

of this month. I feel that I can no longer subject my children to living in an area such as this, and feel that they will have more chance of a happier and more suitable upbringing in an area where at least a comfortable home can be made for them.

Once again sir I thank you for your efforts and remain.

Yours faithfully,
John G. McCallion.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has another five minutes in which to speak.

Mr. FLETCHER: Which is just sufficient time for me to conclude my remarks. I must use this time to advantage because I wrote to the Minister for Immigration stating that I had attached a photostat copy of correspondence relevant to the housing problem of Mr. J. G. McCallion and family. The letter then went on to set out the historical background of this migrant and the members of his family and to say that, as they were accommodated in transitional housing, vacant possession of the premises was desired by the Department of Immigration by the end of December, 1968. I also pointed out to the Minister that my assistance had been sought in an effort to prevail on his department to obtain adequate accommodation consistent with the ability of this large family to pay. That is the whole sum and substance of the matter.

In this letter I also mentioned the following facts:—

Mr. McCallion is a fitter with the P.W.D., and already has extreme difficulty on his award wage to maintain a wife and six sons, ranging in age from 13 years to 5 years. There are only 2 bedrooms and a sleepout at the present address. One lad is an asthma sufferer.

As housing to accommodate a family of this size cannot be found, despite the best endeavours of this family, I should be grateful if your Department could investigate the circumstances, with a view to satisfying the need.

I received the following letter in reply from the acting private secretary to the Minister:—

I have been directed by the Hon. Minister for Immigration to advise you that enquiries are being made into the housing difficulties being experienced by Mr. J. G. McCallion and family, referred to in your letter of the 17th February.

Further information will be forwarded as soon as enquiries are complete.

Let me inform the Minister now that he need not proceed any further, because this man and his family have since gone to South Australia.

Mr. Bovell: What was the date of that letter?

Mr. FLETCHER: The reply I received was dated the 18th February, 1969, and since that date Mr. McCallion and members of his family have moved to South Australia.

If the Government is keen to attract migrants to this State it should make houses available to migrant families, such as this one, and so encourage them to remain here. Mr. McCallion is a qualified tradesman whose services could have been used to assist in keeping the wheels of industry turning in this State. He has six sons who I am sure would have contributed to the economy of this State, but because of the lack of suitable housing, where is he now? He has moved to another State.

On the 8th April the publication of a leading article reflected the concern of the newspaper by referring to the failure of the State to make the most of the skills possessed by qualified migrants, and to their loss to the State because of the lack of housing. The article is certainly a worthwhile contribution to the efforts that should be taken to overcome this problem. It is not often I agree with the comments expressed by the Press, but I certainly agree with what was said in that leading article. As I have only touched on the fringe of the subject I will deal with it at greater length in the further contribution I will make to the debate on the Estimates.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Grayden.

House adjourned at 5.47 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 12th August, 1969

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

QUESTIONS (17): ON NOTICE

1. RAILWAYS

Proposed Wood Chip Industry at Diamond

The Hon. V. J. FERRY asked the Minister for Mines:

Would the Minister please consult the Minister for Railways and advise in respect to the proposed establishment of a Wood Chip Industry at Diamond, south of Manjimup—

(a) in view of the relatively low limitation of tonnages per train carried on the existing rail track from Diamond to Donnybrook, has the Railway

Department undertaken any surveys for possible alternative routes;

- (b) have studies for alternative routes included a new section linking Diamond by rail with Boyup Brook;
- (c) is it envisaged that the existing railway from Diamond to Bunbury, or any alternative route between these points, be constructed of standard gauge;
- (d) if the existing railway from Diamond to Bunbury is to be used for transporting wood chips, what work will be necessary to up-grade the track to accommodate the higher pay loads;
- (e) (i) what is the estimated cost of this work; and
(ii) how is it proposed to be apportioned between the W.A.G.R. and private enterprise?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) Preliminary studies have been made but no suitable alternative at reasonable cost could be recommended.
- (b) No.
- (c) No. In view of the cost and associated complications at junctions, this would not be feasible, at this stage.
- (d) Metal ballasting, re-railing, provision of centralised traffic control signalling etc.
- (e) (i) \$2,320,000 approximately.
(ii) This will be the responsibility of the Railways Commission.

2. HEALTH

Doctors and Patients at Royal Perth Hospital

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many doctors are permanently employed at the Royal Perth Hospital?
- (2) How many doctors make their services available in a temporary or similar capacity?
- (3) What is the average daily number of patients in the hospital as—
(a) in-patients;
(b) out-patients?
- (4) What is the doctor-patient ratio in each of the categories referred to in (3) (a) and (b)?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) 139 full-time, 48 part-time, of whom 12 full-time and 11 part-time are employed in Laboratories, X-ray and Anaesthetic Departments.

- (2) Visiting (honorary)—136. Most attend for about two to three hours per week, with no one attending for more than six hours per week. A substantial portion of time is involved in pursuing post-graduate educational interests.

- (3) (a) Inpatients—812.8 average daily occupancy.

- (b) Casualty outpatients—77 (the average daily number of patients handled in Casualty—including admissions—is 130). Other outpatients—583.

- (4) An answer to this question on the basis of the other questions asked would be meaningless in view of—

- (a) The fact that not all doctors are employed on direct patient care.

- (b) The varying periods of time for which they are employed.

- (c) The high proportion of doctors whose activity is directed to postgraduate education.

- (d) The considerable number who are in their registration year.

- (e) The disproportionate occupation of beds and attendance of outpatients in the various specialties.

- (f) The extent to which the full-time staff (and certain part-time staff) are involved in teaching medical undergraduates and also in the training programmes of other disciplines (particularly physiotherapy and occupational therapy).

3.

RAILWAYS

Road Transport between Katanning and Gairdner River

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE asked the Minister for Mines:

Will the Minister advise—

- (a) the number and capacity of Railway Road Transport freighter trucks based at Katanning;

- (b) the number of days per week that trucks travel between Katanning and Gairdner River, and to intermediate depots;

- (c) the average tonnage carried per truck per trip during 1968-69;

- (d) the total tonnage carried for each of the months during 1968-69;

- (e) the total revenue received for this operation in freight and cartage charges during 1967-68 and 1968-69; and

- (f) the financial loss, if any, on freighters' operations between Katanning and Gairdner River, and to intermediate depots, for 1967-68 and 1968-69?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) One 10 ton table top.
Two 8 ton table tops.
One 7 ton table top.
One (four wheeled) 7 ton trailer.

In addition there are two mobile container trailers, each of 4 ton capacity, based on Perth which are conveyed by rail to Katanning and used for Gnowangerup traffic.

One 10 ton table top semi trailer is also available for seasonal traffic.

- (b) Katanning-Gairdner River.
Thursday only.
Katanning-Jerramungup.
Monday-Friday inclusive but conditional on Mondays.
Katanning-Gnowangerup.
Saturday only.

- (c) This information is not available.

(d) 1968	Tons
July	317
August	348
September	376
October	463
November	479
December	355

1969	Tons
January	198
February	336
March	324
April	348
May	311
June	274

Total for year 4,129

	1967-68	1968-69
(e) Earnings	\$28,783	\$29,557
(f) Loss	\$25,772	\$25,015

4. AIR POLLUTION

Cement Works at Rivervale

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Air Pollution Control Council inspected the cement works at Rivervale in the last two years to investigate the measures being taken by the company to overcome the dust nuisance being created?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "Yes"—
- (a) how many inspections have been made; and
- (b) on what dates were they made?

- (3) If the reply to (1) is "No", why have no inspections been made?
- (4) When did the Council direct the company to install the equipment referred to in the Minister's reply to my question on the 5th August, 1969?
- (5) When can residents who are being affected by this nuisance expect that the installation of the equipment will be completed?
- (6) Assuming that the Council is aware of the present extent of the nuisance, to what degree will the proposed equipment, when installed, solve the problem?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Yes, Officers of the Council have inspected.
- (2) (a) 14 times.
(b) 20th September, 1967.
11th March, 1968.
1st August, 1968.
2nd August, 1968.
26th August, 1968.
6th September, 1968.
22nd October, 1968.
3rd April, 1969.
Second week of April, 1969.
30th April, 1969.
5th June, 1969.
7th July, 1969.
29th July, 1969.
6th August, 1969.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) 26th September, 1967.
- (5) Because of technical difficulties in getting suitable equipment, a date cannot yet be set but the Company is required to keep the Council informed of progress.
- (6) The Company has been required to install equipment which will ensure that an emission will not exceed 0.2 grains per cubic foot in normal running.

5. ELECTRICITY

Reduction of Charges in Remote Areas

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Mines:

When can people living in remote areas of the State expect costs of electricity to be reduced to the extent of the subsidised rates charged in the South West and wheat growing districts of Western Australia?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITHS replied:

There are no plans at present to reduce electricity rates charged to consumers in remote areas of the State to the same rates as charged in the South-West and wheat growing districts of the State. However, as recently announced, power charges at Port Hedland have been reduced by approximately 25% as from the 1st July, 1969.

6. COUNTRY WATER SUPPLIES

Departmental Request for Resignation of Employee

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is it normal procedure for the Country Water Supplies Section of the Public Works Department to request the resignation of an employee with an excess of sixteen years service?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that—
 - (a) an employee, Mr. E. K. Harvey, was unfortunate enough to have been involved in a vehicle accident on the 2nd July, 1964, and as a result, has lost an average of 41 days per year receiving medical attention;
 - (b) this man has worked many hours overtime in the past, and on occasions the full twenty-four hour day when necessary; and
 - (c) on the admission of the district engineer his sixteen years conscientious service is acknowledged?
- (3) Will the Minister ask the department to reconsider the request for this employee's resignation?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) (a) Yes.
(b) Yes.
(c) Yes.
- (3) Yes.

7. TOWN PLANNING

Fremantle Scheme

The Hon. R. THOMPSON asked the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) What is the minimum width required for roadway reserves in the Fremantle City Council's Town Planning Scheme No. 2 to service areas zoned as—
 - (a) GR4, GR5 and GR6; and
 - (b) warehousing which has 100 per cent. land usage, bearing in mind prime mover-type transport which may use the roadways?
- (2) Would the present roadway reserves be of sufficient width to meet the Town Planning Board requirements if maximum land use for GR4, GR5 and GR6, and warehousing, was developed?
- (3) If the answer to (2) is "No", which roadway reserves would have to be widened, and to what extent, to meet Town Planning Board requirements?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) There are no minimum widths required for roadway reserves within the Fremantle City Council's Town Planning Scheme since the Scheme is concerned with land use.
- (2) The Town Planning Board has no requirements as to road widths; but road widenings or closures can be provided for under the Municipality of Fremantle Act, 1925, which it is considered can be effectively operated in conjunction with the Town Planning Scheme.
- (3) Answered by (2).

8.

NATIVE WELFARE

Reserve at Yalgoo

The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND asked the Minister for Mines:

Will the Minister advise the House if it is the intention of the Native Welfare Department to close the native reserve at Yalgoo?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

It is not the present intention to close the Yalgoo Native Reserve.

9.

POLICE

Provision of Officer at Hyden

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What is the arrangement at present for police protection at Hyden?
- (2) Is it the intention of the Police Department to provide a permanent officer at that centre in the near future?
- (3) Does he agree that service costs of Court documents are high at present to people in the area compared with other districts?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Police protection is provided from Kondinin.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes in some instances. Fees for service are dependent on the number of miles travelled. The cost per mile is uniform for all processes.

10.

WATER SUPPLIES

Irrigation from Glen Mervyn Dam

The Hon. V. J. FERRY asked the Minister for Mines:

Is it anticipated that the recently constructed Glen Mervyn Dam near Mumballup, with a capacity of 1,200 acre feet, will impound sufficient water to effectively augment waters from the Preston River used for irrigation purposes?

during the 1969-70 summer by settlers downstream to Donnybrook?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Yes. The dam is already storing 780 acre-feet.

11. TOWN PLANNING

Zoning of Area of Rivervale Cement Works

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS asked the Minister for Town Planning:

(1) Will the Minister advise—

(a) the zoning of the area of land occupied by the Rivervale Cement Works; and

(b) does the cement works comply with the zoning of this area, or does it enjoy non conforming use rights?

(2) Is cement manufactured at this factory?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

(1) (a) Part of the land is zoned 'light industrial' and part 'single occupancy residential'. Most of the buildings are situated in the 'light industrial zone'.

(b) The Company has a non-conforming use right.

(2) Cement is manufactured and also lime.

12. MAIN ROADS

Yalgoo to Mount Magnet Road

The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND asked the Minister for Mines:

Would the Minister advise the House if it is still the policy of the Main Roads Department to seal five miles of the Yalgoo to Mt. Magnet road every year as originally intended?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The road between Yalgoo and Mt. Magnet is not a declared main road and is therefore the responsibility of the local authority. There has been no undertaking by the Main Roads Department that a specific policy of sealing will be carried out.

The Department has pursued a policy of providing some finance each year for improvement of sections of the road, and this policy will be continued in future programmes.

13. WATER SUPPLIES

Charges in Goldfields Towns

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

What are the water charges for—

- (a) domestic; and
- (b) other purposes

at each of the following centres—

- (i) Southern Cross;
- (ii) Coolgardie;
- (iii) Kalgoorlie-Boulder;
- (iv) Norseman; and
- (v) Kambalda?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Water charges for domestic and other purposes at the centres of Southern Cross, Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie and Boulder and Norseman are as follows:—

Classification	Gallons Consumed	Price per 1,000 gallons
		cents
Domestic Purposes	First 60,000	20
	Next 40,000	25
	Over 100,000	30
Commercial Purposes	First 60,000	20
	Next 40,000	25
	Next 100,000	30
	Over 200,000	40
Industrial Purposes	All water consumed	40
Mining, Shipping and Stock-watering Purposes	All water consumed	55
Land used by Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited for the purpose of the Storage of Grain	All water consumed	55
Farmland	First 60,000	20
	Next 40,000	25
	Over 100,000	55
Irrigation Purposes, Vegetable and Fruit Growing for Market	First 60,000	20
	Next 40,000	25
	Over 100,000	27.5
	All water consumed in excess of agreed annual quota	55
General Purposes	All water consumed	25

Water charges for Kambalda are by agreement with Western Mining Corporation Ltd. as under—

For the township of Kambalda, supplied in bulk for domestic and other purposes at 42.5 cents per 1,000 gallons.

For Nickel Mining the water price from the 1st January, 1969 is \$1.01 cent per 1,000 gallons.

14. AGRICULTURE

Land Usage Survey in Capel Valley

The Hon. V. J. FERRY asked the Minister for Mines:

With a view to assessing the present land usage and irrigation potential of the Capel Valley—

- (a) has a recent survey of the area been made by any Government department; and
- (b) if so, what does the survey show?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) The Public Works Department has recently carried out a routine reconnaissance survey of the Capel Valley to assess the general requirement of settlers for supplementary irrigation supplies.
- (b) the information obtained in the survey has not yet been collated.

15. EDUCATION

Primary School in Wembley Downs

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Does the Education Department intend to proceed with the construction of the proposed primary school in North West Wembley Downs this financial year?
- (2) If not, will the Minister state the reasons for this decision?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) (a) Expected subdivisional activity in Perth City Council endowment land in North City Beach did not occur as rapidly as indicated.
- (b) Wembley Downs primary school enrolments appear to be relatively static and could decline slightly in the future.

16. WATER SUPPLIES

Pipeline from Wickepin to Kulin

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

With reference to the construction of the water supply pipeline from Wickepin to Kulin, will the Minister advise—

- (a) when it is anticipated this work will be completed;
- (b) how much progress has been accomplished to date; and
- (c) in view of the serious water supply situation and dry conditions in the Kulin district, will the department endeavour to expedite and complete the work as soon as possible?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) The pipeline will be constructed to Kulin by mid April 1970. It will, however, be constructed as far as South Kulin tank by the 19th December, 1969.
- (b) 16.6 miles of the 21 in. steel pipeline commencing at Wickepin have been constructed.
- (c) Yes. The pipeline will be charged with water and commissioned progressively as the

work proceeds. Little improvement in the construction programme of the final 10 mile section between Kulin and South Kulin tank is possible as the rate of construction is dependent on the availability of the steel pipe. However, water is already available at Kulin from the Kondinin-Kulin main.

17.

PUBLIC WORKS

Drainage in South-West Areas

The Hon. V. J. FERRY asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Will the Minister please advise what works have been undertaken during the year ended the 30th June, 1969, to extend, improve or maintain the drainage system in—
 - (a) the Capel-Boyanup drainage district; and
 - (b) the Busselton drainage district?
- (2) What works are programmed for each of these districts for the year ending the 30th June, 1970?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) In the Capel-Boyanup Drainage District work as follows was carried out at a cost of \$31,666—
 - 1 mile 10 chains of Gynudup Sub C drain was excavated;
 - Gynudup Sub A15 drain was extended 53 chains;
 - 61 chains of Gynudup Sub A15D drain were excavated and 4 drop structures built. 2 occupation crossings were constructed.
 - Maintenance work as necessary was carried out.
- (b) In the Busselton Drainage District work as follows was carried out at a cost of \$46,569—
 - Buayanup Sub B drain was extended 1 mile 37 chains and Locke Swamp Sub B drain was extended 1 mile 22 chains.
 - 1 mile 16 chains of Buayanup Main Drain, 42 chains of Station Gully drain, and 24 chains of Marybrook drain were enlarged.
 - Floodgates from Marybrook Sub A1 drain into Station Gully drain were enlarged. 10 bridges and culverts were constructed or replaced.

Land resumption along the Vasse River Diversion which was improved in 1967-68 was carried out.

Maintenance work as necessary was carried out.

(2) (a) For Capel-Boyanup Drainage District—

Continuation of the extension of Gynudup Sub C drain.

(b) For Busselton Drainage District—

Improvement works on the following systems—

- (i) Abba Drainage System.
- (ii) Buayanyup Drainage System.
- (iii) Vasse D6 Drainage System.
- (iv) Sabina Drainage System.
- (v) Marybrook Drainage System.

SUPPLY BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 7th August.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [4.56 p.m.]: It could be said that this is an appropriate day for us to be discussing the Supply Bill, because there will be many members of Parliament in this State interested in the Federal Budget, which is to be presented tonight. To an extent I should think members would be more interested in those Budget proposals than they would be, for the time being, in the affairs that might develop within this House.

There has been a great deal of speculation as to what the Budget will bring forward and, as the years go by, and from year to year, there seems to be a developing line of thought that the Budget means a great deal to the individual person, and he is taking a lot more interest in it than he did some years ago.

This applies not only from the point of view of the individual, but also as it concerns companies and businesses. It is an interesting fact that the National Bank in its monthly summary in June of this year devoted an article to the Budget and national income and produced some illuminating figures.

For example, it is anticipated that the national income for this year will be some \$550,000,000 more than the national income in the previous year, and that the total amount of money collected for the year will represent 28 per cent. of the national income. These are drastic figures when viewed in a stark context such as this.

The article to which I referred criticises the method of collecting taxes these days and it more or less criticises the concept of taxation as a prevention of inflation, by taking reserves from individuals and companies thereby causing them to lose the incentive to save. The article in question is headed, "Great Fiscal Delusion," and it refers to such phrases as, "restrain private spending," "to skim off excess purchasing power," and "to institute a break on the economy," terms which have been before us during the last decade with increasing frequency as the means to a halt to inflation. The writers of the article believe in general terms that there would have to be a different interpretation placed on the collection of revenue for Governments, with emphasis upon a different way of curbing the problems, such as has been expressed over the past few years.

In fact, the trend of the article continues on the basis—as I see it—of higher savings by the individual *versus* taxation to the extent that forced higher savings are advocated as against the forced taking away from a person by taxation. It is a most interesting article and was written in June, prior to the introduction of the Federal Budget and prior to the end of the financial year.

The Institute of Public Affairs, in its June review, adopted a similar approach in an article headed, "Tax Scales Need Revision" and it gave credit to the Commonwealth Treasurer for stating several times that he regarded the present system of taxation as not being entirely what he would like. The article goes on to point out that the progressive rate of tax—and it points it out in a different way from the article I previously quoted—is not only a deterrent to private enterprise—and this publication is essentially and basically that of the backbone of private enterprise—but also stifles individual effort.

That is a serious trend in the electorate as the whole when we rely on virility and energy in the course of the lifetime of an individual to create, as a result of such energy, a sufficiency of worldly wealth to retire in a satisfactory financial position. Alternatively, it is the objective of companies to return to their shareholders sufficient profits to keep them interested in the development of those companies and their capacity to compete successfully.

Some of the statements made in the article are most interesting. For example, we find—

Twenty years ago, only 5 per cent. of taxpayers earned more than \$2,000. Today, two-thirds earn more than \$2,000 a year.

About 25 per cent. of the community earn above \$3,600. At \$3,600 the marginal rate of tax (i.e. the tax on each extra dollar of income) is 33 cents in the dollar. An income of

\$16,000 attracts a marginal tax of 62 cents in the dollar. For the middle rank to top executives carrying heavy responsibilities in business, and for those engaged in the professions and public administration, marginal rates of tax range from 53 cents in the dollar at \$8,800, to 68 cents at \$32,000.

A further statement is as follows:—

In 1954-55 a man on \$5,000 a year paid \$1,112, or just over a fifth in tax. Today the same man would have to earn double this income merely to keep pace with average wage and salary rises, without allowing anything extra for his greater experience. But now his tax would have grown to \$3,488, or over a third of his total income.

The publication includes a schedule of the average tax and the marginal tax percentage of total income, and it compares Australia with four other nations—the United States, West Germany, France, and the United Kingdom. To me, the result is startling. The percentage of total income is the figure I will now quote. In Australia, on an average tax on \$10,700, the individual pays 33 per cent. of his income; in the United States of America the figure is 13 per cent.; in West Germany it is 23 per cent.; in France it is 10 per cent.; and in the United Kingdom it is 27 per cent. On that amount of income, who would have thought that Australia would have charged the greatest percentage of income tax?

Without giving too many figures to the House, the same ratio applies to the higher incomes with regard to marginal tax; and again Australia leads the way sharply in accordance with the figures presented. So there is good reason to believe that a section of the community is being taxed too harshly; it is a very valuable section of the community, which needs to be given some relief in order that we can keep to the forefront the enterprise needed in industries, in the professions, and in trade.

A further portion of the article reads as follows:—

Because of inflation and higher taxation, many income earners are not being commensurately rewarded for their increased contributions to the community over the past decade, despite the large apparent gains in their money income. The majority of these people, who start off with little capital behind them, find it difficult to greatly improve their financial situation, notwithstanding years of effort in positions demanding high educational qualifications, special skills and heavy responsibilities. The return for enterprise is meagre. Because they are inadequately rewarded for their main work in life,

many turn to other avenues to supplement their incomes—notably stock exchange investment and land speculation. In Britain there is an analogy where the huge sums invested in the football pools have been partly attributed to the penal rates of income tax.

An overhaul of the income tax scales, with particular attention to lightening the burden on the middle income ranges is, in our view, an urgent priority. Many hope that this will be done in this year's budget.

This article concludes by giving some solution to the problem, and I think it is appropriate that I should quote it. It reads as follows:—

We have estimated that if income tax were cut by an average 10 per cent. on the \$6,000 to \$30,000 range, the loss of revenue would be of the order of \$50 million. A 20 per cent. cut would reduce revenues by \$100 million. Australia raises a lower proportion of its revenues from indirect taxes on consumption than most other countries. A comparatively small increase in excise duties and sales taxes (estimated to raise between them \$1,400 million in the current year) would be sufficient to offset the loss in income tax receipts. We believe that the income tax structure should be revised at the earliest possible moment. It must be done eventually because the present income scales are so obviously tipped against enterprise, honest work and skill, the very attributes we should be encouraging. There will always be reasons why the time is never propitious to make large changes in the pattern of government finance, either in the manner of raising or in the manner of spending public moneys.

It is not my intention to speak at length on the Supply Bill. I have not spoken directly to the problems of the State Government on supply, but I believe the Ministers will agree with much of what has been said in the course of my comments on these articles and that the viciousness of personal taxation on the middle-income groups is disproportionate to the energy, work, and responsibility which that group and the Ministers themselves carry. This is the situation in every avenue I can think of, without going into individual professions and trades.

There has been some comment in our local Press. On the 5th August, the heading "Government intervention seen as challenge" appeared in *The West Australian*. Mr. John S. Walton, a director of the Walton enterprises was addressing the National Marketing Conference of the

Australian Institute in Canberra and he is quoted as follows—

He said that there would be substantial business growth in the 1970s, but the price would be creeping inflation and regressive taxation, which would stifle initiative.

That statement was made by a highly accredited business personality.

At the other end of the scale Mr. Hawke—not the Mr. Hawke of political note, but Mr. R. J. Hawke of the A.C.T.U.—is quoted in *The West Australian*, under the heading "Tax system is aiding rich, says Hawke" as having said, among other things—

He based much of his argument on a comparison between a process worker and a man on \$10,000 a year in 1953-54 when the present tax schedules were set.

Mr. Hawke assumed that the income of the second man had moved in proportion to that of the process worker since then. He also assumed that both claimed only for their wives and three children.

He said that since 1953-54 the process worker's tax had more than doubled. He now paid 4.3 per cent. of his income in tax.

In the same period the tax paid by the wealthier man had increased by little more than a quarter.

In broad terms, this article is in line with the others I have quoted, but it illustrates the fact that as a move is made upwards to the mid-income group there is a great disparity in the amount of tax paid.

If individuals throughout the State were left with more money to invest by way of savings, there would be a much healthier atmosphere in Commonwealth and State relations, because the process of savings is a two-way matter. As we all know, money placed in the bank is invested throughout Australia, with the result that there is a flow-on of savings out of the State concerned. This would mean that if State Governments had to raise taxes of a local nature, they would be received with much better goodwill than is the case now, for the simple reason that people do not feel they have the money to pay additional State taxes when they have been so heavily assessed—to put it mildly—by the Commonwealth. The innumerable lesser taxes that we pay are forced upon the States because the Commonwealth does not leave them any alternative.

However, we are scraping the bottom of the same barrel all the time and if the basis of the Commonwealth approach to taxation, in company with the States' thinking over the last 10 years, has not been able to call a halt to inflation, then we are indeed in trouble. As a man said

to me the other day, "I am reaching retirement and although I am supposed to be earning a lot of money I do not want to have a sugar bag full today and then find, when I retire, and want to spend it, that it is of no value to me."

If side by side with the collection of taxation we can attack this problem and do something for the individual when he retires, then it is quite possible that within the next few years we will see a completely different approach to taxation with resultant benefit to us all.

I appreciate that by this Bill the Government is asking for \$155,000,000 which will be spent within the next six months. The Government has to ask for this sum of money to run the State, but it is to be hoped that we get more money as the years go by and the State expands. I hope that in the future the taxation system becomes more equitable and money, so far as the States are concerned, becomes just that much easier to obtain.

THE HON. V. J. FERRY (South-West) [5.17 p.m.]: I rise to support the Bill and also to take the opportunity to discuss a subject which I believe concerns Western Australia to a very great degree. This subject covers an industry which, in my opinion, requires additional finance—I refer to the timber industry of Western Australia—and I address myself more particularly to the softwood section of our timber industry rather than to our traditional indigenous hardwoods, or to our projected wood chip industry.

I realise that His Excellency the Governor, when he was pleased to open this session of Parliament recently, referred to an agreement which fairly soon will come before Parliament in the form of a Bill, and this agreement will allow a wood chip industry to be established if it is felt that the project is a viable one so far as the State is concerned. That measure will be the subject of some further comments by me on the appropriate occasion.

Australia, and indeed Western Australia in particular, has an increasing need for softwoods for so many purposes. I could preface my remarks tonight by quoting a statement by the Minister for National Development (Mr. Fairbairn). He said—

Australia is spending over \$200,000,000 per annum on the importation of timber and forest products into Australia and this will rise substantially in the future.

The Director-General of the Forestry and Timber Bureau (Mr. M. Jacobs) was quoted in the Sydney newspaper *The Sun* of the 6th October, 1966, as saying—

Between 1951 and 1961 world consumption of wood rose 25 per cent. I expect a further rise of 25 per cent. by 1975.

Mr. Fairbairn went on to say—

To make Australia reasonably self-sufficient as to total requirements for wood the Forestry Council estimates that Australia would require a softwood resource of about 3,000,000 acres of plantations by 2000. To do this the establishment of softwood plantations will need to be stepped up from the present 40,000 acres per annum, to 75,000 acres of which it is estimated at least 10,000 acres will be contributed by private forest owners.

I particularly stress the reference to "private forest owners"; because I believe that not only has the Commonwealth, and each State through its respective Forests Department a very real responsibility in this national asset, but also private enterprise, through private investors, should share in this developmental work. This is done in so many other industries today and it is only correct, in my view, that this type of partnership should continue, and indeed expand, in the forestry industry.

It is interesting to note that so many countries around the world today are concentrating more and more on timber production. Just as a quick reference I mention that in Rhodesia there is a forward programme of extension in the growing of softwoods. It is said that an investment of over \$2,000,000 has been made in State plantations, and an estimated \$15,000,000 has been invested by private enterprise. So in Rhodesia there is probably the reverse of what we have in Australia. In Australia we have a greater investment by Governments, through the various Forests Departments, than we have by the private sector; and at the moment it is the reverse in Rhodesia. Rhodesia is not the only country that recognises the need for a partnership between Government and private enterprise in the field of the timber industry.

In my opinion, on the world scene hardwood markets fluctuate more widely than softwood markets; and my research indicates that the *per capita* consumption appears to be relatively constant in many countries whereas in Australia there is an increase *per capita*. I believe that Australia enjoyed an increased consumption of 19 per cent. for sawn wood and 29 per cent. for all wood products during the 30 years from 1935 to 1965; and the Commonwealth estimates that the average cost of imported timber and wood products generally today is approximately \$1.20 per cubic foot log equivalent. On this basis, to provide an estimated additional 20,000,000 cubic feet required annually by the year 2000, it will cost Australia no less than \$240,000,000 per annum. This would be the cost of our imports if we did not improve on our performance up to date.

So I emphasise again that in my view it is terribly important that we should increase our rate of softwood plantings in Australia, and particularly in Western Australia. Two of the main species of softwoods which are in demand in Western Australia today are the *pinus radiata*—which has a growth rate in volume approximately three times that of the other species in demand—and *pinus pinaster*. It is interesting to note, too, that with *pinus radiata* it is possible to have the trees reach maturity in some of the most favoured growing areas within a span of 40 years. This is a relatively short period of time when one speaks of forestry activities. By comparison, *pinus pinaster* takes something like 60 to 70 years before maturity is reached. So there is a big advantage in growing the more highly productive *pinus radiata* type.

Our State Forests Department has plans for and hopes of reaching a target of some 240,000 acres of pines. At the present time I think the total plantings by the Forests Department in this State would be approaching 60,000 acres. However, although the Forests Department has set its sights on 240,000 acres of pines, the State's real need is a target of some 400,000 acres. This being the case, it is quite apparent that there is a very real place for private forestry activities to assist us in Western Australia.

Just by way of an illustration of how softwood development can assist us here, it is estimated that some 7,000,000 cubic feet of pine logs per annum would provide the saw log equivalent of a combined intake of five or six of our existing large hardwood mills. That is quite a big production.

Apart from the output of sawn pine, the residue would be readily disposable as chips for particle board manufacture. That is one type of by-product. Also, it is interesting to note that the plywood industry in Western Australia today is dependent on imported logs for approximately two-thirds of its raw material. Perhaps 2,000,000 cubic feet of peeler logs could replace much of the imported wood and support a plywood plant much larger than any at present in Australia.

Here again, Western Australia has a very high consumption of plywood *per capita*—that is, very high by world standards. Also we would benefit greatly in other directions from increased plantings of pines. It is readily apparent that the transport industry would benefit. There would be a tremendous demand for the transportation of the softwood logs from the various areas to the milling centres and to the manufacturing and refining processes. With further expansion there would be added needs for heavy engineering services and this, of course, would involve the maintenance of transport machines and various heavy type plant

and equipment, tractors, loaders, trucks, and milling equipment generally. Thus there would be a sort of snowballing effect in industry and industry, of course, supports people; and in my view people are of the most value to us in Western Australia.

A successful wood pulp industry needs the following ingredients:—

1. Adequate raw materials, such as hardwood and mill waste.

2. An adequate water supply.

This brings with it the problem of a satisfactory and efficient disposal of the resultant effluent.

3. An adequate supply of long fibred softwoods to yield pulp with satisfactory strength characteristics.

This is necessary so that the blends of the pulp are satisfactory for the end product.

The lower south-west of this State is so richly endowed as to make it an ideal area in which to base this type of industry. It has an assured rainfall and a variety of soil types which can be readily used for the different species which may suit different types of soils.

In connection with the planting of sufficient pines, it is interesting to take out some figures to project how many people this industry might sustain. I estimate that, initially, 12 men will be employed if 1,000 acres are planted to pines or softwoods. In a period of from five to 10 years from the first planting, this number will increase to 24 men being employed for the same 1,000 acres. Again, in a period from 12 to 13 years from the first planting, the number will increase from 30 to 40 men being employed for the same 1,000 acres.

It is sometimes given as a yardstick that people engaged in the agricultural field employ one man per 500 acres of agricultural land. This is an extremely flexible estimate and is open to debate. Nevertheless, it serves my purpose in illustrating the difference between the employment capacity of the timber industry as against agricultural industries today.

The farming communities and the timber industry are two prime examples of decentralisation. Both employ men in rural situations. Of course, we can only take advantage of the raw materials available on which to base such industries, and both the farming community and the timber industry take advantage of raw materials.

I have endeavoured to project the employment figures a little further. On the basis of future softwood plantings, if 2,000 men were employed in the work force, this would mean approximately 1,500 families in the growing areas. In turn, this would mean that there would be approximately 6,000 to 7,000 people—men, women, and children—in the growing areas. If we can build up our population in the south-west by 6,000 or 7,000

people over a period of not so many years, surely this is excellent business.

I return to the point that to achieve this type of decentralisation and this additional employment opportunity, we need a partnership of forestry fostered by Government departments and forestry undertaken by private investors.

I believe increasing numbers of people are becoming interested in long-term investment in forestry. There are a number of private forests already in existence in this State and I believe that others will be established in the near future.

It may be of interest to those who are contemplating this type of investment to know that certain taxation concessions are available to the private forestry farmer, and I will just instance some of the advantages. Except for the cost of the land, all forestry expenditure can be deductible in the year incurred. Alternatively, forestry expenditure may be carried forward indefinitely as a business loss against future sales income. Capital items, such as plant and buildings, etc., earn a depreciation allowance of 20 per cent. Additionally, there is a special 20 per cent. allowance for new equipment. The income of forest owners may be averaged over five years for tax assessment. Indeed, there are many items, apart from the ones I have mentioned, which are of advantage to the investor from a taxation point of view. One final point I could mention is that timber which is already on land that has been purchased for forestry purposes is not included in assessable income when felling occurs. Consequently, there is no danger of that factor upsetting an assessment.

When one speaks of forestry and particularly of private forests, immediately the risk element comes to mind. This is where insurance plays its part. Contrary to what is popularly suggested, the risk of fire loss in forests is not as great as it might seem at first glance. I have had it reliably stated to me that fire loss in plantations over many years has been less than 0.5 per cent. Insurance cover is available at approximately 1.5 per cent. premium on the value of the plantation.

This will give an idea of the type of security to which this industry can look forward. Not only will there be an assured market for timber for many years to come because of the world's increasing need, but also there is some protection for those who produce the goods to safeguard their investment. Insurance is one of those safeguards.

Consequently, I would lend my support to the Government of the day to make further funds available for forestry extensions in this State, particularly in the softwood field. I well know that loan funds are always eagerly sought after, and I well know that loan funds have to be used

to meet so many needs. However, I am looking at a sure long-term investment for this State, and particularly for the south-west sector of Western Australia.

When one speaks of rural pursuits today, one is indeed conscious of the fluctuating markets for agricultural products. I well know that a number of landowners in the south-west are now reasonably happy to sell their properties for forestry purposes. This has not always been the case. It is not many years since most landowners would have been horrified at the prospect of selling their land for any purposes other than those of grazing or cropping. However, with the problems associated with marketing and obtaining an adequate return for rural products today, a number of relatively small properties in the south-west—not the smallest, but relatively small—are available on the market for forestry purposes.

I believe that both the Forests Department, with the aid of additional funds, and private investors, would do well to take advantage of this situation. To my mind, this is good business. If the landowners wish to sell—and it is their prerogative to sell or not to sell—surely it would be to their advantage to have some cash in hand to put into some other avenue, if they so desired. Also, it is to our advantage as a State and as a people to have greater production from this type of soil in a high rainfall belt.

Consequently, I make the plea that earnest consideration be given by this Government to providing some additional grant of money to our own Forests Department. I am not going to say how much money should be made available, because I believe the amount has to be allocated having regard for the whole scheme of things. Nevertheless, I firmly believe that additional funds should be made available to promote new pine plantations and to augment the existing ones. Further, I invite people with money to invest in land to turn from investing in farms towards investing in forestry, as some are doing.

I can well remember recent arguments put forward by people on the land to the effect that income tax concessions have adversely affected the genuine farmer through the encouragement of the private investor. I can well remember, too, that not so many years ago the genuine farmers were applauding this type of taxation concession. Nevertheless, with the downturn of return from agricultural products, the thinking today is that the private investor—the man with heavy capital—is working to the disadvantage of the agriculturalist. Perhaps he is. This is not the purpose of my debate. Nevertheless, I wish to point out that if private investors wish to put their capital into forestry, this would in no way affect agricultural pursuits or markets but would, indeed, help the farmer.

I consider that forestry is a sound investment in this State and I am conscious, too, that the Commonwealth Government recognises this fact, because it grants certain taxation concessions.

In the overall picture, the situation has been looked at by the Australian Forestry Council which comprises members of the Commonwealth and State Governments, and also by a standing committee of that council which comprises forestry officers from the Commonwealth and the various States. They recognise the value of forestry and the advantages which taxation concessions can bring. I sincerely hope that this question of forestry will continue to be under review so that not only the Commonwealth and the State will benefit but that we, as a people, will be the richer also.

We have in the south-west natural resources which are yet untouched. It is up to us to make use of our basic raw material. I mentioned earlier in my address that we hope to establish a wood chip industry. This would be based on hardwood, and my plea tonight is for an extension of our activities in the softwood field.

I believe that if we carry out a vigorous programme under a partnership of Government and private enterprise, the south-west will carry a much higher population than it now enjoys. Not only those people who are associated with the timber industry in a direct way will benefit, but the supplementary industries will also benefit. I have mentioned some of these industries, such as engineering, transport, and that sort of thing. Indeed, the rest of the population will benefit through increasingly improved services, such as better hospitals, more hospital facilities, better educational facilities for all children, and those sorts of things.

I will leave it at that, and I trust that over the years ahead I will see a worthy extension of the softwood forests in this State, which would be to the benefit of all.

THE HON. CLIVE GRIFFITHS (South-East Metropolitan) [5.45 p.m.]: Firstly, on this Bill I want to make some reference to, or contribute the umpteenth chapter of, the story about high-density housing. Once again, I hope to throw some light on the Government's thinking—

The Hon. R. Thompson: You could not; it is too thick-headed!

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: —on the un-Australian method it is using to spend the finances of the State Housing Commission. I think I have spoken on this subject for some three years, and the stage has now been reached, of course, where, as soon as Clive Griffiths stands up to speak, members start to smile and laugh and then say, "Here comes another chapter of this

matter," and they take no notice of what I say because they consider I have been raising it for too long.

However, the attitude adopted by such members does not worry me in the slightest, nor does what anyone says about the view I hold on some particular subject, because I know I am on the right track and that in time we will be castigated for committing an infringement of people's rights.

The reason I first made a forecast on this subject was that the State Housing Commission made an announcement that it intended to develop a high-density housing project in Bentley to relieve the housing situation. At that particular time the project was to be built in Bentley, which is in the province I represent. Therefore, I happened to be fairly interested in the subject.

Nevertheless, it was not merely the fact that this high-density housing project was being built in Bentley that caused me to express some concern—I have mentioned this on several occasions, but apparently it has not got through to some people—but it was also because of the principle that a person in need of a house who can approach only the State Housing Commission to meet that need has no choice of living on the tenth floor of a high block of flats built by the State Housing Commission, or in a house, on his own piece of land, with a fence around it, like any other ordinary Australian.

Perhaps I am a little dense, as I fail to grasp it, but for some reason or other the State Housing Commission has adopted this policy, taking the view that the end justifies the means. I have referred to the State Housing Commission but the fact of the matter is that the Minister and the Government have agreed to this policy. I do not believe that the end justifies the means. The thinking is that by adopting such a policy a saving in expenditure will be effected, and therefore it is a good idea.

Another belief is that as soon as these high-density blocks of flats are built they will be occupied, and therefore those in need of accommodation will be housed more quickly. Of course they will be, because people have nowhere else to live. I have said this before. It would not matter what the State Housing Commission built, or where it built, the accommodation provided would be filled almost immediately; but I do not think this justifies the commission embarking on such a policy.

This policy, once again, is highlighted in this newspaper extract which I am holding up for members to see. If they take a careful look at it they will observe that there is a photograph of a 12-storey block of flats; a huge monstrosity in which people will be forced to live.

In the first instance I forecasted that this was only the beginning. At the time I warned other members that if we allowed the State Housing Commission to follow this policy, it would continue to build high-density accommodation on any land owned by the commission. My statements have proved to be correct, because almost all of the State Housing Commission housing projects now being built involve this type of accommodation. It is on record that Mr. MacKenzie has stated that this will be the trend to be followed by the State Housing Commission in all its future projects.

Once again I repeat that I am not against high-density blocks of flats. I am not against patio houses, or any other type of house if the person, of his own free will, chooses to live in that sort of accommodation. There are many high-density units in South Perth where I live, but the occupants of those units occupy them of their own free will. They choose to live that way, and this is perfectly all right as far as I am concerned.

However, when a man with a wife and two or three children has lodged an application with the State Housing Commission for a home, and the time arrives when he receives a letter from the commission—after waiting two or three years—advising that accommodation is available for him, the fact that it happens to be on the tenth floor of a block of flats in some suburb or another is immaterial to him, because the only alternative he has is to forego the accommodation. I challenge this policy. If the State Housing Commission will not build anything but high-density housing, how can it provide alternative accommodation?

Therefore I am concerned about the way in which this money is being spent. I congratulate the Government most wholeheartedly for making more money available for housing, and I congratulate the Government for making available \$4,000,000 or \$5,000,000 for the Bentley housing project as part of its overall housing programme. I have nothing but praise for the Government in making this money available, but it is the manner in which it is being spent that appalls me. I believe we can do better for the Western Australian people, and I believe that they deserve, and are entitled to, something better.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Hear, hear!

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: I reiterate that previously I warned other members about what would happen if this policy was pursued. We now see these high-density projects being erected in Mr. Ron Thompson's electorate, despite the fact that he said he would never have them at any price.

The Hon. R. Thompson: But not in the shire where they wanted to put them in the first place.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: No, but in the Fremantle City area. What greatly concerns me is the emphasis that is placed on the cost factor; this seems to be regarded as the beginning and the end of the scheme. The only point that seems to be taken into consideration is how many dollars a particular project will cost. That is all! Nobody can convince me otherwise!

Let me refer to a couple of these projects. I have already read to the House letters from every State housing authority in Australia, except the Tasmanian housing authority. I will not inflict upon members the reading of those letters once again, but in every one of them it was stated that in the experience of the housing authority high-density housing cost more money. Those letters were from authorities which are beyond reproach, and I am certain of the authenticity of the information they supplied to me. I have no reason to believe that any one of those housing authorities would forward me information extracted from its records that was not correct, and every one of them said that high-density housing is more expensive.

I will now refer back to the Bentley housing project because that is current. I have here a report which indicates that tenders were called for 500 home units at a cost of \$4,500,000. Of those 500 home units, 31 are conventional type homes. Thirty-one out of 500 are the ordinary type of home in which an ordinary Western Australian would expect to live. The balance of the 500 units consists of flats of all different shapes and sizes.

I also remind members of the report I read in the House last year. This report was compiled by a very responsible authority in England. Those concerned had conducted a comprehensive survey among people who live in high-density housing in London. One of the findings in this report was that people who lived in high-density accommodation against their will did not care whether they lived on the third floor or on the thirty-third floor. This was the opinion expressed in the majority of cases. Once they were off the ground it did not make any difference to them, because they still considered that, by living in them, they had the feeling of being gaoled or locked in.

On the 6th August the decision was made to build 500 home units in Bentley at a cost of \$4,500,000. On the 8th August it was announced that the State Housing Commission had let a contract for \$1,000,000 for 101 homes at Pearce. These were the conventional type of home. If those 100-odd homes had been increased to 500, and the \$1,000,000 had been increased to \$5,000,000, 500 conventional type homes could have been built at Bentley; but the State Housing Commission was prepared to build only 31 conventional type houses, because the total cost of the project will amount to only \$4,500,000.

In other words, it will save \$500,000 spread over 500 families, and apparently in the eyes of the Government it is justified. It is not justified in my eyes.

The Government can castigate me until the cows come home, but as long as I am a member of this House I will continue to remind the Government that it inaugurated this scheme, and if I am still a member of this House in 20 years' time—and I probably will be—

The Hon. R. Thompson: You hope!

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: There is nothing like being optimistic!

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: —I will still be reminding the Government it was responsible for commencing this particular type of housing and inflicting it on the people of Western Australia. I am certain that the people in 20 years' time will rue the day we ever agreed to this type of housing. Of course people will live in units whilst there is nothing else to live in, but I hope the day will come when every Western Australian will have a home on his own block with a fence around it, where he can do what he likes in his own backyard. I repeat that I will continue to remind the Government of its folly.

Another most fantastic piece of arithmetic, which once again I cannot grasp, has been referred to by several Ministers. Recently some land—I do not know its location, but it was on the north side of the river, at Woodlands or some other suburb—which was taken from the people some years ago by a Labor Government, and which is owned by the State Housing Commission, was sold by ballot. Someone may be able to tell me the name of the locality.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It was such a broad locality that no-one can say.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: It seems the Minister cannot help me.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That land is in the Dianella and Woodlands areas.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: I am referring to the locality in which land was recently sold by ballot.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That is at Dianella.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: It was in reference to this sale that the comment was made by the Government that the land was too expensive for the State Housing Commission to build on. This is what I cannot understand: The land is too expensive for the Housing Commission to build on, because its current market value is what it happens to be. I should point out that the value of land at any time is based on the current market value. If we accept the argument of the Government, then it means the State Housing Commission cannot build on any land owned by it, because the value of the land

is based on the current market value. I maintain that the value of that land is based on the price the commission paid for it.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: If it sells that land it will have more money to build more houses for the people.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: Of course it will.

The Hon. R. Thompson: We have heard the argument of Mr. Willmott many times before, but we have not seen any more houses built.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: According to the line of thinking adopted on this occasion there will never be any land on which the State Housing Commission can build, because the value of the land is based on what it is worth at the particular time. It does not matter whether the Housing Commission paid only £200 an acre for land 15 years ago. That should not have any bearing on what the land is worth today. At present there is no land here which is not highly priced. I cannot follow the arithmetic used to support this line of thinking, although I am not a financial genius. However, if I paid £50 for a block 10 years ago for the purpose of building a house on it, I would not let its current market value—it might now be worth \$5,000—prevent me from building there. Therefore I cannot understand the Government's reason for not building on the land that has been sold by ballot.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It is quite obvious you have not the slightest idea of this.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: I might not be a financial genius, but I should point this out: on one occasion when I approached my bank manager he said, "You have done everything which the book says you should not do, but the difference between you and some of our other clients is that you make a profit in your business at the end of every year." I took that as an indication from my bank manager that I had a reasonable idea of what a dollar consisted of, and that I knew how to make a dollar work to earn another dollar.

I cannot follow the line of reasoning that because some land was purchased 20 years ago at £50 a block, and it is now worth \$5,000 a block, it should not be built on by the State Housing Commission because the rents would be too high.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Because you cannot follow it, I suppose the answer is a lemon!

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: The answer is whatever the Minister likes to make it. This brings me to another point. The other evening when the Minister for Town Planning was talking about land prices, I interjected and said that I would

tell him something about high density development being a great contributor to the existing high cost of land. I will do that now.

Predominantly this large increase in land values has occurred over the past 10 years or so; and it was about 10 years ago that high-density developments commenced. As I see the position, what happened was this: an investor picked out a site which was suitable for high-density home units and flats, and approached the owners of the blocks concerned. Let us assume that the land and the houses on it were worth \$20,000, but because the investor wanted it he offered \$25,000. The investor might purchase four of these blocks at an inflated price for the purpose of erecting on the four blocks 100 home units where four houses stood previously.

As a result of this action of investors, land near high-density developments becomes valuable. The owner of a block in such an area might reason that as his next door neighbour had received \$40,000 for his house and block, he would also advertise the sale of his block at the same price. I should point out that the high price paid to the neighbour was based on the fact that the land was to be used for the building of high-density units. This person might not get \$40,000 for his house and block, but I imagine he would receive \$38,000. Naturally the owner of the adjoining block would do the same thing, and away the prices would spiral. I believe this has contributed to a large extent to the high cost of land, because the commencement of high-density developments and the sudden rise in land prices took place at about the same time.

To substantiate what I am saying I shall refer to a report entitled, "Methods of Securing the Better Use of Land. Regional Planning to Avoid Artificial Scarcity." This refers to what took place in the House of Commons. The report is dated 1960, and reveals that the House of Commons went into Committee of Supply. At that time the members were debating the very subject which was debated in this House a few days ago. To substantiate the point I am making in regard to high-density developments I shall refer to what the Minister for Housing (Mr. Brooke), said—and he was a Conservative.

Sitting suspended from 6.10 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: Prior to the tea suspension I was about to refer to a statement made in the House of Commons by Mr. Henry Brooke, the Minister for Housing and Local Government at the time. What he said substantiated, to a point anyway, the view I have expressed that the building of high-density housing

tended to increase the price of land instead of decreasing it. Under the heading, "Higher Densities: Limited Use in Some Areas" he said—

It was quite possible that some densities in some places could be revised upwards. Density increases did not bring down land values. In fact they put up the price. People would pay more for land for which higher density was permitted.

I believe this backs up the point I made the other day when I interjected on the Minister for Local Government when he was speaking about land prices. It is evident I am not a lone voice when I say that high-density housing contributes to the increase in land values. And the Government is contributing to a great extent to this because we have already been told that in future the majority of State Housing Commission money will be spent on accommodation of this type.

Before I conclude with the subject of housing, I would like to mention that it has been stated that if the commission did not build high-density accommodation on the land available to it—and I am particularly referring at the moment to the land at Bentley—it would not be able to provide 500 units. This is reasonable; but the commission would probably be able to provide 200, and we must remember that the commission owns a stack of land around the metropolitan area. However, the commission has indicated that the land it owns is too expensive to be used for accommodation. I disagree with this. If the land was bought years ago at a very low price, the present cost of the land should not be considered when determining the rental price for commission homes erected on that land.

I mention housing at this time to indicate that I have not given up the fight, although I have obviously lost it because the State Housing Commission is erecting this accommodation. Nevertheless the day will come when the expressions of doubt I have submitted will be proved correct; because when people have a choice they will not live in this type of accommodation.

The Hon. J. J. Garrigan: Some of them will.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: Yes, but the majority will not. The ordinary, normal, Australian person wants a house on his own block of land, and the majority of people, if they have the choice, will choose that way of living.

The Hon. R. Thompson: We should be endeavouring to lift the standard of living, not reduce it.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: I could not agree more. So much for the commission at the moment. I have no doubt

another debate will ensue on which I can have something else to say about the matter.

There is another aspect I feel should be considered because it is costing some money. I am very concerned about it. I refer to the school crossings advisory committee which the Government has set up to investigate applications for guard-controlled crossings, particularly outside schools. I spoke on this subject last year and suggested that everyone on the committee should be sacked and that a few parents should be appointed to it because then we would have a committee which would give some consideration to the safety of children and not to the effect of these crossings on traffic.

I am pleased that the Minister for Police has, in fact, increased the number on the committee. He did this after I spoke and therefore I am claiming he did it as a result of my suggestion. He has appointed a representative from the Parents and Citizens Federation to the committee. I believe that this at least is a step in the right direction, and although some of the six or so schools which have approached me and requested controlled crossings have been granted them, one in particular has not, and I believe that one is urgently required at this particular school, which is the Brentwood State School.

I personally have submitted a couple of requests to the department over the past two years for a guard-controlled crossing at this school, and other members of Parliament have possibly done the same. I submitted a request recently, but it, too, was knocked back.

I obtained some figures from the committee concerning its discoveries during the investigations made. I am concerned as to whether the members of the advisory committee are paid by the Government for the investigations they make, or whether they are volunteers and are not costing the Government anything. There is no doubt that if the five or six people on the committee conducted a decent sort of survey over some time, it would involve a great deal of money if they were being paid.

Bearing in mind that the cost per day to man these crossings is something like a couple of dollars, I feel we should not fiddle around with investigations at all. I cannot see why we just do not appoint an officer for each crossing, because this would probably save us money and it would certainly prevent many accidents and near accidents with their consequent heart-break. These accidents occur outside schools every single day. We could prevent some of these accidents by having these crossings manned, and particularly the one at Brentwood, whether or not they conform to the formula used to decide if a crossing should be manned.

I believe that this advisory committee should be disbanded and every crossing outside every school should be manned. In fact, if there is a street or road of any description near a school a crossing should be established and that crossing should be guard controlled in the mornings and afternoons when the children are going to and from school. This would not cost very much money even if every school in Western Australia was so catered for, and it would certainly save some lives.

I feel that we just cannot win with this diabolical formula that is used. It is a formula which just cannot be complied with. There must be so many motorcars using a road and so many children crossing it before a guard-controlled crossing is recommended. My belief is that if there is one motorcar using a road, and one child crossing it, there is the potential for an accident. I do not believe a formula should have to be complied with before we provide a facility to protect the lives of our children on their way to and from school.

Another facet I cannot understand concerns the objections to these crossings. If it concerns the holding up of the traffic, and there were not many motorcars using a road, the disruption to the traffic would not be very great. Therefore I cannot believe that that would be any objection. If a school has 500 or 600 children—and this is the average for a school—surely it is a sufficient number to justify the establishment of a guard-controlled crossing. I cannot understand the objections. Every now and then we are told that one school which previously has not come within the scale laid down in the formula has suddenly become eligible and the crossing is therefore approved.

I wonder whether every now and then the committee knocks back an application just to let everyone know it is doing its job, and so that the members can retain their positions on the committee. I do not know whether this has anything to do with it, but there certainly seems to be no rhyme or reason for some crossings to be approved and others not to be approved.

My belief is that the Government should establish a guard-controlled crossing outside every school. However, so much for that subject.

I am concerned about the dust nuisance emanating from the cement works at Rivervale. I am particularly concerned that it is being allowed to continue. We all know the problems which exist in other cities of this country and the rest of the world as regards pollution. Bearing in mind the answers I have received to questions I have asked, and also bearing in mind the fact that a Government-appointed body issued instructions to this

particular company two years ago concerning the nuisance, it is about time something was done to improve the situation.

Two years have gone by and still nothing has been done about the problem. The

when the problem is likely to be solved, or when the necessary equipment is likely to be installed. It is about time the Government did something about the matter.

Also, it is about time the company itself was called upon to assist, if the problem is one of finance. I think this must be the only problem; it certainly cannot be a problem of a technical nature because today we have technical experts who are capable of sending people to the moon, and who are capable of getting pictures back from Mars with equipment which was launched months and months ago. For that reason I cannot see that it is a technical problem which is insurmountable. I believe the problem is one of finance, and if the company cannot afford the money then perhaps the Government should step in. This particular industry is enjoying non-conforming rights.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Strange as it may seem you are quite wrong; it is not a question of money. The problem is completely technical and nowhere in the world have they yet found a solution to it.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: That is an interesting piece of information from the Minister—very interesting. Now we are back to the point where we do not know when the problem will be overcome. The Government has asked the company to do something and order some equipment, which is unavailable; and the problem is beyond the ability of the technical experts of the world to solve. Yet, the Minister has tried to tell me, in answer to a question, that a solution is in sight. Now he says the solution is beyond the technical knowledge of the experts of the world. I can only go back to my constituents and say what the Minister for Health has said tonight.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: You are exaggerating again.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: I am merely repeating what was said.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I said the problem was not a financial one, but a technical one.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: The Minister for Health said it is technically impossible to solve this problem.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: At the moment.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: At the moment.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Did you hear the Minister for Health say it is beyond the technical possibility of anyone in the world?

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: He said that.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You said it.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: He said words to that effect and we will read in *Hansard* what he did say. I will tell the Minister all about it, and I will read it out to him.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Let me assure you, briefly, it is not a matter of finance.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: All right; fair enough. I have already agreed that the Minister said that. In the meantime this problem exists, and it is getting worse. Since I have been representing the South-East Metropolitan Province people have been coming to me, periodically, and complaining about this matter.

On many occasions I have been to homes in the Rivervale area, and I have nothing but sympathy for those people who have to put up with the nuisance. For some reason or other, over the past 12 or 18 months the nuisance has not been confined to the people living in Rivervale and Victoria Park; it has now reached the stage where complaints are coming from people in Como. I live in South Perth and the dust problem is very bad at my place. Every morning when I go outside—not every morning, but on many mornings—if my car has been left outside there is a sheet of lime dust over it. When people ring me to complain I drive around to their places in my car and tell them that I can sympathise with their problems. I tell them that when they find a solution to let me know because then I will be able to leave my car out at night.

What happens is the dust gets onto people's motorcars. With the dampness of the night air it sets hard, like cement. When I try to wash it off it is like washing my car with an emery wheel. It is a most unsatisfactory situation, to say the least. Another matter is, of course, that people's homes—gutters, windows, and fly-wire screens—are chock-a-block full of this lime dust.

I feel it is about time we made an effort to ensure that the company in Victoria Park complies with the provisions of the Clean Air Act. Today I asked some questions of the Minister for Town Planning and I inquired as to the zoning of this particular land. I had a fairly good idea of how it was zoned but I wanted the Minister to tell me. I also believed that cement was no longer being manufactured at the factory and, indeed, only lime was manufactured. However, cement is still being manufactured there.

The point I was going to pursue—and I still might—was that when the company was established it was for the purpose of manufacturing cement. Because the company is enjoying a non-conforming use right I was wondering whether this right extended to the manufacture of lime,

which has commenced only over the last year or so. I think this aspect needs looking at because manufacturing lime is not the same thing as manufacturing cement. I wonder whether the Government departments concerned have thought of taking a look at this aspect. If they are concerned at all I believe they should have a look into the matter.

I mention that in passing and no doubt I will have plenty to say at a later stage. I have merely given a resume of some of the matters that concern me at the moment.

I will conclude my remarks by having something to say about caravan parks. We have regulations which make it illegal for anybody to live in a caravan park for longer than three months. That is fair enough, up to a point, because we do not want people, perhaps, living in caravan parks indiscriminately. However, there are many instances today of people having to shift out of caravan parks at the end of three months. In fact, what they do is leave one caravan park and shift to another so that they comply with the law. Those people are put to some inconvenience.

When migrants, or people coming from other States, come to Western Australia they are not able to get houses. They proceed to get a house built but in many instances they decide that while the house is being built they will live in one of the on-site caravans. So they shift into caravans with their wives and children. Some of the facilities which are provided are fantastic—as good as at any hotel or motel. So they live in the caravan park while they are organising their plans and specifications and while their house is being built.

Some people can get a house built in 12 weeks, but the average time in the metropolitan area is something like 19 weeks. This varies by a week or two, according to the size of the house. Now, 19 weeks is more than three months, so let us assume that by the time the plans are drawn and everything is organised, and finance is arranged, it could take six months for the house to be completed. Once the negotiations are completed the house could take longer to build than anticipated.

The person concerned now lives at a caravan park with his wife and children, and usually he picks a caravan park in the vicinity of where the house is being built. He sends his children to the school in that locality. However, at the end of three months—under our particular regulations—the caravan proprietor is obliged to ask the occupants to move on.

The situation is that the family has to move to another caravan park and the children have to be sent to another school. At the end of another three months, of course, if the house is completed the

family moves to the house and the children go back to the school where they were going in the first place. If the house is not completed the family moves into another caravan park because they cannot return to the first caravan park. They can live in that caravan park for three months only in any one year. If there were no housing shortage, or no housing difficulty, perhaps there would be some merit in this particular regulation.

The Hon. E. C. House: There will not be any difficulty with high-density housing.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: I would prefer to live in a caravan. I have no axe to grind with living in caravans. My wife once asked me to go for a holiday in a caravan. I told her to shift the furniture into the bathroom and we would live there for a fortnight and then she would be able to tell people that she has been for a holiday in a caravan. That is how I feel about caravans. As I have said, I have no axe to grind but I think that some of the rules and regulations which are brought in are just too absurd for words.

We place these restrictions on people and all they do is create a nuisance because they do not prevent people from living in caravan parks. People simply move from one caravan park to another and it seems so crazy to me.

There are numerous reasons for people living in caravans. People working for the Public Works Department or the P.M.G. Department are transferred for periods of up to 12 months. They could be transferred to Albany, for instance. I do not know whether houses are available in Albany, but it is probably just as hopeless down there as it is here. A person who is transferred can stay in a caravan park for three months only. I am merely using Albany as an example, but the town could be Bunbury, or even Exmouth, as mentioned by Mr. Berry the other day.

There is not even a tree at Exmouth under which to live. I have been there many times and a desolate place it is at the best of times. A person who is transferred to that town could decide to live in a caravan park—and I understand there is more than one caravan park. There are three. So the person who goes there has to find somewhere else to live for three months of the year.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: They can appeal to the Minister.

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: Of course they can appeal to the Minister. I can read; I have a copy of the regulations here. But why should they have to appeal to the Minister?

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Why should the Minister have to be bothered with them?

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS: Why should the Minister want to look into the case of a chap who has lived in a caravan park at Exmouth for three months, and in two other caravan parks for three months in the same year, and who has run out of parks, and so appeals to the Minister? My point is that regulation after regulation—and we have some on the Table of the House now which I will speak about later on—is brought in to do nothing else but annoy people. That is all they are doing, and I believe it is about time we started taking a more realistic view of the situation than that which exists at the present time. Unfortunately, I decided that this is all I will speak on tonight, and I will speak on other points at a later date.

THE HON. E. C. HOUSE (South) [8.2 p.m.]: I was very interested to obtain figures concerning the Government road freighter service between Katanning, Gnowangerup, and Jerramungup from the Minister this afternoon, and I thank him for the information. I think the figures present a rather dismal picture inasmuch as if we compare the earnings and the losses we find that it has cost about \$54,000 to carry 4,000 tons over a full length of 100 miles. That is about \$13.50 per ton, or 13.5c per ton mile, if the freight was carried the full distance of 100 miles. Of course, a great proportion of it is not.

The point I would like to make is that we have this road service based at Katanning, which is 38 miles from Gnowangerup where there is a railhead. The freighters are carting from Katanning, bypassing the Gnowangerup railhead, and taking all the freight on to its destination beyond Gnowangerup. Similarly, they load at Jerramungup, Ongerup, and so on, again bypassing the Gnowangerup railhead, and on to Katanning.

This is quite contrary to the law that is applied to farmers, and one cannot see why the Government should be allowed to break its own law. Every farmer must cart direct to the nearest railhead and deposit his goods—whatever they may be—at that rail junction. Should that railway line be closed—and I can say almost certainly it will not be—then a further 4,000 tons would be added to the cartage from Katanning to Gnowangerup, and one can only assume that the loss would then be increased from \$25,000 to anything up to \$50,000.

This seems to be quite beyond all reason for the amount of tonnage that is carted. One can only hope that the Government will provide a more efficient service to cut down the cost structure by not running so many half-loaded trucks, which are then backloaded in the same fashion, carting wool which is often loaded only two bales high. This, of course, increases the cost of this particular service.

This is one of the reasons the Gnowangerup people are very much against the closure of the Gnowangerup line; they know that the freighters could not possibly give a service as efficient as they are getting now. Further, if private trucks were used it is doubtful whether they could cut the costs down to anywhere near the costs of the railway at the present time.

The Government could probably subsidise this service, and it might reach a point where the Government could save money, which would be to advantage. However, without a subsidy, of course, there would be very little opportunity to do this. The farmers have only one real concern about the railway remaining open; that is, the cartage of super from Albany. They could save approximately \$3 per ton if super was carted by a straight road haul of 80 miles as against the 112 miles by rail; otherwise the cost structure is very similar, apart from the extra miles travelled.

When one realises that the super carted amounts to about 3,500 tons, one wonders why some concession could not be granted for super and still keep the railway line open. If the line is closed the Government will lose \$12,000 a year in rail revenue.

Coming back to the freighter trucks which are based at Katanning, those trucks are running empty for a great many miles between Gnowangerup and Katanning. It seems sensible that the trucks should be based at Gnowangerup rather than at Katanning, and for the produce to be carted by rail to Gnowangerup and then transported from there to the eastern section. The produce from the eastern end should then be brought to the railhead at Gnowangerup. This is only common sense, and would do a great deal to strengthen the railways' finance structure, and also cut down the heavy loss which is being incurred by the road freighters on the wasted 38 miles between Katanning and Gnowangerup.

I think that is a point which the Government should have a very good look at. No doubt it will put forward all sorts of excuses and reasons why the trucks which used to be based at Gnowangerup and which were shifted to Katanning, cannot be returned to that base. If they were it would do a great deal to help the town of Gnowangerup, and would help railway finance by cutting down on the loss to the Government incurred by the road freighter service.

The other point I would like to mention is the serious situation which exists in many agricultural areas because of the drought, which looks likely to continue for many months yet. There seems to be quite a difference of opinion as to what constitutes a drought area and who should declare an area as such. If it is to be left to the shires to do this—and it has

been suggested that it must come from them in the first place—then one wonders why quite a number of shires in the State have not yet declared their districts as drought areas. I can only describe their reluctance to do so as false pride. If the shires are fearful that their areas might get a bad name and that land prices might drop, then they could well have a look at the Eastern States, which suffer more frequent droughts than we do in Western Australia. Land prices in those States are higher than those in this State, and people there accept the fact that droughts do occur periodically.

We in this State have been very fortunate in this respect, and I do not suppose we have experienced a drought such as we are experiencing now in some areas since 1914. One wonders just how long this state of affairs will go on before someone—be it the Government, the farmers, or the shire councils—does something about it.

Take the Bremmer Bay-Gairdner River area. The people there have been carting water since January; they are still carting it, and they are likely to go on doing so. They have also been buying feed during this period. An aeroplane trip over that area as long as six weeks ago showed there was an estimated one dead sheep per acre. One can only hazard a guess as to how much worse the situation is now. If this is not a drought, I would like to know what is.

The same applies also to areas to the east of Merredin, to the east of Corrigin, and at Southern Cross. I believe that Mukinbudin is another area seriously affected, although I am not certain on this. I do think it is time that the problems of the farmers in those areas were recognised, and if no one else will do anything about it then I will appeal to the Government to take the initiative, because in the end it is the Government that will get the blame for inactivity.

It is estimated that 6,000,000 sheep will be without water within a short period of time, and definite plans must be made—and made quickly—to ensure that those sheep will not die of thirst. The market has been glutted because in many cases farmers have had to get rid of their sheep. There is a great deal involved in this aspect. When one considers the wheat quotas, one realises that a majority of farmers will be relying upon their sheep to enable them to earn a reasonable income. It is vitally important at the moment to keep the sheep alive. Sales have been forced down to 60c to 70c a head; and in South Australia two years ago, after selling their sheep, farmers actually received a bill for the freight and the digester fees because the sheep were fit for nothing but to be made into meat meal.

When things turn for the better—as they undoubtedly will—there is nothing surer than sheep will bring \$10 to \$14 a head. The farmers will then have to outlay a great deal of money, and borrow from stock agents or banks, to buy sheep, which will be scarce. So one can see how important it is to the whole of Western Australia that the sheep be kept alive at all costs.

I understand the Government of Western Australia is prepared to buy wheat at \$1.10 and sell it to the farmers at the same price, plus freight; but this is proving difficult mainly because no one will recognise that there is a drought, in spite of the sheep deaths. I think in the interim the offer of the Government is quite a good one and more might be forthcoming later. We know too, that if a drought area is declared then the Commonwealth Government will match the State, dollar for dollar, to assist all sorts of farms.

I refer to assistance in the transport of sheep for agistment, in the buying of fodder, in the transport of water, and also some assistance in relation to freight charges as these concern sheep and fodder. This type of assistance would be of great help to the farmers who need it and, at the moment, there are many of them.

The Victorian Government subsidised the farmers to the tune of 40c on a bushel of wheat when that State experienced a drought. I would now like to read what Prime Minister Gorton had to say in connection with the assistance to be given to Queensland. The article I have reads—

The Prime Minister, Mr. J. G. Gorton, stated on March 11, that in view of the recurrence of drought conditions over a large area of Queensland, the Federal Government was prepared to participate with the State, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, in providing finance for drought-stricken areas.

The Federal Government had already provided \$15,500,000 in 1965-66 and it was to give additional amounts of \$5,000,000 for special revenue assistance to offset the effects of drought on the State's revenue.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That assistance was in declared drought areas.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: That is so, and that is the point I am making; that we in this State have not yet declared a drought area even though many parts of the State are in a condition of drought. There is no likelihood of improvement in some far eastern sections, even if rain falls, except to provide drinking water for the sheep.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Now the grubs have taken over.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: There are thousands upon thousands of acres of bare soil with no feed on them at all. We are losing a tremendous number of lambs and ewes which will have a vital impact on the economy; they must be kept alive at all costs.

The aid given to Queensland also includes rail and road subsidies on the transport of fodder and the movement of livestock to agistment; carry-on finance for drought-affected farmers unable to obtain credit from normal commercial sources, and grants to local authorities in rural areas to relieve unemployment caused by drought.

This is the type of assistance it has been found necessary to give to Queensland. I am not criticising our Government at all, because I think it would give what assistance it could if it were asked to do so; I am criticising those people who appear to be possessed with false pride. It is high time the farmers got together and put their case before the right authority so that the necessary assistance can be made available.

When the farmers in the Gairdner River area were told last Saturday that assistance could be obtained, they asked if it could be made retrospective for the last 12 weeks during which time they were carting water, buying feed, and even then they were only just able to keep their stock alive.

The Hon. R. Thompson: In which shire is that?

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: In the Gnowangerup shire. It is a distance of 120 miles from west to east. The whole shire is not affected by drought, but there are special wards which are so affected and where assistance could be given.

I think the State Government would be only too willing to step in at this moment and assist the farmers. I say this because the Government knows of the importance of the sheep industry to this State, particularly in view of the wheat problem that is confronting us at the moment. It could be even more serious than we realise.

I was in South Australia two years ago in September where quite a number of the areas were declared drought areas; they were very similar in pattern to many of our agricultural areas at the moment. That State was sending sheep to the digesters and transporting stock to Western Australia; its farmers were buying feed to keep particular types of sheep alive. Recognising the seriousness of the position, New South Wales has also given assistance to drought stricken areas where it was necessary; and, I have no doubt, the farmers there were grateful for such assistance.

If the present position is allowed to continue for much longer the impact on the economy will be very serious indeed, because sheep will fetch a very high price once the situation eases. If the drought is prolonged farmers will be forced to sell their sheep at low prices, but if sufficient water and feed could be made available most of the sheep could be kept alive.

THE HON. R. F. HUTCHISON (North-East Metropolitan) [8.22 p.m.]: My speech will not be long, but I have something of importance to say. As this Bill is a financial measure, the passing of which allows the Government to authorise payments from the State's account, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Treasurer for the financial backing he has extended to the W.A. Ballet Company and to inform him how grateful the Ballet Company is and how successful the north-west and New Guinea tours have been. As he will appreciate, great benefit is derived from this type of culture, because the tours improve the knowledge and the education of people who live outside the metropolitan area. This is the sort of thing which is needed, quite apart from work programmes and so on. It is this type of venture which makes for happiness and contentment among the people.

As some members might be aware, another event is to take place very shortly. I hope it has great success. I refer to a three day symposium on epilepsy which is to be held on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of this month. As founder and President of the Epilepsy Association I wish to express grateful thanks to Professor Gordon Leonard, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, for his kind co-operation in arranging for the symposium to be held at the University.

Especially do I wish to thank the Minister for Health (The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon), for his help and financial backing in connection with the symposium and for his making it possible to bring to Western Australia Mr. George Burden, Secretary-General of the International Bureau for Epilepsy, who is also General Secretary of the British Epilepsy Association.

This is the first symposium of its kind to be held at University level in Australia and it is hoped that as a result of the conference epileptics, not only in Western Australia, but those in the whole of Australasia, will be accepted in employment, for insurance purposes, and in society as a whole as first class citizens, without prejudice and misunderstanding as is now the case.

The Minister's help and understanding will be most appreciated at all levels. It is actions such as these which create human reflections; they stand at a level far beyond political boundaries and they are a gesture of human understanding of

a subject which has been so misunderstood and neglected in our society in the past. Such assistance must bring reactions of gratitude and a human understanding of a subject which has been neglected to the detriment of human happiness.

It is hoped that the seminar will be a means of creating understanding and that it will ease family difficulties. I am sure we all hope that the seminar will succeed. For my part I know that everyone I have asked to help has been most co-operative, and I cannot thank the University people enough. I thank the Minister for all his assistance and we trust that all these efforts will widen the boundaries, however small they may be, so that we might assist the community at large.

It is not generally known that epilepsy can occur at any time and can affect anyone. It is not something reserved for a certain class of people; it is not a particular kind of illness, or anything like that. It is possible for anyone to become an epileptic as a result of illness or accident.

Since we formed the Epilepsy Association in Western Australia work has continued at such a pace that we are now to hold the symposium at University level. I hope this movement will grow and that all those afflicted will be looked after. We all know what is going on and what should be done about it.

It is generally thought that an epileptic is unfit for work. That may occur where there is also sickness with epilepsy. Those who comprise the general body of epileptics, however, are quite able to work; but because of the prejudice which has grown in people's minds over the years, epileptics have been prevented from working.

With the Minister's help we have brought out the world secretary and we hope he will lead us in this symposium. I am sure members will appreciate how very grateful we all are, and I now speak for the whole association and myself and thank the Government for its assistance.

THE HON. R. F. CLAUGHTON (North Metropolitan) [8.28 p.m.]: During my maiden speech in this House I made reference to the quality of life, and since then this phrase has recurred in speeches of various politicians across Australia. I do not think there is any doubt at all about the raising of material standards in Australia. While these are being fostered it should not be our aim to produce only well fed work machines. We should develop people as people.

I consider there has been very little cultural development in our way of life, at least not enough to broaden the dimensions of living for people generally.

Before the last State election, great play was made of the development of a \$23,000,000 cultural centre north of the

railway station. I said that I considered it to be an election gimmick, because, shortly after the election, we found that the project had been deferred.

In a statement made on the 3rd April, the Premier told us that the cultural centre was to be reconsidered; or at least the Museum part of it was to be reconsidered. I think it was significant, however, that no mention of this was made during the Governor's Address to the House. I wonder whether, in fact, this project is to be reconsidered. The Museum section of the project was estimated to cost \$1,600,000, and for 1978-79 the Art Gallery section of the project was to cost \$2,600,000.

In *The West Australian* of the 4th April Premier Brand is reported to have said—

The cultural centre complex was the most ambitious project of its kind in Australia.

Seeing that the second stage of the cultural centre in Melbourne is to cost \$24,000,000, the statement by the Premier did not seem to tally with the facts. However, it can hardly be said that we are taking giant steps if the second stage of our cultural centre is to be completed in 1978-79. If we take the sum of \$23,000,000 as the complete cost of the building, perhaps we can expect the centre to be completed around the middle of the next century.

The lack of progress is a matter of concern to the people connected with the Art Gallery. The facilities at that centre are extremely limited. I think the people there have been urging the Government to hurry up with the building; and in the Press of the 14th June some comments were published which I would like to read to the House as they point to the difficulties being experienced by the staff. Portion of the statement reads as follows:—

But what of the paintings that constitute the gallery's permanent collection? Of the entire collection, there are about 350 pictures we never see and probably never will. Because of lack of exhibition space, selectivity in display is demanded and there is a constant cutting out of paintings. Some of them are no longer of interest to a majority of viewers and others are in too poor a condition to be shown.

Some are housed in a downstairs storeroom; the remainder crowd into four cupboard-like rooms without ceilings. Dust smothers the pictures and every hanging necessitates cleaning.

Because of the storage facilities, canvases are often holed. Since the death of Mr. Robert Rose, the gallery has been without a picture restorer—there is a serious dearth of such skilled men, whose secrets and techniques often die with them.

This points to the serious situation at the Art Gallery, and I hope the Government will endeavour to find some funds much earlier than 1978-79 for the completion of the building.

In the planning of the cultural centre I feel there has to be a combined effort, with the sinking of the railway, to design an area that includes the whole of this piece of land so that the city can extend and the cultural centre will become part of our way of life. This should be part of our total environment—part of the things that improve the quality of life for the people of this State.

On this point I would like again to quote an article which appeared in *The West Australian* on the 26th July last. The article was written by Mr. Murray Mason and in it he says—

Material possessions, however, paintings included—do not offer proof of cultural maturity. The whole environment must help. Till we live in a city that is proud of its public art, its public galleries, its prizes and scholarships for artists and its governmental and private patronage we are still culturally adolescent.

I think Mr. Mason put the matter very succinctly. Again referring to the Museum, no doubt the people there are concerned as half the building was demolished in expectation of the new building commencing last year.

As far as library facilities are concerned, there seems to be a shortage of funds for the Library Board. It is possible that the amount granted is not sufficient to maintain the book stocks in the existing libraries, let alone provide for the growth that is taking place in the State and the need to supply new libraries in different centres.

There is a need for people to have ready access to the specialised knowledge that can be made available from the library service. In our present state of development it is most necessary that people should be able to acquire specialised knowledge, and this can be done most effectively through the library service. It will be to the detriment of the State if this service is allowed to run down.

It is interesting to look at the figures from the Budget of last year and the expenditure in the previous year to see what the Government is spending in regard to cultural matters. I have taken out figures in relation to the Art Gallery, the Museum, and the Public Library. For the financial year 1967-68, the expenditure in regard to the Museum was \$218,412, and the estimate for the last financial year was \$239,000, showing a slight increase on the previous year. In the case of the Art Gallery, the expenditure for 1967-68 was \$117,681, while the estimate for 1968-69 was \$130,000. In the case of the Library, the expenditure for 1967-68 was \$671,500, while the estimate

for 1968-69 was \$733,000. The total expenditure for the three institutions for 1967-68 was approximately \$1,007,000, while the estimated expenditure was approximately \$1,102,000.

Including the cultural institutions I have mentioned, the total expenditure for what might be termed cultural activities for 1967-68 was approximately \$1,118,000, while the estimated expenditure for the last financial year was approximately \$1,722,000 a large part of which seems to have been spent on the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra, leaving roughly \$67,000 for other cultural activities in this State after allowing for the amount spent on the Museum, the Art Gallery, and the Library. That is a small amount of money for this State to spend on cultural development.

There is no doubt that organisations such as those referred to a few moments ago by Mrs. Hutchison are extremely grateful for the finance they obtain from the Government and the fact that there has been a slight improvement in the amount granted. However, I do not think the figures I have quoted show that the Government is shouldering its responsibilities in regard to the disbursement of money for cultural purposes. The money is allocated in a haphazard sort of way. There is no authority to see that money disbursed is used effectively. I think it is a matter of the money going to the squeaky wheel.

I know this suggestion has been made quite often by those concerned with the arts, but I think an advisory council for the arts in this State should be set up so that when requests for Government assistance are made by different organisations, they can be examined by people who could check on how the money is to be spent. In other words, the organisations which are to receive money should be made to justify their case before money is granted to them.

It would also be of assistance to organisations that receive this finance if it were granted on a triennial basis so they would not have to wait until the last moment before knowing exactly how much they were to receive. They would be able to make plans in advance if they knew how much money they were to get. It would be of tremendous assistance to organisations if these grants were allocated every three years. It would allow for forward planning because artistic performances cannot be arranged at a moment's notice—quite some time is needed. I feel that without incurring any extra cost, the Government could make grants for a three-year period.

There is tremendous vitality in the arts in this State. The people are extremely progressive and work hard to produce

quality performances, but they are frustrated by financial difficulties. It has always been the case that Governments must subsidise the arts as they are unable to survive by their own efforts.

In this State we suffer because of isolation. We are separated by great distances from the other areas of cultural activity and to overcome this the Government should consider making grants to enable people who are experts in their particular field to come to this State, or to enable people from this State to visit other States or countries overseas in an endeavour to improve their professional standard.

Thought must be given to the establishment of a State theatre, or a State ballet company, so that these can be centres for the development of different arts. It is unusual for an Australian politician to lend support to these activities because they are not vote winners in the sense that a Government gains electoral support because of what it does in this regard. However, I think the Government should show some statesmanship in taking the lead to develop and improve the cultural work in our State.

A number of articles have appeared in the Press and speeches have been made on the need to increase the number of reserves to protect more effectively our flora and fauna. Western Australia has a tremendous responsibility because much of our flora and fauna is unique and is not to be found anywhere else in the world. It is only the people who live here who can set about preserving this flora and fauna; and with the tremendous development of land, the spread of the metropolitan area, and the development of mining reserves, the position is becoming serious. Thousands of acres of land are being cleared and various species of flora and fauna are being threatened with extinction.

There have been a few notable victories such as in regard to the noisy scrub bird, which has survived, but a number of other species in this State have already become extinct. Again, this is a subject that cannot be referred to in the same marvellous money terms as the iron ore development, and similar matters, and little political capital can be made from measures taken to protect our flora and fauna. But in terms of the environment in which we live there is tremendous value to be derived from it. Also we can gain status internationally if we do something about protecting our flora and fauna. People of other nations read about what we do and the efforts we make in this regard. Even our own people who go Sunday driving can get some enjoyment if they move out into the hills and are not faced with quarry scars along the entire escarpment.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: What you say is very interesting and a comparison of the money expended by this Government in fauna conservation will show that the figure is higher comparatively than for any other department.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: I think what the Department is doing is recognised; but, at the same time, it is not enough when compared with the amount of land clearing that is going on. This clearing is going on too quickly to allow things to be left to chance.

Each of these battles for preservation is an individual one; a battle has to be fought every time an instance occurs. To mention just a few, there was the battle in regard to Lake Claremont—a battle to preserve it from being made into a golf course. It has long been known to naturalists—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: There are many conflicting interests which makes it difficult to resolve all these problems.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: That is true; but once the wild life that inhabits these areas goes it never comes back again. It disappears altogether.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I am right with you.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: The environs of Lake Claremont are being cleared, grassed, and reticulated and although it might look very nice and orderly, and be easy for the gardeners to maintain, this sort of area does not always make the best sort of environment for wild life or for people to visit.

Recently an application was made for a permit to quarry limestone near a native reserve. This application was contested by the National Parks Board, the W.A. Naturalists' Club, the Nature Conservation Council, the W.A. Wildflower Society, and the National Trust. Not one of those bodies would have a very large following, but we rely on all of them to protect our interests. In this case the opposition to the application was successful.

As regards an application to carry out mining on the Jilbadgi Reserve, there was opposition from the W.A. Tree Society, the Department of Fisheries and Fauna, the Nature Conservation Council, the W.A. Naturalists' Club, the W.A. Wildflower Society, and the W.A. Wild Life Authority. The opposition of all those bodies was ineffective and, although we are told that restrictions are to be placed on this mining right, can those restrictions be really effective? It remains to be seen. Somebody said that it was not possible for the restrictions to be effective.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You are referring to the Jilbadgi Reserve?

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: Yes. Dredging claims were lodged in regard to Lake Preston and Lake Clifton, and also

for areas in the Wanneroo shire. These claims were contested by the W.A. Wild Life Authority, the National Parks Board, the W.A. Tree Society, and the Wanneroo and Waroona Shire Councils.

The Hon. N. McNeill: The matter has not yet been contested in court.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: The claims are being contested and so I shall say nothing more about it.

The Hon. N. McNeill: I think that would be wise.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: In fact it is *sub judice*.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: Exactly. A further application was made by a mining company to carry out a search on a native reserve. At the date of the report in the Press the matter was still being contested but it was considered that if the application were granted natives would lose their rights to the use of the land.

There was also the case of the power line plan for Bold Park. This proposition was rejected by the Perth City Council, but here again it had to be fought as an individual action. There is no overriding authority in this regard and each particular case has to be dealt with individually. In a letter to the Press, Mr. C. F. H. Jenkins referred to our disappearing wetlands and the fact that places like Lake Claremont, Lake Clifton, Lake Preston, and Herdsman Lake, and other places around the city, are being filled in with rubbish and developed. These are areas where wild life such as the crested grebe or the pink-eyed duck have congregated. It was their natural habitat, and as these lakes are filled in so the species become extinct because there are no places for them to go.

This is part of our environment. Visits to areas such as those, when they are the natural habitat for fauna, make our lives something more than just eating, sleeping and working. It makes living worth while.

Finally I would like to quote from *The Tree Society Review* in which was printed an extract from an article in *Field and Stream*, an American publication. The article deals with the rape of the landscape by mining, and as it expresses the position much better than I can do I shall read it. It is as follows:—

The Trouble with Mining

The mining industry stands forth as an anachronism of anarchy in a democratic society and as a throwback to less civilised times. It clings to ancient "rights" to roam the land and to deposit and destroy natural resources for its own gain at a time in history when other industries are learning they must demonstrate

restraint and responsibility for the good of all. It persists in the exercise of primeval political power and pressure to subvert the will of the people.

These observations are offered without antagonism. Some of my best friends are miners, as the old saying goes. It is not impossible to find conscientious operators who co-operate in protection of the resource. These people need support in their own ranks. The mining clan as a whole must wake up to the facts of life or the facts will be thrust forcefully upon it by an aroused public to whom natural beauty is no longer pollyanna talk. It has been claimed by Mining Company officials that mining furnishes America with materials required for future expansion and growth, but no mention is made of the depletion of natural resources—a loss to the whole of the Nation . . .

Mining exploitationists are apt to turn up anywhere with the most reckless schemes, destroying fisheries and wild life habitat. . . The mining outfit sees only its legal right to minerals. Speaking of a mining proposal which brought forth protests from conservation groups in Georgia, "The entire program is frightening" Georgia Game and Fish Magazine warned clearly and to the point in a recent issue "when the potential damages to so many people are weighed against the advantages to so few individuals for such a short period of time".

This is a period in our history when mining operations are all the rage, but we should be particularly aware of the effects those operations can have and the need effectively to protect not what has been handed on to us but what will become the heritage of our people in the future. We do not want to lay waste to the land. We want to be able to preserve some of our unique flora and fauna—that which still exists—for the benefit of all the generations that are to come and that can only be done through effective action by the Government.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [8.56 p.m.] The passing of this Bill, with the obvious support that it has, will enable the State to have the wherewithal to fulfil the monetary obligations that it has. The debate on the Supply Bill seems to take the form of another Address-in-Reply debate. I often think that the Supply Bill should be used as an opportunity for members to express themselves on matters financial but, of course, it does cover the whole field and there is nothing to stop a member speaking about any subject he chooses to select.

This afternoon and tonight we have had a fairly good example of this and I think I could fairly quickly go through and say to members who have spoken, "I agree"; or "I disagree"; or "I agree partially"; or "I have some reservations about what has been said." In fact, this might be an opportunity for me to reply briefly to the debate along those lines.

Mr. Willesee gave us his ideas and speculated on what might be contained in the Federal Budget. I did not have the opportunity to listen to the full Budget speech during the tea suspension, but no doubt it will be interesting to read about it in the paper tomorrow. I must say, however, that I do not share the optimism that Mr. Willesee has that if Federal taxation were reduced people in the State might receive State taxation more willingly. I have never known of any taxpayer to receive any information about any form of taxation willingly. It is always with some protest.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: It would be nice to be able to try it.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes. Mr. Cloughton took an entirely different approach to the whole subject. He gave me the impression that he did not want me, as Minister for Mines, to go ahead and help the principal income-earner in the State today—that is, mining—to develop. No wonder I become a little confused.

I listened with interest to the remarks of Mr. Ferry concerning the timber industry. I will pass the information on to my colleague, the Minister for Forests. No doubt Mr. Ferry's plea for additional spending in reforestation will be taken note of by the Minister.

Unfortunately Mr. Clive Griffiths is not in the House at the moment so I cannot reply to him. Perhaps it is fortunate that I cannot reply to him!

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Good entertainment.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: However, I propose to say that the subject of high-density housing has become a hardy annual with Mr. Clive Griffiths. I would like to make one comment which he may perhaps read in *Hansard* later on as I think it is of general information. The honourable member could not understand why the Housing Commission could not build on land which, to use an expression, had become too expensive to build on. He thought that the initial cost of the land was the permanent cost so far as housing construction is concerned.

Of course, he completely misses the point; namely, that the economic rent of the house built on the land is made up of a number of factors, such as the capital cost, the interest rate, the period of amortisation, and the maintenance. The price of the land affects rates and taxes. I am referring to local authority rates, water

rates, health rates, land tax, and the like. The last rates which I mentioned—the shire rates, the water rates, land tax, and health rates—are based on the value of the land. It would be impracticable to build on a block of land which cost £200 some years ago and which has assumed the value of some of the blocks which were sold in Dianella recently; because it will be found that the local authority will assess its rates on the current value and this will put the rent for the prospective State Housing Commission tenant into an area which he cannot afford to pay. That is purely and simply the explanation, but Mr. Clive Griffiths did not seem to understand that point. With regard to other remarks which he made, I will leave my comments until he is in the House.

I was interested in the remarks of Mr. House on transport and I will pass them on to my colleague, the Minister for Transport. I was also interested to hear Mr. House's comments on the present drought situation. The position is as Mr. House expressed it; namely, an area must be declared a drought area before the State can get any assistance from the Commonwealth Government. As he said, there is an apparent reluctance on the part of some people to declare an area as a drought area. This reluctance has not been shown by the Government, because the Government is prepared to act. In fact, the Government has said to the Wheat Board, "We will buy back for the benefit of the farmer who has starving stock the amount of wheat that farmer has put into the board, or as much of it as he wants." However, there are reasons which prevent the Wheat Board from doing this. Apparently there are technical and legal reasons why the board is not able to do it. We have stressed the fact that the Government is prepared to take this action.

Mr. House said—and I agree—that there seems to be a reluctance on the part of some people to say that a certain area is a drought area. In speaking as an individual, I cannot necessarily see that because rain does not fall in part of the country in any one season the area should be regarded as a drought area for all time. It should not be regarded as such because of the non-eventuality of rain in any one season. Apparently there is some suggestion of a stigma being attached to the area from a valuation point of view in the event of its being declared a drought area.

I consider that we have to face facts. Some areas are in such a condition that stock are dying, but the Government is not anxious to act in opposition to local authorities. As members know, all Governments work very closely with local authorities. The difficult situation is reached where, perhaps, the local authority does not want to declare the area a

drought area and the farmer does. Ultimately, I consider that common sense must prevail in this matter; otherwise losses of stock will be very great.

My colleague, the Minister for Health (Mr. Mackinnon), has asked me to advise Mrs. Hutchison that he appreciates her remarks very much. He is glad that he was able to do what he could to help in this particular field. It is refreshing—and, of course, this is not the first time—to hear Mrs. Hutchison commend the Government and the Ministers of the Government for things which they do. I prefer to listen to this kind of thing than the castigation that we heard from Mr. Claughton in his approach to the subject he dealt with.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Constructive criticism!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Call it what one may. I repeat that I gathered the message that the right thing was not being done so far as mining operations were concerned. I think it is plainly and simply a matter of a conflict of interests. However, I certainly hope it does not get abroad that my activities as Minister for Mines, the activities of the Mines Department, and the activities of the mining companies and those people generally interested in mining are simply laying waste the whole of the country. This is not so. Members should go and look at the excavations and the rejuvenation of the area being mined by Alcoa in the Darling Range. They would see the different types of trees which are being planted as a result of the arrangements that have been made by the Government. The fact remains: one cannot have one's cake and eat it too. Mining pursuits are bringing in a substantial amount of income to the Government.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: And creating employment.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, they are creating an immense amount of employment, and are giving Western Australia the massive building rate which was described in one of the weekend papers. In fact, mining pursuits are genuinely and generously boosting our economy on all fronts.

Members stand up and say, "The Government is not spending enough money in this direction; the Government is not spending enough money in that direction"; or "The Government is not spending enough money in some other direction." Sometimes, because of rising costs, the Government finds that it faces a deficit; in spite of the fact that the Treasurer prepares his Budget to provide for one figure, that figure is greater on some occasions. The Governor's Speech revealed a deficit of \$1,056,000 on the day he read the Speech. A small adjustment that was made in one Government department involved another \$4,000,000.

Today when one reads the daily paper one will see that another section of the community employed by the Government will throw a further impost on the State's resources in respect of finances. Consequently, if the Government has to spend in one direction to provide the very necessary facilities that the State needs, one cannot expect to have the money to spend in another direction where one might hope that it will be spent.

As a Government, we are criticised, or castigated—whichever word one likes—for not putting sufficient money into housing, and for not providing sufficient roofs over the heads of our people. Yet, when the Government makes an effort and spends \$4,500,000 or \$5,000,000 on one project, one member says that this is all wrong, because he does not believe in that type of living. I am not terribly convinced of the merits of an argument of this nature. It is a Government's responsibility to do whatever it can and energetically to pursue the various projects under its control to enable it to do all the things that are required to be done. Two departments which consume a tremendous amount of money are the Education Department and the department controlled by my colleague, the Minister for Health. A terrific amount of money goes into each of these departments and a great deal of it is not recoverable. However, I am the first to admit that they are two of the most necessary departments that we can possibly have.

The Hon. J. Dolan: They pay the greatest dividends, too.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Education pays one of the greatest dividends the State could possibly get. Of course, if there is a maximum of good health in the community at the same time, the benefit is reflected throughout industry, commerce, and every form of enterprise.

I make these few remarks to indicate that no Government can do everything. I would like to assure Mr. Claughton that the Government does not do everything with an election gimmick in mind, as he seemed to indicate in his criticism.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Would it not be fair to Mr. Claughton to say that he was asking you, as Minister for Mines, to ensure that the mining companies assist in conservation?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: They take a very responsible attitude.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I think that would be fair. As I have explained many times in this Chamber, the industrial agreements which are brought to Parliament for ratification contain clauses concerned with the rejuvenation of the land. In connection with ordinary mining on mineral claims I impose as many conditions as I can to ensure that, whilst we get some benefit through the wealth gained by extracting the minerals from the land, the land is not permanently despoiled.

One must realise, as I am sure all members do, that if there is a mining operation there must be some movement of the earth. Of course, since time immemorial man has been digging in the earth for minerals in one form or another. I am certain that the mining industry of this State is of very great benefit to us at the present time.

Mr. Claughton mentioned other matters such as mining on native reserves and that sort of thing. Some of those matters are *sub judice* at the moment, because they are still to be decided in the warden's court.

I leave the matter on that note and thank members for their contributions to the debate. I commend the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), and passed.

House adjourned at 9.16 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 12th August, 1969

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

QUESTIONS (31): ON NOTICE

1. LAND

Flora and Fauna Reserves

Mr. RUSHTON asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What is the total acreage of land in the State set apart for the preservation of flora and fauna, including State forests, national parks, etc?
- (2) Would he give an approximation of the acreage of such areas within 100 miles of Perth?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) 13,663,360 acres.
- (2) 1,964,660 acres.

Western Australia's total reserves, including about 39,000,000 acres for natives, are approximately