

Hon. E. H. Gray: It is a pity the farmers do not take more notice of the departmental officers.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: They do to a certain extent, but the farmer is a hard man to teach. He eventually takes advantage of what is told to him. But the department is not always right, as has been shown in the past. If it can be proved to be right in what it does, then the farmer will take notice. The departmental experts go out and talk to the farmers in a real, practical way, and much notice is being taken of what they say.

The Minister for Agriculture: I think the farmers generally appreciate their efforts. The attendances at field days prove that. At the Geraldton field day there were 1,280 people.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes. The speech given by Mr. Dunne on that occasion was a gem, and one which was listened to with interest by all present, and I am sure they learned something from it. I am not going to weary the House any longer, but I do hope the suggestion I made earlier in regard to the Royal visit and the bringing to the city of school-children over the age of nine will bear some fruit. We should give equal opportunity to children in the outback areas and to those in the city.

On motion by Hon. W. R. Hall, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.45 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 28th August, 1951.

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

QUESTIONS.

COAL.

As to Open-Cut Supplies for Loco. Use.

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

(1) What quantity of open-cut coal is being received by the Railway Department each month from Collie for locomotive purposes?

(2) What was the approximate quantity of coal rejected by the Railway Department from open-cut mines during the last six months, due to unsuitability for loco. use?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied:

(1) At two of the three open-cut mines at Collie, the open-cut coal is passed through the screens and loaded with deep-mine coal. The actual quantity of open-cut coal purchased for loco. purposes cannot, therefore, be accurately determined,

but of the total production of the field for the year ended the 30th June, 1951, which amounted to 835,477 tons, approximately 37 per cent. represented open-cut coal. Locomotive coal purchased would be in approximately the same ratio.

(2) Approximately 2,000 tons.

BETTING.

As to Convictions and Royal Commission's Recommendations.

Mr. YATES asked the Minister for Police:

(1) How many first offenders were convicted for obstructing the traffic in starting-price betting operations in the metropolitan area from the 30th June, 1950, to the 30th June, 1951?

(2) How many first offenders were convicted for the same offence during the period from the 30th June, 1950, to the 30th June 1951, at Kalgoorlie, Boulder, Collie, Bunbury, Albany, Geraldton?

(3) How many offenders (who had more than one conviction for obstructing the traffic) in the metropolitan area from the 30th June, 1950, to the 30th June, 1951, were found guilty and fined?

(4) Is it the intention of the Government to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission on betting which were presented to Parliament in 1948?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Two hundred and twenty-one.

(2) Kalgoorlie, 121; Boulder, 50; Collie, nil; Bunbury, 27; Albany, 25; Geraldton, 23.

(3) Two hundred and ninety-seven.

(4) No.

EDUCATION.

(a) As to Contract for New School, Baker's Hill.

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

(1) Has a contract yet been let for the building of a new school at Baker's Hill?

(2) If not, what is the present position regarding this matter?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) No.

(2) The matter is being given further consideration and satisfactory arrangements are being made for the construction of this school.

(b) As to Girls' Hostel, Bunbury.

Mr. GUTHRIE asked the Minister for Education:

Can he give any information concerning the girls' hostel in Bunbury?

The MINISTER replied:

The Government having approved the purchase of Mrs. Reat's property at Bunbury for use as a girls' hostel, steps are now being taken to finalise the matter.

(c) As to Provision of School, South Guildford Area.

Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Education:

In view of the increasing number of families being housed at Camp 22, South Guildford, will he state if any provision is being made for an infants' or any other school at South Guildford or Hazelmere, to cater for the school requirements of that area?

The MINISTER replied:

In anticipation of meeting the demand for a school in the South Guildford-Hazelmere district, the Education Department has the matter of securing a suitable site for the building now in hand.

RAILWAYS.

(a) As to Government Trucks for Midland Coy.

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

(1) Have any Government railway wagons been sold or loaned to the Midland Railway Coy. during the last two years?

(2) If so, how many?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Thirty-one wagons selected from a large number stowed at Midland Junction awaiting repairs were loaned to the Midland Railway Company to tide it over a difficult period until wagons on order could be supplied. This arrangement provided that necessary repairs would be made by the company. This has since been varied by allowing the company to purchase the wagons outright and loaning an additional 50 under the same terms.

The action taken has resulted in more wagons being available to cope with urgent traffic demands. These wagons would otherwise have remained immobile, due to workshops incapacity to deal with them.

Mr. Styants: No wonder we are short of wagons.

(b) As to Personnel of Resumption Committee and Fees.

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

(1) Who are the members comprising the committee appointed under the railway resumption Act which was passed last session?

(2) What scale of fees is being applied?

(3) What is the total of the fees due to each member of the committee, respectively, to date, and what amounts have already been paid?

(4) Will the committee, in the course of its work, be required to assess the value of land owned by any of its members, or for which any of its members is an agent for an owner?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION replied:

(1) Members of Committee—Chairman, Mr. P. C. Kerr; Departmental Representative, Mr. C. Jarvis (Land Resumption Officer); Local Representatives—Bassendean, Mr. B. Gale; Bayswater, Mr. A. B. Bone; Belmont, Mr. H. L. McGuigan; City of Perth, Mr. V. H. Dawe.

General committee meetings are also attended by liaison officers from the Railway and State Housing Departments.

(2) and (3) The scale of fees has not yet been determined, but is receiving consideration in the light of the work involved.

(4) Yes, but the member directly concerned as claimant or agent for claimant will be required to retire temporarily from the committee while such particular assessment is being made. A proxy member may, however, be appointed to the committee for such assessments.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION.

As to Complaints by Farmers, etc.

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

(1) Has he, or the State Electricity Commission, received any complaints from farmers or road boards regarding the manner in which farmers' fences are left after the erection by the Commission of poles across such properties to carry the Commission's high tension main which is now being constructed between Perth and Northam?

(2) If so, what is the nature of the reply forwarded to those lodging the complaints?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes, verbal complaints from two settlers on the Perth-Northam route. Photographs available indicate that the repairs to fences and provision of gates are superior to the existing fencing where cut.

Photographs are available to the hon. member.

(2) The above verbal complaints did not call for a written reply. The hon. member, on the 22nd instant, forwarded to the Commission a letter from the Northam Road Board in reference to this matter. This is being given immediate attention.

TOWN PLANNING.

(a) As to Preparation of Scheme for Perth.

Mr. NEEDHAM asked the Minister for Local Government:

(1) Has a notice, or request, ever been served on the Perth City Council to prepare a town planning scheme in accordance with the requirements of the Town Planning and Development Act, 1928-47?

(2) If so, by whom, and on what date?

(3) Has any conference been held between the present Government and the Perth City Council in regard to a town planning scheme for the City of Perth?

(4) If so, by whom, and on what date?

(5) Is there any impediment, lawful or factual, preventing the Perth City Council from preparing a town planning scheme?

(6) If so, what is the impediment?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) The Under Secretary for Works, on behalf of the Minister for Works, on the 27th June, 1939.

(3) Yes.

(4) The Minister for Local Government (chairman), the City Council and the Town Planning Board, at the Council Chambers on the 10th June, 1947.

(5) No. Railway Department plans for re-arrangement of railway services within the city have been in the possession of council for a considerable time.

(6) There is none.

(b) As to Amending Legislation.

Mr. GRIFFITH (without notice) asked the Premier:

(1) Is he aware that on the occasion of a civic reception being tendered by the Lord Mayor of Perth to Professor Holford, the noted British town planning authority, the Chief Secretary—who was representing the Government at this function—stated that there was a possibility that the Town Planning Act would be amended?

(2) Was the Chief Secretary expressing the views and intentions of the Government in this matter?

(3) If so, is such legislation to be introduced during the present session of Parliament?

(4) In any case, will he request the Town Planning Board to take immediate steps towards the implementation of the advice given by Professor Holford with respect to the planned development of our fair city?

(5) Will he ensure that the fullest support and co-operation is extended to the Town Planning Board in its endeavours to bring to fruition a well-defined town plan?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) Consideration is being given to the legislation, and it is hoped to introduce a Bill this session.

(4) This will have to be pended until Parliament has the opportunity of considering the legislation.

(5) Yes.

HEALTH.

As to Infant Health Centres and Control.

Mr. OWEN asked the Minister for Health:

(1) How many infant health centres are there in operation in this State?

(2) How many of these are—

- (a) managed by local committees;
- (b) managed by local government bodies?

(3) Is it the policy of the Health Department to dispense with control by local committees in favour of control by local governing bodies?

(4) If so, why?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Centres, 45; sub-centres, 236.

(2) (a) Thirty-seven and 227 sub-centres.

(b) Eight and nine sub-centres.

(3) No; provided that the committee is competent to carry out its responsibilities in accordance with the principles and objects of its foundation and incorporation.

(4) Answered in (3).

MIGRATION.

As to Safeguarding Labour Requirements.

Mr. MANN asked the Premier:

Is the Government satisfied that under the Commonwealth Government's amended immigration policy, Western Australia's labour requirements, particularly for rural industries, will be adequately safeguarded?

The PREMIER replied:

Yes. The State and Commonwealth policy has always been to encourage the migration of rural workers. The State has nominated over 1,000 British rural workers and so far has received 466.

It is reported that owing to the improved living standards in English rural districts, workers are now unwilling to leave their employment.

Under the amended immigration plan, rural workers are to receive top priority, and it is proposed to introduce European workers under this scheme.

HOUSING.

(a) As to Outstanding Applications.

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

Of the 17,429 outstanding applications for dwellings which were in the hands of the State Housing Commission at the 1st July last, how many were—

(a) in the metropolitan area;

(b) in the country?

The MINISTER replied:

(a) 14,634.

(b) 2,795.

(b) As to Notices of Eviction, Carlisle.

Mr. GRIFFITH (without notice) asked the Minister for Housing:

(1) Is he aware that approximately 25 families in the Carlisle area, who are in the process of building self-help homes

and are at present living in temporary accommodation on their building blocks, have been served with eviction notices by the Perth City Council?

(2) Is he further aware that, if the Perth City Council enforces the orders, these families will be rendered homeless and will become the responsibility of the State Housing Commission as evicted cases?

(3) Will he inquire into this matter?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) No.

(2) Yes.

(3) I will have inquiries made.

FREMANTLE HARBOUR.

As to Discharge of Sewage from Ships.

Hon. J. B. SLEEMAN asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Is he aware that the continued discharge from ships of crude sewage into the harbour constitutes a grave danger to the conservancy of the river?

(2) What amount, if any, of undiluted raw sewage from the ships in the Fremantle harbour is taken out and dumped at sea?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) I am aware that crude sewage is discharged from the ships in Fremantle harbour. Owing to the very large volume of water contained in the basin, and the consequent immense dilution and oxidation, this does not constitute a grave danger to the river.

(2) In all the ports throughout the world, sewage from ships is discharged into the port waters. It is not practicable to take the sewage from the ships out to sea.

CEMENT.

As to Supply for Poultry Farmers.

Mr. GRIFFITH (without notice) asked the Minister for Housing:

In view of the fact that the Minister for Agriculture is reported in "The Sunday Times" of the 20th August, 1951, as saying that a further 182 tons of cement has been approved for release to dairy farmers, will he reconsider making an allocation of cement to poultry farmers who are in dire need of this commodity, and who, without such commodity, will be unable to fulfil obligations entered into with the British Government?

The MINISTER replied:

I did see the report. I will have the matter considered by the State Housing Commission and advise the hon. member as early as possible.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.

Ninth Day.

Debate resumed from the 23rd August.

MR. NEEDHAM (North Perth) [4.47]: The outstanding portion of the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Administrator at the opening of Parliament was the touching reference to the death of Sir James Mitchell, our late Governor. His Excellency certainly paid a profound tribute to the memory of a great man who has left a fine record behind him and who, during his long life, rendered wonderful service to the State in which he was born, and to the Commonwealth of Australia. It can truly be said of him, as the poet has written—

His name will be honoured and
his memory revered,

So long as Love lingers to kiss the
lips of Death.

The Speech contained some further reference to the loss sustained by the State in the deaths of four members of this Parliament who have paid their debt to nature since the last time we assembled here. I refer to the deaths of the members for South Fremantle, Mr. Tom Fox, and for Maylands, Mr. Shearn, and also to the deaths of two members of the Legislative Council, Messrs. Tuckey and Mann. These men also rendered signal service to the people whilst they had the honour to represent them in Parliament. We can ill afford to lose such men. Owing to indisposition, I did not have the opportunity of hearing the maiden speech of the member for Maylands when he moved the adoption of the Address-in-reply, but from what I have read of it, I gather that he acquitted himself creditably. I did, however, have the opportunity of hearing the speech of the new member for South Fremantle, and I congratulate him on his splendid effort on that occasion. I feel sure the debating power of the hon. member will considerably add to that which we already have in this Chamber.

I now want to refer to a few matters of absorbing public interest, which have possibly been referred to by speakers who have preceded me in this debate. I allude particularly to the cost of living and housing, as well as one or two other subjects in connection with which the Commonwealth Government of the day, and our own State Government, have not kept faith with the people and have not fulfilled their electioneering promises. The increase in the cost of living is becoming alarming. I venture to say that the people of Australia, who voted "No" at the prices referendum in 1948, have had ample time to see the error of their ways because that vote has cost them dearly.

If the Commonwealth Government had the courage to remit that question to the people of the Commonwealth, simultaneously with the referendum on the question of communism, I am certain that the "No" vote given in 1948 would be reversed and the people of Australia would give a majority "Yes" vote for price-control by the Commonwealth Government. I would go further and say that the State Governments, which so ardently advocated price-control by the States, would also change their attitude. They have realised, during the past three years, that it is not possible for State Governments effectively to control prices. At recent meetings held by the State Prices Ministers, it was admitted that a strong desire existed to hand over price-control to the Commonwealth Government. Experience has taught those Ministers that they cannot effectively carry out the work.

Since the advent of the Menzies-Fadden Government, money values have dropped, and will continue to drop while that Government remains in power. The Commonwealth Government, led by Menzies and Fadden, has failed miserably to combat the fast deteriorating economic situation which, through rising prices and increasing inflationary tendencies, is growing daily worse. It is only a few months since we had a Federal election, during the course of which we were assured that if the Menzies-Fadden Government was returned to power everything in Australia would be in good order.

Mr. J. Hegney: It is a long way from that.

Mr. NEEDHAM: Yes. As a matter of plain, cold fact, I have never known Australia to be in such a dreadful position, from an economic point of view, as it is today.

Mr. Ackland: Are not the people better off today?

Mr. NEEDHAM: Yet, in Australia today we have an anti-Labour Government in charge of the Commonwealth and three anti-Labour Governments in charge of their respective States. We heard very little, if anything, during the 1950 election about the increasing inflationary spiral. Mr. Menzies was quite confident, during that campaign, that he and his Government could effectively govern Australia—not only govern it so far as internal and domestic matters were concerned but also as regards outside influences. Yet, it is only two or three weeks ago that the same gentleman sent out an S.O.S. to come and give him a hand to save Australia.

The Prime Minister convened a conference which was representative of many sections of the Australian community. He wanted to seek their advice on the question of combating inflation. But we know now what happened. That conference proved abortive and nothing worth while has been done. In 1949 he confidently promised to put value back into the £; that promise remains unfulfilled. He made that promise in 1949 but he said nothing about it during

the elections in 1950! During the campaign in the latter year he had only one plank in his platform, and that plank was the question of communism.

Mr. Menzies forced a double dissolution on that issue and made political capital out of it. As I have already stated, he did not make any reference to the deteriorating economic situation, which was daily becoming worse. The latest example of increases in the cost of living is a threatened rise in the price of butter. We were informed, through the Press this morning, that towards the end of this week butter will be increased in price by 1s. a lb.

Mr. McCulloch: Guns before butter.

Mr. NEEDHAM: I would remind the House that when the late Rt. Hon. J. B. Chifley was Prime Minister of this country, his Government was bitterly attacked in the Press, in Parliaments and from platforms because it refused to continue subsidies—with the exception of the tea subsidy—after the referendum on prices had been carried in favour of State control. It was said that Mr. Chifley was piqued because the referendum went against him and yet now we find that a sharp increase in the price of butter is to be made.

The very people who condemned Mr. Chifley for not continuing subsidies are the people who now refuse to continue a subsidy that would prevent this sharp increase in the price of butter being passed on to the people. Appropos of that, I have here a statement made by the Minister controlling prices in Queensland. The statement was made some time last week before the conference was held, and reads as follows:—

Queensland Prices Minister Larcombe today accused Acting Premier Watts of speaking "without knowledge of facts and events."

He was commenting on Mr. Watts' statement yesterday that the Queensland and New South Wales decision to come half-way and advocate a 6d. a lb. rise in butter as opposed to 11½d. proposed by other States, was "pleasing" though "belated."

Mr. Larcombe said that Queensland had made the half-way offer at the first conference convened by Commerce and Agriculture Minister McEwen. The offer had been made to avoid deadlock and delay, he said.

In a letter to the "Daily News," Mr. Larcombe said Queensland had consistently maintained that attitude.

Queensland had requested the Federal Government to honour its guarantee to the dairy farmers to ensure that they received a price equivalent to the cost of production for the period ending June, 1952, he said.

"The additional subsidy involved would be a good investment for the Commonwealth Government as an

anti-inflationary measure," he said. "An increase of about 1s. a lb. in the price to the consumer would in turn substantially increase costs to Governments and industry."

He said that it would create an early demand for higher wages and so accelerate the vicious circle of inflation. The Federal Government had great financial obligations, but also great revenues.

Commonwealth taxation in 1950-51 was about £718,000,000—an increase of about £214,000,000 on that of the previous year.

We are advised that New South Wales and Queensland will increase the price of butter by only 6d. a lb., but, as Mr. Larcombe has pointed out in his statement, that was the arrangement already entered into between Federal Ministers, namely, that the difference between 6d. and 1s. per lb. should be provided for by subsidy in order to prevent a sharp increase of cost being passed on to the consumer.

I think that was a logical attitude to adopt, because there is no doubt that if these increased prices are passed on to the consumer, the basic wage will take another sharp jump, and that will not improve the inflationary position. Dealing further with this question, the chairman of the Prices Ministers' Conference made a statement on the 25th August which appeared in "The West Australian" and which reads as follows:—

Replying to the statement by the president of the Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation (Mr. J. P. Norton) that he did not know where he obtained his information about the 5.8d. per lb. increase in production costs, Mr. Finnan said yesterday that there was no mystery about the source of his information.

At a special conference on butter in Melbourne, Mr. Finnan said, the Federal Minister for Commerce and Agriculture (Mr. McEwen) had stated emphatically that the findings of his departmental officers, based on the survey of the Joint Dairying Industry Advisory Committee, in accordance with the five-year guarantee plan expiring at June 30th, 1952, were in favour of 5.8d. per lb.

Mr. Finnan said that if Mr. Norton considered that Mr. McEwen had "put it over" the dairy industry, then surely Mr. Norton's fight was with the Commonwealth Government.

He added that the refusal of the Commonwealth Government to increase the butter subsidy was nothing less than gross repudiation. It was a reckless disregard of the interests of both butter producers and butter consumers.

When the next increase in the basic wage takes place we will know that a contributory factor has been the refusal of the Commonwealth Government to fix a subsidy to obviate prices being passed on. We find today that wages, salaries, fixed incomes, service and civilian pensions, superannuation, insurance and war gratuity pensions are all losing their values—not monthly or weekly, but almost daily, without any effective action, such as an overall national plan, to arrest the almost daily decline in money values.

This occurred shortly after the present Commonwealth Government had taken office and after it had assured us during the election campaign that all was well. Today we have the spectacle of basic fresh foods showing an overall increase in price of 120 per cent. in the last 12 or 15 months. More and still more money is wanted to buy less and less, while profits in some concerns have risen to record levels. There has been too much talk about the method of controlling prices and too little attention paid to the margin of profit, which is one of the factors causing our inflationary spiral.

I would like to know where is the promised excess profits tax—promised by the Federal Government in 1949. Echo answers "Where"? The capital issues authority is a dead letter while the so-called National Security Resources Board is also inoperative. A little while ago I read that the Menzies Government realised the necessity of doing something about capital issues, but it thought of doing so rather late. It has allowed labour and material to be used in the manufacture of luxury goods at the expense of essential items. If capital issues had been permitted to continue in the manner in which Mr. Chifley had determined, the present position would not have arisen.

Another feature of the economic situation today is the unwillingness of the people to invest in Government securities. This is an indication of a possible economic collapse and yet all we get from the Menzies-Fadden combination is—communism! There is evidence of the dangerous position in which we find ourselves to be noted in the fact that the people of this country have no confidence in Government undertakings and will not invest in them. As I have already said, all we have had from the Federal Government in the past few months is talk about communism.

I know that communism is a deadly menace. I have fought communism over the last 30 years, ever since it raised its ugly head in this great country of ours, and I will continue to fight communism so long as I have breath left in my body and strength to do so. As I have said, communism certainly is a menace, but so is the present economic situation a menace to Australia. I am amazed at the ineptitude of the present Commonwealth Government in the face of this economic

disaster—because economic disaster it will be, unless something effective is done to combat it.

Why is this ineptitude of the Commonwealth Government apparent today? The answer to that question lies in the fact that the Liberal and Country Party sections of the Menzies Government are just as divided on matters of financial policy today as they were when faced with the threat of military disaster in 1941. When faced with that prospect, this same Menzies-Fadden Government abdicated and called upon the Labour leader of that day to form a Government. I need not dwell on that aspect. We all know the danger we were in on that occasion.

One of the most ruthless enemies the world has ever known was at our gates, almost within them, and in the face of that impending military disaster the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister left Australia to the mercy of the Japs for the time being and called upon the Labour leader to form a government. We all know what the answer to that call was and how, in the moment of our direst need, Australia was saved from this disaster.

The next step in the daily increased cost of living is to be noted in the information that the next Federal Budget will provide for increased income taxation, which means that we have still another promise that has been broken. Long and loud were the protests from Press and platform against the Chifley level of taxation during the last election, and a definite promise was made by Mr. Menzies that he would reduce taxation. Menzies and Fadden joined in the chorus and both promised relief and reduction of taxation in their policy speeches. But now that they are well entrenched on the front Treasury bench, with a majority in each House, they increase rather than reduce taxation.

It may be said, in reply to my contention about increased taxation, that the international situation is different today from what it was in 1949. If it is so, we have had no definite statement from any responsible Minister of the Crown in the Federal arena. Mr. Menzies has not taken the public of Australia into his confidence and has not told us what the international situation is and how far it has deteriorated since he was elected in 1949. If there is an immediate danger of war, why not tell the people so bluntly? Why this hush-hush policy? He claims that, because of the altered international situation, it is necessary to increase taxation. If that is so, why does he not tell the people what the exact position is?

Another never-failing source of criticism by the anti-Labour parties was in connection with the controls exercised by the Labour Government, led by the late Rt. Hon. J. B. Chifley. Promises and pledges galore were given that the anti-Labour forces would abolish all controls

at the first opportunity. In every daily paper that we picked up we found condemnation of the economic controls exercised by the Chifley Government. We were assured during the elections that if the anti-Labour parties were returned to power, those controls would disappear. But what do we find? A measure has been placed on the statute book by the Commonwealth Parliament giving more drastic power to the Commonwealth Government than was ever exercised in time of war. I refer to the defence preparations measure.

I have never been a willing subscriber to war precautions Acts or defence of the realm Acts, or whatever they might be called, which give unlimited power to the executive of a Government to control the destinies of the nation. I admit that in time of war, especially the kind of war we fought a few years ago, there is reason for certain powers to be given to the executive; but I can see no reason why such extraordinary powers should be handed to any Government in time of peace. Today we are technically at peace and are shortly to sign the Japanese peace treaty. Yet we have a Government in the Commonwealth sphere which has secured the passage of a measure giving it greater powers than any Government had during the war. There again is the breach of a promise made during the election campaign.

In 1948, Mr. Menzies and the anti-Labour parties in the Federal and State arenas, were successful in securing the transfer of price-control from the Federal to the State authorities, with what chaotic results is now well known. But, instead of abolishing what they termed bureaucratic government, the Menzies-Fadden Government has gagged and guillotined through both Houses of Parliament the Defence Preparations Bill, which has given that Government more power in these times of peace than was enjoyed by any Government during the war. Even the Press of this country described the Bill as containing the most far-reaching economic controls ever introduced in a time of ostensible peace. Thus we have a complete somersault by the Menzies-Fadden Government on the question of controls; and a number of members of the Government parties represented by that Government who voiced opposition to the measure, were quickly silenced when Mr. Menzies cracked the party whip. We have read of statements made inside and outside the House that many members of the Liberal Party in the Federal Parliament were opposed to the legislation; but it was eventually passed.

The excuse given for requiring these far-reaching powers is that we must be ready for war in three years' time. Hitler kept the German people under his heel for years because he said that Germany

was threatened from outside. Stalin followed a similar policy by working on the fears of the Russian people that they were to be attacked by some phantom enemy, and he continues to keep those fears alive today. I see a resemblance between the Hitler and Stalin policies and that being pursued by the Menzies-Fadden Government today. Towards the end of next month there is to be a referendum on powers to deal with communism. Why not refer the defence preparations measure to the people to see if they would ratify the granting of the extraordinary and dangerous powers which the Menzies-Fadden Government has grabbed?

The promise of the McLarty-Watts Government in 1947 was houses for all, schools to accommodate all schoolchildren, and hospital accommodation for all sick people; but, after a little over four years of McLarty-Watts administration, there are still shortages of all these things.

The Premier: And the population is increasing at a greater rate than previously.

Mr. NEEDHAM: I admit that the population has increased considerably, but not to the extent that would have precluded the Government from carrying out the promises made at election time in 1947. I might remind the Premier that, while there is a big increase in population—

The Premier: An enormous increase.

Mr. NEEDHAM: —there is also a big increase in the labour and materials available—

The Premier: Not in proportion.

Mr. NEEDHAM: —compared with what were available when his Government took over and during the last three or four years of the regime of the Wise Government. World War II ended on the 15th August, 1945, and the Premier's party came into power on the 1st April, 1947—an appropriate date. Mr. Wise and his Government had about 17 or 18 months to make up for the lag of building during six years of war. All the men had not returned from the front at the time the 1947 election took place, so they could not be building houses while they were fighting the Japs. There was, indeed, a complete absence of labour and materials at the time the Wise Government went out of office. At present, children are still being taught in crowded and ill-ventilated schools; while hospital accommodation, private and public, is at a premium, and there is still an acute shortage of nurses.

The slogan of Mr. Menzies and Mr. Fadden in 1949 was the abolition of all controls and reduction of taxation. Instead, we have the most far-reaching powers of control over the lives and liberties of the people ever taken by Parliament in a time of peace; and we are promised that, in the next Federal Budget, there will be provision for increased

taxation. Consequently, the Commonwealth Government of Messrs. Menzies and Fadden, and the State Government of Messrs. McLarty and Watts, can be charged, and rightly charged, with a complete negation of policy and a complete disregard of election promises.

Looking at the efforts of the Menzies-Fadden Government to combat inflation, one cannot find that anything effective has been done. All the talk of Mr. Menzies, all his work, and all his promises will have about as much effect on curtailing the inflationary spiral as a hen scratching in the backyard would have on the law of gravitation. I think a good stiff excess profits tax, the rigid control of capital issues, and the prevention of the manufacture of luxuries, with labour diverted to the production of essential goods, with up-to-date machinery and plant, would help to halt the inflationary spiral.

I realise the necessity for increased production, but I do not accept the doctrine that that should be done by the worker alone. The worker cannot turn out good work unless he is given tools and machinery, and it is well known that many factories in Australia are carrying on with obsolete machinery. If they had up-to-date plant, there would be increased production and, by an effective excess profits tax and control of capital issues, we might get somewhere in our fight against inflation.

The Premier: In which industry is the machinery obsolete?

Mr. NEEDHAM: I am sorry but I did not hear the Premier's interjection. I come now to the question of housing and, although it has been dealt with by other speakers, it is of such importance that I feel I must touch briefly on it. The Government is far behind in its efforts to meet the demand for both war service and rental homes. I understand that the number of outstanding applications for war service and rental homes was 17,402 in July, 1950, as compared with 17,429 in July, 1951, which shows the lag to be even greater this year than it was last year. In letters received from the Housing Commission, in reply to inquiries made on behalf of some of my constituents who have sought places in which to live, I have been informed that the 1947 applications are only now being dealt with.

In my comments, I make no accusation against the Housing Commission but desire to attack the policy of the Government and of the Minister for Housing. I have always received courtesy and some measure of assistance from the Housing Commission itself but if, as stated to me in a letter from that organisation, the 1947 applications are only now being dealt with, there is obviously a lag of four years. When will a

family, whose application was placed in 1948, receive a home? Echo answers "When?" A little while ago reference was made to rackets in relation to housing, and I have here a cutting from "The West Australian" of the 7th July last, in which Mr. J. G. White, president of the Building Trade Executive, had something to say about the matter. It reads as follows:—

Racket in Housing.

Royal Commission Wanted.

The check on the issue of housing permits was inadequate and because of this and wholesale blackmarket dealing in houses a Royal Commission should be appointed to investigate the housing position, the president of the Building Trade Executive (Mr. J. G. White) said yesterday.

The housing shortage was being exploited by persons who had capital to invest, Mr. White said.

Mr. White holds a very responsible position as president of that executive and when a man of his standing makes a statement of this kind attention should be paid to it, and it should not be allowed to fall on deaf ears. I was never a keen advocate of Royal Commissions, but I believe if one were held now to inquire into this question it might be of service to the community. I noticed in the "Daily News" of the 13th July, 1951, a report that the congress of the Returned Servicemen's League would consider resolutions dealing with trafficking in war service homes—resolutions that there should be legislation to restrict trafficking in these homes for ten years after initial occupation. It will be seen, therefore, that the men who offered their lives by standing between us and the enemy are, in many cases, in a bad way as far as housing is concerned.

In my opinion, it is nothing short of criminal for anyone who is granted a war service or rental home to sell it within a short while after taking possession. The Government should take drastic measures to prevent housing rackets of that kind. There is still an acute shortage of building timber and the position is accentuated by the export of much-needed material. There, again, the Government has failed in not preventing the export of timber until the building requirements of the State have been met. It has been said that the Government has not the power to prevent the export of timber, but I believe it has that power.

It is interesting to note that the chairman of the Small Sawmillers' Association is reported to have said that 100 small mills throughout the State could supply from 75 to 85 per cent. of all the housing timber needed if logs were available. He said that small mills were finding it almost impossible to procure timber of quality and were in grave danger of having to close

down. I do not know whether any help will be given in that regard as a result of the Royal Commission at present inquiring into the timber position in this State, but I sincerely hope that will be the case.

Then again, it would be interesting to find out how the spec. builders, of whom we have heard so much lately, manage to get all sorts of building materials with little or no delay while genuine home-seekers have to wait for months. That is a phase of the matter I cannot understand. Another matter that I desire to mention in connection with our housing difficulties—I wish to draw the Minister's attention to it—is the quality of the bricks available at the present time. I have here a cutting from the "Daily News" of the 6th June last. It is headed "Standard Brick Quality Urged" and reads as follows:—

A crumbling, badly-formed clay brick (pictured) which Building Trade Executive Chairman J. G. White showed a Pressman today, proved, he said, the need for a standard of quality in building trade materials. The brick was one of a total of 8,000 delivered on a job at a cost of £14 a thousand, he said. Of the 8,000, only 1,500 were of merchantable quality. Obviously the same high price has to be paid for the 6,500 inferior quality. If anyone wants to use this type of material, at least he should gain the advantage of a corresponding price reduction, said Mr. White. The same applies to much of the timber now being used in houses. Much of it is inferior quality but it is sold at high prices. Previously it was used only for pickets or was burnt at the mill. Much of this timber will not even hold a nail and twists and warps easily. The time has come when the State Government should set a standard of quality for all materials used in the building trade. I feel sure that master builders would support such a proposal.

I hope the Minister for Housing will take notice of what Mr. White said. I have a word of commendation for the Minister for the forthright statements he made before the Royal Commission that is inquiring into our timber position, and I hope he will follow that up with a view to bringing about a much-needed improvement in the timber supply.

I am glad also to see that this anti-Socialist Government has gone in for another socialistic undertaking in the form of a further State brickworks, which should help considerably to increase the brick supply. The only thing wrong with this venture is that it has been too long delayed. I also notice with pleasure that the Federal Government is reviewing the immigration position, and it is high time that was done. I believe that we have in the past few years allowed into Australia more people than we could absorb econo-

mically. There has been an indiscriminate flow of migrants into Australia instead of something of a more selective nature.

Our greatest need all the time has been for men and women who could contribute to the production of necessary materials, but many of those who have come here, even though they were able to pay their own way, have still cost us money as they could not be placed in employment. I am glad to see that the Commonwealth has become aware of the position and is going to curtail the flow of immigrants by a figure of something like 50,000 per year and will endeavour to bring into the country only men and women who will be able to help increase production.

I desire now to refer to the basic wage question. We are still being told that the increased basic wage is the main, if not the only, factor responsible for the inflationary spiral, but I do not think anyone making that statement knows much about the true position. We are also told that the worker is not pulling his weight, though the persons who make that statement are careful not to mention the huge and increasing profits gained by big business. The quarterly adjustment of the basic wage is simply a reimbursement to the worker of the increased cost of living that he has experienced during the previous three months. He has had to pay that increased cost and is always three months behind in the matter of reimbursement.

It is idle, therefore, to say that the basic wage is in any way a factor contributing towards the progress of the inflationary spiral; because if prices did not go up, there would be no quarterly adjustment and the only increase in wages would be that following an appeal to the Arbitration Court. The court would then decide to increase the basic wage or otherwise on the evidence placed before it. In some quarters it is also maintained that workers should suffer a reduction in the basic wage as a means of checking the inflationary spiral. That is another fallacy. It is indeed strange that the worker is the one who is always called upon to shoulder the whole of the burden.

There is no suggestion that employers and manufacturers should not pass on to the consumer the effect of the augmented basic wage by increasing prices for commodities, but, instead, should reduce their margin of profit. No, there is no mention of that! It is always the worker who is called upon to yield this and to yield that. Whilst on the question of profits I noticed in the "Sunday Times" dated the 12th August, 1951, under the heading "Investment Review," that a profit of £13,530 had been made by E. S. Lazarus and Coy. (W.A.), Ltd.

Mr. J. Hegney: Lazarus?

Mr. NEEDHAM: Yes.

Mr. J. Hegney: I thought he was dead!

Mr. NEEDHAM: The article reads—

One of the first of the 1951 balance-sheets to be issued is that of the local company E. S. Lazarus and Co. W.A. Net profit for the year was £13,530 after provision of taxation to the extent of £13,066. Out of the profit ordinary shareholders get dividend and bonus totalling 22½ per cent., while £4,000 is added to general reserve.

There is no talk about trying to reduce that profit of 22½ per cent. in order to check the inflationary spiral. Any number of suggestions are put forward in order to prevent the worker from obtaining his quarterly adjustment of the basic wage so that he can pay the prices for the goods which he must buy. Another suggestion made to counter inflation is that wages should be pegged. However, they are already pegged and under control. A worker cannot get any increase in his weekly wage until he states his case before the Arbitration Court and it takes a great deal of time, labour and money to present such a case. Even then he has a considerable wait before he hears of the court's decision.

When one compares the process that a worker has to go through before he obtains an increase in his wages with that adopted for obtaining an increase in the price of butter, one must admit that the worker is certainly under a handicap. As far as I can ascertain, the producer and the manufacturer himself determines the price of butter without any representation by the consumer. The worker has to fight every inch of the way for every increase he gets. I have some interesting figures in reply to the charge that workers are loafing on the job. They are contained in a cutting from the "Worker" newspaper and are as follows:—

Workers are Not Loafing.

Almost daily Tory politicians and big business bosses are reciting their parrot-like theme that Australian workers are loafing on the job.

But a refutation is given by cold, hard facts released last week by the Commonwealth Statistician, Dr. Roland Wilson. According to his official figures exports for January hit a new record value of £99,682,000.

This was an increase of 92.4 per cent. on the previous January and came close to the value of a full year's exports during the depression.

For the first seven months of the financial year, exports were worth £488,497,000 (up £179,459,000 on the first seven months of 1949-50) and imports £396,530,000 (up £111,872,000). This left a favourable commodity balance of £91,967,000, compared with £24,380,000 last year.

Will the parrot cry be continued by big bosses?

Although that was published in the "Worker," it is not a Labour viewpoint but is information obtained from the Commonwealth Statistician to prove that the worker is not loafing on the job. I have another cutting here from the "Daily News," dated the 21st August, 1951. It reads as follows:—

Australian Trade Balance Trebles in a Year.

Canberra, Sat: Australia had the huge favourable trade balance of £239,420,000 for the year ended June 30th. This compares with a balance of £75,529,000 for the preceding year.

The Commonwealth Treasury said today that the value of exports last year increased by more than 50 per cent. to £981,294,000 from £611,653,000 the previous year.

The value of imports rose by £536,124,000 to £741,874,000.

When "invisible" items are brought into account, it is believed that the overall balance of payments for last year will be among the largest on record.

That goes to prove the absurdity of the oft-repeated statement that the worker is loafing on the job. There is one other matter to which I intend to refer, but I will postpone that until later in the session when the Premier deals with his Budget. By that time we will have an idea of the course he proposes to take and of how he intends to combat the inflationary spiral and to compare his efforts and promises with those of the Commonwealth Prime Minister.

MR. HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe) [5.55]:

At the outset, like other members who have preceded me, I wish to express my regret at the death of our late Governor, Sir James Mitchell. He was a great statesman in his time and the State still mourns his loss. I wish also to express my deep regret at the death of the late Mr. Shearn, who was member for Maylands, and that of the late Mr. Fox, who was the member for South Fremantle. Both these members were friends of mine and I felt their passing on was most untimely. I would like to convey my sympathy to their relatives.

I wish also to refer briefly to the projected visit of the Royal Family early next year. I feel sure that this State will give them not only the royal welcome that they deserve, but also a loyal welcome which will express the feelings that are in our hearts.

On Wednesday, the 22nd August, I asked a question in this House; one that queried the sponsorship by the Adult Education Board of a play called "Clutterbuck."

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: They are getting bumper houses now.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: The remark of the member for Fremantle is rather ill-timed. The unfortunate publicity that has been given to this play has its natural corollary in the publicity it has since received. But I still contend and adhere to my belief that right is on my side—that is, on the question of such a play being given to the people under the guise of education.

Mr. J. Hegney: Have you seen the play yourself?

Mr. HUTCHINSON: Yes. I had hoped that my genuine, simple question was phrased in a manner that would have prevented a construction such as has been placed upon it.

Hon. A. H. Panton: You will get used to that in a few years.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I feel that there has been a misconception—a most definite misconception—as to the motive behind the question.

Hon. A. H. Panton: Here he comes, give it to him.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: That is due, possibly to two reasons, firstly, I should say, to a remark passed by the member for Mt. Marshall who is very often known as the funny man of the House.

Hon. A. H. Panton: The would-be funny man!

Mr. HUTCHINSON: His brobdingnagian wit—although possibly "wit" is the wrong word to use and "humour" would be nearer the mark—was ill-timed and brought discomfort to the member concerned. His brobdingnagian humour led to a misreport in "The West Australian" the following day—I refer now to the question asked by the member for Mt. Marshall to the effect that my name should be submitted for the post of "Under Secretary for Public Morals."

Hon. J. B. Sleeman: He wanted to make you a Minister anyhow.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: That suggestion roughly blurred the point of my question. The following day "The West Australian" reported my question and also that of the member for Mt. Marshall. By giving the wrong emphasis to a phrase I used, the whole meaning of my question was altered; it was changed; it was misconstrued, misrepresented and misreported in actual fact. My question told the Minister that many people deplored the sponsorship of this play by the Adult Education Board. I did not—I repeat "not"—say that many people deplored the earthiness of the play. At this stage I do not want my remarks misconstrued to such an extent that members might think I am apologising for my question, or retracting from it in any way.

Mr. Ackland: There is no need to apologise for it in any way. The play is unadulterated filth from start to finish.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: In order to have the position clarified, I wish to read the questions I asked, in order to answer a certain particularly spiteful attack made on me by a person to whom I shall refer later. I asked the Minister the following questions:—

(1) Is he aware that the play "Clutterbuck" has just concluded a successful season at the Repertory Theatre?

(2) Is he also aware that the play is being taken on a country tour under the auspices of the Adult Education Board?

(3) Does he realise that the subject-matter of the play is decidedly "earthy" and, principally, because it tends to glamourise marital infidelity, many people deplore its sponsorship by the board?

(4) Does he realise that good acting on the part of all players further serves to accentuate the play's "earthiness"?

(5) Does he consider that the Adult Education Board should sponsor such a play?

(6) Will he take steps to persuade the board to withdraw its sponsorship of this play in favour of another?

Hon. A. H. Panton: They got a full house at Moora.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I submit that the fault might lie in my direction in the phrasing of the question, but I endeavoured to do it in such a manner as to make the point that people deplored the sponsorship of this play, and not its earthiness. This is the report in "The West Australian" of the 23rd August—

"Earthiness of Play Deplored in House.

That was the headline and the report goes on to state—

The Minister for Education (Mr. Watts) was questioned in the Legislative Assembly last night regarding the country tour of the play "Clutterbuck" and the play's "earthiness."

Quite untrue!

Mr. Styants: We get plenty of that from "The West Australian."

Mr. Graham: Question 3 conforms to that.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: It does not conform to it, let me remind the member for East Perth.

Mr. SPEAKER: Through the Chair.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: The rest of this report gives substantially what I did ask in my question and also gives the Minister's answer. But, the mistake and misrepresentation arise, and the impression is gained, from the heading and sub-heading, which I read to the House.

Mr. J. Hegney: That is the freedom of the Press.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: As I said before, it is quite likely that my question was misconstrued because of the unfortunate question asked by the member for Mt. Marshall.

Mr. Marshall: Haven't you learnt the rules of the House since you have been here?

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I endeavoured to make it perfectly clear that my objection, and the objection of many broadminded people, was to the fact that this play was being sponsored by the Adult Education Board and being shown under the guise of education. I did not question the propriety of the play while it was being shown by the Repertory Club in Perth, but when the Education Board endeavours to foster education of the adult mind through the medium of such a play, and one has to see it to appreciate my point—

Mr. Graham: We want to know when it will be shown next in Perth.

Hon. A. H. Panton: It got a full house at Moora.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: That is the type of remark I would expect from the member for East Perth.

Mr. Graham: It is quite appropriate because, unless we have seen it, how can we pass an opinion?

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I would like to say that the member for East Perth at times takes a fatherly interest in the members of the back bench on this side of the House. He cajoles us with fair words to get on our feet and make a speech, and then attempts to berate us for our impropriety.

Mr. Griffith: And blushes if he cannot get away with it any other way.

Hon. A. H. Panton: You will get over that sensitiveness.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: Whilst the Repertory Club showed this play "Clutterbuck" as a sophisticated comedy, I had no complaint whatever to make. I would emphasise that point. I had no complaint to make whatsoever. But when the stamp of approval is put on this play by the Adult Education Board which tries to pass it off in the guise of education, I do begin to make complaints, and I think with some justification. I began my attack when this play was shown under false colours. It is now my intention to say a few words about the editorial in the "Daily News," dated the 24th instant. The member for East Perth will be glad and may be able to see a little more point now when I refute the allegations of a certain gentleman to whom I will refer later.

Hon. A. H. Panton: If you can educate the Press, you will do all the good in the world.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I would like to read this public exhibition of bad manners to the House, as the person who wrote it obviously refers to me. In his sub-leader he heaps loads of sarcasm upon me and practically seconds the brobdingnagian suggestion of the member for Mt. Marshall that I should be appointed "Under Secretary for Public Morals." Because this person has attacked me in such a spiteful manner—and it is a spiteful manner, as members will realise when I have read it—I feel I must make some comment upon it. The sub-leader in the "Daily News" is headed, "Saving the Outback," and reads as follows:—

If a certain narrowness of view is required for the job, one nominee for the "Under-Secretaryship for Public Morals" could be said to have displayed it promisingly. What has him tut-tutting is that an "earthy" comedy of manners which packed them in when it was staged in Perth should be taken out to sully the minds of what he presumably regards as simple country folk. And, what is more, that the Adult Education Board should soil its hands by sponsoring it.

It seems to worry him, too, that the board is not subject to some sort of Ministerial control; no doubt if he were in the House of Commons he would jolly well shake up the B.B.C. for some of the "earthiness" in its variety programmes—particularly as they reach out to contaminate cloddish rural types.

It is to be hoped that as it continues catering not only for juveniles but for adults the board will never arrange distribution among country centres of the Bible, Chaucer, Elizabethan dramatists or even John Steinbeck. Because that surely would give the "Under-Secretary" a stroke.

Hon. A. H. Panton: The first 10 years are the worst.

Mr. Styants: You have got to be thick-skinned.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: My skin has not thickened sufficiently well. I submit that the whole tenor of this article is spiteful and nasty, and I feel that some answer must be made to it. I think I have already given a very strong answer, but perhaps I should particularise. The writer of the article mentions my narrowness of view. I simply deny this, and if that is not sufficient I should like to say that after leaving school I worked in a grocery store behind the counter; I worked in a timber mill—hard manual labour; I became a school teacher and I saw war service overseas in a number of countries; I was a football league coach to three league football teams; I was State football coach and now I am a member of this House.

Mr. Styants: You slipped very badly!

Hon. A. H. Panton: You are going back every day.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: Through this House, I should like to ask the person who wrote that attack on me if that is the background of a narrow view.

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: It is rather surprising, with that background, that you are not on this side of the House.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: Not at all.

The Minister for Education: This is where the real democrats are.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: It merely shows that I am thinking along the right lines.

The Attorney General: Breadth of vision!

Hon. J. T. Tonkin: Breadth of vision is right, and not very broad, either.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I was referring to a sub-editorial in which an attack was made upon me because of the questions I asked in the House. The second point the writer endeavoured to make was when he said I did not want "to sully the minds of what he presumably regards as simple country folk." I would say to this person that he should consult my questions in their entirety and not accept any reported version of them before commenting on them. If he still believes that I was tut-tutting because of fear of sullyng the minds of simple country folk, then I say that this person has no intellectual claim to the position he holds.

I did not question the propriety of the Repertory Club's producing the play anywhere from here to Timbuctoo, and as I am country-born and bred and spent half of my life in the country, I feel that the writer's chief object to antagonise rural people against me in this matter will be laughed to scorn by the very people he has tried to recruit to his malicious way of thought. The next three lines of his sub-editorial says, "And what is more, that the Adult Education Board should soil its hands by sponsoring it."

Those lines seem to indicate that he is on sounder ground, as I did say in my questions that because of the play's tendency to glamourise marital infidelity, many people deplored its sponsorship by the board. Those three lines gladdened me because they showed that the writer did comprehend that section of my questions. I still adhere to the belief that this play tends to glamourise marital infidelity, and I repeat that the stamp of approval by the board makes the play show under false colours. It was my object to haul those colours down.

The writer also says that it seems to worry me that the board is not subject to some sort of ministerial control. How puerile and stupid that is of the writer! How little real attention he has paid to the questions I asked in the House! Such a

matter never entered my head. The board is probably well served by its members, some of them personal friends of mine whom I respect and honour. I merely asked the Minister whether he would take steps to persuade the board to withdraw its sponsorship of the play in favour of another.

Then the writer's conclusion or peroration sinks to a new ridiculous low when he clumsily suggests that the distribution among country centres of the Bible, Chaucer, Elizabethan dramatists or even John Steinbeck would surely give me a stroke. His insinuation that these are worse than "Clutterbuck" is just too positively ridiculous. The subject matter of "Clutterbuck" shows womanhood and manhood at a very low level indeed, and for the board to sponsor it is, as I said before, plainly wrong. I apologise for having taken up so much time on this matter, but I felt strongly upon it and thought to correct some of the ideas that are abroad in the House and outside, and also to reiterate my belief that such a play as this should not be sponsored by such a body as the Adult Education Board.

Now I should like to deal with a matter that is a little more palatable. It concerns the scholarships that are given to school-children. Although the examinations for scholarships are now far more liberalised than they were in years gone by, I still feel that the scholarship system, as arranged at present, is not highly satisfactory. I have a few criticisms to offer on this aspect and afterwards I shall make a suggestion.

I believe that the scholarship system tends to produce a type of factory school turning out children with the scholarship complex instead of a school basing its curriculum on much broader lines. Some schools obtain a disproportionate number of scholarships by devious means, one of which is that the brightest children are taken from the early standards and coached on rather narrow lines. I am not saying that this is the general tendency, but the system does lend itself to such, shall I term it, malpractice.

The second criticism I have to offer is that the system encourages parents to send their children to school too early. This is a fault which often brings about psychological troubles because the child is sent to school at an age when its maturity is not that of the other children in the class to which it belongs. Thirdly, the parents endeavour to force their children through their school lives by means of homework and parental attention in order that they can achieve the great honour, as it is often referred to, of obtaining a scholarship. This, too, acts to the detriment of the children. I have mentioned already that the scholarship system strongly tends to narrow the curriculum rather than to bring about the ideal of broadening it.

Mr. J. Hegney: Which scholarship are you referring to, the one at 12 years of age?

Mr. HUTCHINSON: Yes. Again, parents, with the scholarship in view, often tend to encourage or force their children into the professional channel instead of the technical channel, when the children themselves often prefer the technical side, and this also can lead to a very sad maladjustment in their lives. In addition, many children possessing quite a high intelligence quotient are prevented from obtaining, under the present system, what should be their true reward because of some immaturity in their development or some examination complex which prevents them from doing their best in the scholarship examination.

I would like to suggest to the Minister that instead of the present system, there be one of accrediting adopted whereby the headmasters of schools would accredit children with marks, very broadly, throughout the years of their school life, taking from Class 3 up to Class 6, or to the age of 12 years, which is the present age at which the scholarship examination is taken. This accrediting by headmasters would be on a broad basis to enable a curriculum to be adopted which would really be one catering for all sections of education. The accrediting by headmasters could quite easily be supervised by the inspectors during their regular visits. I know the system I have just suggested is not perfect, but with some modifications I think it could, with advantage to the intake of children into our high schools, be adopted.

Mr. Styants: Could not you arrange an examination without the children or the class realising it was an examination that they were undergoing?

Mr. HUTCHINSON: That possibly could be arranged. It would be difficult though, and I still contend that if one believed in such an arrangement, it would be far better to adopt the accrediting system where the work of the children would be taken over a period of years, and there would not be just one examination in which their intelligence was judged in a brief hour.

Mr. Styants: But a child might have half a dozen headmasters over the period, and each with a different set of values.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: The scheme, of course, would have to be ironed out, and possibly some rules laid down governing it. I have already mentioned that each inspector could iron out any anomalies arising in his district.

Mr. J. Hegney: Do you know whether that operates in the Education Department in Victoria?

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I do not know.

Mr. J. Hegney: I think it does.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: There is a general move in educational fields to eliminate a number of examinations in favour of some form of accrediting. Just whether or not that has occurred in Victoria, I do not know.

Hon. E. Nulsen: Would not you take that system up to the junior standard?

Mr. HUTCHINSON: Yes, I think that could be adopted, and I feel it eventually will be. I desire to refer briefly to a few remarks made by members on the other side of the House on preparations for defence. In quite a number of instances, those members deplored the amount of money spent by the Commonwealth Government to place our country in a state of preparedness. They criticised such expenditure very strongly. I believe we must prepare for the eventuality of war, because if we are prepared, the likelihood of war will recede. The member for East Perth said he believed there would be no world war. I agree with him, provided we make full and proper preparations for war.

I feel my contention is borne out at the present time by many people in authority, not only in this country but also in Britain where the Labour Government holds a similar view. The hon. member mentioned, too, that there were various wars being conducted in Malaya, Indo-China and Korea, and said that in all cases the fighting was against communism. That is justifiably so. We must remember that communism has, as its main aim, world domination, and it is up to us to see that the plans of the communists are prevented from being carried out.

We must remember, too, that in the overall world pattern laid down by Marx, Lenin, and Stalin in later years, presumably Australia plays its part as one of the pawns to be picked up at some future time. The member for East Perth also mentioned—and, of course, there is a lot of truth in what he said—that there were some shocking atrocities committed during the last war—cases of soldiers being decapitated by the enemy, and of nurses and womenfolk suffering horribly. I agree with what he had to say in this connection, but I believe that had we been strong and prepared, the enemy at that time—Hitler's Germany—who started the ball rolling, would not have been able to declare war upon us, or commence hostilities against us.

Mr. Graham: My complaint was that those nations committed the atrocities.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: That is so, but at the same time the hon. member criticised severely the present war preparations and the amount of money being spent on defence.

Mr. Graham: Not as directly as that.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I gathered that that was what the hon. member referred to. There have been wars since the beginning of time and it would be futile for anyone in authority to suggest that there will be no further wars. The ingredients are present in the world today for another conflict, but if we are fully prepared and are strong, then, as I have already said, it is quite possible that we may scare war away.

Mr. J. Hegney: That is not the experience of history.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I just wished to make that point. One member opposite mentioned, in the course of his speech, that there was no threat or danger from any one of about five countries that he referred to, but he did not mention Russia until I interjected. Russia is the one country that does offer a threat, and I believe we must be prepared to meet that threat. If we show a yellow streak at this time it will be tantamount to asking for a smack in the face very shortly. Russia has prepared and is preparing most thoroughly for war. I will quote from the "Daily News" of the 20th August.

Mr. Styants: They would know all about it. They would get behind the iron curtain.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: The heading is "Fact, Not Guesswork," under which appears the following:—

London, Monday: Only fools would disregard the estimates of Russian strength given recently by British military intelligence. Under Secretary of War Woodrow Wyatt said today. "These figures aren't guesswork. We know what we are talking about when we say that Russia and her satellites have more than 5,670,000 men under arms, more than 19,000 aircraft, and great strength in heavy armament," Mr. Wyatt said. Between now and 1954 Russia might be tempted into thinking she at last had a chance of defeating the West before the West built up its defence. "You might ask: 'Presuming the Russians have such strong forces, have we any chance of defeating them if they attack us?' Our chances are extremely good provided we stick to our rearmament programme and complete the job of building up strong armed forces."

In the "Daily News" of the 21st August, under the heading "Russia's A-Bomb Stockpile Grows" there appears the following:—

Washington, Monday: Russia had bigger atomic bombs—and more of them—than U.S. Intelligence previously believed, Congressional Atomic Energy Committee members Melvin Price and Henry Jackson told the House of Representatives today. Jackson said every Intelligence report received in Washington gave "a grimmer picture" of Russia's atomic stockpile.

In order to conclude this matter, as far as I am concerned: In tonight's issue of the "Daily News" under a headline which says "Only the Strong Can be Sure of Peace" there appears the following:—

London: Britain's Labour Party yesterday challenged its rebellious left wing clamour for arms cuts in a "peace through strength" manifesto, sounding the slogan for the next general election. The statement rejected protests by former Labour Minister Aneurin Bevan and his associates that Britain's three-year £4,700,000,000 arms programme was beyond the country's capacity. Said the manifesto: "Our first duty is to have world peace." It added that no other aim could take priority and that, if Britain acted now, the cost of preventing a war would be only a fraction of what would be required to win it.

I wish now to refer briefly to something that I asked the Minister for Education to do for me. I asked the Minister to request the Premier, while on his recent trip East, to get in touch with the Prime Minister and endeavour to obtain an assurance that if the overdraft interest rate is to be raised, the raising will be discriminatory, so that discrimination may be made with regard to non-speculative borrowing for purposes such as home-building. I do not know whether the Premier has any answer for me in that regard but I would like him to obtain from the Prime Minister an assurance that discrimination will be made if the interest overdraft rate is raised, as I feel that one of the few remaining methods by which people in the middle-income group can still build homes is by the overdraft system.

I come now to a subject near and dear to my heart. This also concerns the Premier and an assurance he gave me during the last debate on the Estimates. I would like to refresh his memory by quoting what I said when seeking an increased grant for the Surf Life Saving Association of Western Australia. On the 22nd November, 1950, I said, among other things, the following:—

The Governments in the other States have realised the position—

That refers to the financial position of the association—

to some extent and the least we can do is to bring our policy into line with theirs.

I continued later—

I hope the Premier will see his way clear to make a substantial increase in the grant. I can supply him with additional information on grants made in the other States if it will be of any assistance to him.

In his reply the Premier said—

It is an association which has the right to expect public support and I would suggest to the hon. member that perhaps even greater efforts could be made in that direction. There are a number of deserving causes in Western Australia that are appealing for funds and one just cannot provide all the money that is perhaps necessary.

At which the member for Fremantle said—

Some are more deserving than others.

The Premier went on—

Yes, there is no question about that. Without committing myself to a further grant at this stage, if the hon. member is able to obtain the information as to the contributions made by other State Governments, I would be glad to have a look at it.

Following upon that promise, I did supply the Premier with information that I obtained from the secretary of the local Surf Life Saving Association. I wrote a long letter to the Premier giving him this information, but as yet I have received no reply from him.

Mr. Hoar: Shame!

Mr. May: That is nothing new.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: So I think I should explain to the House what other Governments in three of the Eastern States are doing for their respective life saving associations. There is no doubt in my mind, nor I suppose in the mind of any member of this House, that an appreciation is due to those young men who so readily volunteer to patrol our beaches. Surfing is one of those activities for which Australia is noted; our people love the surf, but it holds a great danger—just how much that danger has been overcome, I will prove later by quoting figures supplied to me by the secretary of the local association.

The Commonwealth Government makes a grant of £5,000 to the national Surf Council but I do not really know how that money is allocated; I think it is still being held by the National Council pending any re-allocation being made. In New South Wales the Government makes an annual grant of £1,000 and in addition, during 1950, that Government provided a special grant of £500 for the specific purpose of purchasing Ross safety belts for the clubs of that State.

Mr. Marshall: How many clubs are there in New South Wales?

Mr. HUTCHINSON: Rather more than we have here.

Hon. A. H. Panton: Greater population too.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I cannot remember the number of clubs, so I cannot give the hon. member the information he requires. In Victoria the Government grants £700

annually and there are eight clubs in operation in that State. Of course, the beaches in Victoria are not half as popular as those in this State. But despite the fact that the beaches are not so popular and despite the fact that they are not to be compared with our own, the Victorian State Government realises something of its responsibilities and sees fit to make an annual grant of £700. In Western Australia we have an annual grant of £150, and there are 12 surf life saving clubs in operation.

Hon. A. H. Panton: They get £150 each?

Mr. HUTCHINSON: No. The Surf Life Saving Association receives £150 by way of an annual grant. The Premier did point out that the association receives a lotteries grant of £200. But, by comparison the appreciation by our State Government of the worth of the association falls sadly in arrears of what other State Governments in the Eastern States feel about their respective associations.

The Premier: Does not the association here have a street appeal day?

Mr. HUTCHINSON: Yes, it does. But under the Queensland system, if £1,500 were raised by way of a street appeal, then the State Government would provide an extra one-third on top of that figure; in other words, the Queensland State Government grants an extra one-third on moneys raised for surf life saving clubs in that State. I suppose the State Government of Queensland does more for its association than any other State Government; by comparison our efforts are quite paltry.

Mr. Hoar: That is the right word.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: That is really an incorrect expression; I should say that we do not fully appreciate our surf life saving association.

Mr. J. Hegney: The Government is not very generous.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: The worth of these young men, and their respective clubs, is definitely not fully appreciated. In order to ascertain how much assistance was granted to the Queensland Surf Life Saving Association, I wrote to the secretary of that organisation and asked him to supply me with the information I required. The letter gives a full account of how the Queensland Government assists the association in that State. The letter reads—

Dear Mr. Hutchinson,

I regret the delay in replying to your letter of the 2nd July, but I have been absent from Brisbane and have just recently returned.

Surf life saving clubs in this State are subsidised by the State Government at the rate of 7s. 6d. in the pound on collections in the nature of bona fide contributions to our funds.

For instance, straight-out contributions are subsidisable, as are the net proceeds of dances and other similar functions, raffles and the like. Deductions are made in respect of moneys expended on items not essential in the conduct of the affairs of the clubs, such as, for instance, moneys expended by the club in conducting its annual re-union.

Clubs are required to submit quarterly to the department administering the subsidy scheme returns of collections and I am enclosing a copy of the form in use. Net collections only (in the case of dances, etc.) must be shown. The books of each club are subject to audit by the Auditor General's Department who certifies to the department the actual amount of collections subsidisable in any one year. The Auditor General requires the books of account to be kept in a manner prescribed by his regulations.

Payment of claims is made through the Queensland State Centre in respect of its affiliated clubs. The department's regulations provide that the Queensland State Centre deduct 5 per cent. of the amount payable to each club to meet its cost of handling and administration. The State Centre also receives subsidy on its collections as do the various branches. Subsidy payments are provided for by the State Government from proceeds from the Golden Casket Lottery. Payment of subsidy is made quarterly. For the first three quarters of, say, the financial year 1950-51 payment is made on the basis of the amount payable per quarter during the preceding financial year and any adjustment necessary is made in the concluding quarter's payment.

In addition to Government subsidy, the State Government provides a week-end rail concession fare for bona fide surf club members travelling to beaches during the week-ends for patrol purposes. This, of course, would probably not apply in your State to the same extent. In Southern Queensland our members are mostly drawn from Brisbane and are required to travel at least 50 miles to their beaches. Some clubs use motor truck transport and here again the Government assists by provision in the Transport Act for exemption from road tax fees in respect of trucks conveying lifesavers to their beaches for patrol duties.

Our clubs are also materially assisted by the various local authorities controlling the areas in which we operate. The State Government has a subsidy scheme in respect of local authorities on works of a capital

nature. One of these is the subsidisation of the cost of provision of tourist facilities and included under this heading is the erection of surf life saving club-houses, which provide accommodation for life-savers who, in turn, provide protection for tourists at the various surfing beaches. The rate of subsidy is 33.1/3rd per cent. and some of the local authorities have adopted a scheme whereby club-houses are constructed on reserves or council-owned property from loan moneys approved by the Treasury Department. To take an example, the club desires to erect a building costing £1,500. Of this amount, £500 is provided by the State Government under its subsidy scheme to local authorities, the council meets the annual interest and redemption on half of the loan of £1,000 and the club is required to meet the annual interest and redemption on £500. The club is, of course, required to provide guarantors. The building, of course, becomes the property of the council and the club's annual interest and redemption payments are in the nature of an annual rental. Plans for the building have to be approved by the Public Works Department, who act as advisers in this regard to the Treasury.

Incidentally, it is worth mentioning that our Association is exempt from the payment of stamp duty, whilst all purchases for lifesaving purposes and which are not for resale are exempt from the payment of sales tax. In certain circumstances, functions conducted by the Association and its clubs are exempt from the payment of entertainment tax. No doubt your clubs enjoy these two latter privileges, which are concessions granted by the Commonwealth Government.

In this State—the practice came into being under the old State taxation laws—donations to the Association or its affiliated clubs and branches are statutory deductions for income purposes.

I consider the inclusion of that letter in "Hansard" is quite necessary in support of the case which I desire to present to the Premier whereby it is shown that one State Government really appreciates the work performed by surf life-savers. I am not idly boasting that surf life-savers do good work because I have here some facts and figures which will be of interest to this House. The figures relate firstly to the number of rescues. Over the past 20 years, 2,103 rescues have been made. In the 1949-50 season, 171 rescues were made, and in 1950-51, 74 lives were saved. That surely must impress everybody with the value of this association.

We can imagine the public outcry there would be if our beaches were not controlled by some life-savers, and I reiterate that this is a voluntary organisation. This is not the end of the work done by the association because at all beaches a number of accidents occur during the period when dense groups of bathers are in the surf. The clubs have an efficient system of first aid, and the following figures relate to the number of first aid cases that were treated by members of the various clubs. The season closes at the end of March. The grand total of cases over the past 20 years is 5,903. In the 1949-50 season, due to the prevalence of blue-bottles in the early part of the season, 521 cases were handled, and in the season 1950-51, 180 cases were treated.

Those figures are revealing and should impress the Treasurer. To show that it is an expensive business for the clubs to keep operating, I will now quote the prices of some of the items that are vitally necessary for the saving of lives. Firstly, a surf boat costs £325 at Sydney; oars cost £5 15s. each; sweeps, £7 15s. each; white cotton lines, £7 10s. each. They are the lines that are often despoiled by unthinking people. A surf boat belt costs 25s. 6d.; a flat belt, 15s., and a life-saving reel, £30. In addition, the association pays workers' compensation insurance amounting to £70 annually.

Before concluding, I would like to ask the Treasurer if he can make extra provision in the Estimates for this wonderful organisation. It does a grand job of work; its members save many lives, and their job is not easy. It is up to us, as a State Parliament, and the Government, to appreciate their worth in the only way it can be appreciated, and that is by making a substantial grant to this association. Country towns, such as Bunbury and Geraldton, which have efficient clubs are also affected. I believe that Albany and Busselton have clubs in process of formation. I will raise this matter again on the Estimates when I hope to see an item of £1,000 set aside for this deserving cause.

MR. READ (Victoria Park) [8.20]: I desire to add my contribution to the debate on the reply to the Address delivered by His Excellency the Administrator. But first I would express my deep regret at the death of my friend the late Mr. Harry Shearn, the member for Maylands. I was associated with Mr. Shearn over many years in local government and later in Parliament. He was for some time a member of the Perth Road Board of which he was at one time the chairman. In that capacity he worked strenuously and gave unstintingly of his time and energy for the progress of his district. As the representative of the Maylands electorate, he worked hard in the interests and welfare of his constituents. Personally I shall miss the benefit of his wise counsel and cheerful companionship in this Chamber.

I would now like to join with others in expressing the delight and enthusiasm my people feel at the announcement that Their Majesties the King and Queen and Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret will be with us next year. The visit will afford the people of Western Australia the opportunity of demonstrating their great affection for the Royal Family and will also give them an opportunity of expressing their loyalty as members of the British Empire.

Mention is made in the Address of His Excellency the Administrator to the fact that—

the restriction in supplies of super-phosphate, due to the reduced amount of sulphur available from overseas sources, threatens to affect rural production adversely unless substitutes for sulphur become available in sufficient quantities.

We know that increasing supplies of super. are necessary for rural production and the expansion of our output of primary products that must take place in this State; we know that soldier settlement and other land settlement projects must invariably be curtailed or discontinued if we do not get a further supply of fertiliser; we know that those people who have already been producing over many years will require almost all the super. we are importing or producing, and that without further supplies we cannot launch out in bringing new areas under cultivation.

During the parliamentary visit we made to the southern areas—the Stirling Range, Mt. Barker and the Frankland—we saw thousands of acres of land being prepared and got ready for soldier settlement to produce the further supply of food products that this country and the world require. But we know that in spite of these efforts the land will not produce the required cereals and food-stuffs without the necessary super. There are also further areas of Crown lands being taken up with a view to bringing them under cultivation. The Land Settlement Board reports that 500,000 more acres are already surveyed and suitable for settlement.

We cannot rely on procuring supplies of sulphur from other parts of the world because we must realise the world demand for super., which is a necessary factor in promoting cultivation. We know that with the expanding production required for the vast increase in the world's population, countries possessing sulphur deposits so necessary in the manufacture of super-phosphate will be needing that commodity for themselves. That directs our attention to the fact that we have in Western Australia several deposits of iron pyrites and sulphide ore wherewith we could produce sulphuric acid. We have heard the member for Eyre and the member for Yilgarn-Coolgardie pleading with the

Government to produce a greater amount of the sulphur required from these sulphide ore bodies.

In answer to a question, the Minister said in effect that in June 42,863 tons of iron pyrites were railed from Norseman. I think we should endeavour, if possible, to establish a plant on the site where these deposits are available in order to produce the sulphuric acid necessary to provide the chemical action required in the production of super. The answer to a question in the Legislative Council a short while ago indicated that the matter of producing, on the site of the deposits, sulphuric acid from iron pyrites was receiving consideration. I hope that that is so.

This is such a serious problem that we will have to go into the matter of producing our sulphuric acid and railing it to the manufacturing works where the fertiliser is made. In Kalgoorlie I have seen sulphide ores being burnt or roasted for the extraction of gold. The possibility of the manufacture of sulphuric acid from this source should be taken into consideration. There are large quantities of potential sources of sulphuric acid being wasted because there is no method of recovering it. I really believe that if we could find a method, and put it into operation, to produce sulphuric acid from these by-products by roasting sulphide ore, the by-products would be more valuable to this country than the gold extracted from that ore.

Many times in history has the by-product been found to be more valuable than the article originally produced. I call to mind one, glycerine, which is a by-product of the action of alkali on fat in the production of soap. For many years the glycerine was washed down the drain, but then it was found that its properties were so valuable for manufacturing purposes that it now pays almost to pour the soap down the drain and collect the glycerine. I believe that is what would happen if we set out to recover sulphuric acid from the pyrites on the goldfields.

There is necessity for making an immediate survey for a railway south of the river in order to by-pass Perth. A plan of the proposal has been prepared, but no survey has so far been made. Those who have observed this need—and they are men who understand the problem—are agreed that in order to facilitate the development of the city, a line should be constructed from Midland Junction through Queen's Park, crossing the Canning River at Nicholson-road or towards Riverton. By crossing the Canning River at that point, the expense would not be great as the river there is rather narrow and shallow. Thus the whole of Perth would be by-passed and the line would enter South Fremantle somewhere near the site of the new power station.

Mr. J. Hegney: That was suggested 50 years ago.

Mr. READ: Town planners and engineers have recommended that the line should be built because, with the expansion of Perth, the heavy loads of produce from the country and the heavy traffic generally from the rural areas must be diverted right away from the centre of the city. Thus in future bulk and heavy goods must, as far as possible, be precluded from passing through Perth proper. I have been reading the reports of Mr. Tydeman and Mr. Meyer on the proposed Fremantle harbour extensions. Mr. Meyer spoke of the Perth bottleneck and gave pertinent reasons for obviating it by building a south-of-the-river railway. During the war and since, we have had visits by many eminent engineers and town planners and each one of them has recommended the urgent necessity of building such a line.

The matter of up-river extension of the Fremantle harbour was mentioned in a leading article in "The West Australian" of the 18th June, though the article dealt more extensively with the subject of river pollution. One paragraph read—

What is proposed to be done to the Swan must have a profound and permanent influence on the Fremantle region and on the metropolitan area as a whole. A new railway bridge at Point Brown will mean that for many years to come (once the railways have been rehabilitated) the greater part of the Fremantle zone's agricultural imports and exports will continue to be hauled through the Perth bottleneck by rail. Yet Mr. Meyer has pointed to a simple and rational solution of this problem. Having decided to build a direct rail link between Bassendean and Welshpool, it is strange that the Government will not admit the case for a wheatbelt connection with Fremantle south of the river.

I have quotations from the remarks of many eminent visitors and each one of them has pointed out that this is the weak spot in our development. I recall that many years ago, Mr. Attwell, then City Engineer, and others advocated that the railway should cease running through Perth and should terminate somewhere near Lord-street where the new hospital is being built. Thus heavy traffic could by-pass the city on the north, traverse North Perth and come out somewhere near Claremont. Had that scheme been carried out at the time, it would have been quite a simple matter, but now the whole of the area necessary to give that relief has been built on. If we appreciate the urgency of this work at the present time, the Government should resume all the land that has not been improved whereas, if a decision is delayed, we shall have a repetition of the case I have just quoted.

There is a report also of a Select Committee of members of the Legislative Council, which sat in 1944 and recommended

a south-of-the-river railway line. The route then proposed can no longer be adopted because so much building has taken place in the meantime, the State Housing Commission having built many homes along the proposed route which ran somewhere near the Collier pine plantation and continued towards Canning Bridge. Professor W. G. Holford, the noted British town planning authority, who has just been visiting Perth and giving us the benefit of his experience of town planning, pointed out that one of the great weaknesses was that our railways were preventing the development of the cities. In the course of a speech at Collie, he is reported to have said—

He was surprised that Collie was so strung out. The town was unlike any other coal centre he had ever seen, with beautiful wooded surroundings and a railway line cutting it in two. "You cannot have the centre of a town a goods yard," he said. "One side or the other will have to develop as the main shopping centre."

That is exactly the position in the city. When the same gentleman, Professor Holford, was leaving, he made this statement when advising us on the development of the City of Perth—

Roads and railways must be planned to feed the port, and industry must be closely allied to the roads. A south-of-the-river railway was inevitable as a feeder to Fremantle, the gateway of the Commonwealth.

That is the opinion of an expert. The necessity at the present time is such that possibly this Government, or a future one, would not be able to finance a south-of-the-river railway, but at least I would impress upon the Government the need to secure the land, by resuming it, so that for all time we would have the wherewithal to put this project into operation. Through you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words to the Minister in control of the Factories and Shops Act. I do not know just which Minister it is.

Hon. A. H. Panton: The Minister for Labour, it should be.

Mr. READ: I want to deal with the trading after hours of petrol sellers. The Act lays down the exact hours during which the retail sellers of petrol may operate, yet we find that in the metropolitan area there are seven service stations selling petrol at any time of the day or night thus disobeying the law. We have over 300 service stations in the metropolitan area servicing motor cars during the times allowed. One has only to go down St. George's Terrace on Sunday morning to see about a two-chain length of motor cars strung out, and impeding other traffic. These people are there because they forget to fill up with petrol, and know full well that someone will service them.

Mr. Graham: The Minister knows all about it, but will do nothing.

Mr. Yates: Has the City Council anything to do with it?

Mr. READ: No. We have an Act covering the position, and that Act was introduced in order that the workers in these service stations should enjoy the benefit of a 40-hour week, the same as other workers.

The Minister for Lands: That is not true. The service stations asked for the legislation.

Mr. READ: The Minister says it is not true, but I would point out that most traders work under some kind of law which allows them to sell certain commodities during stated hours, and, with few exceptions, they obey the law.

Hon. A. H. Panton: The service station employers asked for this particular legislation. I know, because I introduced the Bill.

Mr. READ: That is so.

Mr. Yates: Who polices the Act?

Hon. A. H. Panton: I have left that to my successor.

The Minister for Lands: Anyway, they are rendering service to the public.

Mr. Graham: So would hotels, at three o'clock in the morning.

Mr. READ: The position is that 300 service station owners were so alarmed and incensed at what was going on that they took action against these people, and they won the case in the lower court. But the seven purveyors of petrol—the service station owners disobeying the law—appealed to a higher court where the decision was reversed, but on a technical point only. It was found that a prosecution could not be taken by a private individual but should be launched by an inspector under the Factories and Shops Act; and the inspectors under that Act refuse to take action. That is a matter which should be looked into.

Mr. Yates: Could not the police lay a charge?

Mr. READ: Whether they have been instructed to or not, I do not know. I read with interest where the sawmillers criticised the action of the Minister controlling forests. On analysing what was said, I find there are several things which give food for thought. According to Tuesday's paper, Mr. Christian, when giving evidence before the Royal Commission, said that at no time was any statement made that supplies would be withheld. He went on to say that in 1949 the market for jarrah and karri locally was not profitable because of increased costs and, in anticipation of augmented quantities of timber coming from mills in the far South-West an increase in selling price was granted. I do not know whether

he considered it would make a difference because there was more competition, and they would have to meet it.

However, the point I want to make is that they had no fault to find, because an increase in selling price was granted. This shows clearly that the Minister was very fair. Instead of having the saw-millers decrease the supply of timber for houses, the Minister was prepared to grant any price, so long as it was reasonable. I do not think they have anything to complain about there. Then Mr. Gregson gave his evidence and said that he had reached the following conclusions—

The demand for sawn timber within the State would overtake the volume of hardwood production in about 30 years. The combined hardwood and softwood potential, on a planting of 1,500 acres from 1950, would be overtaken by about 1990. A vigorous softwood afforestation programme carried out from now on would cover the position beyond 1980.

Is not that splendid? Whilst they denude the forests to make a profit they are advising the Government to spend money on afforestation and the planting of 1,500 acres of softwood because it will be needed after they have sold the jarrah which we have and which is a heritage that we should guard. To continue—

The potential hardwood resources would allow substantial export trade at least until 1980.

My point is that we should not be building houses of our valuable Western Australian timber. The majority of the houses built in this State—particularly in and around the metropolitan area—should be of brick. We have extensive deposits of clay of various qualities within reasonable distance of almost every major town in the State. If we utilised that material we would not be spending our national wealth and would also increase the effective life of the houses built for our people, though certainly at a somewhat higher cost.

The upkeep of a brick building would be less and a house of that material would not depreciate as rapidly as will the present wooden structures in the course of 20 or 30 years. If machinery were purchased and further brickyards opened up, the majority of our homes could be constructed of brick. If we must exploit our timber wealth at all, why not sell it on the open market overseas and get twice as much for it as is received for the timber sold to build houses in our own community? In the course of his evidence, Mr. Gregson also stated that a house now takes from six to nine months to complete. If a plentiful supply of bricks were available that time could be shortened.

I come now to the question of health and infant health in particular. I desire to impress on the Government the necessity to finance the building of more infant health centres, of which there are only five within the area of Greater Perth, though the population served requires at least 12 such institutions. The Perth City Council discussed this matter and ascertained that a building in which to conduct a clinic would at this time cost about £3,300. The council decided that it was prepared to finance such building to the extent of one-third of the cost, and that an approach should be made to the Government to ascertain its attitude in the matter. The Perth City Council gives £75 per annum towards the cost of each of the five infant health centres to which I have referred. The parents subscribe a certain amount and the Government pays the salaries of the infant health sisters, though I believe it is really the Lotteries Commission which pays the salaries.

The Minister for Health: That is not true.

Mr. READ: I am glad to hear that, but at all events, I give the Lotteries Commission great credit for the wonderful work it is doing in this State and I feel that Mr. Kenneally is the right man in the right place.

The Minister for Health: I am not disputing that.

Hon. A. H. Panton: You used to.

Mr. READ: I have been connected with the Braille Society for many years and know that, through the efforts of Mr. Kenneally, it has been put on a sound footing and its buildings have been paid for. I am sure the Minister realises the importance of our infant health centres and will acknowledge that we have very few of them in this country where they are so necessary. There is great difficulty in financing the building of clinics and raising the money necessary to pay the salaries of trained nurses. The Commissioner of Public Health wrote to several local governing bodies, including the Perth City Council, and, among other things, said—

Originally infant health centres were conducted by voluntary philanthropic organisations and each centre had its committee of workers who raised the necessary funds for its maintenance. As the collection of moneys from the public became more difficult, the committees have relied more and more upon Government assistance. Some four years ago Government assistance was standardised on the basis of full responsibility for the salaries of the infant health nurses, the committees being left with the duty of maintaining the premises and local management.

Hon. A. H. Panton: It was more than four years ago.

Mr. READ: To continue—

In established centres once the committee is relieved of the necessity to collect funds for the payment of the nurse, there has developed a lack of interest which has resulted in the disbanding of the committee. Sisters in such centres are now dependent entirely on the Department of Public Health and there is locally no organisation or responsible authority to whom they may refer matters of local concern and no body to sponsor local interests.

Later he says—

I am of the opinion that the Health Committee of your council might well assume the functions of those local committees with a view, ultimately, to incorporating all infant health centres in its field of supervision.

We have agreed and desire to do that, though where a local infant health committee is functioning properly, we have no wish to take over the management. Where the local committee has lost interest I believe the Perth City Council or some other local governing body would be pleased to accept the responsibility of management. The Health Committee received a report from Dr. Davis, the Medical Officer of Health. This report is worth recording because it gives a true picture of the value and the necessity for these infant health centres. He says—

I have received from the Government Statistician certain particulars relative to the deaths of children under one year of age for the metropolitan area (including Fremantle to Midland Junction) and also for the City of Perth area. These deaths relate to the calendar year 1950, and are divided as follows:—

	Deaths.
City of Perth	56
Other metropolitan	120

He goes on to explain that some of the deaths occurred in the hospitals before the mothers had gone home and had visited infant health centres. He states—

These may be further divided into immediate neonatal deaths (i.e., deaths which occurred while the infant and mother were still in hospital), and remote neonatal deaths (i.e., after mother and child had returned home). Only in the latter period would the mother have access to an infant health centre.

He further states—

Dealing with the City of Perth, an analysis of the figures shows that the earliest death was at six weeks and the latest at eight months. The causes of death were various acute and chronic conditions, some of which were

congenital, in which death would be inevitable. In about 75 per cent. of the cases it would be logical for the mother to seek advice at an infant health centre, because of an ailing baby, the cause of which would not necessarily be obvious.

This, of course, refers to the 18 remote neonatal deaths. In regard to the other metropolitan 25 remote neonatal deaths the same percentage applies. It is, of course, impossible to estimate the number of children suffering from similar conditions not inevitably fatal, whose lives are saved by being referred for medical attention by the infant health centre nurses.

There is no knowledge of how many children's lives are saved because the mothers attend these centres where trained sisters are in attendance. These sisters can diagnose cases and send them to doctors for treatment.

Mr. Marshall: Can you explain how it is that in the outer areas you very rarely see sick children? They do not have clinics in those areas. Can you tell me how the children live at all?

Mr. READ: I can explain what I think is the reason for that.

Mr. Marshall: I think the infant mortality rate is lower in the outer areas than it is in the city areas.

Mr. READ: The children in the country areas have great open spaces where there is plenty of free fresh air, whereas children in congested areas mix with one another and so become affected by germ-carrying patients. This is especially so when children travel in trams and trains. That is how I account for it.

Mr. J. Hegney: Air is the only thing that is free.

Mr. READ: The letter continues—

I refer to such conditions as infective diarrhoeas, broncho-pneumonia, ear trouble and infantile eczema, which appear regularly as a cause of death among the cases I have reviewed. Every doctor knows how common it is for mothers to mistake infective enteritis for a dietetic upset, an ordinary cold or earache as being due to teething, when the cause is much deeper, and likewise the more serious skin conditions.

Infant health nurses are trained to recognise these errors and to refer the child for expert attention in time to do good.

That is the vital point; we need more of these centres where mothers can consult trained sisters and so improve the health of the children. The letter goes on—

Thus, these centres are a valuable link in the chain of supplying medical services in their broadest sense to our people from the "cradle to the grave."

This analysis shows that many of our babies die from conditions which are not inevitably fatal, if recognised sufficiently early in the disease. The infant health centre is one of the agencies available to mothers for the early recognition of otherwise fatal illnesses.

I read that letter to stress the urgency and necessity for providing these infant health centres. I turn now to a similar subject—that of kindergartens—and I will endeavour to show how closely connected kindergartens are with infant health clinics.

Mr. J. Hegney: But they will not have them together.

Mr. READ: No, but the Commonwealth Government recognises the fact and has subsidised and built five or six clinics known as the Lady Gowrie Child Centres, one in every city. We have one in Victoria Park, and I have had the honour of being connected with the committee of that centre ever since its inception. That centre combines infant health with the teaching of children. There is a trained sister at the centre, and she watches the growth of the children; takes their weight and temperatures every morning, and the children are then passed through, if they are fit, to the kindergarten portion of the building. By that means the physical and mental development, and the growth and health of the children, are being constantly watched.

Actually, kindergartens should be a charge on the Education Department. Pre-school education is part and parcel of the general education of a child. In certain centres classrooms could be built for use as kindergartens so that children would not have to travel great distances. These classrooms could be established in different centres where the population is large.

Mr. J. Hegney: How many kindergartens have you in Victoria Park?

Mr. READ: There is the Lady Gowrie Child Centre. Also, the local governing bodies take an interest in the kindergartens in their districts. I have here a document showing the policy of the Perth City Council regarding kindergartens. The council supplied the land for the buildings and also the equipment for a centre in each ward, in each year of application. That is, there is a kindergarten committee in each district and each committee finds a block of land that is suitable in a congested area for the erection of a building to house these pre-school children. Application is made to the Perth City Council and a block of land is either made available or purchased for that purpose. In the metropolitan area there are 11,000 children of kindergarten age, but of that number only 600 are at present provided for.

Mr. J. Hegney: Do you know what it costs to erect a building for them?

Mr. READ: Yes, the cost of building a kindergarten centre in the Eastern States is £4,750, based on current building costs. The council grants each centre a subsidy of £35. We have 10 centres in the city area. We also maintain the buildings of several kindergartens and provide equipment for all centres. Irrespective of where the kindergartens are built or the land on which they stand, that equipment is provided. For example, the building may belong to the Kindergarten Union. When the kindergartens are built on municipal land, they are entirely maintained by the Perth City Council.

I consider it would be quite easy to finance the erection of classrooms for kindergarten children. As to the provision of money for the payment of teachers' salaries, I think that in every department, not necessarily controlled by Parliament, there seems to be a surplus of men employed. For example, if a few of the men working at the Metropolitan Water Supply Department were released to serve private firms or companies—there are certainly plenty of openings for them in private enterprise—the salaries saved could be used for the financing of kindergartens. Also, one or two of the men employed by the State Housing Commission could be released to private builders to assist in constructing houses and, there again, the money saved could be expended on kindergarten teachers' salaries. Infant health and pre-school education should be the first charge on a country's finances and not the last.

Mr. J. Hegney: Hear, hear!

Mr. READ: Money should not be expended upon projects that are not urgent. For instance, national fitness. The money provided by the Commonwealth Government to the National Fitness Council could be better used in education. It would prove of greater benefit if that money were used in furthering the education of the pre-school child.

To my mind national fitness was first brought into being in the older European countries where there were no open spaces and a lack of gymnasiums, so they decided to introduce national fitness as part of their programme for youth training. The authorities pulled down slums and other unnecessary buildings to provide open spaces and to set up gymnasiums in open halls. We do not need that in Western Australia. We have seven or eight months of beautiful weather when the youth of our State is engaged in cycling, yachting, surf life saving and other sports, and such open spaces are not required for national fitness to the same extent as they are in the older countries. Therefore, I repeat that the money spent on national fitness could be put to better use for pre-school education.

The member for West Perth mentioned the passing of the control of Heirisson Island to the National Fitness Council. Perhaps members formed the impression that the Perth City Council sought control of that island, but that is not so. Mention was made of the island because all those with a knowledge of town planning who have visited this State have clearly stated that the island is an ideal site for a botanical garden and not a playing area. The member for West Perth pointed out that the congestion of traffic following the holding of organised sport in that particular spot in the centre of the river would be most undesirable and would constitute a grave problem. The people of Perth, through the Perth City Council, possess 26 per cent. of the open spaces and playing grounds of the metropolitan area, excluding King's Park.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! There is too much conversation going on in the Chamber.

Mr. READ: Owing to restrictions, we have great difficulty in providing amenities on these reserves for the playing youth of the country, but gradually they are being brought into a condition suitable for the purpose. We have building difficulties on the foreshore at Langley Park. We had to wait two years before we obtained a permit to build dressingrooms for boys and girls using that reserve. On Saturday afternoon 900 youths play sport in that area. That is one of the disabilities we are suffering in our endeavour to develop these playing grounds which is brought about because of the necessity to conserve building materials for other more urgent purposes.

Mr. Marshall: Why did you not get the bricks of which you spoke a while ago and not wait for timber?

Mr. READ: I only recommended that the Government should release the bricks. The use of Heirisson Island for a botanical garden is so desirable that I recommend the suggestion to the Minister because there are already numerous open spaces to accommodate the various sports, that meet the requirements of the National Fitness Council. The Government, on the completion of the Causeway and the reclamation of the river towards the Rivervale station will have 200 acres to devote to that purpose. Below the Rivervale station and those low-lying grounds towards the river the Perth City Council has also a large area which it is slowly filling in, the same as it is the playing ground around Monger's Lake. All these matters are for future development and before we start doing the wrong thing on the wrong portion of land we should look ahead and plan, so that what we do now will redound to the credit of the city for all time.

MR. McCULLOCH (Hannans) (9.21): With previous speakers in this debate, I would like to express my regret at the passing of His Excellency the late Governor, Sir James Mitchell, and also at the passing of Messrs. Mann, Tuckey, Shearn and Fox. We in the Goldfields did not have the pleasure of meeting His Excellency, Sir James Mitchell, quite as frequently as did the people in the metropolitan area. However, I do feel that at this time of the year the people on the Goldfields will sadly miss Sir James. It was his practice during the racing carnivals to visit Kalgoorlie and Boulder and the people there always looked forward to seeing him. I also hope that the Governor-designate, Sir Charles Gairdner, who is due in November, will prove a worthy successor to the late Sir James.

Mr. Graham: It is a pity he is not an Australian.

Mr. McCULLOCH: He is a good Irishman. I would like to touch on one subject referred to in the Speech of His Excellency the Administrator. That subject is the goldmining industry. The particular part of His Excellency's Speech reads as follows:—

Activity in the goldmining industry is being hampered by increased costs and the continued shortage of labour. Strong representations have been made to the Commonwealth Government with the view to obtaining an increase in the price of gold, and some long-term plan to ensure stability in the industry.

Recently I asked the Deputy Premier whether an approach had been made to the Commonwealth Treasurer about the price of gold. The Deputy Premier's reply was that the letter from the Federal Treasurer had been sent to the Chamber of Mines in Kalgoorlie. The matter of the price of gold seems to be a hush-hush business. Why it should be I do not know. We see plenty of publicity given to the price of wool and the price of butter and any negotiations in connection with the price of these commodities is given wide publicity.

But when the negotiations concern the price of gold then the people are not to know anything about them, and the members of the Chamber of Mines are the only people to be advised of the procedure. The "Kalgoorlie Miner" should have been informed of the entire contents of that particular letter from the Federal Treasurer. I feel certain also that had this letter come from a Labour Treasurer it would have been given the widest publicity in every paper in Western Australia. The people should know and the Press should know the exact position in connection with the price of gold.

We know that the goldmining industry today is in a very bad position notwithstanding that in September, 1949, there was an increase of 44 per cent. in the price of gold. At that time the price was £10 15s. 3d.,

after which it rose to £15 9s. 10d., which is the figure prevailing today. That, of course, was brought about by the devaluation of sterling. The basic wage in 1949 was £6 13s. 2d.; today it is £9 16s. 8d. There is a 50 per cent. increase in the basic wage alone. It is very obvious that no industry can carry on as long as the basic wage keeps on the upjump. The price of gold remained static at £4 4s. 11d. from 1717 to 1931, a matter of 214 years. In 1931 it was increased owing to the fact that Britain went off the gold standard; there was a 17½ per cent. increase, which then made the price of gold £4 19s. 11d. and, as I have said, that was brought about by Britain going off the gold standard.

The price of gold then increased progressively, partly owing to devaluation and partly to other factors. In 1949, however, as I have already said, it reached the figure of £10 15s. 3d. At that particular stage the mining industry was also in a bad position; mines were closed down and no development could be undertaken. The same conditions apply today. The big year for gold production was, of course, 1903 when the price was £4 4s. 11d. and when 1,380,029 fine oz. of gold were produced at a value of £63,300,000. Notwithstanding the high price of gold today, it is very difficult in some cases to keep the industry going.

We know that there are countries in the Commonwealth of Nations that are allowed to sell portion of their gold in the open market. If the goldmining industry here were allowed to do even this, it would provide some help in keeping its head above water financially. I think, however, that the price of gold should be increased to more than the 35 dollars it was very many years ago. We had to enter into the Bretton Woods agreement which, in my opinion, was a mistake. We entered into that agreement in March, 1947, although, according to the fund, we should have entered it before December, 1946. Of course, even then gold was being sold in the open market at £30 an oz. However, we are parties to the agreement and the proceeds of gold have to be paid into that fund. I consider that it is the duty of the State Government to press this matter and not to endeavour to pass the buck to the Commonwealth Government. Let the State Government get on with the job and see that the industry is put into a better position.

The Premier: Through what avenue could it be worked other than the Commonwealth Government?

Mr. McCULLOCH: The Premier ought to press the Commonwealth Government.

The Premier: We have done so.

Mr. McCULLOCH: It is not sufficient to say that. The Premier has been to Canberra, the Deputy Premier was there

some time ago and a deputation waited on the Commonwealth authorities recently and yet nothing has been done.

The Premier: Well, we have pressed the Commonwealth authorities.

Mr. McCULLOCH: But nothing is done. The goldmining industry is in a precarious position and we cannot afford to let it decline any further. Another matter to which I wish to refer is that of workers' compensation. The speech contains the following reference:—

You will be asked to consider measures to increase the amount of compensation payable under the Workers' Compensation Act and to grant increases in pensions payable to retired Government employees.

I was pleased to see that paragraph in the Speech, but I hope that the measure to increase the amount will not have the same effect as had the measure in April, 1948, when we found that a silicotic miner received only a percentage of the compensation of £1,250 according to the percentage of silicosis he was suffering. One could not expect a man with silicosis to remain in the industry until he reached the 65 per cent. stage and then draw out because, in that condition, he would be next-door to dead. Previously the then full amount of £750 was paid. This is a matter that should be remedied. The member for South Fremantle dealt with other aspects of workers' compensation and I congratulate him upon his speech.

Another matter that concerns not only the Goldfields but also most parts of the State is that of fees for jurors. Some of the workers on the goldfields have to attend the court on three days in a week during the sessions. Those men receive about £3 15s. by way of fees for their attendance whereas the lowest-paid worker in the mining industry would receive about £7 10s. It is difficult for them to regard service on a jury as a public duty when they finish the week £3 or £4 short in their pay. The Attorney General should consider the question of increasing the fees. Some employees might not be docked in their pay when they have to serve on a jury, but most of the workers on the goldfields are not paid for their absence on this public duty.

The Premier: What are the fees now?

Mr. McCULLOCH: Twenty-five shillings a day. I have been wondering whether the vitamin content of an apple or an orange would be equal to that of milk. In the metropolitan area, school children are receiving free milk, and it might be worth while our trying to get something in lieu of what we are paying for and not getting.

As regards housing, some of the homes in my electorate are definitely in need of new roofing iron. I suppose Ministers are aware that the iron roofs on the

Goldfields will not stand up to the local conditions as well as they do in other parts of the State. New corrugated roofing iron has been in very short supply on the Goldfields for some time, but I understand that a quota will be directed to the Goldfields at an early date; this will compensate for the consignment of 20 tons that was previously destined for Kalgoorlie, but which was retained at Norseman to build homes for workers engaged in the pyrites industry. This is quite a good idea, but homes cannot be built with iron alone and I understand that no timber is available for the homes at Norseman. I would like the Minister to keep this request in mind as many roofs on the Goldfields are badly perforated and require repairing.

I did not find anything in the Speech relating to the episode in Korea. I do not fancy myself as a student of war strategy, but I have read the paper closely in connection with this matter, and I remember that great disappointment was felt not only by the members of the Forces because the fighting was finished when they went there early in the campaign, but also by some people in Australia, and that disappointment was expressed in the Press. The whole position seems to me to be a bit phoney. We say it is a war against communists, but from what I have read, there are as many communists in South Korea as in North Korea. Before I would see my people killed in Korea I would like to see these Asiatics fight the battle out on their own.

For many years the first point of British diplomacy has been to let one tribe fight another. On the north-west frontier of India, and at the Khyber Pass, the various tribes have been fighting for years, and they are today. Why do not Britain and America step in there? But no, we send our lads to Korea and let them get stabbed in the back. We read of the United States planes strafing our troops, and of United Nations men being blown up by their own mines. Just recently we have been told that our men have been indulging in Korean rice wine—plonk, I could call it. We are losing more men by sabotage and being stabbed in the back than from normal war causes. I say, let the Koreans kill one another and that will, maybe, save us the trouble of killing them later.

I wish now to deal with the water supply position on the Goldfields. I hope that in the coming hot season, from about November next until February or March, 1952, there will be no restrictions placed upon the use of water there as there have been in the last three or four years. I well remember the Premier coming to Kalgoorlie in support of my opponent at the last elections, and promising that water would be made available for the market gardeners. Well, I have been

trying for the last two years to get water for those people, but I have always been told the same old story that until the Mundaring Weir wall is raised, sufficient water will not be available for the Goldfields. I do not see how, by raising the wall, more water can be supplied to the Goldfields because the pipes are full day and night at present. I hope, however, that this coming season the Premier will keep his promise. A new dam has been constructed, and it will hold a fair quantity of water—sufficient to supply the Goldfields for 14 days.

Hon. E. Nulsen: Is the dam completed?

Mr. McCULLOCH: Yes, and it is quite a good piece of work. I am pleased that it is completed. I hope the Minister will see that it is kept full, and that sufficient water will come through the main to supply the normal requirements of our population.

The matter of housing permits has come under my notice. In some instances people holding permits issued two years prior to the lifting of restrictions in July, 1950, up to 12½ squares, are still waiting for their homes. I know of a particular case in the metropolitan area where ten people—four adults and six children—are living in a house of less than 11 squares. It is in defiance of the health bylaws that so many people are housed in such a confined space. I want the Minister for Housing to ensure that corrugated iron is sent to the Goldfields so that the requirements of the area will be met.

MR. GRAYDEN (Nedlands) [9.47]: May I at the outset express my deep regret at the passing of our late Governor, Sir James Mitchell, and of the two members of this Assembly who died within the last few months. They contributed a great deal to the welfare of the State by their work in this Chamber.

I am sorry that the member for Mt. Hawthorn is not here tonight, because last week in his speech on the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply, he made some comments on a pamphlet which was circulated during the last Federal election campaign in the Swan electorate. He started off his speech by quoting a well-known piece from Othello—

Who steals my purse, steals trash.
But he that filches from me my good
name,
Robs me of that which not enriches
him,
And makes me poor indeed.

Very true words, and I agree with them. I feel that the private life of a person should not, under any consideration, be introduced into politics. If it were, there would be a legitimate ground for grievance.

I would support everything that could be done to prevent the introduction of anything bearing on the private life of a per-

son for use as a political issue. But when it comes to a public man and his public actions, then such cases must be allowed to be brought to the light of day and examined, and put forward to the people. The member for Mt. Hawthorn said he was not a squealer, and that Mr. Webb was not a squealer, but I can only go upon events, and I propose to deal with events.

First of all, let us look at the pamphlet to which objection was taken. I asked the hon. member, during the course of his speech, if it were not a fact that the whole of the pamphlet contained the truth. He replied by quoting a paragraph taken from the pamphlet, and said, "That is wrong. That is a lie." This was the extract to which he objected—

On the 27th September it was made public that the Western Australian delegates, contrary to expectations and the feeling in their State, had voted against allowing the passage of the Bill.

That is the part of the pamphlet which drew from the hon. member the comment, "That is wrong. That is a lie." I propose now to read, from "The West Australian" of the 27th September, 1950, an article appearing on page 2, in columns 4 and 5. Under the heading, "Labour to Oppose Anti-Red Bill," there appears the following:—

Canberra, Sept. 26: The Federal Parliamentary Labour Party was instructed by the federal executive of the A.L.P. today to continue opposing the anti-Communist Bill.

The executive's instruction was given after a move to allow the Bill to pass without amendment had failed. It will be discussed by the Labour Caucus tomorrow morning.

Now that the party is committed to fighting the Bill it is expected that it will use its Senate majority to refer it to a Select Committee. This method of shelving the Bill, some party members believe, could not be construed as "failure to pass."

A statement issued after the executive meeting by the acting-federal president (Mr. S. J. Bryan) and the general secretary (Mr. P. J. Kennelly) emphasised that the decision bound all members of the A.L.P.

The statement said that today's meeting resulted in resolutions agreed to at an executive meeting in May being unaltered. Onus-of-Proof Clauses: The executive interpreted the May resolution advising the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Chifley) that the amendments should be persisted in as an instruction to the Parliamentary Labour Party to continue its opposition to the onus-of-proof clauses and to insist on consequential amendments to other clauses until the Government accepted the Labour amendments.

"The amendments desired by the Federal Parliamentary Labour Party have for their purpose the protection of innocent individuals and innocent organisations," the statement said, "The party wants the ordinary principles of British justice to be made available to those individuals and organisations in charges made against them by the Government."

"Victory" for Mr. Chifley.

The result of the two-day discussion on the anti-Red Bill is interpreted in Canberra as a victory for Mr. Chifley, who has been unwavering in his demand for amendment of the Bill, and a rebuff for Mr. Calwell, who has led a move to allow the Bill to pass.

Today's decision is the result of a deadlock on a Victorian motion suggesting that the Labour Party should not persist in its amendments.

After a protracted debate the meeting was in a deadlock with the Victorian, Tasmanian and Queensland delegates voting for the motion and those from New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia opposing it.

Mr. Webb and Mr. Chamberlain were the Western Australian delegates. There it is, in black and white, and it has never been denied by anybody in the Labour Party. It continues—

As Mr. Bryan had no casting vote as chairman the May resolutions remained the policy of the party.

When the deadlock occurred opponents of Mr. Calwell moved for the appointment of a special committee to interpret the May resolutions. This resolution was agreed to by 8 votes to 4.

Resentment in Caucus.

The terms of the interpretation will forestall any move by Mr. Calwell and his followers to re-open the issue in Caucus tomorrow.

However, the action of the executive in issuing a directive may cause some resentment in a section of Caucus.

One member said tonight that he questioned the right of the executive to direct members how they should vote, particularly as the executive's own decision on that point was not unanimous and in view of the fact that it was evenly divided on what the Labour Party's attitude to the Bill should be.

I think that clearly vindicates the statement made in the pamphlet. The passage which the member for Mt. Hawthorn referred to when he said, "That is wrong. That is a lie," is correct and has never been denied. Had it been wrong, I am sure some member opposite would have said so at the time. The member for Mt. Hawthorn said he was not squealing

and that Mr. Webb was not squealing, but I will trace the course of events. On the day of the declaration of the poll in Swan, there appeared in the "Daily News" the following:—

Webb Attacks L.C.L. Election Sheet.

Defeated Swan Labour candidate C. H. Webb today bitterly criticised a very gruesome pamphlet issued by the campaign directors for successful L.C.L. candidate W. Grayden. "Unfortunately, the old red bogey had to be used again on this occasion, and my name had of course to be connected in some way with communism," said Mr. Webb, at the declaration of the Swan poll. "I believe that the last pamphlet issued in the L.C.L. campaign had a great deal to do with Labour's defeat. It was very gruesome and included some untruths of which the L.C.L. campaign directors and Mr. Grayden must have been aware," he said.

He was then asked what were the untruths, but made no reply. Those untruths have never been gone into. Of course, the authors of the pamphlet did not have the resources that are open to its files but, as far as they could see, gathering information from the public Press, every piece of information in that pamphlet was correct and there was no intention to mislead on that score. During the same election, the Labour Party issued a pamphlet attacking Bill Grayden, the Liberal member for Swan, and in the course of that—

Mr. McCulloch: They did not call him a Fascist.

Mr. GRAYDEN: They had no reason to do so.

Mr. McCulloch: It would have been far more right to call him a Fascist than to call Mr. Webb a communist.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Nobody did that—but if the cap fits, wear it! This pamphlet clearly stated, "It is because of actions by Labour leaders such as instanced above that communists vote Labour."

Mr. Graham: Now explain the hammer and sickle shown on the pamphlet.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The pamphlet dealt with communism, and it was perfectly fair to put the hammer and sickle on it, just as we often see cartoons of Mr. Menzies with a swastika. That is far worse, when the swastika is placed on him in a cartoon, than having on a pamphlet a hammer and sickle not connected with the person concerned in any way.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: Weak! Very weak!

Mr. GRAYDEN: In the pamphlet that the Labour Party issued against the member for Swan, they quoted from "The News Review," criticising him to a certain de-

gree, and printed a passage from that paper saying, "This is what the Liberal Party members think of Bill Grayden." Here is an extract from "The News Review," which is referred to as a Liberal Party journal, "The News Review" is nothing of the sort, and has no connection whatever with the Liberal Party. It may perhaps express Liberal sentiments, but they are not necessarily the sentiments of Liberal Party members, and therefore that quotation was a deliberate attempt to mislead.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: Tell us what Bill Grayden once said about the Liberal Party.

Mr. J. Hegney: Yes, tell us about that.

Mr. GRAYDEN: It is little use delving into such things. My sole contention is that there should be no squealing after these things are done.

Hon. A. H. Panton: It would be better for them not to be done at all.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Everyone saw an election sheet showing Mr. Menzies and a couple of Federal Ministers at a garden party at the Russian Embassy.

Mr. Graham: But there was no swastika there.

Mr. GRAYDEN: That is so, but the inference was that he was on the side of the communists, whereas in actual fact the Prime Minister of Australia could hardly refuse to accept an invitation to the Russian Embassy. I am sure that if the Leader of the Opposition were in the position of Prime Minister, he would feel it his duty, regardless of personal sentiments, to accept an invitation of that kind.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: The Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives refuses invitations from the Governor-General of Australia.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I have not supported him.

The Minister for Education: There are a lot of people who do not agree with him, too.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: It shows that invitations can be refused.

Mr. GRAYDEN: That was the first squeal about this pamphlet, on the day of the declaration of the poll. About two months later an advertisement was inserted in the "Daily News." I might add that it was a very obscure advertisement at the bottom of the comic strip, or somewhere like that, where very few people would see it; and my attention was not drawn to it until two weeks after it had appeared. That advertisement was also a squeal regarding this pamphlet. Then the member for Mt. Hawthorn went over the same ground again the other night. That makes three references to the one pamphlet.

It is quite open for Mr. Webb to take any action he thinks appropriate. The member for Mt. Hawthorn said it was

suggested that Mr. Webb should take legal action, but that he is anything but a squealer. On the other hand, we had him squealing at the declaration of the poll. Why should he not take legal action? He is allowed to do so under the law, and nothing can stop him if he has the ground for a libel action. He referred to the pamphlet as libellous when, in fact, I have reason to believe there is nothing libellous in it.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: It was a very filthy pamphlet, whether it was libellous or not.

Mr. GRAYDEN: One must fight fire with fire.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: It was a very filthy pamphlet.

Mr. May: It came from a very filthy place, too.

Mr. GRAYDEN: It ill becomes members opposite, who have put out so many of this sort of pamphlet and who have had deep-bellied laughs at Mr. Menzies being labelled with a swastika, to complain when a similar type of pamphlet is issued against themselves, without going into the rights or wrongs at all. It is only sporting that a defeat, particularly by a margin of over 3,000, should be taken on the chin and the matter allowed to drop.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: It is a very filthy pamphlet and there are lies in it.

Mr. GRAYDEN: There has been opportunity for members opposite to enumerate the lies, and no doubt they will go through it again.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: One lie is in connection with Mr. Webb's attitude regarding the locomotive railway strike.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I differ on that.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: You can do what you like.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I have something here about it.

The Minister for Lands: Now you have started something.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: Perhaps it has been put where it should be put.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I will read this statement to which the Leader of the Opposition objects. It says, "Harry Webb, Rail Strike Leader."

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: That is not true.

Mr. Brady: That is absolutely false.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Was he not the leader of the union concerned in the strike?

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: No. It is absolutely untrue.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Was he not the delegate to the Arbitration Court to discuss that strike? Was he not representing the union?

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: He was a full-time paid official of the union.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Yes, in a leading capacity. The secretary of a union must be a leader of that union.

Hon. A. H. Panton: Not necessarily.

Mr. Graham: He does what the union tells him to do.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I think members opposite know as well as I do that a secretary of an organisation has a tremendous amount of influence.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: And all of Mr. Webb's influence on that occasion was exercised for the purpose of trying to prevent a strike in the first place and trying to settle it as soon as possible after it started.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I have said previously that the people who drew up this pamphlet had to rely on sources of information open to them.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: I am saying again to you that it was a filthy pamphlet and the statements in it in connection with Mr. Webb and the railway strike were lies, absolute lies.

Mr. GRAYDEN: And I am saying that if any mistake was made it was only because access could not be had to trade-union information. I think we can shift across to some statements made the other night by the member for East Perth. If I remember aright, a few days previously he made some rather startling statements about our need to build up our national defences. He had the idea that anything in the way of training troops or building up an air force, and so on should not be done, because it seemed to be helping inflation.

Mr. Graham: That is about as true as some of your other statements.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Did the hon. member not say it was no use building aeroplanes if they would be obsolete in two or three years' time?

Mr. Graham: That is your interpretation.

Mr. GRAYDEN: There was only one interpretation to place upon what the hon. member said.

Mr. Graham: Read what I said and satisfy yourself.

Mr. GRAYDEN: But I have. The hon. member came along the other night and gave his views upon the conflicts in Asia at the present time. He spoke about the Americans fighting the Koreans; about the French fighting the Indo-Chinese and about the British fighting the Malaysians. He had the idea that Asia should be left to the Asiatics and that Western democracy should not interfere in any way in the conflicts in those countries. He believed that if we did interfere in Asia, it would only build up hatred towards us on the part of the Asiatics and our position would become untenable in about 20 years.

The hon. member will not deny that such were his views on those subjects. I would like to point out to him that, in Malaya, Britain is not fighting Malaysians. The main strength of the communists in Malaya comes from the Chinese; and if they were to take over control of the country, they would be as big usurpers as the British. It is not their native country. They have gone into the country, and it is against them that Britain is fighting; and the Malaysians are on the side of the British.

Hon. A. H. Panton: That is what they say about us and the aborigines.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Yes; the member for East Perth's argument is reduced to absurdity if we take our own case in Australia, because if his argument is taken to its logical limits, we should get out and leave Australia to the aborigines.

Hon. A. H. Panton: And apologise for the muck we have made of it.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I suggest they are very dangerous views indeed. The hon. member said he would, in effect, be a martyr for holding unorthodox views. There is no quarrel with anybody here whose opinions differ from those held by other members. He has a perfect right to do so. But it is different when those opinions, if widely held, would endanger the security of this country. And surely, if we were to use our influence and withdraw from the conflicts in Korea and Malaya, and persuade other nations to do the same and leave those countries in the hands of the Asiatics, Australia in a very short time would be placed in grave peril.

We only have to look at the position. If all the support of the Western democracies offered to the native peoples in those countries of Asia were withdrawn, within a couple of years at the most those countries would be in the hands of the communists, not because the people want communism, but because the communists there are organised to take over the land by force and have the means of doing so.

Mr. Graham: Where are Asiatics welcoming the support from us you are talking about?

Mr. GRAYDEN: South Korea and Malaya; even the Chinese in Malaya—the responsible ones—welcome the troops Britain is sending to that country. The Malaysians are organised to help combat the terrorists because they realise their future lies on the side of Britain and not communist Russia. The hon. member will find out that in Indo-China the French are supporting a native regime. A very substantial portion of Indo-China, and the Indo-Chinese, are well on the side of the French in that struggle. The French traditionally work through existing native

institutions in administering a country and try to bolster up and Europeanise those native institutions.

Mr. Graham: You would say the same thing about the Dutch and the Indonesians?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Would the hon. member say that the Indonesians, by their attitude towards the Chinese and Arabs, are doing a creditable job? The plain fact is that once the protection of the Dutch was taken away from Indonesia no protection whatever was afforded to the Chinese people in that country. Both the Arabs and the Chinese in Indonesia held a great deal of the commercial life of that nation within their hands. But no protection was afforded to them by the Indonesians when the Dutch withdrew! That is one crime that the Indonesians have on their hands.

In the paper only the other day the Indonesian Premier said how impossible it was to safeguard personal property in that country. There are frequent reports about any ships which call into Indonesian ports. These ships have their cargoes filched and stolen in tremendous quantities; what cannot be taken away is smashed. Are these happenings good? Did not the Dutch give any benefits to Indonesia? I do not say that the Dutch ruled without any anomalies. Undoubtedly they did inflict some hardship on certain sections of Indonesia, but I would not say that the new system has made any substantial improvement for the average Indonesian.

Mr. Graham: There is no longer a powder keg in Indonesia.

Mr. Hearman: Isn't there?

Mr. GRAYDEN: If the member for East Perth feels that a lawless, disorganised country of roughly 40,000,000, immediately to our north and within a very short distance of us, and which could easily be taken over by a small well-organised band, does not present any danger to Australia, then he shows a poor understanding of the elements that make up a danger to any country.

Mr. Graham: Rubbish!

Mr. J. Hegney: When you talk about a well-organised band, do you mean from inside or outside?

Mr. GRAYDEN: From the inside.

Mr. J. Hegney: That would be the natives.

Mr. GRAYDEN: It would be the native communists because it is such people, in all these countries—Moscow-trained and undoubtedly led by experts—who have had training in revolution and building up these movements inside different countries. These small groups, highly organised, and equipped with arms, could undoubtedly—in the vacuum left by the

withdrawal of Western Nation forces—seize control without the slightest trouble.

Mr. Graham: What happened in India?

Mr. GRAYDEN: India had a very negligible communist party.

Mr. Nimmo: The question of religion comes into it there.

Mr. GRAYDEN: It is most unlikely that communism will ever achieve a stranglehold upon India. Despite the withdrawal of British people, India had its own well-organised national army, navy and air force. Any country that has its own forces has power to combat an uprising if Western power is withdrawn. But, any nation that does not have its national forces can be overtaken by communist power during the vacuum left by the withdrawal of Western forces.

Mr. Graham: I think you have an imperialistic mind.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I have a very imperialistic mind if it comes to the safety of this country.

Mr. Griffith: Hear, hear!

Mr. Graham: You would stir up trouble in every quarter of the globe.

Mr. Griffith: And the member for East Perth talks about rubbish!

Mr. GRAYDEN: I cannot see that a nation, through being strong, invites war any more than does a nation by being weak. History shows us that the weak nations, offering some spoil and plunder to the victors, have always been the ones that cause wars. It is the weak, providing a temptation to the strong, that cause wars, and if it is possible to maintain the balance of power there is no war. This was amply demonstrated in the 19th century when Britain had the balance of power.

Mr. Graham: I will agree with you that it sounds all right but unfortunately for us the Asiatic people do not like it.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Has the member for East Perth any reason for suggesting that the Asiatics like the white man's rule any less than they do their own? He is forgetting that the great mass of Asiatics are not organised and have no knowledge of what power is in control of their country and do not care. Only small and vocal minorities in those countries are kicking up all this fuss.

Mr. Yates: What about Persia?

Mr. GRAYDEN: The member for East Perth went on to give his views about America. He seemed to have the idea that Marshall Aid was purely a method conjured up to avert a depression. Roughly, Marshall Aid is a system whereby those countries whose economy is shattered by the war can be rebuilt to become productive nations with a high standard of living and so take their parts in sharing the defence of the free world. Never before in

history has a country shown itself to be so generous, so good-natured and so tolerant as has America since the war. No other nation in history has ever given a comparable sum away with almost no strings attached and no terms of repayment asked.

Money has been given to build up nations after wars, but it has always been in the form of loans which had to be repaid. What other nation would be so generous as to give away thousands of millions of pounds worth of her own goods to help her neighbours and receive in return only abuse from the communists and from people who do not appreciate her good intentions. America, with her vast industrial potential, is playing a big part in keeping up the standard of living of our relatives in Great Britain. Does the member for East Perth think the Government of Great Britain would be grateful if Marshall Aid were to be taken away or if it had not been given since the war? They would be in a sorry pass indeed if it had not been for the American people.

Mr. Graham: Nobody questions that, of course.

Mr. GRAYDEN: But the hon. member had the idea that the whole and sole motive behind the Marshall Aid plan was to avert depression in America.

Mr. Graham: I think you should look behind the golden curtain.

Mr. GRAYDEN: They were the hon. member's views, were they not?

Mr. Graham: They were not.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The hon. member seems to change his views pretty often.

The Minister for Lands: He is getting out of his depth.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Let us deal with the proposition that the export of goods helps American economy. The member for East Perth stated that there are 4,000,000 unemployed in America. I do not doubt for a moment that he is right, but my only wonder is that there are not 8,000,000 unemployed, because in case the hon. member has not taken care to study the figures involved, I will explain the procedure by which there are a number of unemployed in America.

To begin with there is frictional unemployment. A new industry starts up and an old one closes down. For example, the buggy business closed down and dwindled with the growth of the motor car. People are being displaced from one industry and diverted to another, and in every instance there is some unemployment for a matter of weeks. There is also seasonal unemployment. People engaged in cotton-picking for one season might not be able to find work for a couple of months to fill in the gaps during the year.

There are a number of people who are partially unemployable; not necessarily crippled but people who have a mentality

which makes it very difficult for anybody to employ them. There are many factors which cause the unemployment figures of a nation to rise. So it is surprising to me that the unemployment figure in America is as low as 4,000,000. That means that out of 150,000,000 people only that number are unemployed, which is a very creditable thing.

Mr. Graham: On those figures we should have about 200,000 people unemployed in Australia.

Mr. GRAYDEN: It will be found that in Australia the unemployed are only those people who draw unemployment relief and to obtain that they must be out of work for a period not exceeding one or two weeks.

Mr. Graham: One week.

Mr. GRAYDEN: How that figure would rise if we had a large turnover of labour and many of the employees said, "I will have a week's holiday before starting work again"! and that often occurs. There are others who would not bother applying for unemployment relief, so our figures do not reflect the true unemployment position. It is quite easy to get into bother when dealing with figures, and it is always wise to find out the premises on which figures are obtained and what elements go into their compilation.

Mr. Graham: You know that there are 300,000 jobs going begging at the present time, do you not?

Mr. GRAYDEN: But that does not disprove anything. That might be seasonal employment or employment available because of sickness. If every worker was out of employment for one week in a year, just imagine the tremendous unemployment we would have; but in America, as in Australia, and in almost every other country in the world, they are suffering the effects of inflation. Would America export consumer goods and industrial goods to step up production when their own people could be supplied with those goods and, by the law of supply and demand, help to force prices down?

Yet the member for East Perth thinks that America has been purely selfish in implementing Marshall Aid, whereas, on the other hand, I believe it is one of the greatest measures introduced by any nation and is certainly the most generous gesture made in the history of the world. I now turn to the transport policy within the State. I have mentioned this matter before in regard to road and rail transport in considering which is the better suited to the economy of this country. It is almost impossible to say to what degree road and rail transport should interlock and in which areas each is the most useful. It is almost impossible because the Railway Department has not any figures by which costs can be drawn.

I guarantee the Railway Department could not tell the cost per mile on any railway section, and by cost I mean the true economic cost. Unless these figures are obtained—and they can be obtained to a considerable degree—there can be no real decision on the future policy relating to railways and roads. I consider that the Government should undertake an inquiry into this subject to ascertain the actual cost of rail transport within this State and what road transport costs would be, provided that form of transport were given the proper facilities to do the job.

Everyone has heard of the great concrete highways in America stretching for many miles with extremely high minimum speeds, built for very heavy loads of motor transport than can compete more than efficiently with railways. I do not say that the system of concrete highways could be introduced into this State because of the capital cost involved, but I believe that our roads are being built in accordance with the same policy as obtained in 1920. We are building for loads which are only half of that capable of being carried by modern vehicles. We are building for loads that only applied in the days when we had five-ton trucks.

Mr. J. Hegney: The Commissioner of Main Roads is already in America to find out what are the modern ideas on road transport there.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I only hope that he brings back constructive ideas and that the Government will act on them. Whenever a Government asks for information either about roads or railways it asks either a member of the Railway Commission or someone who is vitally interested in the future of railways, and when it makes inquiries about roads it generally asks a man vitally interested in road transport, and those people naturally base their biased opinions on their own position.

Hon. A. R. G. Hawke: Yes, the Government is quite hopeless.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The Government should have an inquiry made by someone who is impartial in these matters and who has no vested interest in whatever way the controversy goes. It is only by an independent investigation, by somebody qualified to deal with the statistics involved and to work out the true costs, that the Government will have any basis on which to disburse the many millions of pounds it intends to spend on railways. The Government is in the position now of intending to spend many millions of pounds upon railways without knowing if the job could not be done more effectively by other means. I say that no decision of any sort should be reached until we have all the facts and figures before us enabling us to reach a compara-

tive conclusion. I would earnestly suggest to the Government that some inquiry be made at the present stage into the true costs of both rail and road transport in this State.

On motion by Mr. Ackland, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.31 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, 29th August, 1951.

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

ASSENT TO BILL.

Message from the Administrator received and read notifying assent to the Supply Bill (No. 1) £9,000,000.

QUESTIONS.

AGRICULTURE.

As to Separate Marketing of Medium-Strong Wheats.

Hon. G. FRASER (for Hon. E. H. Gray) asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) What is being done to ensure that at the next harvest the new medium-strong wheats like Kondut, Gabo, Charter and Wongoondy will be marketed separately and supplied to local mills so that the growers may receive their real commercial value and the public be supplied with better bread?

(2) If there are difficulties to prevent such action, what steps are being taken to overcome them?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) A committee representing the flour-mill owners, bakers, Co-operative Bulk Handling, the Australian Wheat Board and the Department of Agriculture was appointed to investigate the possibilities of segregating and ensuring that the better quality wheats were railled to the flour millers. This committee has met on a number of occasions and given consideration to the matter, but unfortunately has not been able to submit a practical method of introducing and effecting a scheme acceptable to all parties.

(2) The matter is still under consideration. In the meantime, the practice of classifying the wheat at the different sidings according to quality, and as far as is practicable railling to the mills nominated by the flour millers, is being continued.

SUPERPHOSPHATE.

As to Use of Ravensthorpe Pyrites at Albany Works.

Hon. J. McI. THOMSON asked the Minister for Agriculture:

In view of the construction of super. works at Albany and the necessity of using pyrites owing to the shortage of sulphuric acid—

(1) What method does the Government propose to implement in the transportation of pyrites from Norseman to the Albany works?

(2) Has the Government taken any steps to ascertain the quantity of pyrites supplies from Ravensthorpe?

(3) In view of Ravensthorpe's closer proximity to Albany than that of Norseman to Albany, and because of the saving in transport costs, would consideration be given to developing the supply of pyrites from Ravensthorpe?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) At present the railways are the only means available to transport pyrites to Albany. Other avenues will be explored in the future.

(2) It is intended that boring will take place to ascertain the quantity and quality of pyrites at Ravensthorpe.

(3) If investigations referred to in answer (2) prove favourable, there is no doubt that consideration will be given to using Ravensthorpe pyrites at the Albany works.

INCREASE OF RENT (WAR RESTRICTIONS) ACT.

As to Tenant Applicants for Fair Rent Determination.

Hon. J. A. DIMMITT (for Hon. H. K. Watson) asked the Minister for Transport:

Concerning paragraph (iib) of Section 5 of the Increase of Rent (War Restrictions) Act, 1939-1950, what was the number of tenants who, refusing to agree to the 20 per cent. increase in rent authorised by the