such appointees are there at present and in which departments respectively are they working?

(3) Generally what is the reason for which ministerial appointments are made?

(4) How are the salaries of ministerial appointees determined?

(5) How many of these appointees have written contracts of employment?

(6) What is the most remote date of expiry of any of the contracts of employment which have been entered into with ministerial appointees?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

(1) On the assumption that by "ministerial appointments" the honourable member is referring to appointments made other than under the express provisions of a Statute, the authority is section 74 of the Constitution Act, 1889.

(2) Premier's Department	7
Town Planning Department	1
Department of Agriculture	1
State Housing Commission	3

Total	12
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(3) The persons are employed in fields which are not considered to come within the general scope of the Public Service.

(4) Salaries are generally related to Public Service salaries or appropriate industrial awards and agreements applicable to officers regarded as having comparable levels of responsibilities.

(5) Eight.

(6) The 15th January, 1975.

I am not sure whether the Leader of the Opposition made the question clear. I heard him make some comment that he expected some greater number.

Mr. Tonkin: I am told that there are more than 270. I will put up another question.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE**LAMBS***Marketing System*

Mr. GAYFER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Is the Minister aware of grower dissatisfaction with the present marketing system for lamb?

(2) Has any industry organisation approached him with any proposals?

(3) If so, what are these proposals, and has any decision been made in respect of them?

Mr. NALDER replied:

I thank the honourable member for giving me some notice of this question. The answers are as follows:—

- (1) A number of growers have expressed dissatisfaction with the monetary return for lambs marketed.
- (2) Yes; the meat executive of the Farmers' Union of W.A. has submitted proposals.
- (3) About 18 months ago a proposal was submitted for equalising returns from the sales of lamb throughout the year. This was not deemed to be equitable or practicable.

A more recent proposal requests the establishment of a statutory lamb marketing authority which would acquire all lambs suitable for local or export trade slaughtered in metropolitan or country abattoirs.

Private selling of lamb for slaughter would be prohibited except under special license.

It is envisaged that payment to growers would be on a weight and grade basis and payment by wholesalers and exporters would be on the same basis.

The Government has agreed that a referendum of lamb producers should be held to ascertain the growers' wishes in regard to these proposals.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 18th August, on the following motion by Mr. Cash:—

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech be agreed to:—

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

MR. McPHARLIN (Mt. Marshall) [5.15 p.m.]: I wish to be associated with the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech on the occasion of the opening of Parliament and also with the general expression of loyalty to the Crown. Before proceeding I would also like to congratulate the member for Albany for winning the by-election that was held recently in that electorate.

In his Speech His Excellency gave a summary of the position in various fields of endeavour in our State at the moment. It is to one of these remarks that I would like to address myself.

His Excellency drew attention to the State's economy and said that it has been affected by the drought, lower wool prices, and the need to impose wheat quotas. He went on to say that the combination of all three has lowered the State's farm income by at least \$80,000,000 and on top of this it has had an adverse effect upon the industries which serve the agricultural sector.

The electorate I have the honour to represent covers an area of approximately 15,000 square miles. This area includes the chief wheat growing area of Kellerberrin in the south-east and extends through Mukinbudin to the north-east and takes in a considerable amount of station country, thence westerly as far as Paynes Find. It also takes in the Dalwallinu Shire in the north-west and Dowerin in the south-west and extends to Tammin in the south.

I have the privilege to represent this electorate and in the course of doing so I have helped people with their problems, which have been many and varied. By far the greatest problems they seem to have, and the greatest number of requests which have come forward to me, have been due mainly to the drought conditions.

The impact of the 1969 drought has been very severe indeed in my electorate and there are cases in some of the shires where the farmers have not harvested any wheat at all for sale. This, in effect, means that these farmers received no income at all for a year of hard work.

To illustrate this point I would like to quote a few figures which relate to a group of 24 farmers in the areas to which I have referred. The crop income of these farmers—that is, quite apart from that which relates to stock and wool—represents 81.2 per cent. of the total income of their farms. In other words, the farmers in the areas in question depend to a far greater degree on their cereal or grain income than they do on their stock income. I would like to point out, however, that the farmers to whom I have referred are not able to diversify to the same degree or with the same ease as are those who live in the wetter areas.

I have made reference to the drought and to the people in my area who have suffered as a result of it. Many of these people have applied for drought relief assistance and it is pleasing to be able to say that a number of them have obtained the drought relief they sought. Others, however, have not been quite so successful and in many cases they have had a great deal of difficulty in convincing their bank managers they are able to carry on.

In some cases, however, the bank manager has agreed to extend the limits of financial assistance—the overdraft limits—but only on condition that the farmer puts his farm on the market. This is an attitude which I find very difficult to accept. On one occasion I received a letter from a farmer saying he had been told by the bank manager that he would get an overdraft only if he put his farm on the market. I accordingly wrote to the bank concerned, pointing out that I could not agree with this attitude and I asked the bank manager for his advice as to the attitude and policy of his bank. The reply I received was as follows:—

Your letter of 24th instant disturbs me because I would be sorry to have it established that some of our country Managers are making credit available to farmers on condition that their farms are put on the market.

It is certainly not our policy and I should like to think that our people would know just how difficult it might be to sell a farm today.

If you care to get a written authority from any of the farmers who have reported this to you, empowering us to discuss with you their accounts and files, we shall be glad to talk to you at any time.

The latest figures that have been supplied in connection with the applications that have been coming in for drought relief speak very well, I think, for the efforts the Government has made in this respect. There is little doubt that the matter of drought relief which has been administered by the Minister for Agriculture has helped a great deal in many cases.

In this connection I would point out that 256 applications have been agreed to, 11 have been deferred, 43 have been declined, 35 have been rejected, refused, or withdrawn, nine have been returned for further information and six are current for active consideration. This makes a total of 372. The carry-on finance has amounted to \$1,099,548 and the total drought assistance that has been given has amounted to \$1,358,350.

In his Speech, His Excellency said that the State Government has submitted a case for assistance to the Federal Government on behalf of the farming community, or primary industry. In making this submission I hope the State Government has made reference to the question of falling prices and rising costs and the difficult farming situation that has been produced in Western Australia. I also hope that notice has been taken of the fact that wheat and sheep farmers are facing cash deficiencies and that unless some financial assistance is forthcoming many of them will be forced off their farms in the not-too-distant future.

It is quite obvious that in the wheat and sheep growing areas the farmers have been caught in an unexpected chain of events due to the drought and the fall in the prices of wool and livestock together with the effect of the quota restrictions.

Over the last 20 years land development has progressed rapidly in my electorate and production has increased correspondingly, and this has contributed considerably to the State's income and economy. I have a few figures which might illustrate the development that has taken place over a period of time in the shires in my electorate. The figures for 1949-50 and 1968-69 are as follows:—

Shire	Total Cleared Area Acres		Crop Cleared Per Cent.	
	1949/50	1968/69	1949/50	1968/69
Koorda	221,065	479,676	26.0	43.8
Mt. Marshall	294,828	733,252	21.8	51.3
Mukinbudin	210,029	448,949	24.1	48.5
Wyalkatchem	272,688	308,997	35.6	42.5
Trayning	240,450	325,261	33.7	45.8
Nungarin	125,653	196,270	28.9	50.7
Kellerberrin	323,173	408,642	35.5	41.6

The number of sheep grown in the same areas have also increased considerably over the last 20 years as the following figures for 1950 and 1969 will show:—

Shire	Number of Sheep	
	1950	1969
Koorda	80,531	181,426
Mt. Marshall	108,181	250,637
Mukinbudin	63,000	148,140
Wyalkatchem	108,731	170,164
Trayning	80,777	150,281
Nungarin	38,267	107,262
Kellerberrin	105,685	253,624

It will be seen, therefore, that there has been tremendous development in the areas mentioned and this has contributed greatly to the income and the economy of the State. When the State Government applied to the Federal Government for assistance—as I understand it has done—I hope it had in mind the implementation of a scheme similar to the dairy farm reconstruction scheme under which farmers might be given assistance, should they wish to leave the industry. This assistance could take the form of retraining, housing, and employment. There are numbers of farmers who would benefit from retraining which might equip them for any other occupation they might wish to take up.

In the event of a farmer wishing to leave a conditional purchase farm, I also hope it might be possible to reimburse him for the improvements for which he has worked so hard and on which he has spent so much money.

I would now like to make some comment in connection with the problem of education in the country areas, with particular reference to the electorate of Mt. Marshall.

It is interesting to note that in some metropolitan electorates there are a number of high schools—and I am now referring to senior high schools—which are in comparatively close proximity to one

another. One could ride a push bike around some of these areas before breakfast and not even perspire, and yet they have the benefit of so many high schools. In my electorate of Mt. Marshall, however, which covers an area of 15,000 square miles, there is not a single senior high school.

There are three grade 1 junior high schools, but as yet there is not one senior high school. I have discussed this matter with the Minister for Education and I know that he appreciates the problems and is endeavouring to do something about them. I am aware that some difficulties are in the way, but I do think more consideration must be given to areas, such as the one I represent, which are suffering as a result of the drought and the resultant economic situation. Some thought should be given to the establishment of at least one senior high school in an area such as this.

Because of the economic situation many people cannot afford to send their children away to school to give them the advantage of a higher education. Their incomes have been reduced and the cost of sending children away is so prohibitive that they cannot afford to give their children the level of education which, in some cases, they themselves may have received.

Approaches have been made to the Minister for some assistance such as the provision of hostels or an increase in living away-from-home allowance. So I suggest more consideration should be given to those in the area to which I have referred to alleviate the position in which they find themselves. We must remember that the educational facilities which are requested are provided in other areas. They are available in the bigger country towns which have senior high schools, and in the metropolitan area. We must give the country children the chance to have an education at least equal to that obtained by their counterparts in the metropolitan area, in order that they might qualify for the more highly paid jobs.

I would emphasise that at the moment there are declining employment opportunities in the country. They are just not available, and if a child does not obtain a decent education he cannot hope to qualify for any of the better jobs which might be offering.

Mr. McIVER: Where would you suggest the senior high school should be established?

Mr. McPHARLIN: A very active committee is dealing with this subject at the moment and it insists that the logical centre is in the Wyalkatchem townsite. The committee has not contemplated its being established in any other centre, and I think Wyalkatchem is the logical place because it has already a grade 1 junior

high school which has attracted quite a number of students over the years. I do believe it is well worth consideration.

I would like now to make some comments on a matter which is causing a great deal of concern to woolgrowers not only in my electorate, but right throughout Western Australia. I refer to the single statutory wool marketing authority. This authority has received the support of, I would say, all the wool organisations involved in wool selling in Australia. I understand that it has been recommended now to the Federal Government. If my memory serves me correctly, only last night I heard some reference made to this by the Federal Treasurer in his Budget speech.

If this single statutory wool marketing authority does not come into existence then the wool industry is doomed. That is the opinion of those who have been engaged in the wool industry for a number of years and with whom I have had a chance to speak. They feel that it is the end of the road. Many proposals have been submitted over the years, but none has ever been adopted. We know that yesterday the first sale under the new plan was held. After considerable argument the plan has been adopted and it has been said that this is the first time in 150 years of wool selling that an alteration to the system has been made.

This plan may not be all that is desired, but it is at least a start, or it is something from which a start can be made. I believe that if we could get all the organisations and the State Governments to support this single statutory wool marketing authority we would at least be working in the right direction in an effort to introduce some form of stability into the selling of the Australian wool clip. Newspapers recently have published reports of various people who object to the scheme. The reports have not contained details concerning why they object. As I said before, I hope that all organisations and State Governments will support it. I certainly hope that this Government will support the proposals which have been submitted to the Federal Government by the wool industry for the establishment of a single statutory wool marketing authority.

A short while ago the member for Avon asked several questions concerning the proposed lamb marketing authority. If this is established I believe it will be a step in the right direction. It will certainly be an endeavour to establish a marketing scheme which will offer some sound basis on which the sales of lamb could be controlled. If this proposal is carried out, I hope it will be the platform for, or the nucleus of, other schemes for mutton, pork, beef, and so on. I was

certainly very pleased to hear the reply on the subject given by the Minister for Agriculture.

I would now like to comment about some of the remarks made yesterday by the member for Northam when he was speaking towards the end of his speech about the flashing lights on railway engines and "Stop" signs on level crossings. I have no quarrel at all with his remarks concerning the flashing lights on railway engines. I think he made a very good suggestion. However, with regard to the "Stop" signs at level crossings, I entirely disagree. I have letters here from two separate shires which are many miles apart. The following is an extract from one of these letters:—

The Council considers the application of some level crossing stop signs to be ridiculous, that as such, they only breed contempt for the law of this land, accordingly you are asked to press for the removal of signs in this category.

Portion of the other letter reads as follows:—

While it is agreed that some form of warning sign is necessary where flashing lights are not installed it is hard to accept that this should be a stop sign and that motorists are obliged to stop even though there can be a time lapse of approximately twenty-four hours between trains.

Mr. McIver: Who wrote that rubbish?

Mr. McPHARLIN: It is quite obvious that the member for Northam has never been a farmer and lived in areas where there is only one train a day. He has lived in the suburbs. It is a matter of only a short run from Northam; and of course the standard gauge line is one of the busiest lines. If "Stop" signs are erected in that area I would have no quarrel at all.

Mr. May: It is the law in New South Wales.

Mr. McIver: And in South Australia.

Mr. McPHARLIN: I could not care less about the law in New South Wales or South Australia.

Mr. McIver: That is obvious.

Mr. McPHARLIN: We should study what we require in this State. The opinion of the shires from which I have received letters—and I have others besides the ones I quoted—is that the application of the "Stop" signs should be a matter of discussion between the shires and whoever is responsible for their erection, before the "Stop" signs are erected. The shires are not totally opposed to "Stop" signs. They believe they are necessary on certain crossings, but they are quite convinced that it is ridiculous to find "Stop" signs

on some of the crossings to which they refer in their letters. I would agree with this.

Mr. McIver: You will live a lot longer.

Mr. McPHARLIN: I am referring to the crossings on lines which are used only once a day.

Mr. May: How does the public know that there is only one train every 24 hours?

Mr. McPHARLIN: The public know exactly how many trains there are. They are familiar with the train service.

Mr. McIver: Don't be ridiculous.

Mr. McPHARLIN: Many of them also know how many vehicles go through in a day.

Mr. May: There could be three specials a day.

Mr. McPHARLIN: The honourable members should get out of the suburbs and go into these areas for a while. The traffic is very light—both on the railway line and on the road.

Mr. Toms: Do we all have to take a timetable with us to find out when a train is running before we use a crossing?

Mr. H. D. Evans: What is the comment of the Minister for Police?

Mr. Toms: No comment.

Mr. McPHARLIN: Before resuming my seat I would like to deal with one other matter which is associated with the problems faced by farmers as a result of their financial difficulties. In many cases farmers take advantage of hire-purchase agreements in order to purchase machinery, vehicles, and so on, so that they can continue their farming operations. This, of course, was all right two or three years ago before the drought, wheat quotas, and the drastic reduction in the price of wool.

Many farmers have now approached the hire-purchase companies for a variation agreement in order that they might obtain an extension of time in which to meet their commitments. That is fair enough. The hire-purchase companies agree to a variation agreement but they will do so, in most cases, only if the farmer pays the interest for a further 12 months. They are demanding this before they will rewrite the variation agreement, and the amount must be paid in cash.

This is something which I do not think is a fair crack of the whip. The interest on secondhand machinery is 17.8 per cent. while on new machinery it is 13 per cent. A farmer has already paid the interest to the time when he asks for a variation agreement. That is calculated on what he owes; but, then, over and above that he is expected to pay a further 17.8 per cent. on that amount. It appears to me that

this is a rather severe application and is not in the best interests of the farming community.

If the hire-purchase companies were making only a very low profit over the year and could not meet their commitments, then I would be prepared to say that this high interest rate would be a fair assessment; but when one observes that a number of the finance companies are making profits in the region of \$6,000,000 and \$7,000,000 over a 12-month period, it does appear that the interest rates are rather too severe.

Mr. Davies: It has taken you a long while to find out.

Mr. McPHARLIN: The interest rates are out of proportion and should be looked into. Some brake should be applied to the interest rates which are allowed to be charged. I have received a number of complaints from farmers, and I have taken the matter up with the hire-purchase companies. Of course, the answer I have received from the companies is that they are following normal business practices and they can see no way of allowing any change in the pattern they adopt.

So I hope that if the Federal Government sees fit to come to the assistance of the farmers, and finance is advanced through Government agencies, the first matter tackled will be to get farmers over their immediate economic difficulties. Secondly, I hope the farmers will be given a longer period during which to adjust themselves. I hope that financial assistance can be directed into restructuring the farmers' debts so that they can be taken over in some manner and a long-term low-interest arrangement entered into. Money needs to be made available at a lower rate of interest to service debts over a longer period of time.

MR. SEWELL (Geraldton) [5.47 p.m.]: While speaking to the Address-in-Reply I wish, first of all, to mention something which I always deplore. I refer to people attempting to jump onto the bandwagon. In this instance, the bandwagon is, of course, the Federal Budget which was brought down last evening.

A great deal has been said over the air, and on television, and a lot has been written in the newspapers in connection with the Budget. However, to me it is not very different from any other Budget that has been brought down over a great number of years.

The Budget contains both direct and indirect taxation, and to my mind the indirect taxation is the heavier of the two. At the present time we have too much indirect taxation in this country, particularly in the Federal sphere.

The Prime Minister did the wrong thing last year before the Federal election when he promised to reduce income tax. The

Prime Minister must have known that with Australia's commitments, and with the approaches by worth-while organisations for more and more money to be made available for education and everything else we really need in this country, instead of there being a reduction in taxation there would probably have to be an increase.

From my observation of the reports which have appeared in the Press since the Budget was released, our taxation will be higher than it was previously, even though there will be some rebate so far as income tax is concerned. I do not think this is right; the Government is being hypocritical.

Outside sources have condemned the Budget generally. However, I do not know how a Government can function without taxation, or increased taxation, in a country such as Australia. For instance, we have a huge debt hanging over our heads for the F111 aircraft. The Federal Government has a whole lot of other commitments also.

The SPEAKER: Order! I trust you will relate these remarks to the motion before the Chair.

Mr. SEWELL: Yes, Mr. Speaker. It seems to me that the Governor's Speech omitted many items which could have been included. So far as our State Government is concerned, we know that it is committed to the expenditure of large sums of money for the construction of various works which are very necessary in this State. The commitment also applies to our local authorities. Judging from Press reports which have appeared in the last few weeks nearly every local authority in Western Australia has increased its rates. I suppose other members have also received complaints from ratepayers in this connection. However, the State is expanding and as long as the local authorities spend their money wisely they have my backing.

I will now deal with the water supply problem as it is seen by the general public in this State. Yesterday the member for Avon asked questions relating to water which had been supplied by the Government from its exploratory bores put down in various parts of the State.

I have been saying for years, and I repeat most emphatically now, that neither the State Government nor the Federal Government is doing the right thing so far as the water supply position in Western Australia is concerned. I do not think the right action is being taken in connection with reservoirs, bores, and the use of the rivers in the State. I refer to the Gascoyne River, the Murchison River, and those towards the south; namely, the Chapman River, the Greenough River, and so on. All these rivers could be used to supply water in the future.

The Geraldton Harbour is still causing concern to the residents of Geraldton and surrounding districts. There has been no official word from the Minister for Works in connection with the deepening of the harbour. We know that blasting operations are taking place continually and, of course, the Minister receives a steady stream of complaints about the damage done, by the blasting, to brick walls and concrete work in the town of Geraldton. However, the Minister has not yet informed us the effects, good or bad, of the blasting.

Everyone is interested to know whether the Government has anything in mind in connection with other sites for shipping facilities for the Victoria and Murchison districts. From time to time we hear reports of various sites but, when they are investigated, invariably they are found to be shallow or surrounded by reef.

At this stage it seems that iron ore shipments from this area have been laid to one side, with the exception of the activity at Koolanooka and Morawa. Perhaps the Minister for Industrial Development would give some information on that point.

We know that natural gas from Dongara will be supplied to the metropolitan area, Kwinana, and even to Pinjarra. However, we have not yet been told whether any use will be made of that natural gas in the Dongara and Geraldton areas.

I must refer again to the Geraldton Regional Gaol. Apart from the old gaol facilities, the Prisons Department has a regional gaol which was, of course, the old Victoria district hospital. It was a Government hospital at one time but it is now used as a gaol for people who have offended in a minor way against society. By no stretch of the imagination could one regard the building as an establishment for imprisoning felons, and I think this is a good thing.

I point out to the Minister, however, that the old hospital, which is still very sound and was strongly built in the old days, is required as a home for aged persons from Geraldton and outer districts. In fact, it could become a regional home for old people. The gaol should be located on a site on the Chapman River, east of Spalding Park.

I would like to mention at this stage that the hospitals in the town of Geraldton serve the region, except for the areas served by the smaller hospitals situated at Northampton, Mullewa, and Three Springs. They are, in fact, excellent hospitals. So far as the Geraldton Regional Hospital is concerned, I suppose it would be one of the finest country hospitals of its type, not only in Western Australia but anywhere in Australia. The St. John of God Hospital is conducted by the sisters of the order of St. John of God and that,

too, is a very fine hospital. Several thousand dollars are being spent on it at the moment to provide additions.

The schools in the area are also very fine. There are the Government primary schools, the high school, and St. Patrick's College, and there is Stella Maris College, which is conducted by the Presentation nuns. All these schools are kept in first-class condition so far as the structures and grounds are concerned. Further, their staffs are very good. I hear nothing but praise from outside people whose children attend these schools. Children come from the far north, and even from overseas. I recommend anyone who wants his children to have a first-class education, to be boarded well, and to attend a good school to send them to Geraldton. I cannot think of a better place to send them, irrespective of what school they might now attend.

The sisters of the Presentation Order recently arranged for their school to be extended to provide modern facilities which are so necessary both to teaching and learning. I believe these additions cost in the vicinity of \$400,000. It is quite obvious that many people have faith in Geraldton as a centre of future education.

The Geraldton High School also has an excellent reputation. Every year enrolments increase. I am sure the Minister for Education would be proud of this fact, but it could also be an embarrassment to him to have people continually on his back spurring him on to make additions to the school. The sooner we know the plans for a second high school in Geraldton, the better we will be pleased.

I am sure the Minister will be pleased to know that the boys' hostel he had the pleasure of opening last year, which was erected in Geraldton by the Country High School Hostels Authority, is well conducted and has been full to overflowing. Indeed, it has been necessary to send boys to the metropolitan area simply because they could not be catered for owing to the numbers.

The member for Mt. Marshall has just spoken of the difficulties in his electorate. Anyone who knows the area would also know that he was quite conservative. I should think, in what he had to say. Farmers in drier areas who cannot break their farming up into, say, fat lambs and cattle certainly must be having a very bad time.

I heard over the air that another group has been formed in Victoria; I think it is called "Victoria Group Buying." Farmers and primary producers have banded together to buy their materials through this organisation—mainly petrol—because they consider they have not been getting a fair go.

Mr. Dunn: That would be good for the country towns.

Mr. SEWELL: I think they save something like 9c a gallon on petrol alone. In answer to the interjection, according to what I heard on the air, the margin of profit for those traders in the small towns is the same.

As the Minister for Industrial Development knows, a promotion committee has been set up in Geraldton for regional development, which is a very good move. The committee is endeavouring to embrace all the local authorities in the area, which goes right down to Coorow and perhaps over to Dalwallinu and other towns in that vicinity. I have known of other similar committees which have had an uphill battle because of the diversity of opinion among local authorities, but if this regional development committee can work in with the town council of Geraldton I think it will make some progress.

Our tomato industry has had all sorts of upsets and difficulties. Transport is one of them; another is the spraying by farmers in the area with 2,4-DS or 2,4-DM, or whatever it is called. The member for Belmont will agree with me that it is a lethal weapon as far as tomatoes and other crops are concerned. There has been some drift in this industry in the district.

The fishing industry, particularly rock lobsters—which at one time were known to us as crayfish—has held its end up and, as usual, some people have been successful this year while others have had to battle; but we are very thankful for that industry. It certainly helps the town of Geraldton considerably.

The local authorities about which I know do a very good job, although they are always open to criticism by ratepayers. However, perhaps we have been fortunate in Geraldton with our council and its officers. If anyone who had not been to Geraldton for the last five years were to visit it now, he could not help but be impressed with the progress that has been made in the town. The progress has cost a lot of money, and it will cost a lot more money to keep the town on the map, but when the bad seasons are over the town of Geraldton, with its facilities and climatic conditions, will again be to the forefront in Western Australia.

I would now like to place on record my appreciation of the Minister for the North-West and the officers of the North-West Department, who, I assume, were responsible for a trip that was made available to members in May of this year. To us older members who have had a bit of experience it would not have been such an eye-opener as it would have been to the younger members in the city areas. I say to the Premier that in my opinion there is no better form of education than this, as people naturally become parochial about their own areas. The greater number of members are located in the city

areas and I think it is money well and truly spent to take them to these places and show them the difficulties that the various departments, firms, and workers have to overcome. It may not show any financial return or gain for the time being, but I think for some of us—particularly those people in the city areas—a trip to an area such as was suggested by the member for Mt. Marshall would be very educational.

MR. NORTON (Gascoyne) [6.06 p.m.]: First of all, I would like to congratulate the member for Albany on winning his seat. Along with other members, I wish him a long term in office and one which gives him entire satisfaction.

After hearing the Governor's Speech I looked quite extensively through the proposed legislation to see whether there was any indication of legislation in regard to a tribunal or appeal body for town planning, local government, and the like.

I feel that there is much confusion at the present time, and it is virtually like appealing from Caesar to Caesar.

I had a case before me recently which amplifies the need for such a tribunal or appeal court. Just east of the Carnarvon township, over the Gascoyne River, there is what is virtually a suburban-rural area, consisting of four-acre lots 574 to 580. The area is no good at all for agricultural purposes, because there is no suitable water, and so it has more or less lain dormant. In 1965 a person decided he would subdivide the area for houses. His plans were knocked back by the shire council, and I appealed on his behalf to the Minister. At the time I knew the Minister would shortly be travelling to Carnarvon to open the new shire offices, and he agreed to make an inspection of the area during his visit to see whether it was suitable for housing.

The area in question is not low-lying, but it is subject to slight flooding during high rivers. When I say slight flooding, I mean that the area was covered by no more than one foot of water, as backwater, for a maximum of 24 hours. In the past, parts of the town have been far worse off than that. The land is not subject whatsoever to erosion, and shows no sign of it.

The Minister inspected the area with me, and I was able to point out to him that the ground was perfectly level and had a good solid foundation. The Minister agreed that it was satisfactory for housing purposes subject to one provision—that all buildings should have an 18-inch foundation. As a result, up till the end of last year all but two of those locations had been subdivided—not only subdivided, but they had all been sold and approximately 40 houses built, one of them being a red brick house. I would mention also that

the new East Carnarvon Primary School is situated close to the area, so it has been virtually approved by the Government. I do not think the Government would build a school in an area which it considered to be prone to flooding.

Sir David Brand: How far is the school from the area you are talking about?

Mr. NORTON: The school boundary is one chain away. At the end of last year two lots, virtually in the middle of the subdivision, still had not been subdivided. They are lots 578 and 579, comprising an area of approximately eight acres. The owner of lot 578 applied to the shire for permission to subdivide, and submitted plans drawn up by the local surveyor. His plans joined up neatly with the lots which had already been subdivided and sold, but the shire rejected the application. I am told on quite reliable authority that when his application was before the shire council the president said, "We will throw this out on principle, and the Minister will approve it on appeal."

I took up the matter on behalf of the subdivider and submitted an appeal to the Minister. I pointed out in the first place that lot 579 had been referred to, yet it was lot 578 for which permission to subdivide was sought. I also pointed out to the Minister that, at my personal request, he had inspected the area with me on the 3rd September, 1965 and had approved of it subject to one condition. I also pointed out that on a lot adjacent to lot 578 a house was built within six feet of the boundary, and that the area under consideration was being cultivated as a market garden and was causing a dust and noise hazard to the occupants of the brand new house.

I mentioned that 25 to 30 homes had already been built on adjacent land and that there was a school within a chain or so of the land. I said that the land was no different from that for which approval had already been given. The Minister replied in these terms—

After giving full consideration to the additional information supplied by you, I support my previous determination to concur with the decision of the Board and Council.

As the Mortan Town area was not affected by the recent cyclone—

I would interpolate here to say that anybody living in the area would not agree with that because following the recent cyclone a cyclonic wave washed over part of the land. The letter continues—

—and is protected by levees from flooding,—

Again, I would interpolate to say that the levee banks do not completely enclose the area. There is a five-chain gap along Foss

Street which would allow any flood waters into the area. To continue—

—I consider it is reasonable to consolidate development in this vicinity in preference to the establishment of residential holdings on Lot 578. As this locality is in danger of being inundated with water from the periodic high flows of the Gascoyne River until such time as the levees are extended to the Brown Range, it is not considered advisable to permit subdivision for the purpose of housing on the land at this stage.

Your appeal is therefore not upheld.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. NORTON: Prior to the tea suspension I was discussing the rejection of an appeal concerning a certain area in Carnarvon by the Minister for Town Planning. I might mention that in this particular area is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, houses in Carnarvon. It is built of moulded mud and it has stood for nearly a century surviving all the floodings in this locality. This points to the fact that floodings there are not as disastrous as they are made out to be.

Referring to the Morgantown area once again, I understand that only recently the shire put up for sale 42 of its locations, but sold only one. The upset price was about \$1,700. It is rather interesting to note that the shire sold only one location; the rest being passed in. In the area to which I have made reference the blocks have sold readily for over \$2,000 each. Therefore it can be seen that the public preferred this particular area to the built-up area of Morgantown. In itself, this indicates very clearly that a proper appeal court should be constituted so that one is not obliged to appeal from Caesar to Caesar, as I suggested in the first instance.

Recently officers of the State Housing Commission visited Carnarvon and other towns in the north-west looking for suitable land on which to develop their housing projects and a report of this visit is to be found in *The West Australian* of the 1st July, 1970, an extract from which reads as follows:—

In Carnarvon, the commission offered to help the shire council to accelerate the development of Morgantown.

The party inspected the Morgantown area and thought it was as satisfactory as a delta development could be made.

From that report it does not appear that the officers were very impressed with the Morgantown area.

Mr. Bovell: It was the shire council that made strong representations to them that the area be developed.

Mr. NORTON: I am aware of that.

Mr. Bovell: I think the Premier was also present when I visited Carnarvon and they emphasised the development of Morgantown to me and it was proceeded with because the local authority asked for it.

Mr. NORTON: The Minister for Local Government has just returned from a trip overseas, or, as one writer described it, from an overseas junket. I am beginning to think that his description was the correct one. One would have expected the Minister to return to this State with advanced ideas to improve the present method of hearing appeals in Western Australia. However, from Press reports and other reports that have been circulating it is very evident that he is more determined than ever to be the sole arbiter on any appeal. I think *The West Australian* in its leading article of the 15th July, 1970, has summed up the position quite well, as did also a correspondent to the newspaper whose letter was published on the same day. The following is an extract taken from the leading article I have just mentioned:—

Mr. Logan did not create the present system, which includes appeals from local government authorities' rulings on building by-laws and rezoning and also appeals from planning authorities' decisions on sub-divisions and development permits under the metropolitan region scheme. But in sticking to it he disregards an elementary judicial principle: the right of an aggrieved individual—or local authority—to seek justice at the hands of an independent body.

That sums up exactly what I have requested should be done; that is, that an independent body should be constituted to hear appeals. Further down the article, the following appears:—

He does not have to hold open hearings and does not have to publish reasons for his decisions.

I believe the Minister should hold open discussions and give reasons for his decision. Another portion of this leading article reads—

The onus would be on the Government to see that appeals were cheap and the procedure simple. The Government's responsibility would be the same as in any other field, to see that expense or delay did not stand in the way of justice.

When resumptions are made by the Public Works Department, there is an appeal court to which dissatisfied owners can appeal at a reasonable cost.

As I have mentioned, in *The West Australian* of the same date, a letter written by R. P. Adams of South Perth was published, portion of which reads as follows:—

It is clear that Mr Logan's overseas junket has not altered his determination to keep full control of planning appeals well within the confines of his department where the individual land-owner has no right to be heard and certainly no right to proper representation, and appeals are determined in the minister's office where the rules of natural justice need not be applied.

The writer does not say that they do not apply; he merely says that they need not apply. Another paragraph of this man's letter is right to the point. It reads—

The Government should be informed that the public do not want the Logans, the MacKinnons and the Bovells as the judges and arbitrators on individual rights. Surely if their decisions have merit they should not be afraid to submit them to the scrutiny of duly constituted appeal bodies.

If the Government has no confidence in properly constituted legal tribunals then how can it expect the public to have confidence in them?

I think that is very true, and I urge the Government to form an appeal body so that appeals may be heard by people who have had no previous jurisdiction over the matters in question.

I now wish to refer to education. I listened with extreme interest to the member for Mirrabooka on this matter and learnt how pleased he was with the Government's achievements in that field. I admit the Government has done very well with education, but when one analyses what the member for Mirrabooka had to say one soon realises why he has no complaints or grumbles. If one reads through his speech one finds he has 11 primary schools in his electorate, with another one to be built. He has three senior high schools, and another one being built on the University campus style. So in an area such as he represents there are very few worries in regard to education. He may perhaps receive a few complaints and representations from parents and citizens' associations, but so far as educational facilities are concerned he has no worries whatsoever.

Therefore one can readily realise why he was so pleased with what the Government has done in regard to education. Country people, however, are in a totally different position. They have in each small centre only one small school. As the member for Mt. Marshall said in his speech this evening, it costs a great deal to send a child to the city or to one of the few other large centres such as Geraldton, Northam, and Bunbury in order to further his education.

Another condition, of course, is that the child can only be sent to these centres if accommodation is available for him. If parents are obliged to send a child to a private school in the city then a great deal of expense is involved.

Apart from this, when children are sent away to school from the country areas the family circle is broken up. The family circle gets broken up early enough without our having to send children away to do their leaving examination.

Another education problem which exists in the north is that concerning the education of children of civil servants and of the key personnel who work in the area. This mainly concerns the 35 to 40 years age group which probably forms the most important group in the area. The people in question are good citizens who take part in all aspects of the life of the town and they are people whom we can ill afford to lose.

A civil servant in the north-west receives \$100 a year for each child attending school in the district in which he resides. If he sends his child away to a junior high school, a high school, or a senior high school, the civil servant immediately loses that \$100 and reverts to the same plane as everybody else, which means that for the first, second, and third year he gets a living-away-from-home allowance of \$160 and for the fourth and fifth year this allowance is \$200.

It virtually means that he loses \$100 to get \$200. I feel that the \$100 should be retained by the civil servants in these areas during the period their children are at school.

We also find that companies and organisations such as NASA subsidise their employees to the extent of 80 per cent. to 100 per cent. of the fees to help them send their children away to school in the south. This subsidy is given by way of a living-away-from-home allowance. It is easy to see, therefore, why it is getting more difficult to build up the numbers in the secondary schools in the north.

In *The West Australian* of the 12th August there was a report put out by the north-west division of the consultative council. The consultative council is a council, in three sections, set up by the Minister for Industrial Development and the North-West. First we have the section in the Gascoyne area, which represents the shires of Shark Bay, Carnarvon, Upper Gascoyne, Exmouth, and Ashburton.

These committees meet once every quarter under the chairmanship of the Administrator of the North-West. The membership of the committee is made up of appointees of shire councils and other bodies approved by the Minister, and their job is to discuss problems related to the

area and to submit their findings to the Minister for the North-West for consideration.

I do not know how the report got into *The West Australian*, because these discussions are supposed to be more or less secret. The report in *The West Australian* of the 12th August reads as follows:—

Group wants total tax concession

The full cost of sending children to schools in the South should be tax deductible, the North-West Division Consultative Council decided at a recent meeting in Exmouth.

I believe this is something that should be accorded to people who send their children away to school in the south. As it is, the tax deduction is very small. There was also a similar motion moved by the C.W.A. at its recent conference in Perth. The article of the 12th August continues—

Council members expressed concern at the loss from northern communities of people in the 35-40 years age group.

They said the exodus was caused because parents of about this age often had children at the upper secondary school level.

Rather than meet the cost or face the separation of sending them to schools out of the area, they decided to leave the North.

These people were in many cases a northern town's most stable citizens.

The meeting was told that the Taxation Department allowed a maximum deduction of \$300 for education purposes. There was also a State Government grant of \$220 for children in fourth and fifth year—

I think that is wrong; the figure should be \$200—

—and \$180 up to junior standard. The cost of sending children to schools in Perth was estimated to range from \$1,000 to \$1,500 depending on the school chosen.

On top of all this we find the parents must also pay very large air fares. The Government provides one free return air fare each year.

Parents, naturally, like to have their children at home during the holidays, and members will appreciate what this involves when they know that, so far as Carnarvon is concerned, a single air fare today for an adult is \$40.40. It can be seen, therefore, that parents would be up for at least \$120 even with some concession being granted for air fares. The \$200 a year for children at secondary schools certainly would not make a mark on what parents would have to pay.

At a meeting not so long ago the Minister tried to point out that the Government subsidy practically brought the parent back to the cost that would apply if the child were living at home. I would like to refer to what the Minister said when he met the Wongan-Ballidu shire councillors about the end of June.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Williams): I would ask the honourable member not to make long quotes from newspaper clippings. If he must quote from newspapers, I suggest that he do so briefly. I think I have given him a fair amount of latitude.

Mr. NORTON: I will bow to your ruling, Mr. Acting Speaker, though I think you will agree I have not really quoted at great length. I only intend to use 10 or 12 lines from this particular report. When a Minister is alleged to have said something to a shire council it is necessary for one to quote those words in order to convey exactly what was said. No contradiction of his remarks has appeared in the Press so I take it the report is correct. The article in question reads as follows:—

His aim, said Mr. Lewis, was to ensure that it would cost the parents of fourth and fifth year students no more to send their children to a senior high school in a distant place than it would cost them to attend a senior high school in their own town.

I cannot understand how the Minister arrived at that conclusion. The report gives no indication as to how he did so. I have had experience of these matters and I know that the extra cost involved in sending a child away to school is far greater than any allowance that is made at present.

Mr. Lewis: I did not say it did not cost them more.

Mr. NORTON: I will repeat what the Minister said. He said it would cost no more for parents to send their children to a senior high school in a distant place than it would cost them to attend a senior high school in their own town. It should not cost them any more to send them away, but it does.

Mr. Lewis: That is what I believe should be the position, although that is not the position now. No one is representing that to be the position at the moment.

Mr. NORTON: No matter what is done, unless the Government pays all the fees and costs, the position cannot be the same. Admittedly it costs a certain amount to keep a child at home. Can the Minister give us some idea of what it costs to keep a child at home and what it costs to keep him at school?

Mr. Lewis: The cost varies according to the locality. According to the mothers the cost might be \$6 a week up north.

Mr. NORTON: As pointed out by the member for Mt. Marshall, what is required in the country areas are senior high schools within a reasonable distance of the towns in which the children live. Take, for instance, Carnarvon, which has a three-year high school. The high school draws on a very large district—from Onslow, Exmouth, and other centres. Is there any reason why these children cannot be sent to Carnarvon for their fourth and fifth years of high school as well, so that they are able to return to their homes at a reasonable cost?

Mr. Lewis: The same argument could be applied to the high school students at Carnarvon. Why could not the children be sent to Geraldton for their fourth and fifth years of high school education?

Mr. NORTON: The Carnarvon High School has proved to be an excellent one.

Mr. Lewis: They are all excellent schools.

Mr. NORTON: The children at the Carnarvon High School have obtained excellent results. What is required in the country are high schools close to where the children live so they will not be split up in the fourth and fifth years. Many children at the present time have to go from the Carnarvon three-year high school to Geraldton for the fourth and fifth years; some come to Perth for this education, and one child is attending the Armadale High School. It is not fair to the parents to have to send their children such a long way to receive their education.

The Deputy Director of Education has said that the minimum number of children for the establishment of a senior high school is 700. I ask how many senior high schools in the country would have an enrolment of 700? I doubt whether the Northam High School has that number.

Mr. Lewis: Quite a number of the country high schools have that enrolment, and I think Northam High School is one.

Mr. NORTON: How many senior high schools are there in the country districts? I suggest they can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Mr. Lewis: I admit there are not many.

Mr. NORTON: What accommodation is there in the country? The Geraldton hostel is booked out for years.

Mr. Lewis: Consideration can be given to extending the accommodation.

Mr. NORTON: Why not give consideration to upgrading the Carnarvon High School, so that the children will not have to be sent away in the fourth and fifth years?

Mr. Lewis: The ideal solution is to have senior high schools established in every town.

Mr. NORTON: That is a good idea.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: That is quite impracticable.

Mr. NORTON: I can see that the subject I am raising is not very popular with members opposite. I still contend that the children should be provided with the facilities I have mentioned, and they should be able to carry on with the fourth and fifth years of high school education in their own districts, because at the present time many children have to give up education after the third year of high school as their parents cannot afford to send them away.

In these days higher education is essential to enable children to compete for the higher jobs that are offering. Admittedly, in many jobs the High School Certificate, the Junior Certificate, or the Leaving Certificate is not required. As long as the children have undertaken the high school course some employers are prepared to take them on; these employers conduct their own examinations to assess the ability of the children who might be taken on as apprentices, cadets, or in other fields.

I refer now to the Carnarvon High School and to its shortcomings in respect of accommodation. This high school has been operating for quite a number of years. As a matter of fact, on one occasion when the Minister came to Carnarvon he agreed to the junior high school being segregated, and to the establishment of a primary school separate from the high school. Since then virtually nothing has been done to upgrade the buildings so that the subjects which are being offered can be taught adequately.

I will deal with the various sections of the high school, and start with the science room. This is not large enough, and a second science room is required. At present there is no room for the science teachers to prepare the lessons for the following day, and there is no room in which to store the chemicals. There is not even a fan in the fume cupboard. What is the use of having such a cupboard if there is no fan?

The library is housed in a classroom. No matter what the parents and citizens' association does to supply books, it is impossible to place any more books in that library, because it is being used as a classroom as well. The children are therefore handicapped in not having a suitable library for the storage of books, and in which they can read the books required in their studies.

The arts and crafts room is housed in a demountable classroom, and this is totally inadequate. There is no space to store craft materials or models. The room has no troughs, tool racks, water points, or display shelves. The Minister did say that consideration was being given to doing something about this matter.

One portion of the manual training centre is housed in a demountable classroom. It is virtually impossible at that

school to conduct a motor mechanics or a handyman's course which, in many cases, is a requirement for the High School Certificate.

At that school office space is virtually non-existent. At present the two cloak-rooms are used as offices; one by the senior mistress, and the other as a general office. As far as I can recall there is no medical room in the high school, because I understand the room that is supposed to be used for this purpose is occupied by the deputy-principal.

The Minister has said that an arts room, a prevocational training centre, a staff room, and toilets are to be built. They will be of immense help to the high school if they are provided. Over the years the Carnarvon Parents and Citizens' Association has been asking for a canteen, but this has not been supplied. To sum up, there is virtually no library, a shortage of science room space, no music room, very little office space, no canteen, and no medical room.

Mr. Rushton: How many students would there be in the fourth and fifth years if it was upgraded to a senior high school?

Mr. NORTON: It is very hard to estimate the number at the moment. Over the past three years an average of 126 children have left Carnarvon by air for Perth to attend school, and this is a sizable number. I admit that we cannot build up the enrolment to 700, that being the number suggested by Mr. Barton for a senior high school. This is a fantastic number to be enrolled in isolated centres. The three-year high schools could be upgraded by omitting some fancy subjects from the curriculum. I ask: How many children would go in for 20 subjects? I wonder whether in those 20 subjects foreign languages are classed as a subject.

Mr. Rushton: You mentioned 126 children leaving Carnarvon each year for Perth. How many of them would be leaving to attend fourth and fifth-year high school?

Mr. NORTON: The position is that when parents in the country plan the education of their children at secondary level, they plan for five years and not for three years. I think that if the honourable member who has interjected were living in the country he would want to send his children to the same school for five years of secondary education, so that they could have continuity of teachers and subjects.

This is the case in the remote areas as well as in the metropolitan area. Once a child starts school, the parents like that child to continue at the same school. However, at the end of their primary schooling quite a number of children in the north are sent south. It is necessary for the parents of these children to book three or four years ahead if they desire accommodation. It is very hard to estimate how many

would go on, but if people in the north are provided with a facility, they will use it.

It was very pleasant to receive from the Minister the answers to the questions relative to the Carnarvon Hospital, and to learn that at last something is going to be done, even if it is only on a temporary basis. I would like to point out the difficulties under which the clerical staff at the Carnarvon Hospital has been operating.

With the exception of the managing secretary, the clerical staff is all in one room which is 140 square feet. That is not a very big area, but in it is accommodated a full-time staff of five. Because 57 square feet is necessary for tables, chairs, lockers, and other office furniture, the five full-time members of the staff must work in a free area of only 83 square feet.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Williams): The honourable member has five more minutes.

Mr. NORTON: Thank you, Mr. Acting Speaker. This position makes it practically impossible for the staff to work efficiently. The receptionist, with all her records, is accommodated on a verandah, and there is insufficient room available between her counter and the wall for two people to pass one another. Because the space is so limited, when people are in a queue waiting for attention, the next person in line is able to overhear all the personal details of the previous visitor.

In addition, the conditions under which patients must wait for attention are not very good. Those patients waiting to see doctors or waiting for attention at the casualty section must wait in a corridor, which is not a very pleasant place if a person is sick or desires a dressing to be replaced. When these difficulties are overcome, and extra beds and better surgical conditions are provided, the hospital will be quite good.

There are four excellent doctors in the area and we are very desirous of keeping them there by providing the necessary facilities.

I desired to speak on a number of other items, but I will leave them until the Estimates.

MR. T. D. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [8.03 p.m.]: The English poet, Lewis Carroll, once made what might be said to be an immortal statement—if not an immortal statement, at least a classical contribution to English literature—when he penned these words—

"The time has come," the Walrus said,
"To talk of many things:

Of shoes—and ships—and sealing-
wax—

Of cabbages—and kings—"

After what might be called a suitable pause I would hasten to assure members that I do not intend to meander so far or so wide

as those words might suggest. However, I would say that they are probably a fitting introduction to any Address-in-Reply debate.

Mr. Nalder: You could perhaps talk about chickens!

Mr. Bovell: You know, there is a lot of logic in Lewis Carroll's statements, but I could not always say the same for yours.

Mr. T. D. EVANS: I desire to refer to mining. This industry in Western Australia continues to prosper and indeed, in some spheres, it is really booming. Unfortunately, although the mining industry generally is prospering, some areas are suffering a depression, and I refer particularly to the goldmining industry. That the production of gold has declined is, of course, common knowledge.

As far as Kalgoorlie's famous Golden Mile is concerned, the reason for the depression in the goldmining industry is not due to a diminution in the resource, as is commonly the case with regard to other wasting assets. I would hasten to assure members and the public generally that millions and millions of tons of low-grade ore remain in the bowels of the earth on the Golden Mile.

The reason for the decline in the goldmining industry is the same as that commonly referred to today by the farmers who are suffering a decline in their particular industry. I am speaking of the cost-price structure. In 1934 the price for gold was fixed at the rate of 35 American dollars per fine ounce, and today, in the year 1970, the reward for the effort of mining one fine ounce of gold is still 35 American dollars. Translated into Australian currency that is \$31.25.

I pose the question: What other industry could tolerate such a price structure and still continue in existence? Gold is bringing a price which was appropriate in 1934, but the industry is paying the costs appropriate to 1970 in order to produce that commodity. We who are so concerned with the future of the goldmining industry extend our sympathy and, indeed, if we were capable of extending more we would extend our wholehearted support to those in this failing industry who find their economics have become depressed because of the cost-price structure.

I want to say at this stage that because of the wonderful co-operation which has existed between the management and the men whose efforts have sustained the goldmining industry, the industry has been able to continue for as long as it has. Obviously the fact that the industry has continued spells out in technicolour the efficiency of the management. Efforts were made recently to convince the Federal Government of the need not only to continue, but to extend, the subsidy paid under the Commonwealth Gold-Mining Industry Assistance Act.

We are told that the Commonwealth Government, whilst it was prepared to continue the subsidy at its previous level, was not prepared to increase the subsidy. One of the grounds for that decision was that the goldmining industry was said to be inefficient. I say that is completely ludicrous.

At this stage I would like to make the observation that at a public meeting held in Kalgoorlie early in June, at which some 1,000 goldfields citizens attended, we were able to witness the spectacle of a representative of the Chamber of Mines, the State Minister for Mines, and the Leader of the State Opposition joined together on one platform with one common goal. In unison, those at that public meeting urged the Commonwealth Government to render what was said to be assistance which was essential to maintain the viability of the community of Kalgoorlie, Boulder, Norseman, and Mt. Magnet.

Whilst the Commonwealth Government has now made its decision known—that it will continue the subsidy for a further period of three years but will not extend the maximum amount of the subsidy—we are confident that the Commonwealth Government can still be convinced of the need to increase the maximum amount of subsidy available. Personally, I have great hopes that the efforts of the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition—again in unison—when a fresh approach is made to the Commonwealth Government, will bear the fruit which is desired.

Whilst speaking on the goldmining industry, I would say that the steward in a popular resort in Parliament House is a very good advocate for the goldmining industry. I commend the Joint House Committee for choosing a uniform of the colour which is most appropriate for the stewards to wear. I feel that these ideas should be spread to Canberra: to Mr. Bury and to the Prime Minister, Mr. Gorton.

I would now like to touch briefly on the subject of the site of a proposed nickel smelter in Western Australia. Only a short time ago this Legislative Assembly was presented with a Bill to ratify an agreement between the State and the gigantic Western Mining Corporation Limited. The contents of the Bill suggested that a refinery for nickel would be built immediately at Kwinana. In the time which has elapsed since the introduction of the Bill we have seen the establishment of the refinery.

The Bill also suggested that at some future time a nickel smelter would be established somewhere in Western Australia and it was then suggested that the most probable site would be Kalgoorlie or, in the alternative, at Kwinana. At that time we did not know where, or when, such a smelter would be erected. We are no better informed today, although we on the goldfields are very confident that not only will

a smelter be built, but that it will be—and we contend that it certainly should be—built in the district surrounding Kalgoorlie and Boulder.

On the opening day of Parliament I took the opportunity to ask the Premier a question without notice relating to this subject. The question I asked was as follows:—

Will he give an assurance that his Government will do all in its power to ensure that any proposed nickel smelter to be erected in this State for the treatment of nickel ore mined in the Eastern Goldfields will be erected in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder district?

I was very gratified with the reply, which was as follows:—

The Government is at present actively reviewing possible nickel projects and is giving consideration to a proposal for the establishment of a smelter in the Kalgoorlie district. I might add it is the Government's desire to encourage as much development and processing as possible in Kalgoorlie to enable it to take advantage of an already established city so that we might build such a centre where it is obviously necessary.

Not only was I gratified with the Premier's reply, but I have been convinced, since my return to the Kalgoorlie electorate last weekend, that the citizens of Kalgoorlie—and the citizens of the goldfields generally—take great heart at the Premier's reply. Whilst we still do not know when the smelter will be erected we feel quite confident that it will, in justice, be built in the Kalgoorlie district.

At this stage I would like to make some comment on, first of all, the drafting and, secondly, the administration of the Mining Act generally. I have regard to the fact that if not in this session, those of us who are fortunate enough to be here during the next session after the decision of the people is known, will be called upon to review the present mining legislation. Of course, I also have regard to the committee of inquiry which this Government has set up and which is calling for evidence relating to proposed and desirable changes in the present legislation.

In my view the philosophy behind any mining legislation should be based upon the principle of regulating mining exploration, and the ultimate exploitation of the mineral wealth of the State, so as to ensure the maximum advantage to the State. Philosophically, the reference here to the State is to all the citizens of the State.

To ensure this maximum benefit to the State, not only must there appear in the legislation provision for adequate return to the State so that all citizens shall fare in the exploitation of the mineral wealth, but there must be provision—and it must be shown to be clearly expressed—for an incentive for individuals, for syndicates,

and for companies to undertake the difficult, the expensive, and the time-consuming exploration for minerals.

The fact that this incentive can exist must be spelt out clearly in the mining legislation and in the administration of that legislation. Statistics based on past experience of mineral exploration show quite clearly that the total money expended in exploration in a given period of time by syndicates, individuals, and companies is often not very much less than the returns to some syndicates, individuals, and companies. In other words, the total money expended is often not less than the total reward achieved. Of course, it is quite obvious that the return for particular individuals, syndicates, and companies is sometimes dramatic and even spectacular. I refer to such enterprises as the Western Mining Corporation Limited and the mighty Poseidon venture at Windarra. Let us not forget that for every successful enterprise there must be a considerable number of exploration ventures where large sums of money are expended but never recovered.

Mr. Burt: About 99.9 per cent.

Mr. T. D. EVANS: That is right. This being so, it is essential if we are to give force to the principles of our mining legislation—that the exploitation of mineral wealth be for the benefit of the State as a whole—that this incentive must always exist for those who are prepared to “have a go.” The incentive must be there to enable them to expend the moneys at their disposal in seeking a reward. The reward must always be adequate and it must always be attractive.

I conclude on this point by urging the Government to have due regard to these philosophical principles, which I feel should underline any mining legislation. The Government should bear these principles in mind when a review of the legislation is contemplated, whether it be the Government of the present complexion or a Government of some other complexion at some future time.

Another point which is worth consideration and which I am sure will be the subject of evidence brought forward by the committee of inquiry is the need to write into the mining law a more comprehensive form of appeal against the decision of a warden. At the present time the right of appeal against the decision of a warden is limited indeed. In many instances the warden is deemed to act in an administrative manner, not in a judicial manner. In other instances a warden makes a recommendation only to the Minister. In very few instances is it possible to take a decision made by a warden to the Supreme Court of adjudication for the purpose of review and possible appeal.

Another factor which has certainly given rise to dissatisfaction amongst those who are actively engaged in the mining industry is the inordinate delay which takes place between the notification by the warden that he has made a recommendation for approval for registration in the name of a given person and the time when that person becomes possessed of his certificate of registration under the hand of the Minister for Mines.

I have no personal experience in this field, but I am told that periods of two or three years have elapsed. I have been told of instances where a warden has recommended to the Minister that a person should be registered in respect of a certain mining tenement and an inordinate period of some two or three years has elapsed before that person has ultimately received his certificate of registration.

Of course, local authorities are also concerned with this long delay because it is only after a certificate has been issued by the Minister in the name of a given individual that the local authority can rate the mining tenement concerned. If the Government could expedite the granting of certificates, this action would certainly win many friends in local government in the mineral areas of our State.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that the Parliament agreed to amend the Mining Act in 1968. To be more precise, Parliament amended section 28 of that Act to enable a person, under certain circumstances, to apply for a prospecting area within a mineral claim; that is, within an area which had previously been alienated from the Crown. One of those conditions—which, incidentally, was a condition precedent to the warden having jurisdiction to say yea or nay—was that the mineral claim must have been in existence and approved, not by the warden but by the Minister, for a period of 12 months or more.

Again, this inordinate delay in granting certificates by the Minister has prejudiced the interests of genuine gold prospectors who have sought to apply for prospecting areas within mineral claims which, in some instances, to the intent of the world at large, have been held by a certain individual for some two or three years but which, in fact, have not been held legally by him because the certificate from the Minister has not been forthcoming. Again, I urge—and even appeal—to those who administer the Mining Act to overcome these serious delays.

I think I would be failing in my duties if I did not make at least a comment on another facet of Statute law. I would like to conclude by referring to two provisions in our Statute law which, in my view, are

badly, sadly, and urgently in need of reform. I refer to the principle whereby, generally speaking, costs cannot be awarded against a police officer nor, under any circumstances, against a traffic inspector. The relevant provisions are contained in section 219 of the Justices Act and section 72 of the Traffic Act.

An instance could arise where a person could be charged by the police in a court of summary jurisdiction before two justices of the peace or a magistrate, and the charge could be dismissed. That need not necessarily be the end of the matter because the Justices Act provides, quite rightly, for an appeal from a decision of two justices of the peace or a magistrate. If the police felt aggrieved at the decision to dismiss the case against an individual, and they took an appeal to the Supreme Court, obviously the person who was charged would be subjected to a further defence of the appeal in the Supreme Court. If he were again successful and the police appeal were dismissed by the Supreme Court, the individual concerned would not be entitled to costs, by virtue of the section of the Act. The same situation applies in respect of traffic inspectors by virtue of section 72 of the Traffic Act.

I am not here to advocate that costs should be awarded against individual police officers nor am I advocating that they should be awarded against individual traffic inspectors. However, there are other Government officials who launch prosecutions and take appeals to the Supreme Court—for instance, officers employed by the Forests Department—who do not have provisions such as section 219 of the Justices Act and section 72 of the Traffic Act to protect them and their departments from the awarding of costs.

I draw to the attention of the Minister representing the Minister for Justice the text of a resolution that was recently moved at a general meeting of the Law Society of Western Australia. It was resolved at that meeting—

That the Minister for Justice be informed that the society considers that any prosecuting authority which is entitled to receive the amount of any fine for its own benefit and be paid the costs of successful prosecution should also be liable to pay to a defendant the costs of an unsuccessful prosecution.

With those sentiments I wholeheartedly agree. I conclude in this vein by saying that as section 219 of the Justices Act and section 72 of the Traffic Act are at present administered one might be excused if one feels that here justice is being denied in certain instances. We must always remember—and I would exhort the Government to pay heed to it—the axiom of law that not only must justice be done but it must always manifest itself as appearing to be done.

Mr. Craig: Does any other Government in the Commonwealth do this?

MR. JONES (Collie) [8.36 p.m.]: In the time available to me I would like to take the opportunity to deal with a number of matters which are causing concern in my electorate. May I first of all congratulate the member for Albany on his election to this Parliament. I hope his reign here is very long and fruitful.

It is not my intention tonight to refer to the Government's policy on power generation, although I totally disagree with the policy enunciated by the present Government, which is not in accordance with world thinking on power generation. At a later time during this session, when time is available to me, I intend to deal more fully with this question.

However, I wish to deal briefly with the matter of the known reserves of open-cut coal on the Collie mineral field, because it is quite clear that different figures have been given in regard to the known reserves of extractable coal in the Collie basin. It will have been noticed that today I had a question on the notice paper referring to a statement attributed to the Minister for Mines (The Hon. A. F. Griffith), which appeared in the *South Western Times* of the 11th August, 1970, and reads—

The State Government has barred open-cut coal from export, according to Mines Minister Arthur Griffith.

Following this report I had a question placed on today's notice paper wherein I asked the Minister whether the report was correct, and sought his opinion. My first question was—

- (1) Is the report which appeared in the *South Western Times* of the 11th August, 1970, wherein he is quoted as saying that the State Government has banned open cut coal only from export, correct?

The answer given to that question this afternoon reads as follows:—

No. On a recent visit to Bunbury the Minister for Mines was asked to comment on a statement that had apparently been made to the effect that the State Government was opposed to the exporting of coal from Collie. The Minister for Mines commented that whilst the State Government would be anxious to have available the cheaper open cut coal for power house purposes, it was not opposed to the export of coal from Collie.

I then asked a question about the known reserves of extractable coal in the Collie mineral field. In relation to the Muja open cut, his answer was that it contained 70,000,000 tons of extractable coal; the Western No. 4 open cut contained 3,000,000 tons; other areas at Collie contained 1,500,000 tons. We are given conflicting answers.

The Government employed the services of Mr. Marshall, a mining engineer from Sydney. He made a study of the Muja depression and reported to the Government on the known deposits or the amount of extractable open-cut coal in the area. The report discloses, on page 1, that in his opinion 80,000,000 tons of coal is available and could be extracted by the open-cut method. I point out here that this was on the 19th September, 1960.

Mr. Court: It was immediately challenged by the union. At that time the union challenged the correctness and said it was an overestimate of what was available.

Mr. JONES: Not the union, a member of the union.

Mr. Court: The union.

Mr. JONES: All right, the Minister can have it his way. Of course, Mr. Marshall himself later challenged the report.

Mr. Court: Having disputed his capacity the first time, the union later engaged him to work for it.

Mr. JONES: I can see the Minister is interested in this matter because he is speaking up now whereas he previously remained silent. I only hope that the coal situation is causing him concern.

Mr. Court: I am interested only in getting the facts recorded.

Mr. JONES: To continue, Mr. Speaker, the engineer who was employed by the present Government indicated some 10 years ago that in his opinion the reserves were 80,000,000 tons. He subsequently wrote a letter to *The West Australian* indicating he had underestimated the available reserves by some 10,000,000 tons. That letter was published on the 28th November, 1964. So, if we follow the advice of Mr. Marshall we will see that the known reserves are in the vicinity of some 90,000,000 tons.

Since that date other deposits, which were not included in the report I mentioned, have been found under the thick Hebe seam in the Muja open cut. Also, the Government—and, no doubt, the Minister for Industrial Development who has been very active in relation to power generation and coal reserves, generally—would know it has already been proved that the Western No. 5 open cut has 3,000,000 tons of extractable coal at very low ratios. As a matter of fact, that coal was made available to the Government at \$1.90 a ton; and I understand from my informers that further reserves have been found and that the full open cut potential of this area has not yet been proved.

My reason for raising this matter is that, firstly, we had the views of a prominent engineer, and then we had an alteration or correction of his earlier estimate; and now we have an answer given to me indicating

that the reserves of open cut coal in the Collie district are estimated to be 70,000,000 tons. Of course, apart from that, the only reference we have is to be found in *Geological Bulletin* No. 105, Part II.

The point I make is that somewhere along the line some authority must determine what coal is, in fact, available in Collie. I challenge any of those who are at present associated with the coalmining industry or have been associated with it in the past, to endeavour to assess the amount of extractable coal in the Collie mineral field. I have spoken to mining men who were in the know well before I came on the scene—men who are still actively interested in the welfare of the industry and its furtherance—and they were not prepared to give an estimate of the full extent of the deposits.

The Government recently obtained the services of Messrs. Menzies and Hanrahan from the Eastern States to make an assessment of the Collie field. In their report those men recommended that nine bore holes be put down to determine the extent of the deposits. However, that would not be sufficient, and the reason I make these remarks is that mining unions are not happy with the situation. The Government knows that Hancock and Wright—two well-known businessmen in this State—approached the Government recently seeking rights to drill the Collie coalfield. The Government opposed such a move because those men would have taken over the leases; and perhaps in this instance the Government made a wise move.

However, if the Government is not prepared to undertake a drilling programme, then it must be prepared to allow the leases to be handed over to a company which is, I think the Government should determine its attitude. It is quite clear that since the decision to double the capacity of the Kwinana oil burning station was made, the Government, to say the least, has not been very interested in Collie coal. I put it to the Government that if it is not interested in the furtherance of the coalmining industry, and if it is not interested in the production of power from coal, then it should not stop coalmining companies from finding other markets so that the industry may stay alive.

As I said when I first rose, I am certainly not happy with the power generation policy of the Government. However, I will leave it at that and keep my remarks on that question until a later date in this session. I do hope that the Minister responsible for the administration of the coalmining industry will have a serious look at the question, because I repeat that there is nobody at all who knows what are the reserves of the Collie coalfield, and I think it is in our interests to find out. We made a mistake with our iron ore and it was subsequently found that we underestimated

the available deposits. The same situation could apply in the coalmining industry. So I think the Government must give some consideration to the points I have made on this question.

The next matter I wish to raise concerns the provisions of the Fisheries Act. Members will know that in Collie in the month of July a young man was fined \$100 for marroning out of season. The facts are that this young man—in his 20s—together with his eight-year old daughter was caught taking marron three hours before the season officially opened. He was apprehended by two fisheries inspectors, and he admitted he had 20 marron in his bag. Upon being asked by the inspectors to hand over his bag, he refused and tipped the marron into the water. I understand the inspectors were able to gather up a number of marron from the water which they admitted were of the regulation size. They also saw the other marron swimming away, and they did not argue about the size. I understand that at the subsequent hearing in the Collie court there was no question of the young man taking undersized fish.

The thing that causes me—and a number of other people in my electorate—concern is that the man was charged with obstructing the inspectors. I wonder what is the definition of "obstruction." Various letters have been published in the Press, as has the opinion of Professor S. G. Braybrook, Professor of Jurisprudence at the University of Western Australia, who doubted whether any obstruction had taken place.

Let us consider the question of what one must do to obstruct somebody. Did the young man, in his action of tipping the marron back into the water, do anything in relation to obstructing the inspectors themselves? All he did was what the inspectors themselves would have done at a later date. The inspectors would have checked the size of the catch and satisfied themselves that the marron were of the minimum required size, and then checked the number of marron taken. They would then have placed the marron back into the water. The young man admitted that he took 20 fish, and the inspectors admitted that the catch was in order. However, instead of charging him with catching marron out of season, they threw the book at him and charged him with obstruction under section 44 of the Fisheries Act.

Mr. Tonkin: Perhaps he was not handcuffed for five hours!

Mr. JONES: That could have happened, of course. A report of the court proceedings which appeared in the *Collie Mail* on the 16th July clearly indicated that Magistrate N. J. Malley intended to fine the young man \$10. But one of the inspectors drew his attention to the provisions of section 44 of the Act which prescribes a

minimum penalty of \$100. So, as the report clearly showed, the magistrate had no option other than to fine him the prescribed \$100.

I have already asked the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna in this House whether it is intended to amend the regulations. His answer showed quite clearly that the Government intends doing nothing about it. This is the answer I received—

There is no specific penalty for breaches of marron fishing laws. Inspectors and wardens work on their own in out of the way areas and at all hours. Penalties need to be sufficiently severe to discourage offenders from obstructing these officers. These heavy penalties were passed by Parliament only after repeated requests by responsible fishermen and sportsmen as a deterrent against possible breaches of essential conservation laws.

I failed to find any reference to those requests in the debate on the legislation. If we look at the legislation we find that it was initially introduced into the House in 1905.

Research shows that this section has been amended on only three occasions. On one occasion it was amended solely to increase the penalties prescribed, and on another the penalties were changed to decimal currency.

On Tuesday, the 5th October, 1965, the present Minister for Works, who was then the Minister for Fisheries, in this House, when dealing with the amendments to the Act, made it quite clear that they would not have any effect on the industry or on any particular kind of fishing; that they were framed merely to increase the penalties, one of which was increased to \$100. The following is a brief quotation from page 1220 of vol. 171 of the *Parliamentary Debates* of the 5th October, 1965:—

The rest of the amendments in this Bill deal with increases in penalties for the various infringements in the crayfishing and ordinary fishing industry. In so far as general fishing is concerned, the penalties have been brought more into line with modern-day values. I do not think the increases in the general field of fishing are marked. In the main they range from increases in the region of 100 per cent., and old penalties of £5 have been increased to £10. These increases can be ascertained by a study of the Bill.

At that time perhaps the Minister for Fisheries was correct, because in section 44 of the Act marron are not specified. We have to place marron fishing in a category different from that of other fishing. It could well be that this provision is framed to protect the crayfishing industry and those engaged in it, because crayfish

are placed on the market for sale, but marron are not. Under the provisions of the Fisheries Act marron are not allowed to be sold. One could not compare the value of half a bag of crayfish with half a bag of marron. These two sections of the fishing industry must be treated separately.

It was for this reason that I asked a question as to whether consideration would be given by the Minister or the Government to amending the Fisheries Act so that a special set of regulations could be framed to apply to marron fishing alone. A penalty of \$100 for catching marron outside the time specified seems to be much too severe. A similar view was expressed by a number of people who are not associated with Parliament—by magistrates and others who have written to the Press complaining about the severity of the penalty. One correspondent pointed out that in the same court on the same day that this man was fined \$100 for committing a breach of the Fisheries Act, another man was fined \$100 for stealing a vehicle in which a young baby lay asleep.

The man who caught 20 marron a few hours before the specified time for catching them was fined the same amount, which does seem out of proportion when compared to the penalty prescribed for stealing a car. I admit that section 44 does not specify any particular kind of fishing, but I think the Act should be amended to separate marron fishing from crayfishing and other kinds of fishing, because the circumstances surrounding the fishing for marron are entirely different from those relating to any other forms of fishing. I hope the Minister will seriously consider reducing the penalty.

The Marley case was an extremely unpleasant one. This man was picked up by police officers because his driver's license was suspended at the time, but the only reason why he was caught by the police was that he acted in an emergency to help some forestry workers. I appealed to the Minister for Justice to waive the penalty but was unsuccessful. On this occasion I hope, firstly, that, in the light of what I have said, the Minister will give some consideration to reducing the penalty prescribed in the Act, and, secondly, that the Government may consider amending the Act along the lines I have indicated.

Whilst on the subject of marron fishing, I wish to raise a protest on behalf of the pensioners at Collie. They are incensed at having to pay the license fee of \$2 for an inland fisherman's license. The increase of 50c in pensions that has been announced recently in the Federal Budget will not be enjoyed by any pensioner for a period of four weeks if he is obliged to take out an inland fisherman's license. Therefore, the pensioners at Collie will be all the more incensed at not being able to enjoy temporarily, this increase in their pension.

They are not the only people who are dissatisfied with the imposition of this license fee. The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes has also expressed opposition to it. I received a letter from the shire which clearly indicates its feelings on the matter, and the further action is proposed to take supports the view I am expressing now. The letter, which was addressed to me, is dated the 28th May, 1970, and reads as follows:—

Your letter of the 17th April, 1970, concerning inland fishermen's licenses was read to the meeting of this council held on the 15th May, 1970, when I was requested to thank you very much for the interest you have taken in this matter, and to advise you that the ammunition provided in the form of *Hansard* will be of use to the members of this council acting as delegates to the Country Shire Councils' Association Conference in July where the matter will again be discussed.

That clearly indicates that I forwarded a copy of *Hansard* to the shire with some brief remarks attached to it. Of course, when the Country Shire Councils' Association conference was held a motion was passed expressing disapproval of the introduction of the inland fisherman's license. A reference to *The West Australian* of the 22nd July, 1970, clearly shows what happened at that conference. The article in question contained, among other things, the following:—

The conference carried other motions for:

A protest to Fisheries Minister MacKinnon against the need for a \$2 license to catch marron and cobblers.

I agree that when the Minister for Works handled the Bill in this House he indicated quite clearly that it was a conservation measure, and his remarks can be found in *Hansard*.

However, I am still at a loss to understand why it is necessary for a pensioner to obtain an inland fisherman's license to fish for cobbler or redfin perch, which are very plentiful. The pensioners at Collie appealed to me to raise this matter once again in the House in the hope that the Government might reconsider the regulation. I would also repeat that the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes is not very happy with this present arrangement, as no-one seems to be quite clear what is going on.

When he was introducing the Bill to this House last session, I think the Minister for Works will agree that he clearly indicated that if a child is catching fish with his parents he does not require a license, but if he is fishing on his own he is obliged to take out a license. I think that the Bill requires some tidying up. There is no need to penalise pensioners and school children

in this way. The regulation may be necessary to control the activities of the ordinary Joe Blow, but in my opinion the pensioners and others at Collie are being penalised. Any person at Bunbury can throw in a line and catch as many herring as he wishes without a license, but in Collie an amateur fisherman is obliged to pay a fee of \$2 for an inland fisherman's license to enable him to catch a few cobler and perch in the Collie River. I would emphasise once again that these fish are very plentiful.

I therefore hope the Government will have a further look at this regulation with a view to relieving the burden on the pensioners and school children at Collie.

The next question I wish to raise is the dumping of steam locomotives at Collie. The answer given to a question I asked yesterday evening will show that there are 42 steam locomotives dumped in a graveyard at Collie. The answer also clearly indicates to me that unless there is an upsurge in railway traffic, or a national emergency, these locomotives will never be used again. In my view the Commissioner for Railways or the responsible authority has not followed the correct procedure in regard to these locomotives. Western Australia is a State that is badly in need of additional hospital facilities, housing, and schools. Yet we have steam locomotives to the value of \$1,249,998 lying idle in Collie. If an examination is made of the facts and figures it will be seen that the locomotives have done a very low mileage. From inquiries I made from railway officers today I learnt that the average life of a locomotive is between 20 and 25 years.

Taking the V-Class locomotive as an example, there are eight of these engines at Collie. Not one of them has done 400,000 miles, which is a very low mileage for a railway engine. I do not think any member would disagree with me that it would be more logical to phase out these locomotives over a period. I agree that the Railways Department must keep abreast of the times with the use of diesel locomotives, but nevertheless, would it not be more advisable to phase out the steam locomotives by a gradual process?

As they become uneconomic the diesels could move in to take their place. This, however, has not been done and we have very good units lying idle in the graveyard at Collie. There is little chance that they will ever be used again.

Mr. Williams: They were being phased out because they had become uneconomic compared with the diesel.

Mr. JONES: They are economic when they are used close to the coalfields.

Mr. Williams: Then what are you complaining about; because they are all on the coalfields?

Mr. JONES: The point I am making is that with the need for finance in so many other directions we should do all we can to make this money available for housing, schools, and other services. Here we have engines which are still economic in terms of mileage and yet they are lying idle and are placed on the scrapheap. It is doubtful whether they will ever be used again. These engines should have been gradually phased out and not stockpiled at Collie.

My next reference is in relation to subsidies for frail aged persons. Members will know that under the Federal frail aged subsidy legislation the Commonwealth makes available finance on the basis of \$2 to \$1 for construction purposes in order to make some provision for those admitted to such homes. Under the definitions a frail aged person is one who is not over the age of 80 years and the Public Health Department subsidises such persons to the extent of \$1 a day. Anyone who has had experience with this matter will know that recently a home for 20 frail aged people was opened at Collie. An assessment was carried out by a special committee, including doctors, the purpose being to consider the eligibility of the people concerned and the type of accommodation available. Most of the inmates from the geriatric section of the Collie Hospital have been admitted to this frail aged home.

While these people were in the geriatric section of the Collie Hospital they were entitled to a completely free coverage and, what was more, they had their entire pensions, which enabled them to meet their requirements.

Immediately they were admitted to the home, however, they were charged a fee. I understand that the usual practice is that each pensioner is left with about \$4.50 a fortnight as spending money. The point I am making is that before such people are admitted to any home they have a completely free coverage under their medical entitlement card, but the moment they are admitted to a frail aged home they are left with only about \$4 a fortnight spending money.

I hope the Government will have a look at this aspect. There seems to be little doubt that the State Government is relieving the Commonwealth of some of its responsibility and this aspect should be looked at very closely. Apparently the amount that is taken from the pensions of such people is not sufficient to meet the operating costs of the homes in question.

I am rather interested in the treatment of frail aged people and, accordingly, I have made some inquiries, and I find that some frail aged homes in Perth are unable to give pensioners breakfast because of the limited finance available. This may seem

staggering to members but the amount which can be obtained from the pension to which these people are entitled, together with the Government subsidy of \$1 a day, is not sufficient for the homes in question to provide these people with breakfast. To say the least this is a crying shame, and I do not think the State Government is doing sufficient in connection with this matter, particularly when we realise that it grants a subsidy of only \$1 a day to organisations for the care of frail aged people.

I think we will all agree that these old people have made their contribution to the State and for the most part they are not wealthy; indeed most of them rely on their old age pension for survival. I hope the Government will have a look at this question to see whether it cannot increase the \$1 a day it provides by way of subsidy for this purpose.

The next matter to which I wish to refer is the activity of the Joint Coal Board in the Federal and Eastern States spheres, and the inactivity of such a board in this State. Members will know that the Joint Coal Board is constituted to inquire into and safeguard the coalmining industry in the Eastern States. Each year the board puts out a comprehensive report. Apart from this it investigates the marketing trends and generally acts as caretaker—what a wonderful word that is—of the coalmining industry in the Eastern States of Australia.

There is, however, no similar body in this State. There could, however, be such a body appointed under the provisions of the Mining Act, because a reference to section 329 of that Act will show that the Minister has authority to appoint a committee with powers similar to those of the Joint Coal Board which could carry out the duties carried out by the Joint Coal Board in the Eastern States.

I wonder why this committee has never been appointed! I may be wrong—and if I am I stand corrected—but to my mind such a committee has never functioned here. A provision to this end was, however, included in the Mining Act as a means of looking after the handling and distribution of coal and other matters associated with the coalmining industry in order that it might be an economic proposition and that the survival of the industry could be guaranteed.

It would be an excellent idea if a board were constituted to protect the interests of the coalmining industry on the same basis as the Joint Coal Board is appointed to meet these requirements in the Eastern States.

My final point, and the one on which I will conclude, deals with a matter which I have raised since I entered Parliament, when I first appealed to the Government to

take some action in connection with the plight of the deserted wives and widows who were sent to Collie.

The Minister for Housing is well aware of the problem because he knows these people were sent to Collie because of the number of empty houses in the district. I appealed to the Minister to have a full-time officer appointed to deal with the problems associated with these unfortunate people. After raising the matter here on several occasions, and after a great deal of letter writing, a female named Miss Val Hodson was appointed to the position.

Miss Hodson's appointment has eased the situation considerably and it has been possible to give these unfortunate people some guidance in connection with their problems. Some of the people in question are quite young with a number of children. Unfortunately, however, Miss Hodson was only employed on a part-time basis.

The local organisation and welfare council appealed to the Minister in connection with this matter and sent me a copy of a letter dated the 21st May which asked that consideration be given to Miss Hodson being appointed on a full-time basis. I support this very strongly. The council has appealed to the Government to appoint her on a full-time basis to help alleviate the distress and hardship which these people are suffering.

Mr. O'Neil: When was the request made?

Mr. JONES: On the 21st May.

Mr. O'Neil: To whom?

Mr. JONES: To the Minister for Child Welfare. I hope some notice will be taken of the matters I have raised. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Williams.

House adjourned at 9.09 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 20th August, 1970

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (7): ON NOTICE

1.

NATIVES

Allegations of Persecution

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the article which appeared in the city edition of the *Sunday Times* on the 16th August, 1970, relating to the treatment of Aborigines and the