

In latter years, as Mr. Logan said, he drove himself, but he did not let up. Even when we asked him to take a spell and not accompany us on a long trip he declined to do so, and invariably he went along with us. What I heard said recently of the late Mr. Simpson summed up his character, that he was great, energetic, and gentlemanly. He has set an example which we could well follow.

THE HON. S. T. J. THOMPSON (South) [6.13 p.m.]: I wish to be associated with the motion before the House. During the past three sessions of Parliament it has been my privilege to occupy a seat beside the late Mr. Simpson, and I shall always be grateful for the kind words of wisdom and for the advice he was so ready to tender. In the passing of Mr. Simpson we have lost one of nature's gentlemen, and it is with great sorrow that I look at his vacant seat beside me.

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) [6.14 p.m.]: Once again I must associate myself with this motion of condolence, and I support the remarks of all the members who have spoken. Mrs. Simpson and her family must derive a great deal of comfort from such remarks, for they establish the fact that Bert Simpson's life was one well spent. Therefore it is with sadness that I support the motion.

Question passed; members standing.

House adjourned at 6.15 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 6th August, 1963.

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

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Fiftieth Anniversary: Address of Loyalty

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) [4.32 p.m.]: I desire to inform the House that on Tuesday, the 9th July, 1963, the Chancellor of the University of Western Australia, Sir Alex Reid, C.M.G., I.S.O., accompanied by the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor C. J. Birkett Clews; the Chairman of the Professorial Board, Professor M. N. Austin; the Registrar, Mr. A. J. Williams; and the Administrative Officer, Mr. H. F. Wilcock, visited me in my room, in the presence of the Minister for Works, The Hon. G. P. Wild; the Leader of the Opposition, The Hon. A. R. G. Hawke; and several other members of the House.

The Chancellor, to mark the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the University of Western Australia, and to express assurances of loyalty to the Legislature of this State, presented the following address—

The Honourable the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Western Australia:

On the occasion of The Fiftieth Anniversary of The University of Western Australia which is being celebrated in this year, 1963, the Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Members of the Senate, Warden of Convocation, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professors and the whole community of staff, students and officers of the University beg leave to present their respectful assurances of loyalty to the Legislature of this State of Western Australia.

The University was inaugurated by the passage of an Act to Establish, Incorporate and Endow the University of Western Australia, which was assented to on the sixteenth of February, 1911. Following the appointment of members of the first Senate, the selection of the foundation Professors and Lecturers and the constituting of Convocation in 1912, the University began the instruction of its first students on the thirty-first of March, 1913.

The University records with appreciation and gratitude the vision and energy of those leaders who laid the foundations of higher education in

this community and the generous statesmanship shown by successive governments in fostering the growth and expansion of the institution from its humble but hardy beginnings to its present dignity and beauty.

The University has always envisaged and interpreted its function as the performance of double but undivided duty: the pursuit and communication of knowledge, as a member of the world-wide commonwealth of learning, and, as the University of this State, the provision of "instruction in those practical arts and liberal studies which are needed to advance the prosperity and welfare of the people". All Faculties and Schools have contributed something indispensable to the quality of this distinctive Western Australian Community, both those first established and those added later; those bearing on the peculiar characteristics and genius of the region no less and no more than those that link it with the civilized mind of all times and places.

Already graduates of the University of Western Australia have achieved distinction throughout the world and have enriched and stimulated in many significant ways the spiritual, intellectual, artistic and material life of their fellow-citizens. It is to be hoped that, as the opportunities and demands for higher education grow with the growth of our dynamic and happy society, so may the mutual relations of service, respect and concord between Government and University continue in the future as in the past to confer blessings both on the individual and the common life.

Thus with sober pride and sanguine hope we invite you, Sir, and the members of our august legislature, to share with us the celebration of our University Jubilee and to accept this sincere testimony of our continuing and grateful loyalty.

27th June, 1963.

(Sgd.) Alex J. Reid,
Chancellor.

On behalf of the Legislature Assembly, I replied in the following terms:—

Mr. Chancellor and Gentlemen of the University:

On behalf of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, I thank you for your expressions of loyalty to the Legislature of this State on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the University of Western Australia.

We desire to offer our congratulations on the celebration of your Golden Jubilee, and to advise you that the recognition of the statesmanship shown by successive Governments to the University is deeply appreciated.

The Presentation of this Address Will be reported to the House at the earliest opportunity.

(Sgd.) John Hearman,
Speaker.

I now place upon the Table of the House the Chancellor's address and my reply thereto.

The papers were tabled.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

BARGES "TERN" AND "PETREL"

Tenders Received by Fremantle Harbour Trust, and Prices Quoted

2. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:
 - (1) Was the action of the Fremantle Harbour Trust in inviting tenders for the purchase of the barges *Tern* and *Petrel* the result of a decision on the part of the trust actually to sell the barges or was it exploratory only in order to ascertain what were the likely sale prices?
 - (2) How many tenders were received for either or both barges?
 - (3) Were any of the prices tendered satisfactory?
 - (4) Was it not a fact that in at least one instance the prices tendered were in excess of what the trust expected to obtain?
 - (5) Were the prices tendered in any instance in excess of what the trust had originally paid for the barges?

Hiring to McDonald Construction Co.

- (6) Why did the trust decide not to accept any of the tenders but instead to hire the barges to McDonald Construction Company?
- (7) What reason was given by the trust when it notified the highest tenderer that it had been decided not to sell the barges?
- (8) Did the McDonald Construction Company either directly or indirectly submit a tender to purchase one or both barges offered?

Policy of Fremantle Harbour Trust on Hiring Barges

- (9) Previous to the occasion in question had it not been the general policy of the Fremantle Harbour Trust not to hire out any of its machinery or equipment except when such as was required was unavailable from private business sources?

- (10) What explanation does the trust give for competing with private business in the hiring out of barges to McDonald Construction Company?
- (11) Did the trust make any inquiry as to the availability of barges for hire before agreeing to hire barges to the McDonald Construction Company?
- (12) If so, of whom did it inquire?

Charges for Hiring

- (13) Were the charges for hiring which were agreed upon between the Fremantle Harbour Trust and McDonald Construction Company substantially below the charges which had been made previously on the occasions on which the trust had hired out its barges?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Exploratory to examine the economics in regard to retention or disposal of the barges.
- (2) Five.
- (3) The price tendered by Prince Launch Service for *Tern* was satisfactory as it was subsequently accepted.
- (4) No.
- (5) Yes. The trust originally purchased at a favoured or preferential rate.
- (6) The barges were primarily for hire to facilitate working and development of the port. At the time when McDonald Construction Company made original inquiries tenders had not been called and when the company made final arrangements tenders had not been finalised.
- (7) All five tenderers were advised that in view of expected developments in connection with harbour improvements the barges were withdrawn from sale until a later date.
- (8) No.
- (9) The trust hires out shore mechanical equipment and floating plant in the port, but does not seek to compete with private enterprise outside the port.
- (10) The trust did not compete with private business. The trust advised McDonald Construction Company that all sources of private hire must be explored before hire of the trust barges could be considered. Subsequent investigations revealed that the barge owned by Mrs. Snider was the only privately-owned one available for hire. McDonald Construction Company informed the trust that this barge was unsuitable for the purpose.
- (11) Yes.
- (12) R. P. Gray Pty. Limited; Western Trading Company—Barges otherwise committed. Mrs. Snider—Barge unsuitable, see No. (10) above.
- (13) No. McDonald Construction Company was charged the normal hire rate.

COCKBURN CEMENT PTY. LTD.

Agreement with Government and Rate of Interest Charged

- 3. Mr. TONKIN asked the Treasurer:
 - (1) Why was a new agreement on the 26th January, 1961, executed between the Government and Cockburn Cement Pty. Ltd. to terminate several existing agreements and fix the rate of interest at 4½ per cent. from the 31st December, 1960, onwards which the company was to pay on the advance of £1,000,000 which had been made to it during the years 1954 to 1960?
 - (2) Was it not reasonable that the company should pay for advances at such rate or rates as the State itself was required to pay to those from whom it borrowed the moneys advanced as was provided in the original agreement?
 - (3) What rate of interest was being charged by the State Housing Commission to home purchasers at the 26th January, 1961?
 - (4) Was this rate subsequently increased, and, if so, when and to what figure?

Particulars of Borrowings

- (5) Was Cockburn Cement Pty. Ltd. requested to submit particulars concerning the amount of money which it claimed it had been obliged to borrow from sources other than the State Government and the resultant increase in cost to the company?
- (6) Did it supply the information required in proof of its contention?
- (7) What is the present position of the account relating to the loan?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (1) In order to consolidate the several agreements which were in existence prior to the 26th January, 1961, and to limit the State's commitment to the total sum of £1,000,000 advanced to that date.

The new agreement also fixed the rate of interest at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum from the 1st January, 1961.

- (2) No, in view of the original intention to make advances to the company from the Loan Fund which was changed at the Government's request to provide initial finance by way of bank overdraft. It was not considered equitable that the company should be put to additional expense because of delay by the Government in providing advances from Loan Fund. The interest rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum is the rate which the company would have been charged under the original agreement if advances had been made as intended initially.
- (3) $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. including a loading of three-quarters of 1 per cent. to cover costs of administration.
- (4) The rate was increased to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from the 16th May, 1961, and reduced to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from the 17th May, 1962.
- (5) No. The company was requested to submit financial returns of its operations but these were not supplied.
- (6) Answered by No. (5).
- (7) The loan had been reduced to £920,000 at the 30th June last in accordance with the terms of the agreement. Interest had also been met in full to that date.

FREMANTLE HARBOUR TRUST

Receipts from Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. Ltd.

4. Mr. TONKIN asked the Treasurer:
 - (1) Has the point in dispute between the Treasury and the Fremantle Harbour Trust relating to the sum of £245,589 paid by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Coy. Ltd. to the trust and retained by it been resolved?
 - (2) If "Yes," what is the position upon which agreement has been reached?
 - (3) If "No," what action, if any, was taken during the last twelve months towards bringing the matter to finality?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).
- (3) The payment of these moneys direct to Consolidated Revenue would not achieve any different result under present circumstances from that now obtaining, as all collections by the Fremantle Harbour Trust in excess of operating

expenses are being paid into Consolidated Revenue. Therefore no useful purpose would be served by a change in present procedure.

TEACHERS' SALARIES

Calculations and Payment: Prevention of Errors

5. Mr. TONKIN asked the Treasurer:
 - (1) On whose authority was the suggestion of the Auditor-General in 1959 that the appointment of an experienced internal checking officer was desirable to reduce the disturbingly large proportion of errors being made in the calculation and payment of Education Department salaries, rejected?
 - (2) What was the reason that the suggestion was rejected?
 - (3) Is it not most desirable that practical steps be taken to minimise the number of errors in view of the fact that the Education Department has a payroll in excess of £8,000,000 per annum and the numerous errors are occasioning considerable inconvenience and irritation to teachers as well as resulting in a number of irregular payments going undetected?
 - (4) What was the outcome of the Auditor-General's representations to the Treasury on this matter in 1962?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (1) and (2). In 1959 payments to teachers were made by the Treasury.
- The suggestion was rejected after an investigation by the Public Service Commissioner's Office revealed that the proportion of errors did not warrant the appointment of a full-time checking officer.
- (3) Yes.
 - (4) An additional salaries clerk was appointed.

IRON ORE FROM TALLERING PEAK

Reasons for Lack of Sale to Japan

6. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Industrial Development:
 - (1) Does he remember giving the Legislative Assembly an assurance on the 7th November last year, that the reason why no contracts had been obtained for the sale to Japan of iron ore from Tallering Peak was not on account of any difficulty over the grade of ore, but was "entirely on account of the Japanese economic conditions which are affecting their planning"?

- (2) Is he aware that it was reported in the *Daily News* of the 10th May that a spokesman for certain Japanese steel mills gave as the reason, "disagreement on the quality of W.A. iron ore to be mined from Talling Peak Mines"?
- (3) What explanation has he to give for denying my suggestion that the trouble was in the grade of ore being offered and giving the assurance, which he did, and which is contrary to the known facts?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) Yes.
(3) No explanation is necessary because the Japanese have made it clear both to Australia and to other countries that their reluctance to sign major iron ore agreements in recent times is related to their economic position which we understand is recovering and will clear the way for the signing of contracts within a reasonable period.
- The advanced nature of the negotiations between Western Mining Corporation and the Japanese is evidence of this.
- The fact that there was negotiation on the quality of ore to be mined from Talling Peak is not peculiar to this area. In all negotiations for iron ore contracts, the quality of ore including contaminants must be of vital interest to both parties and the subject of careful examination before agreement.

HOUSING OF TEACHERS

Agreement between Government and Teachers' Union

7. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has agreement between the Government and the Teachers' Union yet been reached on a plan for teacher housing?
- (2) Does he not agree that the proper housing of teachers is at least of equal importance to the housing of migrant tradesmen who have been guaranteed a suitable house?
- Interest Rate to be Charged*
- (3) Is the Government insisting on an interest rate of 6 per cent. on capital involved which will be a component of the rent?
- (4) If so, how does it reconcile its attitude to the teachers with its treatment of the Cockburn Cement

Co., which had its interest on a loan of £1,000,000 reduced to a rate of 4½ per cent.?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) No.
(2) and (3) The importance of the housing of teachers and Government employees generally is at present the subject of investigation by a special committee. Its report is expected in the very near future.
(4) Answered by Nos. (2) and (3).

CREDIT BETTING

Offences Against Section 33 of Act, and Prosecutions

8. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Was it not enacted by Parliament in Western Australia that the Totalisator Agency Board, or any of its officers, agents, or employees shall not accept any bet that is made by letter or by telegram or telephone message on any horse race unless the person making the bet has established with the board in accordance with the Act, a credit account up to the time of making the bet and the bet is charged against that account?
- (2) In what number of instances have known offences been committed against section 33 of the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act, which is the section referred to in the previous question?
- (3) In how many instances have prosecutions been instituted against the offenders?

Amount Owed by Defaulters

- (4) What is the total amount due to the T.A.B. in respect of bets made by telephone with the board's agents by bettors who have defaulted, and in connection with which the agents concerned, in purported compliance with the law, had undertaken to advance money which they did not have and consequently the board has not received payment?

Amount Repaid by Agents

- (5) Of the total amount due to the board through default of bettors, how much has been repaid by agents—
- (a) by lump sum payments;
(b) by deductions by the T.A.B. from commission earned?

Retention by T.A.B. of Agents' Commission

- (6) How many agents are at present having money retained by the T.A.B. out of commission earned to liquidate debts due by them to the board?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) One.
- (3) One.
- (4) £240.
- (5) Answering on the assumption that this question is directly related to No. (4) above—
 - (a) Nil.
 - (b) Nil.
- (6) Two, but if this question is related to Nos. (4) and (5) above, the answer is none.

T.A.B.: MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

Employees Concerned

9. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Will he supply—
 - (a) a list of the persons (using symbols so as not to identify them personally) who, since the establishment of the Totalisator Agency Board, have, whilst employed in any capacity with that public authority, misappropriated or were believed to have misappropriated, any of the board's funds;
 - (b) particulars of amounts of money involved, or thought to be involved, in each case, respectively?

Action Taken Against Offenders

- (2) Of these persons how many were—
 - (a) suspended from employment;
 - (b) re-employed;
 - (c) charged in the court in respect of the alleged offences?

Amount Repaid to Date

- (3) How many of these persons have made, or have promised to make restitution, either in whole or in part, and what is the total amount which has been repaid to date?

Cases Reported to Police, and Proceedings Instituted

- (4) Were all cases of misappropriation of the funds of the T.A.B. reported to the police by that authority?
- (5) If not, how many cases were reported, and of these how many occurred subsequent to the 22nd June, 1962?
- (6) Have all cases which occurred after the 22nd June, 1962, been reported to the police?
- (7) In how many cases were police court proceedings instituted—
 - (a) before the 30th April, 1963;
 - (b) subsequent to that date?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) (a) No; but numbers and amounts involved in known cases are given in (b) hereunder.
- (b) Seven cases in all, the respective amounts being—

	£	s.	d.
	498	7	2
	626	5	0
	6	0	0
	28	10	0
	57	17	0
	943	2	5
	545	19	0

Total £2,706 0 7

- (2) (a) Seven.
- (b) None.
- (c) Six.
- (3) Four have made restitution in full and one has made part restitution, the total amount repaid being £803 16s. 8d. and payment is likely in the other two cases in which no payment has been made.
- (4) No.
- (5) Six out of which four took place subsequent to the 22nd June, 1962.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) (a) Four.
- (b) One, with one under consideration.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

Coal and Fuel Oil Consumption

10. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) What was the total annual consumption of coal by the State Electricity Commission during each of the years 1956 to 1962 inclusive?
- (2) What was the total annual consumption of fuel oil for the same period?
- (3) What is the expected average annual increase in the consumption of coal by the S.E.C. during the next seven years?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Years ended the 30th June:

	tons.
1956	446,700
1957	444,000
1958	480,300
1959	507,200
1960	529,200
1961	414,900
1962	542,600
1963	608,100
- (2)

	tons.
1956	10,200
1957	13,100
1958	10,000
1959	11,300
1960	12,200
1961	85,100
1962	44,000
1963	40,200
- (3) Approximately 5 per cent.

CREDIT BETTING*Advances by T.A.B. Agents to Clients*

11. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many instances have occurred where agents of the Totalisator Agency Board by undertaking to advance money to bettors in connection with bets made by telephone in purported compliance with the requirements of section 33, subsection (b) have not received the amount of the bets from the bettors and did not have the money themselves to pay the board?
- (2) As every such bet is clearly and definitely an offence as provided for in section 37 of the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act, were those offences reported to the police?
- (3) Is he aware that the Chairman of the T.A.B. was quoted in *The West Australian* of the 21st July, 1961, as having said: "If the agent contravenes either the Act or the regulations, or even if he acts legally but allows his clients to run into debt, he will be dismissed"?
- (4) Does he agree that this statement by the chairman has amounted to no more than idle words, the effect of which has been to mislead the public regarding the real nature of credit betting in which the T.A.B. has permitted its agents to engage?

Dismissal of T.A.B. Agents

- (5) How many agents have been dismissed solely because they permitted clients to run into debt?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) There is one known case.
- (2) Yes, the one known case has been reported.
- (3) No, but it is accepted that the chairman was quoted as stated.
- (4) No.
- (5) None. There are no known cases of clients running into debt although it is accepted that one person now in gaol bet with moneys obtained by false pretences.

TIDAL POWER: HARNESSING AT COLLIER BAY*Cost of Investigation by French Experts*

12. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) What is the cost to date in connection with the arrangement between the Government and the French

firm under which M. J. P. Duport and M. M. Fagnoni came to Western Australia in connection with an inquiry into the feasibility of harnessing tidal power in the Collier Bay area north of Derby?

- (2) Was either of these French experts on a daily rate of payment whilst in the State?
- (3) If so, what was the rate?
- (4) What is the estimated total payment which the Government will be required to make in connection with the advice it is expected to be given?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) £5,739.
- (2) Yes—after the first three weeks.
- (3) £580 per week. Cost to date to Sogreah was made up of—
 - (a) £4,800 for agreed assistance.
 - (b) £580 per week for each week exceeding first three weeks.
 - (c) Air fares Perth-Derby and return.
- (4) Discussions are proceeding concerning the extent and cost of further assistance. At this stage, the information requested is not available.

IRON ORE: MT. GOLDSWORTHY DEPOSITS*Development for Export*

13. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Has he seen that Mr. R. Belliveau, the W.A. representative of Mt. Goldsworthy Mining Associates, was reported to have said, in connection with the Commonwealth Government's decision to grant an export license for all the known deposits at Mt. Goldsworthy, that, "The development plans of Mt. Goldsworthy Mining Associates had always been on the assumption that all the known iron ore deposits at Mt. Goldsworthy would be exported"?
- (2) Has that been also the Government's opinion?

Tenders

- (3) When tenders were invited for the Mt. Goldsworthy deposit, what proportion for export was stipulated?
- (4) How many tenders were received?
- (5) Did it appear from the tenders that all of the tenderers had tendered on the basis that the whole of the deposit would be available for export?

- (6) Did the Mt. Goldsworthy Mining Associates have inside information or was their tender made on the basis of a calculated risk which amounted to a gamble?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
 (2) The State Government originally called tenders on the basis of the Commonwealth Government's export conditions, but the agreement with Mt. Goldsworthy Associates ratified by Parliament stated that—

The parties contemplate the possibility that the Commonwealth may from time to time grant to the Joint Venturers licenses to export iron ore mined from the mining area and elsewhere in the said State, in excess of 15,000,000 tons and at a greater rate than 1,000,000 tons per annum.

- (3) 15,000,000 tons (50 per cent. of the then estimated deposits).
 (4) Six.
 (5) Some tenderers envisaged the possibility of much more ore being located and becoming available for export.
 (6) Not understood.

MINING OPERATIONS AT WHIM CREEK

Engagement of Japanese Advisers

14. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Will he table a copy of the letter which the Minister for Mines wrote to the Chairman of Depuch Shipping and Mining Co. Pty. Ltd., saying that he was agreeable to four Japanese remaining as expert advisers during plant erection at Whim Creek?
 (2) Has the erection of the plant been completed?
 (3) Are the Japanese still employed on the mine, with the Minister's permission despite the decision in the Marble Bar Warden's Court that the Japanese were being employed in breach of section 291 of the Mining Act?
 (4) However expedient or desirable it may be thought to be, how is the Minister for Mines able to permit Japanese to work on a mine at Whim Creek without committing a breach of his oath of office?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) The following are copies of the letter to the company and a telegram to the Japanese Ambassador—

30th November, 1962.

Mr. H. W. Woodfield,
 Chairman,
 Depuch Shipping &
 Mining Co. Pty. Ltd.,
 c/o Warman & Co.,
 171 St. George's Terrace,
 Perth.

Dear Sir,

Whim Creek Copper

I am directed by the Hon. Minister for Mines to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th instant and to advise you that, after giving careful consideration to your request, he is agreeable to the four men referred to by you remaining as expert advisers during the plant erection at Whim Creek, and that thereafter two men not employed in any way by the Depuch Company, but purely Dow Company employees and representatives, might be permitted to stay subject to annual review.

Yours faithfully,

A. H. TELFER,

Under Secretary for Mines.

His Excellency S. Ohta
 Japanese Ambassador
 Canberra

Mining Act in force this State precludes employment of Asians in mines. Stop Government will not raise any objection to Japanese engineers or technicians supervising technical details in regard installation of specialised gear which may be brought in from overseas for mining purposes. Stop Government has no objection to Japanese capital. Stop Under State Companies Act if a company in Japan carries on a business in Western Australia it must register under Part XI (Foreign Companies Provisions) of Companies Act.

Griffith

Minister for Mines.

- (2) Trial run is now taking place.
 (3) It is understood that three Japanese representatives of Dow Company are at Whim Creek.
 (4) As set out in the communications referred to in No. (1) above, the Minister reiterates that permission was never given for Japanese to work in the mine, but it was a question of Japanese capital being employed and some of their machinery being installed, and it

was regarded as reasonable that suppliers of the capital should be able to oversee its proper use, bearing in mind that the Japanese referred to were in the State on a Commonwealth Immigration Department visa.

As a result of the establishment of this mine, 30 Australians are today employed on it, and this number will be increased in one month's time to 60.

JUVENILE GATHERINGS IN PUBLIC RESORTS

Amendment of Police Act

15. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is he aware that when pronouncing judgment on a case in the Court of Criminal Appeal on the 22nd November, 1961, the Chief Justice said that:

Parliament should take early steps to correct a section of the Police Act dealing with the gathering of juveniles in places of public resort?

- (2) Why was no action on the matter taken in Parliament by the Government last session?
- (3) Is it intended to take the required action this session?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Because of the extensive inquiries necessary into this and other sections of the Police Act.
- (3) The matter is receiving consideration.

HOUSING FOR MIGRANTS

Government Advice to Lonnie Mission

16. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

- (1) Was a cablegram sent by the Government to Mr. Lonnie in England, informing him that there was no waiting list for houses in Western Australia?
- (2) Was this information given to intending migrants by the mission?

Accommodation in Hostels, and Cost

- (3) What is the expenditure to date on private hotel accommodation for migrants for whom houses were not, or are not yet, available?
- (4) How many migrant adults and children are at present being accommodated in a private hotel?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (1) No, but in general terms the Migration Mission was authorised to assure intending migrants that housing would be provided within a reasonable time.

(2) Answered by No. (1).

- (3) Due to the arrival of a number of ships with migrants at short intervals, it was not possible to accommodate all the migrants at the Point Walter Hostel. It was therefore necessary to accommodate some at the Rose & Crown and Britannia Hostels. Expenditure incurred and revenue collected in this regard are as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Expenditure to 26/7/63	4,951	12	3
Revenue to 26/7/63	1,692	19	2
Cost to State to 26/7/63	3,258	13	1

- (4) One family only, consisting of husband, wife, and one child is at present in private hostel accommodation.

BRIDGE BUILDING

Tenders and Contracts

17. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) When the building firm of R. J. Davies Pty. Ltd. was given the contract for the railway bridge at Fremantle was its tender the lowest?
- (2) Was it the lowest tenderer for the bridge at Kununurra which is still in an unfinished state?
- (3) Was it the lowest tenderer for the proposed bridge over the Bow River?
- (4) Did the firm which subcontracted for the concrete work on the Fremantle Railway Bridge submit a tender for the construction of the bridge?
- (5) If so, was its tender above or below that of the successful tenderer, R. J. Davies Pty. Ltd.?

Government Assistance for R. J. Davies Pty. Ltd.

- (6) Was any part of the "substantial extra finance" which R. J. Davies publicly stated on the 20th June had been arranged for his company provided by the Government?
- (7) If so what are the particulars?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) The tender of Messrs. R. J. Davies Pty. Ltd. was the lowest of eight tenders received.
- (2) It is assumed that the question refers to a bridge over the main irrigation channel near the Kununurra airstrip. If so, I am informed the construction of this bridge was awarded as part of a major contract to C. R. Keath

Earthmoving Pty. Ltd. This contractor appointed R. J. Davies Pty. Ltd. as his subcontractor for the bridge.

- (3) The tender submitted by R. J. Davies Pty. Ltd. was the lowest valid tender received by the Main Roads Department. The Bow River bridge project was one of six such bridges in the East Kimberleys all included in one tender.
- (4) Messrs. R. J. Davies carried out all the concrete work themselves with wet concrete supplied by Ready Mixed Concrete Pty. Ltd., which company did not submit a tender for the construction of the bridge.
- (5) Answered by No. (4).
- (6) and (7) The Government's part was limited to a guarantee for £20,000 issued to cover an advance by Commonwealth Trading Bank repayable by the 31st December, 1963.

HOUSING SHORTAGE

Effect of Lonnie Mission

18. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Does he realise that the Government in endeavouring to fulfil its contractual obligations to migrant tradesmen brought here under the Lonnie scheme has increased the waiting period for Western Australian applicants to such an extent that emergent cases now remain unsatisfied for months?

Provision of Flats

- (2) Has he considered the advisability or otherwise of utilising a greater proportion of the building money available for the erection of flats similar to Wandana?

Measures to Prevent Deterioration of Housing Position

- (3) What special measures, if any, does the Government intend to employ to prevent the present unsatisfactory housing position from deteriorating further?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The Government is aware of its obligation and has arranged additional finance for the erection of more housing to meet the needs of all concerned, including the emergents.
- (2) Yes, the advisability of building flats has been considered. For the present, the erection of houses for families is thought to be the more important.

- (3) The Government does not agree that the housing position is deteriorating. This is evident by the following:—

At the year ended the 30th June, 1959, there were 7,985 applicants for Commonwealth-State and State Housing Act homes, and the number of houses completed under these schemes for the year was 1,174. The waiting period was then more than three years for rental and purchase homes.

At the 30th June, 1963, the number of applicants was 5,800 and the waiting period, depending on locality, variable up to 30 months for rental homes and variable to 18 months for purchase homes.

For the year ended June, 1963, 1,714 Commonwealth-State and State Housing Act homes were completed.

NORTHERN MINERALS SYNDICATE

Government Subsidy, and Undistributed Profits

19. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) When consideration was being given by the Government to the request of the Northern Minerals Syndicate for a subsidy involving a payment to the syndicate of a sum exceeding £30,000, was due regard given to the amount of undistributed profits of the syndicate and its interests in tin mining at Shaw River, the Paris Gold Mine at Widgiemooltha and the grazing property near Bridgetown?
- (2) Is he aware that it has been stated on behalf of West Coast Holdings that that company had bright prospects of getting a dividend out of its one-sixth interest in Northern Minerals because of its automatic holding in the Paris Gold Mine?
- (3) Is it true that Northern Minerals has spent £234,000 of undistributed profits at the Paris Gold Mine and that British Metals Corporation decided to invest £75,000?
- (4) Should not the over-all financial position of a claimant for a Government subsidy be taken into consideration before funds are made available?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) and (4) In considering the request for assistance with better handling facilities at Port Hedland, the

Government had to take into account the desirability of encouraging the export of manganese.

The Government's amount is not a subsidy. It is proposed that the company and the Government make a contribution of approximately equal amounts in provision of bulk handling equipment, stockpile area and improved berthing facilities. The assets on which Government money is expended will remain the property of the Government. The company will require to pay a levy per ton to the Government.

It is reasonable to assume that, regardless of the other financial interests of the parties, they are not likely to press on with the export of a mineral which cannot be handled on an economic basis with existing facilities.

The Government thought it was of sufficient importance to the Pilbara district generally and to Port Hedland in particular to endeavour to create a situation which would make it attractive for the applicants to export their manganese in a very competitive world market and also make facilities available for others who would have access to them on a fair and reasonable basis.

- (2) No, but if such has been stated, my information is that the West Coast Holdings' hopes are hard to understand. Paris Gold Mines Pty. Ltd. is reported to be a long way from being in a position to declare a dividend. The mine is stated to be in its early developmental stages and even subject to satisfactory development would not be in a position to provide a suitable return for a period of years.
- (3) Yes. I understand Paris Gold could absorb further money and such expenditure would be intended to have a gold producing mine in an area which needs development.

MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENT: ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Access to Navy Radio Communication Centre

20. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) How does it transpire that in the matter of the construction of 26 miles of road to provide access to the site of the U.S. Navy's radio communication centre at North-West Cape the Government of that great protagonist of private

enterprise, the United States of America, should engage a Government department to do the work in preference to some private firm?

- (2) Were tenders invited or quotes obtained?

Construction at Cost for Private Subdividers

- (3) Will he authorise the Main Roads Department to construct roads at cost for subdividers who are required to provide for the construction of roads?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) The engineer in charge of the project (Captain Maley of the United States Navy) called for the assistance of the Commissioner of Main Roads and, after consultation, made the request that the work be done by that department. It was considered by the United States Navy that there was much to be gained by using specialised techniques which the Main Roads Department had developed over the years, taking advantage of stabilising formations and pavements by the mixing of materials close at hand. Furthermore, as the nature of soils changes over short distances it would be extremely difficult to draw up a specification which could control the operations of a contractor.
- (2) It was agreed by the representative of the United States Navy that tenders would not be invited or quotes obtained. He appreciated that the Main Roads Department transported all its materials on a contract piecework basis and that most of the large construction plant was hired from private operators.
- (3) Contractors have shown that they are able to construct roads for subdividers.

PARIS GOLD MINE

Financial Assistance

21. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Has any request been received from the Paris Gold Mine for financial assistance?
- (2) If so, what decision has been made thereon?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Paris Gold Mine applied for a loan of £105,135, for development work and for the purchase of additional plant and buildings.

A loan of £25,000 was approved on the 6th May, 1963, for specific development work to establish whether sufficient reserves of payable ore are available to enable ore extraction and milling to proceed at an orderly rate.

A previous loan of £15,000 was made to this company in 1961 for development and, of this, £12,500 has been repaid to date.

CREDIT BETTING

Proceedings against R. I. Bowman: T.A.B. Involvement

22. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Did he see in *The West Australian* of the 16th May under the heading, "Betting System Led to Man's Downfall" an account of the Criminal Court proceedings in connection with a charge of false pretences against Raymond Ivor Bowman?
- (2) Is he aware that Bowman was wagering with the T.A.B. as a credit bettor and at times was actually investing more pounds than he had pence?
- (3) How was he able to do this when the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act makes it an offence to accept a bet unless made by the deposit of the amount of the bet in cash or a credit account sufficient to pay the amount of the bet has been established and maintained by the person making the bet?
- (4) Did the agent concerned possess sufficient money to have been in a position to make good the amount for which Bowman would inevitably have been in default if his bet of £900 on Yulcarley in the Welter Handicap at Canterbury on the 9th February had lost?
- (5) Did an accountant of the T.A.B. visit Bowman at his home in connection with the abovementioned wager of £900 and receive a cheque in purported cover for the wager?
- (6) Who was supposed to be personally lending the money to Bowman in connection with this transaction?
- (7) Was the cheque ever presented for payment?
- (8) If not, what happened to it?
- (9) Is he aware that Bowman's credit bets continued to be accepted by the T.A.B. after he had been charged in the court and up to the time that he was imprisoned despite the fact that his wife had

informed the board through an agent that he had no money and his cheques were valueless?

Minister's Attitude to Observance of Law

- (10) What does he propose to do to ensure that the conduct of the T.A.B. in regard to credit betting conforms to the undertaking given to Parliament when the Bill was being discussed, viz., that "credit betting off-course in totalisator regions will no longer be legal, and bets will be possible only in cash or against cash deposits or winnings held by the T.A.B."?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) By reason of false pretences.
- (4) I do not know; but the agent claims that he did.
- (5) No.
- (6) Nobody.
- (7) No.
- (8) It was returned to the backer at the request of the chairman.
- (9) No; but I understand that on the 30th March, 1963, the agent cashed two cheques for £35 and £40, respectively, for the backer and that both cheques were dishonoured.
- (10) As the level of true credit betting has dropped by some 70 per cent. since the T.A.B. has taken over and further restrictions could lead to an increase in the worst form of betting—that is, unrestricted telephone betting with illegal bookmakers—I do not propose to do anything further.

BETTING REGULATION

T.A.B. Appeal to High Court

23. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

If as he implies in his statements about the decision of the Full High Court on the application of the T.A.B. for special leave to appeal, against the decision of Mr. Justice Virtue (which was upheld by the State Full Court) that the decision that regulation 36 (1) (a) and (b) was ultra vires is of no consequence or effect, will he explain why the T.A.B. sought special leave to appeal against the decision?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

The T.A.B. sought leave to appeal because—

- (a) It desired to avoid any possibility of claims from parties who considered themselves to be aggrieved.

- (b) It desired to render abortive any further attempts made by those persons dedicated to the obstruction of the T.A.B. system.
- (c) In the event of it returning to the conduct of totalisator pools on Eastern States racing, it desired to conduct pools that would be more palatable to backers but more unpalatable to those dedicated to obstruct, than the somewhat restricted orthodox totalisator pools.
- (d) The board considers that it was both morally and legally entitled to conduct the pools in the manner covered by the regulations subsequently set aside by the court.

APPRENTICE CARPENTERS

Trainees, Completed Apprenticeships, and New Registrations

24. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) How many youths were undergoing training as apprentice carpenters during the year ended the 30th June last?
- (2) How many apprentice carpenters completed their apprenticeship and how many new apprentices to carpentry were registered during the year?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) 500.
- (2) (a) 74.
- (b) 134.

CENTRAL ROAD TRUST FUND

Credit Balance and Additional Commonwealth Assistance

25. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) At the 30th June last, what was the amount of the balance to the credit of the Central Road Trust Fund?
- (2) What was the amount of the additional assistance received in respect of the last financial year under section 6 of the Commonwealth Act No. 39 of 1959?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) £2,755,088. The whole of this money has since been paid out to local authorities and to the Main Roads Department.
- (2) In the year 1962-63 a matching grant of £1,405,521 was received under section 6 of the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act No. 39 of 1959.

IRON ORE AT PILBARA

Magnitude of Deposit

26. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) Did he see in *The West Australian* of the 12th July, in an article by Don Smith, under the heading, "Moves on Vast Pilbara Iron Ore Fields," the following statement:—

"One project alone would call for an expenditure as high as £30,000,000. Its magnitude is such that already there is speculation that it could provide the nucleus of a second steel industry in W.A. in little more than a generation."

Negotiations for Development

- (2) Does he believe that the project referred to is the one which was contained in the proposal which Mr. Duncan, world chief of Rio Tinto, placed before the Premier in writing over a year ago and in connection with which it was reported in *The West Australian* of the 11th May, this year, that negotiations which were expected to continue in Perth for several weeks were currently in progress "between Conzinc-Riotinto of Australia Ltd. and Industrial Development Minister Court and Mines Minister Griffith"?
- (3) Was the belief expressed by *The West Australian* reasonably accurate that a key aspect of the negotiations was the extent to which C.R.A. was prepared eventually to process iron ore in W.A.?
- (4) Are the negotiations still proceeding?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The honourable member is not entitled to assume that the references in the Press of the 11th May and the 12th July are to earlier discussions between the Government and Mr. Duncan.

The facts are that temporary reserves for iron ore were originally granted in the names of Hancock Prospecting Pty. Ltd.; Wright Prospecting Pty. Ltd.; and Rio Tinto Southern Pty. Ltd., at a time when a number of other companies were given temporary reserves. Transfers of the reserves from the three companies mentioned to Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd. were registered on the 28th December, 1962. At the appropriate time negotiations were opened up for the agreement which has now been signed.

- (3) Yes.
- (4) An agreement was signed on the 30th July, 1963, and will be the subject of ratifying legislation during this session.

POLICE FORCE

Enlargement

27. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Has the Commissioner for Police within the last twelve months made any request to him to enlarge the force under his command?
- (2) If so, in which branches of the service were increases in the number of personnel recommended?
- (3) Have the requests which have been made been fully met by the Government?
- (4) If not, what are the particulars of the requests which were not approved?

Promotion System: Effect on C.I.B. Efficiency

- (5) Is the system of promotion which operates in the Police Force conducive to the maintenance of full efficiency in the Criminal Investigation Branch?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Of the 25 appointed on the 2nd July, 1962, 15 were allocated to the Traffic Branch, three to the C.I.B. and seven to general uniform duties.

A further 20 have been approved for engagement this financial year and are now being recruited. Of these 10 will go to the Traffic Branch (six road patrol, two examiners and two on general traffic work); two to the C.I.B. for the eastern patrol, and eight to general uniform duties.

- (3) Yes.
- (4) Answered by No. (3).
- (5) Yes.

APPLECROSS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Provision of Adequate Sports Grounds

28. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Did the Applecross Senior High School Parents and Citizens' Association represent a case to him during last year for additional land so that adequate ground space would be available to cater for all of the sporting requirements of the large student body?

- (2) Did he, during the course of a visit to the school in August last year, agree that the school area available was far short of what is needed and give a verbal promise that an additional eight acres would be procured?

- (3) If so, did he in a recent letter to the association withdraw the promise and fail to offer any advice or assistance as to how the additional land may be procured before residential development takes up the vacant ground that now surrounds the school on two sides?
- (4) Is it not a fact that the school ground area is at least six acres below the standard minimum requirement which the Education Department has accepted for senior high school sites?
- (5) What does he propose to do in all the circumstances to meet the situation now existing?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. The statement was made that investigation would be made to see whether it would be possible to acquire an area of land adjoining the school site.
- (3) The Parents & Citizens' Association was advised that the School Sites Committee investigated the proposal to acquire eight acres of additional land but in view of the high cost recommended that the area be not acquired. This recommendation was approved.
- (4) The Applecross High School site is almost 20 acres. Prior to two years ago the policy of the department was to acquire high school sites of 20 acres where possible. Since then sites of 25 acres have been sought. Applecross site was acquired under the earlier standards.
- (5) No further action is proposed.

FLUORIDATION OF WATER

Responsibility for Fluoride Dental Caries Hypothesis

29. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Who is acknowledged as being primarily responsible in the world for the fluoride dental caries hypothesis?

Opponents

- (2) Is it a fact that the advisability of the fluoridation of water supplies is a question still undecided by some of the world's highest authorities?

- (3) Do some of these authorities even consider fluoridation to be dangerous?
- (4) Is he aware that included in those who are in opposition to the fluoridation of water supplies are Sir Stanton Hicks, former Professor of Human Physiology and Pharmacology, Adelaide University, and Director of Nutrition of the Australian Armed Forces, World War II, and Sir Mark Oliphant, renowned scientist?

Results

- (5) Does he agree with the statement made by Sir Stanton Hicks in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, the 11th November, 1961, that "approximately 5 per cent. of children will inevitably disclose varying degrees of dental fluorosis which is a brown mottling disfigurement of the teeth"?
- (6) Is he aware that Mr. Frank Broomfield, Associate (and Mapping Medallist) in Engineering of Sheffield University, 1900; A.M.I.C.E. from 1907 to 1953; retired civil engineer, Dunedin; author of "Submissions on Health and Wealth," after a critical analysis of the results of fluoridation at Hastings, New Zealand, concluded that, "Fluoridation has not reduced tooth decay. The children are getting just as much decay, but they are getting it about a year later"?
- (7) Does he dispute such a conclusion and if so, upon what grounds?
- (8) Is it not a fact that the tide is running strongly against fluoridation in the United States of America today?
- (9) Has he read any of the reports of the conferences held in New York and sponsored by the Medical Dental Committee on Evaluation of Fluoridation?
- (10) Will he comment on the following conclusion, which was reached at the third conference in 1959: "There can be no true scientific evaluation of the role of fluoride in the human body until investigations are conducted freely and with full discussion, unhampered by pressure from arbitrary public health policies"?
- 11) Has he made any inquiries concerning those places where fluoridation has been discontinued?
- 12) Is it a fact that Scotland's only fluoridation experiment which was at Kilmarnock was discontinued in October, 1962, after running for five years?

New Zealand Attitude

- (13) Is it not a fact that the people of New Zealand have always voted "No" to fluoridation proposals and that the Hastings water supply was fluoridated without the consent of the people being obtained?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) It is impossible to attribute the credit for establishing the relationship between drinking water containing fluoride and resistance to dental caries to any one individual. This should be attributed collectively to officers of the United States Public Health Service.
- (2) The advisability of the fluoridation of water supplies may well be undecided by one authority or another. The same position has been held in the past in regard to other health measures such as chlorination, pasteurisation, and vaccination. There is, however, no indecision on the part of the Expert Committee on Water Fluoridation of the World Health Organisation; the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia; the British Medical Research Council; and other pre-eminent authorities whose reliability has been established over many testing years.
- (3) No reputable authority that I am aware considers the controlled fluoridation of water supplies to be dangerous.
- (4) (a) The view of Sir Stanton Hicks is clear from the following extracts of a letter written by him in the *Medical Journal of Australia* (11th November, 1961, page 809):—
- ... may I, as an often misquoted opponent of the fluoridation of public water supplies, express my opinion ... I am not ... and never have been, opposed to the use of fluoride either internally or externally for dental purposes. I am, however, opposed on principle to the deliberate addition of any substance whatever to a public water supply with the avowed intention of influencing any physiological function of the human body.
- (b) The reference to Sir Mark Oliphant presumably relates to his Ross Memorial Lecture delivered at Winthrop Hall on the 27th November, 1962, when he said:—
- ... the controversy over fluoride in drinking water is not wholly unreasonable.

At the time, Sir Mark was drawing attention to the need for careful studies before the introduction of such a measure. These studies have been conducted to the satisfaction of the health authorities mentioned in No. (2).

- (5) The statement by the same author in the same letter alluded to by the honourable member in this question should be interpreted in the light of No. (4) (a).
- (6) The latest report about the Hastings project, after six years of fluoridation, (*New Zealand Dental Journal*, January, 1962, page 22; T. G. Ludwig, Dental Research Unit, New Zealand Medical Research Council) discloses that tooth decay in children was dramatically reduced. The six-year-old children (who had had the advantages of fluoridation since birth) showed a 74 per cent. reduction in dental caries. The seven-year olds (who had not had life-long protection) showed a 59 per cent. reduction; while the eight-year-olds (who had had even less protection) still had a 46 per cent. reduction.
- (7) It would seem from the answer to the last question that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has misunderstood the position.
- (8) I am not aware of any such tide. A recent report discloses that 51,000,000 people in over 2,000 communities in North America are drinking fluoridated water, and the number is increasing.
(*The Journal of the American Water Works Association*, 1963, Volume 55, page 571.)
- (9) Yes.
- (10) The advantages of fluoridated water supplies in reducing the prevalence of dental disease among children have been established to the satisfaction of those best qualified to express an opinion on this matter.
- (11) The discontinuance of fluoridation in any locality is not necessarily related to its scientific advantages, but to emotional, political, and other factors. Indeed some American communities which discontinued fluoridation have reinstituted it.
- (12) Yes. The following extract from the *Lancet*, October 27, 1962, page 870, is particularly illuminating—
On Oct. 10 the town council of Kilmarnock decided by 14 votes to 6 to end the town's participation in the fluoridation programme begun five years ago.

though we defend wholeheartedly the council's liberty to do what it thinks best, we are convinced that here it has made a mistake. The arguments presented against fluoridation at the council's meeting make depressing reading; and it is clear that the local anti-fluoridation committee, which conducted a vigorous newspaper campaign, have made it so hard for the council to see the basic facts that they have gone against the advice of their medical officer of health, against the wishes of 32 out of 34 local doctors (one was on holiday), and against the opinion of the Health Department advisers. We hope this decision will not hold up plans for extending the benefits of fluoridation to other parts of the community that are prepared to accept them.

- (13) This may be so. And no doubt the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is also aware of the reported decision of the Sydney Water Board and the Premier of South Australia. But if this House accepts fluoridation it will not have been the first time that Western Australia has taken the lead in an important health measure.

AMALGAMATED COLLIERIES

Coalmining Leases

30. Mr. H. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:
 - (1) Will he indicate which of the following coalmining leases held by Amalgamated Collieries of W.A. Ltd. have been granted, or renewed since the 1st January, 1961—
 - Lease 324: Ewington No. 1;
 - Lease 325: Ewington No. 2.
 - Lease 326: Ewington No. 3.
 - Lease 327: Ewington No. 4;
 - Lease 328: Stockton No. 1;
 - Lease 329: Stockton No. 2.
 - Lease 337: Wallsend;
 - Lease 374: Bunbury;
 - Lease 375: Fremantle;
 - Lease 376: Geraldton;
 - Lease 378: Derby;
 - Lease 379: Broome;
 - Lease 381: North Co-operative;
 - Lease 382: North Moira;
 - Lease 387: Sandy;
 - Lease 388: Stony;
 - Lease 447: Grey;
 - Lease 510: Fourone?

- (2) How many of these leases still have building and machinery remaining and waiting for removal?
- (3) What labour force is being maintained in order to comply with the conditions as laid down in the Act?
- (4) For what reason, if any, was the granting or renewing of leases made in view of the fact that Amalgamated Collieries of W.A. Ltd. are not now operating in the coal mining industry at Collie?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Leases 374, 375, 376, 378 and 379 were renewed on the 7th March, 1963.
- (2) All of the above have company assets located on them.
- (3) Leases are under a special license in force until the 24th August, 1963, exempting them from labour.
- (4) The holder under section 53 of the Mining Act had the right of renewal for a further 21 years.

HALE SCHOOL

Subdivision of Land: Tabling of Papers

31. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Town Planning:

Will he lay on the Table of the House all papers relating to the subdivision of land by the Hale School authorities in the Wembley Downs area?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Yes, for one week.

The papers were tabled.

FLUORIDATION OF WATER

Quantities of Fluoride Added to and Present in Public Water Supplies

32. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Has fluoride been added to any public water supplies in this State?
- (2) If so, which water supplies, and what quantities have been added?
- (3) Is there fluoride naturally present in any public water supplies?
- (4) If so, in which supplies, and what is the proportion in each instance?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).
- (3) Yes.
- (4) (a) Metropolitan Area—
In winter less than 0.1 p.p.m.
In summer a maximum of 0.2 p.p.m.

(b) Country Towns—

In the following towns the water supply contains 0.1 p.p.m. of fluoride or more:—

	p.p.m.
Augusta	0.15
Boddington	0.1
Boyup Brook	0.1
Broome	0.2
Bunbury	0.2-0.4
Busselton	0.2-0.35
Carnamah	0.2
Carnarvon	0.4
Cue	1.2-1.5
Derby	0.3
Esperance	0.1-0.2
Geraldton	0.2
Harvey	0.1
Lake Grace	0.1
Leonora	0.5
Marble Bar	1.0
Margaret River	0.1
Meekatharra	0.3-0.4
Mingenew	0.2
Mt. Barker	0.1
Mt. Magnet	0.2
Northampton	0.4
Pemberton	0.1
Pinjarra	0.1
Port Hedland	0.1
Roeboorne	0.4
Salmon Gums	0.1
Sandstone	0.4
Waroona	0.1
Wiluna	0.25
Wittenoom	
Gorge	0.1-0.2
Yarloop	0.1

Towns supplied from Mundaring Weir—0.1 p.p.m.

Towns supplied from Wellington Dam—0.1 p.p.m.

TEGGS CHANNEL AT CARNARVON

Provision of Lead Lights

33. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has he given any consideration to the request I made by letter on the 1st June, that markers and lead lights be placed along Teggs Channel at Carnarvon, so that fishing boats would be able to get into the only safe anchorage either by day or night; if so, will he advise the House of his decision?

Provision of Fishing Jetty and Access Road

- (2) Has he given any consideration to the Carnarvon Council's request that a fishing jetty be built from West Point to Teggs Channel together with an access road for the use of fishermen and the development of the fishing industry?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) and (2) The manager of the Harbour and Light Department is in Carnarvon today and on his return, and following the receipt of his report, consideration will be given to these matters.

CARNARVON SCHOOL

Enrolment Figures

34. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Education:

What were the final enrolment figures for the Carnarvon State School, or the Carnarvon Junior High School, whichever it may have been, for the years—

1953;
1954;
1955;
1956;
1957;
1958;
1959;
1960;
1961;
1962;
1963 to June?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

1953—256;
1954—274;
1955—270;
1956—313;
1957—341;
1958—380;
1959—391;
1960—395;
1961—428;
1962—514;
1963—July figure—610.

STATE HOUSES

Repairs and Renovations

- 35A. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What portion of the rent paid by tenants of State houses is allocated for repairs and renovations?
- (2) How is this amount calculated?
- (3) What is the Housing Commission's policy in respect to—
 - (a) exterior painting;
 - (b) interior painting?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) One per cent. per annum of capital cost of the dwelling.
- (2) In accordance with the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement, 1945.
- (3) (a) Within the maintenance funds available which allows generally for a 6 to 7 year cycle for exterior painting.
- (b) As interiors of vacated houses are put in a reasonable condition before reletting, interior

repainting of tenanted homes is not on a fixed cycle. Interior maintenance is done on the basis of protection of the asset.

GAMBLE, AND SANDWELL AND WOOD HOUSES

Cost of Erection in Carnarvon

- 35B. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What was the cost of building the following houses at Carnarvon—
 - (a) the Gamble houses in Douglas Street;
 - (b) the Sandwell and Wood houses in Carey and Crossland Streets?

Maintenance and Repairs

- (2) How many houses were built by—
 - (a) Gamble;
 - (b) Sandwell and Wood?
- (3) What was the date of their erection?
- (4) How much has been spent on maintenance and repairs (other than cyclone and tenant damage) on—
 - (a) Sandwell and Wood houses; and
 - (b) Gamble houses since they were built?

Rentals

- (5) What was the original rental of each type of house and what is it at the present time?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) (a) Gamble houses—
 - 4 in 1950, average £2,262.
 - 3 in 1952, average £3,169.
- (b) Sandwell and Wood houses—
 - 6 in 1951, average £2,437.
 - 6 in 1952, average £2,661.
- (2) (a) 9.
- (b) 12.
- (3) 4 houses completed August, 1949.
- 6 houses completed July, 1951.
- 6 houses completed January, 1952.
- 4 houses completed March, 1952.
- 1 house completed May, 1952.
- (4) Commission records of maintenance expenditure do not cover individual or groups of houses. The State-wide average annual expenditure for 1962-63 was—
 - Minor repairs and renovation, £8.2 per house.
 - Periodic repainting and renovations, £99 per house.

It is to be appreciated maintenance costs for houses north of the 26th parallel are higher than the State-wide averages.

- (5) (a) Gamble houses—
 3 houses erected 1950—
 original weekly rent,
 £2 16s. each.
 1 house erected 1950—
 original weekly rent,
 £2 15s.
 3 houses erected 1952—
 original weekly rent,
 £3 13s. each.

Present rents on the Gamble houses erected in 1950 range from £2 15s. 6d. to £3 12s. and 1952 houses from £3 11s. to £3 13s.

- (b) Sandwell and Wood houses—
 6 houses erected in 1951
 —original weekly rent
 £2 17s.
 5 houses erected in 1952
 —original weekly rent
 £3 8s.
 1 house erected in 1952—
 original weekly rent
 £3 13s.

Present rents on houses erected in 1951 range from £2 19s. to £4 4s. 6d. and on the 1952 houses from £3 7s. to £3 10s. per week.

HOUSES FOR COLOURED PEOPLE

Provision in Carnarvon

36. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

In August, 1960, the Minister for the North-West (see *Hansard*, page 488, 1960) said that houses would be erected in Carnarvon for coloured people by the end of that year. As no houses have been erected to date, will he advise the House if it is intended to give coloured people housing at Carnarvon, and if so, when?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Arrangements are in hand to erect four type V houses for rental in Carnarvon from funds allocated in 1962-63. An additional three type V houses for purchase have been included in the provisional estimates for 1963-64 but the completion of this programme will depend on availability of funds.

GASCOYNE RIVER CATCHMENT

Rehabilitation of Eroded Areas

37. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Are any steps being taken by the Agricultural Department to rehabilitate the eroded areas in the catchment of the Gascoyne River and its tributaries?

- (2) If so, will he give full details of such work?
 (3) If no work is being carried out, when is it intended to start on this important work?
 (4) Is it a fact that the rehabilitation of these eroded areas will be far more difficult, and take longer than the eroded areas on the Ord River?
 (5) Has he been advised that due to erosion on the Gascoyne River catchment, some of the smaller tributaries are increasing in salinity?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) to (3) A suitable rehabilitation programme for the eroded areas of the Gascoyne River and its tributaries cannot be worked out until a full survey of existing conditions is completed and assessed. These involve a review of pastoral leasehold conditions, possible dam sites, soil survey of the extent of irrigable soils in the Gascoyne area, and an appraisal of the economics of a suitable rehabilitation programme. These and other related investigations are in progress.
 (4) The present investigations are intended to determine such matters. At this stage any statement as to time required for a rehabilitation programme would be premature.
 (5) No. However, systematic sampling and analysis for salt content of waters is being continued.

NATIVE WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Transfer of Departmental Officer

38. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) Is it a fact that his department transferred one of its officers, with his wife and family, by boat to Derby or Port Hedland, and on their arrival advised them to return to Perth as they had been transferred to another district?
 (2) If so, what was the cost to the department for their fares, the freight on their furniture and effects as well as the wages which were paid during the time taken to adjust the transfer?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes. The change in plan was necessitated by the unexpected resignation of another officer.
 (2) Fares—£115 10s.
 Freight—£78 14s. 10d.
 Salary—£70 11s.

PORT HEDLAND AND CARNARVON SCHOOLS

Provision of Boundary Fence

39. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that his department provided a boundary fence for the new school at Port Hedland?
- (2) If so, is there any reason why the Carnarvon school should be treated any differently from that at Port Hedland, and if there is, will he give his full reasons why?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) The sum of £300 was contributed by the department towards the cost of materials, the balance of the cost and erection of the fence being undertaken by the local authority to the satisfaction of the Public Works Department.
- (2) There is no traffic hazard to children at Carnarvon and no straying stock and therefore as the policy is that school fencing generally is not necessary no fence has been approved for Carnarvon.

METROPOLITAN POLICE FORCE

Composition, and Increase in Number of Offences

40. Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) What was the total number of the Police Force in the metropolitan area at the 30th June, 1962, 1963?
- (2) At each of these periods how was the Police Force composed as to traffic police, office staff (male or female employed mostly on routine office work), general police and Criminal Investigation Branch in the metropolitan area?
- (3) At both of these periods, what was the number of police per head of population in the metropolitan area?
- (4) Did the general incidence of offences against the law and committing of crimes increase in the period to the 30th June, 1962, as compared to the previous 12 months?
- (5) If so, was the increase in a greater proportion to the increase in population?
- (6) Was there a further increase in the general number of crimes committed in the period of 12 months ended the 30th June, 1963, as compared to the previous 12 months?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------|-----|
| (1) As at June, 1962 | | 779 |
| As at June, 1963 | | 796 |

(2)

	Traffic Office		General C.I.B.	
	Police	Staff	Police	
1962	158	46	494	81
1963	181	46	486	83

Does not include Public Service Staff.

- (3) 1962 1 to 585.1
1963 1 to 589.4 (as at the 31st March, 1963)
- (4) Crime statistics are tabulated as at the 31st December in each year.
Yes. 16,767 major and serious offences were reported to the Police in the year ended December, 1961, and 17,356 in the year ended December, 1962.
- (5) Yes. From 22.35 per each thousand of population in 1961 to 22.68 in 1962.
- (6) In the first six months of this year there were 9,845 major and serious offences reported, indicating that the upward trend continues.

Availability of Police Cars, and Distribution of Force

41. Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many police cars were available for urgent calls at night at the 30th June, 1961, 1962, 1963?
- (2) How many police are provided in the metropolitan area for night beat duty apart from these patrol cars?
- (3) Of this number how many would be located in—
 - (a) City of Perth;
 - (b) City of Fremantle;
 - (c) City of Nedlands;
 - (d) Town of Claremont;
 - (e) Town of Cottesloe?
- (4) In the City of Perth would any police be actually patrolling the streets on foot; if so, how many?
- (5) In the suburbs mentioned in No. (3) are the police provided with transport for night patrol work?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) 1961, 39; 1962, 41; 1963, 45.
- (2) Perth: 1961, 25; 1962, 23; 1963, 27.
- (3) (a) City of Perth: 1961, 22; 1962, 20; 1963, 24 (11 p.m. to 7 a.m.).
- (b) City of Fremantle: 1961, 12; 1962, 12; 1963, 12 (11 p.m. to 7 a.m.).
- City of Nedlands: 1961, 1; 1962, 1; 1963, 1 (Weekly to 11 p.m.; Friday to 2 a.m.).

- (d) Town of Claremont: 1961, 2; 1962, 2; 1963, 2 (To 2 a.m. weekly).
- (e) Town of Cottesloe: 1961, 2; 1962, 2; 1963, 2 (To 2 a.m. weekly; summertime to 3 a.m.).
- (4) City of Perth: 1961, 5.40; 1962, 4.25; 1963, 3.20 (5 men in C.I.B. patrol).
- (5) Yes, at all three stations.

Mr. CRAIG replied:

	Scarborough		Claremont		Victoria Park	
	1962	1963	1962	1963	1962	1963
1.	1,257	994	1,067	1,106	3,102	2,811
2.	15%	15%	15%	15%	17%	15%
3.	15	15	87	83	320	334
4.	768	837	908	1,013	103	220
5.	1,020	1,219	1,204	1,507	4,093	3,515
6.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	494	602	812	834	598	624
8.	2,226	2,629	2,241	2,706	2,240	2,706
9.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	4	4	6	6	16	15

(3 Sgt., 13 Const.) (3 Sgt., 12 Const.)

POLICE STATIONS: SCARBOROUGH CLAREMONT, AND VICTORIA PARK*Gun Licensing*

42. Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) At each of the police stations at—
 (a) Scarborough;
 (b) Claremont;
 (c) Victoria Park,
 how many holders were there of gun licenses renewed at each station for the years ended June, 1962, and 1963?
- (2) Approximately how many license holders have to be followed up by the police to renew their licenses at each of the stations?

Factory Returns

- (3) How many factory returns have to be delivered and recovered by the police at each of the stations for each of the same years?

Traffic Accidents and Summonses

- (4) How many traffic accident reports were taken over the counter at each of the stations for the years ended the 30th June, 1962, and 1963?
- (5) How many summonses were served by police from each of the stations for the years ended the 30th June, 1962, and 1963?
- (6) Were the majority of these summonses concerned with traffic?
- (7) As a result of traffic incidents how many drivers' licenses were required to be produced at each of the three stations for the years ended the 30th June, 1962, and 1963?

Wireless Messages

- (8) How many police wireless messages were received at each of the three stations for each of the years ended the 30th June, 1962 and 1963?
- (9) Do all police wireless messages received have to be written down?

Staff

- (10) What was the number of staff at each of the three police stations at the 30th June, 1962, and 1963?

**QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE
COUNTRY FIRE BRIGADE PREMISES***Painting by Local Contractors*

1. Mr. HALL asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) As it is the intention of the Fire Brigades Board to have the painting of country fire stations carried out by Perth contractors under an over-all programme, does that represent the policy of the Liberal-Country Party Government in regard to decentralisation?
- (2) Does he not consider it to be a slur on country tradesmen, many of whom are volunteer firemen serving on country fire brigades?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The Fire Brigades Board determined that one contractor should do the work at all the fire brigade stations in the various parts of the country because of the economies involved. As a matter of fact, this Government has attended very closely to the needs of decentralisation in many respects, not only in regard to fire brigades but also in many other matters. Also, as regards Albany, in recent times a considerable sum of money was allocated to an Albany contractor—a painter if I remember rightly—to do painting renovations.
- (2) No.

FLUORIDATION OF WATER*Minister's Opinion of Experts*

2. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Are the following experts known to him?
- (2) If so, are they favourably known to him?

Professor Anton Gordonoff (Professor of Toxicology and Pharmacology at the University of Berne, Switzerland).
 Professor Andrea Benagliano (Dean and Director of the Dental School of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Rome).

Professor Sergio Fiorentini (Professor of Dentistry in the University of Rome, and Principal of the Department of Operative Dentistry in the George Eastman Higher Institute of Dentistry).

Dr. Fauzi Rozeik (Associate Professor of Dentistry in the Medical Faculty of Mainz University, Germany; Chief Physician in the Dental Institute of Mainz, and in charge of Research in the Research Institute since 1957; Member of the German Dental Association).

Professor Douw G. Steyn (Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology in the University of Pretoria, South Africa).

Dr. MacDonald Sinclair, M.A., D.M., B.Sc., M.R.C.P. (Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford; Fellow of Royal Chemical Society; Director of the Oxford University Laboratory on Human Nutrition).

Dr. George L. Waldbott of Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A. (Fellow of the American College of Physicians; Co-Founder and Past President of the Michigan Allergy Society).

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) I would like to thank the honourable member for giving me notice of this question.

Mr. H. May: I bet you do!

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Before giving the honourable member the written reply to the question I would like to say that I am not prepared to go to the extent of listing those doctors, scientists, and the like, who are in favour of fluoridation as that would take too many sheets of paper. The written reply to the honourable member's question is as follows:—

The professors and doctors referred to in the question are those alleged by J. E. Harding of the Anti Water Fluoridation Council of Australia and New Zealand to have given evidence during May of this year in the High Court of Dublin in the case of *Ryan v. the Republic*.

In explanation of that I might say that the Republic of Eire has passed legislation dealing with the fluoridation of water.

Mr. Oldfield: That doesn't make it right.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Mrs. Ryan is testing the validity of the legislation and the case is still being heard. The written reply continues—

The two names best known to me are those of Professor Steyn, whose investigations on the relationship between fluorine and goitre have been discounted by the British Medical Research Council; and Dr. Waldbott, whose views on the relationship between fluorine and allergy are not shared by an overwhelming majority of specialists in that field. Extreme doubt has been cast on the validity of Dr. Waldbott's statistics. I think I should add that I am influenced in my support of fluoridation more by the committees of investigation established by the World Health Organisation, the British Medical Council, and the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia, than by unsubstantiated reports of little-known so-called "experts".

DEEP-WATER JETTY AT BROOME

Constructional Works: Commencement

3. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Deputy Premier:

On Thursday last, Opening Day, I gave the Deputy Premier notice of a question, but, unfortunately, I did not get an opportunity of asking it. The question is: What is the proposed date for the constructional work to commence on the deep-water jetty at Broome?

Mr. NALDER replied:

No decision has yet been made.

MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY'S LINE

Purchase by Government

4. Mr. J. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Are negotiations continuing for the purchase by the State of the Midland Railway Company?
- (2) When is a firm decision on this proposal likely to be made?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) Negotiations are continuing in connection with the request by the company that its railway be purchased by the Government. I cannot be specific as to when finally will be reached.

but I anticipate that a decision one way or the other will be made in the near future.

JOHN STREET BRIDGE, FREMANTLE

Tenders: Tabling of File

5. Mr. HEAL asked the Minister for Railways:

Will he lay on the Table of the House the file dealing with the calling of tenders for the John Street bridge, Fremantle? I ask this question because the third lowest tender was accepted and a reputable contracting firm in Perth, whose tender was some £5,000 lower than the tender finally accepted, is very concerned about the matter.

Mr. COURT replied:

So far as the actual tabling of the papers is concerned, I would request that the honourable member place the question on the notice paper. However, if he would care to see the file privately, he can do so immediately.

ONSLOW SITUATION

Report of Committee: Availability of Parts IV and V

6. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for the North-West:

This question concerns a report on the Onslow situation, 1963. The Minister made available to me, and no doubt to other people and organisations, the report of a committee which examined the position. This report is in five parts—namely from Part I to Part V—but the report which was handed out covers Parts I, II, and III only. Will the Minister lay upon the Table of the House Parts IV and V of that report?

Mr. COURT replied:

I just cannot recall offhand the number of parts in the report.

Mr. Bickerton: The important ones are missing.

Mr. COURT: I do not think I would be able to say "Yes" or "No," right off the cuff, but I will look into the matter. It may be a question of a typographical error in the report.

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Appointment

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): I wish to announce that I have appointed the member for Claremont (Mr. Crommelin),

the member for Narrogin (Mr. W. A. Manning), and the member for Perth (Mr. Heal) to be Deputy Chairmen of Committees for the session.

SITTING DAYS AND HOURS

On motion by Mr. Nalder (Katanning—Deputy Premier), ordered:

That the House, unless otherwise ordered, shall meet for the despatch of business on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 4.30 p.m., and on Thursdays at 2.15 p.m.; and shall sit until 6.15 p.m., if necessary; and, if requisite, from 7.30 p.m. onwards.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Precedence

On motion by Mr. Nalder (Katanning—Deputy Premier), ordered:

That on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Government business shall take precedence of all motions and Orders of the Day.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Appointment

On motion by Mr. Nalder (Katanning—Deputy Premier), ordered:

That for the present session—

- (1) the Library Committee shall consist of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Tonkin, and Mr. Crommelin;
- (2) the Standing Orders Committee shall consist of Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of Committees, Mr. J. Hegney, Mr. Cornell, and Mr. Guthrie;
- (3) the House Committee shall consist of Mr. Speaker, Mr. H. May, Mr. Jamieson, Mr. I. W. Manning, and Mr. W. A. Manning;
- (4) the Printing Committee shall consist of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Guthrie, and Mr. Rowberry.

SUPPLY BILL, £25,000,000

Standing Orders Suspension

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Deputy Premier) [5.44 p.m.]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable resolutions from the Committees of Supply and of Ways and Means to be reported and adopted on the same day on which they shall have passed those Committees, and also the passing of a Supply Bill through all its stages in one day, and to enable the business aforesaid to be entered upon and dealt with before the Address-in-Reply is adopted.

Question put and passed.

Message: Appropriation

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

In Committee of Supply

The House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. I. W. Manning) in the Chair.

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Deputy Premier) [5.47 p.m.]: I move—

That there be granted to Her Majesty on account of the services of the State for the year ending the 30th June, 1964, a sum not exceeding £25,000,000.

Early in each session a Supply Bill is passed to provide funds for the services of the State. This action is in accordance with our parliamentary practice, and is necessary pending the introduction of the Estimates to Parliament for consideration.

The Bill now before the Chamber requests the supply of £25,000,000, which is identical with the amount made available in the first Supply Act of each of the two preceding years. This amount of £25,000,000 will finance activities until September, when further supply will be requested from Parliament. The components of the amount now requested are as follows:—

	£
Consolidated Revenue Fund	18,000,000
General Loan Fund	5,000,000
Advance to Treasurer	2,000,000
	<hr/>
	£25,000,000

The detailed Estimates for 1963-64 for both the Consolidated Revenue and General Loan Funds are in the course of preparation, and will be presented to the House as early as possible. At that time members will have an opportunity of perusing the Estimates, and obtaining any desired information from the Ministers controlling the various departments.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

In Committee of Ways and Means

The House resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. I. W. Manning) in the Chair.

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Deputy Premier) [5.49 p.m.]: I move—

That towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty for the year ending the 30th June, 1964, a sum not exceeding £18,000,000 be

granted from the Consolidated Revenue Fund; £5,000,000 from the General Loan Fund; and £2,000,000 from the Public Account.

Question put and passed.

Resolution reported and the report adopted.

Introduction and First Reading

In accordance with the foregoing resolutions, Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Deputy Premier), and read a first time.

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Deputy Premier) [5.52 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

MR. HAWKE (Northam—Leader of the Opposition) [5.53 p.m.]: As pointed out by the Acting Treasurer, this Bill is one to obtain parliamentary authority for the expenditure by the Government of certain moneys from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, from the General Loan Fund, and also from the Public Account. The Bill is the normal one introduced in each session of a Parliament, and is both necessary and urgent, because the Government has no parliamentary authority, after the 30th June in a financial year, for the expenditure of funds from the sources mentioned. Clearly the Government requires this parliamentary authorisation in order that it might be within the powers of the Constitution in the expenditure of the money which is required from day to day in carrying on the affairs of Government, including, of course, the many departments of the Government, and the many services which those departments provide for the people in these days, and without which, as we all know, the affairs of the State cannot be carried on in keeping with present-day requirements.

The introduction of the Bill offers members of the Assembly an opportunity to discuss subjects which have relationship to governmental administration, and to the work of various Government departments; and, all in all, to the purposes for which the moneys now to be voted by Parliament are to be used by the Government, and by the authorities set up under the Government.

I was interested to read the comments of a Government spokesman recently regarding the financial results obtained by the Government in the operations of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and also the expenditure therefrom, during the last financial year. The spokesman in question took considerable credit unto the Government for the fact that the deficit at the end of the financial year was so much; and he tried to give the public the impression

that the result achieved had been achieved as a result of the very good housekeeping activities of the Government.

Anyone who compares the financial operations of a Government with the operations of a housekeeper is establishing a basis of comparison which cannot be justified in any circumstances. Most of the members of this Assembly are husbands, and, therefore, they have some knowledge of what the normal housekeeping activities in a home entail. As members of Parliament we are perhaps more fortunately placed than the ordinary run of husbands, because the ordinary run of husbands have not the same average income that we have. On the other hand, of course, they have not the same amount of outgoings.

If, however, we give a moment's consideration to the position of the ordinary family, where the total family income is, say, £20 a week—to take a figure above the average—we can quickly appreciate that the task of housekeeping within that home is a difficult one: one which would strain the best organising ability of both the husband and the wife—and the wife, of course, would be the housekeeper—to make the financial accounts balance at the end of each week or fortnight, especially in these days of the high cost of so many things; and more especially in view of the fact that most families are under very rigid obligations to pay out instalments on household appliances such as refrigerators, and the like.

The great difference, and the difference which destroys any attempt to compare the financial operations of the Government with those of a housekeeper, is to be found in the fact that the housekeeper cannot increase the house income. The housekeeper has a set income which does not vary at all—at least not to any great extent. It could vary downwards if the husband lost his employment or became sick, or was injured, and was unable to continue full time in his occupation.

So, as I say, any attempt to set up a basis of comparison between the operations of the Government in the control of its finances, and the activities of a housekeeper in the control of her financial operations, is beyond any possibility of being justified by logical argument, or anything related to it. This Government has taken great advantage of its power to increase its income, and consequently has made its financial management of the affairs of the State a comparatively easy task.

By way of comparison, let us have a look at the difference between the total income paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund in the financial year 1958-59 and the financial year 1962-63. In the first-mentioned year, the total amount received into the Consolidated Revenue Fund was £60,060,000. In the 1962-63 financial year the total amount was £78,590,000, which represents an increase approximately of

£18,500,000, which, I think every member of the Chamber would agree, is a very great increase in income.

I freely admit that not all of the increases were brought about by raising State taxation or by increasing State charges which are imposed upon the people of Western Australia, but much of it was. For instance, country water supply systems provided £400,000 more in the 1962-63 year as against the 1958-59 year. Ratepayers in the metropolitan water supply district provided almost £1,000,000 more in the 1962-63 year as against the 1958-59 year, and most of the increases which came into the Consolidated Revenue Fund from the Water Supply Department came as a result of increased charges which the Government deliberately put upon the people. It requires a vivid and treacherous imagination to say that a result of that description was achieved by good housekeeping when, in fact, it was achieved by loading additional financial burdens upon the people concerned.

Railway revenue was £13,500,000 in the 1958-59 year, and £17,200,000 in the 1962-63 year which, of course, represents a very substantial increase both in railway revenue and in the total amount coming into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Some of that increase came from increased railway business, but most of it came from the fact that, after the 30th June, 1959, the Government increased railway freights and railway fares upon the people. I am not in possession of the exact figures relating to the effect which the increase in railway freights and fares made previously had upon the total amount of revenue received last year, but I think I would not be far out if I suggested that approximately £2,000,000, by way of increased freights and fares was received into the Consolidated Revenue Fund last financial year as a result of the increased railway freights and fares which were put on previously—

Mr. Court: The September, 1960, increases were designed to produce £900,000 per annum.

Mr. HAWKE: —based on the total amount of freight being carried at that time.

Mr. Court: It was the year 1960-61.

Mr. HAWKE: However, the Minister must not try to cover up the fact that the total amount of freight carried in that year was lower than the total amount carried in the financial year just closed, and consequently the £900,000 which he talks about has to be bigger very considerably to relate it in any way accurately to the additional freights which the people of this State paid last financial year as a result of the increases made in a previous financial year.

So, clearly, when a Government increases railway freights, when it increases water supply rates, when it increases license fees,

when it increases stamp duty, and when it increases half a dozen or more other impositions which are put upon the people and achieves a reasonably satisfactory financial result over all, there is no justification, I say, in that situation for claiming that the financial result achieved was brought about by good housekeeping.

Clearly on the evidence and on the facts, the financial result, whatever it might have been, was brought about by imposing additional financial burdens upon various sections of the people in the community.

In connection with the income of the Railways Department and the payment by that department of all its revenue into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, I have tried to find out on more than one occasion how much additional revenue the Railways Department has been receiving as a result of the substantial and continuing sales of wheat from this State to Communist China.

However, on each occasion I have tried, by way of question upon the notice paper and by way of speech in the House, I have been informed the information is not available or cannot be made available. I cannot see any real reason why an approximate estimate of the situation cannot be made. The Railways Department and the harbour board and the other harbour authorities in the outports from which wheat is shipped must know the quantity which is shipped from each port in Western Australia to China.

Therefore, they must know the quantity of wheat carried over the railway system out of the total which is wheat consigned sooner or later to China. Surely they can take some sort of average figure in relation to railway freight for that wheat and give at least an approximation of the total revenue which the Railways Department receives by way of freight and which the Consolidated Revenue Fund subsequently receives as a result of the very substantial sales to China of wheat grown in this State.

I raise this point again because it is a fortuitous circumstance in the finances of the Railways Department and, therefore, in the over-all finances of the State that this situation came into existence and that it has continued to prevail. I do not want to raise the other issue which could be associated with this subject, because I know it could create a difference of opinion within the Government. Briefly, as I understand it, the Liberal Party is supposed to be opposed to giving any assistance to any Communist country, whereas members of the Country Party are, at least in relation to primary products, in favour of their being sold anywhere in the world's markets where there is payment at a fair and reasonable price.

Nevertheless, the question does persist as to how real is the supposed opposition of the Liberal Party in Australia—Federal and State—to assisting Communist countries, because undoubtedly the sale of wheat to Communist China is of great assistance to the country. My own view is the same as that of representatives of the Country Party in this matter. I say that if there is a country overseas which wants to purchase our primary products and that country is prepared to pay the ruling price or a fair price, then by all means sell the primary products to whichever country is willing to buy.

However, there cannot be any argument at all, as I have said, that the Government of China is being greatly assisted by the fact that Australian wheat is going to China in great quantities. It might be argued that China is only after wheat from Australia because considerable groups of population in China are starving, or are near starvation, and, therefore, on mercy grounds above all other considerations—political and otherwise—we should consign food to that country; and with that view I, myself, would doubtless agree.

Nevertheless, it remains that the Chinese Government is able to maintain its situation and its strength by virtue of the fact that its people obtain this wheat from Australia; because we know there is nothing more likely quickly to undermine a Government, no matter whether it be a dictatorship or any other type, than the existence within the boundaries of its territory of people who are desperately short of the bare necessities of life.

However, the only angle of this situation with which I am really concerned at the moment is that we should be able to obtain from the Railways Department, in consultation with the harbour authorities, an approximate estimate of the total amount of revenue which the Railways Department receives as a result of the sale of this wheat to China.

I think it might be worth while, too, to take our minds back to the period immediately prior to the time when China began to buy Australian wheat. Those of us who take an interest in the wheat situation, knowing how important it is to Western Australia, will remember that the wheat markets of the world at that time were groggy to some substantial extent, and many wheatgrowers and wheat authorities in Western Australia were very worried as to how the forthcoming harvest at that time would be disposed of in world markets, because the demand required did not seem to be there at the time.

In that regard there is no doubt that China did the wheatgrowers in Australia a very good turn, not willingly, and not perhaps gladly, but by force of circumstances. However, as far as I have been able to read, there is no guarantee that

this selling of Australian wheat to China will go on. No one seems to know the time and year when the orders from China will cease and the wheat which is, in fact, going there, or would go there in future years, will have to be disposed of in other places.

I know there is a good deal of worry about that situation by those who look forward more than 12 months and who are anxious to do the utmost they can possibly do to ensure that wheat grown in Australia—and it is being grown in increasing quantities—will be capable of being disposed of profitably in overseas markets in future years.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. HAWKE: The next matter about which I wish to speak has to do with the action of the Government in both ignoring and insulting the member for Kimberley in relation to the invitations which were issued in respect of a dinner held at Kununurra recently to celebrate the opening of the Ord River irrigation scheme. This State dinner was promoted and organised by the State Government and therefore was a State function. I am not certain whether it was organised from the Premier's Office, from which it should have been organised, or whether it was organised from some other Government department.

I am strongly inclined to believe the organisation was taken out of the hands of the Premier's Department by one of the other departments, because I find it difficult to believe that a function of this kind organised by the Premier's Department would have ignored and insulted the State parliamentary representative for the district in relation to the question of his receiving or not receiving an invitation. Because of my belief in that direction I can understand, to some extent, the difficulty in which the Acting Premier has found himself in trying to defend the Government's action—what I regard as a completely inexcusable action, or lack of action—in this matter.

In the first place I should say that I was absolutely amazed when I did find out that the member for the Legislative Assembly district of Kimberley had not received an invitation to the function, and for some time I refused to believe that he had been deliberately excluded by the Government. I wrote a letter which was published in *The West Australian* on the 24th July protesting very strongly. Obviously, before the newspaper in question published the letter it either showed a copy to the Acting Premier or asked him for some explanation as to why the member for the district had been insulted and excluded; and when my letter

was published the newspaper had underneath it a brief explanation from the Acting Premier. Among other things he said this: "Had we included Mr. Rhatigan many others with equal claims would have had to be invited."

Now, that ground is not valid; but I might ask for my own information and guidance in the future: Who are the others who would have had equal claim with the Legislative Assembly member for the district who, in fact, represents all the people of his electorate? There could not be anyone apart from those who were invited—even if we admit that all of them had equal claim, which I do not—who would have had equal claim with Mr. Rhatigan, and who would have had to be invited also if the Government had done the right, proper, and decent thing and invited the member for the district to the function.

Later on I wrote to the Acting Premier. This letter is short and I will therefore read it as follows:—

Parliament House,
23rd July, 1963.

The Hon. the Acting Premier,
Dear Mr. Nalder,

Invitations to the Official Dinner
at Kununurra.

As I consider the Legislative Assembly member for the district, Mr. Rhatigan, had a far better claim to be given an invitation to be present at the official dinner held at Kununurra last Saturday night I now request you to supply me with the list setting out the names of all the persons who were invited, together with a reason opposite each name showing why each person was so invited.

Yours sincerely,

Leader of the Opposition.

The Acting Premier did, in fact, forward that list. Now, I want to know what priority the Legislative Assembly member for a district has in the estimation of this Government when a function of this kind is being held. What is his priority? What is the number of it? Is it 10, 12, 15, or 20? No Minister has any idea about this. The Legislative Assembly member for the district does not count apparently and has no priority at all.

I emphasise that I raise this matter not because Mr. Rhatigan is affected and not because he happens to be a member of the State Parliamentary Labor Party. I raise it on the very important basis of principle, because if the member for Kimberley can be rejected and insulted and given no priority, as was his experience on this occasion, then each and every member of the Legislative Assembly can be given the same scurvy treatment by this Government on other occasions when their districts are involved in some important State function.

The member for the district had a priority in this matter lower than No. 61—lower than No. 61 because 61 invitations were issued by the Government to people to attend the dinner. Sixty-one persons were invited; and the member for Kimberley was not even No. 61 in the order of priority. He did not even have that low position. Is it any wonder that a minute or two ago I tried to obtain from some Minister of this Government—the Acting Premier for preference—information as to what the Government considers is the priority which a Legislative Assembly member for a district holds in this situation?

Mr. Heal: What number were the officials?

Mr. HAWKE: Clearly and obviously the Legislative Assembly member for the district holds no priority.

Mr. Court: Wasn't he invited to every function except this one; and didn't he attend them?

Mr. HAWKE: I am not concerned whether he was invited to every other function or to no other function. I want to know what was his priority, if any, in connection with this important function, which was a State function.

Mr. Court: He was given every courtesy. If it had not been for Luchetti making political capital out of the situation, it would not have arisen.

Mr. HAWKE: How could one show courtesy to a member and at the same time insult him as dirtily as was done on this occasion?

Mr. Court: He was not insulted.

Mr. HAWKE: Now that the Minister for Industrial Development is coming on to the scene, it is becoming pretty obvious that the Legislative Assembly member for the district would not get any priority and would not get an invitation in any circumstances to this function.

Mr. Court: That is your judgment.

Mr. HAWKE: It is true.

Mr. Court: And it is typical of your judgment.

Mr. HAWKE: It is typical, because I know the Minister for Industrial Development. I know what he is prepared to do; and will the Minister for Industrial Development deny that he had anything at all to do with this?

Mr. Court: I do not have to deny it. The member was treated with every courtesy, and if it had not been for Luchetti trying to make political nonsense out of this thing, this would never have arisen.

Mr. HAWKE: I am not concerned with Mr. Luchetti. I am not even concerned with the Federal member for the district, because the Kimberley region is only a portion of his district. I am not even

concerned with the Legislative Council members for the area, because they represent only a portion of the population because of the restricted franchise which operates at Legislative Council elections. But I am acutely concerned with the fact that the Legislative Assembly member for the district, representing all the people, is rejected and insulted; and I would advise the Minister for Industrial Development that in his action, for which undoubtedly it is now clear he was primarily responsible—

Mr. Court: That is only your judgment.

Mr. HAWKE: —in perpetrating this thing, he insulted also all the electors in the Kimberley area—because one cannot insult the member for the district without insulting, at the same time, the people he represents; and surely a man who represents all the people of an electorate in the Parliament—a man who has been elected by them at a compulsory election, at a secret ballot election—has a high priority in a situation of this kind. What would the Acting Premier, for instance, think if a dinner of this sort had been put on at Wagin in connection with some important function and he, as member for the district, had been given a lower priority in relation to invitations than No. 61? What would he have thought? What would the Minister for Education have thought in the same situation?

Mr. J. Hegney: He would have been dumbfounded.

Mr. HAWKE: Or, more important still, what would the Minister for Lands—who has some sense of decency, some sense of propriety, some sense of the fitness of things—have thought, and what would he have said? It is not good enough, and the situation requires and deserves the strongest possible protest against the action of the Minister for Industrial Development for his attitude in the matter. I have no doubt he had some consultation with the Minister for Works in relation to those who would be put on the white list and those who would be put on the black list; and the Legislative Assembly member for the district went on the black list, and was given no invitation.

I wish I had been at Kununurra on this occasion. I would have had a word with the Prime Minister to see what his Government would have done in the same situation; because although the Prime Minister is a strong party man I believe he would always insist on the fair and reasonable thing being done to parliamentary representatives—at least, to the parliamentary representative for the district who represents the whole of the district; namely, the Legislative Assembly member.

I do not want to read this list of persons who were invited; because, as I said earlier, this, with me, is a matter of great principle. It is not a matter of setting up

the member for Kimberley against somebody by the name of Bate, perhaps. It is not a matter of setting up the member for Kimberley against someone else. It is a matter of very deep principle. We know only too well that in these days there are lots of people in the community—and some organisations—who are frequently talking down and writing down parliamentary representatives; condemning or ridiculing them, or doubting their motives, or questioning their integrity, and all the rest of it. As a result it can be said that parliamentary representatives generally and as a whole do not hold, in the estimation of the general public, the position they should hold; although, as I have said on other occasions in this regard, the member for each district is well regarded by all the people who know him in his own district, and they are, of course, in the majority.

An action of this kind, as perpetrated by this Government against the member for Kimberley, only assists that sort of propaganda; it only helps to push the parliamentary representatives further down in the estimation of a lot of people.

The reasons which the Acting Premier gave for not issuing an invitation to the Legislative Assembly member for the district are as weak as weak can be. They are not reasons at all; they are excuses. I am certain that after the Acting Premier has had this further opportunity of thinking the matter over he will agree privately, if not publicly, that the Legislative Assembly member for the district should have had a very high priority in relation to invitations issued to the function—not for the dinner; not for what might have been eaten there; not for what might have been consumed in the way of liquids; not for what might have been said by way of conversation and discussion and jokes and laughter, and whatever else went on at the dinner; but in order that he, and the people he represents, might have received the recognition and the honour which was due to them.

Mr. Bickerton: Hear, hear!

Mr. HAWKE: As I said earlier, no one can insult the member for the district in a situation of this kind without insulting the people he represents. It might suit the party political book of the Minister for the North-West, and to a lesser degree of the Minister for Works, to ignore, to snub, and to insult the parliamentary representative for a district because he is of a different political colour; but surely the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Lands, the Minister for Health, and the other Ministers have a higher conception of what is right, proper, and decent in a situation like this.

I certainly hope that as a result of the protest I have made in this matter—and I say again I base it entirely upon the principle of the matter and not upon the

basis of any personality—the Government will have learnt a lesson which it should not have been necessary for it to learn; and I trust that in the future, when similar situations arise, at least the Legislative Assembly member for the district will receive due recognition and the honour which should be his without question and without argument.

It is absurd to think that at a function to which 61 people are invited the Legislative Assembly member for the district is not invited. To say there were catering difficulties; to say that if he had been invited many others with equal claims would have had to be invited does not hold water. There is no sense, there is no logic in it, because the member for the district should have a priority which is very high indeed in connection with a function of the kind to which I have referred.

Mr. Jamieson: If Mitchell had been around they would have fitted him in.

Mr. HAWKE: There is only one other subject I want to discuss, and I want to discuss that quite briefly. I wish to protest against the action of the Government parties in receiving advocates only from the side who favour the fluoridation of domestic water supplies in Western Australia. I understand the Government parties had a joint meeting and invited special advocates for the fluoridation of domestic water supplies to come to the meeting and to address them. I understand that was done and, at the same meeting, without giving the opponents of the proposal any hearing at all, at least the majority in the Government parties voted in favour of a proposal by the Government to bring down legislation during this session of Parliament to obtain parliamentary authority to put fluoride into the water supplies of Western Australia.

I say that was a most unfair approach to the subject; because, as everyone knew at that time, and before then, there are many people in Western Australia who are strongly opposed to this proposal. Surely the members of any party anxious to arrive at a correct decision would give to the opponents of a proposal such as that an opportunity of putting their case against the proposal before making a decision in the matter.

When this matter was raised publicly in the newspapers, the Minister for Health, and I think the Deputy Premier as well, tried to give the public to understand that members of the Government parties had read a lot of propaganda against fluoridation, and they had also read a lot of propaganda in favour of it.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: No they hadn't!

Mr. HAWKE: It is the fault of the Minister for Health if they had not. He had fallen down badly on his job if he had not briefed his party members on the issue. In any event, if the members of

the Government parties, as the Minister for Health now claims, had not read anything, or very much, in favour of fluoridation, why bring special advocates into a joint meeting of the Government parties so that the members of those parties could hear arguments in favour of the proposal, and then immediately on top of that, with all those views in the forefront of their minds, take a vote upon the question whether they were in favour of or against the proposal to put fluoride into the domestic water supplies of this State.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You have already been told the answer.

Mr. HAWKE: I say it was a very hot type of organising to get the right result. That is what it was; nothing more or less.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Nothing of the sort!

Mr. HAWKE: It was a very hot type of organising to get the right result.

Mr. H. May: Real Liberal type.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: What utter nonsense!

Mr. HAWKE: You and I, Mr. Speaker, have had enough practical experience in organising to know that when one puts up a proposition of that kind, and one brings in advocates who are in favour of the proposition to address members, and straightaway, on top of that, take a vote, one gets the results one is after.

Mr. O'Neill: That is not true. The vote was not taken straight after.

Mr. HAWKE: When was it taken?

Mr. O'Neill: On the same day.

Mr. W. Hegney: You'll get on.

Mr. HAWKE: The member for East Melville is developing into a wonderful pupil of the Minister for the North-West. He is adopting the Minister's techniques in a most wonderful fashion, and very speedily indeed. The vote was not taken straight afterwards, but it was taken on the same afternoon!

Mr. Court: That is logical.

Mr. HAWKE: How long afterwards was it taken? One hour? Two hours?

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Perhaps 2½ hours to be precise.

Mr. HAWKE: No; it is not a reasonable proposition at all.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Of course it is!

Mr. HAWKE: I say, without any hesitation at all, it was the duty of members of the Government parties to invite representatives of those opposed to the proposal—

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You know—

Mr. HAWKE: —to put their views before members and then, one hour afterwards, or two hours afterwards, members could vote either for or against the proposition.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You are not being fair.

Mr. HAWKE: The Minister for Health weakly claims that I am not being fair.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: That is quite so.

Mr. Court: You rarely are.

Mr. HAWKE: We all know, surely, if we know anything at all as public men, we might read quite a deal about a subject, and against a subject, and then we go along to a meeting where men who are reasonably expert in certain directions address us on the opposite side of the case. Obviously the last impression, especially if they are good speakers, and men who know their subject, is going to be far more in the forefront of our minds than the impression which we gained previously from reading some propaganda on the opposite side of the case.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: That is true; but someone must always have the last say.

Mr. HAWKE: Yes; but my protest is that the opponents of fluoridation were not allowed to have a say at all.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: But they had all the literature in the world.

Mr. HAWKE: I hope that will be absorbed by the Minister, if not tonight at least at some future date and before the proposed legislation is introduced.

MR. TONKIN (Melville—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [8.1 p.m.]: There is a little matter of a difference between the Minister for Industrial Development and myself which I would like to clear up before I carry on with the main burden of my theme this evening, and that is in connection with some answers which he gave this afternoon to the questions I asked on the quality of iron ore from Talling Peak. I am astounded at the attitude of the Minister when he is absolutely caught out on his own statements. The way he wriggles and brings forward words in order to cloud the issue is little short of amazing.

I first raised this matter in the House last year on the 7th November. I now quote from page 2491 of the 1962 *Parliamentary Debates* as follows:—

Mr. TONKIN: Is it that the Japanese are not interested in the ore at Talling and Mt. Goldsworthy?

Mr. Court: Definitely not in 60 per cent. iron ore.

Mr. TONKIN: That confirms what I have been saying.

Mr. Court: They are interested in 60 per cent. plus.

Mr. TONKIN: The explanation for the lack of a firm contract is not any economic recession in Japan, but that they will not take the low-grade ore offering. They want a high grade.

Mr. Court: They are not being offered low-grade ore. What makes you think that?

Mr. TONKIN: They visited Talling in 1961 and again in 1962, yet no contracts have come forward, despite a good deal of pushing. That suggests to me that the trouble is in the grade of ore being offered for sale.

I would now ask you, Mr. Speaker, to pay special attention to this statement which is another one of those assurances of which we have heard so much from this Government—

Mr. Court: I can assure you it is not. It is entirely on account of the Japanese economic conditions which are affecting their planning.

Mr. Hawke: I think the Minister wants to interject.

Mr. Court: No; I am just interested.

Mr. TONKIN: A few months went by, and in the *Daily News* of the 10th May this year under the heading, "Long-term Basis of Buying Western Australian Iron," there appeared the statement I am about to quote. There is a reference to what the Minister for Mines had said, which I do not propose to read because it will take up too much time, but the statement to which I draw attention is as follows:—

He was commenting on an AAP-Reuters message today saying the Japanese steel mills had been requested by a W.A. iron mining company to resume negotiations for the export of W.A. iron ore to Japan.

The steel mills spokesman said Western Mining Corporation managing director W. M. Morgan was to visit Japan.

He would go as a member of a private Australian delegation to the forthcoming Japan-Australia joint business committee to start in Tokyo on May 16.

The spokesman said Morgan wished to re-open negotiations on iron ore export with Japanese steel mills late this month after attending the committee meeting.

He said the company's request had been made following the recent affirmation of Japan's intention to buy W.A. iron ore on a long-term basis.

The spokesman said during the previous negotiations the Australian firm had offered to supply Japan with about 750,000 tons of iron ore a year from next year.

But the negotiations were suspended because of disagreement on the quality of W.A. iron ore to be mined from the Talling Peak mines.

Mr. Court: Well, what is wrong with that?

Mr. TONKIN: There is nothing wrong with it! It is right on the ball! However, when I asked the Minister to explain why he denied my assertion, which was exactly the same as that statement from Japan, in this place he gave an assurance that it was entirely due—his words were not partly due, mind you, but entirely due—to the economic recession in Japan. This is the explanation he gave the House this afternoon. He admits that he remembers making the statement in the Assembly. He admits that this statement appeared in the *Daily News*. He could not do much else, could he?

Mr. Court: That does not mean anything.

Mr. TONKIN: Then he went on to give this long rigmarole by way of explanation. He says: "No explanation is necessary—" not much! Continuing with the Minister's reply—

—because the Japanese have made it clear both to Australia and to other countries that their reluctance to sign major iron ore agreements in recent times is related to their economic position which we understand is recovering and will clear the way for the signing of contracts within a reasonable period.

What has that to do with the matters under discussion? What has that to do with the failure of the Western Mining Corporation to negotiate with Japan? The failure was due to the low-grade iron ore the company was offering, not a recession! What has that to do with the issue? Nothing at all. The Minister is trying to cloud the issue. One cannot mistake the fact that the Minister deliberately misled the House in that direction.

Mr. Court: He did nothing of the sort.

Mr. TONKIN: Yes he did, because the Minister said that the failure to sell Talling Peak iron ore was due to a recession; but the Japanese stated that the negotiations broke down because of disagreement over the quality of the iron ore.

Mr. Court: I will explain this later in words of one syllable.

Mr. TONKIN: There is no room for any other conclusion than that the negotiations broke down because of the quality of the iron ore that was being offered; and it was only when the company itself requested that negotiations be reopened that they were reopened. However, we were told in this House that the failure to sell the iron ore to Japan was due to an economic recession. That is the sort of thing we have had to put up with during the whole of the life of this Government.

Mr. Court: Do you know what the grade of Talling iron ore is in relation to 60 per cent.?

Mr. TONKIN: I am telling the Minister that these negotiations broke down because of the disagreement over the quality of the ore when the Minister assured this House that the failure to negotiate was entirely due to the economic recession in Japan; and when I give the Minister the opportunity to admit that he misled the House he is unrepentant.

Mr. Court: There is no reason why I should repent. I have told the House the facts of the case.

Mr. TONKIN: That is the form! Assurances mean nothing whatsoever to those on that side of the Chamber. As I have said, week after week when we have been in session, it is ridiculous to rely upon any assurance that comes from the Government front bench.

Mr. Court: Do you want Talling Peak iron ore sold or not?

Mr. TONKIN: I want to be able to feel that I can reply upon the utterances of Ministers as being true.

Mr. Court: You can.

Mr. TONKIN: Can I? Things will have to change a great deal if that is to be the case.

Mr. Court: I know you will never be convinced, no matter what assurance we give you.

Mr. TONKIN: If the Minister told me the truth I could understand it.

Mr. Court: Do you want Talling Peak iron ore sold or not? You have done everything you can to damage negotiations.

Mr. TONKIN: I will do everything I can to make Ministers tell the truth.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order!

Mr. Hawke: That is what they do in Great Britain, too.

Mr. Court: Jack is not in that, is he?

Mr. TONKIN: I asked another question with regard to the sum of money that was made available to Northern Minerals. I referred to this in my question as a subsidy. The Minister, in his answer said, "Oh no! It is not a subsidy." I have here a cutting from *The West Australian* of the 1st May, and the heading is, "Manganese Will Be Subsidised."

Mr. Court: I did not write the heading.

Mr. TONKIN: No, of course the Minister did not. But that is what other people think about it; the same as I do. This is what the extract says—

The State Government has accepted the plans suggested by the Northern Minerals Syndicate for a pound for pound subsidy to revive manganese exports from the north-west. The

decision, involving Government expense of more than £30,000, will enable the company to cut its prices on world markets by several pounds a ton.

But according to the Minister for Industrial Development that is not a subsidy.

Mr. Court: Neither is it. We are not paying them so much a ton. I cannot help what the journalist put in. As a matter of fact, the next day he came to me and apologised for having called it a subsidy.

Mr. Hawke: Someone must have needled him beforehand.

Mr. TONKIN: What I am concerned about is that this company which got a hand-out of £30,000 from the Government—such a hand-out not being a subsidy we are told—has some £234,000 of undistributed profit.

Mr. Oldfield: That would make them very good friends of the Government.

Mr. TONKIN: The first question one would ask oneself in such circumstances is: What has it done with its profits? Instead of coming to the Government for the money, why did it not use some of its £230,000 undistributed profits for this purpose? This decision was made with the greatest alacrity. I think it took about 10 days between the time the request was made, and the moment the Government made its decision. Considering that it usually takes the Government two or three months to answer letters, this is most remarkable.

This same company which put these undistributed profits into the Paris Gold Mine comes along on behalf of the Paris Gold Mine and gets another £25,000 from the Government; and I am told in answer to a question tonight that it got it in May. We find, however, that it does not appear in the *Trade Gazette* until August. Usually when a loan is raised on a bill of sale, for the protection of other persons who might be doing business with those borrowing money, the intention to borrow is mentioned in the *Trade Gazette* straight away.

But here is a case where a company was actually allocated a loan in May, and there was no reference in the *Trade Gazette* about this loan having been given, on assets which had been mortgaged, until August. There are some features about this that I do not like. Firstly, I cannot understand how these people can be so well treated when they have all that money in undistributed profits; and, secondly, how they can have it for some months before the trading people know anything about it. It is a most unusual set of circumstances.

Mr. Hawke: They got along a lot better than the Boyup Brook flax industry.

Mr. TONKIN: I am very concerned about the situation amongst migrants who have been brought to Western Australia under

what is known as the Lonnie scheme. I expected this would happen, because before the mission went away I raised, in this House, the question of some special provision being made for housing. I was aware that it was intended to promise houses to these people, and I had no objection to that; but I pointed out to the Government that it was essential in the interests of our own people who were already on long waiting lists, that additional houses be built in order that migrants could be supplied with houses without our own people being made to suffer. All I got each time I raised this question was the reply that the Government was watching the position.

The Minister for Industrial Development had something to say about housing improving in the private sector. The Government did not make any special effort to provide these additional houses, and the result has been an increase in the waiting time of Western Australian applicants: so much so that emergent cases now have to wait months before they can get a house, where previously it was a matter of a few weeks that they had to wait. Now they have to wait months; cases which have been passed by the commission as being emergent cases entitled to attention out of their turn; yet they now have to wait months, because the Government has insufficient houses to make good its undertaking to the migrants. Even on that score the Government could not be honest, because it brought these people here under false pretences.

I wanted to know the facts of the situation, so I sent to Great Britain in order to find out the exact nature of the advertisements which were appearing in the papers there, and which would show me the promises that were being held out to these people. I have here a photostat copy of the *Glasgow Daily Express*, which carries a very nice heading, "Come Down Under".

Mr. Graham: Down is the word.

Mr. TONKIN: I propose to read this, because it is an authoritative statement from the mission in order to get migrants in. It reads as follows:—

An Australian Government mission is seeking 1,000 Scots craftsmen for new jobs in Western Australia. A three week recruiting campaign begins tomorrow. Already more than 1,800 inquiries have been received from all over Britain, but the West Australian Migrant Recruiting Mission wants—Scots.

Leader of the mission is a Scot—Mr. William Lonnie from Montrose.

Yesterday an executive said: "We think skilled Scots workers possess the most highly original talents in the world.

"Besides, they make good settlers. They are ready to put their backs into a new life and make new opportunities work."

What types of craftsmen do the Australians want? "Mainly boiler-makers and welders for oil and ore refinery projects being constructed in Western Australia."

The mission, which is in Glasgow, is also interested in metal and industry building workers.

HOUSING

The Australians are offering a three-fold "magnet" scheme to attract men:

1—Guaranteed housing near the construction area.

If I might interpolate, that does not mean that if one is working in Perth one will get a house in Medina; or if one is working in Fremantle one will get a house in Nollamarra. What then does the statement mean? I take it it means what it says; it is a contract and an offer of a guaranteed house near the construction area. The article goes on to say—

2—Guaranteed jobs. "We are prepared now to offer a Scot going out there between five and six years' guaranteed employment," said the executive.

3—Better money. "The wage for a skilled Australian averages a net £22 (Australian pounds) a week," he added. "And living is cheaper than in Britain."

The mission will fly the chosen workers to Australia. But first they must pass rigid trade-skill tests—

I ask members to mark the words, "rigid trade-skill tests", because it has been said of some of those who are now here that they are not up to the work which they are supposed to be qualified to undertake. I do not admit that; but if they are not, whose fault is it? If they were subjected to rigid trades' tests, as they should have been to save any unhappiness when they arrived in Australia, whose fault is it? The article continues—

—security check-ups, medical tests. "We must make sure the men we pick are the very best."

I think we are entitled to assume that they are the very best, that they measure up to the trade tests, and that they measure up to the security and medical tests. If they do not, who fell down, and what are they doing here?

We are entitled to assume by the fact that they are here that they successfully met all those tests, and it is a bit late in the day now to criticise them. The article goes on—

The job-seeking operation is expected to be completed by the end of September.

After the three-week Scottish campaign the mission moves to Newcastle, Birmingham and Manchester.

I propose to examine how we have lived up to that offer which the Government made to those people. I, for one, will not be a party to the repudiation of any offer or promise. If the Government of Western Australia makes an offer to people, even though I might not agree to the offer being made, and if the offer is made on behalf of the State of Western Australia, so far as I am concerned I will ensure that the Government lives up to it. I am not going to have the fair name of Western Australia besmirched because the Government, once it has got these people here, wants to snap its fingers at the bargain it has entered into. But that is what the Government is trying to do.

The Government has already made some resolution that if a man is not working he has to stay in the hostel until he is working; and he will not be offered a house until he is working. If they had been told about that in England, a lot of them would not be here today. If they had been told there was a possibility they would not get this work which they were being offered, or if they had been told they would not get a house until they were working, that would have put an entirely different complexion on the rosy picture, and a lot of these people would not be here. I maintain they are here under false pretences.

I have before me a letter which was written by one of these people on the 21st March to the Premier. I do not propose to quote the name of the man, although there is no reason why it should not be quoted, and the letter is here for all to see if they wish to do so. The Premier said in reply—

I desire to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 17th March concerning your desire to acquire housing assistance for yourself and Mr. ——. I have spoken to Mr. Darling who has informed me that several houses have been offered to you both—

I shall come to the question of these several houses later. The reply continues—

—but that in each case the accommodation has been rejected because of some feature which does not meet your requirements.

The house which was offered to you in Belmont and which was rejected because of lack of sufficient electrical points, etc., has gladly been accepted by the — family who arrived in Perth under the same scheme as Mr. — and yourself.

The point is that this family was not prepared to take a dwelling which a private land agent was finding some difficulty in letting, because the family had been led

to believe by the propaganda in England that it would be provided with a new State house.

These migrants without exception—and I have spoken to dozens of them—have told me they were shown pictures of new State houses. They were told there was a very big building programme going on of these State houses, and that those were the houses they would go into. But when they get here Mr. Darling says this to them, "You are only a worker. You ought to be satisfied with four walls, a roof, and a lavatory at the back."

Mr. O'Connor: I bet he did not say that to them.

Mr. TONKIN: The honourable member is prepared to bet that, is he? We shall see. Recently a family went to interview the liaison committee; as soon as the members of that family arrived there they were told there was a tape recorder in the room. I do not know whether that was a lie or the truth. I hope to find out.

Mr. Oldfield: Evidently the migrants were told that.

Mr. TONKIN: They were told there was a tape recorder in the room, so they had better be careful of what they said because it would be all recorded. I am told Mr. Darling made that statement. So, if there were a tape recorder in the room Mr. Darling's statement will be on it; and if there were no tape recorder, why did they tell these people lies to start with?

Mr. Oldfield: It is the policy of the Government to tell everybody lies.

Mr. Graham: Who is this Darling?

Mr. TONKIN: Very early in the piece I endeavoured to find out what policy was being followed in the allocation of these houses, because there were instances of some migrants getting houses within 48 hours of arrival, while others are still in the camp after being there for five months. I was trying to find out if there were any set policy. That is all the migrants wanted to know. I have not found one of them who wanted to get a house out of turn—not one. They were prepared to wait their turn in the proper order; but what they are dissatisfied about is to find that some people get offered new houses within 48 hours of arrival and others get offered a house which Justin Seward, or somebody else like that, has had for a long time and cannot let to the general public.

Mr. Graham: That is it.

Mr. TONKIN: They are offered this house, and when they refuse it they are told, "That is the end of our obligation to you. You take your place on the Housing Commission's waiting list."

Mr. Graham: Two and a half years.

Mr. Oldfield: Three and a half years.

Mr. TONKIN: If that be the true position, why was the Premier able to write the letter I have just read in which he referred to a certain family having been offered several houses?

Mr. Fletcher: What was the economic rent of those several houses?

Mr. TONKIN: Why was this fellow offered several houses and allowed to refuse them if other people are allowed only one refusal?

Mr. Graham: A good question.

Mr. TONKIN: When I complained that the Minister for Lands had handed this business of allocating houses over to Mr. Darling he pooh-poohed the idea.

Mr. Graham: Like Mr. Profumo.

Mr. TONKIN: He told me there was a liaison committee handling it.

Mr. Bovell: That is so.

Mr. TONKIN: When I asked him who comprised that committee the Minister said he did not have the slightest idea.

Mr. Graham: On that or any other question.

Mr. TONKIN: When I sent him a letter and asked what was the date of the committee's last meeting, he did not reply to the question. Obviously because he would have put himself in trouble if he had. How can a committee which does not meet be responsible for allocating these houses—and some dozens of them have been allocated up to this date? Of course, Mr. Darling allocated the houses, and he told the migrants so down at Melville camp. He told them that himself; and if the Minister doubts me I can get affidavits from the persons who were present—and there were several of them—when Mr. Darling told them that he did the allocation of houses and had the final say.

I offer very strong objections to anybody outside the Government being given the authority to allocate State houses. There is no reference to the State Housing Commission in this. All the Housing Commission does is to notify certain people that X houses are available.

Mr. Bovell: There is a representative of the Housing Commission on the committee.

Mr. TONKIN: That would be all right if they met.

Mr. Bovell: They do meet.

Mr. TONKIN: When the houses become available, as they do from day to day and week to week, the information is passed on to Mr. Darling who then decides who is going to get the new ones and who will get the houses that Justin Seward is trying to let.

Mr. Bovell: That is rubbish.

Mr. TONKIN: It is not; it is true.

Mr. Graham: The Housing Commission has been sacked.

Mr. TONKIN: To show you, Mr. Speaker, the extent to which Mr. Darling is controlling the situation, I am told by the person who received this letter from the Premier that when he was in the Housing Commission discussing his situation he saw written on the file, "Any further offer to be made at Mr. Darling's discretion."

Mr. Graham: I told you the commission has been sacked!

Mr. TONKIN: That was written on this man's file in the Housing Commission, so the commission dare not decide that this man should get a house until the matter had been referred to Mr. Darling, not to the liaison committee.

Mr. Bovell: Yes; that is it.

Mr. TONKIN: No; on the file was written, "Any further offer to be at Mr. Darling's discretion."

Mr. Heal: He does not know what is on the file.

Mr. TONKIN: So, is Mr. Darling allocating these houses or is he not?

Mr. H. May: He will finish up being nobody's darling.

Mr. Graham: The commission is not controlling its own houses.

Mr. TONKIN: I say it is a shocking situation.

Mr. Graham: You can say that again!

Mr. TONKIN: It is shocking that an officer of the Employers Federation is determining who will get the houses and who will not.

Mr. Bovell: It is done by the committee.

Mr. TONKIN: It is not done by the committee at all; and if the Minister will truthfully answer the questions I have placed on the notice paper for tomorrow, we will soon debunk that one. There is one man at the camp at present who is a pattern maker, and a very good one. When he arrived here there was no job for him, so he was three weeks out of work. Then he was taken on by McAlister who told him there was only about a fortnight's work there for him which would be made available because he had been specially requested by an officer to find a job for him. McAlister did not really have a job for him, but it was made available for special reasons; and at the end of the fortnight the man was put off. He is still out of work and is on social services; but because he is on social services he cannot get a house.

He cannot go into a house until he gets a job; and he told me that Mr. Darling said he was here five years too soon. He is a pattern maker in heavy industry, and apparently there are not the openings here for that type of work, and there will not be for another five years, according to

Mr. Darling. Whose fault is it that this man is here five years too soon? Is he to suffer for that?

Here are the suggestions which have been made to him: He has been told he has to try to sell himself as a cabinet-maker. He has to go and lie to some employer by saying that he is a qualified cabinet-maker when he is nothing of the sort.

Mr. Hawke: He could carry out a lot of repairs to the present Cabinet of this State if he were.

Mr. TONKIN: He is being asked to put it over some employer.

Mr. Oldfield: Telling lies does not mean a thing to this mob.

Mr. TONKIN: That is the situation; and he is in the camp at present, having been there for some five months or more. He cannot get a house, because he has not got a job; and he has very few prospects of getting a job unless he tries to put it over some unthinking employer.

Mr. J. Hegney: I suppose he sold up a home in England or Scotland.

Mr. TONKIN: He certainly did. As a matter of fact a number of these migrants told me that in England they had very good homes with the use of plenty of electricity, and they were used to being able to get a warm shower or bath whenever they came home from work. However, the attitude of those who have been talking to them here is that that is something they are not entitled to in Western Australia.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has another five minutes.

Mr. TONKIN: I have here information covering numbers of them. As a matter of protest, they have refused to pay the money due to the Government for their maintenance at the hostel. They have done this in order to draw attention to their plight. They admit they owe the money and ought to pay for what they are getting, poor as it is, but they say they know of no other way of drawing attention to their plight, because they are like a lost legion.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Did you advise them accordingly?

Mr. TONKIN: As a matter of fact I did not. What a blue for the Minister! As a matter of fact, I told them the opposite; but the point is that the Government's offer is not being carried out.

Mr. Bovell: Oh yes it is!

Mr. TONKIN: Oh no it is not! Why should they be told here that they have to put up with anything when they were given to understand by the propaganda and inferences that they would get a new house when they got here and that they would be permitted to buy it? That is

what they were told—after they were a few months in their house they could buy it if they wished.

Mr. Bovell: You have quoted three cases out of hundreds who have come here.

Mr. TONKIN: Members will appreciate that the Speaker has informed me that I have only five minutes remaining. Probably by now I have only three minutes. I have 33 cases here I could quote if I had the time; but the Minister takes no heed. All I get back is some poppycock about a liaison committee which is making allocations, when I know it is impossible. As a matter of fact I received information to the effect that it was only the day after I complained to the Minister about Darling allocating these houses that the committee had its first meeting. If the Minister will give me the answers to the questions I have on tomorrow's notice paper, we will be able to determine whether or not this committee allocated the houses.

I say it is time the Government faced up to its obligations in this matter, for the good name of the State if for nothing else, and made good the undertakings which were given.

Mr. Bovell: It has!

Mr. TONKIN: Oh no it has not! How can the Minister say that when he told a man that he cannot get a house until he has a job? Does the Minister deny that?

Mr. Hawke: He is like Prime Minister MacMillan—too trusting altogether.

Mr. TONKIN: The situation is precisely as I have explained it. The following is a letter which was written on the 14th November, 1962, to one of these migrants:—

With respect to housing, i.e. State rental houses, I again advise that these are not available at present. However, you stated that your capital would not be less than £200 and you were prepared to purchase a house under this scheme I submitted to you, i.e. minimum deposit of £150 on a £3,000 home with repayment of less than £5, in the proximity of £4 10s. dependent on circumstances. These homes are available and should you be prepared to buy on arrival, your stay in the hostel will be of minimum duration.

But this man is not given the opportunity to buy this house. He is told that if he does not take one of these re-lets he is wiped off; and yet the Minister will say the Government is living up to the obligations which it has undertaken. I say quite frankly that it is not, and if given the opportunity I will prove it.

MR. HALL (Albany) [8.45 p.m.]: The measure before the House we realise is one of urgency, and I would not be one to delay its passage through the House. I realise we must have supply to ease the

unemployment which is prevalent in Western Australia today. Without finance we cannot implement the programmes for the different areas and towns necessary to take up that slack of employment. However, I would be failing in my duty if I did not pay some thought to the Government's action, particularly in regard to the centralisation of contracts.

I have written to different Ministers on various occasions to ask them to give urgent consideration when assessing these contracts to make sure they are given to decentralised areas instead of the favoured centralised contractors who are at present acquiring them. The fact that centralised contractors are being given the contracts is borne out in correspondence which has occurred on every occasion when a contract of any magnitude has been let. Recently it again occurred in the electorate I represent. It is occurring also in other electorates, and I think Bunbury might even be affected. Contracts are being given to the centralised vested interests to expand their industries in the city to the detriment of industries already existing in decentralised areas.

This fact cannot be refuted, but can be proved by correspondence I have here. When we look at the policy of the Government we find how honest it is! We find the Minister for Industrial Development in all seriousness—on the surface—calling for a decentralisation seminar. In all faithfulness and seriousness, different representatives attended that conference and gave of their best time and money. But how truthfully do we find that policy of decentralisation being practised? How could one attend that seminar when one knows in one's own heart and mind that the Government's policy is centralisation and the extension of the existing industries in the metropolitan area to the detriment of all the decentralised small industries to which the Minister has particularly referred on many occasions?

The policy of decentralisation has been expounded continually in the Press, but the current policy is actually to smash down decentralised areas. This is a serious plight and every member who represents a country electorate must think seriously and deeply as to how the policy is affecting his particular district. Increased freights and charges must be met—particularly in the southern portion of the State where the shipping goes right past the ports and the cargoes are brought through the Port of Fremantle, broken up in containerised form, and sent on to the country areas with an added freight charge.

Now, on top of that, we have the obscene fact—and I say obscene because I think it smells—that Lysaght, which brings iron into this State, has placed a surcharge of some 26s. on its product in all outports such as Bunbury, Albany, and Esperance,

but the same commodity is shipped through the Port of Fremantle with no surcharge whatever placed upon it.

Therefore the effect is quite obvious: shipping to the ports of Albany, Bunbury, and Esperance is suffering a reduction, with the result that cargoes coming from the Eastern States are not arriving in sufficient quantities, and interstate shipping firms are saying they have not got sufficient orders. How can they get sufficient orders? How can we hope to achieve any form of decentralisation unless there is some honesty and we get equal treatment for those decentralised ports?

Mr. Oldfield: Is it not a fact that Lysaght is a subsidiary of Broken Hill Pty. Ltd.?

Mr. HALL: I would not know that. These are the effects of what is taking place. It is a serious situation. How are we going to get over this difficulty if centralised interests continue crushing and taking the equity out of the agricultural zones? How much longer are people in decentralised areas going to tolerate the situation? How much longer are Country Party members, who sit behind the Government benches, going to allow their people to be fleeced and have these charges imposed upon them? There is only one way to achieve success; and it has been achieved in other parts of Australia, and in other parts of the world which have smaller populations than we have in the southern portion of this State.

I think the medium for decentralisation would be to form another State. I would like to see a southern State of Western Australia, which would have localised advantages. It would bring honesty and Government closer to our area. That would achieve successful decentralisation.

That portion of the State would be served with an admirable harbour. There is a population of from 49,000 to 50,000 people in the agricultural area behind Albany, Mt. Barker and Denmark, up as far as Wagin and right through to Esperance. We have a coast highway which will link us with the Eastern States. Here I must commend the Premier, although he is on a Cook's tour. The Eyre Highway will soon be completed—at least the worst patches—and it will give Albany, Esperance, and other towns in the southern portion of the State an equal opportunity of competing with the centralised areas and vested interests. There are other roads which link Albany and Bunbury with the metropolitan area.

Those roads are an advantage from the point of view of defence. We have heard much in the last few days about Mr. Chaney refuting an accusation made by a university student on the question of defence. Mobility was one of the points talked about. The roads I have men-

tioned are a connecting link, and they are the result of good planning and farsightedness.

We have, in addition, the Albany Highway which provides us with the utmost protection, and it will encourage development in the area. The hinterland is now being opened up, and we are being provided with thousands of additional acres. At present the population in the Albany zone is 49,000. What is to happen to the young people in the rural areas? Are we going to allow this continual drag to the city? Are we going to allow our youth to become straphangers? Are we going to let the rot continue, until we have a population in the City of Perth of one million people? Perth is a beautiful city, but before the city becomes too congested we should take a careful look at the picture, and at our decentralisation policy, in an honest attempt to cure this continual infiltration into the city of our skilled tradesmen from country areas, and of our young people generally.

The Government could set a standard and an example. One method of curbing this flow of young people to the city would be to establish a teachers' training college in Albany. In the right setting in the southern portion of the State it would be a step forward in this matter of decentralisation. Perhaps a university might follow later. We have heard the controversy concerning the University grounds in Perth. Why not decentralise the University and make everyone happy?

Mr. Nalder: What would you call it?

Mr. HALL: I would call it something like the Princess Royal University. That would be better than Bob Menzies and his "royal."

We have to consider these matters urgently. How long are we going to allow the people in the southern portion of the State to lose their equity, and to have the means of development taken away from them; and how long are they going to have the added humiliation of seeing the youth of their areas moving to the city because they cannot find employment?

There is nothing more degrading than for young people to be unable to find some form of occupation once they leave school. I would ask the Government to think seriously about this matter. There is a tendency to let contracts to firms in the metropolitan area. To cap it off, the Federal Government gave the contract for the Albany Post Office to a Perth firm. It looks as though firms in Albany are not capable of doing the job. In the past Government contracts were let to Albany contractors.

The closing down of the Public Works Department maintenance force was a tragic blow. The economy of the State and that of the Commonwealth of Australia needs a stimulant, and the only

way to get it is to have full employment. A man of 45 finds he is unable to keep up with a younger tradesman, yet if such a man could be maintained in employment there would be a steady income for his family and there would be a stimulus provided for commerce and industry. There is one point which we overlook: When we cut down one form of employment, it starts to snowball and a serious situation results.

Employment figures provided last month for Albany by the statistician were the worst for many years; and those figures would not be truly honest. A man of 45 years of age who wishes to go out to work may manage to get one or two days' work a week. In the past a pensioner, with the same capabilities, was able to supplement his income by somewhere around £6 to £7 per week. Now he is deprived of that income. A man of 45 is unable to compete with the younger tradesman and his income suffers. In addition, a man who is engaged on subcontract work, even when he is working with his nose to the ground, is not making much above subsistence level. The overall effect on economy is a slowing down of our spending force. We see recession taking place in industry, and this is reflected in our payrolls and in commerce.

The Leader of the Opposition very ably covered that aspect. He said we always look for some scapegoat, or we blame the weather. Certainly the weather affects the economy, but not in this particular case. It was the policy of the Government to create an unemployment pool bigger than was needed, and it has got out of hand. If this policy is not altered we cannot hope to find our feet and overcome this recession through which we are now passing.

I asked the Chief Secretary a question concerning contracts for the painting of fire brigade stations in country areas. He replied that the Fire Brigades Board had decided that one contractor should do all the work in the various parts of the country because of the economy involved. This Government has not attended very closely to the needs of decentralisation, and the Minister for Industrial Development will himself have to have a recession somewhere.

Dishonesty of purpose is certainly disclosed when we hear talk about decentralisation but find our contracts centralised. That brings us forcibly to the point I have already covered: that if we are going to get out of this difficulty, the only thing that the people in the southern part of this State can do is to call for a referendum and insist that a referendum be held to form a separate State. Someone might start to pooh-pooh the idea; but it happened in New England. People have

a right to resent benefits being taken from them to the disadvantage of their particular area.

Those are my thoughts and the thoughts of many people in the country areas today. The Government is talking decentralisation, but behind the people's backs it is encouraging centralisation.

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [9.1 p.m.]: There are several subjects I would like to deal with. My Deputy Leader dealt with one of them to some extent earlier this evening and that was in connection with the success or otherwise of what is known as the Lonnie mission. This mission went to Great Britain to try to get migrant tradesmen and it was reasonably successful, due to its glamorised publicity and the promises that were made to the people who were to be brought to this State. Surely if the Government is going to take action along these lines it should co-ordinate its efforts with the Commonwealth Government, which is primarily responsible—and I am not defending the Commonwealth Government; I am a long way from that in my thoughts—for seeing that the migrants who arrive here are positioned in occupations so that they can become good citizens. It is important that they should be employed in their new country without undue delay.

Now the Lonnie mission had no regard at all in that direction. It brought the migrants out and then put the Department of Labour and National Service in the position of having to find jobs to suit the people. The jobs had been advertised and promised to those people as being available. A series of letters went out from the Department of Labour and National Service in an attempt to find employment for those people who had already been signed up to come to this State. On the 11th February the following letter was sent from the department:—

Under arrangements sponsored by the Western Australian Government, more tradesmen will shortly be arriving from the United Kingdom as shown in the attached schedule. This schedule indicates classifications of tradesmen, the number in each classification, the ships on which they are travelling, and the dates of arrival.

We are anxious to make arrangements as far in advance as possible for the placement of these British tradesmen and would be very grateful if you would indicate what categories you would be interested in with a view to employment. Pre-employment interviews will, of course, be arranged.

I would be pleased if you could reply within a week to enable us to arrange the necessary details.

A reply-paid envelope is enclosed.

For ease of recording, the envelope has been addressed to the District Officer of your local Commonwealth Employment Service.

That indicates very clearly that this Lonnie mission had oversold the position with regard to the requirements for tradesmen in this State. There was an accompanying sheet showing that the *Stratheden* was arriving on the 21st February, 1963; the *Oriana* on the 3rd March, 1963; the *Fairsky* on the 18th March, 1963; the *Orion* on the 30th March, 1963; and the *Strathmore* on the 2nd April, 1963. There was a list showing that 173 tradesmen had been booked up without jobs being available for them in this State.

That is not a fair proposition to put before the Department of Labour and National Service whose officers are trying to do a good job in keeping tradesmen in employment. It has not been easy in the past for those officers to find positions in the various categories, particularly in the case of fitters, who have been in over-abundance. And now we have the Lonnie mission bringing a large number of these migrants into the country without any guarantee of employment whatsoever. If that is the sort of salesmanship being indulged in on behalf of this State it is no wonder we have a bad name overseas.

The Minister for Industrial Development and others in his Cabinet get very cross if the Trades and Labour Council or the Australian Labor Party gives advice to the authorities in Great Britain of the true position that exists here. The true position is advised so that migrants will not find themselves in a false situation when they arrive. Because of that I feel this Government deserves censure by the Parliament for indulging in such practices as it has indulged in and getting the State a bad reputation with tradesmen overseas.

Another subject I wish to touch on is that of defence. In this day and age I think that unless the States themselves advocate their own defence they will be left undefended. I accuse the present Government of being very remiss in regard to the defence of Western Australia. It has made no special representations. As a matter of fact it seems quite happy to swing along with the statement of the acting Defence Minister—that very worthwhile senator who represents this State and who has been unable to get us a decent airline during the whole of his time as Minister for Air! He has done everything but fit in with the requirements of the State which he represents. He knows full well he is safe in his position because of the way Senate candidates are elected. Nobody can take him to task for any actions on his part.

He is becoming quite arrogant and races into Press statements when anybody suggests that the Government's defence policy is at all off course. But we have to like

it. This view is also held by the Federal member for Perth, whose attack on young Hassell is well known to all. Because he was outspoken on a motion from the University branch at the State conference of the Liberal Party to the effect that he thought the defence of Australia should be more suited to the requirements of Western Australia, he was taken to task at no end by Mr. Chaney.

Because of his association with ex-service bodies and also because of his own experience in the services, Mr. Chaney should know that the mobility of a force is one thing and the stationing of it is another. All the people who hasten to stand behind the Federal Government in its views on the placing of defence forces claim that the military forces we have can get to various places in a few hours. I am not a military strategist, but I should imagine that the best place to have a base is in a position closest to where an attack might come from.

Surely we are not afraid of the hump back or sperm whales which are being effectively dealt with by the various fleets of whale chasers in the southern waters. I think the only direction from such an attack would come would be from north of Australia. Therefore, any strategic force should surely be placed in that area, in case the necessity should arise to defend it.

I do not feel there will be, but if one has a defence force surely one places it in the position where it is most needed, or is likely to be most needed; and it is certainly not needed at a place where there is no possibility of attack.

So far as this State is concerned I hope the Federal Government will very soon make up its mind in regard to its attitude to our near neighbours; because we should advocate strenuously a pact with both the Federation of Malaysia and Greater Indonesia. We are in a position where we could be of great strategic importance to both of those groups; and if we can play in with them, rather than bark at them, surely we will get somewhere in the long run.

Mr. Dunn: Who is barking at them?

Mr. JAMIESON: Certainly not the kitten who is sitting about where you are. I am saying there are plenty who are barking at those people and so making them view us as an enemy State rather than as a friendly nation which is not very far away from them. We must bear in mind that they are very close to us. There is hardly a summer passes without some fishermen from Indonesia being blown on to our coast as a result of the severe storms in that area. I believe that as a State we should impress upon the Commonwealth Government the necessity of having an-

other look at its defence policy; and until the Government is prepared to do that the people of this State—

Mr. I. W. Manning: You do not see anything ulterior in these fishermen getting blown ashore, do you?

Mr. JAMIESON: No; but I am instancing these happenings to show how close our neighbours from Asia are to us; because every year, almost, we receive a consignment of those people, through the will of the elements, and owing to the fact that we are so close to those countries. Those fishermen have to be taken back to Indonesia, and my suggestion is that in the first place we should advocate an attitude of friendliness to these people in our near north, and also we should show a willingness to trade extensively with them.

At long last even the Minister for Industrial Development has wakened to the fact, as I think one of the Indonesian leaders said, that there is not a vacuum between Darwin and London. I am sure he was of that opinion for a long while; but even he has become aware of the fact that there might be a possibility of trading with our near neighbours in the north, and this in turn will lead to an improvement in the relationship between us. If we can show some friendliness towards them we will get our rightful trade with them; we will certainly not get it unless we can show some degree of friendship towards them.

We should not overdo any attitude of belligerence; because if we do they, too, will adopt the same attitude. Nobody likes to be confronted by a person who is adopting a threatening attitude; but if he is, he will undoubtedly follow suit. We should be able to reach the stage where we can talk things over sensibly without being afraid of each other.

Of course, there is the old bogey that the Indonesians are under Communist influence. That is so much eyewash. Those who have studied the Indonesian people know that because of their religious associations they have far more against Communism than many of the countries which follow the Christian faith, and will not have a bar of it in any shape or form.

The situation is being highlighted by the fact that the Indonesian people are being assisted by Russian finance in the building up of their military forces. Their military power has been built up to such an extent that they are now said to be the nation with the fourth biggest military force in the world. This is a situation which must be faced, and we must do that in the right way and not simply blast at them every time anybody speaks on the subject.

It would be far better if our own defence forces were strategically placed so that they could be employed properly and not simply as ornaments, to be used for occasional parades and on celebration days in the cities of Melbourne and Sydney. That appears to me to be a very necessary and early move instead of having people like the Federal member for Perth shouting down any person who is prepared to advocate better defence facilities for our State.

MR. BRADY (Swan) [9.15 p.m.]: My remarks will be brief but, I hope, to the point. Because this Bill will allow the Government to spend somewhere in the vicinity of £25,000,000 I think I should draw attention to what I believe are important matters affecting my electorate. One could, of course, discuss the larger problems which are now causing this State some difficulty, such as the loss of capital to the Eastern States due to the fact that Eastern States firms have gradually absorbed our local companies, and these companies now appear to be working for the Eastern States and the principal companies in those States appear to be working for people overseas.

One could go on discussing important subjects like that, because I understand the Leader of the Country Party in the Federal sphere is most concerned that capital investments in Australia are taking such a large sum of money away from this country. I am just as equally concerned because of the fact that so many Eastern States firms are absorbing Western Australian firms and taking money out of Western Australia.

Not only are they taking money out of the State but they are also reducing and curtailing the possibilities of employment in Western Australia. If anybody cares to take the trouble to read *The West Australian* of Friday, the 3rd May, he will see that approximately 40 Eastern States companies have absorbed local companies in the last 10 years. I believe that is creating local difficulties in more ways than one, and one of the difficulties is in regard to unemployment.

The unemployment problem is a subject which I wish to discuss for a few minutes because in my area, which is an industrial one, the unemployment figure would be between 450 and 500 people—men and women. Adults, both men and women, can fend for themselves to a large extent. They can get social service benefits and they can make themselves heard; but in recent times, in the industrial areas, hundreds of young people, girls and boys from 15 to 19, have been out of work for long periods.

It is about time the Government, which is spending so much money in all directions, gave some consideration to creating industries and activities in those

areas where unemployment is being suffered not only by adults but also by young people.

If one looks through the records one will find that the same types of industries close down each year and cause unemployment. These firms which are concerned with amalgamations are not only creating unemployment to some extent but they are also putting off seniors and employing low-paid juniors in their place. If anybody looks at *The West Australian* of the 11th July he will find that the employment officer at Midland Junction confirmed the report that local firms are putting off seniors and employing cheap labour.

While I want to high light this position I also want to high light another factor. Several months ago the local newspapers, particularly *The West Australian*, stressed the fact that delinquency was rife in the Midland Junction area. In my opinion, however, the report was grossly exaggerated. Why the Press should publish such reports I do not know; because almost during the same week the report appeared in the newspaper I canvassed the area with a justice of the peace in the town, and the reports I received on the youth of the district were quite favourable. There were isolated instances of youths from other districts entering Midland Junction and causing a disturbance; but by and large I found that the local youths were fairly well behaved.

Nevertheless, I do not know how much longer such a state of affairs will last if the Commonwealth or the State continues to deny them the right of suitable employment in the district. According to the reports I have received, there are 200 young people unemployed in that area. That is a most unfortunate position, and I hope the Government will take steps to approach the Commonwealth authorities to make an endeavour to establish industries in areas where unemployment—particularly among young people—is continuing.

I was at the Midland Junction Trades Hall during the depression of the 1930's when one-third of the adult workers of that district were out of work. I am fully aware of the terrible times they experienced; and it must be heart-breaking for these people, as parents, to see their children experiencing the same difficulties as they did in their younger days. If the Government has any regard for the alleviation of unemployment in those areas where it is most acute it should do something towards encouraging, subsidising, or establishing activities to absorb these young unemployed people.

When the Commonwealth Employment Office was established I thought it had regard for all the factors associated with unemployment in any particular district. Unemployment is a feature in my district year after year, but nobody does anything to relieve the position—neither the Commonwealth Government nor the State

Government. As I said before, one can pick up the local newspaper and read reports of various firms—mostly controlled by interests in the Eastern States—sacking young employees so that even younger personnel can be employed in their stead. It is the amalgamations of various firms and other factors which are responsible for the increase of unemployment in these areas.

Another important matter which is concerning me at the moment is the number of young and aged persons being killed by vehicular traffic on the highways and byways. In the last two months I have heard of cases of two children being knocked over on pedestrian crossings whilst travelling to or going from school. I also read an account of a young lad who was killed at Morley Park. Recently I have read of other cases of pedestrians being knocked down in the city, and even more recently I was within five minutes of seeing a woman killed at Mt. Lawley.

I advocate that the Government should pay some attention to improving pedestrian crossings in the metropolitan area. As far back as five years ago I recommended that overways should be built, but I did not seem to get any response. About eight or nine months ago I read in the Press where a person was within inches of getting killed after coming out of Newspaper House in Terrace Drive, following which there appeared an article in that newspaper advocating the desirability of the construction of an overway over Terrace Drive in the vicinity of Newspaper House.

I have spoken in this vein at public meetings, and I have addressed correspondence to the Main Roads Department and the Transport Department on the advisability of constructing overways in the metropolitan area, with a view to preventing people from being knocked over by vehicular traffic; but I have been told that they are not successful in other parts of the world. When I quoted the Brooker Highway in Tasmania I was told it was not a success. However, I was in Hobart recently and I found that there was not merely one of these overways but there were four or five of them, and they are becoming a feature in the vicinity of schools.

I recently wrote to the Minister concerned in Tasmania, and he sent me photographs of four overways that were being built to cater for children going to and coming from school. Two of these overways have been completed and two are in the process of construction at a cost of £3,000 or £4,000 each.

I am of the opinion that if overways can be erected along the Kwinana Freeway they can be erected in other parts of the metropolitan area. I understand that the cost of the overways constructed along the Freeway was between £20,000 and

£25,000 each. The overways being built over the Brooker Highway in Tasmania are costing approximately £4,000 each and are preventing children from being killed whilst travelling to and from school. The cost of one overway on the Freeway would pay for five or six steel type overways in the suburbs.

The road traffic is increasing at a tremendous rate today. Between 16,000 and 18,000 new vehicles are being registered each year and the risk to the pedestrian each year is being doubled. I think there are approximately 250,000 vehicles of various kinds registered in Western Australia, including cars, utilities, wagons, motorcycles, and so on. I have no desire to see any more accidents happening to school children. Recently a kiddie going to a primary school was hurt at Guildford, and a woman came to me whilst I was at a P. & C. meeting last week and informed me that a child had been hurt at Ashfield by a motor vehicle.

I still advocate the construction of overways; but instead of access to them being by a stairway, ramps should be built to enable elderly people to negotiate them without any difficulty. I would point out that when I wrote to the Main Roads Department on the advisability of building overways, I received the following reply, dated the 21st June, 1963:—

A pedestrian overbridge built over the dual carriage-way in Brooker Highway is the only one of its kind in Hobart.

Whilst I was in Hobart in February of this year, I actually saw four of them. Continuing—

The facility was in the nature of an experiment to assist pedestrians (the significant proportion of whom were children) to cross the highway at the location in question. Access to the overbridge was by means of relatively steep stairs which constituted a deterrent to all but the fairly young and agile.

I would like to interpolate here that I have already made the point that this difficulty could be overcome by constructing ramps instead of stairways. The department's reply continues—

Accordingly, in the absence of pedestrian barriers at the kerb along the Highway, only school children under strict instruction to use the overbridge, were the sole users of the facility. Even in the case of these school children, a number were observed to have crossed the Highway itself at surface level. Quite recently (in March last) two elderly women were killed together when struck by a vehicle while crossing Brooker Highway immediately adjacent to this overbridge.

It would be gathered from this that even with overbridges there is still a risk of pedestrian accident.

I would say that there is a risk. We all know that there are, and always will be, foolish people in the community; and nothing we may do will correct that. But in the main the Government is building these overbridges in Hobart because they are a success. Because one or two people may have been killed, that is no reason why the whole idea should be abandoned by the Main Roads Department and the so-called engineers, merely because they did not think of it first.

So I would ask the Government to have regard for the safety of school children, particularly in the metropolitan area. In the long run it will be cheaper than having fully-paid policemen on the highway for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon. It will be better than paying to have pointsmen stationed in various part of the metropolitan area. Most important of all it will help to save lives.

Accordingly I hope that when the Government is spending some of its money over the next 12 months it will have regard for the two matters I have mentioned. Firstly, I would like it to do something to improve unemployment in industrial areas, particularly as it relates to young people. Secondly, I would like it to consider the desirability of building overways on the much travelled highways in the metropolitan area, where vehicles are increasing on the roads at the rate of 18,000 to 20,000 a year, thus doubling the risk of the average pedestrian in the metropolitan area.

MR. BICKERTON (Pilbara) [9.32 p.m.]: I realise that the average member will have adequate opportunity on the Address-in-Reply and on the Estimates to discuss matters concerning his electorate, and also those that affect the State. There are, however, a couple of points arising out of something that was mentioned tonight, which I would like to take the opportunity of discussing on this Bill.

One of the speakers mentioned the matter of a committee set up to deal with migration. It is committees generally that I would like to discuss for a few moments. I cannot help but feel that we are fast reaching the stage where we are having government by committees. In recent years it seems to have become the practice for a committee to be set up to investigate matters, rather than for a ministerial decision to be given.

I suppose we could be told that this is done for purposes of greater accuracy, but I cannot help feeling that in many instances it is to save the Minister making

some decision which might perhaps be unpopular. The formation of a committee helps the Minister to overcome his responsibility in that particular case.

I have never made any secret of my feelings about most committees. Some are, of course, necessary. The ideal committee should consist of three, provided one person cannot attend, and one of the others is very ill! I have always liked the description that a camel is a horse designed by a committee!

In the north-west the appointment of committees seems to be the order of the day. We have committees appointed on transport, on shipping, and a couple of them to inquire into the pastoral industry. There are committees galore in the Kimberleys. We have committees on mining; and all of these committees seem to be doing a job which the Minister is qualified to do, because of the staff he has in his department. I cannot believe that in every case where a committee is formed the Minister would not have in his department the necessary brains among his many good public servants who could acquaint him with the situation.

A committee was appointed to inquire into the future of Onslow. I intend to deal with that aspect at a later stage of the session. On examining the personnel of that committee I find it is comprised, as most committees are, of public servants. I am not criticising the Public Service; indeed, I have the greatest admiration for the Public Service in Western Australia in the main, and particularly for our senior public servants. They do a remarkable job. But surely there must be a disadvantage when, in most cases, they know the opinion of their Minister before they even begin to sit on a committee. This is probably the case with the committee dealing with transport at the present time.

The Minister made reference at Onslow to the fact that it would be only a short time before road transport would be operating through to Port Hedland. Appointed to the committee I have mentioned, is the manager of the State Shipping Service. When the Minister expresses his views, surely it must have some impact on the people sitting on the committee. At this point I would like to say that no local people are ever asked to sit on such committees. The members are generally from the Public Service, and they must bring down a decision which in most cases is in keeping with the views of their ministerial bosses.

A typical example of this is the committee on Onslow. On looking through the people it interviewed, as contained in its report on Onslow, I find the committee interviewed the Department of Native Welfare, the Department of Health, the Education Department, the Transport Department, the State Shipping Service,

the Harbour & Light Department, the Department of Lands & Surveys, the Town Planning Department, the Department of Agriculture, the Public Works Department, the Main Roads Department, the Mines Department, and the Local Government Department. It also interviewed the Meteorological Bureau and the State Housing Commission. They are all Government Departments. Surely the Ministers in charge of those departments could have obtained the necessary information without appointing a committee.

Mr. Burt: What you want is an ombudsman.

Mr. BICKERTON: If the honourable member thinks it is a good idea, I cannot see any purpose for the committees that are formed, particularly when the information required is always available from the Government departments, from which it can be obtained whenever it is needed. We are fast reaching the stage of being governed by committees, and I cannot help thinking that in the majority of cases the object is to save the Minister making a decision which he should be quite capable of making. He has at his disposal all the information he requires for that purpose.

A further objection is that the appointment of these committees generally results in delaying tactics. The inquiries of some of them take a long time and two or three months elapse before a decision is made. When a question is asked concerning such decision one is generally told that the Government has not yet studied it. I am inclined to think that before a committee even started its inquiries the Government would have a fair idea as to what its decision was likely to be.

Accordingly I cannot help but feel that the appointment of committees is something that has been created by Governments over the years to avoid their having to shoulder a responsibility that should rightly be borne by the Ministers of the various departments. We could do with a lot fewer committees and a lot more ministerial decisions, which would save a great deal of time and probably a great deal of expense. I have been happy about the experts and committees operating in Onslow over the last few months, because they have had an impact on the internal economy of the town. There have been so many of them there.

Another matter that was raised to-night by the Leader of the Opposition concerned the member for Kimberley and a dinner held in that area. I do not wish to deal in any way with the matter relative to the member for Kimberley and the invitation to dinner. There are a few remarks I want to make, however, because I cannot help feeling that this is becoming a little too common to be

accidental. In the north-west far too much of this sort of thing goes on regarding invitations to the local members concerned.

I address my remarks through you, Sir, perhaps more to the ordinary members of this House than to Ministers who may have reasons for doing these things. I do not know whether members representing south-west constituencies and suburban constituencies are being treated in this manner more and more, but we do find it occurring in the north-west.

On two or three occasions I was responsible for arranging deputations to meet a Minister, but was then told at the last minute that my presence was not needed. I think that much more consideration could be given by Ministers to this aspect when they are going through areas, particularly in the north-west of this State where long distances have to be traversed.

On most occasions the members of the district have been invited to be present only two or three days before the departure of the Ministers. We are restricted in air transport, and the prospect of travelling two or three thousand miles at a couple of days' notice makes it very difficult for us. When chartered aircraft are being used by Ministers then the local members should be considered and allocated seats; but to date this has not been done. This may be a very small point, and I have not raised it previously. It may sound as though one was being petty, but this lack of consideration is becoming more and more common. Local members of Parliament are most concerned with their electorates and should receive consideration in this regard.

If they are doing their duty for the areas they represent they would have firsthand knowledge of the difficulties therein and of what is going on. They would be able to give assistance to any Minister or Government. I think that courtesy alone demands at least that consideration. I would not like to think or suggest that it was for political reasons those invitations were not issued more frequently, particularly to Opposition members. I believe, for no selfish reason, that more consideration should be given in that regard to local members.

MR. NORTON (Gascoyne) [9.42 p.m.]: I wish to raise several points in this debate. The first concerns the maintenance of State houses at Carnarvon which were first built in 1949. I can honestly say that little or no maintenance has been done on them. I asked a question today in this House relevant to two of the earlier types of houses built in that district. I asked what percentage of the rental paid by tenants was allocated for maintenance, and was told that the amount allocated for maintenance was one per cent. of the

capital cost. Taking the cost of the house built in 1949 or 1950—which is some 13 years ago—at an average of £2,715, there has accumulated since that time a sum of £350 for maintenance.

That particular type of house has not, over the past 13 years, seen a coat of paint on the outside. It is also fitted with a galvanised iron chimney which has become severely rusted and in many instances is leaking. Yet the Minister told me in reply to the question I asked that on an average £99 was spent on each house last year on maintenance work.

Surely some of the money set aside for maintenance over that period could be spent on the houses which were erected such a long time ago, and for which rental has been paid. It is very disconcerting for a tenant to live in a house which is becoming dilapidated and shoddy through lack of paint. Most of the houses have nice gardens and are generally looked after by the tenants in a very good way; it is most disappointing to them that nothing is being spent on maintenance.

The other type of houses, built by Sandwell and Wood at about the same time in the same area, have outside chimneys made of galvanised iron. They are completely rusted through. From inspections made it was found that the chimneys had not been fitted properly to the houses, and leaking flashings allowed the water to run on to the stoves, which in many cases are also rusted.

Earlier this year I took two inspectors of the State Housing Commission to look at those houses and to show them the state of the chimneys. There was not one in that area which kept the rain off the stove. Many of the bath-heaters were burnt out, and I can safely say that the vent on every septic system was rusted through at ground level. I made inquiries last week as to the work which has been done to replace those chimneys, burnt-out bath-heaters, and stoves, but so far not a thing has been done. Yet, if we take the average cost of a house at £2,715, and set aside one per cent. per year over 13 years for maintenance, we will find that over £350 has been accumulated, and this amount should justly have been spent on maintenance.

The second subject I wish to deal with concerns the laxity of Ministers in replying to correspondence. I intend to bring to the notice of this House at least four instances of laxity in this respect.

On the 4th February I wrote to the Premier regarding a promise he had made to the Carnarvon Yacht Club to carry out some maintenance work along the foreshore of the river. I received no reply to that letter; so on the 4th March I wrote to him again but received no reply. I wrote to the Premier once more on the 24th March, but it was not until after he had left the State and was well on his way

overseas that the Deputy Premier condescended to answer that letter. The work I wrote about had been promised to be carried out on the 24th October, 1962.

I wrote to the Minister for Works on the 1st June, but so far have not received a reply. I wrote to the Minister for Education on the 24th June, but so far have not even received an acknowledgment. I am sorry the Minister for Police is not in his seat, because I wrote him on an urgent matter regarding traffic regulation 240 which controls the speed of heavy vehicles. That was written on the 20th January, a Sunday, so the letter would arrive at his office on the morning of the 21st January. An organisation in Perth, seeing a Press comment of mine, wrote to the Minister on the 22nd January. That organisation received a reply from the Minister on the 24th; that is, two days afterwards. Up to that time I had no reply; but on the 26th January I received, from the organisation referred to, a copy of a letter which the Minister had written.

However, when I got the Minister's reply on the 4th February—10 days afterwards—I received an exact replica of the letter written to this other organisation. If that organisation could receive a reply within two days, surely I could have received a reply at the same time, particularly as the letter sent to me contained exactly the same wording. No notice is taken of the name of the person to whom a letter is addressed.

This kind of thing belittles members who are elected to represent various areas; and I think it is very poor policy on the part of Ministers to carry on in this fashion. From what I have heard around and about it would seem to me that not only members on this side of the House, but also members of the Country Party are treated in this manner.

One has only to keep one's ears open to find out what is going on; and the people whom one represents soon get to know these things and it does not improve their opinion of the Ministers. It is to be hoped that Ministers will show a little bit of tact in answering correspondence—particularly the Minister for Transport and Police, who gave an answer to an outside organisation on a subject about which the member for the district had written two days before. That organisation received a reply 10 to 12 days ahead of the member who originally lodged the complaint.

The other point I wish to take up is the housing of coloured people at Carnarvon. Since August, 1960, all kinds of promises have been made that these people would be given some sort of housing, but up to date nothing whatsoever has been done for them. Today the Minister for Native Welfare answered a question of mine in respect of this matter as follows:—

Arrangements are in hand to erect four type V houses for rental in Carnarvon from funds allocated in 1962-63.

To me, that sounds rather a queer statement because that department will be the only one, other than the Main Roads Department, which would have any funds left after the 30th June, 1963; and how these funds are becoming available now—we are two months into the new financial year—is just beyond me.

Mr. Lewis: Materials could have been bought before the end of the financial year.

Mr. NORTON: Then why are those materials not on the site? From which year is the contract for the erection of the houses going to be paid? The Minister said these houses are to be built from funds that were allocated in 1962-63.

Mr. Lewis: That is right.

Mr. NORTON: As far as I know, the department is usually overdrawn; and I do not expect the position will be any different in this financial year.

Mr. Lewis: If you care to write to me I will find out exactly when they are going to be built.

Mr. NORTON: The Minister has heard my comments; and I do not consider there is any need for me to write, because the chances are I will not get a reply. In his reply to my question today, the Minister went on to say—

An additional three type V houses for purchase have been included in the provisional estimates for 1963-64 but the completion of this programme will depend on availability of funds.

Mr. Moir: That is always the answer.

Mr. NORTON: With regard to these three V-type houses which are to be built for purchase, negotiations have been going on for some time with three families in Carnarvon so that they can get into the houses in the very near future, but they have not been told anything about the availability of funds. Negotiations are going on just as if the funds were available.

I understand agreements are to be signed; and in some of these cases the people own the land on which the houses are to be built. At the moment the understanding with these people is that the houses will be built this coming year; but according to the Minister's reply, it may be any time, because the houses will be built only if funds are available.

There are quite a number of other things I wish to say, but I will keep them for the Address-in-Reply when I will have had some more replies to questions.

MR. DAVIES (Victoria Park) [9.55 p.m.]: I wish to say a few words about the Lonnie migration mission. Much has been said about it, and I am certain a lot more will be said before this House concludes the current session. However, the things that have been brought to my notice

must be aired, because I think the Government deserves censure over its handling of the scheme that has become known as "The Lonnie Scheme".

Some time ago I attended in my electorate—as I often do—a social function held by the Caledonian Society, and had the opportunity of welcoming a number of people from the Point Walter Hostel who were there as guests. I said I admired the fact that they had given up so much in their own country to come out here; that it was obviously a great break with their friends and families; and that they must have had a great deal of courage, as I believe all migrants who leave their roots and settle in another country must have as they know exactly nothing of what is before them.

I believe they thought they were all on a very good wicket—that they were indeed coming to a land of milk and honey—because of the proposition that had been put up to them. If I recall correctly, I concluded my remarks by telling them that I could be of any assistance to them at any time I would be only too happy to do what I could for them, as would any member on this side of the House. I may have been in error in doing this, because I had not regained my seat when I was approached by a half a dozen people who had a great number of complaints; and since then I have received a good number of other complaints.

These complaints all follow the same pattern. The people all believe that the facts as presented to them were incorrect and many of them have a few regrets at having given up good jobs and good home in order to experience some uncertainty in the State of Western Australia. I am of the opinion that the plan itself must have been ill-conceived from what I know of it. Unfortunately I was overseas last year when the Lonnie mission left Western Australia. It appears that it was decided all of a sudden that we must have migrants and that we would show the Commonwealth Government how to get them.

It would not matter if we upset the Commonwealth Government's migration plan; and this, indeed, is what we have done. I understand the Federal authorities are not very happy about it. This is understandable, because over the year that Government has had a great deal of experience with migration and has been able to formulate some kind of plan for absorbing certain numbers into the community each year. But the action of the Government provided an additional number of migrants over and above those expected to come here under the Commonwealth scheme.

I recall that some two years ago, when I was closely associated with the trade union movement—and indeed I still am, and am very proud of it—as an officer of the Trades Union Industrial Council I visited the

Employers Federation, because even then there was some concern about immigration. The same people are in control of the Employers Federation at the present time who were in control then; and they said that they did not have any fears at all as this State was on the edge of a great boom and before the end of the year we would not have enough people—particularly skilled tradesmen—to fill all the vacancies that would be available.

We asked for some evidence of this and they produced some very large sheets. They had the numbers which would be required by all the firms around town by the end of the year. I think it was in February we had that meeting. This information gave us some heart. They said they had gone into it very closely and could guarantee jobs for all these people, so we did not do a great deal about it then, unfortunately. We sat back and waited; but we found at the end of the year that the unemployment was twice as bad as in February.

What happened to the estimates of these employers around town, we wanted to know; and when we made some further inquiries from several of the employers, we were given certain information. They said that the Employers Federation had rung them on the phone one day and asked how many tradesmen they would want by the end of the year. They said, "We could want two or three fitters and perhaps a blacksmith. It depends how things go." This was taken to be the certain requirements by the end of the year. They did this with a number of the employers and got snap decisions over the phone. This had been the schedule shown which would guarantee certain vacancies by the end of the year.

Then, of course, on top of that, the Government and the Employers Federation, knowing that the numbers had not been required, decided to send a mission overseas to get additional people because they had convinced themselves that all these tradesmen were going to be required in Western Australia.

I believe the scheme was ill-conceived and ill-planned because they should have known whether houses would be available for the numbers that were coming out, and whether jobs also would be available. These are the two essentials, not only for the actual father of the family but for the children as well, and for the teenagers, to find employment for whom is a great problem at the present time.

I asked for evidence, of course, from the people who made complaints to me, as to the promises that had been made to them, and I got the evidence without any trouble at all. Here is a letter dated the 2nd August, 1962, to one migrant, and it

details the fact that he is interested in migrating to Western Australia. Then, in the second paragraph, it says—

Should you still be interested in accepting employment at your trade in Western Australia I can inform you that the mission can offer to those persons selected by it "a job and a house".

Those words "a job and a house" have not only been quoted but in this letter they are underlined. Now, do members want any more proof that the Government—the letter was signed by Mr. Lonnie, the leader of the mission—gave people a firm guarantee of a job and a house? The only thing not stated was what kind of a house it would be and when they would get the job. Perhaps the potential migrants may have been remiss in not making this inquiry; but a person would take it, when he received a paper with the letterhead of the office of the Agent-General, together with the official seal and signed personally by the leader of the mission, that the words "a job and a house" in quotation marks and underlined would mean that in a very short time after his arrival he would have exactly what was stated in the letter—a job and a house. I think if we looked at the accommodation provided we would realise that this has created as much dissension as it is possible to create.

I will not detail all the cases that have been presented to me. Please understand that I have no migrants in my electorate. These are the ones living out of my electorate who have come to me because I was fortunate enough to make their acquaintance. I say "fortunate enough" because they are a very fine band of people. I have not met one who is not prepared to give it a go—to try to make a go of it; but I have met plenty who are absolutely disgusted with the breach of faith on the part of the Government.

I have here another letter, which has come from the office of the High Commissioner and is addressed to the person concerned. It states that they are very happy he has decided to come to this glorious country—and it is a glorious country if one is provided with a house and a job and decent living conditions. There is plenty of future in it.

Mr. Graham: With a decent Government!

Mr. DAVIES: Once again there are the usual good wishes and hope that the family will have a happy and successful time, and it states that they will have opportunities never available in the country they are leaving. This, of course, is a lot of rot—this supposition that all the people coming out cannot be worse off here than in England. This is not so, because many who have come were very well off, well settled

with good homes and good gardens. Perhaps the gardens were not as big as we know them but the homes have many of the refinements we know and much of the equipment we have in houses in Australia. I know this because I have had the pleasure of being entertained in homes in all parts of the British Isles.

Referring once again to this letter, on the question of housing the man is told that a job will be found, and a house. Mention was made in this letter from the office of the Agent-General that it might be necessary in the first instance to be accommodated in a hostel and that the period to be spent in the hostel could not be laid down. This was the first hint he had that he would not almost immediately be given a house. This was the first hint this man had since he was accepted and sold his home.

However, it says that he would be found a job, and then the letter sets out the award rate for his trade of fitting and turning, which was £19 14s. 9d. a week at that time. Then follow the words "a house will be found for you within a reasonable period". These people can therefore reasonably hope to find some kind of housing accommodation. That letter is dated the 29th October. The people concerned arrived here, I believe, some time early in January and were located at the Point Walter migrant hostel where, they said, the food was impossible and uneatable at times.

Mr. Bovell: That is not true.

Mr. DAVIES: Then on the 29th March, five months after the first indication that a house might not be available almost immediately, a letter was received from Cathedral Avenue, Perth—from the Immigration Department; and I think it is getting a little closer to the true position. Why they wait until the migrant has decided to come here and has been here for five months before they tell him the true position, I will never know.

This letter sets out the qualifications for getting a house. The family is told that it cannot be promised a new house but that housing will be made available as soon as possible. It sets out that the family will be made an offer, and if the migrant does not accept it he then becomes an ordinary applicant and will be treated in the normal course, which could take another 12 or 18 months. In the meantime, apparently, he and his family can reside at the hostel or can find their own accommodation. This man, whose papers I have in my hand, has a wife and four daughters aged 17, 16, 12, and four. It is a six-unit family.

After complaining for some time about not getting a house they were offered one at Bentley although they had wanted one at Hamilton Hill where, I understand, there was a group of other migrants, and that area was more suitable for them.

Apparently the allocating authorities were not very concerned as to where it would be. They merely said "We will offer you a house near your employment." This is reasonable, I suppose, because this man was employed in the industrial area at Welshpool. In the meantime he had purchased a car. He had to do so in order to get from Point Walter to Welshpool, and although he pointed this out to the allocating authorities, and also pointed out that he could go just as easily from Hamilton Hill, he was told the offer was being made for a house at Bentley and he could take it or leave it.

I might also mention that this man had not been found a job by the Government. In fact, he had found his own job after several weeks of unemployment. Members will recall that this family consisted of four daughters, three of them teenagers, and the husband and wife. It was a six-unit family, and they were offered a house comprising a bedroom, 16 ft. 3 in. by 10 ft.; a second bedroom, 10 ft. by 10 ft.; a roof-finished sleepout, 12 ft. by 7 ft. 9 in.; a lounge, 17 ft. by 10 ft.; a kitchen-dining area, 17 ft. by 10 ft.; plus a dado-enclosed back verandah, 9 ft. 2 in. by 7 ft. 9 in.

The unit was built in 1957, and before being allocated £56 worth of renovations were undertaken by the State Housing Commission. In effect, the family had as sleeping units two bedrooms and an enclosed sleepout for a grown-up family of six. This was said to be the normal sleeping accommodation for a family of this size. I ask any member whether he can accommodate three teenage daughters plus a smaller daughter, plus the husband and wife comfortably in a house of the dimensions I have given here. It could be done, but it is impossible to do it comfortably. Why could not this family have been provided with a three-bedroom home?

The matter was taken a little further. I had discussions with Mr. John Darling who was, apparently, State Immigration Liaison Committee Chairman. He, of course, adopts the attitude that if anyone dares to question his judgment, then that is the finish of that person. This has happened time and time again. He likes to be a complete dictator in the allocation of housing. There is no need for the Minister for Immigration to look at the ceiling and stroke his chin because this is the truth.

Mr. Bovell: You are painting a completely erroneous picture. He is not a dictator and he co-operates in every way.

Mr. DAVIES: The family to whom I am referring said, first of all, that the house was not in the area they wanted; and secondly, that it was not big enough. And that was a fact—it was not big enough. There was another person in the running

for this house. He informed the committee that it would be unsuitable for him, and he was offered another. What happened when the original people who had been offered the house rejected it? The house was allocated to a family which included two small children. This family unit consisted of husband and wife and two small children. The liaison committee said that the house was one for a family of this size; but it was also the same size house for the six-unit family. I have not heard of anything so stupid in all my life. It bears out the fact that the liaison committee is not interested in listening to reason.

I have here five pages of diatribe, setting out the committee's reasons why it could not be done. I will not bore the House by reading them. Any member is welcome to see them at any time. They bear out what I have said about the committee not being prepared to listen to reason. The committee granted the man who had refused the house the right to state his case. But before the man appealed to the committee he had been able to get another job in the new industrial area of O'Connor.

There was now a good reason why he should be given a house at Hamilton Hill, because it was much nearer his work. He had been allocated a house, but there was no reason why the committee could not have told him, "We will give that one at Bentley to someone else. You are now located at O'Connor, and we will give you a house as soon as possible." The family appreciated there might not be one available immediately, but they were prepared to stay where they were for another few weeks. However, what did the liaison committee do? It said, "You have had your offer of a house, although it was entirely unsuitable for you. You have had one offer, and although circumstances have changed in two days, that does not mean a thing; you have had your offer, and you now go down to the bottom of the list and await your turn, which will be in another 12 or 18 months." It is absolutely disgusting.

These people have since been able to find themselves a house at £5 per week, and they have been able to settle down near to the man's work. I have never heard such nonsense in all my life. This committee has dictatorial powers and it is not prepared to listen to reason, even when circumstances change in a matter of two days. This is only one of several cases I have here, and other members have similar cases.

There has been a great deal of doubt concerning the type of houses which were promised. There are some people with us tonight, I understand, who had very nice houses in England and who queried Mr. Lonnie whether the Government would be offering new houses. Mr. Lonnie's words were to the effect that when he said it was a new house he meant it would be a new house. There can be no doubt at all about

that. The mission was going around selling jobs and new houses to anyone who would come out to Western Australia.

Once again I have a whole list of people who have been unable to get employment, and of people who have been lucky enough to be able to get jobs for themselves—people who have found employment for a matter of a fortnight or three weeks or, if they were lucky, a month. After that there was no more work for them. The Government said, "We have fulfilled our promise; we got you a job." A job! When the Government offers a person a job he expects it to be a permanent one: a job that will give him some kind of security. What is the sense of his giving up all the advantages he had in England—permanent work, superannuation fund, and all the rest that goes with a permanent job—in order to come out to Western Australia to a job offered by a Government, a job which could be for anything from a week to a month—or it could be for eternity if one were lucky enough; but there are very few of those jobs.

These people have shown some initiative. Some have been lucky enough to find jobs. But once again there is no certainty about it. Some of these people are aged persons. One of the most distressing factors is that their children are unable to obtain work. We all know that the latest employment figures, and those figures which have been given out each month this year by the Department of Labour and National Service, show and have shown that there is a serious shortage of jobs for teenagers; and although the year is now well advanced, there are still many people, many Australian teenagers—many in my own electorate—who have been unable to find work of any kind.

Many of those teenagers have had to return to school after having been away for some time. Some of them have got jobs serving in fruit shops, or perhaps they have obtained Saturday morning work in one of the chain stores. But this is soul-destroying. They are getting older. It is harder for them to get jobs; and, what is more, they have no experience and there is little hope of their getting jobs.

The position is desperate, and nobody can deny this. In another four months we will have the 1963 group of children leaving school, and there will be another flood of teenage unemployment in Western Australia. What can we do about it? What does the office of the High Commissioner say? He says, "You may miss some of the things familiar to you, but you will discover in Australia many advantages that Britain lacks, particularly for your children's future."

What kind of a future are we giving them? The most important thing they require is work. In the case I mentioned earlier there were three teenage daughters, and one of them has only just got some

kind of employment as a shop assistant in a small store. Yet they have been here since last January, and what I have mentioned reflects only a fraction of what has been going on. I say that the whole of the Lonnie mission was ill-conceived and ill-planned.

I believe we need migrants—we must have them—and I have found that those who are coming here are a good type. But if we cannot absorb them properly and adequately into our community we are not doing any good for our migrants, our reputation overseas, or the people in Western Australia.

I think the Italians have the right idea. In *The West Australian* of the 31st January this year there were details concerning a draft migrant agreement. The original agreement which was submitted to the Italian authorities was not acceptable to them and it was not ratified. I realise that the agreement in question is a Commonwealth matter, and does not concern Western Australia only; but one of the points at issue was that an assisted migrant should have a guarantee of a secure job before he left Italy. Another point was that Italian trade qualifications should be recognised in Australia and that Italians should not have to go to the migrant reception centre at Bonegilla. That, of course, is in Victoria where there were some riots last year, if I remember rightly.

The Italians have their heads screwed on. The Italian authorities want jobs for their people; they want proper housing for them, otherwise they will not enter into an agreement with the Commonwealth to permit Italians to come here. It is time the British Government woke up and adopted the same attitude.

MR. FLETCHER (Fremantle) [10.22 p.m.]: Many of us on this side of the House might be accused of weary repetition, but the theme that we have used is that the Government is worthy of condemnation as a consequence of the situation in which we find ourselves today in regard to those matters which have been discussed this evening. I would like to quote from *The West Australian* of the 27th June this year, and I hope the Minister concerned is listening to what I am saying. The article was in regard to the West Province by-election, and I will read the appropriate portions of the statement made by the Minister for Industrial Development. He said—

The Liberal Party has kept faith with voters by providing two first-class candidates for next Saturday's Legislative Council by-elections.

Behind them stands a good record of Government achievement for the benefit of individuals and the State.

He goes on to talk about the candidates and then says—

They stand firmly behind the Government's clear-cut policy of encouragement for private enterprise, which has expanded employment and virtually doubled the development resources of the State by attracting private investment.

I think the statements which have been made this evening are an absolute contradiction of the Minister's statement—unemployment exists and people are waiting for housing.

Mr. H. May: Now you've got him interested.

Mr. FLETCHER: The article goes on to mention iron ore exports and that sort of thing, and what is anticipated in the dim and distant future. It says something about the fact that we might get an integrated iron and steel industry in 1990 something. This is a matter which concerns all Western Australians because we had an opportunity, when the splendid Hawke Labor Government was in office, of selling a million tons of iron ore overseas for the purposes of enabling us to obtain sufficient revenue for the Hawke Labor Government to commence an integrated iron and steel industry, not in 1990 something, but in the immediate future.

Mr. Dunn: What happened?

Mr. FLETCHER: A hostile Federal Government refused us an export license. It alleged that there were insufficient iron ore reserves in Western Australia. Yet by some miraculous means we now find that we have countless millions of tons of iron ore. Can anyone tell me that those huge hills of iron ore had never previously been seen? I will admit the population in the North-West is rather scanty; but surely they could not fail to see something of that size.

This article is a lot of lies and misrepresentation. I know the word "lies" is not liked in this House, and I do not like using it; but why were we denied the opportunity then of doing something for the benefit of Western Australia instead of having to wait until 1990 something? I do not want any interjections from the appropriate Minister. I will read what he had to say.

Mr. Court: I was just wondering what sort of an iron and steel industry we would have got from a million tons of iron ore.

Mr. FLETCHER: The Minister said—

We are striving to lift this State to the level of prosperity that our resources can give us and we are pushing development on every front.

We are dedicated to this aim not because we are following some mystic dream but because we know it will strengthen our hold on this rich land by filling it with people; because it

will create more jobs—and more interesting jobs—while improving our way of life.

This is the kind of Government programme to which George Brand and Syd Ryan give their wholehearted support.

They know that the benefits this programme is bringing have enabled us to afford a steadily-rising standard of social welfare and education.

We urge you to support them by going to the polls and giving them your vote in North-East Province and West Province on Saturday.

Mr. Oldfield: Brave words.

Mr. FLETCHER: Brave words indeed, and if it were possible of achievement it would be very laudable. However, I do take exception to the Minister's remarks when he said, "We are dedicated to this aim not because we are following some mystic dream." I assume he is alluding to Labor policy being some mystic dream. There was nothing mystic about the illustration I gave of wanting something in the immediate future and not in 1990 something. Incidentally those two candidates were repudiated at the polls and I am not surprised in view of what has been disclosed by this side of the House. For want of a better word it was typical Liberal Party bovine manure—I cannot put it in more polite terms.

Mr. Graham: Very aptly described!

Mr. Bickerton: Fertiliser is a better word.

Mr. FLETCHER: Whilst I am on the theme of how splendid things are in this alleged Utopia, I should like to quote, for the benefit of the House, an article which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 21st June. The heading is, "Two Hundred Women, Girls, Queue for Work." I am not glad of this situation, or happy about the opportunity of indulging in this criticism.

Mr. Court: Not much, you're not!

Mr. FLETCHER: I deplore it. The article goes on to state—

At least 200 women and girls queued yesterday morning when a chain-store firm advertised for shop assistants at its new branch at Applecross.

At noon about 80 were still waiting to be interviewed.

The shop wanted about 15 permanent assistants, as well as temporary staff for its opening sale next month.

Further on the article states—

Many of those present felt that there were not as many opportunities for such jobs as there were a few years ago.

A few years ago, let me interpolate, would possibly be in excess of six years ago when the Labor Party was in office and more opportunities were available.

Mr. Court: You had higher unemployment than any year since we have been in office.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order!

Mr. Graham: You are wrong and you know you are wrong. You have broken records over the last 30 years.

Mr. Court: No.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order!

Mr. Graham: Higher than for the last 30 years under this Government.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order! If I do not get more order from both sides then members on both sides will regret it very shortly; and neither the member for Balcatta nor the Minister for Industrial Development will be grinning.

Mr. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad you did not include me in that. To continue with the newspaper article—

Applicants interviewed at random in the queue were:

The report then publishes the name of a young lady of 16 years of age of Leederville and continues with these comments—

Left school at Junior level last year and had not yet got a job. Could do shop work, dressmaking or hairdressing. Had tried at more than 20 shops.

Miss Margaret Harrington (19) of Applecross. Last job—a temporary one—last October as typist.

Commercial college qualifications and could do bookkeeping and switchboard work. Had tried almost every day for some job.

These are reports of some of the unfortunate young ladies who are looking for work as shop assistants despite the qualifications mentioned. The report continues—

Miss Gloria Prowse (18), of Alfred Cove. Out of work for three weeks. Earlier, had been out of work for 13 weeks.

So the stories go on of these unfortunate people who are looking for work.

For the Government to make representations that there are wonderful opportunities offering in this State is nothing more than window-dressing in trying to demonstrate not only to the people of this State and Australia as a whole, but also to countries overseas, that Western Australia is overflowing with opportunity; that people should come here and assist this Government because of the wonderful opportunities that are offering. Yet I can read this

newspaper report on 200 young girls out of work. I do not want to condemn the Press for printing such reports because we often accuse the Press of not printing the true facts. In this instance we have to face up to the fact that the Government is not as good as it pretends to be, otherwise the Press would have no need to publish such reports.

Alongside some of the paragraphs of these Press statements I have written the words, "Note well". One such paragraph is as follows—

Electric welder, Ian Horner, formerly of Glasgow, who arrived with his wife and four children said yesterday that many felt they were tricked into coming to W.A.

He had seen the advertisement and would never have come but for the specific job offered.

The contents of four letters signed by Forwood Down's London agents were supplied to this migrant but I will not quote all of them. However, I will continue with Mr. Horner's comments—

"I would never have sold my house and given up a good job in England had I known," he said. "I will try to see that nobody else makes the same mistake."

That migrant was going to try to see that nobody else makes the same mistake that he did. Yet in *The West Australian* dated the 20th October, 1962, appears a subleader under the heading of "Putting the Facts Abroad" which criticises our Mr. Chamberlain for telling the facts to British trade union workers. I was criticised in this House last year for doing precisely the same thing, yet here we have the published reports of migrants who are offering the same criticism. I will quote from this subleader in *The West Australian* dated the 20th October, 1962, as follows—

Putting the Facts Abroad.

From their union secretary, British boilermakers have again been given a distorted picture of industrial conditions and the arbitration system in Western Australia.

That is just in part. Later the subleader states—

This is an example of the need for the State Government to counteract adverse influences at the source by presenting the true picture and the up-to-date facts.

The necessary steps could be taken through Mr. W. S. Lonnie, who is still in Britain as the leader of our migrant recruiting mission. Here at home there should be an examination to find out if there are any genuine factors discouraging to British boilermakers or other skilled workers.

I am giving the facts to the House this evening. In spite of this, however, two Ministers on the front bench are ignoring the fact that they are being spoken to on this matter. The subleader continues—

There would be less chance of people abroad being primed with partial or inaccurate information . . . and so the report goes on.

We are giving the House information this evening. With reference to that, I have notes in this notebook which I have in my hand of an interview I had with an unemployed fitter. He asked me if I would be able to assist him to find employment. I asked him if he had signed the "vacant" book in our union office, but he replied he had not and I advised him to do so. He is a fitter approaching my own age. He will be told that he is too old to be employed as a fitter and so will be placed on the industrial scrap heap. He mentioned the firms of Acme Plumbers at Belmont, Gilbert & Barker and Calager's as employers not paying penalty rates for overtime.

These are signs of the times. The policy seems to be that if employers can encourage as many people as possible from overseas and so have several people waiting outside their gates applying for work, it gives them an opportunity to say to applicants who are being interviewed, "Will you accept such-and-such conditions?" If the applicant replies that he will not, the employer will say, "Very well. There are people outside the gate who will." In consequence there are men working overtime without being paid overtime rates for such work. Although this is in contravention of the award, such conditions do exist.

In view of these facts we, on this side of the House, are quite entitled to take the Government to task on this issue. When I was younger I saw a similar situation to this developing the time when the Employers Federation held the big stick and the bargaining power of unemployment. This situation is developing today and here is the evidence to support it—

Job Shortage for over 40's.

Ever Hoping, Karrinyup:

May I add my comments on the attitude to men more than 40 years.

My husband has had 30 years experience in the engineering trade as apprentice, tradesman, supervisor and technician, but because of his age cannot get a job in his trade. He has been forced to take a job out of his trade which pays less than a fitter in the trade.

He applies for advertised jobs regularly but the answer is always the same—position filled.

Recently he applied for a position with one of Perth's leading engineering firms. After a time-lag of ten days he received a letter thanking him for his application and interview—an interview he did not attend because he was never called upon to attend an interview.

That firm probably had applicants who were prepared to work for wages less than the award rates. This letter continues—

Although we do not regret coming to W.A., we do resent the fact that all my husband's training, skill and knowledge are wasted because he is too old at 45.

I am thankful that my employer does not think I am too old at 45 to start work again after 20 years of not working (other than home duties).

That letter was contributed by the migrant's faithful wife. I have added a note at the end of that letter which was published in *The West Australian* of the 22nd May, 1963. The note is: "He could train apprentices." That is the crux of the situation. There is a man of wide experience who is thrown on the industrial scrap-heap. It is ridiculous to say that a man of such experience has no further use in industry and in training apprentices to carry on after him. His talent is just being wasted.

I have other material here dealing with the housing situation. On the 6th December, 1962, *The West Australian* published this article—

Many living in huts, says Whitlam.

Members on the other side of the House will say that they would expect such a report from such a source. However, the article under the heading is as follows:—

Sydney, Wednesday—About 170,000 Australian families are living in huts, shared houses and other sub-standard dwellings, according to an analysis by Deputy Federal Labor Leader Whitlam.

The article says that while slum areas are increasing, finance for housing is shrinking.

Less money is being provided for housing than two years ago, and 75,000 families throughout Australia are waiting for housing commission homes—an increase of 4,000 on last year.

I heard this evening that the Minister representing the Minister for Housing had submitted figures on a more satisfactory housing situation of late. Incidentally I prefer to believe mine. The figures show that 75,000 people throughout Australia were waiting for Housing Commission homes. This was an increase of 4,000 on last year. The report continues—

The analysis by Mr. Whitlam follows a statement by Commonwealth Statistician Archer that building approvals

were still lagging behind the pre-credit squeeze level of 1960.

Mr. Whitlam's report said:

There were fewer war service homes provided now than 10 years ago.

Allocation for Housing Commission construction this year was £4,500,000 lower than last year.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: How do you suggest we overcome the situation?

Mr. FLETCHER: How does the Minister get over those facts? The report continues—

There were between 100,000 and 125,000 slum houses in Australia.

The present inadequate rate of clearing slum houses (5,000 a year) meant that sub-standard housing was growing.

The Minister asks how we can overcome the situation. It is the Government's job to overcome the situation, because it is party to State and Federal policy which makes this sort of thing possible, and this State Government is responsible for its share of the figures I have quoted.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Don't you believe the figures I gave you in answer to your question?

Mr. FLETCHER: I must admit I have not analysed them yet. I do not doubt the Minister's word, or his integrity; but if the figures he gave me conflict with these that I have, then somebody has misled the Minister. I am quoting the situation as it is; and I would rather believe Mr. Archer and Mr. Whitlam and the figures they give, than some dubious figures supplied to me in answer to a question.

I started my speech on the theme of the West Province by-election, and I will finish on that theme, because the Minister is now in the House. What I want to say is relative to asking the appropriate Minister for permission to speak on an industrial site. In accordance with protocol I wrote to the State Engineering Works manager and he informed me it was necessary for me to obtain permission for Mr. Dolan to speak at the State Engineering Works.

Accordingly I wrote to the Minister's office: but, because I am reasonably new and reasonably polite in my dealings with people, they seemed to have got the impression that I was easy, and a great deal of procrastination was indulged in, almost to the eve of the election. So much so that I thought I was being taken for a ride.

I accordingly rang the Minister's office and asked what was going on, and was it intended to procrastinate till it was too late for permission to be granted, or to wait until after the election. I got on to

Mr. O'Connell and put the matter to him; and he asked me to ring Mr. McBirnie, who said I could anticipate a reply from the Minister. I asked him when I could anticipate the reply; whether I would get it after the election.

I was told by Mr. McBirnie that he had rung the State Engineering Works. We spoke there at very short notice, because we received permission to do so only at the last moment. On the Tuesday after the election I received the Minister's authority for our candidate to speak at the State Engineering Works. That struck me as being a bit low.

Mr. Graham: It is typical.

Mr. Oldfield: That's nothing new.

Mr. FLETCHER: Perhaps it is not, but it is something new to me. I conducted the campaign on behalf of Mr. Dolan according to what I believed were principles of fair play. But I do not consider the Government's action fair play. As I say, I am usually polite to all members in this House, and I try to conduct matters in a business-like manner, and with politeness—although on occasions perhaps I do tend to get a bit heated in this House—and I do not want that sort of thing to happen to me again.

Mr. Graham: Just one look at them upsets me.

Mr. FLETCHER: I do not want a repetition of that sort of thing from members on that side of the House, because when we occupy the Government benches it may result in our treating members opposite in an equally cavalier fashion.

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 Mr. Nalder (Deputy Premier), and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 10.49 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 7th August, 1963

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

DIANELLA-MORLEY DISTRICT

Distress to Residents through Flooding

1. The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON asked the Minister for Housing:

(1) Is the Minister aware of the distress in the Dianella-Morley district caused through flooding in that area?

*Kensington Street-Peters Place:
Deep Drainage*

(2) Will he inform the House how soon deep drainage will be commenced in the Kensington Street-Peters Place area where the situation is now acute?