

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 12th August, 1970

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

QUESTIONS (64): ON NOTICE

1. MEAT

Exports: Albany

Mr. MITCHELL, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) In what year were the meat export works at Albany sold to Thos. Borthwick & Sons?
- (2) Was there any requirement in the terms of sale for the purchaser to give any service to district farmers in the matter of exporting meat?
- (3) Has the Australian Meat Board any power over exporters to see that the price paid to producers bears some relation to that for which meat is sold?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) 1948.
- (2) There was no specific requirement in the agreement but, under the terms of the license issued by the Australian Meat Board under the Export Control Licenses Regulations, all export works are required to slaughter stock for producers.
- (3) No.

Mr. NALDER replied:

		East Perth	South Fremantle	Bunbury	Muja	Collie	Wellington Dam
March	14	3.6	16.0	14.3	64.9	0.4	0.8
	21	3.5	16.6	14.7	64.2	0.3	0.7
	28	0.6	17.3	13.7	67.5	0.3	0.6
April	4	0.4	16.8	8.2	73.7	0.2	0.7
	11	3.0	15.1	3.6	77.5	0.2	0.6
	18	3.9	16.0	4.9	74.9	0.2	0.1
	25	5.1	15.9	9.8	69.0	0.2	....
May	2	4.4	17.7	5.7	72.0	0.2	....
	9	4.0	18.5	5.0	72.3	0.2	....
	16	4.1	19.4	5.6	70.7	0.2	....
	23	3.9	18.7	4.3	72.9	0.2	....
	30	5.6	22.3	11.0	60.9	0.2	....
June	6	5.7	23.8	16.8	53.5	0.2	....
	13	4.6	19.6	9.3	66.3	0.2	....
	20	4.7	19.4	8.9	66.7	0.3	....
	27	3.9	19.5	13.1	63.1	0.4	....
July	4	2.1	18.7	12.5	65.8	0.4	0.5
	11	3.9	19.2	11.5	64.1	0.4	0.9
	18	3.4	18.7	12.4	64.2	0.4	0.9
	25	2.2	18.5	13.1	65.8	0.4	....
August	1	2.2	19.1	12.5	65.3	0.4	0.5
	8	2.4	19.2	11.3	65.9	0.3	0.9

2. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Power Stations: Price of Fuel Oil

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) What tonnages of oil have been used at the East Perth and South Fremantle power stations for months of March, April, May, June, and July, 1970?
- (2) Has there been any increase in the price of oil supplied to these stations since the stations were converted to complete oil burning stations?
- (3) If "Yes" will he advise what the increases were?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1)

	East Perth	South Fremantle
	tons	tons
March	1,943	9,154
April	2,636	9,470
May	3,369	11,937
June	3,521	12,688
July	2,537	12,207
- (2) No.
- (3) See (2).

3. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Power Stations: Production Percentages

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Electricity:

What percentage of power was generated by the undermentioned power stations on a weekly basis since the week ending the 7th March, 1970—

- (a) Bunbury;
- (b) Muja;
- (c) South Fremantle;
- (d) East Perth;
- (e) Collie?

4. **ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES***Power Stations: Units Generated and Cost*

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) What number of units were generated by each power station for the period 1969-70?
- (2) What was the cost of production at each power station for the same period?
- (3) What was the quantity of electricity purchased by the State Electricity Commission from B.H.P. Kwinana and cost per unit in the period?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- | | kwh. |
|---|---------------|
| (1) East Perth power station | 57,271,000 |
| South Fremantle power station | 396,351,000 |
| Bunbury power station | 173,911,000 |
| Muja power station | 1,519,003,000 |
| Collie power station | 13,223,000 |
| Wellington Dam | 8,553,200 |
| (2) East Perth power station—2.61 cents per kwh. | |
| South Fremantle power station—0.83 cents per kwh. | |
| Bunbury power station—1.75 cents per kwh. | |
| Muja power station—.56 cents per kwh. | |
| Collie power station—1.66 cents per kwh. | |
| Wellington Dam—0.33 cents per kwh. | |
| (3) 57,078,000 kwh. @ 0.64 cents per unit. | |

5. **ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES***Muja Power Station: Extension*

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Electricity:

What would be the capital cost of adding an 82.5 megawatt plant to the existing Muja power station?

Mr. NALDER replied:
\$14,500,000.

6. **MARRON FISHING***Mandatory Penalty*

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

- (1) Is he aware that Kevin Douglas Bennett was fined \$100 in the Collie Police Court for obstructing a fisheries inspector?
- (2) Did he read a Press report of the court proceedings in the *Collie Mail* of the 16th July,

1970, wherein it is reported that Magistrate Malley was not happy with the mandatory penalties provided under the Act as he intended to fine Bennett ten dollars but after his attention was drawn to the penalty for obstructing under the Act, by the fisheries inspector, he had no alternative but to impose the minimum penalty of \$100?

- (3) In view of the opinions expressed by Magistrate Malley, Professor Braybrooke, Professor of Jurisprudence, W.A. University, and others, is it his intention to amend the Act to reduce the penalty that is at present specified in relation to marron fishing?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. The Minister's comments on those reports were published on the 16th July in both *The West Australian* and the *Daily News*.
- (3) There is no specific penalty for breaches of marron fishing laws. Inspectors and wardens work on their own in out of the way areas and at all hours. Penalties need to be sufficiently severe to discourage offenders from obstructing these officers. These heavy penalties were passed by Parliament only after repeated requests by responsible fishermen and sportsmen as a deterrent against possible breaches of essential conservation laws.

7. **ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES***Power Stations: Cost of Fuel per kwh*

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Electricity:

What was the average annual cost of fuel per kwh sent out from each individual power station from 1952 to the 30th June, 1970?

Mr. NALDER replied:

The average annual cost of fuel per kwh generated for the years 1952-1970 cannot be made available.

8.

LAND*Special Lease No. 3116/3155*

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) When did Mr. L. Harley apply for lease 326/109 now known as special lease 3116/3155?
- (2) When did Mr. W. Smith apply for the same lease?
- (3) When was Mr. W. Smith granted the lease by the Lands Department?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

Department records show the following:—

- (1) The 10th June, 1970.
- (2) The 14th January, 1963.
- (3) The 28th November, 1963.

9. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Coal: Inquiry into Greater Utilisation

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Electricity:

In view of the fact that in the State Parliament on the 9th October, 1968, I moved a motion in connection with the utilisation of Collie coal which was amended by the Government, will he advise what studies have been undertaken under the provisions of the motion and whether the coal mining industry will benefit from the studies?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) The Government is currently engaged on a drilling programme at Collie.
- (2) A firm of consultants has been engaged to make a report on the fuel and energy resources of the State, and this report will include Collie coal.
- (3) The result of the above actions will have a bearing on whether Collie will benefit from the studies.

10. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Power Restrictions

Mr. JONES, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Have power restrictions been imposed this winter?
- (2) If "Yes" will he advise the areas involved, the period the restriction was imposed, and the dates involved?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) All areas supplied by the interconnected system of generating stations during the industrial stoppage from 7.00 a.m. on the 16th July to midnight on the 17th July.

11. MIDLAND JUNCTION ABATTOIR

Meat Meal

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What tonnage of meat meal is produced annually at Midland abattoir?
- (2) Is this meal sufficient to supply the needs of the local consumers?

- (3) What is the price of meat meal per ton to the local consumers?
- (4) How much meat meal from Midland abattoir is exported each year?
- (5) What are the main States or other areas the meat meal is exported to?
- (6) What is the price per ton paid for meal exported?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Approximately 4,000 tons per year.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) \$100 per ton.
- (4) Approximately 1,000 tons.
- (5) Exported only to Japan.
- (6) \$102 to \$108 per ton.

12. ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

Annual Concert of W.A. Composers: Cancellation

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware that one of the most important musical events of the year—the annual concert of W.A. composers—has been cancelled this year as a direct result of the institution of the Government's Arts Advisory Board?
- (2) Is he aware that the concert was previously backed by the Government on an annual basis?
- (3) Does he know that the work done by the Fellowship of Australian Composers and particularly these concerts have made Western Australia a centre for the performance of Australian music?
- (4) Does he know that the guarantee has been withheld this year and the whole programme of this vigorous and creative body has been brought to a standstill?
- (5) Is he aware that a committee of the leading authorities in the arts met last year to provide the Government with a full report on the formation of arts councils throughout the world?
- (6) Is he aware that Mr. Duncan Graham, now of the A.B.C., did three months of intensive research on a grant made by Sir Thomas Wardle?
- (7) Does he know that Professor Frank Callaway was one of the most active persons on that committee but that he assumed chairmanship of the Government's Arts Advisory Board between meetings of the planning committee without intimating his intention to the other members?
- (8) Is he aware that the exemplary research done by Mr. Graham has not been used?

- (9) Is he aware that the Arts Advisory Board is in direct contradiction of the findings of the research?
- (10) Does he know of the multiplicity of jobs assumed by Professor Callaway?
- (11) Would he be prepared to receive a deputation from arts leaders in the State to inquire into the desirability of allowing the artistic life of the State to be controlled by the hierarchy of the University?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) I understand that the concert was postponed because there was some uncertainty about the Government grant for 1970-71.
- (2) Yes, and it is proposed to continue this assistance.
- (3) I believe these concerts attract a good deal of interest and this is the reason why it is supported by a Government grant.
- (4) The Government has no intention of withholding its support and in due course the Fellowship of Australian Composers (W.A.) will be advised of its grant for this financial year.
- (5) and (6) I understand that an *ad hoc* committee was formed to consider the control of the arts in Western Australia but I am not aware of any conclusions reached by that body as the result of Mr. Graham's research.
- (7) No.
- (8) and (9) See answers to (5) and (6).
- (10) I am aware that Professor Callaway has a number of interests.
- (11) Only one member of the Arts Advisory Board is connected with the University and I therefore fail to see how the artistic life of the State is thereby "controlled by the hierarchy of the University."

13. FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Irrigation: Maximum Salinity Content

Mr. NORTON, to the Minister for Agriculture:

What is the maximum salinity of water in grains of common salt per gallon that can be used for irrigating the following:—

- (a) bananas;
- (b) beans;
- (c) capsicums;
- (d) cucumbers;
- (e) eggfruit;
- (f) melons;
- (g) pumpkins;
- (h) tomatoes;

- (i) citrus fruits;
- (j) pawpaws;
- (k) dates;
- (l) pineapples;
- (m) root vegetables; and
- (n) lucerne?

Mr. NALDER replied:

It is not possible to specify a maximum common salt content for irrigation water suitable for any particular plant.

Plants vary in their reaction to, and tolerance of, common salt in the water, but this is also dependent on many other things such as—

- the presence of salts other than common salt; e.g.—boron;
- the method of applying the water;
- the times of watering and the amount applied at each watering;
- the type of soil;
- climatic factors.

Plants are usually grouped in order of relative tolerance and some of those asked about are listed as follows, in order of increasing salt tolerance:—

Beans; root vegetables; Cucumbers and Pumpkin; citrus and Melons; (low salt tolerance range 0.35 grains/gal. of total soluble salts).

Capsicum; Tomatoes; (Medium salt tolerance range, 35-80 grains/gal. of total soluble salts).

Lucerne; (Medium-high salt tolerance range, 100-150 grains/gal. of total soluble salts).

Dates (Very high salt tolerance range, 245-500 grains/gal. of total soluble salts).

Bananas; Egg Plant; Pineapples; Pawpaws; (Inadequate data available. Problems with bananas at Carnarvon thought to be due to salinity now appear more likely to be associated with boron toxicity, and other factors).

14.

NATIVES

Housing Agreements

Mr. NORTON, to the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Native Welfare Department is asking some, if not all, of the natives who are purchasing houses under section 9 of the Native Welfare Act to sign a new agreement?
- (2) If "Yes" what is the reason and in what respects do these agreements differ?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The old agreements, none of which had been completely finalised, were in varying forms and lacked uniform detail. With the advice of the Crown Law Department a standard form of agreement has been drawn up to indicate specifically the date of possession, the amount of deposit, the date from which repayments count and the limit of interest rate which may be charged.

15. GASCOYNE RIVER

Salts: Percentage

Mr. NORTON, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) When testing the waters in the Gascoyne River during its flow and waters from the sands for total salt content, was a full analysis made to determine what percentage, on the average, is common salt?
- (2) If "Yes" what is the percentage?
- (3) What are the other salts and in what percentage?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The common salt content varies from 35 per cent. in the lower salt levels (70 p.p.m. or 5 g.p.g. NaCl) to 67 per cent. at the higher levels (1,000 p.p.m. or 71 g.p.g. NaCl).
- (3) Two typical analyses are as follows:—

Total dissolved solids by evaporation—180 p.p.m., 760 p.p.m.
 Sodium chloride—73 p.p.m., 459 p.p.m.
 Calcium—19 p.p.m., 37 p.p.m.
 Magnesium—7 p.p.m., 29 p.p.m.
 Sodium—23 p.p.m., 178 p.p.m.
 Potassium—6 p.p.m., 12 p.p.m.
 Boron—0.2 p.p.m., 0.4 p.p.m.
 Fluoride—0.1 p.p.m., nil.
 Bicarbonate—76 p.p.m., 113 p.p.m.
 Carbonate—Nil, Nil.
 Chloride—44 p.p.m., 279 p.p.m.

16. HEALTH

Hospitalisation: Native and White Children

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

- (1) Has his department carried out any surveys in any districts in respect of the number of native children under the age of 12 years who have been admitted to hospital for treatment and, if so, what is the number per 1,000 of the native population of that district?

- (2) Has a similar survey been carried out in the same districts in respect of white children and, if so, what was the finding of the survey in numbers per 1,000 of the white population?
- (3) If the above surveys show a marked difference has any assessment been made to ascertain the cause and, if so, what were the findings?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) to (3) Because of the lack of a uniform definition of "Aboriginal" and inadequate figures regarding the numbers in various age groups, it is not possible to give an accurate statistical answer.

The Commissioner of Public Health's annual report for 1968 shows that admissions to public hospitals of Aborigines all ages was 680 per 1,000 and non-aborigines 125 per 1,000, and that a disproportionate number of Aborigines were admitted for diseases associated with infection and nutrition.

The 1966 and 1967 annual reports show the admissions to hospital of Aborigines and non-aborigines in Derby and a disproportionate number of children in the Aboriginal group under the age of 14 years.

17.

GASCOYNE RIVER

Irrigation Potential

Mr. NORTON, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

Referring to his answer to question 12 on the 22nd April, 1970, wherein he stated in respect of the proposed Kennedy Range dam site, "there would be difficulties of salinity and supply"—

- (1) In view of the fact that both the Kennedy Range site and the Rocky Pool site obtain their water from the same source does he not consider that the Rocky Pool site would have the same drawback?

- (2) If not, why not?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The salinity problem in the proposed Kennedy Range dam relates to the salinity which accrues in the storage at times when a series of small river flows occur such as in 1910-1914, 1935-1941 and 1952-1959. During such periods, the salinity in the dam would rise above 1,000 p.p.m. (70 g.p.g.) total salts. It would continue at this level for several years reaching as high as 2,500 p.p.m. (180 g.p.g.) total salts on occasions.

The proposed Rocky Pool dam would have a very small storage of approximately 40,000 acre feet compared with the Kennedy Range reservoir of 850,000 acre feet. Small river flows which would result in insignificant dilution of the larger Kennedy Range storage would be adequate for a complete flush of the smaller Rocky Pool storage. There would therefore not be the problem of accruing salinities in the Rocky Pool proposal.

(2) Answered by (1).

18. *This question was postponed.*

19. FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

Level of Fluoride Content

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

- (1) Excluding the metropolitan area what towns or districts have had the water supplies fluoridated?
- (2) Are the water supplies in town and country being regularly checked for fluoride content?
- (3) Has difficulty been experienced in maintaining the fluoride content at a constant level?
- (4) In how many instances has it been found that the fluoride content has exceeded one p.p.m.?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) All towns served from the Mundaring source—
as far north as Dalwallinu;
as far east as Kalgoorlie, and Norseman;
as far south as Kondinin.
- All towns served from the Wellington source—
as far north as Brookton;
as far east as Kulin;
as far south as Gnowangerup.

Geraldton.

Manjimup.

Albany.

- (2) Yes.
- (3) Plant maintenance problems have resulted in occasional interruptions in maintaining the fluoride content.
- (4) Since the 1st July, 1969, the fluoride content has exceeded 1 p.p.m. in 212 of a total of 1,812 samples.

20. HOUSING

Front Fences: Removal

Mr. TONKIN, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) When was the policy established that existing front fences of S.H.C. rental homes would be removed?

(2) Is such policy to be applied generally throughout all districts regardless of tenant opposition?

(3) What consideration, if any, was given at the time the decision was made to the retention of fences of properties fronting main roads as a protection to small children against their running out on to the roads in front of fast moving traffic?

(4) What is the reason for the decision arbitrarily to remove front fences?

(5) If it is to save maintenance costs is any corresponding rent reduction contemplated?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) The question of retention of front fences was first considered in September, 1959, when existing fences required either extensive repair or replacement.
- (2) As tenant opposition is extremely limited, the Commission has decided to implement a policy of removal of front fences whenever major repairs and renovations are being undertaken.
- (3) Until recently, tenants who objected to removal of fences were allowed materials to erect wing fences at the building line. The Commission will be requested to reinstate this policy.
- (4) I understand that the policy not to provide front fences in new construction has been effective for 12 years or more. The maintenance factor in rent assessment was found to be insufficient to cover extensive repair or replacement. In any case, the modern approach to aesthetic residential estates favours the elimination of front fences.
- (5) No. The present policy tends to obviate rent increases rather than to allow for reductions.

21. PERTH CULTURAL CENTRE

Expenditure, and Provision of Parking

Mr. TONKIN, to the Treasurer:

- (1) What is the total expenditure to date on the planned cultural centre for Perth?
- (2) How much of the completed plan has been accomplished?
- (3) By how much has the cost of the completed work exceeded the estimate of costs made in 1967?
- (4) Is it still the Government's intention to provide for an underground parking area, with a capacity for 800 cars, beneath the centre?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) Total expenditure to date is \$263,130.76, excluding land acquisitions.
- (2) Land acquisition is proceeding. The Museum is under construction and is to be completed in August, 1971. Preliminary sketch plans of the cultural centre are in progress. Final plans will depend on plans for sinking of the railway.
- (3) No work has been completed to date.
- (4) The original preliminary plans and estimates for the cultural centre provided for limited car parking under individual buildings. During subsequent studies of levels the feasibility of providing additional parking under an arrangement similar to that at the Cultural Centre, Melbourne, has been cancelled. No decision has been made at this stage.

22. HOUSING

Loans: One Per Cent. Subsidy

Mr. TONKIN, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What was the total amount provided in the financial year 1969-70 under the scheme for a one per cent. interest subsidy on housing loans for low-income families?
- (2) Is the scheme at present operative?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) No money was provided, as there were no applications for assistance under the scheme.
- (2) Assistance is available for any eligible applicants.

23. *This question was postponed for one week.*

24. MINING ACT

Inquiries: Deferment Pending Advertising

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

- (1) Have representations been made to him by Mr. E. P. Nicholson of Canberra requesting that proceedings in connection with inquiries being made into the Mining Act be delayed until advertisements relevant thereto have been inserted in various newspapers circulating in each of the Australian States?
- (2) Will he give details of newspapers in which the timetables and offices of mining registrars concerned were advertised?
- (3) What action, if any, does he propose to take in connection with Mr. Nicholson's protest?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Yes. A letter has been received from Mr. E. P. Nicholson enclosing a copy of a letter written by him to *The Australian Miner* regarding the inquiry into the Mining Act.

- (2) Newspapers and dates advertised: *The West Australian*—

16/7/70; 18/7/70; 22/7/70 and 25/7/70.

Daily News—

21/7/70 and 24/7/70.

Weekend News—

18/7/70 and 25/7/70.

Sunday Times—

19/7/70 and 26/7/70.

Independent—

19/7/70 and 26/7/70.

Northern Times—

23/7/70.

Geraldton Greenough Sun—

22/7/70.

Kalgoorlie Miner—

22/7/70 and 25/7/70.

Esperance Advertiser—

24/7/70.

Wagin Argus—

23/7/70.

- (3) West Australian newspapers are available in Eastern States capital cities and advertising as detailed in answer to (2) is considered sufficient. Also, most mining companies have offices or representatives in Western Australia.

25. W.A. TURF CLUB COMMITTEE

Disqualification of Mr. A. E. Wagener

Mr. DUNN, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Under what section or sections of the Western Australian Turf Club Local Rules of Racing and the Australian Rules of Racing was Mr. A. E. Wagener charged in regard to the horse "Gold Jester" when it raced at York on the 28th May, 1968?
- (2) What was the committee's finding as a result of its inquiry?
- (3) What was the period of disqualification imposed upon Mr. Wagener and the horse "Gold Jester"?
- (4) Did the committee subsequently reduce this period both as to Mr. A. E. Wagener and the horse "Gold Jester" and, if so, how many times and by what amount and on what respective dates?
- (5) If the committee did take such action, what were the reasons?

- (6) In the last three years, what other cases involving the same charges have occurred in Western Australia and what action did the Turf Club committee take in each case?
- (7) Has Mr. A. E. Wagener applied for his trainer's licence since his disqualification was remitted, and if so, on how many occasions, and with what degree of success?
- (8) Does he agree that racing has developed into an industry which requires considerable capital expenditure for trainers to operate, and if "Yes" does he also agree that there must be very good and valid reasons for withholding a trainer's licence and thus taking away his means of livelihood both for himself and his family?
- (9) As Mr. Wagener had to serve five years apprenticeship in his trade before graduating into a senior trainer, will he investigate this whole matter with a view to ensuring that full justice has been served by the Western Australian Turf Club committee in refusing to grant Mr. Wagener a trainer's licence?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Australian Rules of Racing 175 (a); improper practices (administering drugs).
- (2) Stewards inquiry revealed positive swab taken of gelding "Gold Jester".
- (3) Ten years.
- (4) Yes. On the 15th July, 1969, an appeal was heard. It was dismissed, but the term of disqualification was reduced to two years. On the 3rd March, 1970, Mr. Wagener made application for the removal of his disqualification. The application was granted by the committee but he was not granted a trainer's licence.
- (5) Mr. Wagener's appeal was not made under the rules of racing but his application was granted on compassionate grounds.
- (6) Every positive swab in the last three years has resulted in a 10-year disqualification by stewards.
- (7) Mr. Wagener has applied on two occasions for a trainer's licence—on the 17th March and the 1st August. His applications were not recommended by the committee.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) Investigations have been made and it would appear that the Turf Club has acted within its power.

The SPEAKER: Before we proceed with the next question, I must admit that I have very grave

doubts as to whether this is a proper question to appear on the notice paper at all, and in the case of similar questions I have asked the clerks to refer them to me before they are passed.

26.

LICENSING COURT

Applications from Eastern Goldfields' Clubs

Mr. T. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) How many applications have been made to the Licensing Court by clubs in the eastern goldfields pursuant to sections 35(2) and 24(2) (b) of the Liquor Act, 1970—
- (a) for a variation in the spread of four hours Sunday trading; and
- (b) for approval for commencing trading on a Sunday afternoon at 3.30 p.m. and closing at 6.30 p.m.?
- (2) How many, if any, of such applications have been approved?
- (3) Has the Licensing Court determined as to the practice rule that it will not approve of clubs trading for more than four hours on a Sunday?
- (4) If (3) is "Yes" does he know why the Court has approved applications by goldfields hotels to trade for five hours on a Sunday?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Three.
- (a) One.
- (2) One.
- (3) No.
- (4) Answered by (3).

27.

PERTH AIRPORT

Alternate Sites

Mr. JAMIESON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) Has the Metropolitan Regional Planning Authority in conjunction with the Department of Civil Aviation given attention to alternate sites for Perth Airport?
- (2) If so, what is the location of such sites?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) The question of the siting of an international airport for Perth has been the subject of detailed discussions with officers of the Department of Civil Aviation. As a result of these discussions and consideration of the technical requirements of airport location as advised by that department, the M.R.P.A. supported the submission

of the Regional Director of Civil Aviation that the airport should remain in its present location. It was considered that the advantages of the present site of nearness to the city, potential for expansion and buffer zones, and proximity to the Kewdale industrial complex could not be duplicated anywhere else in the Perth region.

- (2) It was therefore considered that no reasonable alternative to the present site existed closer than east of Northam.

28.

RAILWAYS

*Standard Gauge Service:
Kalgoorlie-Perth*

Mr. MOIR, to the Minister for Railways:

- (1) On what date is it proposed to inaugurate the standard gauge train service between Kalgoorlie and Perth?
- (2) Has a timetable been decided yet; if so, will he indicate departure and arrival times?
- (3) Have the fares to be charged been decided?
- (4) How will these compare with existing fares?
- (5) Will a buffet service be provided each way?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON (for Mr. O'Connor) replied:

- (1) Contingent on delivery of rail cars and trailers by the manufacturers, introduction of the new service is planned for late February, 1971.
- (2) No. Final determination has not yet been made.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Present fares (including sleeping berth but no meals)—

	Single	Double
	\$	\$
First class	15.15	24.00
Economy class	11.80	18.70
Proposed fares (including meal)—		
Single	14.15	22.00

- (5) No. Meals will be served to passengers in their seats.

29.

WATER SUPPLIES

South Coastal Areas

Mr. YOUNG, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

In view of the serious surface water shortage in some agricultural districts, particularly on the

south coastal areas, would he announce what plans he has to supply water to these areas in the event of insufficient rains falling this season?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Planning will be dependent on the situation prevailing after the winter rainfall season.

30.

FEED GRAIN

Forward Sales

Mr. YOUNG, to the Minister for Agriculture:

As it now appears certain that an acute dry feed shortage will arise in some agricultural areas this summer, would he ensure that any new season feed grain delivered in these areas is not sold forward but is held until such time as the feed position is clarified?

Mr. NALDER replied:

The State's requirements for barley and oats as feed grains for stock are always considered by the Grain Pool when planning sales of these grains delivered to pools by growers.

If adverse seasonal conditions continue in some districts the need for unusual amounts of feed grains will be taken into account. Nevertheless, farmers should estimate as early as possible their probable requirements and place forward orders.

31.

TRAFFIC

Offences: Riverton-Rossmoyne Area

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many traffic offenders have been caught in the Riverton-Rossmoyne area in the past 12 months?
- (2) How many of these offenders have been apprehended as a result of radar check points?
- (3) Has particular attention been paid to this area during the last 12 months?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Records of offences within specific areas are not maintained but it is estimated approximately 200 to 250 offenders have been apprehended in the Riverton-Rossmoyne area in the past 12 months.
- (2) It is estimated that over 100 of these interceptions have been made as a result of radar checks.
- (3) Yes.

32. POLICE

Apprehension of Speeders: Riverton-Rossmoyne Area

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Minister for Police:

Have the police at any time used other than police vehicles for apprehending speeders in the Riverton-Rossmoyne area?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

As a general rule only police vehicles are used for apprehending speeders; however, the occasion does arise when an off-duty police officer in his private vehicle, observing a serious breach, would apprehend a person exceeding the speed limit.

33. TRAFFIC

Motor Vehicles: Protection against Theft

Mr. CASH, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) In view of the alarming increase in the number of stolen motor vehicles in this State, what does he see as the answer to this problem?
- (2) Is he in possession of any information regarding—
 - (a) the availability of anti-theft devices; and
 - (b) overseas developments in the manufacture of car-theft alarms?
- (3) Is he aware that a Japanese device dispenses with the need for an ignition key by using a dial combination lock to start the car engine, the said device being able to set off an alarm if anyone dials the wrong combination or attempts to force the lock?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) The removal of keys and the proper locking of their vehicles when left unattended by drivers and the fitting of suitable anti-theft devices in vehicles which cannot otherwise be adequately secured would appear to be the main deterrent.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes. There are other devices of a similar nature on the market.

34. MARGINAL DAIRY FARMS RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME

Applicants: Eligibility

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

- (1) What are the conditions of eligibility which will be applied to applicants desiring to participate in the Marginal Dairy Farms Reconstruction Scheme?

- (2) How many dairy farmers in Western Australia is it estimated will be eligible for participation in the scheme under the prescribed conditions?

- (3) When is it expected that the Marginal Dairy Farms Reconstruction Scheme will become operative?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) to (3) A full announcement is expected shortly.

35.

MINING

Reserve No. 7202

Mr. H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Have any applications for mineral claims been lodged for any portion of reserve No. 7202, near Pt. D'Entrecasteaux, or areas adjacent to this reserve?
- (2) If "Yes" will he provide a map showing the precise location and extent of such claims?
- (3) Have any such applications been granted?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Yes. Two on Reserve 7202 containing 15.2 acres and four on adjacent areas containing a total of 990 acres.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) No.

36.

HOUSING

Redcliffe: Redevelopment

Mr. DAVIES, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has any firm plan yet been evolved for redevelopment of State Housing Commission properties in the Johnson Street-Ryans Parade area in Redcliffe?
- (2) If so, is he able to advise what is proposed?
- (3) If not, is he able to advise when any action is likely to be taken in this direction?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) On the 4th December, 1968, the commission reserved this area, together with other sections of the Ascot Estate, for future possible redevelopment. Tenants in occupation who, subsequent to that date applied to purchase, have the opportunity of purchasing alternative dwellings in that general locality. They have the right of appeal to the commission, if so desired.
- (3) Redevelopment possibilities will be finalised when the housing position and staff resources permit.

37. *This question was postponed.*

38. SUPERANNUATION

Adjusted Pensions: Payment

Mr. DAVIES, to the Treasurer:

- (1) When is it anticipated adjusted superannuation pensions, in accordance with legislation agreed to at the last session of Parliament, will be paid?
- (2) What is the cause of the delay in making the adjustments?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) Adjusted pensions and arrears arising from backdating of the adjustments have been paid in respect of both the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act and the Parliamentary Superannuation Act.
- (2) Answered by (1).

39. HOUSING

Alday Street Reserve: Development

Mr. DAVIES, to the Minister for Housing:

What progress has been made in regard to proposed use of land at the corner of Alday Street and Albany Highway, East Victoria Park, by the State Housing Commission?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

A medium density residential housing scheme has been approved in principle for this site by the Perth City Council, and working drawings and specifications are in course of preparation for the calling of tenders at an early date.

40. EDUCATION

Mathematics Instruction

Mr. DAVIES, to the Minister for Education:

Where a student attending a junior high school where he has received instruction in the "old" mathematics is required to continue into his fourth year at a senior high school which has taught the "new" mathematics, what arrangements are made to ensure that the student is not disadvantaged by the two methods of instruction over which he has no control?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Arrangements are made within the particular senior high school according to need. In some cases the mathematics programme has been adapted in the first term of

fourth year with repetition of essential aspects of "new" mathematics. In others, special assignments and individual help have been given by class teachers. In a few schools—Belmont Senior High School for example—a special class has been organized. This is the last year in which the problem can exist because all Government secondary schools now have "new" mathematics throughout.

41. BARRACKS ARCHWAY

Accommodation: Use

Mr. JAMIESON, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Government made a decision on what use is to be made of the accommodation in the "Barracks Arch"?
- (2) How many, and which organisations have made application to use this building?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The Barracks Defence Council, the Historical Society of W.A., and representatives of the National Trust have suggested the setting up of a permanent historic exhibit. However, in view of the situation of the Arch at a busy traffic intersection and the absence of parking space, which would lead to dangerous traffic problems, this proposal has been declined.

42. MITCHELL FREEWAY

Effect on Leederville and Mt. Hawthorn

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) (a) In what respects, if any, have the exhibits Nos. 12, 20, 21, 22, and 23 appearing in the report on the Perth Metropolitan Region Inner Ring Freeway study, Phase II, Geometric Studies, November, 1967, prepared by De Leuw Cather & Company, been added to, varied or abandoned; and
- (b) which of either exhibits 20 and 23, or variations thereof, has been adopted?
- (2) When will the Mitchell Freeway work reach a stage when it will be necessary to block off Oxford Street, Leederville, permanently?
- (3) What will then be the route to be taken by vehicular traffic which normally proceeds via Oxford Street to and from Perth and to and from Thomas Street?

(4) When is the Mitchell Freeway work scheduled to reach, respectively—

- (a) Bourke Street, Leederville;
- (b) Beltana Street, Mount Hawthorn; and
- (c) Brady Street, Mount Hawthorn?

(5) What is the traffic flow in each direction in Oxford Street at the nearest point to where Oxford Street will meet the Mitchell Freeway?

(6) What are the expected repercussions on the businesses situated in, or about, Oxford Street to the north of the Mitchell Freeway, when it reaches a point where it blocks off Oxford Street?

(7) Will any proprietors of businesses in and about Oxford Street, to the north of the Mitchell Freeway, receive any compensation arising out of, or in consequence of, the Freeway development?

(8) Is it intended to inform well in advance and keep informed, proprietors of businesses situated in and about Oxford Street, Leederville, to the north of the proposed Mitchell Freeway, of the progress being made with the Freeway so that they may take appropriate action?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) (a) At this date the Main Roads Department has not made any decision to add to, vary, or abandon any of the planning proposals set out in the exhibits referred to in this question. However, in respect of exhibits 20 and 23 the Perth City Council has submitted alternative suggestions which are at present under examination.

(b) Answered by (a).

(2) No firm date can be given. Staging proposals for the construction of this section of the Mitchell Freeway are at present under review.

(3) Oxford Street traffic may proceed to and from Perth via Vincent Street-Mitchell Freeway, Newcastle-Loftus-Thomas Streets, or Newcastle-Fitzgerald Streets and to and from Thomas Street via Newcastle Street and Loftus Street.

(4) Answered by (2).

(5) Southbound—7,830 vehicles per day.
Northbound—8,327 vehicles per day.

(6) It is not possible for the Main Roads Department to assess what advantages or disadvantages will be imposed on businesses when Oxford Street is severed.

(7) Yes, compensation will be paid to those owners whose properties are physically affected by the construction of the freeway.

(8) Yes.

43. *This question was postponed until Tuesday, the 18th August.*

44. *This question was postponed.*

45. TRAFFIC

Protective Road Crossings

Mr. LAPHAM, to the Minister for Traffic:

What types of protective road crossings are available for pedestrian protection, other than crosswalks?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

Protective road crossings for pedestrians are provided as follows:—

- (1) Pedestrian refuge islands.
- (2) Pedestrian "Walk" and "Don't Walk" traffic control lights.
- (3) Guard controlled children's crossings.
- (4) Overpasses.
- (5) Underpasses.

46. KING'S PARK

Director: Applications

Mr. BURKE, to the Minister for Lands:

How many applications have been received, to date, for the position of director, King's Park and Botanic Garden?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

Applications do not close until the 31st August, and will be dealt with after that date.

I can see no good purpose being served by this information being requested at this stage, when it will have no bearing on the final decision.

47. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Bunbury Power Station: Coal Requirements and Supply

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) What has been the average weekly tonnage of coal used at the Bunbury power station during the past 12 months?
- (2) What tonnage of coal is now stockpiled at the Bunbury power station?

(3) Is this considered sufficient to meet the requirements of the station until the new spur line is connected?

(4) Should the stockpile be used before the line is operational, what arrangements have been, or will be made to ensure the supply of coal to the station?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) 2,110 tons.
- (2) 65,769 tons as at the 8th August, 1970.
- (3) Yes. (See (4)).
- (4) 1,000 tons per week is being supplied by road transport. This can be increased.

48. *This question was postponed.*

49. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Damaged Light Poles: Kwinana Freeway

Mr. FLETCHER, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) How many additional Kwinana Freeway light poles have been damaged or destroyed by vehicle impact since the 100 mentioned in reply to my question of the 31st July, 1968?
- (2) What is the additional cost of repairs since that date?
- (3) What is the total cost since installation of the light poles?
- (4) Does the vehicle owner or insurance company have to contribute to the cost of repairs to poles and wiring?
- (5) If so, to what extent?
- (6) With a view to making the poles less vulnerable, will he recommend—
 - (a) the installation of supporting poles in the median strip to carry an overhead supporting cable to posts at or near the east and west fence lines; and
 - (b) from such supporting cables suspend suitable lights immediately above both north and south carriageways?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) 30 approximately.
- (2) \$2,700 approximately.
- (3) \$9,700 approximately.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Total cost of repair.
- (6) No. Apart from excessive cost, the solid towers needed would greatly increase the risk of severe personal injuries to drivers whose cars leave the carriageway.

50. MR. J. C. R. McMANUS *Police Court Charges*

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

- (1) In relation to the case in the Fremantle Police Court on the 10th August, 1970, when James Cornelius Ronald McManus pleaded guilty to being disorderly by creating a disturbance at Rottneest on the previous Saturday and it was reported that he had been ordered to pay 20 cents costs; what was the nature of the cost which amounted to this trifling sum?
- (2) Was McManus called upon to appear in a court convened at Rottneest in the early hours of Sunday last?
- (3) How many charges were preferred against McManus in the court at Rottneest?
- (4) When McManus appeared in the Fremantle Police Court which of the charges preferred against him at Rottneest were withdrawn and what were the reasons for the withdrawal?
- (5) How was McManus transported from Rottneest to Fremantle and what was the cost involved?
- (6) What was the reason for the change of magistrates which took place between McManus's appearance at court on Monday morning and his further appearance at the afternoon sitting?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

This question was asked of me yesterday so I am replying to it today as follows:—

- (1) The Minister for Justice advises that the cost of 20c is a prescribed fee for a complaint not on oath.
- (2) No.
- (3) No charges were preferred in court at Rottneest, but McManus was charged with two offences at the police office and admitted to bail by a sergeant.
- (4) Request was made for dismissal of the charge of resisting arrest, the reason being owing to the key to the handcuffs not being available immediately to release him, McManus was inadvertently handcuffed for approximately five hours before the handcuffs could be taken off him.
- (5) McManus arranged his own transport to Fremantle from Rottneest Island.

- (6) The Minister for Justice advises that in accordance with established practice, cases are and were transferred from one magistrate to another whose services became available when he completed his own list.

51. HOUSING

Balga: Flats

Mr. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What is the total number of flats proposed for the area bounded by Balga Avenue, Redcliffe Avenue, Beach Road, and Mirrabooka Avenue?
- (2) What is—
 - (a) the location, or proposed location, of each block;
 - (b) the number of flats in each block;
 - (c) the area of the land on which each block is situated;
 - (d) the number of one, two, or three bedroom flats in each block?
- (3) Are applicants for individual rental and purchase homes advised of the proposed location of flats in relation to the homes from which they can select?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) This area is being developed as a residential complex, including flats, terrace houses, pensioner units, individual and duplex houses. Within the area the

existing and proposed development will provide in the order of 260 medium density units and 600 individual and duplex units. Of the medium density units, 170 have been put to contract, and the design is not yet complete for the remainder.

The honourable member may view the site plans and architectural details of those units complete or under construction, at the Housing Commission offices.

- (3) Yes. This information is made available, if requested.

52. HOUSING

Rental Accommodation: Waiting Period

Mr. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) With respect to applications for individual rental houses, how long, in years and months, have applicants who are at present being satisfied, had to wait for—
 - (a) two-bedroom houses;
 - (b) three-bedroom houses;
 - (c) four-bedroom houses?
- (2) How many individual rental homes in each of the above categories is the commission planning to complete in this financial year?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) The information which the honourable member requests can be obtained from the following table which is the form in which these statistics are kept:—

Type of Accommodation		Perth	Fremantle	Area Midland	Armadale	Medina
Purchase—						
4 bedroom house	....	Dec., 1966	July, 1966	Nov., 1965	Dec., 1965	April, 1966
3 bedroom house	....	July, 1966	Dec., 1965	Oct., 1965	Dec., 1965	July, 1966
Rental—						
4 bedroom house	....	Oct., 1965	May, 1965	Jan., 1965	N/A	April, 1966
3 bedroom house	....	Dec., 1965	Mar., 1966	Sept., 1966	Oct., 1966	June, 1967
3 bedroom flat—North	....	Aug., 1968	Dec., 1968	May, 1968	June, 1968	July, 1967
South	....	Jan., 1968				
2 bedroom house	....	Mar., 1966	July, 1966	Sept., 1967	Feb., 1966	Sept., 1968
2 bedroom flat—North	....	June, 1969	Mar., 1968	Aug., 1969	Sept., 1969	Jan., 1970
South	....	N/A				
1 bedroom flat	....	Feb., 1968	April, 1966	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pensioner flat	....	Feb., 1966	Nov., 1966	Oct., 1965	May, 1969	Dec., 1966

NOTE : These dates apply only to those who have no proven housing hardship according to the criteria adopted by the commission.

N/A : Indicates accommodation is not available in that area.

- (2) The allocation of homes to either rental or purchase applicants is decided from time to time, depending on circumstances existing when allocations are made.

53. ANTI-POLLUTION COMMITTEE

Appointment

Mr. MAY, to the Premier:

- (1) Has an anti-pollution committee been appointed by the Government?
- (2) If so, when was the committee appointed?
- (3) What is the departmental and personnel representation on the committee?
- (4) Will he make the terms of reference available to Parliament?
- (5) If a committee has not been appointed, will he advise when such a committee will commence to function?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) to (5) Not as such, but a number of committees with anti-pollution aspects are currently in operation. Consideration is at present being given to the extent and nature of the involvement of the proposed Ministry of Conservation in the control of pollution.

54. *This question was postponed.*

55. KANGAROO SHOOTERS

Licenses

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

- (1) How many persons were licensed to shoot kangaroos prior to recent action to reduce the number of licensed persons?
- (2) How many licenses have been cancelled which were held by—
 - (a) part-time shooters; and
 - (b) full-time shooters?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Prior to May, 1970, licenses to take red kangaroos for sale were not required.
- (2) (a) and (b) See (1) above—as licenses have not been previously required none has been cancelled.

56. TRAFFIC

Overways at West Midland and Guildford

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it still policy to build overhead pedestrian bridges where approved?
- (2) What criterion is laid down for building overhead pedestrian bridges?

- (3) Is any action being taken to erect a pedestrian bridge at—
 - (a) West Midland station;
 - (b) Corner Helena Street and Johnson Street, Guildford?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes, on declared main roads subject to a contribution from the appropriate local authority.
- (2) There must be a high pedestrian-vehicular conflict and the site must be in close proximity to larger schools and colleges.
- (3) (a) Yes, the department has placed a proposal before the Swan Shire Council.
(b) The Swan Shire Council has requested that consideration be given to an overway at this site. The request is still being investigated.

57. VICTORIA STREET, MIDLAND

Extension

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is Victoria Street at Midland to be extended through the old Midland Railway Company's property to couple up with Great Eastern Highway at West Midland?
- (2) If so, when is it expected work will be carried out?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Advice was tendered by the Main Roads Department to the former local authority, the Midland Town Council, on means of improving traffic capacity through Midland. A suggestion was put forward for a one-way system utilising the existing Great Eastern Highway and Victoria Street, including its extension through railway property. The matter is now in the hands of the new local authority for the area, the Swan Shire Council, which has the matter under consideration.
- (2) Answered by (1).

58. EDUCATION

New Schools: Grounds, and Assistance to P. & C. Associations

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is departmental policy in relation to the establishment of grounds at newly built schools?
- (2) What assistance does the department provide to parents and citizens' associations at newly built schools to assist them in providing essential teaching aids?
- (3) What, if any, are the conditions attached to this assistance?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) High schools—total landscaping.
Primary schools—development of grounds within 50 feet of the buildings.
- (2) Headmasters of new schools may apply within 12 months of the opening of the school for assistance to purchase items in schedule 6 of the Education Department Regulations within the following limits:—

Enrolment at School	\$
1—35	100
36—70	200
71—130	300
131—200	400
201—300	500
301 and over	600

- (3) The approved equipment is ordered by the parents and citizens' association and the account submitted to the Education Department for payment. The initial grant must then be matched by unsubsidised purchases by the parents and citizens' association of items from the subsidy list before the association becomes eligible for any further subsidy.

59. DELAWARE POTATOES

Exports, Costs, and Returns

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Would he supply a breakdown of figures of each pool, including tonnages exported, costs, and returns to growers, on grade one delaware potatoes for seasons 1967-68 and 1968-69?

Mr. NALDER replied:

	1967-68	No. 1 Pool	No. 2 Pool	No. 3 Pool
Pool tonnage (tons)	11,967	12,497	35,713	
Tonnage exported	2,898*	4,107*	8,546*	
Gross returns	\$1,051,072	\$991,734	\$2,074,146	
Payments to growers	\$871,021	\$745,385	\$2,385,749	
Expenses	\$180,051	\$246,349	\$588,397	

	1968-69	No. 1 Pool	No. 2 Pool	No. 3 Pool
Pool tonnage (tons)	14,080	14,016	32,722	
Tonnage Exported	5,128*	5,559*	7,810*	
Gross returns	\$1,336,744	\$1,048,041	\$2,438,620	
Payment to growers	\$1,028,057	\$720,608	\$1,976,435	
Expenses	\$310,687	\$327,233	\$462,085	

* Includes exports overseas, Eastern States, and Darwin.

60. ALBANY-DENMARK WHOLEMILK ASSOCIATION

Survey: Results

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is he in a position to make available the results of the survey promised to the Albany-Denmark Wholemilk Association?
- (2) If not, when can the result of the survey be anticipated?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) and (2) During a recent visit to Albany, I met representatives of the Albany-Denmark District Wholemilk Association and was handed a prepared case which I agreed to have investigated.

As a result, the Milk Board is meeting the rural subcommittee of the Albany Industrial Advisory Committee in Albany on the 26th August, 1970. I understand that members of the Milk Board are meeting also the Albany-Denmark District Wholemilk Association.

61.

EDUCATION

Technical Classes: Albany

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Are technical education classes currently being conducted in a shed near Centennial Oval and in a room at the Junior Primary School, Albany?
- (2) If so, how much rent is paid per week for the shed?
- (3) For what period does the department plan to rent it?
- (4) Is there any proposal to renovate or alter the interior of the shed?
- (5) If so, when will work commence?
- (6) What is the estimated cost of these alterations?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes. The so-called shed is a building formerly used for commercial purposes.
- (2) \$45 per week.
- (3) Until a new technical school is built at Albany. Proposals for this building have been submitted to the Commonwealth to be undertaken in the 1972-75 triennium.
- (4) Yes. It is being altered and renovated for specialist instruction in welding and motor trades.
- (5) This depends on allocation of loan funds.
- (6) \$12,500.

62.

TELEVISION

Crime and Violence: Government Action

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) Will the Government do something to protect Western Australians from the continuing and possibly increasing deluge of violence and crime being purveyed on television?
- (2) If "Yes" when, and in what way?
- (3) If "No" why?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) to (3) Responsibility for the context television programmes is that of the Postmaster-General to whom complaints should be referred.

63.

RAILWAYS

Picton Power Station: Spur Line

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Was the Bunbury power station line severed to allow dredging of the harbour channel to continue; if so, when?
- (2) What is the anticipated completion date for the Picton power station spur line?
- (3) Will this line be capable of handling all coal traffic necessary at the date mentioned in (2)?
- (4) Will restrictions be placed on this section; if so, what restriction, and for how long?
- (5) What traffic controls will operate on the level crossings on this spur line, particularly the crossings at South Western Highway and Old Coast Road?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON (for Mr. O'Connor) replied:

- (1) Yes, at 1.30 p.m. on the 9th August, 1970.
- (2) Freight will be accepted from early October.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The line will be operated under construction conditions for a limited period.
- (5) Flashing light signals will be provided on both crossings.

64.

HOUSING

Terrace Homes: Storage Sheds

Mr. LAPHAM, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What prompted the action—
 - (a) to prohibit residents of State Housing Commission terrace homes at North Beach from using carports to shelter lawn mowers and garden tools, as reported in the *Sunday Times* of the 9th August, 1970;
 - (b) to commission architects to design a small shed for the purpose of storage of articles which were objectionable when stored in carports?
- (2) When is it expected that the architect-designed sheds will be erected for use in these homes?
- (3) Will the erection of such sheds cause the rent structure for those terrace homes to be varied?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) (a) The State Housing Commission encourages its tenants at all times to maintain their dwellings in a neat and tidy manner.

With the terrace houses at North Beach the garages are open to the front and the incoming tenants are briefed on the necessity of using these garages for the purpose for which they were erected and not to store goods and chattels which give an unsightly appearance. Some flats were becoming unsightly and tenants were advised of commission requirements.

- (b) In order to preserve the aesthetics of design, it has been agreed to have the commission architects indicate a type of tool shed which tenants may receive permission to erect. The action was prompted because of a number of applications received and to enable the tenants to provide themselves with a storage space.

- (2) Tenants will be advised as soon as possible of an approved shed which they may erect.

- (3) No.

QUESTIONS (3): WITHOUT NOTICE

1.

HOUSING

Rental Accommodation

Mr. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

Part (2) of my question 52 on today's notice paper requested information with respect to applications for individual rental homes. When replying, the Minister referred to the allocation of individual rental homes. Could the Minister let me know how many individual rental homes the commission plans to complete this financial year?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

I am happy to clarify the situation. The Housing Commission does not specifically earmark, at the beginning of a building programme, those houses which are to be made available for rental and those houses which are to be made available for purchase. It is true that houses built under the State Housing Act are essentially for purchase, but there is no indication as to whether the houses built under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement are for purchase or rental. In fact

any applicant may elect to purchase a rental home the moment he receives the key.

As I said, the allocation depends upon the circumstances existing at the time.

There is no specific allocation of purchase homes or rental homes. This is decided at the wish of the applicant.

2. NATIVES

Housing Agreements

Mr. NORTON, to the Minister for Native Welfare:

In respect of part (2) of question 14 on today's notice paper, regarding the new agreements which natives are asked to sign when purchasing a house, the Minister mentioned a limit of interest which may be charged. Is it a fact that the interest rate is being raised from 6 per cent. to 7½ per cent.?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

I am not aware of such an increase. The answer was given from the information supplied to me. If I recall correctly, no extra interest is to be charged.

If the member for Gascoyne considers the information is not correct, I suggest he put a further question on the notice paper, and I will make some additional inquiries.

3. W.A. TURF CLUB COMMITTEE

Disqualification of Mr. A. E. Wagener: Validity of Question

Mr. DUNN, to the Speaker:

With due respect, and with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to you regarding question 25 appearing in my name on today's notice paper.

You ruled that you thought it was not a proper question to appear on the notice paper, and I wonder if you will explain the reason so that I will not make the same mistake again?

The SPEAKER replied:

I would remind the honourable member that I did not necessarily say that the question was not correctly placed on the notice paper. I indicated I had grave doubts as to whether or not it was correct, and I said I would ask the Clerks to refer a similar question to enable me to look into the matter.

For the benefit of the honourable member, and members generally, questions addressed to a Minister

should relate to matters under his administration. I am aware of the fact that there is an Act of Parliament known as the Western Australian Turf Club Act. It is a long while since I read the Act, but my recollection is that it gives the Turf Club certain legal powers, and possibly provides for its incorporation.

I cannot recall—and I very much doubt—whether the Act gives the Minister any control over the Turf Club. The Minister has some control over racing in another category, namely, under the T. A. B. Act. I am not indicating one way or the other whether this is a proper question. I have indicated that I have doubts as to it is a question relating to a private organisation. For instance, if the honourable member wished to place a question on the notice paper concerning a decision of the protests committee of the Western Australian National Football League, that question would not be permissible at all. Whether the Turf Club comes within that category I do not know; I am merely indicating for the benefit of members that there could be a difficulty. I did not want anybody to think that by permitting the question I was, in fact, saying that the question was permissible.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Council Personnel

Message from the Council received and read notifying the personnel of sessional committees elected to that House.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 3)

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. May, and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SECOND DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 6th August, on the following motion by Mr. Cash:—

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

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

MR. TONKIN (Melville—Leader of the Opposition) [5.23 p.m.]: Before I proceed to address myself to the contents of the Speech which His Excellency was pleased to deliver to Parliament, I want, for a very brief period, to refer to a matter with which I dealt last evening and in connection with which the Premier made a statement which had me somewhat puzzled.

I was dealing with the receipts duty and I made the point that under the Australian Constitution no Bill for taxation could be properly introduced which made any distinction between the States in the levying of the tax. The Premier, by interjection, made the point that this aspect had been looked at by the Commonwealth, and that the Commonwealth was not very concerned about it. In other words, there was not much in my contention.

I could not understand that view because I think I can understand plain English as well as the next man. When the Constitution specifically provides that there shall be no inequality between the States, or parts of the States, I think it means just that. I took the trouble, this morning, to read through the debates which took place in the Federal House on this question, and I found that the Commonwealth, itself, has so much doubt about the legality that it included in the Bill what is known as a severability clause attached to this provision to ensure that in the event of there being a legal challenge to the Bill, and that challenge being successful, the general provisions of the Bill would not be invalidated, and the result would be that uniform taxation would apply.

So it seems that there is considerable doubt in the mind of the Commonwealth Government that it will get away with it. In the event of that attempt being frustrated, as indeed it must be, then the result would be to impose taxation on a uniform basis in all States. That would mean, of course, imposing in Queensland a tax where previously no such tax existed. I make the point that under those circumstances there is little likelihood of Queensland members of Parliament voting in favour of the legislation, because members should know that under the Queensland legislation no receipt duty is payable at all on retail sales over the counter.

So if the Bill which the Commonwealth introduced were passed, and it was subsequently shown—as it could quite easily be—that there could be no differentiation between the States, then the result would be to impose in Queensland, for a number of months, a tax on the sale of goods which was not previously imposed at all. In those circumstances I think there is very little likelihood of any such Bill being passed by the Commonwealth.

Sir David Brand: The Queensland Government was present and expressed its support. Also, this point was not raised by the Commonwealth when it expressed its willingness to bring the legislation down.

Mr. TONKIN: If the Premier will look at the Bill which was introduced he will find, in clause 5, a severability clause making provision for the possibility of the provision being declared invalid.

Sir David Brand: Evidently the Commonwealth thought that was sufficient to cover the problem.

Mr. TONKIN: It shows that the Commonwealth has very grave doubts about the possibility of getting away with a taxation measure which will impose taxes unequally between the States.

I refer now to His Excellency's Speech. This being the last session of this Parliament before the election, one would have expected to see, in the Speech, a considerable amount of window dressing. That is the normal procedure for any Government: dress the window as well as it can in order to impress the electors favourably.

Mr. Cash: They have been impressed already.

Mr. TONKIN: There is nothing in the Speech to enthuse over at all. As a matter of fact, it is one of the most flat and uninspiring Speeches that I have read since I have been in Parliament. The Speech suggests to me a paucity of ideas in the minds of Ministers. The Government is finding the going tough, and much of what it has claimed in the Governor's Speech is without substance; some of it is completely in error.

I do not know who compiled the Speech in the first place, but it is a pretty poor effort, as I shall show as I proceed. On page 5 the following statement appears:—

The Government has, within the limits of its financial resources, been able to cope with the pressures of growth and development, especially the provision of essential services.

I repeat: "been able to cope". I propose to show that the Government has not been able to cope at all.

Sir David Brand: Within the limits of its resources.

Mr. TONKIN: The Government has not been able to cope at all, and in a number of places and in a number of areas of administration there is a proper crisis.

Mr. Rushton: What is your interpretation of a crisis?

Mr. TONKIN: If the Government had been able to cope with these things no crisis would exist at all. Listen to this

statement—the understatement of the year—

While there has been some downturn in the private sector of the home building industry, the State Housing Commission is planning to lift its rate of completions from 2,360 units in 1969-70 to 3,000 units by the end of the current financial year.

"Some downturn in the private sector"—that is what we are asked to believe.

On the 2nd August, 1968, this appeared in the editorial in *The West Australian*—

The prime responsibility for the lopsided nature of the building programme in W.A. lies with State decisions.

The lopsided policy referred to was the very poor ratio of Government house building to private home building because the Government was deliberately relying upon the private sector of the economy to do the job which the Government itself should have been doing.

In the *Daily News* of July, 1968, this appeared—

Perth's housing shortage was the most severe of any Australian capital.

The previous May it had referred to "the declining share of Government house building." The previous January it had said that "Government building still lagged last year."

In *The West Australian* of the 31st January some figures released by the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics were published which showed that approvals for private building of houses and flats had risen from 4,219 in 1962 to 9,186 in 1967. The Government's highest building rate in any year since 1962 up to January, 1968, was 1,373, which was in 1965. The lowest totals were 858 in 1966 and 965 in 1967, which showed a very heavy reliance upon the private sector.

In *The West Australian* of the 3rd August, 1967, there was reference to the fact that—

The Government's share of the total house-building programme has kept dropping. Of 8,584 houses started in 1966-67 only 1,464 were for the Government.

Now let us come to the present time. According to *The West Australian* of the 10th June, of this year, W.A.'s house-building industry has slumped to its most critical position since the 1961 credit squeeze. This is the "some downturn in the private sector" referred to in His Excellency's Speech.

Nine of the State's biggest builders started an average of 3,200 houses a year, which is 64 units a week. For the week ended the 10th April of this year this number had dropped by nearly 50 per cent. to 33 houses a week. The figures for the following five weeks were: 35 houses

started, 31 houses started, 24 houses started, 20 houses started, 17 houses started. So, from a performance of starting 64 houses a week, the number had dropped to 17 houses a week. The Government, through His Excellency, refers to this as "some downturn" in house building in the private sector. I'll say it is some downturn!

What is the lesson to be learned? The Government, having relied so heavily upon the private sector, which is no longer able to help it in the way it was previously, has imposed a tremendous burden which the Government has not got the capacity to meet, and the indication given in His Excellency's Speech of what the State Housing Commission proposes to do this year will not go anywhere near meeting the demand or the need for houses which exists in this State.

For the week ended Friday, the 5th June, the nine large building firms to which I have referred started between them only 15 new houses. The *Daily News* of a couple of days ago said—

The situation just grows more critical every day.

What does the Government tell the people through His Excellency's Speech? It says—

While there has been some downturn in the private sector of the home building industry, the State Housing Commission is planning to lift its rate of completions from 2,360 units in 1969-70 to 3,000 units by the end of the current financial year.

This brings me to a very serious situation which is indicated by answers given yesterday to questions in the Legislative Council. It was admitted that there could be a situation in which interest as high as 14 per cent. was being charged to home builders.

Mr. O'Neil: That has always been the case—

Mr. TONKIN: I say that the Government should introduce legislation immediately to prevent such usury—14 per cent. interest on real estate. What a hopeless proposition for anybody in such dire need of money—

Mr. Cash: What figure would you suggest?

Mr. TONKIN: —to have to meet an interest payment of 14 per cent.

Mr. O'Neil: That is not the interest on the home purchaser's finance.

Mr. TONKIN: It is unconscionable.

Mr. O'Neil: That is not the interest on the home purchaser's finance. It is interim development finance for developers; it is not interest on home purchase finance, and you know it.

Mr. TONKIN: No, I do not. I do not know it at all. If the Minister reads today's issue of the *Daily News* he will find out that it is not what he is saying at all.

Mr. O'Neil: Do you believe all you read in the paper?

Mr. TONKIN: Now we are off on another tack. This is not the first time I have heard the Minister taking the Press to task.

Mr. O'Neil: You use it when you feel like it, but I still say that is not the interest rate for home purchase finance.

Mr. TONKIN: In Council House the Minister got hot under the collar with the Press.

Mr. O'Neil: I am entitled to get hot under the collar with the Press, just as I am entitled to get hot under the collar with you.

Mr. TONKIN: Keep your temper.

Mr. O'Neil: I will keep my temper, but at least be truthful. You know that is not interest on home purchase finance.

Mr. TONKIN: I challenge the Minister to show where I am being untruthful.

Mr. O'Neil: The kindest thing I can say is that you are being unfair.

Mr. TONKIN: No, I am not being unfair either.

Mr. O'Neil: Prove to me that any home finance borrower has to pay 14 per cent. interest.

Mr. TONKIN: What about trying to shut up for a while? You might find it difficult but have a go.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Mitchell): The honourable member will address the Chair.

Mr. TONKIN: The question asked in the Council yesterday was—

- (1) Is it a fact that some lenders are advancing short term housing finance at rates in excess of 14 per cent.?
- (2) (a) Are statistics collected on the amount of short term finance for housing; and
(b) if so, would the Minister give details of such lending for the quarter ended 30th June, 1970?
- (3) (a) Is it a fact that a serious shortage of liquid capital is threatening the stability of leading home building firms; and
(b) if so, what steps does the Government propose to take to correct this situation?

The answer was—

- (1) It is understood that this could be so.
- (2) (a) and (b) No statistics are collected specifically relating to short term finance for housing. Available information covers part only of the field.
- (3) (a) Short term funds to finance house construction have been limited in recent months. Contributing factors were slow turn around of funds because properties have remained unsold, reluctance of lenders to make further advances to concerns with substantial commitment in years for which there was no guarantee of sale and re-financing; and the general tightness of liquidity in the economy. The overall situation has been difficult, but is not believed to constitute a general threat to the stability of organised home building firms.

My concern is not with the stability of home building firms. They will look after themselves, or the Government will look after them. I am concerned that anybody should be called upon to pay 14 per cent. interest on money borrowed for the construction of a home, because ultimately the cost of it must be added to the price of the home and be recovered from the unfortunate purchaser.

I say the situation is crying out for remedial action by way of making it an offence to charge 14 per cent. for this kind of loan. If somebody who has no security at all wants to borrow \$10 or \$20 in order to get out of a jam, I can understand that he might be asked to pay 14 per cent. interest; but in a case like this, where there is security and where the cost of it must be a charge on the home building, I say it is unconscionable and it ought to be stopped.

That is one field, in my opinion, where the Government has not been able to cope with the requirements of the economy; far from it!

The next field is education, and the Government certainly has not been able to cope with this. I was interested to hear a statement made by the Minister for Education which was relayed on the A.B.C. news on the 27th May. He said—

If we do not get Commonwealth money we shall have to readjust our priorities.

The Minister has been struggling so much for funds to enable him to cope that the Premier found it necessary to transfer \$2,000,000 from the State Housing Commission funds to the Minister for Education to enable him to do more than he was

able to do. In His Excellency's Speech at page 5 appears this—

Capital expenditure on education increased last year by \$3,240,000 to \$13,993,000.

The next statement is very misleading, if not erroneous. It reads—

Three hundred and twenty-two classrooms were constructed and the number is expected to be exceeded in 1971.

On reading that I think it would be reasonable for anybody to assume that the Government constructed 320 classrooms in 1970, but it did not. It constructed 320 classrooms in 1968 and, according to information supplied to me yesterday by the Minister himself, 439 classrooms were constructed in 1968-69 and 371 classrooms in 1969-70.

So what is the explanation for 320 classrooms appearing in His Excellency's Speech? There is something wrong somewhere. Was that figure quoted in order to make it easier for it to be exceeded this financial year?

Mr. Rushton: The Government is always being charged with overstating; now you have got one your way.

Mr. TONKIN: Surely we look for accuracy!

Mr. Lewis: Are you suggesting that the figures given to me by the department were inaccurate?

Mr. TONKIN: No, but I am posing this to the Minister: that they cannot both be right.

Mr. Lewis: Are they taken for exactly the same period?

Mr. TONKIN: Will the Minister tell me what the figure of 332 in His Excellency's Speech refers to?

Mr. Lewis: You are stating all the figures.

Mr. TONKIN: Yes, and I am not manufacturing them.

Mr. Lewis: Are you taking them for the same period? Are you mixing up the calendar year with the financial year?

Mr. TONKIN: What does the Minister think?

Mr. Lewis: I do not know; I am asking you the question.

Mr. TONKIN: Fair enough. My question to the Minister was—

How many new classrooms were constructed during the financial years 1968-69 and 1969-70 respectively?

The Minister's answer was as follows:—

1968-69—439.

1969-70—371.

Mr. Lewis: And what are the figures in the Governor's Speech referring to?

Mr. TONKIN: The Minister prepared them; what does he say?

Mr. Lewis: You are making the comparison.

Mr. TONKIN: Having regard to the wording of this statement, one is entitled to assume that it refers to 1969-70.

Mr. Lewis: Well, I would check if I were you; do your homework!

Mr. TONKIN: What about the Minister checking?

Mr. Lewis: I do not have to check; you are making the speech.

Mr. TONKIN: I am trying to—

Mr. Lewis: I know, and making a mess of it, too.

Mr. TONKIN: —as far as I am allowed by the Minister. The present Ministers are the most thin-skinned I have ever met.

Mr. Lewis: Well, you should tell the truth.

Mr. TONKIN: Is the Minister suggesting that I am not telling the truth?

Mr. Lewis: I am telling you that you should check your figures.

Mr. TONKIN: The Minister should make a straightout accusation. That is a fine way to carry on by way of making an explanation.

Mr. Lewis: I did not. I suggested that you make some check to be sure of your figures.

Mr. TONKIN: Well, why not say that?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Mitchell): The Leader of the Opposition will address the Chair.

Mr. TONKIN: I thought that was what I was doing, Mr. Acting Speaker. The Minister knows that he told the Wagin people he did not have the money to provide a hostel at that centre so that they could get the high school they wanted.

Mr. Lewis: It is not the Minister's money that provides hostels; it is the hostels authority's money.

Mr. TONKIN: I see. That is interesting, because I have in front of me a photostat copy of the Wongan Hills something or other.

Mr. Lewis: Call it "something or other"; that will do.

Mr. TONKIN: Apparently this covers a number of newspapers. However, the heading is, "Wongan Hills, W.A., Thursday, July 30, 1970." The article reads—

Minister for Education, Mr. Lewis, told a meeting of Wongan-Ballidu shire councillors on Friday that the Government's aim was to provide better education for country children.

In the immediate future this meant using existing country senior high schools to their fullest extent and expanding hostel accommodation attached to these senior high schools.

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

This would mean the expenditure of considerable sums on hostel accommodation and subsidising the cost of children living away from their own homes. His department had made a submission to the Premier on the subject and he hoped to be able to make an announcement in the near future.

Mr. Lewis: There is nothing wrong with that.

Mr. TONKIN: No, but it is in direct conflict with what the Minister said a couple of minutes ago.

Mr. Lewis: Oh, no it isn't!

Mr. TONKIN: Oh, yes it is! The Minister said it was not his responsibility to provide money for hostels. According to this Press report the Minister said he would ask the Premier to give him the money to do it.

Mr. Lewis: No, I did not say that at all. You read it again.

Mr. TONKIN: I will not waste my time reading it again. I will pass it to the Minister so that he can read it.

Mr. Lewis: I do not want to read it. I know what I said. You have not checked what I said. For a start, you have only read a newspaper report.

Mr. TONKIN: Of course, I did not have the opportunity of being in Wongan Hills when the Minister was there.

Mr. Lewis: Fortunately for you.

Mr. TONKIN: I say very definitely that the Government has not been able to cope with the education requirements of the State, neither has it done so in regard to water supplies. If one looks at the policy speech of the Premier delivered before the last election, one will find reference to the fact that two dams were promised; one on the North Dandalup and the other on the South Dandalup.

A commencement is about to be made with one; heaven knows when we will get the other! And we are still overdue for the provision of water supplies for the needs of the metropolitan area, to say nothing of the country districts where, owing to a lack of funds, the Government has been obliged to decline a number of requests for water supply extensions. As for coping with the requirements of the

State with regard to sewerage, that is a laugh. I would believe, but I have not the evidence to prove it, that this State is worse off with regard to the provision of sewerage in the metropolitan area than is any other State in the Commonwealth. The situation gets worse every day.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Our climatic conditions and soil conditions are different.

Mr. TONKIN: Every time an election comes round we find we are going to sink the railway in Western Australia. We are led to accept this. When the election comes round the Government makes an announcement a few months before that it is going to sink the railway.

Mr. Jamieson: It is its own private F111.

Sir David Brand: No, you are wrong there.

Mr. TONKIN: The Government makes the announcement without any idea as to what it will cost to sink the railway.

Mr. Cash: Well, if this one sinks, the other one is safe.

Mr. Jamieson: That is doubtful, too. The sinking may stay up and the plane may stay down.

Mr. TONKIN: Sinking the railway is a great old gag! Unfortunately, the Minister for Industrial Development is not present. He might, on the ground that one cannot believe what one sees in the newspapers, want to dispute a figure which was recorded in the Press. I will have to accept that situation, but I intend to quote from *The West Australian* of the 10th February, 1966.

The then Minister for Railways was in London at that time and a report came from that city stating that a multi-million pound contract had been signed for the lowering of the railway through the Perth city centre. The article states that the Minister for Railways refuted the report, and the Minister was later reported as follows:—

It would be unwise to make any preliminary estimate of the cost involved, but he would be surprised if the total project, including redevelopment, could be done for as little as £12,500,000.

That is \$25,000,000, and that was the estimate of the then Minister for Railways. However, now we are told it can be done for something like \$7,000,000.

Sir David Brand: It is very hard to say what the Minister had in mind.

Mr. O'Neill: The first report included redeveloping all the area involved.

Mr. TONKIN: Yes; that is supposed to be this scheme—sinking the railway and redeveloping the area. According to the announcement made on Friday, the 24th July, the estimated cost of the project,

which the Government intends to finance out of its own financial resources, is \$10,250,000. However, at the last election the price was \$7,000,000. Before the Government launches out on promises like this, it ought to have a proper estimate made of the whole actual cost.

Unfortunately, the Government has a penchant for making promises without knowing whether or not it can keep them. I remind the Premier that at the election before last he made a straight-out statement that within five years two new bridges over the Swan River would be commenced.

Sir David Brand: Not again.

Mr. TONKIN: I know the Premier does not like to be reminded of it.

Sir David Brand: That is ancient history.

Mr. TONKIN: The Premier made the promise hoping that, because the time of completion was so far distant, the public would have forgotten all about it. But I am not one of those who forget.

Sir David Brand: I have a clear conscience in what I said and I believed it to be right.

Mr. TONKIN: So the Premier would imply that that justifies his making a promise about it at the time; because he believed it to be right he was entitled to make the promise he did. Even though he found later he could not do it, that is sufficient excuse.

Sir David Brand: Not at all.

Mr. TONKIN: If that is to be the basis upon which the Government makes its promises they will be like piecrust.

Sir David Brand: There has been a change of plans because of the rapid development of the State.

Mr. TONKIN: Does not the Government intend to build any of these bridges?

Sir David Brand: The bridges will be built.

Mr. TONKIN: In that case there can be no change of plan.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You were going to move all the sand from the interchange.

Mr. TONKIN: We might still have an opportunity to do this. Most of it is being removed at the moment. The fact is that the Government in its policy speech made a very definite statement. The Premier did not say he believed he could build two bridges in 1967; he did not say that he thought he could, but that a start would be made on the building of the bridges.

The Minister for Education likes exactitude in these matters, although he does not believe what he reads in the paper. But before I continue with this aspect I might remind the Premier about what he

said in connection with town planning. The Premier said there would be a new system of appeals—previously heard by the Minister—against town planning decisions, and that this would possibly take the form of a tribunal. The Premier also said that an immediate investigation would be made to find the best method.

Sir David Brand: The session is not over yet.

Mr. TONKIN: So the Premier said there would be a new system.

Sir David Brand: That is right.

Mr. TONKIN: So we will get that—perhaps—unless of course the Premier again says he believed it at the time!

Sir David Brand: You are in good form.

Mr. Lewis: Very inspiring.

Mr. TONKIN: I cannot afford the time to find the reference to the bridges, but I will guarantee it is there. The Premier said a commencement would be made on two bridges within five years. The five years have long since passed with no sign of a start being made on one bridge, let alone on two.

The question of taxation is one that is worrying the people throughout the State. In 1968-69, when the Premier made a gesture by granting some concessions on land tax, he estimated that what he was doing would cost him \$537,000 in loss of revenue.

Actually it did not cost the Premier a dollar, because he finished the year with a surplus over the estimated amount of \$617,454. That was one gesture of what the Premier was going to do to relieve the taxpayer. It was going to cost him ever so much, but he gained more than he said it would cost him.

Sir David Brand: That is because of the rapid growth in population.

Mr. TONKIN: I would now like to refer to the year 1969-70 when the Government, realising the pressure was on for a reduction in land tax, introduced a new system under which people whose property did not exceed \$6,000 in value would not pay land tax or metropolitan region improvement tax.

If the value of the property exceeded \$6,000, however, the exemption would disappear at the rate of \$1 for every \$2 by which the value exceeded the \$6,000. I said at the time that these concessions would soon be swallowed up by the revaluation of properties that was taking place and also by the increase in the price of land, which was being allowed to continue unchecked. What I said has proved to be the case.

Mr. Rushton: That is not so at all.

Mr. TONKIN: The Government estimated that the cost of this concession in the year would be \$908,000 in a loss of land

tax. The Premier's estimated revenue was \$7,217,000 and his actual revenue was \$6,932,058. So the Premier did not lose \$908,000 at all; he lost \$284,000. This financial year, of course, the Premier will show a very substantial improvement.

We have reached a stage where in some cases the valuation of land has risen by 1,400 per cent.; and this was far more than the member for Darling Range could stomach. What he had to say appeared in the *Daily News* of the 24th June under the heading of, "Soaring Land Tax Draws MP's Fire." The report states—

A Liberal MLA today hit out angrily at the government over soaring land tax. Real estate agent and Member for the Darling Ranges, Mr. Ken Dunn, said the situation was "completely and utterly crazy."

Although it is not in the report, I say here and now that I agree with him that it is completely and utterly crazy.

Sir David Brand: That is absolutely surprising!

Mr. TONKIN: The report continues—

He was referring to complaints made by people living in the Darling Range foothills that their properties had been revalued by up to 900 per cent. in the past six years.

I know of some instances where the valuations have risen by 1,400 per cent. To continue—

Mr. Dunn said the Taxation Department's land valuations could be based on a distorted standard.

"The department keeps a map of every land transaction in the metropolitan area based on information coming to it from buyers or sellers but mainly based on facts supplied by estate agents," he said.

"Each agent must inform the department of the date and value of every transaction he puts through.

"In some cases speculators are moving into land zoned rural, but which because of its barren nature could never have any rural application.

"They offer grossly inflated prices in the hope of eventual sub-division and the poor people round about who have no intention of sub-dividing or selling, are caught in the trap . . ."

Of course, that is absolutely true.

I received a complaint from a person who subsequently had a letter published in the newspapers. I propose to read what he had to say, because this is a very good example of what is taking place. He said—

I wish to bring to your attention the problem of the revaluation of my property at the above address.

It is Lot. 18 on the Watsonia town plan 4A.

For the year ending 1963, this valuation was increased from £675 to £4,900 (\$9,800) The land tax increased from £4 16s. 11d. to £49 5s. 0d., for the year ending 1964. In this year, although the rate in the pound in shire rates dropped, my shire rates increased from £27 6s. 3d. to £63 5s. 0d.

He shows how his property has been revalued this year from \$9,800 to \$39,000, and how the land tax on the property for this year amounts to \$429.40. He also indicates that although he only earns a little over \$2,000 a year he will be paying more than \$1,000 in land tax and shire rates. The situation is utterly crazy; because it is, and in order to show what we on this side think about it, I propose to move an amendment to the Address-in-Reply.

Amendment to Motion

I move the following amendment to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply:—

That the following words be added to the Address-in-Reply:—

However, we have to inform Your Excellency that the Government's complete and utter failure to appreciate and take appropriate steps to alleviate the hardship occasioned by the heavy burden of land tax consequent upon an unjust system of property valuation has created a situation in which the Government no longer has the confidence of the House.

We believe that instead of following this crazy system of imposing land tax on valuations which are rising all the time, some system ought to be adopted whereby a set appreciation—that is, a certain percentage—each year be added automatically to cover increased costs and developmental costs. That would prevent what is going on at the present time, and what is in some instances ruining people who cannot possibly face the increased costs in rates and taxes.

Through His Excellency's Speech, the Government has made no mention of its intention to do anything about this matter. It is true that the Speech refers to the fact that consideration is being given to doing something to reduce probate.

Sir David Brand: At the present time a complete examination of this question by the State Taxation Department and the Treasury is being made.

Mr. TONKIN: I am pleased to hear it. It would be more reassuring if His Excellency's Speech did contain some reference to a matter as important as this, so that the anxiety of the people could be allayed. Just imagine the anxiety of the gentleman, a portion of whose letter I quoted. He has

an income of slightly over \$2,000 a year, and he faces an outlay of \$1,000 in land tax and shire rates.

The situation is absolutely crying out for attention, and it should have been attended to long ago. In spite of the gesture which the Government has made, and which it knew full well would not cost it anything, because with the rate of revaluations taking place in the various districts it was inevitable that the new valuations would completely wipe out the exemptions, we believe that action ought to be taken immediately.

Before I conclude I want to say that I am very disappointed with the relief which has been granted to the rural industries. I understand that the farmers who want loans from the Rural and Industries Bank have to give a first mortgage on their properties. The people who are least able to give a first mortgage are those in direst need; they are already mortgaged; and the people whose properties are already mortgaged would not be in the same situation as those whose properties are not mortgaged. However, the people whose properties are already mortgaged cannot obtain loans from the Rural and Industries Bank.

It is time that this situation was corrected, because some of the farmers, especially those in parts of the great southern, are right up against it. I received a telegram today pointing out the distress caused by the lack of immediate finance, which cannot be obtained because these people are not in a position to give a first mortgage on their properties.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Sir David Brand (Premier).

House adjourned at 6.15 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 13th August, 1970

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

QUESTIONS (11): ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

2. TOWN PLANNING

Perth Shire District Scheme

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Town Planning:

(1) When was the Perth Shire District Scheme submitted to the Town Planning Department for approval?

(2) Has preliminary approval been granted for the scheme?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

(1) The 21st March, 1969.

(2) No. Examination of a complex scheme such as this which covers a large area must necessarily be fairly protracted. There have been discussions with the shire council officers and these are continuing with a view to resolving a number of questions raised by the Town Planning Board.

3.

LIQUOR ACT

Juveniles on Licensed Premises

The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND, to the Minister for Justice:

In view of the fact that section 129 of the Liquor Act, 1970, gives the right to persons under the age of 18 years to enter licensed premises for the purpose of obtaining a meal, but appears to be operating contrary to the apparent intention of the section, will the Minister advise the House—

(a) is it intended that a juvenile, accompanied by a person in authority, be entitled to sit at the bar of an hotel, or at an adjacent table for the purpose of partaking of a meal and consuming liquor;

(b) if not, what is the intention of the section; and

(c) will the Government introduce an amendment to clarify the situation to allow children to be seated in the lounge of licensed premises but not at a bar?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(a) to (c) This seeks an expression on a question of law and is therefore an inadmissible question. However, I will have the matter examined.

4. *This question was withdrawn.*

5.

TOWN PLANNING

Shenton Park Zoning

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Town Planning:

(1) What is the present zoning of Lots 1, 2 and 3, location 292, Nicholson Road, Shenton Park?

(2) When were these zonings advertised?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

It is not possible to answer this question until the land is more accurately defined. There are two parcels of land described as Lots 1, 2 and 3, location 292, in Nicholson Road, Shenton Park. It will be necessary to point out which one it is.