

# Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 27th August, 1963

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

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### PENAL AND MENTAL INSTITUTIONS

#### Number of Escapes

1. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Chief Secretary:

During the last twelve months how many persons have escaped from—

- (a) gaols;
- (b) mental institutions;
- (c) children's or youth detention centres;
- (d) other?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (a) 18—comprising 2 from Meekatharra Gaol, 1 Broome Gaol, 3 Bartons Mill Prison, 1 Fremantle Prison, 1 Geraldton Gaol, 1 Pardelup Prison Farm, 1 Bunbury Gaol, 1 Carnarvon Gaol, 6 Perth Central lock-up, 1 Wyndham Gaol.
- (b) 37—In many instances these are not regarded as "escapes"; neither are the short absences of a number of other patients who have wandered.
- (c) Riverbank—4.  
Child Welfare Reception Home—144.  
Hillston (Stoneville)—50.  
Home of the Good Shepherd—13.

The three last-mentioned institutions do not provide security facilities to prevent escapes. They are not intended to be security institutions.

- (d) The only other institutions where services and accommodation are provided are orphanages and the like. These are private homes or institutions.

I would like to add that parts (c) and (d) of the above answer were given me by the Minister for Child Welfare.

2. This question was postponed.

**ACTS OF PARLIAMENT***Legal Obligation to Operate*

3A. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

Does he consider there is a legal obligation upon the Government to operate Acts of Parliament as approved by Parliament from time to time?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied: Yes, so far as the Statutes require.

**WHEAT PRODUCTS (PRICES FIXATION) ACT***Government's Refusal to Operate, and Repeal*

3B. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

- (1) What is the Government's reason for continuing to refuse to operate the provisions of the Wheat Products (Prices Fixation) Act?
- (2) Does the Government propose to continue to refuse to operate this Act in the future?
- (3) If so, should the Government not approach Parliament with a Bill to repeal the Act?
- (4) Does the Government intend to approach Parliament in the matter during the current session?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (1) After full investigation in 1959 the Government decided that there was no need to reconstitute the committee or retain the price-fixing proclamation. Parliament was advised of this on the 28th October, 1959, when the file was tabled. It was felt unrealistic to retain price control on bread when most other commodities are not so controlled and in any case only the standard loaf was controlled at the time. The Act permits but does not require the making of proclamations to fix prices. The breadmaking industry also agreed to give prior advice of impending increases and to continue the methods used by the committee for determining the price.
- (2) and (3) See answer to No. (1).
- (4) No decision has been made.

**CHAMBERLAIN INDUSTRIES***Compensation Claim by Mr. Colin George*

4. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Will he state the main grounds on which Colin George of Claremont has made a claim on the

Government for financial compensation covering proposals submitted by Mr. George to the Government some time ago to place Chamberlain Industries, as they then existed, on a new financial basis?

- (2) Will he also state the main reasons which caused the Government to reject the claim?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) As advised in an answer given by the Premier on the 14th August, 1963, Mr. George can have recourse to legal action if he considers he has a claim against the Government. The Government acknowledges no liability.

It is therefore not desirable that the Government should state publicly what it considers the grounds of Mr. George's claims or the reasons for refusing to accept any liability.

**REDUNDANT RIGHTS-OF-WAY***Simplification of Closure Procedure*

5. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What progress has been made in the matter of simplifying the procedure for the closure of redundant rights-of-way?
- (2) When can a final decision be anticipated?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) and (2) Public rights-of-way may be closed under the Local Government Act, and the land disposed of under the provisions of part VII A of the Land Act. Requests for the closure of public rights-of-way should be submitted to the local authority, which if it is prepared to approve of the closure, will forward the request to the Department of Lands and Surveys for investigation and consideration.

Private rights-of-way may be closed by means of a minor town planning scheme prepared by the local authority, which could provide for the re-subdivision of the area to eliminate the redundant right-of-way and add the land to the holdings of the adjoining owners. The Department of Lands and Surveys has no jurisdiction over private rights-of-way and requests for the closure of these ways should be submitted to the local authority for the preparation of a minor town planning scheme.

### TRAFFIC ROTARY

*Milford Street, Welshpool Road and Albany Highway Intersection*

6. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Works:

Can he give any indication at this juncture when action will be taken by the Main Roads Department to provide a traffic rotary at the junction of Milford Street with Welshpool Road and Albany Highway?

Mr. WILD replied:

Investigations are being made into alternative means of routing the traffic at this intersection. Until these investigations are completed a final decision regarding a traffic rotary cannot be made.

### AGED PEOPLE'S HOMES

*Use of Collier Pine Plantation Land*

7. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Premier:

- (1) In connection with the Collier Pine Plantation, will he advise the total acreage of land and conditions of transfer granted by the Government to—

- (a) Swan Cottage Homes;  
(b) Central Methodist Mission Homes?

- (2) What further grants of land are contemplated in regard to the mentioned homes?

- (3) Will the proposed homes for the aged in the pine plantation opposite Thelma Street, South Perth, be administered by the Government?

- (4) What is the anticipated date construction of the homes will commence?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (1) (a) 18 acres 2 roods 35 perches.  
(b) 31 acres 3 roods 7 perches.

The conditions of the grant provide that the lands shall be held in trust for the purpose of "Aged People's Homes", and shall not be leased or mortgaged in whole or in part without the consent of the Governor.

- (2) The granting of additional land within the Collier Pine Plantation to Swan Cottage Homes or Central Methodist Mission Homes is not contemplated.

- (3) An area of 7 acres and 28 perches facing Thelma Street has been set apart as a site for The Home of Peace for the Chronic Sick.

- (4) Swan Cottage homes and Central Methodist Mission homes have been erected. The Home of Peace

has not yet advised when the building of a hospital on the Thelma Street site will be commenced.

### FLUORIDATION OF WATER

#### *Opinions of Experts*

8. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Did he see in *The West Australian* of the 21st August a statement reported to have been made by Mr. Colin Bonney, Perth Dental Hospital dental health education officer, that "there was no evidence to justify claims that there were health hazards associated with fluoridation"?

- (2) Does he agree with this contention?

- (3) If "Yes," will he explain the grounds upon which the evidence produced by the following well qualified persons can be dismissed as being of no value:—

(a) G. L. Waldbott, M.D., F.A.C.P., etc.;

(b) F. B. Exner, M.D., F.A.C.R.;

(c) Alfred Taylor, Ph.D., Research Scientist, Texas;

(d) Charles G. Perkins, Industrial Chemist, of 20 years' experience in research;

(e) Professor G. D. Steyn, Professor of Pharmacology;

(f) Professor Amarjit Singh, Principal, Medical College, Patiala, India?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) Yes.

- (3) The grounds for disregarding the views of the first two individuals named by the honourable member were indicated in my answer to one of several questions asked by him on the 7th August.

Similar answers could be prepared in respect of the remaining persons named; and no doubt a few others such as Spira, Lee, and Betts.

Nevertheless, it serves no useful purpose to debate isolated and usually unsubstantiated opinions in this way. They have already been evaluated by the professional and scientific organisations best qualified to do so.

For the information of the honourable member I quote section of a report of Trulson, M.F., Clancy, R.E., Stare, F.J. (1962) Department of Nutrition, Harvard

School of Public Health, *The Practitioner*, Volume 189, page 510, which reads as follows:—

There have been well over 10,000 reports of investigations on fluoridation and the prevention of dental caries. It is seldom that a health measure has had such a thorough investigation. According to the Expert Committee of the World Health Organisation: All these findings fit together in a consonant whole that constitutes a great guarantee of safety—a body of evidence without precedence in public health procedures.

### T.A.B. AGENCIES

#### *Use as Common Gaming Houses*

9. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Did he see in the *Daily News* of the 21st August under the heading "Pinball Sequel" a report of a cafe proprietor having been tried twice over a group of pinball machines—the first conviction having been quashed and the second conviction being on an amended charge that the man had kept a common gaming house?
- (2) Is he aware that the conviction of the agent in charge of agency 23, South Terrace, Fremantle, on a charge of having during a period of twelve months accepted prohibited bets establishes that the agency was being run as a common gaming house for that period just as much as the abovementioned cafe proprietor's premises were?
- (3) Is he aware that many T.A.B. agencies if not all of them are being run as common gaming houses and that the deposit centre has also been run as a common gaming house?
- (4) Will he explain the reason why the police showed so much diligence in obtaining a conviction of the cafe proprietor, but are quite indifferent to the fact that T.A.B. agencies are being run as common gaming houses?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes; but the second charge was not amended.
- (2) No.
- (3) No.
- (4) There is no explanation required, because T.A.B. agencies are not being run as common gaming houses.

### DRAINAGE OF LOCKYER AREA, ALBANY

#### *Assistance from State Housing Commission*

10. Mr. HALL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has the State Housing Commission given consideration to the Albany Council's requests for assistance relative to the drainage of Lockyer area, Albany?
- (2) If so, what were the determinations?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The commission is in touch with the local authority and anticipates receiving a comprehensive engineering report in the near future.

### P.W.D. WORKSHOPS AT ALBANY

#### *Closure and Retrenchments*

11. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Government to close P.W.D. plant workshops at King's Road, Albany?
- (2) If so, how many men will be retrenched and how many will be kept on with the P.W.D. and transferred?

Mr. WILD replied:

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

### METROPOLITAN REGION PLAN

#### *Alterations*

12. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) Is the Metropolitan Regional Plan, now lying on the Table of the House, subject to alteration in any detail?
- (2) Can any local governing association or shire council have any alteration made to the plan?
- (3) To whom should the shire council appeal for alteration of a road?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes, as indicated in the reports submitted with the scheme, there is a degree of generality and elasticity, and considerable refinement will be necessary as the proposals are examined and progressively developed in detail.
- (2) Any council may make recommendations regarding alterations. The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority would initiate any action necessary to alter the scheme.

- (3) The District Planning Committee on which the council is directly represented.

### ESPERANCE DISTRICT HOSPITAL

#### *Additions*

13. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Are additions to the Esperance District Hospital planned for this financial year?
- (2) If so, will he supply details?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes, subject to the availability of loan funds.
- (2) Final sketch plans are awaited from the architects. The intention is to provide an additional 14 beds.

### HARBOUR AT ESPERANCE

#### *Breakwater, Dredging, and Shipping Berths*

14. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What are the approximate dates for the completion of—
  - (a) the Esperance breakwater;
  - (b) the harbour dredging work;
  - (c) the provision of shipping berths?
- (2) What will be the cost of the respective works?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government plans to complete the Esperance breakwater, harbour dredging, and the provision of one land-backed berth during the first half of 1965, at a total estimated cost of approximately £1,200,000.

### DARLINGTON RAILWAY STATION

#### *Terms of Lease to Mr. R. A. Sinclair*

15. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is he aware that the Darlington railway station has been leased to a Mr. R. A. Sinclair, estate agent?
- (2) Is the demising of railway property on suspended, as against closed, lines the usual practice of the Railways Department?
- (3) Have the usual arrangements been made appropriate to the relationship of the Railways Department's Commercial Agent's office and an advertiser, with respect to advertising signs which Mr. Sinclair has erected on railway property at Darlington and Boya?
- (4) In the event of a decision being taken to resume services on the Mundaring branch railway, either

over the full length of the railway or a section of the railway including Darlington, would the existence of a lease to Mr. Sinclair delay the resumption of traffic?

- (5) What are the precise terms of the relevant lease?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Leasing of railway property on lines where services have been suspended is normal practice.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No.
- (5) One year from the 1st April, 1963, and continuing thereafter until determined by either party by three months' notice. The lease may also be terminated by the department within the initial one year period if required for railway purposes.

### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH

#### *Training in Psychology or Criminology*

16. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many police officers at present attached or seconded to the Criminal Investigation Branch have received formal training in some branch of psychology, criminology, or abnormal behaviour at a recognised teaching institution?

#### *Recruitment from University Graduates*

- (2) Are any University graduates attached to or associated with the C.I.B.?
- (3) Is it possible for a graduate of a University whose course was relevant to the science of crime detection to join the C.I.B. without first joining the ordinary Police Force as a constable, undergoing basic police training and relying on promotion or effluxion of time for transfer to special duties?

#### *Establishment of Chair of Criminology*

- (4) Will he take steps to investigate the proposition that a chair of criminology should be established in association with the Law School at the University of Western Australia?
- (5) If his conclusions are favourable will he endorse it and forward it to the University Senate and Dean of the Faculty of Law with his or the Government's recommendation that the matter be pursued?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) 25 members of the C.I.B. attended a course at the University in 1961 arranged per medium of the Adult

Education Board. At least three other members of the C.I.B. have attended courses in psychology and law, and Inspector Wedd of the C.I.B. has just returned after having had four months' residential course at the Police College in Manly.

- (2) No. There are no actual graduates as members of the C.I.B. but quite a number are associated through the Public Health Department, the Government Analyst's Office, and the Police Surgeon, Dr. Pearson.
- (3) No. Scientists attached to Government departments as already explained, and the University, are associated as necessary. The services of these experts are available whenever required.
- (4) and (5) The Adult Education Board of the University has been consulted on the question of courses suitable for C.I.B. officers and prepared such a course. It is not felt that the establishment of a chair of criminology is warranted.

#### CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT

##### *Payments to Women Unassisted by Commonwealth*

17. Mr. DAVIES asked the Treasurer:

With reference to question No. 22 of the 20th August, 1963, will he advise—

- (a) particulars (i.e., categories) of the groups of women who receive no Commonwealth help but do receive assistance from from the Child Welfare Department;
- (b) the number of women so assisted at the present time;
- (c) the weekly rate paid to these women by the Child Welfare Department?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (a) (1) Unmarried mothers.
- (2) Deserted wives until they qualify for widows' pensions (6 months from date of desertion).
- (3) Women whose husbands are in gaol and who are not yet qualified for widows' pensions. (6 months from date of imprisonment).
- (4) Families awaiting finalisation of claims from the Department of Social Services for old age, invalid, or widows' pensions.

- (b) 120 families.

- (c) Weekly rate of payments—

No. of units in family.	Rate. s. d.	
1	82	6
2	112	6
3	127	6
4	142	6
5	157	6
6	172	6
7	187	6
8	202	6
9	217	6

The rate increases by 15s. for each additional child.

#### NATIVE CHILDREN'S HOSTELS

##### *Leonora*

##### *Establishment at Leonora*

18. Mr. BURT asked the Minister for Native Welfare:
- (1) Is consideration being given to establishing a hostel for native children at Leonora?
- (2) If so, can he advise when a commencement will be made?

##### *Yalgoo and Cue*

- (3) How many native children are in residence at the hostels at—
- (a) Yalgoo;
- (b) Cue?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) (a) Yes.
- (2) As soon as funds are available; but this might not be until 1964-65.
- (3) (a) 14;
- (b) 37.

#### MINING ACT

##### *Temporary Reserves under Section 276*

19. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:
- (1) How many temporary reserves under section 276 of the Mining Act, 1904-1957, for iron ore exist at the present time?
- (2) In respect to each of such reserves—
- (a) What is the number allocated to it?
- (b) To whom has it been allotted?
- (c) What is the area of it?
- (d) Is there any landmark, and if so, what is it from which its location can be identified?
- (e) What are its commencing and finishing dates?
- (f) Are there any, and if so, upon what conditions has it been allotted?

- (g) Is the person (or persons) to whom it has been allotted holding it wholly or partly for or on behalf of, or in trust for others, and if so, are any, and if so whom of such others, aliens or non-residents of Western Australia?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) 109.  
(2) (a) to (g) This information is quite voluminous and is laid on the table of the house.

*The information was tabled.*

### FLAT CONSTRUCTION

#### *Town Planning Department's Attitude to Zoning*

20. Mr. GRAYDEN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) Does the Town Planning Department accept the principle of confining flats to zones, in order to minimise the undesirable features attendant upon the haphazard siting of flats in residential areas?
- (2) Is it a fact that excessive flat development in a limited number of suburbs rather than a more uniform distribution (in recognised zones) throughout the metropolitan area generally, can place an undue strain upon services and facilities in the areas concerned?
- (3) Has the Town Planning Department expressed any views on the erection of "tower" flats in South Perth residential areas (as distinct from the area included in the No. 1 Town Planning Scheme) and, if so, what were the views expressed?
- (4) Will there be any prolonged delay on the part of the Town Planning Department in formulating and approving of the proposed No. 2 Town Planning Scheme for South Perth, and if so, when is it anticipated the scheme will be finalised?
- (5) When approving of new flat zones in residential areas, does the Town Planning Department take into consideration the desirability of "building out" existing flat zones before creating additional ones?

#### *Effect on House Values*

- (6) Is the Town Planning Department aware that—
  - (a) the erection of flats in residential areas frequently results in houses in the vicinity of such flats being substantially reduced in value;

- (b) the loss of privacy in homes near such flats is a serious matter to those affected?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes, in respect to one particular location: that high density development in that area was premature and could be detrimental to the surrounding highly developed residential area.
- (4) The department is not formulating a scheme for South Perth. This is the responsibility of the South Perth City Council.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) (a) and (b) The department does not have direct evidence of such effects, but it could be possible under certain circumstances.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

#### *Drawing of Lots for Term of Office*

21. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) In what way are lots drawn for term of office as specified in section 41 clause 7 (e) subclause (11) of Local Government Act, 1960?
- (2) What section defines the procedure for the drawing of lots associated with section 41?
- (3) When are such lots to be drawn?
- (4) If the drawing of lots in respect to section 41 is deemed to be as for section 101, why is this not stated in the Act?
- (5) Should such a drawing of lots take place before the expiration of the 72-hour period as specified in section 95 clause (2)?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) This is left to the discretion of the returning officer.
- (2) No section defines the procedure.
- (3) In accordance with section 128, lots are drawn before the returning officer declares the result of the election.
- (4) It is considered unnecessary; as this is left to the discretion of the returning officer there is no need for the Act to prescribe the method.
- (5) No.

### FLUORIDATION OF WATER

#### *Fallacies in Trendley Dean Report*

22. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is he aware that in a court case in Chicago on the 13th May, 1960, Dr. H. Trendley Dean (known as

the father of fluoridation in America) when being cross-examined under oath admitted that his original "21 Cities Report" contained certain fallacies?

- (2) If "Yes", will he state what the fallacies were?

#### *Views of Medical Dental Conference*

- (3) Has he seen in the official report of the medical dental conference, held in New York City on the 7th March, 1959, statements that "The questionable handling of statistical data," "the omitting of significant information and data" and "numerous actual mis-statements" which, when combined, appear seriously to impugn the validity of the fluoridation experiments to which they referred?
- (4) As the medical dental conference to which reference is made is reputed to have been sponsored by fifteen hundred doctors, dentists, and scientists, should we lightly reject their condemnation of adding sodium fluoride to drinking water and characterise it as something emanating from a small minority?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) I am aware of an allegation to this effect, but I am not aware of any fallacies.

It is significant that the injunction sought against the City of Chicago during the court case referred to in May, 1960, was refused; and, even more significant, that the City of Chicago continues to fluoridate its water supply.

- (3) Yes. These statements relate to the opinion of a Dr. Sutton about whom the honourable member asked a question on the 14th August. He was supplied on that occasion with appropriate references which should have relieved his anxiety.
- (4) Investigation of the "sponsorship" list claimed for conferences organised by the committee in question has disclosed a large percentage of "sponsors" who—
- were actually in favour of fluoridation;
  - had no opinion, or who had never authorised the use of their names;
  - were dead or could not be traced;
  - at least one was a patient in a psychiatric ward.

The report of the conference should be judged accordingly.

### **ELECTRICITY CHARGES**

#### *Metropolitan and South-West Power Schemes*

23. Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Electricity:

- What was the price paid per unit by the metropolitan power scheme for electricity purchased from the south-west power scheme during the year 1962-1963?
- What was the price paid per unit by the south-west power scheme for electricity purchased from the metropolitan power scheme during the year 1962-63?
- Will he supply the total monthly charges, not the per unit rate, levied by the S.E.C. against consumers for the use of electricity in the quantities listed under—
  - south-west power scheme;
  - various applicable metropolitan schedules: Quantities used by householders for light and power—

23 units per month;  
100 units per month;  
400 units per month;  
700 units per month;

(where it is necessary for the purpose of calculation the amount of electricity used for power as distinct from lighting regard the various consumptions as being 50 per cent. power, 50 per cent. lighting)?

- Will he supply the total monthly charges, not the per unit rate, levied by the S.E.C. against consumers for use of electricity in the quantities as listed under—

- South-West power scheme;
- various applicable metropolitan schedules: Quantities used by industrial and commercial consumers—

500 units per month;  
1,000 units per month;  
1,500 units per month;  
45,000 units per month;

(where it is necessary for the purpose of calculation, the amount of electricity used for power as distinct from lighting regard the various consumptions as being 90 per cent. power, 10 per cent. lighting)?

- What is the cost per unit of electricity at the following stations:—  
Wellington Dam;  
Bunbury;  
South Fremantle;  
East Perth;  
Collie?



- (6) Would he supply the charges for electricity per unit for the following towns, prior to take-over by the S.E.C.:

Bunbury;  
Collie;  
Wagin;  
Bridgetown;  
Albany;  
Kellerberrin;  
Busselton?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) 1.910d. per unit.  
(2) 1.443d. per unit.  
(3) (a)—

units per month	£	s.	d.
23 .....		13	5
100 .....	1	14	7
400 .....	5	15	10
700 .....	9	17	1

(b)—

23 .....	6	4
100 .....	1	7 0
400 .....	5	8 0
700 .....	9	9 0

50% lighting is not realistic so the above figures were based on 20% lighting.

- (4) (a)—

units per month	£	s.	d.
500 .....	7	2	11
1,000 .....	13	18	4
1,500 .....	20	13	9
45,000 .....	443	1	8

(b)—

500 .....	7	10 0
1,000 .....	14	10 0
1,500 .....	21	7 11
45,000 .....	545	18 4

- (5) This varies depending on the way in which the load is allocated to the stations.

- (6) Bunbury—

1949 prices per month	Per unit
Lighting .....	6d.
Domestic—	
First 50 .....	1½d.
Balance .....	1½d.
Commercial Power—	
First 1,000 .....	2½d.
Next 4,000 .....	1½d.
Balance .....	1½d.

Collie Municipal Council Area—

1949 prices per month	Per unit
Domestic—	
First 12 .....	5½d.
Balance .....	2½d.
Commercial—	
First 60 .....	4½d.
Balance .....	2½d.

Collie Road Board Area—

Domestic—	
First 12 .....	6½d.
Balance .....	2½d.

Commercial—

First 12 .....	5½d.
Next 48 .....	4½d.
Balance .....	2½d.

Wagin—

1960 prices per month	Per unit
Lighting .....	11d.
Power—	
First 300 .....	9d.
Next 700 .....	8d.
Balance .....	7d.
Flat rate—	
First 12 .....	11d.
Second 12 .....	9d.
Third 12 .....	8d.
Balance .....	7d.

Bridgetown—

1950 prices per month	Per unit
Lighting .....	11d.
Power .....	5d.

Albany—

1949 prices per month	Per unit
Lighting—	
First 200 .....	6½d.
Balance .....	5½d.
Power—	
First 800 .....	3d.
Balance .....	2½d.

Special charge for some bulk consumers.

Kellerberrin—

1955 prices per month	Per unit
Lighting—	
First 100 .....	10d.
Balance .....	8d.
Power—	
First 60 .....	5d.
Balance .....	4d.

Busselton—

1950 prices per month	Per unit
Lighting .....	7.8d.
Power—	
First 20 .....	4½d.
Balance .....	3.8d.

The above prices cannot be guaranteed.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### QUEEN MOTHER'S VISIT

#### *Inclusion of Albany in Itinerary*

1. Mr. HALL asked the Deputy Premier: In view of the proposed visit of the Queen Mother to Western Australia, would he make strong representation to have Albany included in the visit because it is nine years since a member of the Royal Family visited that town?

Mr. NALDER replied:

It will be some time before details of the programme are known. The suggestion will be considered at the appropriate time.

**MIGRANTS FROM BRITAIN***Effect on Housing and Unemployment*

2. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Was it correctly reported in *The West Australian* newspaper of Friday, the 23rd August, that more than 500 British migrants, including "Lonnie" migrants, would be arriving next month; and that the first 150 would arrive on the 4th September?
- (2) If so, what arrangements have been made for these migrants regarding housing and employment?
- (3) Will not these arrivals aggravate the existing housing and job shortage?

Mr. NALDER replied:

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

- (1) I have no knowledge of the source of the information that more than 500 migrants are expected in September as reported in *The West Australian* on Friday, the 23rd August.

Official records indicate that 254 persons will arrive during September under the assisted passage scheme comprising 69 breadwinners and their dependants and five children for Fairbridge.

- (2) The 69 breadwinners include 33 tradesmen recruited by the State Government Mission who will be accommodated at the Point Walter hostel until housing is available, and 21 nominated migrants for whom accommodation will be provided by their nominators. The balance are Commonwealth nominees with finance.
- (3) The tradesmen will be referred to jobs upon arrival. The balance include professionals, a farmer, and a nurse.

**FLUORIDATION OF WATER***Introduction of Legislation*

3. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Health:

Will he advise if it is still the intention of the Government to introduce legislation during the current session of Parliament for fluoridation of public water supplies?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Yes.

**ELECTORAL ADVERTISEMENT***Investigations as to Contravention of Act*

4. Mr. HEAL: This question, addressed to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice, is in relation to one asked on Thursday, the 15th August, by the member for Mt. Marshall, as follows:—

Does the advertisement appearing on page 55 of *The Sunday Times* of the 11th August, and reading, "Country people speak in favour of Heitman," contravene the Electoral Act, which requires election matter to be duly authorised?

The Minister's answer was as follows:—  
I am advised there is a *prima facie* case for investigation.

My question is—

Could he now inform the House whether the investigations have been completed? If not, would he do so when they are completed?

Mr. COURT replied:

I will refer the honourable member's question to the Minister for Justice and let him know the answer later.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: NINTH DAY***Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 22nd August, on the following motion by Mr. Mitchell:—

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

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

MR. H. MAY (Collie) [4.53 p.m.]: I am sure you will be glad to know, Mr. Speaker, that I will not be nearly so belligerent today; and, indeed, you will be pleased to know, I am sure, that the Minister for Education and I are still on speaking terms. There was a matter I was anxious to delve into last Thursday afternoon, but the other subjects on which I spoke took me longer than I expected because of so many interjections; they wasted a great deal of my time.

The other subject on which I now wish to speak is that relating to slow-learning children. I want members to appreciate

the human aspect of this subject. On the 7th February, 1963, I wrote to the Director, Education Department, Parliament Place, Perth, as follows:—

Dear Sir,

re: "Slow Learners" Class at Collie

I have received a request from Collie residents to obtain from you full information regarding your department's quota of assistance towards the establishment and maintenance of a "Slow Learners" class at Collie.

In my letter I went on to say how many children there were in the slow-learning group we have at Collie, and then this paragraph followed—

I shall be much obliged therefore if you will be good enough to inform me in whatever manner your department assists towards this worthy object so that I can correctly and fully inform the Committee interested in this subject.

On the 20th February, 1963, the Director-General of Education replied to my letter as follows:—

Dear Mr. May,

So far I am on good terms with him, evidently. Continuing—

I acknowledge your letter of the 7th February concerning a special class of the "occupational centre" type in the Collie area.

The department works closely with the Slow Learning Children's Association of W.A. and, in fact, in accordance with general policy deals with the central Association in all matters concerning the establishment of additional classes. Finances at present do not permit the construction of rooms for special classes and any financial assistance that is given is granted by the Treasury Department through the Association mentioned above.

It has been hoped that rather than establish a number of small country classes, regional centres might be established where, by means of residential accommodation, greater numbers of children could be taught in one school. Quite apart from the obvious economical advantages, an even more important reason is that with larger numbers it is possible to group children of similar age and needs together and thus provide a much better educational programme.

For these reasons it is hoped that the plans of the Association and of the South-West Regional Council to establish residential facilities in Bunbury will be successful and that the other nearby country centres will support this move.

The last paragraph of this letter is very important. It reads—

As far as the establishment of a school in Collie is concerned, the Minister requires seven children to be enrolled before appointing a teacher. However, I would be reluctant to recommend such an appointment at Collie while there are prospects of a good Centre being established in Bunbury.

This is the same old build-up to which I referred last Thursday afternoon. I now want to give the Minister some information on the number and type of children in Collie who are regarded as slow learners. I am not going to mention their names or addresses. The first one is a boy. He is eight years of age. This boy is definitely unable to attend the Bunbury centre either as a day student or as a hostel resident. He cannot walk and has difficulty in feeding himself.

The next one is a girl aged 12. The mother is a deserted wife with six children to support. The family is under the care of the Child Welfare Department. That family lives at Lyalls Mill, some seven or eight miles from Collie, and I want to know how that deserted wife with six children could arrange for that child to go to Bunbury and back every day.

Mr. Lewis: Can she get the child into Collie?

Mr. H. MAY: The school bus service takes the children into Collie from Lyalls Mill. The next one is another girl aged eight years. The father is an invalid pensioner. He pays £2 weekly for rent and has three dependent children. The mother is most emphatic that she will not agree to part with her children.

Mr. Lewis: How old is the girl?

Mr. H. MAY: She is eight years of age. That is where the human aspect enters this problem. The next one is a boy aged 15. There are eight children in this family and six of them under 16 years. Three of them are still under school age. There is no possibility of this boy being able to attend Bunbury.

The next one is a boy aged eight years. The father is an invalid pensioner with eight children—all under 16 years of age. This family is in very poor circumstances and it would be an impossibility to send this child to Bunbury. The next one is a little girl aged five years. She is under the required age of nine years for residence at Bunbury. Parents say the question of whether they can afford it or not does not affect the situation. They desire to have their daughter at home to go to school at Collie.

The next case concerns a 13-year-old boy. He would not be able to attend the Bunbury centre as a resident in the hostel, because, as a small child, he suffered from

polio. As a result of other weaknesses in the throat muscle he needs constant care and attention.

The next case concerns a 6-year-old boy. He is under the required age of nine years to qualify for residence at the Bunbury hostel. He has been tested by the guidance officer of the Education Department and certified by Dr. J. Watson to be a mentally retarded child. Another case also concerns a boy, aged 13 years. The parents of this child have no financial difficulty, but they find that the children living in the Bunbury hostel are much younger than this boy, and he will not receive companionship after school hours. They prefer to have him at school in Collie.

The next case concerns a 16-year-old boy. He has been at school in the opportunity classes, but since turning 16 he has stayed at home. His name is on the Education Department list of mentally retarded children. In all there are 10 children to whom I have made reference, and it is possible there are others who may not have been contacted so far.

There is a committee of women who have been working over the last two or three years with the object of arranging accommodation for such children in Collie, so that they can be taught in Collie, or at least be given the chance to be taught there, and so alleviate the situation which exists at present. This committee is not asking anything of the Education Department, except the provision of a teacher.

The committee will provide its own accommodation, because it has already rented a house from the State Housing Commission. So this is one house off the list of vacant houses owned by the commission. The committee will pay £2 a week in rental for the use of this house as a school, and it is prepared to equip the school with everything that is needed for a class of this nature. The only assistance this committee is asking for from the Education Department, is the supply of a teacher for these children. I think that is fair enough.

Mr. Lewis: Will you write to me about this matter?

Mr. H. MAY: The Minister will get a letter from me. The secretary of the committee in Collie wrote to me in the following terms:—

I have been in contact with Dr. Brian Smith regarding medical certificates for the children. He advises that as each one of them has been tested by the guidance branch, and subsequently registered with the Education Department as mentally retarded children, a doctor's certificate would not be necessary. It is purely a social problem.

I want to point out that according to the Director of Education, all these children have to go to Bunbury to receive whatever education they need.

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

Mr. H. MAY: Not one of the 10 children I have referred to is capable of making such a journey, which entails travelling 80 miles a day—40 miles to Bunbury and 40 miles back—and in the case of the child living at Lyalls Mill an additional 16 miles per day. How can people, in the circumstances I mentioned in some of the cases, possibly arrange to pay for the conveyance of their children to Bunbury and back? Not one of these children is fit to go into the Bunbury hostel, and furthermore the parents say definitely they would not want to lose control of their children by sending them to the Bunbury hostel, even if they could afford it. We see how impossible is the situation. Are these children to be denied the opportunity of at least learning something which will be of benefit to them later on?

I want to refer to a report on one child, in particular. When she was between 18 months and two years old, a specialist in Perth expressed the opinion that she would never be able to attend school, or be able to learn to read and write. I want to read the following educational report, dated the 28th June, 1963, on her school work. The name of the child does not matter. The report states—

English:

Reading—Progressing.

Conversation—Very good.

Speech—Good.

Number work and Money—Improving.

Drawing, Craftwork, Sewing—Has made rapid progress in sewing this year.

Singing, Rhythm, Dramatic Work—Interested.

Physical Training and Sport—Takes part where possible.

This child was injured at birth, and the injury was caused by the doctor attending—and the doctor admits it. One gland was injured and now she is over-sized, and that is the reason why she cannot take part in sports. The report continues—

Social Development:

Punctuality—Varies.

Care of Personal Appearance—Good.

Manners—Very polite.

Friendliness and Helpfulness to others—Very friendly and helpful.

Development of Self-reliance—Good.

Attitude to Work—Very good.

Reliability in doing jobs, taking messages, finishing what is started—Reliable and can take messages.

**General Remarks**—Is always anxious to work and help.

That child happens to be my grand-daughter. It has cost her family hundreds of pounds to bring her to the stage she has reached in her school work. This girl will be 13 years of age next Sunday, and there is nothing wrong with her except that she is over-sized; and, as I pointed out, the injury was caused by the doctor at the time of her birth.

In order that the child may receive special treatment, the father does his ordinary work during the day, but at night he works in a drive-in theatre in order to raise the £12 10s. a week—which is over and above his housekeeping responsibilities—for the treatment, and in order that the child may have a chance.

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Hearman): The honourable member's time has expired.

#### *Extension of Time*

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I move—

That the honourable member's time be extended.

**Motion put and passed.**

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Hearman): The honourable member may proceed.

#### *Debate (on motion) Resumed*

Mr. H. MAY: I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and the House for the indulgence. Fortunately the parents and the grand-parents of that child were in a position to help her, and this is more than the opportunity most other handicapped children have.

Some three or four weeks ago, when I was visiting Albany, this grand-daughter of mine rang me up from South Perth. She was able to converse with me over the telephone like any normal child, and asked me how I was getting along and when I was coming home. Let us not lose sight of the fact that a specialist in Perth had declared that this child would never be able to attend school, or learn to read and write.

For the sake not only of the children I have referred to this afternoon, but also all others who are handicapped in some degree, I am asking that they be given a chance under our education system to improve themselves.

I do not want to say anything against the slow learners' association, except to refer to the fact that in the metropolitan area special buses are provided to collect the children and convey them to a centre for learning. That is practical for the metropolitan area, but no attempt should be made to operate such a system in the

country, because it would not work there. However, handicapped children in the country should not be denied the opportunity for learning.

I now refer to an article which appeared in *The South-Western News* of the 21st February, 1963. It is as follows:—

#### **SLOW LEARNING GROUP HARD HIT**

Withdrawal of support by the Education Department has come as a bitter blow to members of the Busselton Slow Learning Children's Group and to parents for whom the Harris-road centre has brought a degree of help for the present and hope for the future. Complete and final closure of a centre which has taken so much time, care and patient self-denial to establish would be a sorrowful end to a chapter of charitable effort.

If the value of an organisation depends entirely on its size, wealth and weight of numbers, then the blow which has befallen the group could be of little concern to the community at large. But if kindness and compassion are better measuring rods than the cold comfort of statistical records, then the fate of this school for mentally retarded children is one for every thinking resident to consider.

Unfortunately consequences of closure are further emphasised when it is realised that the school has been a success and that children attending have been greatly helped. Although at present numbers have fallen below the required minimum, no account has been taken of those who may need its services in the years to come. To preserve the means of letting even a little light into darkened minds is surely a worthy object in a growing district. "Unto the least of these" must be the ultimate aim of community welfare.

The alternatives facing parents who have worked hard and contributed much to the Busselton centre provide little comfort. They can send their children to the Bunbury centre at considerable personal expense, or they can keep them at home and so deny them benefits of skilled teaching. For the children concerned, either home life or school training must be forfeited in order to comply with administrative requirements. For no other section of girls and boys in the State are both so necessary, and seldom has such an example of callous disregard for human feelings been evidenced.

In terms of money, influence and departmental policy, the group may lack the capacity within itself to resist outside pressures seeking to send

its children to Bunbury. But if public sympathy and support are rallied to its aid, then its hard-won training facilities may be saved for both present and future generations. Whatever the outcome, welfare of the children concerned should be the first consideration. They must not be made pawns in a game of administrative chess, to be moved from town to town at the discretion of the players.

If a practical part-time scheme can be prepared with the object of keeping the centre open, both financial and welfare points of view should be at least temporarily satisfied. The struggle of the Busselton Slow Learning Children's Group to preserve its separate existence provides a warning to the town and district as a whole. What is happening to it today could conceivably apply to other aspects of Busselton life tomorrow.

That completely sums up the situation. There are other references here to this particular subject, which I will not bother to read. My object in bringing this up today in the first place was to try to get the Minister to do something in regard to such a matter, since he should have control of the department. Surely the Minister will at least agree that this subject deserves very serious consideration, much more serious consideration than the establishment of some building in Bunbury. Why all this converging on Bunbury? Does not the Minister or the department think the 10 children I have mentioned, with others—

Mr. Lewis: I haven't known anything about this.

Mr. H. MAY: I know. That is why I was still on speaking terms with the Minister when I started to speak this afternoon. I do not know what line of action the member representing Busselton will take; I am speaking for Collie. As I said on Thursday afternoon, somebody in the department is developing a tendency towards fascism. If I can find out who it is, I will show him or them up.

Mr. Lewis: You are off beam there.

Mr. H. MAY: Did the Minister say that I am off the beam?

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): The honourable member will continue his speech.

Mr. Lewis: You are off beam when you charge someone in the department with ulterior motives in this matter.

Mr. H. MAY: If the Minister will arrange to alter the system this department is trying to adopt I will agree with him, but until such time as I see some action being taken by the department to rectify this silly business of trying to converge country people into one town, I will stand by what I have said. The distance the towns are apart does not matter—they must go to Bunbury! Why must they? Because someone in the Minister's department says so. Surely there must be people in the department who understand human nature and what it means to drive these little kiddies to Bunbury in order that they may swell something in Bunbury.

Let us give first preference to the children. That should be our job. It does not matter what it is going to cost. The particular children suffering this disability should be considered from any point of view. Surely the Minister will not tell me later on that it is not possible to provide a teacher for the Collie area! We have done everything. We have even got a school; and the committee and the people of Collie are paying for the facilities that are going into that school. Therefore, surely to goodness the parents of those children are entitled to some consideration, without their having to build up the numbers in some other town 40 miles away. Let us be human in this matter, as I am satisfied somebody in the Education Department is not human.

If the department has some reason for wanting to build up Bunbury, let it do it on orthodox lines and not at the expense of these little kiddies. I hope that as a result of what I have said, the Minister will wake up to what is going on. I know he cannot know everything that is done by his various departments—that is an impossibility—but when instances like this are brought to his notice, it is time he took a stand. I do not care what the department does if the necessity is there. However, in all justice some action should be taken regarding this particular instance so that these kiddies will be given a chance.

I have seen what can be done if parents of children like this are in a position to do something over and above what is done by the department, but the parents I have mentioned today are not in a position at the present time to do anything on behalf of the children except provide them with a home. Most of these parents are invalid pensioners, and it is impossible for them to do what the department is trying to make them do.

Mr. Lewis: What will they want beside a teacher?

**Mr. H. MAY:** I have told the Minister—nothing at all. They have their own funds. They have been collecting for years. Members of the committee did certain work in order to augment their funds; and the same thing happened at Busselton.

**Mr. Lewis:** Can they all get in on existing transport?

**Mr. H. MAY:** With the exception of one, they all live in the town. You can bet your sweet life, Mr. Speaker, that the parents of these kiddies will make sure they reach this empty house to attend class and obtain instruction and encouragement to brighten their lives, which are very drab at the present time. That is all I wish to say about that particular matter; and if the Minister requires additional information which I have not already supplied, I will be pleased to let him have it. I am sure nobody will be happier than the committee operating at Collie and the parents of the kiddies I mentioned this afternoon if they know that we have a Minister for Education who will make an adjustment to this matter.

Forgetting this dismal story, I wish to speak on the matter of transport. Two or three sessions ago I mentioned that buses were pulling up at certain crosswalks and passengers were alighting and embarking. There is a bus stop right outside the front door of Government House and motorists coming into town cannot possibly see people stepping off the footpath. From the motorist's point of view the crosswalk appears to be all clear and he goes on. However, before he realises it a woman will step off the pavement in front of the car. I bring this to the notice of the Minister because the position should be rectified immediately.

I now wish to draw his attention to traffic on the Causeway. When traffic first started using the Causeway there were three lanes going west and three lanes going east. At that time every vehicle had to indicate at either end of the Causeway in which direction it was proceeding, because there are three turns at each end. In the morning, about two or three minutes to nine, that bridge is crowded with traffic and a lot of young people are rushing to work because they are late and they weave in between the three different lines of traffic. I noticed it is only the younger generation that does this. The older drivers finish up in whatever lane they start in.

The Minister should take some action so that a motorist will be required to indicate in which direction he is proceeding by the lane in which he enters either end of the Causeway. I am sorry the Minister is not in his place, but evidently he is doing a job somewhere else. However, I hope his attention will be drawn to what I have said so that action will be taken, particularly in regard to the bus stop outside Government House, because before long

somebody will be killed and the motorist will get the blame. I also hope the Minister will do something about the Causeway. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members for your indulgence.

**MR. WILLIAMS (Bunbury)** [5.25 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply and also to take the opportunity of saying a few words pertaining to my electorate, to which the member for Collie referred in a good-natured way, and said that there was no good reason for the Education Department taking the technical school to Bunbury. The other day he did mention figures; and in Collie there are approximately 30 apprentices in the four major trades, those four trades being motor mechanics, fitting and turning, carpenters and joiners, and electrical. The total number of apprentices in all in Collie, taking in these four major trades with the minor trades of plumbing, welding, and panel beating, is approximately 40. The figure is an approximate one because it is difficult to get the exact number of apprentices working in a certain locality.

The number of apprentices in the Bunbury area in the four major trades I mentioned before is 90—exactly three times the number in Collie. Taking in the other minor trades with the major trades, the number on a very conservative estimate would be around 110. The member for Collie also said that Bunbury is no further from Collie than Collie is from Bunbury; and Bunbury is further from Harvey than Collie is from Harvey; and that that same position applies to Busselton. I agree with the honourable member regarding Collie and Busselton, but I would not go along with him in regard to Harvey, as Harvey is 11 miles closer to Bunbury than Collie.

Apprentices from Donnybrook would be travelling approximately the same distance to either Bunbury or Collie. Busselton apprentices would travel much further as they would have to pass through Bunbury to arrive in Collie, unless they preferred the bush tracks. Donnybrook has approximately two apprentices, Harvey eight, and Busselton 18. I think the department is making Bunbury the regional centre for technical training because it considers Bunbury is geographically situated in the south-west and that it is a centre of fairly large population.

Within an area of about 40 miles around Bunbury there is a population to the order of 50,000 or 60,000—maybe more. I think the Minister explained the position very well in an article which appeared in *The Collie Mail* of the 16th May. I quote—

With the number of apprentices in Collie it was only possible to have two full-time instructors. Fortunately the men we were able to place there were very versatile but there would be no guarantee that we would be able to continue to staff the centre with such

men. In the normal course of events tradesmen do not obtain the wide range of experience possessed particularly by the instructor whom we had in the metal trades.

In any case the only metal trade for which complete personal instruction was being provided was fitting and machining. Apprentices in motor mechanics and electrical trades were largely dependent upon correspondence instruction. Attempts were made at one stage to provide personal instruction for motor mechanics by the use of part-time instructors but this proved entirely unsatisfactory.

At Bunbury, with greater numbers, we will be able to employ specialised instructors in fitting and machining, carpentry and joinery, electrical trades, and motor mechanics.

Digressing here, the new Bunbury Technical School, instead of having two full-time instructors as in Collie, has at least four full-time instructors teaching trade apprentices. The article continues—

Other trades may of course, develop later. All of these men will have had experience working in our major centres in the metropolitan area so that they will be fully knowledgeable of the syllabi and the normal teaching practices as well as of the facilities which are available to them through the division to aid their teaching.

Any attempt to provide instruction in Collie meant that apprentices in all years would have to be grouped together in order to make adequate classes for instructional purposes.

I was myself an apprentice some years ago, and it makes it difficult when we have a number of lads, at various stages of their apprenticeship training, grouped in one class. We are dealing with different yearly groups, and they are at different stages of their training. The new set-up at Bunbury will be a more convenient one. The article continues—

This, of course, cannot be considered as satisfactory. In many cases numbers in Bunbury are such that it will be possible to confine the class to boys all in the same year of apprenticeship, and in any field it is unlikely that boys from more than two different years of apprenticeship will have to be brought together in the one group. This must inevitably result in far better instruction.

All in all there can really be no comparison between what was provided in Collie previously and what can be provided in Bunbury because of the greatly augmented numbers.

I should like to invite the member for Collie, when he is in Bunbury, to take a look at the new technical school. I have

seen it quite often, and I am surprised at the great job the department is doing on this particular trade school. It is a very fine building. It has natural lighting which is, I feel, a major factor in any workshop.

While on the subject of education I should like to bring to the notice of the Minister and his officers that the Bunbury High School has at present 1,030 students; and it is anticipated that in 1964 the number will increase to 1,100. I believe that present facilities at the Bunbury High School are for teaching approximately 1,100 students. With the intensive growth which is occurring in Bunbury, we shall be requiring a new high school within the next two years. The population of Bunbury is now in excess of 14,000, and that number is steadily growing. I know the Minister and his officers already have a site chosen for a second high school, and I suggest that this matter be placed on the Estimates as early as possible. If we wait too many years we may find ourselves in serious strife regarding high schools.

Also, due to the growth which is taking place in Bunbury, it will not be very long before we shall be faced with having to provide another primary school or possibly two primary schools. The present Carey Park School is at its maximum, and no more rooms can be built on to it. South Bunbury School has also reached its maximum, but I believe a few more rooms can be added to this particular school. A new State housing area is being cleared at the southern end of the town, and there is a likelihood of the local authority subdividing a portion of land known as the sea links area. This development will move the town ahead considerably. In a very short time we shall find there will not be sufficient room for those children wishing to attend primary school.

I should like to compliment the Minister for Health on the proposed hospital for Bunbury. The nurses' quarters are fairly well up to schedule. The wet weather may have affected the building programme. It is a very fine three-storeyed building, and the people of Bunbury are looking forward to the day when they will hear the Minister advise who is the successful tenderer for the proposed new regional hospital. That hospital will be a six-storeyed building, and I am sure the people in and around Bunbury will be able to receive better service and more specialised treatment than can be provided by the Bunbury District Hospital and hospitals in the surrounding areas.

I turn now to the subject of crayfishing. I am afraid I am not going to be as kind to the Minister in this regard. During the past few weeks he has brought into being a closed season for the area south of the 33rd parallel. Fishermen south of the 33rd parallel do not object so much to a closed



season, but to the time of the closed season, which is from the 15th August to the 14th November.

I have asked questions at different times regarding crayfishing. On Thursday, the 15th August, I asked the Minister as follows:—

What information can be given as to the proportion of male to female crayfish taken in waters north of 32 degrees?

The reply was that information of this nature was not available. The Minister explained that the closed season had been decided upon because 80 per cent. of the crays which had been taken from waters south of 33 degrees had been mature female crays approaching the spawning period. The department has admitted that it has no information available as to the proportion of female crays which are taken north of 32 degrees. In view of that I find it a little hard to understand why the department is jumping on those fishermen below 33 degrees.

Fishermen realise that if they keep catching female crays, the area will eventually become fished out, particularly if it is only a small pocket. The Fisheries Department does not know the extent of the area, and neither do the fishermen. Fishermen are willing to assist the department by carrying out some of the surveys, and I think they could do that work quite well.

Mr. Toms: All the crayfishermen try to do it.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I suppose they do. However, I am speaking for those south of 33 degrees. Owing to the small amount of survey work carried out south of 33 degrees, I suggest to the Minister that he create this a zoned area. There is one school of thought that the berry which is dropped by the female crayfish south of 33 degrees may be responsible for the number of crayfish in the Lancelin-Dongara area. That strengthens the reason for protecting female crays in the area south of 33 degrees.

Possibly the Minister could provide that the number of licensed fishermen south of 33 degrees be limited; that fishermen should reside south of 33 degrees; and that the number of pots should be limited. These fishermen would be all shore-based fishermen, and it would not be difficult for the Fisheries Department to have easy access to examine the catches. When the bigger boats go out they do not know exactly what type of crayfish they catch, although they have some idea from the freezer boats; but the fishermen who are shore-based come in with their catches, which have to be sent to the processing plant. These catches could easily be inspected, and the fishermen are quite willing

for that to be undertaken if the period the 15th August to the 14th November could become an open season.

The fishermen would be quite willing to take crayfish on the basis of 50 per cent. female and 50 per cent. male. They would have so many bags of female crays and so many bags of male crays; and the department could inspect those catches if it so desired.

The fishermen would like the closed season to be from the 31st October to the 15th February. On the department's admission this is the period when the female crays are carrying their berry. Under the present closure the season is closed while the female crayfish are carrying tar spot and open when they are carrying berry. It is usually due to the human element that some fishermen try to scrub off the berry. Recently a fisherman was caught. It was rather like the old saying: the crime was not so much the committing of it as in getting caught.

A lot of this sort of thing is going on and the Fisheries Department would know about that. By making the closed season during the period when the crays are carrying berry, the industry would be better controlled, and no-one would be able to catch crayfish during that particular period. I hope the Minister and his officers will give consideration to this matter, and will be able to assist local crayfishermen.

I know the Minister and his officers do not like zoning areas, because one thing can lead to another. The fact that very little is known about the crayfishing grounds south of 33 degrees makes all the stronger the reason for protecting those grounds. It would also protect the crayfishing area further north.

I turn now to the matter of the Bunbury Harbour. In the past the long timber jetty at Bunbury was sufficient for the purpose for which it was mainly designed. The No. 1 land-backed berth, at present under construction, is progressing very well. Those who control shipping in the harbour—the Secretary of the Harbour Board and others—feel that by the time the berth is completed it will be taxed to its maximum because of the development of Laporte.

Mr. Hall: Take it a bit easy, if you are asking for another jetty.

Mr. WILLIAMS: There are already a couple at Albany. To indicate the congestion which can occur, I propose to read a summary of the cargoes which are likely to be discharged or loaded from this particular land-backed berth. Ilmenite will be the main export, and we believe that Bunbury rates very high, by world standards, as a terminal exporter of ilmenite. The current trend is that by the end of the next three years approximately 500,000

tons of ilmenite from the Capel-Bunbury area, where most of this mineral sand is mined, will be exported from Bunbury each year. This would place Bunbury as one of the largest, if not the largest, export terminals or ports for ilmenite in the world.

One company, and I believe possibly two companies, are geared up for nearly double their output of ilmenite at the moment. I understand the market is fairly good for the sale of the product; and, of course, when Laporte starts production in Bunbury the company will be taking a certain percentage of ilmenite. But even over and above that it is thought that within the next three years 500,000 tons of ilmenite will be shipped through the port on to the world's markets.

As regards phosphate rock, the imports are 60,000 to 70,000 tons per annum and this should increase. It can be accounted for by the fact that the farming areas in and around Bunbury, and even east of Collie, will be taking more and more fertiliser; and, of course, the more fertiliser the farmers take the more phosphate rock has to be imported.

With the commencement of the Laporte works within the next few months, it is estimated that 20,000 tons of sulphur will pass through the port of Bunbury, plus the sulphur that is taken by Cuming Smith and Mt. Lyell, the manufacturers of fertiliser. As regards titanium oxide, it is envisaged that regular shipments, at least monthly, will be required to shift the annual export production of 10,000 tons, without considering future expansion. Of course, if the Laporte works expand in the near future that figure would be considerably increased. Caustic soda will be required for Laporte; and, although in small quantities, its shipment will require the use of a land-backed berth.

With only the above cargoes in view, hypothetically the port could be placed in the invidious position of having to provide five working berths for individual vessels simultaneously for a particular period. Naturally, this is impossible with a single isolated berth; and, in fact, it would not be possible to accommodate two vessels arriving and requiring the berth on the same day. It must be appreciated that charterers are unable to space arrivals to meet the inadequacies of, shall we say, one rather small port, as compared with the port of Fremantle. I added that in anticipation of what the member for Albany might say, and before he said too much.

Also, to complicate matters further, the export of fruit, mainly apples, on a rather competitive overseas market, is gaining favour for despatch through the port. I think that last year there were something like 100,000 cases exported through the port of Bunbury, more or less as a trial.

However, it was fairly successful and it could well be that by 1966 at least 1,000,000 cases of apples will be exported through the port. Those apples come mainly from the Donnybrook area, which is the largest growing area in Western Australia for export apples—I believe the figures are about 432,000 bushels for export. The Mt. Barker area would be the next largest, with approximately 300,000 bushels. These are the figures obtained from last year's crop.

The construction of another berth, besides the advantages outlined, would complete a further objective of continued port modernisation and would assist in the long-range plan for the gradual extinction of the main timber jetty which is really, physically and financially, beyond an effective maintenance programme. Perhaps the existing jetty was suitable in the days of sailing ships; but today, with varied cargoes, handling methods require space and good berths to give quick and efficient despatch, a necessity in attracting modern cargo vessels to a port.

While discussing the question of the existing timber jetty, we have to take into account the high costs of maintenance these days. The jetty is a very old one and needs more and more maintenance. That is not getting any cheaper and the envisaged plan of constructing a solid fill causeway linking the solid fill area along the breakwater with the jetty at a determined point is something the Harbour Board would like to have included in its maintenance programme. It would require extra financial assistance to construct a solid fill causeway between the access way to the present land-backed berth and the requested second land-backed berth to the existing jetty. But if this work were done it would mean that approximately two-thirds of the jetty could be dispensed with.

If rail and road access along the top of the causeway were provided road transport could possibly be used right to the ship's side at the end of the existing jetty, without any further strengthening. This work would also reduce maintenance costs for the harbour generally, because it is felt that the causeway itself would not require much maintenance—almost nothing compared with the money that is being spent now on the existing jetty, which is being maintained and only one-third of it, approximately, is being used.

This plan would also be of great assistance to the wharf staff—the wharf workers. At the moment if there is a serious accident at the harbour itself no ambulance can be taken to the ship's side. This means that a flat-topped truck has to be drawn behind a railway engine for the length of the wharf. The injured man is then placed on the flat top and brought back to the ambulance at the shore end of the jetty. It is a fairly rough sort of

ride and very time-consuming; whereas if a solid fill causeway were constructed an ambulance could be taken straight to the ship's side and the injured man could be taken immediately to the hospital. Also it would provide injured men with a much easier ride. I leave those thoughts with the Minister for Works, and his officers, and hope that in the near future we will see a solid fill causeway, and possibly a second land-backed berth constructed.

My last suggestion is to the Minister for Forests, and I call it a suggestion as I do not think the Forests Department has any scheme like this at the present stage. Over the past few years we have had some drastic fires throughout the south-west; and because of the heavy rain this year, there is a possibility of having a high fire hazard next summer. Throughout the south-west at the moment there are two airstrips, and my suggestion to the Minister is the use of aircraft for bush-fire reconnaissance. One of the airstrips is at Busselton and the other at Bunbury. The Bunbury strip is under construction and an all-weather strip will be in use by October or November of this year.

An aircraft which belongs to the Bunbury Flying Club is at present stationed at Busselton, and it would not be difficult for the Forests Department, during periods of high fire hazard, to have that aircraft standing by with a pilot for use in fire spotting and control. The basis of payment could be worked out between the owners of the aircraft and the department.

The radio in the aircraft could be tuned to the same wave-length as the Forests Department radio and one or two officers of the department could be trained in observing. I believe it takes only three to four hours a year to keep one's training in this work up to date. One of these officers could go up with the pilot and, because of his knowledge of radio, observing, and forests he would be able to direct the necessary fire control from the air, or give advice from the air to officers on the ground. I know one can see much more from the air than from the ground, particularly in the spotting and control of fires in heavy bush country. By this means I think there would be much better control of fires and it would materially assist in fire-fighting.

The Australian Paper Mills in Victoria have a similar set-up and a firm known as A.P.M. Forests Pty. Ltd. has control of the company's pine forests in Victoria. That company has an arrangement with a certain flying club, and I should like to quote a letter which I received from A.P.M. Forests Pty. Ltd. in regard to the matter—

On the 1st July of each year, the company pays the club a retainer of £100. For this the club agrees to

maintain one radio-equipped aircraft available for immediate use by the company for a period of 12 months.

The club agrees that the company will be advised if the aircraft is required for other work.

Should the company require the aircraft to stand by for a specified period the company agrees to pay £1 10s. per hour stand-by time.

When use is made of the aircraft by the company, payment is made at the rate of £9 per flying hour.

Those charges are applicable in Victoria at the moment, and the scheme I have in mind would require negotiations between the Forests Department and the owners of the aircraft, or whichever aircraft the department decided to use. To continue—

The charges for any stand-by time and flying time are deducted from the £100 retainer, and charges in excess of this sum are paid for at the above rates.

In that particular instance the company considers the cost reasonable as the aircraft is based only a few minutes flying time from areas where they require fire control. In the space of a few years a number of airfields or airstrips will probably be constructed in the south-west, even if they are only temporary strips.

At the moment the Bunbury Flying Club has 40 members learning to fly, and they do not all live in Bunbury. Some come from Collie; others from Donnybrook, Capel, and Busselton; and a couple from Harvey. Once they get their licenses we will find that at least some of the members will be buying their own aircraft and there will be private planes situated at various points throughout the south-west. In some cases the wealthier farmers will have their own strips—some have them even now.

So I suggest to the Minister and to the department that it might be well worth considering, particularly in years when the fire hazard is considered to be serious. It might be a means of providing better fire control in the State.

**MR. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [5.57 p.m.]:** I should like to make my small contribution to the debate on the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply to the speech which His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator was pleased to deliver on the opening day of the present session.

I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, to see you, during the term of this Government, once more adorning this Chamber in the Speaker's Chair, and we look forward to experiencing for another session your skilful administration and the impartial manner in which you control the deliberations of this Chamber.

**Mr. Hall:** What are you after?

Mr. EVANS: Confucius is credited with having said, some time way back in antiquity, that a picture was worth a thousand words. We in Kalgoorlie, along with our brothers in Geraldton and the other forgotten areas of Western Australia, recently signed a petition, and on that petition were not 1,000 words, but 7,000 words, being the names of interested persons who were calling upon the Federal Government to provide those areas with television.

My purpose in mentioning the matter now is to ask what became of the resolution which this Chamber was good enough to pass, and which the Premier sent to the Postmaster-General. An acknowledgment of same was received and, after that, the telephone from the Postmaster-General went dead. Nothing has been heard of it, that I know of, since then. My point in raising the question is to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that an acknowledgment was made, but nothing more has come from Canberra. I feel that not only the members of this Chamber, and the Government, but also the people in those areas of the State concerned, and indeed people in the State generally, are entitled to have something further than an acknowledgment from the Postmaster-General. This resolution was passed by the Legislative Assembly of the sovereign State of Western Australia. The Assembly is entitled to an answer, whether that answer be "Yes", or "No". This debate could quite easily be called a session of wants, whys, why-nots, and have-nots.

I pass now to the question of letting tenders for public works carried out in Kalgoorlie. I can only speak in relation to those tenders, but a few such cases do exist. In the case I mention tenderers have, of course, come from areas other than Kalgoorlie. In most cases, I understand, they have been contractors from the metropolitan area. That, however, is not the point to which I am taking exception; as I understand many aspects enter into the question of letting contracts, and the actual determination of who the successful tenderer shall be.

The point I wish to make is that in each case where work is done in Kalgoorlie—and I refer particularly to building supplies—the plasterboard has all been supplied from one firm in the metropolitan area. In Kalgoorlie we have our own plaster works. I use this as an isolated instance to indicate where works are being carried on in country areas under a contract that has been let—whether it be done by local contractors or contractors from other parts of the State—the Government should make it a term of the contract that wherever possible local supplies should be used.

I will now pass to a question on which I feel the Government is to be complimented for its move to give impetus to a decision which was originally made by the

Minister for Justice in the Labor Government (The Hon. Emil Nulsen). I refer to the task of consolidating the Statute law of Western Australia. The Government today has realised what a tremendous task this is, and it has accordingly taken the necessary steps to speed up this very desirable process. I do not propose to mention whether the giving of part of these duties to a private practitioner is desirable or not. I will not take into consideration where this work should have been done, or whether it should have been assigned to officers of the Crown Law Department.

I think members will agree that it is most essential and worth while that our Statute law be consolidated; because, as members know, it is a principle of English law that ignorance of the law is no excuse. Be that as it may, I feel the State Government owes a duty to its citizens to provide those citizens with a knowledge of the Statutes which is easily accessible to them. A consolidation of the law will make that possible.

Mr. Guthrie: I don't think we are going to get a consolidation straightaway.

Mr. EVANS: No; I understand it is to be a long-range plan. There is another matter dealing with the administration of justice to which I would like to refer, and it deals with making available the reports of the Workers' Compensation Board in this State. On the rare occasions on which these reports appear, they are made available only to the particular practitioner who happens to be concerned with a particular case dealt with in the reports. At best these reports are very spasmodic, and that is not at all desirable.

As I have said the report is made available only to the particular litigants or their representatives; but with regard to cases arising out of the mining industry, the State Government Insurance Office is always involved, and is always supplied with copies of the reports of the Workers' Compensation Board on cases in which that instrumentality is involved, when those reports are available. But when anybody else is involved—and usually the anybody else concerned is appearing for the worker who is fighting the insurance company for his rights—the reports concerned are made available only to the particular practitioner in the case.

Only the week before last I asked the Minister a question. I wanted to know whether the Government would consider making representations to the Law Society, seeking its advice; and, if that were forthcoming, asking for its assistance in formulating a committee for the purpose of editing all decisions of the Workers' Compensation Board with a view to ascertaining which ones would be appropriate for reporting; and for full reports to be furnished by the chairman of the board.

Mr. Guthrie: Weren't they published a few years ago?

Mr. EVANS: They are made available only spasmodically; and then only to a particular practitioner. As I have already said, if a report is made the practitioner concerned in the case is given a copy. In regard to litigation concerning mining, however—whether it be under section 7 or section 8—the State Government Insurance Office always becomes possessed of a report in each instance; but that report is not made available to all other practitioners.

Mr. Guthrie: There used to be a file in the Supreme Court library, and the reports were available to everybody.

Mr. EVANS: That would be so, but another practitioner could not order by becoming a contributor and be supplied with one. They were probably made available in the library.

Mr. Guthrie: It was my understanding that he could.

Mr. EVANS: Well, from my understanding of the position, it is not so. I will stand corrected, but I feel confident that I am correct in what I am saying.

Another matter which deserves attention from the Government is that of subordinate legislation, which is brought before both Houses of Parliament under the provisions of the Interpretation Act and the authorised Statutes which require this to be done. I speak of regulations, by-laws, and rules which are laid on the Table of this House by a Minister and which are required to lie on the Table of the House for 14 sitting days, after which period they become law. To all intents and purposes they have become law prior to this being done.

I suggest that consideration be given to the formation of an all-party committee representative of all members of Parliament or of the Legislative Assembly to review and report upon all subordinate legislation which is laid on the Tables of both Houses, or on the Table of this particular House only, depending on whether it is parliamentary subordinate legislation, or that of a legislative committee.

I mention this because I find it has been suggested that an allegation of unreasonableness regarding a regulation should never be considered if the court is dealing with a regulation which has been laid before Parliament, and which could have been—but has not been—disallowed by either House. I am actually using the words from a quotation made by the late Chief Justice Latham in the High Court of Australia, and I feel that his remarks are worthy of repetition. They are as follows:—

It has been suggested that an allegation of unreasonableness should never be considered if the court is

dealing with a regulation which has been laid before Parliament, and which could have been (but has not been) disallowed by either House.

To show that there is some doubt as to the effect of subordinate legislation in the field of administrative law, again it has been suggested that a court has no power to declare invalid, because it is unreasonable, a regulation made by a Minister who is directly responsible to Parliament. In this connection I will read briefly to the members of this Chamber a report concerning a committee that is functioning in the House of Commons in England. This brief report outlines the function of the committee and the useful purpose it serves. The committee was formed in 1953. It is called the House of Commons' Select Committee on Statutory Instruments, commonly called the Scrutiny Committee.

The following is an extract from a chapter on "Delegated Legislation" taken from *Administrative Law* by H. W. R. Wade, L.L.D.:—

#### *The Scrutiny Committee*

A committee of this kind had been recommended in 1932 by the Ministers' Powers Committee, which thought that it should deal both with Bills proposing new delegated legislation and with all rules and regulations as they were made. But not until 1944 was the Scrutiny Committee appointed, and then only for the second of these purposes. Since then it has been in continuous existence, and has done valuable work, contrary to a good deal of expert and official opinion to the effect that its tasks were impracticable, undesirable, and so forth. It is not concerned with policy, but with the manner in which rule-making powers are in fact exercised. Just as with judicial control, the important general questions are often questions of form rather than of substance. This distinction between policy and technique means that the Committee does its work free from party strife. Its chairman is normally a member of the Opposition thus signifying that it exists in order to criticize.

The Scrutiny Committee is required to consider every statutory instrument, rule, or order laid or laid in draft before the House if proceedings may be taken upon it in either House under any statute. The Committee has to decide whether to bring it to the attention of the House on any of the following grounds:

- (i) that it imposes a charge on the public revenues, or imposes or prescribes charges

for any license, consent, or services from any public authority;

- (ii) that it is made under a statute which precludes challenge in the courts;
- (iii) that it appears to make "some unusual or unexpected use of the powers conferred by the statute";
- (iv) that it purports to have retrospective effect, without statutory authorisation;
- (v) that publication or laying before Parliament appear to have been unjustifiably delayed;
- (vi) that notification to the Speaker appears to have been unjustifiably delayed, in cases where the Statutory Instruments Act, 1946, requires it.
- (vii) "that for any special reason its form or purport calls for elucidation."

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

Mr. EVANS: Continuing my thoughts on the subject of a scrutiny committee for the purpose of examining subordinate legislation, I quote further from the article by an eminent professor—Professor Wade—in *Administrative Law* concerning the functions of the committee of the House of Commons. It is as follows:—

Before reporting an instrument to the House, the Committee must hear the relevant government department's explanations. Since the Committee normally meets fortnightly, this means that, contrary to the proposals of 1932, the report will often not reach the House within the forty-day period, if applicable.—

Under the Act of Western Australia the period is only 14 days—

But since any parliamentary challenge is likely to be on the content of the instrument, rather than on its manner and form, the delay does not make much difference.

That would probably apply in our case, where the period is 14 days.

The most important result of the committee's vigilance is not that it brings regulations to debate in the House—though there have been some notable examples of this happening—but that it gives the Government departments a lively consciousness that critical eyes are kept upon them and the subordinate legislation that they draft and present to both Houses of Parliament.

Another aspect of this subordinate committee is that it draws attention to a strict supervision, and to the fact that a Legislature, in its own right, is supreme, and

therefore has the right to delegate to inferior bodies the power to legislate. But this power to delegate legislation does not allow an inferior body, to which power has been delegated, to subdelegate of itself. There have been instances where this practice of subdelegation has appeared in subordinate legislation, but that is invalid.

I feel that such a committee is desirable. It has functioned well in the House of Commons, where it is set up on an all-party basis. The fact that its purpose is to be critical is evident from the fact that the chairman is a member of the Opposition. Experience has shown that this committee does not concern itself with policy; therefore, there is little party conflict. I consider this proposal to be desirable and worthy of consideration by the Government.

Before leaving that subject I might mention that at the present time the tendency is for Governments to widen their scope of activities and to enter more and more into the field of social welfare. To extend the social welfare state there is need for administrative tribunals; because, after all, a person has only two hands, and therefore the Government must need to delegate these powers to administrative bodies. Thus the tendency for the setting up of administrative tribunals must increase.

As these tribunals increase, the necessity for subordinate legislation must also grow, and the number of rules, regulations, and by-laws which bind the citizen must become more and more numerous. If no vigilant eyes are kept upon them, they can become more and more unbearable in some respects, particularly where a rule, regulation, or by-law is intended by its draftsman to be retrospective in effect.

I now turn briefly to a subject that concerns the Minister for Mines. First of all I speak in relation to an inquiry that I made recently on behalf of the Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders' Association, as to whether the Government, through the Mines Department, would this year sponsor a display of gold specimens at the Royal Show. Last year that association conducted a stall at the show for the purpose of displaying gold samples, and also selling specimens of minerals and stones from the various goldmining fields. While a great deal of interest was displayed in the specimens, and they sold readily, the attendant at the stall said it was really the gold specimens which attracted the people. In some cases the same people visited the stall, time and again, to look at those specimens.

While the prospectors' association conducted the stall last year to display the gold specimens, its prime purpose was to sell them, in order to raise finance for a very important purpose the association

had in mind, but with which I will not concern myself now. It found that the main interest of the people who visited the stall was in the gold specimens display.

The association has decided that this year it will not conduct another stall, but will ask the Government to bring its resources to bear in providing a display of gold specimens at the Royal Show. In reply to a question I asked, the Minister said that at the present time a display of gold is exhibited at the Mint in Perth. He said that this collection of gold specimens was extremely valuable, and that moving it would present difficulties and cause possible damage to the fragile pieces. He further said that security for the specimens on display at the Royal Show would also present difficulties.

The prospectors' association made inquiries and found out that the display of gold at the Royal Mint has been set out there since 1937. Further inquiries revealed that this display was taken to London in 1929 for an exhibition in that city, and that the President of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society, whose name has been mentioned often in this Chamber, and also in Saturday editions of *The West Australian*—George Spencer Compton—was one of the Western Australian delegates to London. He acted as spokesman, to explain the significance of the gold display in London in 1929. The prospectors' association considers that this display, which has been stored in the Royal Mint and apparently forgotten since 1937, is an ideal one for exhibitions at the Royal Show.

However, the Minister pointed out two difficulties: Firstly, risk of damage in transporting this display containing fragile pieces; and, secondly, difficulty of guarding and maintaining security for a brief period during the show. I do not intend to come to grips with the Government on that issue, but I would like to suggest that the purpose behind the request of the prospectors' association was to make a display of gold specimens available to the public. It has been shown that gold specimens do have the same attraction for the city dweller and the country dweller in 1963, as for the people in the early days of this century and the latter part of last century. I urge the Government, through the Mines Department, to give earnest consideration to making such a display available, not only for a few days at the Royal Show as I mentioned, but permanently.

The display which is at present housed in the Mint could be transferred to the Rural and Industries Bank building in Barrack Street, Perth. The move would necessitate only one shift—from the Mint to the bank building—and the old adage that two shifts are as bad as a fire does not apply, even if gold does burn. Such

a display could be made public and could be maintained under maximum security conditions.

Another matter to which I would refer also concerns the Mines Department; it is one in which the prospectors' association is vitally interested. As a result of events which have taken place the association is greatly perturbed. I am referring to the sale by the Mines Department of mining equipment from undertakings which have functioned through Government loans, and which have not been able to carry on further. Those shows have been wound up while they still owed money to the Government, and the Government conducted a sale of the machinery and equipment in order to recoup some of the money it lent.

A recent sale of such machinery and equipment revealed that the proceeds from the disposal reached only a fraction of the cost. Much of this equipment could have been used by prospectors, and could have been kept within the goldmining industry.

The following is an article which appeared in a recent edition of the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, and it deals with some of this equipment which met with an entirely different fate:—

#### FUND TO BUY MINING MACHINERY MOOTED AT A.P.L.A. MEETING

Reports of Bargain Sales After Assisted Ventures Had Failed

A fund to purchase mining machinery offering at bargain prices was mooted at the annual general meeting of the Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders' Association yesterday.

The meeting was told that equipment valued at £1,000 had been sold by tender for £100 after a mining venture backed with Government assistance had failed.

In a report to the association a member, Mr. S. Millington, referred to two cases in the Mt. Monger area.

He said that equipment valued at £5,000-£6,000 and £2,000 had been supplied to two mining ventures.

In each case good pumping equipment was provided to de-water shafts, but when the ventures failed, it had been sold by tender for £700 and £400.

Mr. Millington said that in one instance a pump valued at £1,000 had been sold for £100 and a generating plant worth £2,000 was sold to a pastoralist for £400.

He suggested that the association investigate the possibility of establishing a fund to purchase such equipment and thus retain it for use by the mining and prospecting fraternity.

Discussing the report, association members were of the opinion the amalgamated body should be given an option of tendering for the equipment.

In this way it would be held until wanted by prospectors and would not be lost to the prospecting field.

In one instance a piece of valuable equipment was sold to a pastoralist at a bargain price, and was then lost to the prospecting industry. The association is taking this up with the Government because it wants the right to tender for this equipment. This is a very worthy body, keenly interested in those prospecting for gold in this State.

I come now to the administration of the railways, and I am extremely glad that the Minister is present. We must these days think very creditably of the wonderful manner in which those in the railways—from the top to the bottom—have handled the unusual weather conditions and the catastrophes that the rain storms have caused to the scheduled running times.

Mr. Brady: Particularly the permanent way workers.

Mr. Burt: The trains are not always on time.

Mr. EVANS: I agree. But the fact that they run at all sometimes is, to say the least, incredible, and often miraculous.

The men who do not hit the headlines on such occasions are the permanent way workers—men who are called out at all hours and who execute their work in a very short time under arduous conditions to keep our trains running. They are deserving of special mention; but it would not be right to mention them alone. The conductors, drivers, and staff on the trains, and the administrative staff who have been responsible for the other side of railway functioning, are all very worthy of creditable mention.

However, I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister one particular matter concerning these delays. I do not know whether this practice is being followed now, but I do know for certain it occurred on one occasion, and I have been told it happened several other times. A train arrived late at Midland Junction and was met by two railway officers. Those officers boarded the train and spoke to the passengers. The train was many hours late and they informed the passengers that they were representatives of the commissioner. They apologised for the delay and then asked the following question:—

Have the conductors done everything they possibly could to alleviate your inconvenience?

I think any reasonable man would object to a question worded in that way under those circumstances which places the onus

on the conductors. I believe that on the occasion to which I am referring one particular passenger replied, "No. They would not serve me with a glass of beer." This was on the *Westland*; and, of course, they are not allowed to serve beer. However, if the question had been framed in a different way, asking for any complaints, it would have been a much more fruitful approach.

If these conductors are not considered to be experienced and trusted to meet the needs of passengers, they should not be employed as conductors only to be confronted by two officers who have not been through the rigours of keeping passengers happy. Some of these conductors had not even had any sleep for 72 hours. They had come in on one train, had time to change, and then had immediately come back on to the train for a further assignment.

But apart from that, any reasonable man would object to a question being framed in that manner, and I am bringing it to the attention of the Minister now. I have no objection to a public relations officer apologising for any delay, but any questions asked should be framed in a more tactful manner. I do not know whether they were special men called on in an emergency, but I just mention the fact.

Mr. H. May: Ask the Minister; he will know.

Mr. EVANS: Another matter concerning train delays is one on which I can speak from experience. A road haulier somewhere near Merredin had been stranded across the line; and, as a result, the west-bound *Westland* and the *Kalgoorlie Express*, and also the east-bound *Westland* were held up at Merredin. A train was provided to take to Perth those passengers on the *Westland* and the *Kalgoorlie Express*. This train arrived at 3.30 p.m. instead of 9 a.m.

There was on this train a dining car and all passengers were given the right to make use of it. There was no buffet car so all those on the train had to use the dining car. I now wish to speak about the price of meals. A man, his wife, and four young children wanted something to eat. The children naturally would. As there was no buffet car and all the refreshment rooms along the line had been closed, this family had to go to the dining car for breakfast. The price charged adults was 9s. and therefore this man had to pay 18s. for his wife and himself and half price for the children.

The train, as I have said, did not arrive until 3.30 p.m., and therefore lunch had to be obtained on the train. I do give the staff credit because on this occasion they did have a full hot meal available as well as tea and sandwiches. However, I believe



that the high prices which normally prevail on the *Westland* should not be charged passengers who have to use the dining car due to no arrangement of their own.

While the Minister is present and I am speaking of refreshments and buffet cars, I would like to raise a matter about which I previously communicated with him. Unfortunately, on the last occasion he was 375 miles away and we had to use pen and paper. I am speaking now on the variety and substance of meals available in the buffet car on the *Kalgoorlie Express*. I read the Minister's replies to my objections; but I feel that, like the meals, they are without substance.

When there was a dining car on the *Kalgoorlie* train a three-course meal was available for passengers leaving Perth at 4.55 p.m. However, those who did not wish to partake of a full meal could make use of the various refreshment centres along the line. Now, however, these refreshment centres have been closed down, the dining car has disappeared, and a buffet car has been provided.

For passengers who leave Perth in the afternoon a meal of beans on toast, spaghetti on toast, or tinned sausages on toast, has little appeal and very little substance for those who have been used to an evening meal. I noticed that the tinned sausages were all one brand; but that is beside the point. How many people would have tinned sausages on toast for an evening meal at home? It certainly shows very little imagination. I believe that the small barbecue sausages could be bought in sufficient quantity to meet the needs of one round trip. Because refrigeration is available there should be no wastage and the fresh sausages are far better than the tinned ones. I have heard passengers complain.

Mr. I. W. Manning: You can get very good tinned sausages.

Mr. EVANS: Does the honourable member feel like them? I consider we have gone a long way in the provision of the buffet car, but we still have a long way to go to measure up to the amenities provided by Sir Thomas Playford. He has had a train running for the last three years between Adelaide and Port Pirie. I think there is only one, but it is good.

Mr. Lewis: When is he running that?

Mr. EVANS: You have to be lucky to catch it, I will admit.

Mr. Court: It is the worst part of the trans-trip.

Mr. EVANS: If one is lucky enough to travel when the buffet car is in use, it is a star on the horizon.

Mr. Lewis: How often does it run?

Mr. EVANS: There is no greater staff available on this South Australian buffet, but passengers can have grilled steak with

lettuce and chipped potatoes. The potatoes are no doubt partly cooked beforehand and therefore are available in a jiffy. Low pressure gas is provided which is not available on our buffet car. The salads are prepared beforehand and there is so much more variety offered on that train than on our train at present.

Mr. H. May: The next time you go to *Kalgoorlie*, take the Minister with you.

Mr. EVANS: The last time he went to *Kalgoorlie* he had a girl with him to provide a special tea for him on the train.

Mr. Bickerton: He did not rough it on sausages.

Mr. Court: The buffet meals are very good; I have had plenty of them. You have a very nice train now. It was a shocker before.

Mr. Bickerton: Who supplied that girl; the railways?

Mr. EVANS: I would like to let the Minister worry about his late trains. I know he has enough to worry about, but I would like him to give the subject of food a little thought. It is food for thought.

I come now to the Minister for Education, and I hope he will learn something. I spoke on the subject of school fencing; and I learned from inquiry, and from research really, that the Government has a policy at present—it is called the departmental policy—in regard to school fencing; and the policy is that such fencing is not necessary at all. I notice that has not always been the policy of the Education Department.

Mr. O'Neil: It has been for a long time.

Mr. EVANS: I reiterate: I notice it has not always been the policy of the Education Department. In answer to a question by the member for Gascoyne, the Minister voiced this policy with regard to the Carnarvon School, and said it was not the policy of the department to provide fencing. He did add that in that case there was no traffic hazard and no straying cattle around the school, and therefore the fence would not be provided.

The South *Kalgoorlie* Parents and Citizens' Association recently requested consideration to be given to providing a fence around the school, but it was refused. In answer to a question I asked in relation to that school, I was told that a fence was not considered necessary. I would like to ask the Minister, in the light of his answer and in view of the policy of the department, what special circumstances prevailed whereby a fence was placed around the North *Kalgoorlie* School prior to the last State elections.

Mr. Lewis: I would not know; I was not the Minister then.

Mr. EVANS: I do not blame the department for that fence; the school was due for a fence, and I am glad to see it got

one. But if a fence is good enough for one school, it is good enough for a lot of others.

Mr. Lewis: I do not know what the circumstances were.

Mr. EVANS: I am asking the Minister.

Mr. Lewis: Perhaps the traffic hazard was greater.

Mr. EVANS: I am not going to answer the question for the Minister, as I feel he is quite capable, if he is interested, of finding out what really happened. However, I would suggest there is a need for a fence at the South Kalgoorlie School—not a complete fence, but just for one side of the school: the eastern side facing Lionel Street, which borders on the road leading from the drive-in theatre. The road from the back of the drive-in theatre has now become almost an alternative route to Boulder. It is a straight-through road and it is heavily used by motor traffic.

Mr. Lewis: At what times?

Mr. EVANS: The traffic which comes from behind the drive-in theatre is not in a built-up area, and the road is a straight-through road which has developed into a speed track on which cars travel at 50 to 60 miles an hour. There is very little chance of traffic accidents, but the tendency there is for motorists to speed, and the children who live on the eastern side of the road—the built-up area is on the eastern side—have to cross Lionel Street, and that part of the school is for the most part unfenced. In one part it is badly fenced with a bow-legged wire fence.

Mr. Lewis: At what time of the day is this traffic on the road?

Mr. EVANS: I would say it is continuous. There would not be a continuous flow, but it is liable to come at any time of the day, not only when the children leave school. If the Minister has a look at it—

Mr. Lewis: I did have a look at it.

Mr. EVANS: This road has been improved as a result of the drive-in-theatre. It was only a gravel road previously and people dodged it, but now it has a bitumen surface and is quite a speed track.

Mr. Lewis: Is there no traffic control there by the local authority?

Mr. EVANS: They cannot be there all the time.

Mr. Lewis: You only have to catch a few.

Mr. EVANS: The children who live on the eastern side have to cross Lionel Street, and that is the part that is unfenced, and the part which, I feel, is in need of being fenced.

Mr. Lewis: I was on the spot for quite a while and there was very little traffic while I was there.

Mr. H. May: You are still on the spot.

Mr. EVANS: They must have thought you were the Minister for Local Government.

Mr. Lewis: They might have thought I was a traffic inspector.

Mr. EVANS: The South Kalgoorlie School has become quite famous for its activities in relation to Arbor Day. It may surprise members—it did me—to know that one of my colleagues, with whom I taught at the South Kalgoorlie School, has developed the children's interest in trees to such an extent that they are growing eucalypts from seeds and are selling the seedlings to local authorities and other schools throughout the State.

No-one would believe that they were grown so close to the Nullarbor Plain. These plants, seedlings, and what have you, are in a part of the school ground that is unfenced, and for that reason we would like to see a fence there so that the people can see what is going on. As the position is now, these tree-planting projects and so on can be said to be like Maloney's cows—all over the place, not bounded by a fence.

From a security point of view, I feel a fence is worthy of consideration, but only along the side facing Lionel Street. We do not wish to be unreasonable and press for a fence completely around the school.

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

Mr. EVANS: Thank you. While I am on the portfolio of the Minister for Education, again I mention the fact that the Eastern Goldfields High School, one of the leading high schools in the State, is without a gymnasium. The Minister is aware of that, because when he opened the extensions of the school he said he was very much aware of the position and realised the difficulties confronting the department and would give earnest consideration to the matter as he felt this school was entitled to a gymnasium. I hope the same situation prevails and that we are entitled to one, because we still have not a gymnasium there. If not, I feel this will be one of the few high schools of this sort that will be without one.

Mr. Lewis: Would you sooner have a gymnasium or classrooms?

Mr. EVANS: Both. Before I conclude—this has been a bit of a grouchy session with me—I would like to pay a tribute to the various Government departments I come in contact with while I pursue my parliamentary duties; and I refer, firstly, to the Railways Department and the clerks in the booking offices at both Perth and Kalgoorlie, and also the conductors.

I also wish to mention the Child Welfare Department, which has officers who show that they are not just employees but are devoted to their duties; that they really

do have a calling and are interested in their work. They are courteous to the members of the public who have dealings with the department.

Furthermore, I feel the staff of the Lands Department have duties that are such that they do not often hit the headlines, and their duties often cause the public some concern. Possibly the dealings with the Lands Department are normally protracted affairs, but the officers do their utmost to be courteous and efficient, and I feel they are worthy of commendation. I am pleased to support the Address-in-Reply.

**MR. RUNCIMAN (Murray) [8.10 p.m.]:** In speaking to the Address-in-Reply I would first of all like to express my deep regret at the death of Sir Ross McLarty. Last year, when I had the honour of moving the Address-in-Reply, I had a great deal of pleasure in paying a tribute to Sir Ross for the great service he had rendered to the people of Western Australia over a period of 32 years, including of course the six years during which he was Premier of the State. I said then it was my earnest wish that he would be spared for many years to live with his family in comfortable retirement, but that unfortunately was not to be.

Sir Ross, as we know, had many and varied interests. He had large interests in Pinjarra, and interests in the north-west and the Kimberleys, and elsewhere, that were of secondary importance to him. His whole life was bound up with his parliamentary work and giving service to the people. The great appreciation and esteem in which all sections of the community held him was, I think, a fitting reward for the great labours he gave so unreservedly to the people of the State.

I would like also to express my regret at the death of The Hon. Bert Simpson. I knew the honourable member when he was a Minister in the McLarty-Watts Government; and when I entered Parliament last year he was one of the first members I met. I have to thank him for many little acts of kindness which he did for me and which I appreciated, particularly as a new member of this House. I know the great esteem in which the honourable member was held in his own electorate and by all with whom he came in contact. He worked very hard in their interests. I feel the State is the poorer for the loss of those two outstanding men.

Since Parliament last met, a number of important events have occurred. First, we had the British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Perth, which were a tremendous success and a great credit to all concerned with the running of them. They were, I think, a great asset to the State both throughout the Commonwealth and overseas.

We had a visit by Her Majesty the Queen, which was a great honour and thrilled us.

The departure of Sir Charles Gairdner was a loss to the State. We all appreciate the great service he rendered to Western Australia during his long period of office. I do not think we have had a more popular Governor than Sir Charles, and we look forward to the day when he will come back to the State as one of us.

As a representative of a rural community, and as one who has been engaged in agriculture all my life, I am thrilled with the agricultural or primary production progress of the State. I think the progress of agriculture in Western Australia since the war years has been terrific; and during the last few years that progress has been fully maintained. I think that last year, with almost 5,000,000 acres under wheat, and a record wheat and grain crop, the State served notice on the whole of Australia that it will one day, in the not too-distant future, be the prime wheat-growing State of the Commonwealth.

In other spheres this State has progressed tremendously, the development of light lands being an outstanding feature since the end of the war. In large measure this has been due to the assistance and co-operation rendered by our agricultural scientists. In Western Australia we have been particularly fortunate in having men of outstanding ability working in this field. They have contributed greatly to the wonderful progress this State has made. It is a great achievement to know that 1,000,000 acres each year have been taken up by farmers, and 250,000 acres have been going into pasture production each year. The dairy farm improvement scheme is working particularly well.

At Manjimup some months ago the representatives of the Dairy Farmers Union Congress expressed their thanks to the Government for the manner in which the scheme has been administered and the great assistance that has been given to the people in that area. Production has doubled, the number of cows milked has also doubled, and conditions have been considerably improved. This year we go to Busselton and the Manjimup districts, and I will have more to say about them during the debate on the Estimates.

I would have thought that reference might be made to an agricultural research fellowship—the Queen Elizabeth II Research Fellowship in Agriculture to be established by the State Government. I thought that would have been mentioned by members of the Government because it is most important, particularly as it will deal with trace elements in nutrition, which is of great importance to this State especially when it is realised there are over

10,000,000 acres in Western Australia dependent on copper and zinc, and many more millions of acres which are dependent on other trace elements.

The whole of the Esperance land district and its development would not have taken place but for the use of trace elements. This district has progressed so rapidly in the last few years that I believe it will, in perhaps another 10 or 20 years, be one of the major agricultural regions of Australia.

Child migration has always appealed to me, and I would now like to say a few words on the subject. I think immediately of the Fairbridge Farm School which most members, at some time or another, have visited. I am certain they must have been greatly impressed by the manner in which the school is conducted and the appearance of the happy and well-dressed children, together with the all-round general good standard in evidence everywhere at that school. I have noticed that visitors from overseas who have heard about the Fairbridge Farm School and its work, have asked to visit the farm as soon as they have set foot in Western Australia. That is one of the first places they wish to see.

Mr. H. May: How many boys would they have at the school?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: About 120; but the school has accommodation for 200. We have been unable, over the last few years, to get more than a trickle of migrants to the school.

Mr. H. May: Is it self-supporting?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Pretty well.

Mr. Lewis: Have they 120 boys there now?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Yes; and they have accommodation for 200. Since the school was first established, 1,700 students have been trained at Fairbridge and have gone out to fill various positions in the community. For the State of Western Australia that is an outstanding achievement. When these young people go out into the world they are fully trained; and if they so desire and have the necessary ability, they can continue with their education and training by entering the University. They can be trained for any number of vocations for which they show aptitude, including training as technicians. I believe we should be able to do more about obtaining additional students for this school.

When I say "this school," I would amplify that by explaining that there are three schools which come to my mind: namely, Clontarf, Bindoon, and Tardun schools. The school at Bindoon has, I think, a capacity for 350 students. The Tardun school can accommodate 300, but I am not sure of the capacity of Clontarf. All of these schools, however, have the

necessary facilities, the teachers, accommodation, and everything that is required for the training of young people. They will train youngsters until they are able to go out into the world and fill various positions. In spite of this, we do not seem to be able to attract young migrants for such training.

I have made inquiries in the Eastern States; but when this matter is mentioned everybody seems to shake his head. I am most concerned about the situation. I feel that if we want migrants badly enough we should be able to obtain them. A cutting from the local paper which I have here, reads as follows:—

#### Fairbridge Record.

London, April 3rd. The Fairbridge Society last year sent a record 738 children to Canada and Australia, the society's annual meeting was told in London yesterday.

The society's aim is to provide fuller opportunities in the two dominions for children likely to benefit from emigration.

I suppose we would get only half a dozen children sent to Fairbridge Farm School in this State this year.

Mr. H. May: How do they get them?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: I suppose these children came from broken homes, or from widowed mothers; I do not really know.

Mr. H. May: Are they all orphans?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Originally the Fairbridge Farm School adopted only orphans; but in the last few years we have been unable to get orphans sent to this State. I understand that the Bindoon and Tardun schools will take children from any country in Europe. Yet there seems to be a ban placed on their migration. I did read in the Press a report that somebody was coming from England with a view to establishing six or seven Barnardo homes in the Eastern States, but no mention was made of Western Australia. When we are in need of more population so badly in this State, I think this matter of child migration is one we should thoroughly investigate. We want only sufficient children to fill the schools we have. They are all excellent schools.

Last year I spoke about natives in general and expressed the view that the principal theme concerning natives today was education, hygiene, housing, and employment. At Pinjarra a number of good houses have been erected in the last few years by the Government, the policy being gradually to get these people from the reserves and pass them through various stages until they can be fully assimilated in the community. First of all they are granted ablution blocks and communal

facilities and one or two rooms for accommodation. Ultimately, as they show progress, they are granted a five-roomed place to house a family. I think there are from five to seven houses in Pinjarra at the moment with families in occupation. It is a sort of graduation process through which they go.

As I have said, after 12 months or two years of passing through a process of assimilation they are ultimately granted a home to house a family when it is considered they are capable of living in a community. In my opinion, that is the correct way to deal with the native problem. Natives are difficult to handle; and at various times thousands of people have endeavoured to improve the welfare of the natives of Western Australia—and even of Australia as a whole—but eventually they have become disillusioned and frustrated because in the majority of cases such efforts have proved to be most difficult. Nevertheless, that is no reason why we should not do all we can to assimilate them in the community. Undoubtedly, it is a very slow process.

Mr. Toms: Do you have any trouble with nomads drifting in to live with those natives who are housed?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: No, not really. However, quite a few have come from the reserve to live in Pinjarra. I do not know whether the floods are the cause of this, but something is causing them to come to Pinjarra.

Mr. H. May: It is pretty wet in Pinjarra at the moment.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: I do not think it is any wetter than it is at Collie from what I have read in the newspapers. The young children leaving school present the biggest problem, and we should do something for them. I do not think we can get any happier children than the native children. The pathetic feature about them is that they are almost white, and for them to leave school only to return to the reserve is tragic. On the reserve they mix with their brothers and sisters, and their fathers, who are unemployed. This is a terrible thing, and it has happened quite a lot. However, finding employment for them is extremely difficult. For them, the future holds only frustration and hopelessness if we continue to permit them to drift back to the reserves.

Mr. Toms: Any good that was done is undone immediately.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: We should appoint officers who would specialise in finding employment for these young native people. It is too much to expect local authorities or shires to accept responsibility for finding employment in the surrounding districts for native people. It is a matter for which the whole State should be responsible.

Mr. H. May: Have you ever been to the Roelands Mission?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Yes.

Mr. H. May: That is a wonderful place. They are doing a wonderful job there.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: They do; but what happens to the children when they leave there? The first objective is to get them away from these reserves, but if they return to the reserves each time they leave school no progress can be made.

Mr. H. May: Many of them are attending the Bunbury High School.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The big problem is: What happens to them after that? Recently I saw a report in the Press which stated that last year progress had been made in the education of native children; that several had passed their Junior certificate examinations in 1960, 1961, and again last year. Further, the number of natives entering apprenticeships had risen from one in 1960, to four in 1961, and 13 last year. According to this report the children were given every chance to further their education. That report is correct, but they cannot get them to take it. The problem is that they prefer to go back to the reserves.

Mr. H. May: I think it is a case of their not having much option.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: That is true. However, it is a matter on which we should endeavour to do more. I fully appreciate that it is a very difficult problem and that all Governments have done their utmost to bring about a solution. Nevertheless, the native population is growing; and it is a sad thing to see, as I saw only last Saturday in Pinjarra, a large number of teenage native children—many of them, as I said earlier, almost white—playing in the streets and then returning to the reserve at night, only to follow the same procedure the next day. What an aimless sort of life! No wonder they get into mischief and many of them take to drink! What have they got to look forward to?

People use the expression "colour bar". I do not think it is an expression we should use, because in nine cases out of ten it is not true. It is either a behaviour bar or a hygiene bar. Any native who is reasonably dressed, clean and tidy, and behaving himself should be able to go anywhere. There is absolutely no racial discrimination in regard to people who come here from other parts of the world.

"Colour bar" is an abhorrent expression and should not be used here. We have given hospitality to thousands of Asian students, and we are only too pleased to have them with us. I think we can learn much from them; and I would hope that they could learn from us. That expression is particularly odious and we should never use it. There is no need for it. In

99 cases out of 100—probably 100—the expression is wrongly applied. It is only a matter of behaviour or hygiene.

We pride ourselves—and I think we have every reason to—on our excellent roads. Perhaps this is not so since the heavy rains. We have a wonderful road system throughout the State and we can be proud of the standard of the roads. They are commented on favourably by people from the Eastern States. We have been fortunate in having such an outstanding person as Mr. Leach in the position of Commissioner of Main Roads for so long.

Last year, when speaking to this motion, I expressed the fervent wish that something would be done about the Quindanning-Marradong-Dwellingup road and the Boddington road. I am happy to say that Mr. Leach has informed me the actual road has been completed.

There is another road that has been the cause of a considerable amount of discussion over the years. I refer to the coast road from Bunbury to the boundaries of the Mandurah Shire. It is only a little over 30 miles, and I think that practically every member representing a south-west electorate in the Assembly or the Upper House has spoken each year on the desirability of having this road bituminised. With the amount of traffic in that area, and the extra traffic on the Perth-Bunbury road, it is a matter of extreme urgency that something be done. That road is 15 miles shorter from Bunbury to the metropolitan area.

The coast road passes through a lot of light country—country that is being rapidly developed with trace elements. It has been proved that this land can be most productive around the Lake Clifton area where there are paddocks of lucerne and clover. A bitumen road would open up that country considerably. Dotted along the coast from Mandurah right down to Busselton are the cottages and camps of holidaymakers. The number is growing each year, resulting in more and more of these houses along the coast. I feel those people are entitled to a good bitumen road to the metropolitan area.

Apart from that, we have our heavy industries at Kwinana and in Fremantle; and now there is Laporte at Bunbury. As time goes on there will be heavy industrialisation in the areas I have mentioned and it will be necessary to link up the places which are situated along our coastline. This road has a tourist value as well. Therefore, I would strongly advocate that something be done about its bituminisation. Thousands of miles of roads are bituminised in different parts of the State each year; and the people in the south-west have wanted this particular road bituminised for a long time. I feel the time must surely have come for us to get on with the job.

Mr. W. Hegney: They widened it a little, didn't they?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Yes; but members can hardly imagine what it is like at the present moment. In places it is almost impassable. For a number of years mention has been made of the desirability of opening the bar at Mandurah.

Mr. Toms: Which bar?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The river bar this time. The bar at Mandurah is of extreme importance, and for years we have been endeavouring to persuade the Government of the day to make a permanent opening. It has been promised to us by the Minister for Works (Mr. Wild), who said that we would have it in four to five years. I think it must now be two or three years. A model of the opening has been made and it is now at the University where the engineers are studying it with a view to making a permanent opening in the light of the knowledge they have gained. This opening will be very costly. It is estimated that it will cost £200,000, but I feel certain that expense is well warranted.

Mandurah, together with most places along our coast, has a good water supply; but at places a few miles away on the Murray River—Yunderup and Furnissdale, popular holiday resorts—there is a water problem. There is no surface water and the residents are entirely dependent on rainwater tanks. At the moment, water boring is taking place in the area. A number of deep artesian bores have been sunk, but up to date efforts have not been successful. However, the Minister has promised he will keep the boring plant in the area until the matter is proved one way or the other.

It is understandable that the people of Yunderup are becoming somewhat impatient; because, only six miles away, at Pinjarra, there is an excellent water supply from the South Dandalup River. People say it is only a matter of connecting up the pipes and they would have water at Yunderup. The Minister has promised that if potable artesian water cannot be found he will have another look at the matter; because we think the only logical thing to do is to bring water from the Dandalup River. The Government has a good record in regard to country water supplies; and I am happy to say that at Hamel, where the people have been asking for water for many years, a scheme water supply was completed this month.

As far as the milk industry is concerned, the people who have been in it for a long time—according to the executives of the Farmers' Union movement—have never been so quiet. There is a happy sort of feeling in the industry today, and I think it is largely due to the efficient functioning of the Milk Board. The Government made a very wise choice in its chairman, because

since Mr. Wright has occupied that position, conditions have been very good indeed.

We still have the problems of solids-not-fat. We do not seem to have made as much progress in that regard as we would have liked. However, the Government is—and I think this should have happened before—testing pure-bred herds for solids-not-fat so that we will have an opportunity of purchasing bulls from cows which have a high solids-not-fat content. Previously, it was a case of working in the dark and buying bulls from a long line of cows which were low producers as far as quality was concerned.

If we desire to have high quality milk, we must have more testing; and I hope the next step the Government will take will be to make it possible for farmers to test their herds regularly—that is, commercial herds.

Quite a number of farmers in my area have been concerned about our system of meat selling. The conditions that sometimes operate at Midland and in our country centres are somewhat chaotic, and we have a feeling there is a sort of ganging up on the producers. One can send stock down one day and obtain a certain price; yet the same stock sent down the next day will bring a difference of £8 on one steer. The lower price is not passed on to the consumer, and there is something wrong about it.

Mr. Toms: Free enterprise.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Earlier this year the basic wage rose by 1s. 3d.—only a small rise—yet farmers are receiving prices which are lower than they have been for a long time. I think there is a difference of £7 to £8 in steers. There is a movement amongst farmers to endeavour to see if something cannot be done which will remove the gamble of the present system of meat selling. Australia leads in many fields of agriculture, but I feel we are a bit behind other countries with regard to meat selling and marketing.

Recently the Farmers' Union passed two motions which are of some interest. They are as follows:—

That owing to the chaotic conditions prevailing in the meat industry in W.A. a committee be set up to seek ways and means of improving returns to all meat producers.

That immediate steps be taken to form a Meat Marketing Board.

That is how serious the position is in many cases. I feel things are not quite right. A grade system of marketing whereby the different grades of meat sold are marked so that consumers will know what quality of meat they are buying is something we need, and something that we will be asking

for. To a certain extent, the auction system of meat selling leaves a lot to be desired.

Mr. W. Hegney: Do you think it is something like the buyers do at the wool auctions?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Yes, very similar.

Pinjarra is the centre of a very large district, and it serves Mandurah, Coolup, Dwellingup, and Dandalup. There is a regional hospital in Pinjarra which serves that area, and there is also a high school which very nearly qualifies to be upgraded to a fourth-year high school. In this connection I would strongly urge the Minister to give consideration, during this current year, to upgrading the high school in Pinjarra to a fourth-year high school. It has almost the required number of students to qualify—I think it is only two short of the number needed—but at the moment it is unable to be upgraded. I hope the Minister will give consideration to providing additional accommodation at the high school in next year's Estimates, so that the school can be upgraded.

We hear much talk on decentralisation, but there are many factors involved. One of the most important is education. When people go out to live in the country one of the first things they seek is educational facilities for their children after they have passed the seventh standard. Nowadays the Junior certificate is not sufficient for students who desire to become teachers, nurses, etc.; they are required to pass the Leaving examination.

It is difficult for most parents in the country to send their children to Perth to continue their education; and in many cases they cannot afford the cost. Consequently the children of such parents are deprived of the extra education which could make all the difference to them in life. It is much easier for a city child to receive higher education in any of the fourth-year and fifth-year metropolitan high schools, but in the country the people suffer a handicap in that regard. I have known parents to sell or lease their farming properties, to live in the city for the sake of their children's education. Although the Government has done a tremendous job in improving educational facilities in the country, in higher education—particularly to enable children to undertake their fourth and fifth year at high school—there is still a lot to be done. I sincerely hope the Minister will upgrade the Pinjarra High School to a fourth-year high school.

Western Australia is still a primary-producing State, and primary industries earn the majority of its revenue. The development in primary industries since the war has been phenomenal, particularly so in the past few years. This is due to a number of factors—better prices, stable markets in most instances, better farming

methods, better machinery, improved pastures, and assistance from scientists and advisory groups.

But we are still short of some things, and we require more research work, a greater number of research stations, and more extension officers. The need for extension officers is shown by the fact that some farmers get together—say 40 to 50 of them—and employ one. Although Western Australia employs more advisory officers than any other State in the Commonwealth, there is a need for more of them.

Today farming is becoming very scientific, and farmers have to be better trained and better equipped in order to succeed. This is a most progressive industry, and it is only natural for people living in the country, who contribute so much to the wealth of this State, to ask for more assistance in many ways.

As the member for Stirling pointed out on the opening day of the session, in this State it is a case of primary industry and secondary industry working together. That is the only way for the State to develop. It is not a case of the city versus the country, but the city and the country working together. It is only in that way that Western Australia can make the very great progress which this State requires.

Debate adjourned until a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Mr. Toms.

(Continued on page 615.)

## MARINE STORES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### Returned

Bill returned from the Council with amendments.

### Council's Amendments: In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. I. W. Manning) in the Chair; Mr. Craig (Minister for Police) in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: The amendments made by the Council are as follows:—

#### No. 1.

Clause 2, page 2, line 4—Add after the word "bottles," the words "in which non-intoxicating beverages are ordinarily sold and"

#### No. 2.

Clause 2, page 2, line 6—Add after the word "money" the passage "repayable by the vendor,"

#### No. 3.

Clause 3, page 2—Delete.

Mr. CRAIG: I move—

That amendment No. 1 made by the Council be agreed to.

Members will recall that last week a Bill to amend section 2 of the Act was introduced in this House. The purpose was to

restore the position which existed in connection with the return of empty soft drink bottles to stores, prior to the court case taking place a short time ago. The Government, and I think all members, were anxious that the position should be restored, because of the chaotic conditions which could exist as a result of the decision of the court, after prosecutions were lodged against a number of storekeepers who accepted a return of empty soft drink bottles.

The House agreed to that, and to the Bill in the form in which it was presented, on the understanding that certain inquiries be made on the points raised by some members during the debate on the Bill, as it was considered that the wording of the amending clause in the Bill was not sufficient to cover the points referred to.

In all, three points were raised. The first was by the Leader of the Opposition who suggested that possibly, in connection with beer bottles, some form of deposit was made. The second point, made by some other member, related to the obligation of storekeepers to accept the return of empty soft drink bottles; and the third point, raised by the member for Balcatta, related to the position of a person going around in the middle of the night, ostensibly to collect empty bottles from people's property. The Leader of the Opposition suggested that the word "refundable" be added to the wording in the Bill.

The original wording of the Bill was as follows:—

but does not include bottles in respect of which, at the time of the sale of the contents thereof, a deposit of money was made, or is ordinarily made, by the purchaser, or bottles in which milk or cream is ordinarily sold.

The position was set out quite clearly, and the Government was not referring to bottles containing intoxicating beverages. The amendment of the Council seeks to add the words "in which non-intoxicating beverages are ordinarily sold" to the original wording in the Bill.

With the inclusion of those words there is an obligation on the storekeeper who sells non-intoxicating beverages or refreshments, on which he has charged a certain deposit for the bottles, to repay that deposit on the return of the empty bottles. As was pointed out by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the position could arise where a storekeeper who did not make a sale of the contents of the bottle was inundated with returns of empty bottles—the full bottles having been procured elsewhere.

Along our beaches, or on our football grounds, children gather up empty bottles, and under the amendment they could take them to a storekeeper and expect him to refund the normal deposit on those bottles. In certain cases that would be an unfair



imposition on the storekeeper. In the summer time the demand for soft drinks in beach shops is very heavy, and there might be half a dozen shops or drink kiosks selling cool drinks. One shop could dispose of its stocks before the others, and close up for the day. The responsibility would then fall on the shops remaining open to take a return of the empties and to refund the deposits. We want to prevent such a position from arising.

There is an obligation on the storekeeper who sells a bottle of cool drink to repay the deposit when the empty bottle is returned. At the same time protection should be given to the storekeeper to enable him to receive only the bottles which he handled in the first place.

The point regarding a person roaming around at night in somebody's back yard ostensibly to collect empty bottles is adequately covered by existing legislation. Members may recall that last year amendments were made to the Police Act to deal with loitering, and cover the position of persons being found on property without lawful excuse. I do not consider the claim by a person that he was gathering empty bottles under such circumstances would be a lawful excuse.

I remind members that the Bill is designed purely and simply to restore the position which existed before the court case took place, so that the practice which has stood for many years may be continued legally. The whole Marine Stores Act requires overhauling, and there is an intention on the part of the Government to do that. It must be realised that considerable investigation will have to be undertaken before further amendments to the Act can be proposed. If it is possible to do that during this session, further amendments will be made to the Act, but there is no sense in my promising to do that if I cannot fulfil the promise. I assure the House that every effort will be made to expedite such an inquiry, to iron out a number of anomalies that may possibly exist in the Act.

Mr. GRAHAM: In the first place I want to say the Opposition appreciates that the Government is acting as expeditiously as possible to meet the situation arising from a recent court decision. The Opposition is equally emphatic that it desires to be helpful in the passage of legislation to meet that situation.

However, there are some genuine differences of outlook. I confess that the amendment submitted to us by the Legislative Council in part meets the objections which were raised; but, speaking quite personally, again we have evidence of something being drafted overnight and not completely meeting the situation.

Parliament said, 61 years ago, that those engaged in the collection of empty bottles should be licensed, and apparently

Parliament is still of that opinion; but it is prepared to consider some variation in respect of certain types of bottles because of a procedure which has grown up over the years. The Opposition goes along with the Government in that submission. But we cannot have it both ways. If we say it is essential for bottle collectors and dealers to be licensed, then surely—whether it is a white bottle or a brown bottle or a bottle containing intoxicating liquor or non-intoxicating liquor—there should be a requirement to be licensed or else we should scrap licensing altogether.

I repeat that the amendment which is now before the Committee is an improvement on the proposition we were considering last week; but again I say it only goes part of the way. What is it that we desire? That householders and children will, without incurring the displeasure of the law, be able to return cool drink bottles to shops and other places from which they are purchased; and, so far as bottles which contain milk and cream are concerned, to allow the milkman to pick up the empties from places to which earlier he has delivered the full bottles.

I am unaware of anybody indulging for a livelihood in the practice of collecting empty milk bottles; so we can say that the amendment which we have before us adequately meets that position. But surely what we should be doing is clarifying the situation regarding the requirements of having a collector's license, if I want to return half a dozen empty lemonade bottles, or a dealer's license if the shopkeeper wants to take delivery of those bottles and to pay me a refund.

This legislation admittedly does that. But it throws the gate wide open in allowing people without licenses to go from door to door collecting these cool drink bottles. I do not think the Minister wants that. Therefore I am going to suggest two further simple amendments to the definition. Might I, firstly, ask him a question: Is he, because of the time factor, bound to accept what has come from the Legislative Council, or will he listen to the merits of a proposition which I think meets the position which I have outlined; namely, to remove any responsibility from me, as one who is returning cool drink bottles, and from the shopkeeper who is dealing in cool drink bottles. Is the Minister prepared to answer that question?

Mr. Craig: I will always listen to reason, but I do not necessarily accept it.

Mr. GRAHAM: No. But if the Minister feels there is some merit, then I take it from his interjection, from his usual friendly manner—so far as his relationships with me are concerned—that he will be prepared to give it some consideration.

I am not moving the amendments at this stage, because I want the Minister's reaction. The interpretation portion of the Act says "'Collector' means any person engaged in collecting or carrying on the business of collecting marine stores of any kind."

That is shortly put; but if we add the words, "but 'collecting' does not include the return of bottles to shops or other places from which bottles and contents may be purchased," surely that exonerates children and householders who are returning the bottles to the shops. They would not come within the definition of collector. But if a person desires to go from door to door with his cart, whether it be for intoxicating or non-intoxicating bottles—if bottles themselves rather than the contents can have that attribute—then those persons should be licensed.

It further says in the Act that "'dealer' means any person than a ship-chandler or ship-owner dealing in or buying and selling marine stores of any kind, whether such person deals in any other goods or not." I suggest we add the words, "but dealing does not include the refund on deposits on bottles returned or the selling of such bottles." If we make those changes, then surely we have met the situation; because this is a problem which confronts the householder and the shopkeeper, the vendor of soft drinks. If we exclude them from taking bottles from shops and accepting payment of refunds, then surely we have met the position completely, and we will have control over itinerant merchants who go from door to door collecting bottles of all kinds.

I want to emphasise that it was on the basis of happy relationships that this House agreed unanimously to the proviso that the amendment should have force and operation until the 31st December of this year and no longer, to give the Government an opportunity, whether it be next week or next month or some time later, of having a proper look at the impact of a system which has grown up, and the necessity for a properly considered and properly drafted amendment to meet the situation arising from the court case; and a solution which would not have any undesirable side effects.

Apparently it is now the intention of the Minister that there should be a reversal of form. In other words, what is before us at the present moment is the final word. I am submitting—and I hope and trust that the Committee agrees with me—that what is before us, ostensibly as the final word, is still not satisfactory; and instead of a phone call, and a few moments later a draft coming back from the Crown Law Department, it might be wiser for the Government, even with the proposed amendment of the Legislative Council which we are now considering, to leave Clause 3 in the Bill so that full

and proper consideration can be given to this matter in a month, or a couple of months' time. I will be pleased to hear from the Minister.

Mr. FLETCHER: I wish to comment on the remarks of the member for Balcatta. The Minister will recall that during the debate on the Bill I read correspondence from a bottle-o—who put forward a certain proposition. I asked what was the Minister's attitude regarding the submissions made. The submissions were to the effect that the bottle-o should pay the general public who had such bottles in their possession the same deposit that a customer would receive on returning those bottles. The bottle-o should pay the general public an equal amount. I asked whether the Bill as it then stood would preclude a bottle-o, as a licensed dealer, from collecting the bottles and paying that fee. By interjection the Minister gave me the impression that it would not preclude the bottle-o from paying that amount to the householder.

The point made by the member for Balcatta would appear to sew up the situation, if a licensed dealer could collect from houses, and no other unauthorised persons. That is the important point. I stressed this point when speaking to the Bill: that the bottle-o should call at houses to relieve the situation, particularly during the hot months of the year when shopkeepers are unable to cope with the demand. If the amendment from another place does not consolidate the situation, then I commend to the Minister the suggested amendments of the member for Balcatta. I should like to hear the Minister's comments on the points I have raised.

Mr. CRAIG: I appreciate the comments of the member for Balcatta and the member for Fremantle. I should have expressed appreciation earlier to all members of the House for the co-operation they have shown in connection with the necessary requirements to restore the position to that which existed previously. Although the comments of the member for Balcatta are worth while, as they always are—

Mr. Graham: Thank you!

Mr. CRAIG: I am not prepared to accept his proposed amendments. I consider them to be minor points at this particular stage. I am concerned about restoring the position. As the honourable member pointed out, we want the children to be able to gather up the bottles and return them to the stores. So many points have arisen during the debate that we all realise the Act needs overhauling. I feel that the Council's amendment meets the situation. If we are going to raise further points, they will conflict still further with the Act. I appeal to the House to accept the amendment in its present form.

I have given an assurance that the whole Act will be examined, and the points raised by the member for Balcatta and the member for Fremantle will receive the utmost consideration. Who knows but that it might be submitted in another form entirely? It might not be the Marine Stores Act. It might be the bottle-os Act for all we know. However, I can assure members that that is the intention of the Government. I repeat: All I am concerned about at the moment is to restore the position that existed before the court case took place. I think the amendment in its present form covers the points raised by those who had some objection, even though a mild one, to the original Bill.

Mr. GRAHAM: With such a cordial relationship existing across the Chamber I must be doubly careful that I do not say anything that will cause a breach. It is suggested to me that the Minister is quite happy to accept additional words from the Council but he demurs somewhat that there should be any suggestion of some alteration in this Chamber. The Minister has told us again that it is his intention, if possible this session, but time may preclude it, to have the whole Act reviewed. Can I get a "Yes" or "No" from him that it will include the point or points that are being raised at this stage?

Mr. CRAIG: Yes; I thought I made myself clear on that a moment ago. It will include your suggestions.

Mr. GRAHAM: Now I am feeling a little happier than I was earlier. As he is doing that, perhaps he will take into account something which I am about to suggest. There are people at present who are the holders of licenses as collectors and dealers, and the Minister will appreciate that because of the amendment made by the Legislative Council, if it becomes law, those whose livelihood depends upon it will have a complete right only in respect of beer, wine, and spirit bottles. All the rest, whether they be aerated water bottles, sauce bottles, kerosene bottles, and the rest of it, can be the prerogative of the householder and he can lawfully hand them back to the firms concerned. To that extent the livelihood of these people, who after all are part of the system of private enterprise, or free enterprise—

Mr. Oldfield: This is part of the great leap forward.

Mr. GRAHAM: —will be denied a source of income. I think it is important to have regard for people who have been operating with the best intentions in the world under a law and following a pursuit for which they are licensed and with an expectation that they will be permitted to carry out that lawful pursuit.

By seeking to remedy a situation to meet a popular custom the legislation will have that effect upon them, and I think there is some merit in the Minister's final

observation: namely, that the matter of trading in empty bottles is an entirely different matter from all other things which come under the definition of marine stores. It is possible, therefore, that there could be more satisfactory legislation, and even entirely separate legislation. However, if he will take into account the alteration of the definitions that I have suggested I would be most obliged. There is also one suggestion in this regard pertaining to the interpretation of the word "dealer", and I would suggest something along these lines—

but dealing does not include the accepting of empty bottles, the refunding of deposits on such empty bottles, or the selling of such bottles.

I cannot speak for other members of the Opposition; but speaking for myself, if he will give consideration to those items I will be content to allow the acceptance of the Legislative Council's amendment to pass.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Mr. CRAIG: I move—

That amendment No. 2 made by the Council be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Mr. CRAIG: I move—

That Amendment No. 3 made by the Council be agreed to.

This clause was a proviso added to ensure that the life of the amending Bill was to be no longer than the 31st December, 1963. If I understand the position correctly, it was suggested that that course be followed more or less as an incentive for some improved legislation to be submitted. We have done that; and I presume, despite some minor suggestions, that the amendment is now acceptable. Therefore I do not feel it is necessary to confine the life of the Bill to the 31st December.

Mr. GRAHAM: I have not the Legislative Council's message before me but I was under the impression that there were only two amendments, one to alter the wording which is the main subject of the Bill, and one to delete the limitation to the 31st December this year. What the second vote was on I do not know and I guarantee no other member on this side knows.

Mr. CRAIG: The first amendment was to the effect that after the word "bottles" should be inserted the words "in which non-intoxicating beverages are sold". The second was that after the word "money" the passage, "repayable by the vendor" should be inserted. In other words, that

covered the points raised by the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Graham: Thank you. Now I know where we are going.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

### *Report*

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: NINTH DAY

### *Motion*

Debate resumed, from an earlier stage of the sitting, on the following motion by Mr. Mitchell:—

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

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

MR. TOMS (Bayswater) [9.24 p.m.]: In speaking to the Address-in-Reply debate I would firstly like to add my tribute to those already paid by some members of the Chamber regarding the devotion to duty shown by His Excellency, The Hon. Sir John Patrick Dwyer, K.C.M.G., in getting out of a sick bed to attend the opening of Parliament. Those of us who had the opportunity of witnessing His Excellency deliver the Speech in another place must have felt a twinge of regret that it was necessary for a man to have to do it when he was not quite well enough for the job. It was a particularly long speech and it certainly must have been a strain on the man. I wish to place on record my appreciation and pay a tribute to the courage he displayed in performing that duty.

Since we last assembled as a Parliament there have been many notable happenings and I wish particularly to refer to the visit of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and the Duke of Edinburgh to this State. I also wish to pay a tribute to the Lord Mayor of Perth (Sir Harry Howard) for his efforts in obtaining the Commonwealth Games for Western Australia. The visit of Her Majesty, and His Royal Highness was most enjoyable and no doubt the Commonwealth Games did more than anything else during the year to advertise

the State of Western Australia. Those who came from other countries and witnessed the games, and the organisation involved must have been impressed with all they saw. To those who were responsible for the organisation of the sporting events and other activities a special vote of thanks should be recorded. There are many features to a function such as this and the way everything went off like clock-work speaks volumes for the organisers and the manner in which they conducted these events.

I could not help but be impressed by the children on the day they took part in the display at the Perry Lakes stadium. That was one of the finest demonstrations I have seen on television since we have had the opportunity of viewing in this State. The manner in which the children took their parts and conducted themselves throughout the whole of the parade, even though the weather was rather trying, was an inspiration; it was a credit to the teachers and to the Education Department who had a great deal to do with the organisation. I pay a special tribute to them.

Another important event which has occurred—and to my way of thinking one of the most regrettable—is the completion of the term of our ex-Governor, Sir Charles Gairdner, after 11½ years as Governor of this State. It is a real break not only for the Governor but also for those who have had the opportunity of meeting the man. He is one who can mix with the high and the low and still feel at home, and make those with whom he associates feel at home also. The Governor must be getting very close to retirement from this particular field of activity, and perhaps it would have been fitting had he been able to complete his term in Western Australia.

But then, of course, there is a distinct difference between occupying the position of Governor, and coming back to mix among the people of the State as a private citizen. Perhaps a few years in Tasmania—and of course our loss is their gain—will help to establish a breakaway from this State in his capacity as Governor. We all know that during his term of office Sir Charles Gairdner was one of the most popular and best-loved Governors we have had.

I had the opportunity and privilege of meeting Sir Charles in high places and in low—by that I mean among the humble and the working people of this State—and he has never been too proud to step down and mix with the folk. I particularly remember one occasion when he came out to Bayswater—a district I am proud to represent—to open a little fete. He accepted the invitation to open this fete and be present at this small show.

I see the Minister for Police is not in the Chamber, and without attempting to "dob" the Governor in, I must confess he had a go on the spinning wheel—one of these "bob-in" shows—and had the good fortune to win a cup and saucer. After it had been presented to him Sir Charles turned to an elderly lady behind him and said, "You had better have that." Even though the cup and saucer was made from rather heavy china, I feel sure he would have done the same thing had it been made from the very best Doulton china. He evinced a wonderful spirit, and was always ready to mix with the people.

We had many examples of this when Sir Charles entered various homes, and it was not until after the housewife had made him a cup of tea, and perhaps been told who he was that she realised it was the Governor. Then, of course, her panic had to be seen to be believed. It was a great privilege for us to have Sir Charles Gairdner here as Governor of the State; and I only hope that Major-General Sir Douglas Kendrew will endear himself to the people of this State in the same manner as Sir Charles Gairdner.

I have always been interested in the delivery of the Governor's opening address. You, Sir, have of course seen many of these memorable documents prepared by the Government of the day. The wording of them is invariably couched in language which shows the Government in a very good light, but which offers the Opposition no praise at all. We have no objection to that, because we will possibly do the same ourselves very shortly. Indeed, we have had opportunity to do just that on previous occasions.

Mr. Graham: But with far more justification.

Mr. TOMS: We will see about that when the time comes. On the very first page of His Excellency's Speech are mentioned things which have occurred since we last assembled as a Parliament. I would like to join with the member for Murray in paying a tribute to the late Sir Ross McLarty. I only wish that the policies and attributes of the late Sir Ross McLarty could be emulated by the Government of the day. The Government could well follow his policy of endeavouring to help private enterprise work in harmony with Government undertakings and public works generally. Unfortunately, however, that is not to be the case.

There has been a considerable disbanding of that section of our community, which is to be regretted very much indeed. Sir Ross McLarty endeared himself to those with whom he came in contact. He was not too proud to extend the State Brickworks when it needed extension. His humour and good fellowship endeared him to members on both sides of the House, and Parliament and the State are the poorer for his passing.

Reference has also been made to our colleagues in another place. I refer to the late Mr. Davies and the late Mr. Hall. These two gentlemen were members of the Legislative Council for a long time.

Mr. Graham: What about Bert Simpson

Mr. TOMS: The member for Balcatta has reminded me about Mr. Simpson. I had not forgotten to mention him. He was a fine gentleman who did a good job both for his electorate and the State. It is regrettable that Mr. Simpson did not live long enough to enjoy the fruits of his labours; and I refer to the privileges we have as a result of his work on the Right and Privileges Committee. He did his best to ensure that when a man retired from this place, after he reached the stage where two or three grey hairs appeared—possibly at 45 or 50—he had a few shillings with which to carry on. He worked hard to that end, and I think we all regret that he never lived long enough to retire and enjoy the privileges for which he fought so hard. Every session of Parliament, or vacation, seems to take its toll of members. There are always the odd by-elections held after which we are joined by new members both here and in another place.

One would find it very difficult, however, to convince the public that the task of a member of Parliament is an arduous one. The general impression is that we drive around in motorcars all day and do very little work. I am sure, however, that this is the impression gained only by those who are not close enough to their member to appreciate the work he does.

Members may recall that last year during a similar debate I mentioned the question of Press reporting. I wish to touch on that theme again, because I am now convinced that the standard of reporting in Western Australia is conducive to the betterment of the nation. There is, of course, a monopoly Press in this State whose editors publish only such material as they think the public should have. I have only to refer to some of the utterances which have been made in this House.

On the 6th August when the Leader of the Opposition spoke for nearly one hour there was not one word printed in the newspapers of what he said. Yet, a fortnight or so before, the public of Western Australia was fed with headline news of the Profumo scandal in England. This was done day after day, with large headlines appearing in the Press. I do not think that is conducive to the uplift of our nation. The sooner the Press learns that the public desires the truth to be told, without scandals being glorified in headlines as was done in the Profumo case, the sooner will the Press get back

to doing the task it is supposed to do; that is, to give to the public the news it should be told.

I believe that not one member in this Chamber or in another place would deny that the public is being dished out news which has little importance to this State; yet many important statements made in this Chamber and in this Parliament fail to appear in the Press. I hope the Press will in due course refer to members of Parliament by their correct titles and in a respectful manner. Members may recall that last year I took exception to this practice, and I was not being party political in my utterance.

On reading the newspapers one often sees the reference to "Brand said this" or "Brand did that." The Press fails to refer to the Premier as Mr. Brand, M.L.A., or The Honourable the Premier. That sort of disrespect has been going on for some time and it is time that it was discontinued.

I am sure members will agree with me when I say that the easiest way to break up this nation is to make light of the members of Parliament who have been elected by the people. I do not know who has the authority to instruct the Press to do the right thing, to prevent the public from utterly disregarding the elected members of Parliament. I do hope that some person with sufficient influence with the Press will get it to show some respect for the people's parliamentary representatives.

I now turn to matters which have come to my notice in the last year or so, and to put forward some suggestion which Government departments might consider. As is well known by members who have had local government experience, there has always been a call made by schools on local authorities to make playing fields available to the school children. I agree it is the duty of our civic fathers to provide such playing fields, but it places a very heavy burden on the resources of the local authorities.

Whilst the emphasis in schools seems to be on sports, and as many playing fields have been developed for use by high schools, the Minister for Education might give consideration to making such playing fields available to sporting organisations and bodies which now experience difficulty in finding grounds for their activities during weekends. At that time the playing fields are not used by the high schools. I know that queries will be raised as to the responsibility for providing and maintaining playing fields, but these difficulties can be ironed out. It is rather an anomaly for local authorities to be called upon to provide playing fields for school children—they are called upon to do that within the limit of their resources—yet sporting organisations within those local

authorities find difficulty in obtaining sporting grounds during the weekends. I ask the Minister to look into this matter, and to give consideration to making high school playing fields available to sporting organisations during the weekends.

It has been a feature in the new high schools for the lockers to be placed in the corridors or verandahs. I have received complaints from parents of students that their lockers have been tampered with. The difficulty of providing different keys to 1,200 to 2,000 lockers in a high school is great. The firm which makes the steel cabinets for high schools uses about 100 different locks, so that in a high school with 1,200 lockers one key would fit 12 lockers. We can all sympathise with the child whose locker has been interfered with and whose exercise books have been defaced; in many cases the good work done by the school children is spoilt.

When high schools are built in the future I would ask the Minister to consider the siting of lockers either inside the classrooms, or in a special room set aside. By installing the lockers in the classroom, it would only mean increasing the width or length by 1 ft. If that were done there would be much less danger during school days and in the weekends of these lockers being tampered with.

Again referring to schools, and the provision of change-rooms—in this respect I shall not be as tough as the member for Collie, as I do not have as much justification as he—I would ask the Minister when high schools are built in the future to include change-rooms in the first section of the school building. At present it seems to be the policy, when high schools are built in two or three stages, for change-rooms to be erected in the second part of the building programme. I cite a high school in my electorate—the John Forrest High School, formerly known as the Embleton High School—where there are 1,200 students.

Mr. Lewis: Do you mean the Cyril Jackson High School?

Mr. TOMS: I mean the John Forrest High School. The one the Minister mentioned is in Ashfield, Bassendean. The Minister will recall my asking him to receive a deputation. The Deputy Director-General of Education (Mr. Dettman) did receive a deputation and I believe the need for change-rooms was apparent and that the matter was given a fairly high priority.

This problem could be overcome by including change-rooms in the first section of the high school instead of leaving them until the second section is built. Members will appreciate what the position is like when they realise that over 1,200 children in one day, after completing their sport, go back to the school, where there

are no change-rooms of any kind. I believe the children wash their feet under any tap that happens to be around; and that is not conducive to good high school training. I think the Minister would agree that the need has been recognised.

Whilst I would have liked to see change-rooms put in this year, I hope the Minister will take the matter up with the department to make sure they are provided before the start of the next school year. I say this because otherwise we will have children who have been at that school for quite a long time who will not have seen change-rooms up to the time they leave.

I have been requested by the parents and citizens' association to bring to the notice of the Minister that association's desire for the enlarging of the John Forrest High School to a five-year high school as soon as possible. Last year in a letter to me the Minister for Education did indicate that the department would give consideration to reviewing the position with regard to children in the Hill Crest Primary School area. The problem there is that the boundary for the Hill Crest School zone is a street at the back of the school called Drake Street. The school extends from Coode Street to Drake Street; and children on the west side of Drake Street are permitted to go to the Hill Crest School, but those living on the other side of the road have to walk half to three-quarters of a mile to the new Embleton Primary School.

I was told consideration would be given to this matter, and the last I heard about it from the Minister was back in September. I waited patiently for word to come through that the boundaries had been realigned in that particular area.

Mr. Lewis: Are they still on last year's boundaries?

Mr. TOMS: Yes. We have had the spectacle of kiddies starting school for the first time being able to see a school opposite, but having to go to one half a mile away. That does not seem to be a fair means of distributing the population. Therefore, I hope the Minister will have another look at the position and do his best for this fast-growing area of Embleton. It is fast growing, because the Embleton school, which has not been built for that long, started with two rooms, and at the present time has about eight. Therefore, I hope we will be able to realign these boundaries to enable the children who are living nearer to the Hill Crest School to attend that school. As parents, we know how we would feel if we had to send our children a half a mile to a certain school when there was one on the other side of the street.

I think that is about all I have to bring before the attention of the Minister for Education at the present time, but

there is a matter I wish to bring before the notice of the Minister for Transport who I do not think is here at the present time. I would like him to take notice of the condition of the M.T.T. buses. I have a letter here addressed to me on the 3rd July, which I have answered. It reads as follows:—

On Friday of last week I was travelling in a Metropolitan Transport Trust bus. I got into discussion with driver—

I do not suppose he should have done that. Continuing—

—about the condition of that bus in particular and the Trust's buses generally.

The driver demonstrated the lack of efficiency of the brakes.

The hand brake fully applied was completely inoperative. At an approximate speed of 30 m.p.h. with the foot brake fully applied the bus rolled on for at least 75 yards.

It is not outside the realms of possibility to have the buses in reasonable state of efficiency as the Railway Road service buses are maintained to a good standard.

In view of the Safety Councils campaign and the blitz on private cars by the traffic branch police, coupled with the obvious danger of buses that won't stop, I think it is overdue time for a bit of action on the Trust.

I think that state of affairs is pretty tough, particularly at a time when we are calling on the public to observe road safety. When we have examples such as that brought to our notice, it makes us wonder whether the public is really being considered. This bus had a hand brake that was totally inoperative; and when the foot brake was applied at a speed of 30 m.p.h. the bus took 75 yards to pull up.

I asked the writer of this letter to take particular note of the numbers of the buses in future or to record the time a bus left; because I believe that with such information it would be possible for a check to be made of the bus in question. It is a poor show when matters such as this are referred to us, particularly at a time when such emphasis is being placed on safety on the roads. It is not only unfair to the driver of this particular type of vehicle, but it is also unfair to the passengers, for whom he is responsible. I ask the Minister concerned to take this matter up with the Metropolitan Transport Trust so there will be proper maintenance of these vehicles.

There was time, not so long ago, when we used to hear a screeching noise every time a bus pulled up. I think something was done about that, and it may have been a bit effective. I do not know

whether oil was put on the brake linings at that particular time. However, the brakes are screeching just as much today.

Mr. Graham: There needs to be a change of Government.

Mr. TOMS: There was a time when people who were thinking of getting married could do so without having to worry greatly about their future. Of course, that was a time when we had full employment—not back in the 30's. Just prior to the war years a person could have a brick home built on his own block of land for roundabout £850, and with a reasonable amount of management could, in the space of ten years, own his home.

I believe that today it is impossible for young people to really face the future with any prospect of owning their home during their particular life span. We have, of course, to bear in mind that certain costs have risen, but I do not believe that any member in this Chamber could attempt to justify the rise in the price of land that has taken place over recent years. It has been a land agent's delight—a real harvest for speculators in land. The Government, irrespective of its colour, should have concern for the welfare of the young people; for the start that they have to make; and for the way they have to pay through the nose at this particular time.

I recall that in 1946 to 1948 the local authority in the district in which I live, after the cessation of hostilities sold land in Bayswater for as much as 5s. a block to get new owners where rates were in arrears. Some blocks were sold for £10. In a matter of 14 years those blocks are being sold now for £600 to £700. I do not say the true value was obtained when the blocks were sold just after the war, but probably a reasonable figure then would have been around the £50 mark. We know the basic wage has gone up, but it has not gone up sufficiently in 15 years to justify an increase from £50 to £700. The wages have certainly not gone up 12 to 14 times. However, that is the price young people are asked to pay today.

This situation has been created because of no proper control being exercised over the sale of land. For land speculators it has been a delight since the early 1950's to be able to buy this land and reap the harvest—and at whose expense? Not at ours, because we have our own particular block of land and have had it for many years, but at the expense of the young people who have to face the future.

These folk are possibly on an average wage of £20 a week, although the basic wage is around £15. They have to face the fact that to obtain a reasonable block they will have to pay at least £1,000. On top of that, because of the zoning of the areas, they are asked to put up a house worth £3,500 to £4,000. If members

care to get their pencils and papers and work that out at around 6 per cent., which is about the interest rate now, they will find that young people will have to pay at least £5 to £6 a week out of their £20 earned. We can imagine how many years it will take them to pay off their house, if ever. I believe that every homeowner is entitled to live some part of his life free from the shackles of interest on this particular commodity.

I do not know what the future holds for these people. I cannot even hope to visualise where we are going, because the time will come very soon when the Government itself will have to take stock of the sale of land which is occurring at present and the exorbitant prices being asked. The unfortunate part about this, Mr. Acting Speaker (Mr. Crommelin), as you yourself will know, having been associated with local government, is that not only do they fix their own valuation but they steadily increase the valuation of people who have lived in the area for many years.

Some authorities, of course, have enough balance to drop the rate in the pound with the idea of lessening the burden as much as possible and not wasting public money. It is possible to continue with the same rate in the pound with increased valuations and money can be collected in this way with possibly the same amount of work being done as if the rate in the pound had been dropped. There is a distinct possibility always that too much money can be obtained and not spent wisely. Therefore I do hope that someone, apart from myself, will start to think and show concern for the future of young people with regard to housing and their future commitments.

I now wish to deal with a matter touched upon by the member for Murray. I was most interested to hear him talk on this particular subject. He spoke with concern about what is to become of our aborigines, or our darker brothers and sisters, once they finish their schooling or leave a mission. It does seem to me that whilst we in Western Australia possibly look with horror at the racial riots occurring in the American States, sometimes we ourselves are a little colour-conscious.

I know the member for Murray would agree with me when I say that the full-blood himself is not any real problem to us. It is the half-caste, the quarter-caste, and—as the member for Murray mentioned—the person who is almost white, who is the problem. We say that we can integrate them into our society and yet it is a most difficult thing to do. We can fully appreciate that there are those who when they look at the different colour of another's skin seem to get the idea that they are superior beings. Hitler had the same idea and called his the master race.



The Native Welfare Department is doing as much as it possibly can. We cannot hope to employ these people as perhaps we should employ them at present, with the employment position as it is. This Government did come in with a policy of full employment, I believe, but it has not worked out quite that way. We in the Bayswater district have employed in our rubbish contracting scheme two of these half-caste chappies, and they are being paid the proper wage. There are no better workers than they.

Whilst I quote this particular case, I do believe that with the education we are giving these people now, the time is not very far off when we will have to take stock of the situation and fit them into positions where they will be able to assist their brothers and sisters of the same colour; and I think this can be done. The Native Welfare Department has one of these people in the department already. That is a step in the right direction: to integrate these people into the various departments and perhaps enable them to assist their own particular kith and kin in matters appertaining to those departments.

I do not know the answer. I wish I did. It is the concern of most of us who take time off to think of the troubles of other people. I only hope that before very long those people who learned from the early days of Western Australia to fear the boots of the white man will be able to look him straight in the face and feel that he is not a very bad fellow after all. I hope that our treatment of these people will be such that they will be able to be absorbed into our community.

I believe the Minister for Works is on a special mission tonight. I wanted to bring to his notice the particular plight of people in my district. We have had a deputation in regard to the drainage problem in the Hampden Park area. I am hoping the Minister will be able to allow us to commence the first portion of these particular works, because there is this area—containing 120 homes—which is now water-logged. I do not think this problem would have arisen had we not expanded so rapidly in the Tuart Hill and nearby areas. I believe that the solution to one problem, at some other time creates another problem.

Having lived in the district of Bayswater for 30 years I have seen the watercourses changing throughout the area. I am of the opinion that the erection of homes in the Tuart Hill and other areas has created a problem for the Bayswater back country. I think that is feasible when we appreciate the clearing of vegetation such as big gum trees. A reasonably-sized gum tree can take 400 gallons of water a day out of the ground. Clearing, which

has taken place over many hundreds of acres, has had the effect of the water having to find its level somewhere else. There is a place in Bayswater which now has water lying on it where previously there had been no water at all; and there are other places which used to have a high water table but which are now dry.

It is difficult to find a solution to all of the drainage problems. At the weekend I was particularly pleased to see the initiative shown by the local engineer in Bayswater. People in Beechboro Road were having difficulty with the rising waters. An excavator and a chain drag were hired, and as a result of the work carried out, the water is now coursing its way to the river.

The final scheme planned by the drainage department will cost in the vicinity of £110,000. The scheme envisages the laying down of pipes, which is a much more expensive job. The local authority has been able to achieve almost the same effect with an expenditure of from £650 to £700. Over 8,000 yards of sand was removed during the weekend, and I am particularly pleased that the Department of Industrial Development was kind enough to allow the local authority concerned to go through this particular land. Approval came just in time. Half an hour after it was received, the job was completed. The Department of Industrial Development's land will require four feet less of sand filling than would otherwise have been required, and when the time comes for the department to dispose of the land I am sure the Minister will be satisfied at the action of the department in allowing the local authority to go through that land.

I did not intend to speak for quite so long, but I was pleased to have an opportunity of placing before the various Ministers some of the problems of my electorate, and to have an opportunity of speaking generally on matters affecting Western Australia, and particularly the people of our State. It has been interesting for me to listen to the comments of members. I think it will be agreed that when we listen to the comments of other members we sometimes wonder whether we open our mouths a bit too much at times trying to get what we want.

The western portion of Perth seems to have had quite a fair amount of treatment over quite a number of years, and the time is now ripe for the Ministers of this particular Government, and of any Government which may follow, to cast their eyes east of Perth, to get in the drainage and sewerage works, and to bring through the various services; because we have acres and acres of land out there calling for development and local authorities are very co-operative. I hope the Ministers concerned in the various departments to

which I have referred will take some notice of the matters which I have placed before them.

**MR. I. W. MANNING** (Wellington) [10.17 p.m.]: I desire to support the motion before the House expressing loyalty to our most gracious Sovereign, and thanks to His Excellency for the Speech with which he was pleased to open this session of Parliament. I should like to say, too, how much I regret the departure from Western Australia of Sir Charles and The Hon. Lady Gairdner. There is no doubt that the couple very much endeared themselves to all the people of Western Australia, which I think is a great tribute to Sir Charles and Lady Gairdner, who carried out their official duties with distinction.

I know that whenever Sir Charles and Lady Gairdner visited my electorate we looked forward with keen anticipation to their coming and we very much enjoyed their company while they were with us. I, like other members, felt it was regrettable that Sir Charles accepted the position of Governor in Tasmania before he had completed his term here. However, no doubt Sir Charles had good reasons for doing so, and we must accept them.

Along with other members I would like to express regret at the passing of our old friend, Sir Ross McLarty, who was well known to us all in this House. I should like to pay tribute to him for the work which he did for Western Australia whilst Premier of this State. I am sure we would all agree that during his term as Premier times were very difficult indeed. Materials were in short supply and the Government of the day had a tremendous amount of worry in meeting all the demands made upon available resources. To have come through as well as we did is, in itself, a distinct tribute to the leader of the State at the time.

I should also like to express regret at the passing of three very good friends from the Legislative Council. I refer to The Hon. Evan Davies, The Hon. Bill Hall, and The Hon. Bert Simpson. Those three honourable gentlemen had been members of the Western Australian Parliament for a long period of years and had given considerable service to the State.

I propose to touch on several matters which I regard as being of some importance. Firstly, I intend to deal with education. A great deal of emphasis is being placed on secondary education, and I support all that has been done in this connection; and what is being done follows very largely reports which have been made from time to time as to how we can improve secondary education.

I noticed with some interest it is proposed that there should be a review of the primary school curriculum. I have on occasions such as this debate provides said here that I believe insufficient importance

has been attached to primary education in the past. The importance of infant classes cannot be too firmly stressed and the Education Department would do well to look closely at its teaching methods.

In the past I have criticised the fact that in many schools we find the young teacher, fresh out of college, being put in charge of a first infants' class. This possibly is one of the most important years of a child's school life, and I believe that at least an experienced teacher should be put in charge of such a class because it is important that the young children starting their school lives should be started off on the right foot, and with the right attitude towards learning. It is a pity in a way that we could not go back to an earlier age and in our kindergarten system try to teach the children or bring them to the point where they could more readily accept teaching and learning. However, I believe that is far too big a subject, and it would not be possible, throughout the length and breadth of the State, to get all children of kindergarten age to attend kindergartens, if we could provide them.

However, I do look forward with some interest to the report regarding a review of the primary school curriculum, and I repeat that a great deal more importance ought to be attached to primary education and getting children started off in their school lives in the best possible way.

I think, too, that greater importance should be attached to the behaviour of children at school, and this includes the time when they are travelling on school buses. I know it is not possible for a school bus proprietor, or the driver, to put children off the bus when they misbehave themselves, but I think the department could give some thought to what disciplinary action could or should be taken when children misbehave themselves on school buses.

Mr. Lewis: He can report them to the headmaster and the headmaster can take disciplinary action.

**MR. I. W. MANNING:** I am pleased to learn that; because I believe these are problems which should be faced, and if we instilled into children during their early years at school a greater sense of responsibility and a need to behave themselves it would be fruitful throughout their school lives and later years. It is all very well for people to say that parents are responsible for the behaviour of their children; but in these days, particularly in the country, when children are away from home for such long periods, and when they are more under the influence of departmental staff than their parents, it is a different matter. Very often parents believe that their children's behaviour is good, but such might not be the case when they are away from parental influence.

Mr. D. G. May: How would you police the buses? The driver would not be able to tell because he has his eyes on the road.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: That is the position to which I am trying to draw the Minister's attention. It is something the department could well have a look at. I am suggesting that the need for good behaviour should be emphasised during a child's primary life, although one actually finds very little misbehaviour among small children. However, I do think it is a factor to be considered when dealing with older children. It is when they get to the high school age that their misbehaviour becomes a problem.

I noticed in *The West Australian* that the Teachers' Union has been expressing some concern about the ceiling limit on the sizes of schools. This is another point on which I have commented in the past, and I do so again, because while it is recognised that the larger the school the more economic the unit for the teaching of children, I think there is a lot more to it than that. It is better to have a compact school unit where teachers have full control over the children than to allow the school to grow and grow simply because it is more economic from the department's point of view. That may be true, but it is certainly not good from the point of view of the education of the child.

If it is possible to have a ceiling limit of 1,000—and probably that is too high—it would be an improvement; but I know the department would like to see the number even higher. In my view all the attention should not be given to the economic side of the matter and the efficiency of the school, the running of the school, the behaviour of the students and the influence the teaching staff has over the students should be recognised and given consideration.

I was pleased to learn that the Federal Budget provides for an increase from £100 to £150 for each child in the amount allowed parents in their taxation for the education of their children. This is a recognition of some of the costs incurred by parents in educating their children and, while it may have been overdue, from my point of view at least it was very acceptable.

I should now like to touch on the subject of tourism. While we know the Minister in charge of tourism is touring I would still like to make some comments on the subject, because I believe we have not fully appreciated the potential that exists in Western Australia. In this State we have something that few States in Australia, and certainly few other parts of the world have to show the visitor. We have variety right from the northern portion of the State to the southern portion, and we have a great deal which is different and which is not to be found anywhere else in Australia, or in

the world for that matter. To attract travellers here we should set out to cater for them. Good roads are the first essential and good accommodation is the second.

The Lieutenant-Governor's Speech informed us that the Government is pushing ahead with bituminisation of the Eyre Highway, and every day we see increasing numbers of Eastern States vehicles in this State. Certainly, with an extension of the bitumen road east, we will find even more travellers arriving here from the Eastern States.

The building of roads further into the north-west every year will also assist in attracting tourists to that part of the State. Recently I had occasion to make a hurried trip to Carnarvon and return. I will certainly recommend that trip to anyone looking for interesting things to see. There are wildflowers all along the way in profusion, and this year, of course, the north is having an excellent season, particularly from the point of view of wildflower growth.

With the excellent road from Perth to Carnarvon—it was excellent until a portion of it between here and Geraldton became flooded—every opportunity is afforded to tourists to travel to the northern parts of Western Australia. If the Minister for Tourists keeps a close eye on the condition of the roads in this State he will make a great contribution towards enticing tourists here and boosting our revenue with their expenditure. Two of the first essentials to attract tourists to this State are good roads and good accommodation. We have all the other requirements. There is a great variety of interesting things for tourists to see.

I believe that travellers from the Eastern States do not come to Western Australia to look at great buildings, elaborate swimming pools or sights of that nature. They come here to see the natural beauty of our State. We have many beauty spots in the north and south-west of Western Australia. There are our large timber forests in the southern parts of the State and also interesting developments to see in the rapidly expanding Esperance district.

I would now like to make a few comments on the department administered by the Minister for Transport. The time has been reached when a close review should be made of the activities of this department and what it is trying to achieve. Careful attention should be paid to what freight the department is trying to have switched from road haulage to rail haulage. If the railways are to be a paying concern they must look to heavy loads and long hauls. Much of the light freight traffic requires a great deal of handling over short distances, and this cannot possibly make for a paying load for the railways. That could also apply to passenger traffic. Whilst I do not wish

to be any more specific than that, I urge that the Government should review the activities of the Transport Department to ascertain what freight it is trying to attract from road transport to rail transport, with a view to getting a clear-cut definition of its policy. Housing continues to be a major problem in my electorate.

Mr. Davies: Last week the Government said it was not.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: It will continue to be a major problem, I think, whilst we have a rapidly increasing population. Progressively we have new applications for houses being lodged; and this, of course, requires additional homes to be built, which is quite a difficult task. Perhaps in a place like Harvey the increase in the local population is greater than in other centres of a comparable size. It is of considerable interest, of course, that the Minister has informed us there will be a substantial increase in the sum of money to be made available for housing under all its headings in this financial year as compared with last year, and perhaps we can now look forward with confidence to more houses being built in the future—particularly, I hope, in my electorate.

It is well that I should make some comments on the Department of Agriculture. The member for Murray complimented the Minister on the success of the dairy improvement scheme, and I fully support his remarks. To a great extent it is achieving what it set out to do originally; namely, to raise the property of the smaller farmer to a standard where it can become an economic unit. It has certainly been difficult to obtain finance under that heading, and therefore this scheme has been valuable from that point of view.

Unfortunately, adverse conditions have been experienced by those engaged in the production of whole milk and butterfat. Such conditions were certainly experienced during the last summer, which was an extremely dry one. It was also a difficult year for the production of milk and from the point of view of maintaining the quality of the milk. This year will again be an adverse one, not because of dry conditions, but because of the extremely wet season.

The agricultural parts of my electorate at the moment are completely inundated with water—some of them to a depth of several feet. It will take some time before this water dries up, and many hundreds of acres of pasture will be set back because of the flood conditions. Perhaps the Minister for Works can come to the aid of those farmers by making available additional drainage, particularly in the Harvey and Capel areas, which are the two most affected. At one place the Harvey diversion river has broken its banks, and the large volume of water, instead of flowing out to sea, is flooding

over the various farms, a number of which have been seriously affected by the floodwaters. I am hoping the Minister will come to the aid of the farmers by granting them some compensation.

The farmer was not overlooked in the latest Federal Budget, because a bounty of £3 per ton on superphosphate is to be introduced. I understand from a statement made by the Federal Treasurer that this is designed to stimulate primary production. So far as I am concerned, its major benefit will be to assist the farmer in his endeavour to combat some of the rising costs which in the past have been a great burden to him indeed; because the farmer—particularly the dairy farmer—has not been in the position to pass on those costs and he has been burdened with an ever-increasing cost of production. Therefore, a subsidy of £3 per ton on superphosphate will be quite a contribution towards assisting him in that regard.

Its benefit will be State-wide, because farmers through the length and breadth of the State have been affected by the flooding conditions and the severe winter we have experienced this year. As a result of these conditions all pasture land will take a great deal of rehabilitating, and a considerable quantity of superphosphate will be required to bring this about. However, I am sure we will all reap a great deal of benefit from the subsidy announced by the Commonwealth Treasurer.

Once again I would like to indicate my full support for the motion so ably moved by the member for Stirling. Any further comments I may have I will make when the Estimates are before the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Brady.

House adjourned at 10.42 p.m.

## Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 28th August, 1963

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