

of penalties in clause 5. We would make ourselves look foolish if we pass legislation without providing a penalty.

Mr. Court: When you have committed an offence under the Act it must be an offence under the previous clause and you cop the same penalty. It is to avoid the use of dummies.

Mr. JAMIESON: It would be a good escape clause for anybody who wanted to use it.

Mr. Court: I would not rely on that.

Mr. JAMIESON: Other legislation which refers to servants committing an offence carries a clear indication that the person in question is liable to a fixed amount of penalty.

Mr. GRAHAM: The Government has made up its mind, and this merely indicates how ill-conceived are the terms of this legislation. It is planned that for certain specific breaches there is to be a penalty. It is laid down that any person who hinders, obstructs, or delays a police officer in the execution of a warrant commits an offence and the penalty is \$200. However, if I, as a servant or agent of a company, cause, direct, or authorise the doing of anything contrary to the Act then I am guilty of an offence, but there is no penalty.

Mr. Craig: Such a person would commit an offence under the provision in clause 5 where the penalty is \$200.

Clause put and passed.

Title—

Mr. DAVIES: It would be unrealistic to retain the word "proscribe" in the title when the Government is banning the organisation. It is obvious that scientology is to be banned wholly and completely, so the Government should be honest and substitute the word "ban" in place of the word "proscribe."

With the retention of the title as it is I can imagine the Government saying at the next election that it has not banned scientology, but only proscribed it. I therefore move an amendment—

Line 1—Delete the word "proscribe." with a view to inserting the word "ban."

Amendment put and negatived.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Works), and passed.

CLOSING DAY OF SESSION: FIRST PERIOD

Tuesday Sitting

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [12.58 a.m.]: For the information of members it is necessary for the House to meet again on Tuesday next. We hope to complete Orders of the Day Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 21 appearing on today's notice paper before concluding the first period of this session.

BILLS (7): RETURNED

1. Royal Commissions Bill.
2. Wheat Industry Stabilization Bill.
3. Stock Diseases (Regulations) Bill.
4. Stamp Act Amendment Bill.
5. Traffic Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).
6. Loan Bill.
7. Irrigation (Dunham River) Agreement Bill.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [1 a.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 11 a. m. Tuesday, the 5th November.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 1.1 a.m. (Saturday)

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 5th November, 1968

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

BILLS (8): ASSENT

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

1. Western Australian Marine Act Amendment Bill.
2. Aerial Spraying Control Act Amendment Bill.
3. Kewdale Lands Development Act Amendment Bill.
4. Timber Industry Regulation Act Amendment Bill.
5. Firearms and Guns Act Amendment Bill.
6. Traffic Act Amendment Bill.
7. Argentine Ant Bill.
8. Western Australian Institute of Technology Act Amendment Bill.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE**LIQUOR****Breathalyser Test: Publicising of Details**

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE asked the Minister for Mines:

Will the Minister arrange to have published in the daily Press a statement indicating the quantities of beer, whisky, or other spirits and fortified wine which, when consumed by an average drinker, will give a breathalyser test of .08? I understand that large numbers of our citizens consume 30 ounces to 40 ounces of beer on some days and are anxious to know how to discipline themselves to avoid exceeding the permissible .08 recording of the breathalyser.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

I will refer the honourable member's question to my colleague, the Minister for Police.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [2.35 p.m.]: I move—

That leave of absence be granted to each member of the House from the determination of this sitting to the date of the next sitting.

Might I explain that with the new order of things in relation to the sittings of both Houses of Parliament, now that we have two periods for each session, it becomes necessary that leave be granted to each member of the House from the determination of this sitting to the next day of sitting for the simple reason that the Standing Orders provide for a maximum number of days upon which a member may be absent without leave. The passing of this motion will give to each member of the House leave until the next day of sitting, which is anticipated to be somewhere near the middle of March, 1969.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [2.36 p.m.]: Somebody was apparently a bit premature in order to get the session over reasonably quickly!

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Are you opposing this leave of absence?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: No, I am delighted we can get leave so easily. The determination of this sitting will, I think, be a little different from the traditional ending we usually have from year to year and members will not have the chance to eulogise each other at what is normally the end of the session.

I support the motion and am pleased to think that we will get over this situation so easily. I was wondering how we would

manage towards the end of this period of the session, but it seems to have been effected by a simple motion.

Question put and passed.

SCIENTOLOGY BILL**Returned**

Bill returned from the Assembly without amendment.

**METROPOLITAN REGION TOWN
PLANNING SCHEME ACT AMENDMENT
BILL (No. 2)**

Returned

Bill returned from the Assembly with an amendment.

Assembly's Amendment: In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (The Hon. F. D. Willmott) in the Chair; The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Health) in charge of the Bill.

The **DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**: The amendment made by the Assembly is as follows:—

Clause 3, page 2, lines 14 to 18—Delete the passage commencing with the word "by" and ending with the word "leased" and substitute the passage "by the Authority, the Authority shall pay in respect thereof out of the rent received therefrom by the Authority, the whole or such portion of the amount of any rate, tax, or assessment that would but for this section have been imposed, levied, charged or made on the land so leased, as the Authority certifies in writing to be available for the purpose".

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I move—

That the amendment made by the Assembly be agreed to.

In moving that we accept the amendment made by the Legislative Assembly, I would remind members that the amendment was mooted in this Chamber by Mr. Medcalf. Whilst it was agreed to, in principle, by the Minister—who is unavoidably absent on Government business—the Minister sought an opportunity to check the amendment, and said that if it was found to be necessary he would have it inserted in another place.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: The proposal which I put to the Minister was that the authority, where it leased any land and received rent therefrom, should be required to pay tax. Therefore, my proposed amendment was to change the word "may" to "shall." This avoids the suggestion that the authority would have to produce an audited account.

I am satisfied with the amendment because it will, in fact, give local authorities an opportunity to ensure that they get as much tax as is available from the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I am somewhat disappointed at the whole procedure. The amendment could have been inserted here in the first place, and the Bill as amended could have gone to the other place and been agreed to. My proposal was that a fair judgment would have been arrived at had the matter been referred to the committee which was established with Government approval, and which handles the rating for iron ore companies. However, my proposal was rejected.

I do not think Mr. Medcalf's amendment is comparable with my suggested amendment. However, because the honourable member proposed it it was accepted and inserted in another place. It was not debated here. Now we are faced with a half-baked issue. What of the situation where a local authority does not get a chance to have a second look to see what can happen? A local authority has to establish what revenue will be available from year to year so that it knows what work it can undertake. Under this amendment, I do not think the local authorities will know what their revenue will be.

It is true, I think, that this is better than nothing; but I am not very happy with the way it has been handled.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: I think there is a significant difference between the rates to be paid by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority and the rates to be paid by the iron ore companies. The iron ore companies are privately owned by their shareholders or partners, whereas the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority is a public instrumentality. Any rates which that authority has to pay, one way or another, have to come out of the public purse.

Whilst I think there is some justification for rates being paid by the authority, where it is receiving rent, I fail to see how there is any justification for rates to be paid when they have to be taken out of the public purse. I appreciate that local authorities have to make up their budgets and do their planning, and I think that is the best argument which has been raised, and could be raised, by Mr. Willesee. I appreciate that it is very difficult to budget if a local authority has a great deal of land in its area owned by the authority. On the other hand, the local authority knows this position at the beginning of its rating year and is able to fix its rates accordingly. Occasionally, of course, land which has been rated is taken over by the authority. I do not think it is a fair parallel to extend to Government instrumentalities the process which has developed to enable local authorities to obtain rates from the iron ore companies.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: In the first instance, local authorities do not budget from year to year. Local government today is almost as big in its scope as the Government of the State. When a local authority

plans long-term development, and the Government moves in, virtually overnight, and excises a source of income from the local authority, it is impossible for the local authority to finance development except at the cost of the remaining taxpayers.

Local government and Government should be compatible and there should be no differentiation. There should be a joining together to help each other, and the situation should not develop where the Government advances to the detriment of local government. With regard to the iron ore companies, if the committee was not operating, those companies would be forced to pay an amount in rates which would be ridiculous in the extreme.

With all due respects to Mr. Medcalf, he proposes something he believes in. However, we already have machinery which is working very smoothly. Why could not that same machinery apply right through to the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority? Why should that machinery be applied only to leasehold land? I can only say that this amendment is better than the worst it could be, but it is a very poor substitute.

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

Report

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

LAND ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Assembly without amendment.

APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) 1968-1969

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 1st November.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North) [2.52 p.m.]: History has been made in Western Australia in this year, 1968, when we changed from being a claimant State under section 96 of the Constitution. In our difficult years—and we had many of them—successive Grants Commissions rendered Western Australia very great service and showed a keen understanding of the problems and difficulties associated with the development of this great State. Sometimes the Grants Commission gave us notice that certain things must be done by the Government to make the burden on the people through taxation even greater, to keep us in line with the other States; and its views were often, but not always, reflected in the actions of the Government in succeeding sessions of Parliament.

Sometimes, of course, the Grants Commission was used as a reason when occasionally it was not even a very good excuse. It is interesting to place on record the amount which this State received from the Grants Commission over all the years, and that figure was \$327,027,810. That is the sum this State received from Commonwealth sources because of the recommendations of the Grants Commission. In days when Premiers had their own taxation to impose it was a very important matter to wait for the announcement of the Grants Commission because of the effect the grant would have on the Budget. Now that we are on our own, as it were, and dependent upon our own resources and policy, it may be that Governments will have to be even more careful in the future to avoid deficits than when they were able, for various reasons, to fall back on the Grants Commission if they could not meet their liabilities from revenue.

Western Australia has emerged from those many years with the Grants Commission with a very generous adjustment in that it still has a grant of \$15,500,000 to expend over three years.

I am very conscious that figures can be boring; but as we have passed through the most remarkable decade in our history I intend to risk boring members in the use of some comparative figures to illustrate my point about what has happened in this State in the last decade. I will compare figures of importance for 1958 and 1968, the years in between which I have described as being the most remarkable decade in our history and as a guide to what may be expected in this State in the next 10 years.

Taking the first important figure, that of population, in 1958 there were approximately 700,000 people in Western Australia. The statistician's figure for 1968 is 909,414—very close to the million mark. As regards houses built in this State, in 1958 there were 6,196, of which 1,419 were built from State funds. In 1968, 12,250 houses were built of which 1,395 were built from State funds. Double the number were built in 1968, but a lesser number was built from State funds.

The State revenue presents a very interesting picture in that period. The State revenue in 1958 was \$120,136,474 and this year the Budget is for \$272,216,000.

The Hon. J. Dolan: Did you give the 1958 figures in dollars or pounds?

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I gave both figures in dollars. All the figures I will be using will be in dollars. Let us see what a breakdown of those figures really means—the change from a figure of \$120,136,474 to \$272,216,000 in State revenue in 10 years. As regards taxation, land tax in 1958 amounted to \$2,475,136 and that figure has increased to \$4,275,000 for 1968. Stamp

duty has increased from \$3,169,910 to \$20,000,000 in 10 years. Probate duty has gone up from \$2,182,668 in 1958 to \$5,600,000 in 1968—a large number of wealthy people are dying!

I do not want to draw the Treasurer's attention to this matter necessarily, but as the Minister rightly said the other night, Western Australia's probate duty is lower than most of the other States.

With license fees the figure has increased from \$915,988 in 1958, to \$2,726,000 in 1968. The receipts from betting taxes have increased from \$1,041,774 in 1958 to \$3,522,000 in 1968.

Under the heading of "Territorial and Departmental," the receipts from land for 1958 were \$775,142, and that figure increased to \$1,511,000 in 1968. The increase with mining under this heading was startling. The mining revenue has grown from \$184,532 for 1958 to \$12,161,000 in 1968. With timber the royalties have increased from \$1,823,422 in 1958 to \$3,420,000 in this Budget year. Departmental fees, etc., have increased from \$14,532,618 in 1958 to \$31,700,000 in 1968. With law courts, the figure has increased from \$692,434 to \$1,630,000 for this financial year. The total, under the heading of "Territorial and Departmental," has increased from \$18,192,112 in 1958 to \$50,893,000 for this year.

As regards revenue under the heading of "Commonwealth," the financial assistance grant has grown from \$32,349,286 to the rather startling figure of \$106,236,000. As regards the special grant, that has dropped from \$22,200,000 in 1958 to \$582,000, but there is the additional assistance grant, to which I previously referred, of \$15,500,000. I am sure members will recall the Premier having made arrangements with the Grants Commission for this sum to assist the finances of the State.

The interest contribution is \$947,000. The total figure of revenue from Commonwealth sources in 1958-59 was \$55,496,150, and today, in 1968, it is \$123,265,000. That is the change that has taken place in the 10-year period.

In the case of public utilities—country areas water supplies, sewerage and drainage, there has been a change from \$2,025,394 in 1958-59 to \$4,626,000 in 1968. The State abattoirs and saleyards figure for 1958-59 was \$317,501, whereas in 1968 it is \$551,000. The 1958 figure for the railways was \$27,030,808, whereas in 1968 it is \$55,929,000. The amount for State Batteries has come down from \$93,432, in 1958, to \$84,000 in 1968. In 1958 there was an additional sum of \$6,612,932 for instrumentalities such as the Metropolitan Water Board, the tramways and ferries, Caves House, and the like. The overall total for 1958 was \$120,136,474, and for 1968, \$272,216,000.

Unless members are aware of the special payments to the State from Commonwealth sources they would be astounded at the very large sums which come to the State from the Commonwealth for very many reasons, including education, agriculture, scientific development, libraries, and so on.

One important figure in my comparisons deals with the Commonwealth Aid Roads Funds. In 1958 we received from the Commonwealth \$14,996,000, while in 1968 we received \$30,537,000—this is the figure for our roads. Associated with roads we have very interesting figures which show that the number of motorcars in 1958 was 118,112, whereas the last registration showed the figure to be 240,519. That was the grand total for 10 years. In the case of other vehicles—utilities, and the like—there were 66,617 in 1958, and in 1968 there are 87,661.

To give an indication as to how much easier it has been to deal with the State instrumentalities and the public loan programmes, the figure approved by the Loan Council in 1958 was \$39,520,000, whereas in 1968 it is \$66,310,000. All those figures show remarkable increases.

This morning I was extended the courtesy of being permitted to see the register of a leading land agent in the city in order that I might get an idea of the difference in land costs in the 10-year period between 1958 and 1968. These figures are also startling, as members will see.

In 1958, a block of land in Dianella cost \$1,500, whereas the same type of block today costs \$7,500. In the suburb of Riverton a block of land cost \$700 in 1958, whereas a comparable block today costs \$6,000. In Morley Park, a block of land in 1958 which sold for \$850 would today sell for \$5,000.

Those changes have brought about very worrying circumstances for the young people who are starting out in life and who are buying a block of land on which to build their home and live; others are, perhaps, seeking to better their circumstances and living conditions by trying to build a better home. If this is the picture for the last ten years, what may we expect in the next ten years; and this is one of the most vital aspects which affect the young people of the community.

I would now like to quote the bank figures for the past decade, and for the purpose of my exercise I will use the figures from the Rural and Industries Bank. In 1958 the deposits in the R. & I. Bank were \$19,992,000, and in 1968 they are \$106,076,000. The bank's assets in 1958 totalled \$37,387,000 and in 1968 they total \$146,213,000. This indicates an increase of over \$100,000,000 in the assets of the R. & I. Bank over the last 10 years. The clearing house figures for this State are almost fantastic, but they are a reflection of the entire business of the

State. The figure at June, 1958, was \$1,638,000,000, and in 1968 the figure was \$5,425,000,000. This is a most fantastic volume of money being cleared through the clearing house of this State from all financial transactions.

There is much more I could relate by way of figures to show the increases that have taken place, but I do not propose to intrude upon the patience of members. I have, however, endeavoured to give something which, I hope, will be useful to members in 10 years from now.

This will not concern me, but there may be many members in this Chamber who, God willing, may be here in 10 years' time. I suggest to them that if they take the financial returns associated with the Budget of 10 years ago and those figures for 1968, and compare them with the figures which will be available 10 years hence, they will really see some startling changes.

The only other aspect to which I wish to refer is the question of the Ord River, and the problem faced by 30 settlers in their endeavour to continue to grow cotton. I hope that something more may be done before it is too late. In *The West Australian* this morning reference was made to what the Government had done, and what the Government proposes to do. It states that there is to be no change in the Ord scheme—that is the big scheme; in going on with the construction of the main dam. The article continues—

The Government has also said its last word on the financial assistance it will give to Ord cotton farmers.

That is very serious. We have reached a stage where even the best of our settlers on the Ord have grave doubts about their future. We are fast approaching the deadline, and unless something is done very quickly, and plantings again take place in sufficient quantity to obtain a crop to operate two ginneries, the position will be very serious. It is not generally known, I suppose, but it will take 6,000,000 to 8,000,000 lb. of lint to keep ginnery costs at a reasonable level next year.

Although the Government has promised certain considerations as concessions—cents here and there on a per pound basis, which, of course, multiply remarkably—the situation is very serious, because not only are these people on the borderline, but those who have had the greatest success are thinking of not planting.

I had phone calls from two people from Kununurra who noted what I said a week or two ago about one prospect being the suspension of their debts and some attention to ginnery costs. I would seriously ask the Government again to consider, firstly, the debt adjustment consideration, and secondly, the refinancing of the ginnery costs. Very good men up there are paying interest on overdrafts varying from \$40,000 to \$50,000 per annum. When we

consider the bank interest rate on top of that for all the other things they owe—for machinery and the like—we must realise it becomes a burden that even the best are finding difficult to bear.

With regard to ginnery costs, it is not generally known in this Chamber, I suppose, that 30 farmers owe \$600,000 on the new ginnery. It does not matter how much we endeavour to deny those people who are called knockers, and it does not matter how much we try to demean them and criticise their views, we must not as a State, a Parliament, and part of this nation, get our thinking anywhere near parallel with theirs. That is to say, if it means an additional guarantee and an additional readjustment of ginnery finances, I think we should face whatever is involved, because unless ginnery costs for this year are adjusted, and the finance responsibility taken away from the growers, 6,000,000 to 8,000,000 lb. of lint will not be grown, and instead of there being 25 or more farmers there will be a number considerably lower than this.

I was speaking to one gentleman this morning who was told yesterday by his bankers that they had worked out his proposal. He is one of the successful ones. They pointed out to him that he could not plant this year and produce at a profit, despite all the figures the Government has considered and offered. He was told he would get back 90c for every dollar expended. I repeat that this man is in a big way; he is one of the successes.

In fairness, I must point out that the Minister for the North-West—although I was not invited to any meetings, and never have been by the Minister—offered to these people a readjustment of ginnery costs and finance a few weeks ago; but they turned him down. However, I would suggest to the Minister in this House that he convey to his colleague the urgent need to re-offer that proposition because it would be the greatest fillip to gaining an understanding between them at this late hour.

I would not like a recoupment of money already put in because I fear some might be tempted to say, "Thank you very much. That is some of our money back." If the Government were to offer to refinance their ginnery commitments and give them a prospect of living within the debt they owe, and also not say that it is for one year, but do it until the next review, we would get a very different picture on the Ord.

I do not want to see the Ord either fold up or go into a decline. We know that all land settlement schemes, such as our group settlements, had, in the second decade, to overcome hurdles which seemed almost insurmountable. We do not want the situation on the Ord to reach that stage, because every good grower who leaves, whether he be American or Australian,

will be a very serious prejudice to the project, and a very sad experience for the people in business in Kununurra who have invested their all in the town. Quite a few of them have.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: The growers have been under Government direction.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: Yes. What Mr. Strickland says is very important. I would like to see more constant guidance given in the growing of the crops than is physically possible by one or two officers. Farmers, successful in other forms of agriculture—wheatgrowers, for instance—have gone there with big money, but they have found it very difficult to adapt themselves to one of the highest mean climates of the world.

These farmers are growing crops under irrigation in difficult circumstances and, although some of them may not be aware of the fact, they need outside advice, and more intensive departmental advice. This, of course, is quite understandable.

I am not saying this in any critical fashion. I am trying to analyse the situation because, despite all the Government has offered, even the best of the farmers have the gravest doubts about their future. Therefore we can understand what might happen to those who are not the best.

One thing I was sorry to read in this morning's Press statement was that Dr. Dunne's report, on which the Government made its decision, would not be made public. Those of us who know Dr. Tom Dunne have the greatest respect for him and I feel sure he would not fly a kite; whatever Tom Dunne recommends is something which can be followed almost implicitly with the confidence that those concerned are on the right track.

I do not say this with any political thought in mind. I would oppose anyone who criticised this project on a basis of politics. Let us look on it in the sense that this is something that the nation must safeguard and if there are any lame dogs, let us help them over the stile and let us give some prospect to those who have many tens of thousands of dollars invested in this proposition which both the State and Commonwealth Governments have encouraged.

THE HON. J. DOLAN (South-East Metropolitan) [3.19 p.m.]: First of all I wish to refer to the implications which are contained in a recent statement by Mr. Ivan Newnham, who is the head of the C.S.I.R.O. division of mineral chemistry, when he referred to the crippling lack of geologists in Australia. In a State to which geology has meant so much, I thought that that statement would be worth investigating to find out what substance there was in it. If it has a lot of

substance then the position as far as geologists in this State and in the Commonwealth are concerned, is desperate.

He mentions two major requirements for the discovery of new ore bodies. The first one is that somebody has to be in the general area to have any chance whatever of discovering a new ore body. The second observation he makes is that the prospector has to know what he is looking for. He gives two examples to illustrate these points.

The first illustration refers to the tremendous discovery of one of the world's largest deposits of bauxite on Cape York Peninsula. This deposit was recognised by Mr. Harry Evans who was looking for oil, but who used his knowledge of geology and his training in that field in order to assess the value of the minerals that he saw.

The second illustration he gives refers to Mr. R. P. Dunn, who, in the course of a routine geological survey, saw the wonderful deposits of manganese at Groote Eylandt, and he was able to use his knowledge to bring that development to fruition.

I thought I would investigate to find out how we compare with other countries in the world, and the figures are absolutely amazing. The wonder is that we have actually found the minerals which we have found. I sometimes feel that it is more a question of stumbling over them than discovering them. In Australia the national strength of geologists is altogether 1,300.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Is that the Commonwealth and State you are speaking about?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: That is the total number for the Commonwealth. The United States, which is approximately the same area as Australia, employs 20,000 geologists and the Soviet Union, which is less than three times the size of Australia, employs no fewer than 90,000 geologists. Those countries have been operating in the mineral sphere for many years more than we have in Australia.

The Hon. I. G. Medcalf: Don't we have some overseas geologists as well?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: The figures quoted relate to all geologists in Australia at the present time, and I think that would include overseas geologists as well. In 1966-67 only 91 geologists graduated in all the Australian universities, and the vacancies in industry and Government departments for that period totalled 293. Consequently, in one year alone we fell back in that field by no fewer than 200. If universities can supply only 91 in a year, we are going back at least two years every year.

Men who commented on and agreed with the remarks made by Mr. Newnham included Professor Frankel of the Department of Geology at the University of New

South Wales who stated that between 20 and 25 students would graduate this year. That is a very small number in a university the size of the University of New South Wales. The Vice-Chancellor of Monash University (Dr. Matheson) also agreed that it is a small number.

It is amazing that a university such as Monash University in Melbourne has no geology department, even though the people concerned have been trying to get one established for some time. Application has been made to the University Commission for provision to be made for it. In addition, Professor Marshall, who is also attached to the Sydney University, says that the situation is indeed desperate.

What is the position in Western Australia? I agree that the position must have improved in the last 10 years, because of the amazing demand. When there is a demand for specialists in a certain profession, it is found that quite a large number of students and people of ability take up that particular field. Although the position may have improved, let us find out just what it really is.

Last week the annual report of the University of Western Australia was tabled in the House. In my research I looked at this report to see just what it says about the Geology Department, which is a separate department under Professor Prider. I searched through the whole of the report and I found the word "geology" mentioned only once when it was stated that a professor of geology from the University of Helsinki visited our University during this year. I thought it was amazing that the subject of geology should receive such a scant reference and I thought I would have a look at the other documents which were tabled.

The Hon. G. E. D. Brand: Is there a degree in geology at the University?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: It is one of the major subjects contained in a science degree. A student cannot get a separate degree in geology, but he majors in geology which would qualify him to accept any position in that field.

I had a look at the next imposing book which was called, *Report on Research for 1967*. I notice that a considerable amount of research has been done in this field throughout the State with regard to projects involving various minerals, oil, and different types of geological formations, etc. However, what worried me when I looked to see who was sponsoring the research work and providing the money for it, was that I found the people who will gain the most benefit are making a poor and paltry contribution towards the research work which is being undertaken.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You mean the big mining companies.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: Some of them. However, the first company which was mentioned is one which we all respect. Particular research was undertaken into what is called Ora Banda, which is a field I have known for 40 or 50 years and is situated north of Kalgoorlie. The source of finance for this investigation was the Western Mining Corporation.

I had to turn over quite a few more pages before I came to the next one which is the Bow River copper-nickel occurrence in the East Kimberley district where I saw the source of finance came from Pickands, Mather & Company International Mining. Of course that company is making a contribution but eventually it would expect—whether it will eventuate or not—that it will be of great advantage to the work of the company.

When I went through the report I found that only five major mining companies had made any contribution whatsoever to the vast amount being spent in university research, and I would think any research eventually must help the mining companies.

At this time I make a plea to the companies, no matter what geological field they are concerned with, to interest themselves in research. It amazes me when I think of the millions that are being taken out of the goldmines in the goldfields area, and the very small contributions which have been made to geological research associated with those fields.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Of the 1,300 geologists in the Commonwealth do you know what the number is in Western Australia?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I could not say the total number, but I do know that fewer than 10 students are majoring in that field at the University this year.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I mean qualified geologists.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I would not know the number who are working in Western Australia. The number of 1,300 represents the total who are qualified in the Commonwealth. The geologists would be fairly widespread because geology covers a very wide range.

I could mention that in regard to oil exploration the one company that is making money available for geological purposes is Wapet, and in view of the money it is making, that was the least that could be expected of it.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Yes, but it spent many millions before that.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I agree with the honourable member, and I would also state that it has made many contributions, in general, for the welfare of the community. I understand that the students in geology in Western Australia who are nearing the

end of their academic year were advised by their professor that during the forthcoming holidays they should, if possible, obtain employment with one of the mining companies so that they could gain practical experience. I know one young man approached many of the companies for a position only to meet with a refusal. They said that they did not want anyone and they were not interested. That is a very poor outlook in view of the profits they are making, which they have made, and which they will make in the future. I would therefore appeal to those companies to make money available for research because, generally speaking, it will be the mining companies who will reap the greatest benefits from the expenditure of such money.

I now wish to touch briefly on another subject. I would ask Mr. Wise to correct me if I am wrong, but when he was quoting his figures I was most interested to hear those relating to the expenditure on sewerage and drainage in 1958 compared with the expenditure in 1968. I understand the figure Mr. Wise gave for 1958 was \$300,000—

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: No, that was in regard to abattoirs. For the water supply sewerage, and drainage area it was \$2,000,000 for 1968.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: No, they were not the figures. I thought the honourable member had quoted separately in connection with drainage. I thought the figures he quoted were \$300,000 for 1958 and \$570,000 for 1968.

However, I wish to refer to the question of sewerage and drainage on the other side of the river; that is, in my area. I can be forgiven, perhaps, for being parochial, because even though these remarks refer to my area they are also associated with the general problem of housing and development in the metropolitan area.

In going through the last minutes I have of the meeting of the town planning committee of the Shire of Canning, I almost tire of reading the same comment that appears after each application for a subdivision. Sometimes it involves only three or four lines, but in going through page after page dealing with all these cases this was the answer given by the shire's town planning committee: "The applicant is advised that the shire is not prepared to approve the subdivision until such time as the land is served by a comprehensive sewerage and drainage system." A little further down I see that an applicant has been informed the shire is not prepared to approve the application until such time as the land in question is served by a comprehensive sewerage and drainage system.

There are dozens of these cases, but to vary it a little I would mention that the investigation made by the engineering and

health department of this shire has revealed that even though a drainage connection is available to the land it would not give a water table clearance of four feet, and in other places the water table was only six inches.

I want to try to line up the report made by that department of the shire with the position that exists in relation to a scheme that was tabled for the twenty-first day last Friday. I am speaking of the metropolitan region town planning scheme for the Cannington-Armadale corridor. I was tempted on a number of occasions to move for the disallowance of the papers that were presented relating to the scheme. However, I resisted the temptation because I think some good might come out of it.

What I want to try to impress upon members is that this seems to be a very grandiose scheme. Thousands of acres embraced by it have been drawn upon. What is the use of throwing open thousands of acres for subdivision and urban development if the application that has to be made to local governing bodies is to be refused because of sewerage and drainage problems? In this regard I think the Government has a big problem on its hands.

Of course I know the solution to the problem, and I think the Government does, too. I think everyone does. These works cost a great deal of money, and the money is not available. However, I believe the longer the work is delayed the more difficult it will be to get that scheme off the ground. I earnestly hope it becomes one of the major problems the Government has to solve in the near future.

The Hon. E. C. House: Cannot a local authority borrow money in the future under the new scheme that has been approved?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: Not the type of money that is involved in this work.

The Hon. E. C. House: A local authority could borrow it.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: Well, perhaps. I will cite an example to the House. When I was speaking to the Bill which sought to provide that local authorities could borrow money for such undertakings, I mentioned that I had made some inquiries among these councils as to what money they could borrow so that they may participate in schemes of this nature. The answer I received was: "We find it most difficult to borrow enough money to meet all our requirements now without worrying about sewerage and drainage." So that may be the answer to the interjection by the honourable member.

As members will realise, it is a difficult problem and I know it is one to which the Government will give attention because it realises the importance of resolving it even more than I do.

During the debate on the Address-in-Reply I spoke on strata titles. The Minister informed me that a committee was to make inquiries to ascertain why the legislation relating to strata titles is not proving as effective as we hoped it would. However, in *The West Australian* of the 26th October, 1968, I saw an advertisement which offered a glimmer of hope. The scheme, which is the subject of the advertisement, represents the third in the metropolitan area since the legislation relating to strata titles was proclaimed. At the top of the advertisement appears the heading, "Hacienda - Mosmans - Garden Setting," and at the foot of the advertisement it indicates that the units are situated on the corner of Ecclesbourne and Battle Streets, Mosman.

On that location strata title units are being offered for sale and the advertisement goes on to describe what each unit contains and gives various other details. That is only the third strata titles unit of many hundreds which have started in the metropolitan area during the past 12 months. So I repeat that the legislation which provides for the erection of these strata title buildings is not meeting with the results for which we hoped. Further, I hope that when the committee of which the Minister has spoken does meet it will consider all the implications and that, in this House, we will gain some idea of the value of the legislation we placed on the Statute book.

There is another matter to which I would like to refer. When speaking, I think, to the first Traffic Act Amendment Bill that was before the House, I referred to the fact that we should, very often, try to make the punishment fit the crime, and the Minister selected a couple of hypothetical cases to see if I could offer a solution. On the 29th October, 1968, I happened to see an article which appeared in *The West Australian*. The heading struck me immediately. It was: "Punishment Fits Crime." The incident in question happened at Port Moresby. The article went on as follows:—

Magistrate R. Cruikshank has ordered three youths to give up their spare time over the next few weeks to help restore a wartime aircraft which they had damaged.

The aircraft is an Australian-made Wirraway fighter, which was restored in Melbourne several years ago and was brought to Port Moresby last year for a war museum display project.

As most vandals do, the three youths did a considerable amount of damage to the aircraft and the magistrate, in his wisdom, decided they should forgo some of their weekends and be put to work to restore the damage they had caused. That article supports my suggestion that very often, instead of merely imposing fines for

offences, the magistrate, who might have the wisdom of Solomon, could inflict a punishment that would fit the crime. By giving decisions such as that magistrates will be well on the way to finding solutions for vandalism offences.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Whilst the punishment sounded very good, I do not think it fits the legal axiom of making the punishment fit the crime.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I am not referring to the biblical reference of an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. I feel that in many instances magistrates could do what I have mentioned, and such decisions would have a snowballing effect. When these offenders become aware of the type of punishment that will be inflicted on them they will have second thoughts about committing further offences.

I know the Minister will look into what I have said about geologists in general, and the suggestion I made that some of the mining companies ought to allocate part of their profits to aid in the research work which is necessary if we are to develop fully the mineral resources to be found in the State.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I am very conscious of the need for geologists.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [3.42 p.m.]: I also wish to deal with the question of strata titles. It was only an hour or so ago that I posted a letter to the Minister to ascertain whether he could help to overcome the delay in the obtaining of strata titles in one particular case. The block of home units was completed almost three years ago, and the people concerned have been looking for ways and means to obtain strata titles to those units.

They decided subsequently to appoint someone to take over the preparation of a case for the issue of strata titles and this person has complied with all the conditions laid down in the Act, except one. The Claremont Town Council is worried about the provision in section 5 (6) (c) (iii) which states—

the building complies with the by-laws of the local authority for the time being in force, relating to building and buildings.

The Claremont Town Council has declared that it would like to endorse the proposal for strata titles, but could not because the structure did not comply with the by-laws.

In the letter which I wrote to the Minister I suggested that the provision in the Act which I have just read out should be amended by adding these words "as they were at the time of their construction." That is where the difficulty has arisen, because the by-laws have been altered. That being the case the local authority could not endorse the application.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Surely the by-laws which are applicable should be those in operation at the time of approval of the building.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is what I think the Act provides.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: The Claremont Town Council does not agree.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It might or it might not be right.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: We have complied with all the other conditions laid down in the Act, and the difficulty will be resolved by the addition of the few words which I have proposed. Recently a story was told to me that one shire council drew attention to the provision in the Act which I have just read; and the Claremont Town Council on receipt of that advice decided that it could not endorse the document in support of the issue of strata titles.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.5 p.m.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I do not intend to say very much on a topic about which I often speak, but I wish to refer to the position where hospitals should be built around the metropolitan area, to the number we should have, and under what control they should be. I do not know why it is always said to us, as practising physicians and surgeons, that there is not a bed to be found in Perth, except possibly in Mt. Lawley, or somewhere else, which is a long distance from the homes of the people concerned. I experience this situation time after time. One rings the major hospitals and is told there is not a bed available and that there is a waiting list almost as long as one's arm. This state of affairs cannot go on for ever, and I think it is about time we went into the position thoroughly.

I believe that members of the profession who use these hospitals should have a good deal to say about them. The Mount Hospital cannot continue where it is at the moment, because it will be jammed between a terrific amount of traffic. In addition, when traffic is using the cutting which is alongside, it may be quite noisy. The only way out is to sell the land now occupied by that hospital, but that would not provide a solution because even land away from the centre of the city still brings a high price.

I think another block is being added to St. John of God Hospital. This might relieve the shortage of beds, but I am certain that as soon as the block is completed it will be filled, and the same problem will still exist. One thing that distresses me considerably about the future of hospitals is that professors come to Western Australia with varying views. Some recommend hospitals of 1,600 beds, or more. The next person who comes here says that a 1,600-bed hospital would be unwieldy and

the overhead costs so great that we should not look at a hospital of that type. It seems to me that there is very little concerted treatment of patients.

The situation that now exists cannot go on forever. If we built a \$35,000,000 hospital, it would be a mistake, because too much organisation would be needed in the running of the hospital. I think we are being led astray by some people who, rightly or wrongly, make these statements. Surely there are people here who have worked for years in the field of medicine and surgery who could come to a decision as to what should be done. Let us think about where our major hospitals are situated. We can take a line from the north, as it were, down along the banks of the river, and beyond that line there are very few hospitals. There is a hospital on the southern side of the river, one some miles out on the northern side, one at Mosman Bay, and the Fremantle Hospital.

There should be some sort of concerted thinking in regard to the accommodation of sick people. I suggest this is something which should be done quietly, not with the idea of looking for someone who is not doing the right thing, but simply to obtain the views of members of the profession who have been practising in this State for years. There are a number of practitioners who have been practising in this State for about 40 years. A number of us have seen many alterations since we started practising. With the exception of a couple of years in England, this is my 50th year in Perth. I do not know who is responsible for improving the present position, but I feel a number of people do not have sufficient experience to make suggestions. Perhaps an amicable agreement could be reached by the appointment of a committee, or having interviews with members of the medical profession in order to keep the situation under control. I think this would be acceptable to members of the profession.

It is distressing to find that a well-known person who came here from the Eastern States and who took ill shortly after arrival, was not able to obtain a hospital bed. In that case we had to carry out treatment at the place where she was living at the moment. These things should not occur; we should always have an excess of beds to meet conditions. If we were to have a virus infection outbreak of epidemic proportions in our suburbs and city we would find ourselves in a desperate situation.

I hope my suggestion will be acceptable because I am convinced that we will not obtain the balance we require if we just go along hoping that everything will be all right and doing things bit by bit. Everything is a long way from being all right if we have to search all of the hospitals in the inner area of Perth in order to find a bed. We would have a dreadful

situation on our hands if we were to have an influenza epidemic such as occurred in 1919. At that time I was working at Broadmeadows, in Victoria, where we experienced a similar outbreak.

Ideas are being invited from members of the staff of some hospitals, but I think mainly in regard to how much building is required and where a hospital should be situated. However, if those in the profession who have had experience over a number of years could pass on their opinions to the Minister, they might be able to help the Public Health Department. In my opinion, the man who has looked after sick people for 40 or 50 years would have some idea as to what is wrong with the position that exists today, either in the municipalities or in the centre of the city. If we go ahead with the \$35,000,000 plan, one of these days we will see the faculties at the University being the ones that will take over most of the authority.

Money should be spent on research, but the people who have been practising and who have the touch which is so necessary for the alleviation of the distress of a sick person, in my opinion, are very necessary.

THE HON. G. W. BERRY (Lower North) [4.16 p.m.]: I rise to support the Bill; and, firstly, I should say that I am indebted to Mr. Wise for his explanation of financial measures.

I wish to refer to the rising costs to the industry in the irrigated areas on the Gascoyne River at Carnarvon. It is a situation over which growers are unable to exercise any control. It seems to be the lot of all primary producers that they are placed at a disadvantage when their produce has to compete on the open market.

In this regard I wish to refer to the transport of produce to the market, and with the Carnarvon producers it is road transport that is involved. At the commencement of commercial production in the Carnarvon area, in 1931, 1,000 cases—or packages as I shall refer to them—of tomatoes and bananas were produced, and transported to the metropolitan area. Out of that total there were 25 cases of bananas. From this beginning an industry has now been established producing tropical and out-of-season winter crops. By "out-of-season" I mean as far as the metropolitan area is concerned.

In 1967, 450,981 packages were transported to the metropolitan area. These consisted of bananas, tomatoes, capsicums, eggfruit, and the like. Included in that figure of 450,981 were 11,128 dozen watermelons. As the watermelons are handled one at a time, they must be considered as single packages. So it is necessary to add another 122,408 packages to the figure already mentioned. These packages are picked up and put down a minimum of 2½-times each, so during the year a total of at least 1,433,472 packages are handled.

Since the establishment of commercial production in 1931, there has been no basic change in the handling of packages. They have always been picked up one at a time, and we have never got away from that method of handling. It would appear to me that the time has arrived when we should try to get the packages into some larger form of parcels for handling purposes. Whether they should be bundles, pallets, or bins, I do not know.

Referring to watermelons, a truckload was taken to the Metropolitan Markets—loosely packed—and it took four men two hours to unload the truck. The same truck, loaded with fruit bins containing approximately the same number of watermelons, was unloaded by one man with a forklift in a quarter of an hour. It is bad enough that the watermelons have to be picked one at a time, but I think that the time spent on handling watermelons is something which is definitely out of all proportion.

I shall now refer to the bulk handling of apples. As I understand the situation, this bulk handling has been of benefit to the apple industry because of the saving in handling costs. I also understand that the housewives have benefited by being able to buy a better product. So far as the housewives are concerned, I do not think they are concerned with handling processes, or presentation. All they are concerned with is a good product at a reasonable price. So, the handling of apples in bulk has been of benefit all round.

I will go a little further and refer to wheat. Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. handles all the wheat produced in this State and I would not like to think of the costs involved if wheat was still handled by bag. Our wheat industry would not be in its present good position if it were not for modern handling facilities.

The present transport system from Carnarvon to the metropolitan area is not geared for bulk handling; and I think it is time that someone examined this method of transport. Recently the Director-General of Transport and his officers visited Carnarvon and I understand they discussed this matter with certain growers. I sincerely hope that those people will have a good look at the transport position to see whether handling methods can be improved and transport costs reduced. This applies especially to primary producers because costs are just passed on to them.

I wish now to refer to the increases in air fares and freights. This concerns the feeder services that have been instituted since MMA relinquished the services throughout the Murchison and, I think, the Eastern Goldfields. Air freights and fares have risen and I understand that no subsidies are paid to feeder services. They

are paid to the main airlines only. This is another matter which increases further the costs to the people living in remote areas. Once again, it is a case of the people living furthestmost from Perth being involved in greater expenditure by way of costs.

I would like to pay tribute to the Main Roads Department for the work done on the Great Northern Highway. The road has been formed and only about 14 miles remain unsealed between Perth and Mt. Magnet. Also a considerable length of the road between Mt. Magnet and Meekatharra has been bituminised, and work is proceeding. I understand that within about 12 months we may see a black road through to Meekatharra. That is a sign of the progress in the area, and it is of benefit to everyone living there.

Returning to the Carnarvon area, I want to stress again the importance of a stable water supply to both the irrigated area of the Gascoyne, and to the town of Carnarvon. I cannot stress too much the importance of the water supply. Once again I sound a warning that time is running out when the river will not flow.

I would also mention, again, the insufficiency of facilities at both the police station and the courthouse at Carnarvon. I would not like to say how many years ago those buildings were constructed, but it must have been a long time ago.

In conclusion, I pay tribute to the Western Mining Corporation. We have heard a lot about the shortage of geologists, and what some of the mining companies are doing, but the Western Mining Company has donated \$50,000 to the joint colleges appeal to encourage country students to attend the University by enlarging the accommodation at the University colleges. This is a very generous gesture on the part of the company. It is in addition to the money subscribed for other aspects of the mining industry in which the company is engaged. I support the Bill.

THE HON. R. F. HUTCHISON (North-East Metropolitan) [4.26 p.m.]: I would like to say a few words in support of the Bill. First of all, I wish to pay tribute to a very good public servant of this State whom, I understand, we may be losing in the near future. I refer to Mr. McCall, the Director of the Child Welfare Department. I wish to record my heartfelt thanks for his courtesy and kindly help, and the advice given to me through his office as Director of the Child Welfare Department. Even when I had a case to present and was not able to attend—my health has not been the best—Mr. McCall would always take up the case and do his best to relieve the situation.

I cannot speak too highly of him. He always had a sympathetic and practical approach to the difficulties of the community, and the distress suffered. He was

always helpful and his kindness and humane approach was always appreciated. He will be missed by many and I wish him peace and happiness—which he so richly deserves—in his retirement. I hope that the incoming officer, Mr. Maine, will be successful, and I hope I will find him as helpful as I have found Mr. McCall. From all reports I am sure that will be the case. Being the only woman in Parliament I handle many cases which would not be taken to male members.

I thank the Minister for Child Welfare (Mr. Logan) for the extra allowance now being paid to widows with children. I hope this action will not cause a reduction in the allowance paid by the Commonwealth Social Services Department. This did occur when the Commonwealth raised the pension in 1966.

I wish to say something about the housing problem. The question seems to have quietened down a little but the people on low incomes are really suffering. I handle cases every day, and I inquire to see if I can get accommodation for those people. However, no houses are available. Why is the Government not able to build more houses for the low-income group? Many women come to me with housing problems. That is why I am so thankful to Mr. McCall because I am sometimes able to relieve a situation. However, there are many cases of hardship and of people paying outrageous rents. I am referring to the working class people.

Why cannot this matter be attended to now, when there is so much money about and it is said that things are so good? If that is so the housing situation should not be as it is—certainly not in a country like this.

I do not intend to make a long speech—this is the first time I have spoken for some time—but I wish to thank the officers and members for the consideration they have shown to me during the past year. I support the Bill.

THE HON. R. F. CLAUGHTON (North Metropolitan) [4.31 p.m.]: The Budget for this year is for \$272,216,000, and of this sum the estimate for education is \$44,325,000, or roughly one-sixth of the total. That is an indication of the importance which is attached to education by our community.

It is interesting also to see that of this sum of \$44,325,000 a sum of \$36,173,000 is allocated for salaries, administration expenses, and allowances to students. From this it can be seen that teachers are an important part of the education system; indeed, the system could not very well function without them and it would seem that they are considered to be well respected members of our community. However, it seems to me that in a number of

areas teachers are discriminated against and, in fact, they are a "disprivileged" section of the community in some respects.

In this regard I want to draw members' attention to one or two conditions under which teachers have to serve. First of all, it appears that students at the teachers' college are not permitted to marry; because those who marry while they are at college are not granted a marriage allowance—that is, the allowance that is paid to students who are older than 23 years of age, or who are between the age of 21 and 23 years but who have University qualifications, or the allowance which is paid to students who marry before they enter the teachers' college.

This seems to me to be an unreal and distressing situation in which to place student teachers. If a student marries while he is at the teachers' college he does not receive any allowance and I fail to see why that should be so. If it is paid to students who are married before they enter the college, why should it not be paid to those who marry while they are at college? Why debar some married students from receiving the allowance? That is one area in which student teachers are discriminated against.

Many of them, after they qualify as teachers, like other young people in our society, desire to seek experience in overseas countries and under other educational systems; and some of them simply want to travel around and see the world. I think members would agree that this experience makes them better teachers when they return to this State. However, we find certain bars placed on them when they return. I think these strictures were designed to discourage teachers from travelling overseas.

In spite of this, I think the reverse could apply. These bars could be the reason for teachers not returning to this State, and members may recall that I asked certain questions about the disabilities suffered by teachers who have been overseas when they return to the State. To refresh the minds of members I shall refer to the questions I asked. I asked the Minister for Mines the following question:—

Where teachers seek such experience without being granted leave by the Education Department, what disabilities do they suffer when they return . . . ?

The answer was—

Resignation would be necessary in such cases with consequent loss of seniority, sick leave, long-service leave, and superannuation credits.

If, on the other hand, automatically teachers were granted leave to travel overseas for a specific period of time—and I would suggest two years—without any loss of privileges, surely this would be an encouragement for them to return? We have

heard a great deal about the teachers who have gone to Canada because of the good conditions that prevail there.

The Hon. J. Heitman: Wouldn't that encourage a great many more to go?

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: That may be so, of course, but I believe the opposite would be the case. A teacher with five or six years' experience, or maybe even more, would have accumulated a fair time in sick leave entitlements, long-service leave entitlement, and so on. If he wants to obtain experience elsewhere, why should he not be permitted to do so? Why should not a teacher want to travel overseas to broaden his background and experience, and why should he not be permitted to do so?

If he is permitted to go overseas for two years, and he knows that on his return his privileges will still be available, would not that be an inducement to return?

The Hon. J. Heitman: I think it might be an inducement for them to go on a Cook's tour.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That's a silly remark.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: Why should not they go on a Cook's tour if they want to do so? Why should they be placed in a position different from any other member of the community who may want to go on a Cook's tour? As I said, if the privileges were there for them when they returned, surely that would be an inducement for them to return to our education system after gaining overseas experience. If they are teaching in Canada, under slightly better conditions than we have here, why should they return if their privileges are taken from them?

The Hon. E. C. House: They could do their Cook's tour in the four months' holidays they get.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: Surely the honourable member is joking! A great deal of discontent has been felt in the teaching service, and I can assure members that it is quite real. If teachers' privileges were not taken from them there would be an inducement for them to return to teach in this State but, at present, they seem to be regarded as something less than equal to other professions.

I also asked a question regarding teachers who had been overseas and who had returned and who were discriminated against. Even teachers who have done country service are sent to the country to do further country service on their return from overseas.

A case was brought to my attention where the wife, who was also a teacher, received an appointment in the city but the husband was appointed to the country areas. When he complained about this situation he was told it was departmental

policy to make it as difficult as possible for teachers who returned from overseas, and particularly from Canada.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: By whom? At what level was he told this—that it was to be made as difficult as possible?

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: I am paraphrasing the story that was told to me. However, this person is willing to prepare a sworn statement that this is what he was told.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Do you really believe in your own paraphrasing?

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: Perhaps the Minister would tell me why he is raising the question.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I am interested in whether you believe in what you are saying.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It sounds so unreasonable.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: I would agree with the Minister for Health that it does sound incredible.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: And unbelievable.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: The teacher concerned thinks it is highly unreasonable, too.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: And unbelievable.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: If the Minister for Health cares to take the matter further with me later on I will obtain the statement and let him see it.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I am going to take it further, but not with you. I will find out from the department.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That is like an appeal from Caesar to Caesar—in the Education Department.

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON: From what I have said it is obvious that teachers are discriminated against in certain areas, and they are treated as being less than equal to other members of the community. What other professional group in our community would find themselves in this position?—where experience in other countries overseas is not regarded as an extra qualification. Yet that is the situation in which teachers find themselves.

One other area in which teachers find themselves in a difficult position is in a case where a female teacher gets married. It is found that after these teachers have served out their bonds they must resign from the permanent service. Why is this necessary? Why should a female teacher, simply because she is a woman, have to resign from the permanent staff? Surely she is just as valuable married as she was single! She is entitled to the same benefits of long-service leave, sick leave, and so on, as those who are on the permanent staff. That is a third area where teachers are discriminated against.

Recently the Minister for Education referred to the question of class sizes, and with his remarks in this connection I find myself in agreement. The Minister said that the department feels it is no longer necessary for all classes to be small. I would agree with that. It is not the size of a class that is the major consideration; it is the number of teachers per students—in other words, the ratio of teachers to students.

An experiment was carried out at the John Curtin High School a few years ago and a programme in literature was organised. For some of the lectures a hall was filled with several hundred students, and for other parts of the course the students were broken down into smaller groups.

I would suggest that here is a method of teaching that could be further developed within the department, and the point I am making is that it is not the actual class size but the ratio of teachers to students that counts. It depends on the number of students one has to deal with in a particular situation.

On another occasion I spoke about subsidies to schools for various extra materials which are bought chiefly through the parents and citizens' associations, and I suggested that a brochure be prepared so that the parents and citizens' associations could see more readily what these items were and the subsidies available.

As far as I am aware, only one copy of the regulation is sent to the school and this is kept by the headmaster. Apart from him very few people know what it contains and what is available.

We have all seen reports that have been prepared by the Main Roads Department, and more recently by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority. These were rather elaborate in their presentation, and I do not suggest the brochure I have mentioned should be along the same lines, but some indication should be given to the parents and citizens' associations so that they can more readily understand their entitlement.

I was told at the beginning of the session that members of Parliament made these reports available to the local groups, but still we have not received the latest list of subsidies available in order to allow us to do this. In any case, this information is contained in the whole of the regulations.

I would now like to touch on the position at St. George's Terrace. There is some discontent amongst the staff there, which I feel is not necessary. I have already mentioned the dismantling of the departments and the spreading of their facilities among the various technical colleges; how others have been taken to the new institute. I also referred to the loss of several thousand reference books required by engineering students which were taken

to the technological institute, leaving the students at the terrace without this material.

This action seems to be rather thoughtless, and it has certainly made the task of the students at the terrace more difficult. I suggest that the Minister arrange a meeting with the staff at St. George's Terrace to explain the position and clear the doubts they have in this matter. Up till now these people have had to accept whatever facilities have been given them, and naturally they are uncertain and concerned about their future.

I do not think the Minister has anything to lose by arranging such a meeting; on the other hand, a great deal will be gained by co-operation, as it will ensure better morale among the staff. If such a meeting were held and discussion were permitted, the staff concerned would know just what their future was likely to be.

THE HON. F. R. H. LAVERY (South Metropolitan) [4.49 p.m.]: I would like to refer briefly to a few matters, and in particular to the part of the Bill which deals with the Chief Secretary's department.

You will recall, Sir, and I know the Minister certainly will, that I spoke at some length on the Offenders Probation and Parole Act Amendment Bill, which was before the House recently. I quoted extensively from the report of the chief parole officer. I do not know whether it was felt that I should not have spoken for so long, but I had a problem to discuss, and I used the time available to me to discuss that problem.

When the Minister replied, he said he felt he had nothing to which to reply. I now have a later report, and while I do not propose to quote from it extensively, I do propose to refer to some parts of it, because the points I made referred to the caseloading of officers—I was not dealing so much with the inefficiency of the officers, or what they did, but with the inefficiency of the services available to the prisoners, and to those persons who would be best served by the help that could be available from such well-trained and efficient officers.

This may sound like a lot of words, and not mean very much, but to me it means a tremendous amount. I have been interested in prison reform for many years—long before I became a member of Parliament—and particularly in the situation at the leading gaol in Western Australia. I agree with the Mayor of Fremantle and feel that the gaol should not be called Fremantle gaol—that is rather unfair. It should be called the State penitentiary, or something similar.

A few years ago the Minister introduced legislation for the benefit of prisoners and the penal system in Western Australia generally, for which I gave him credit.

I also commented on the valuable work done, and I felt I was offering some help as to what was required by making public the shortage of trained staff and the heavy caseload carried by some of the officers concerned with probation and parole.

I am pleased to say that, as a result of publicity I gave this matter, I was congratulated a week or 10 days ago when I attended a lord mayoral reception. Several people having read *Hansard* came up to me and congratulated me for having said these things so that the general public could know what was going on, as distinct from what was contained in the various reports of the department.

It would seem therefore that my efforts were appreciated in public spheres. I do not say this with any personal satisfaction, but I am glad I was able to be of some service in the matter of case-loads. In his report which was laid on the Table of the House, I think, on the 22nd October, the chief parole officer made various comments, but while speaking on the supervision of probationers he said—

During the year a total of 1024 probationers were under supervision; the number on probation at the end of the year was 754. Corresponding figures for last year were 818 and 654. Though the gross increase during the year was 206 the net increase at the end of the year was 100 only.

The increase in the number of staff amounted to one officer.

I will come down now to the question of case-loads which is mentioned at the bottom of page 4. The chief parole officer points out that much was written by him in his annual report last year on the subject of case-loads, and he makes reference to very recent authoritative decisions, one within Australia and the other in America, which bore out the question of overloading in cases. After saying that concern in regard to caseloads was being expressed throughout the world he added—

Because of its importance the subject matter of caseloads was given consideration during the Commonwealth Attorney General's Seminar on the Control of Deviant Behaviour in Australia, which was held in Canberra from the 30th January to the 23rd February, 1968. The recommendations at that Seminar were similar to those quoted by me in my annual report last year as having been carried at the Fourth Biennial Conference in Canberra during August/September, 1967.

He went on to refer to the question of the American report, and said—

In my report last year I referred to the Presidential Commission set up in America by the President himself in 1965 to investigate and report on law enforcement and administration of Justice in that country. I quoted the

recommendations of a preliminary survey in respect of officer caseloads for probation and parole officers. This survey recommended that parole and probation caseloads should not exceed 50 work units. The report of the President's Commission entitled *The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society* is now to hand. In chapter 6, headed "Corrections", the following appears: "The Commission recommends; All jurisdictions should examine their need for probation and parole officers on the basis of an average ratio of 35 offenders per officer, and make an immediate start toward recruiting additional officers on the basis of that examination".

Because of the lack of finance this, of course, will not be possible in Australia. The report continues—

There has, however, been some progress with the matter of caseload fixation for the Probation and Parole Service in this State. In last year's report I referred to the fact that in March, 1966, the Public Service Commissioner had set a caseload of 70 cases per male officer and 50 cases per female officer as a basis for future staff recruitment. This was tentative and subject to review. This review took place during the year under report and in December, 1967, the Public Service Commissioner intimated that the caseload as already fixed would continue to be used as a basis for staffing the Probation and Parole Service and advised that the Treasury Department had been informed to this effect.

The Public Service Commissioner has twice, once in January, 1968, and again in April, 1968, advertised throughout Australia for Probation and Parole Officers with the result as already stated that there has been a net gain of two officers during the year.

The point I am making is that despite the fact that I have asked, and supported the director in his request, for more staff, apparently no further staff will be available until they are trained. The report continues—

Therefore one only, and one officer returned from the University to resume duty in April, 1968, thus providing a total gain of two, as already stated. This year the average male caseload is again 115 cases per officer (exactly the same as last year) and the average female caseload as at 30th June, 1968, was 59 cases per officer as against 58 at 30th June, 1967. I repeat that no officer, no matter how dedicated and hard working he may be, can efficiently manage a caseload of 115 cases. I should point out that

115 cases is the average. Four officers have caseloads over 140, one over 130 and two over 120. The newer officers have lesser caseloads which reduces the average to 115.

I would like to quote from the report of the Parole Board itself. This board is made up of five very important citizens and the board supports Mr. Webster in regard to heavy caseloads. The report reads as follows:—

By far the greatest proportion of the work of the parole officers relates to the preparation of pre-sentence reports and the supervision of probationers who are not subject to the jurisdiction of the Board.

The Chief Parole Officer says, and the Board supports his contention, that the case load per officer is still too heavy and that parole officers are working under constant pressure and strain which hampers professional competence and leads to frustration. He points out that the duties of the parole officers in regard to the 458 prospective parolees in prison have necessitated visits to prisons as follows: Fremantle 475, Karnet 51, Bartons Mill 49, Pardelup 11, Geraldton 6, Albany 12, and Broome 1—a total of 605 visits for all parole officers, during which they have had 2,349 interviews with prisoners. This means that each parole officer has seen on an average 4 prisoners per visit, in addition to rendering social service involving visits to their respective homes, where necessary.

The report points out the number of individual calls to private homes, and the hours worked on Tuesday and Thursday nights to cater for the parolees and probationers who are not able to attend during the daytime because of their employment, are also very big. Thirteen professional officers, six clerical workers, and one general worker are those who do this mighty work.

Since I spoke on this matter, when the legislation concerning probation and parole officers was introduced, the board has gained virtually only one officer. I understand that approximately 16 or 18 people are receiving education at university level, at the Institute of Technology or other places, and I am hoping the Minister will be able to report that by next year some of those people will have passed their examinations and be employed in this work. I know the Public Service Commissioner is attempting to obtain further staff.

I am raising this matter now because I have felt since the last time I spoke on this subject that I was completely misunderstood by those in authority and that it was felt I was attempting to deny the magnificent work this group is doing. I know of no department or group of people more dedicated than this one.

That leads me to comment concerning the Civil Rehabilitation Council which consists of a group of voluntary workers. The Premier has found it possible to make a small donation—I think it is about \$1,500—for the appointment of a permanent officer and that officer, in the person of Mrs. Robin Clarke, is very dedicated to this work. When I was discussing some problems with her seven or eight weeks ago she pointed out that the amount of money made available for her appointment has been of tremendous benefit to the Civil Rehabilitation Council. I thought I would pass that remark on for the Premier's information so that he might know that his gesture was appreciated and that any further help he could give would be put to very good use.

As I think we have a little time available, I intend to take this opportunity to speak on one or two other matters which I might otherwise have left to another later occasion. The first concerns a suggestion I would like the Minister for Mines to pass on to the Premier. I am wondering whether it would be possible for the Premier to make available a sum of money in order that a mining history of the eastern and Murchison goldfields might be written.

We have in our community a very capable man who is reaching the age when he will probably not be able to write such a history. I am referring to that very grand geologist of early goldfield days, Mr. Spencer Compton. I know my colleague on my right (Mr. Stubbs) was taught by Mr. Spencer Compton when he was a tutor at the School of Mines. Recently I did a trip through the Murchison and had Mr. Spencer Compton with me. Because of what he was able to tell us, and the things he showed us on the sidetracks, I believe that he would be able to write a reasonable history of the goldfields, before it is too late. By that I mean we are all getting on in years. As we are supposed to have three score years and ten, a lot of us are living on borrowed time. Anything could happen to any of us.

I thought that as Mr. Spencer Compton has already produced a couple of historical booklets the Premier might give consideration to making available a sum in order that the history might be published, such as has been done by the South Perth City Council and others.

The other subject I wished to raise is a hot potato at the moment: that is, an overhead power line crossing the river. The East Fremantle Council is very perturbed about the proposal. Also very concerned is the Mosman Park Town Council, as both are involved.

I am not an engineer and I have to take the word of the department that this project will cost a certain sum of money. We have already seen what amount the State has been involved in with regard

to the retention of the Barracks Arch on its present site. My belief is that perhaps a mistake has been made and the arch could possibly have been shifted, thus satisfying many of those who wished the arch to remain as a memorial.

I do not want a mistake to be made with regard to the power lines across the river. If this is done once, it will be only the start. In years to come lines will be placed across the river north-east of the Bunbury Bridge in the Bassendean area.

We have only one river of great scenic importance in Western Australia and it has already been sabotaged to a certain extent. We know that gardens are supposed to be developed, but once we carry power lines across the river in one place, then without doubt they will be carried across in other areas later on.

We know that at a later stage—during the next 25 years or even earlier—a bridge will be erected at Point Resolution and it is possible that the power lines could be brought across the river with that bridge. We know also that a new bridge is to replace the present bridge at North Fremantle. Although this has been forecast as being a long-term project, it could be accomplished within the next five years.

From my limited knowledge of the subject, I understand that telephone, water supply, and electricity services are catered for in the Narrows Bridge structure. If that is so, the State Electricity Commission could do better than fob off the request of the people supporting the East Fremantle Council. Their only desire is to maintain the aesthetics of the river. Therefore on behalf of the East Fremantle Council I once again appeal to Cabinet to impress upon the Premier the desire of the Mosman Park, Melville, South Perth, Peppermint Grove, and Bassendean Councils. All these councils support the East Fremantle Council in its fight for this cause.

I would like to close on one other subject. I happen to be an executive member of the elderly people's social centre in Fremantle. Dr. Leyland, a representative of the Fremantle Hospital, is also on the executive, and he is very concerned about the matter raised by Dr. Hislop this afternoon; that is, the lack of beds in our hospitals, for the very ill people. Just lately he has carried out a survey in Newcastle and areas around there concerning the domiciliary care of patients. This concerns the number of elderly people on pensions who could be treated in their homes but for the Commonwealth restrictions on visits by doctors to these patients in their homes. I am sure the Minister for Health would be only too pleased if the system of domiciliary treatment was adopted in Western Australia.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The Federal Government has given some indication that it will assist in this regard.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I am delighted to hear that. I know from my conversations with the Minister, his officers, and my own local doctor, that it costs \$17 and some cents to keep a patient one day in the Royal Perth Hospital; and this amount would pay for at least six visits by the doctor to a patient in his home. If this system could be adopted, such patients would not need to enter hospital. I know the present Minister for Health is keenly interested in this as, indeed, I am in mentioning it before Parliament.

I refer to Dr. Hislop's proposals this afternoon and, while on the subject, I wonder whether the Minister would be able to tell us how many beds are likely to be involved, say, within the next five years at the medical centre complex at Hollywood. I realise that the Minister may or may not know at this moment.

I should like to close with one comment which I think is important. These days one moves from district to district and finds various buildings are being erected for medical purposes, such as the one which the Minister opened on Sunday, or the slow learning day centre which we are all very happy to see established. I wonder whether the name of The Hon. A. R. G. Hawke could be used for one of the buildings of the medical centre complex, in view of the mighty effort he has made in this direction by initiating the medical school?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It is now at Hawkevale.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: That is so, but that was something different altogether.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: We will give it thought.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I am referring to buildings which may be built in the new complex.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I may have to answer your other query by letter.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I thought it was a suggestion which could well be made, but I do not wish to take up the time of the House unduly.

THE HON. G. E. D. BRAND (Lower North) [5.17 p.m.] : I will not take up much of the time of the House, but I would like to refer to a certain event which took place on the 20th September at the Exmouth V.L.F. station at North-West Cape. Members will recall that some 12 months previously, the V.L.F. station and the town of Exmouth had been opened by the late Prime Minister (Mr. Harold Holt) and the Premier of Western Australia. It was quite an occasion and at that time we were not to know that we would lose our Prime Minister so unfortunately not so very long afterwards.

Later on we learned, with a great amount of pleasure, that President Johnson, himself, expressed the wish that the station at Exmouth should be renamed. This was a gesture which had not been made previously to any person other than an American national. I have the report of the renaming and the unveiling of the stone to which I would like to refer. It was published in *The West Australian* on the 21st September under the heading, "N.W. Base Gets Its New Name." The article refers to the unveiling ceremony which took place on the 20th September and reads as follows:—

The U.S. naval communication station at North-West Cape was today renamed the Harold E. Holt station in honour of the former Australian Prime Minister.

About 600 people watched Dame Zara Holt unveil a cairn on the site where her late husband stood just over a year ago when the base was commissioned.

She described the occasion as proof of the strong bonds between America and Australia.

A special message from President Johnson was read at the ceremony by American Ambassador William Crook.

SYMBOL OF WELCOME

President Johnson's message recalled last year's opening when he had said that the station was a symbol of Australia's welcome to the U.S. forces and of America's firm intention to continue seeking peace in Asia.

"Today Harold Holt is no longer with us," he said. "With his passing Australia lost a valiant leader, a statesman of vision and courage. The United States lost a great and gallant friend and I lost a trusted comrade whose counsel and support I deeply valued."

He said that the station symbolised the bonds of friendship and the common goals which united Australia and America.

"The American people desire that it should serve also as a memorial to Harold Holt and the great personal contribution which he made to the deepening of that friendship and to progress towards those goals," he said.

"We would like it to serve as a lasting reminder of the affection and warm admiration we had for him.

"In that spirit, with the concurrence of the Australian government and with deep personal satisfaction, I hereby rename this station the U.S. naval communication station Harold E. Holt."

Prime Minister Gorton said that Australia and the U.S. would always use their military capacity as a shield for freedom.

Later on, it says—

Dame Zara said there must be thousands of Americans qualified for the honour of having the base named after them.

"This act shows quite clearly the warm-hearted friendliness of the United States and the courage and strength of the nobleman who leads them," she said.

As I have said, it certainly was an occasion, especially when the moment came for Dame Zara Holt to unveil the cairn. I do not think there were many dry eyes at the time of the unveiling of the cairn. We all felt very humble and very thankful for the wonderful gesture made by President Johnson.

Later on in Perth Dame Zara Holt mentioned that it was a pity that America instead of Australia had to be first to think of a memorial to her husband. Of course, that has been rectified since.

I did want to have the details recorded in *Hansard*, because it was a unique occasion and I do not think we will ever see the same again. Also I wish to record my thanks as one of the members representing the district.

As usual we have problems in the district. I would like to support sincerely the remarks made by my confederate, The Hon. G. W. Berry. Members will have noticed that he has made quite a study of the transport situation in Carnarvon, particularly in connection with the haulage of goods to Perth. We certainly hope a considerable amount of money will be spent in connection with the needs of our area, and it is interesting to note the amount of money which it is contemplated will be spent.

One of the problems, in Carnarvon anyway, is water and I believe an amount of \$160,000 will be spent on the town water supply. With the coming of Morgantown and the building of houses in the area, members can imagine that a lot of water in addition to ordinary drinking water will be required for such purposes as sewerage and other things. When a town grows so quickly it has lots of teething troubles, but I feel that with the assistance of the Government we will overcome anything that is required in that town. Quite a lot more money will be spent in various other directions, but I will not bother to go into the details now.

Before I resume my seat I should like to thank the Minister for Health—and all other Ministers really—for what they have done in the area this year. The Minister for Health has been to the Lower North Province on a number of occasions and

if he does what is required as quickly as he took it down in his notebook, we will have no complaints at all.

THE HON. F. R. WHITE (West) [5.26 p.m.]: I do not wish to delay the proceedings of the House for any great period of time, but I feel I would be remiss if I did not deal briefly with three domestic matters.

Our leader today reiterated the fact that the first session of the twenty-sixth Parliament will be split into two periods. In the past this House and another place have sat during the winter months and we have available underneath each of our benches heating appliances which keep us warm during that time. However, in the second period of this session we intend to return possibly in the latter half of March, which will be a hot period of the year. I feel that possibly the House Committee could give consideration to installing some means of air circulation so we may be a little more comfortable when we are in the House. I am led to understand that the Melbourne Parliament has appliances similar in size to the appliances under our benches at the present moment, but which serve a dual purpose of circulating heat in the winter and cool air in the summer. I would like the House Committee to investigate the possibility so that we may have them installed next year.

As the Minister has indicated today will be the last sitting of this first period, I should like to extend the compliments of the season to you, Mr. President, and to all members of the House. I also wish to extend them to the staff. We find that during this period of the session, as in every other session, the staff has worked industriously on our behalf and given us a tremendous amount of assistance. I am sure each and every member here appreciates their efforts and joins with me in wishing them the compliments of the season.

We have two silent bodies; namely, *Hansard* and the Government Printing Office. I am sure these people work much harder than we do. They have a tremendous amount to put up with and are under immense pressure. After we rise in the evening, or even in the early hours of the morning, both of these bodies must continue with their work. *Hansard* must have speeches prepared and ready for the Government Printer to print. Yet, each and every day—and the following day after the previous day's sitting—we have our Minutes and Notices well prepared and presented to us on time. Therefore, I should like to take this opportunity to extend to the members of the *Hansard* staff and the staff of the Government Printing Office, the compliments of the season and to thank them sincerely for the work they have done so far this session.

In mentioning the Government Printing Office, I should like to pay a tribute to Mr. Jack Cooke. It was only last Friday, the 1st November, that Mr. Jack Cooke was put to his final rest. After many, many years of industrious service on our behalf at the Government Printing Office he unfortunately left this world. He worked conscientiously for many years in the Government Printing Office and was responsible to a great extent for the wonderful liaison which exists between the staff of this House and that office. I feel I would be remiss if I did not extend this tribute to a man whom many of the staff and members of this House knew so well. I am sure they feel they have lost a wonderful friend and a great help. I support the Bill.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [5.29 p.m.]: Mr. President, at this time of the year it has been customary for me to ask you a question without notice. I was not able to ask you the question without notice yesterday, because we were not in session, but I am mindful of the fact that yesterday was your birthday. Whilst I have not had the opportunity to ask you a question without notice, I would like to convey to you the good wishes of the members of the House on your birthday.

Perhaps it is appropriate I should be able to do this on an appropriation Bill, but I do not want you to become enthusiastic over those remarks, because there is no appropriation of money to be made in respect of your birthday. However, perhaps it would be appropriate if we appropriated wishes for your good health to continue.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Could you add that that goes for all members of the House?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In respect of our wishes for the President's good health?

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: And any other emoluments.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: As I have said to the President on previous occasions, I hope he may continue to occupy his position for a long time to come.

Mr. President, may I take the opportunity to thank members for their contributions to the debate on this appropriation Bill? This is another opportunity for members to speak on matters concerning their electorates; to refer to the financial aspects of the State's affairs; in fact, to speak on any matter in which they are particularly interested.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I have not been much trouble this year.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The honourable member has not been any trouble this year, and the only regret I have is that she did not follow the same

course in past years as she has during this session. That is, of course, said in good humour, and I appreciate very much that Mrs. Hutchison has been most helpful to us this year, and perhaps it would be appropriate if I were to thank her for the remarks she made about the retirement of the Director of the Child Welfare Department. I will certainly pass her remarks on to him.

This afternoon reference was made to a number of interesting subjects. Mr. Wise gave us an excellent run-down on the State's financial affairs. He quoted comparative figures for 1958 and 1968; the last decade of the State's activities. The remarks made by Mr. Wise gave point to the fact that the progress of the State in the past 10 years has been very marked indeed, when taking the history of Western Australia into consideration. Mr. Wise quoted housing figures relating to the number of houses that were built in 1958 as against those built in 1968. The figures show that the number of houses built over that period has almost doubled, but that the number of houses built by the State Housing Commission was slightly less this year than the number built 10 years ago.

In previous debates I think I have given reasons for this trend. In point of fact, the State Housing Commission is carrying out its real objective today more fully than it did 10 years ago. Finance for housing is disbursed in various sections and other arrangements are made which apply to various factors of home building, and the private sector is fulfilling more satisfactorily the function it should fulfil.

I was pleased to hear the remarks made by Mr. Wise about probate in Western Australia. I had intended to say more about this subject in reply to the remarks made by Mr. Baxter the other evening, but I will forego them now. Suffice to say that probate duties in Western Australia are the lowest in the Commonwealth. It has been, of course, a wonderful year for Western Australia. When the history of the State is written in the years to come I think the decade from 1958 to 1968 will undoubtedly be written up as one of the greatest progressive periods Western Australia has ever seen. I venture to suggest that the full fruits of the efforts that have been made for the progress of the State will be felt even to greater advantage in the next decade when the benefits of the industrial agreements; the benefits that will accrue because we are no longer a claimant State; the benefits that will be enjoyed from the royalties we will collect from the production of iron ore, will continue to grow as the years go by.

I agree with the views expressed by Mr. Wise in connection with the Ord River, and I can assure him I will convey the remarks he has made to my colleague, the Minister for the North-West. I had an

opportunity to check on one or two remarks made by Mr. Dolan on the profession of geology. By way of interjection I said to him that I regarded geologists, in the scheme of mining, as being very important, and I would like him to know, further, that when I became Minister for Mines 10 years ago there were 12 geologists on the staff of the Geological Survey Branch but today there are 48, which is indeed a vast improvement. One of my aims when I first took office was to build up this branch of the Mines Department, because I realised then, as I realise even more now, the importance of research and geological surveys in the mining industry.

I am not certain of the figures I am about to quote, but to the best of my knowledge they are factually accurate. It is interesting to note that in 1959 there were 20 geologists employed in Western Australia outside the Geological Survey Branch, which meant there was a total of 32 geologists actively employed in one section or the other. Today I believe there are about 150 geologists working for private companies, which means there should be a total of something like 200 geologists employed throughout the State. Using Mr. Dolan's figures, the figure of 200 would represent roughly one-sixth of the total number of geologists employed in Australia. So in the circumstances we are not doing too badly in regard to the employment of geologists, but I agree that this profession, as stressed by Mr. Dolan, is most important, because whilst in the past 10 years we have benefited from the very important mineral discoveries, I feel quite sure that in an area as large as Western Australia is, we have probably, in many respects, only scratched the surface, and we must continue with further exploration and research into our mineral deposits.

For the information of the House, I point out that the mining companies engaged in the search for minerals in Western Australia have their own organisations to deal specifically with the work of their geologists, their geophysicists, their chemists, and all other branches relating to the mining industry. Many of these companies even have their own laboratories. Some of them grant scholarships both inside their organisation and for the benefit of students who are not in their employ. I think B.H.P. grants a number of scholarships.

The Hon. J. Dolan: I have referred to them before.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am sure these companies are not unaware of the importance of professional men in our community. I am not saying this in any political sense whatever, but I can well recall saying, prior to 1959, that one of our objects in Western Australia should be to build and create opportunities for young people so that when they became

qualified they would not have to look for employment in other States or overseas. As time goes on this objective is being fulfilled, and it is now found that in the profession of geology, despite the fact that the number of geologists employed in this State has risen from 30 to 200, we still appear to be short of them.

In regard to strata titles, I offer an apology to Dr. Hislop. Pressure of work in the last three weeks is the only factor that prevented me from continuing with the conference I proposed to hold to inquire into strata titles. Members will appreciate, I am sure, that we have been sitting in this House for many long hours, but now the session is coming to a close I can assure them that this is one subject to which I will give my attention in the near future.

Mr. Berry made an interesting resume of the Carnarvon banana industry and related it to bulk handling. His colleague, Mr. Brand, was present at the unveiling of the plaque to the late Mr. Harold Holt. I am sure this must have been a very impressive ceremony to attend, and I regret I was not fortunate enough to be present.

In reply to the remarks made by Mr. Cloughton, surely the sum of \$44,000,000 is indicative of the importance which the State Government places on education. I have heard the honourable member talk quite frequently since he has been here on the question of education and of school teachers, and usually he has done so in a somewhat critical or complaining manner. I have often thought that what the honourable member ought to do is to take some time to have a chat with the Director of Education on some of these matters so that perhaps he could get some answers to his questions directly from the director.

It is a little disturbing, even in paraphrase, when the honourable member says that the Education Department makes it as difficult as possible for those teachers who return to Western Australia from overseas and who seek to rejoin the teaching profession. I can only hope that his paraphrasing of these words was a little exaggerated. I think the honourable member would be well advised to have a talk with the Director of Education. He was in the Education Department himself, and supposedly he is aware of the situation, and probably it would be of great assistance to him if he were to follow my advice.

I want Mr. Lavery to know that I appreciate the difficulties surrounding the probation and parole service. As I might have indicated when the service was first introduced a few years ago, this service has grown far too quickly for its benefit and, of course, the consequent difficulties are that as more and more people are being put out on parole there is a fairly substantial case-load for the parole officers to carry.

I realise that a case-load of from 35 to 50 people would be the ideal, but I do not know how long it will be before that figure can be reached.

On the question of power lines crossing the river, there is debate on this subject to be held in another place and perhaps at this point of time I could be forgiven if I say no more on the subject.

In reply to the remarks made by Mr. White on the Parliament House building I think that you, Mr. President, will no doubt take his remarks into consideration, and that the Joint House Committee, with its responsibilities—

The Hon. J. Dolan: The committee has the matter in hand.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I was about to say that the Joint House Committee, with its responsibilities, has probably made some requests. It can, indeed, become very trying in this Chamber—I do not mean verbally, but climatically—and I would rather see the perspiration rolling off the brow of the Leader of the Opposition because of the power he has to put into a debate than because of the heat in the Chamber.

To the best of my ability, and without having any real information on the various matters that have been raised, I have covered the points mentioned in this debate. I am appreciative of the support which has been given to this Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

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

BILLS (2): RETURNED

1. Mines Regulation Act Amendment Bill.
2. Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act Amendment Bill.

Bills returned from the Assembly without amendment.

The PRESIDENT: I will leave the Chair until the ringing of the bells.

Sitting Suspended from 5.51 to 7.30 p.m.

HOUSING ADVANCES (CONTRACTS WITH INFANTS) BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Assembly without amendment.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

Complimentary Remarks

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [7.32 p.m.]: The receipt of that message from the Legislative Assembly brings us to the close of business in the first period of this session of Parliament. Accordingly, I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until a date to be fixed by the President.

In moving the adjournment I would like to make one or two comments. First of all, I would like to say it is unusual that we are finishing at this time of the year. We usually finish about the end of November, but all members will appreciate the reason for the departure from our usual practice, now that we have changed over to two periods for each session of Parliament. It was anticipated that this period would finish earlier than the normal session in the past.

On the passing of this motion we will adjourn until approximately the middle of March, and the date of resumption will be announced in due course. In the first period of this sitting we have dealt with approximately 82 Bills. So far as the Legislative Council is concerned, 70 Bills have been passed, two remain on the notice paper, and 10 are still in the Legislative Assembly. I am reliably informed that those 10 Bills will remain on the notice paper until the March sitting.

Last year we dealt with 81 Bills, so in a shorter space of time this year we have dealt with more Bills than was the case last year in a longer period of time. I think this very largely has been due to the co-operation of the members of the House, and I would like to take the opportunity to extend to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Willesee), and to members generally my thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Ministers in this Chamber for the co-operation extended to us.

Despite the fact that we have dealt with this number of Bills, I think we can say that we have not had very many late nights. I hardly think that late nights are necessary if we deal expeditiously with business before the House. There is really no reason for us to have very many late nights in the future. However, be that as it may.

I repeat, that I would like to thank Mr. Willesee for his usual co-operation, and I would also like to make a few remarks which I think are appropriate. I wish, firstly, to mention Mr. Heitman, the Government Whip, and to express my thanks to him for his efforts in his new position. Then, of course, I come to my ministerial colleagues, Mr. Logan and Mr. MacKinnon, who have been of considerable assistance to me and who have made my task easier

by sharing legislation which has come before the House, thus tending to lighten my work.

To Mr. Roberts and his staff we also extend our thanks for the usual courtesy they have extended to us. We also thank Mr. Burton and his staff who have sustained us during this period of the session. We extend thanks to the Chief Hansard Reporter and his staff; to the ministerial staff for the assistance given to Ministers; and to the Press in relation to the work it does. I think that a special note of thanks should go to the Government Printer, and the staffs, generally, of the State departments who assiduously assist Ministers in the preparation of material to enable them to reply promptly to the large number of questions that are asked from time to time—questions which sometimes involve a great deal of research.

Perhaps it is rather inappropriate at this time to broach the subject of Christmas, because it is some time away. Although, in retrospect, when I look back to the 1st January, 1968, I fail to discover what has happened to the last 10 months of my life.

The Hon. G. W. Berry: The Minister is not on his own there.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is true, but in the hubbub of life, and the busy life we all lead, it is an undeniable fact that the last 10 months have slipped by far too quickly.

I would like to take the opportunity to express to you, Mr. President, and to your wife and family, and to all members in the House and their wives and families, the wish for a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 1969. I look forward, as I am sure my colleagues, Mr. Logan and Mr. MacKinnon do, to being here again in the middle of March, 1969, to commence the second period of our present session.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [7.40 p.m.]: I feel a little taken aback at the moment with regard to the number of Bills that we have passed—not complacently and not easily but, perhaps, by way of co-operation. I have always endeavoured to get legislation passed quickly from this House to another place. When I see the small number of Bills we have left for consideration during the second period of this session, I feel that perhaps we have extended ourselves a little more than we might have done with this spirit of co-operation.

I think that in the future we will more readily be able to discern the type of legislation which could be left for the second period, not only from the point of view of debate by the Opposition, but from the point of view of further consideration and constructive debate by all members in this Chamber. I firmly believe that within this Chamber we have

an incalculable capacity to debate the legislation which comes before us and which is ultimately placed on the Statute book. I say that without the slightest political bias. There are men in this Chamber with great capacity and we should allow them more time to develop opinions and express them when we institute legislation in this Chamber.

I hope that we develop in the future so that more time can be given to the consideration of legislation which will be to the benefit of the future of the State. It is my belief that in the second period of this session of Parliament we will surely develop more than we have done during this first period.

I do not wish to discuss that matter to any degree, in view of the more or less premature Christmas greetings extended by the Minister for Mines. I appreciate the front bench, and I appreciate the Leader of the House more and more as time goes by. Probably I appreciate him more than his wife does! The Minister for Mines has an incalculable capacity to absorb all the problems which come before him, and he seems to do it with a nicety and an approach which is good for the Government and the State.

I would like to add to what was said earlier this afternoon with regard to your birthday, Mr. President. I am sure it was a most pleasurable occasion for you and I am also sure that everybody in the House joins with me in my opinion. I hope you will be here for many other birthdays, and we will once again be able to join in wishing you a happy birthday.

I suppose I should say that we have a grizzle with regard to the Bills which came into the House during the last stages of this first period of the session, but I have so much confidence in the three Ministers that I feel certain this situation will not arise again under the new system of two periods in the one session of Parliament. This first period has been one of trial, and some error. Let me say that the error has not been the fault of any individual.

We have witnessed something which has not occurred before and with an intelligent Government—and I am sure the people of the State have decided that this is an intelligent Government—we will not be faced with the situation of late nights and hurried legislation ever again.

So in congratulating the Ministers upon the work they have done, I foresee the necessity to congratulate them on what they will do in the future.

This is the end of the first period of the session, but I could not let the opportunity pass without thanking the staff, and in particular our own clerical staff—that is, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Ashley, Mr. Hoft, Mr. Hoar and all the others—for the great work they have done over the past

few months. In this connection, Mr. President, I would like to include the staff of all the other sections of Parliament. As the Leader of the House has said, this is an opportunity for us to extend good wishes for Christmas and the New Year, and I join with him wholeheartedly in his remarks.

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) [7.46 p.m.]: Before I put the question I should like to say a few words. First of all, I would be remiss if I did not express my appreciation for the good wishes extended to me by the Leader of the House and Mr. Willesee in regard to my birthday. I appreciated also the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House in connection with my wife and family, and also his hope that we would have a happy Christmas.

I do not wish to weary the House with repetition—repeating what the Leader of the House had to say in connection with his appreciation for the work the staff have done. I sincerely endorse his remarks but as your President I think I would be expected to set an example and therefore I shall not engage in repetition. I shall let the matter rest, but I sincerely thank all members for their expressions of goodwill on my birthday.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 7.47 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 5th November, 1968

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Guthrie) took the Chair at 11 a.m., and read prayers.

TUESDAY SITTING

Luncheon Suspension

THE SPEAKER: Before opening proceedings I would remind members that this sitting is unique. This is the first occasion, in my memory, that we have sat at this time on a day when a certain event occurs elsewhere. I discussed the matter with the Chairman of Committees, and, to meet the convenience of members, whoever is in the Chair will leave the Chair at 12.30 p.m. today.

Unless any member is adversely affected—having made other arrangements—we will resume at 2 p.m. Perhaps the Whips could check with members and, if arrangements have been made by any members on the assumption that we would resume at 2.15 p.m., adjustments will be made.