

Some people may say, "Look at the cheques the woolgrowers get." But there is one thing not realised in this country and that is that we, as regards our economy, lose the Russians, insofar as we imagine that we are all working for ourselves in a free economy and if we do exceptionally well, it is all right. But there is one man we have to answer to and that is the Federal Commissioner of Taxation who wishes us to furnish a return once a year. By the time he has finished his inquiries into our affairs we find we are pretty well restricted; and that keeps us all more or less on an even keel. So, without any police force to make us do this or that, we are all happy—perhaps to say "happy" is an overstatement—to subscribe to the system of furnishing taxation returns. But it is not altogether voluntary; we have to use a little compulsion.

The Minister for Railways: The worker has to furnish his taxation return before he gets anything back.

The Hon. L. C. DIVER: That is so, but I remind the Minister that those not in the category of a worker—in that sense—have to make arrangements for what is known as provisional tax, and they have to pay it in advance.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What about those workers who work much more than 40 hours a week?

The Hon. L. C. DIVER: Yes. It is rather interesting when speaking on the subject of workers to recall that one man who is going through the insolvency court has claimed that he made more money as a worker than he did as a proprietor. There are many different slants on the matter.

Another question I wish to deal with also concerns our economy. This morning, before I left home, a voice came over the radio advising farmers how to adjust their affairs. They were told that if the price was down, the cure-all was to produce more. I thought how strange it was to tell the farmer to produce more when the price was down. It sounded a young voice, and I think it must have been, and it must have been a young brain that produced the transcript. My mind goes back to 1933 when Mr. Scullin said, "Grow more wheat," and we received in the vicinity of 1s. 10d. a bushell for it, which was not very satisfactory to the producers.

A few weeks ago I noticed in the Press a paragraph stating that some big mining companies came to the conclusion that there was over-production of the metals they were mining and so they decided to close down or limit their production to a given amount. To me that is common-sense. I hope the powers that be will get busy with these broadcast scripts and see that a bit of sense comes over the air, and not nonsense.

I realise that I touched on matters with a broad national approach in the latter part of my speech, but in the early part of it I brought forward questions that the present Administration is competent to deal with immediately; and before resuming my seat I ask in all sincerity—especially in regard to water boring—that these matters be dealt with as urgent. I support the motion.

On motion by the Hon. F. R. H. Lavery, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.13 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 14th August, 1958.

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(3) The berth has been operative with restricted draft for some months. Dredging to project depth of 36 ft. is expected to be completed by the end of September. Completion of stabilising of earth slopes under wharf should be reached by mid-November 1958.

PUBLIC SERVICE.

Reclassification.

2. The Hon. D. BRAND asked the Premier:

(1) Has work commenced on the reclassification of the Public Service which is to take effect from the 1st January, 1959?

(2) When does he anticipate the reclassification will be completed and published?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) In January, 1959.

MALAYA.

Government's Intention re Trading.

3. Mr. ROBERTS asked the Premier:

In view of the report in "The West Australian" on Tuesday, the 12th August 1958, that—"Malaya on the 11th August 1958, would open her first major trade negotiations with a foreign country—Australia," is the Government of this State—

(1) Participating in such negotiations?

(2) If not, why not?

The PREMIER replied:

The Commonwealth Government has notified the State Government of any negotiations. Presumably the negotiations are on a Malayan-Australian basis, and doubtless all States will benefit from any agreement which might be reached.

FLATS FOR THE AGED.

Number, Location, etc.

4. Mr. ROBERTS asked the Minister for Housing:

(1) How many flats for aged persons are to be built in this State during this financial year?

(2) What number of these flats are to be built in—

(a) the metropolitan area;

(b) country areas;

during this financial year?

(3) What are the names of the local authorities within whose boundaries these aged persons' flats are to be built, and how many flats are to be built in the boundaries of each such local authority during this financial year?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) There will be 362 flats under contract for the year 1958-59.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE.

NORTH WHARF, FREMANTLE.

Commencement Date, Cost and Completion Date.

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

(1) On what date was No. 10 berth on the North wharf, Fremantle, commenced?

(2) What has been the cost of No. 10 berth to date?

(3) When is it expected that it will be completed?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied:

(1) August, 1953.

(2) A total of £1,087,527, including ancillary works.

(2) (a) Metropolitan area	220
(b) Country area	142
(3) Local Authority Areas—	
Metropolitan	
Armada-Kelmscott Road Board	4
Bassendean Road Board	4
Belmont Road Board	56
Malville Road Board	20
Perth City Council	75
Fremantle City Council	12
Perth Road Board	25
Darling Range Road Board	4
South Perth Council	12
Midland Junction Council	4
Canning Roads Board	4

Country

Albany Council	12
Beverley Road Board	2
Bridgetown Road Board	2
Upper Blackwood Road Board	4
Bruce Rock Road Board	2
Harvey Road Board	6
Bunbury Council	16
Busselton Road Board	8
Carnarvon Council	2
Coillie Coalfield Rd. Board	4
Corrigin Road Board	2
Cunderdin Road Board	2
Denmark Road Board	2
Preston Road Board	2
Esperance Road Board	2
Geraldton Council	12
Gnowangerup Rd. Board	2
Goomalling Road Board	2
Katanning Road Board	2
Kellerberrin Road Board	2
Kojonup Road Board	2
Manjimup Road Board	6
Augusta-Margaret River Road Board	2
Merredin Road Board	6
Plantagenet Road Board	2
Moora Road Board	2
Narrogin Council	8
Northampton Rd. Board	2
Northam Council	10
Murray Road Board	2
Wagin Council	2
Drakesbrook Road Board	4
York Council	4

220

142
362

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Erection of Buildings and Cost.

5. The Hon. D. BRAND asked the Minister for Works:

(1) What buildings are at present being erected at the university?

(2) Are they being built by day labour or private builders?

(3) What were the estimates for each structure (especially the Engineering School)?

(4) To what extent have the costs in each case been underestimated?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied:

(1) (a) School of Engineering,
(b) First section of School of Bio-Chemistry.

(2) Day labour.

(3) Engineering School, £495,000,
Bio-Chemistry, £194,000.

(4) The costs for the work covered by the estimates have not been underestimated.

DRAINAGE.

Scarborough-Innaloo Area.

6. Mr. MARSHALL asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Does the Government contemplate a comprehensive drainage scheme in the Scarborough-Innaloo area?

(2) Have investigations and a survey been made to connect this district with deep sewerage?

(3) In this closely settled area, with the extensive use of the septic tank system, is this considered to be the cause of a considerable rise in the water table creating drainage problems?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied:

(1) Not at the present time.

(2) A survey and preliminary investigations have been made.

(3) No.

WITTENOOM GORGE.

Additional Water Supplies.

7. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

Can he advise what arrangements are being made to obtain additional supplies of town water at Wittenoom Gorge?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Water Supplies) replied:

A suitable pumping unit will be installed at the Joffre Creek bore and an independent pipe line laid from the bore to the town storage tank. Some further possible additions are under consideration.

BAMBOO CREEK-MARBLE BAR ROAD.

Progress of Repairs.

8. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Works:

Can he advise what progress has been made on repairs to Bamboo Creek-Marble Bar road, and also when it is considered these repairs will be completed?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied:

The work of constructing a nine mile deviation and generally improving the Bamboo Creek-Marble Bar road is well in hand. It is expected that it will be completed early in September.

KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

Additions and Finance Approved.

9. Mr. POTTER asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Has money been approved for the additions to King Edward Memorial Hospital?

(2) If so, what is the amount of the advance approved?

(3) What is the estimated cost of the additions on completion?

(4) What preliminary work has been done?

(5) When will the work on the additions commence?

(6) What do the additions comprise?

(7) What is the estimated time for the completion of the work?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) £50,000 for the current financial year.

(3) £750,000.

(4) (a) Administrative offices have been removed and re-erected in a new position to make way for the additions.

(b) A new parking area is almost complete between the existing hospital and the centenary block, for use by doctors until the permanent hospital parking area is provided.

(c) The covered way obstructions to the new additions are being removed, the carpenters' shop is being re-erected in a new position, and the Red Cross shop has been moved to a position clear of the working area.

(d) Water supply, sewerage and stormwater lines are being diverted to clear the building site.

(5) The end of October.

(6) A western wing of three floors and basement. A northern wing of four floors. This will provide an additional 92 beds, a gynaecological section, teaching facilities for the Medical School, new administrative section, new kitchen stores and dining facilities.

(7) Three and a half years.

ROOT VEGETABLES.

New Selling Arrangement at Markets.

10. Mr. LAPHAM asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Has a new selling arrangement been instituted at the Metropolitan Markets in regard to root vegetables during the last few weeks?

(2) If so, by whom was it instituted?

(3) Were the growers consulted prior to the new arrangement being applied?

(4) Are the growers in favour of this new arrangement?

(5) Was the Metropolitan Market Trust consulted prior to the new selling method being applied?

(6) Has the Market Trust any control over the methods of selling; and if so, to what extent?

(7) What firms applied this new selling method and on whose authority did they act?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Agriculture) replied:

(1) No. Previous selling arrangements have been slightly varied to reduce handling costs and to speed up sales.

(2) By five trading agents concerned in auctioning vegetables and one private treaty commission agent.

(3) Each agent has for some time conferred with his grower principals.

(4) No objection has been received by the market trust from growers.

(5) No.

(6) Traders concerned are agents for their principals. The trust controls all methods of selling as set down in the Metropolitan Market Act, Section 13, Sub-section 5, "regulating the method of selling in the market and preventing every kind of fraudulent device in relation to the sale of marketable commodities and prescribing that sales by auction or otherwise may be conducted by officers of the trust."

(7) Berryman & Langley Ltd., Glendenning & Co., Lantzke & Sons Pty. Ltd., B. Mercer Pty. Ltd., W.A. Fruit & Produce Market Pty. Ltd., after discussion with their principals.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

Effect of Fresh Fish Imports.

11. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Fisheries:

In view of the crippling effect on the Western Australian fishing industry of the importation of fresh fish from overseas—this has increased from 537,211 lb. in 1956-57 to 1,558,556 lb. for 11 months of 1957-58—has any action been taken, or considered, to protect or assist the local industry?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Fisheries) replied:

At the recent Commonwealth-State fisheries officers' conference held in Canberra, on July 15 and 16, the delegates from New South Wales and Western Australia brought before the conference for discussion the matter of the impact which was currently being made on local fish by the recent great increase in imports.

In reply, the Commonwealth officers expressed the view that to meet the competition from overseas, local fishermen and processors would be well advised to present their product to the consumer in as attractive a form and at as attractive a price as the imported article. The matter of reciprocal trade was also mentioned.

Further representations have since been made direct to the Minister for Trade and the Minister for Customs and Excise.

LAND TAX.*Total Receipts, 1957-58.*

12. Mr. BOVELL asked the Treasurer:

What was the total amount received from Land Tax for the year ended the 30th June, 1958?

The TREASURER replied:

The amount was £1,421,795.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT.*Installation South of the River.*

13. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Works:

(1) As the Stephenson Regional Plan envisaged a new sewage treatment plant for suburbs south of the river, have any departmental activities been instigated in this direction?

(2) If so, what means of disposal of waste effluent is envisaged?

(3) Has a site for treatment plant been secured by the department?

(4) If not, why not?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied:

(1) Comprehensive survey and preliminary investigations have been carried out. Planning and investigation are in hand.

(2) Complete treatment prior to disposal into the sea in the vicinity of Woodman's Point.

(3) No.

(4) The scheme is not sufficiently advanced to decide upon the requirements of a site.

CLAREMONT POLICE STATION.*Date of Completion and Personnel.*

14. Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Police:

(1) When will the new police station and quarters be completed at Claremont?

(2) Is there an office provided there for a detective?

(3) Will a detective be stationed there full-time?

(4) What other staff will be stationed there, and of what ranks?

(5) If a detective is provided for Claremont, will he be available in any other adjoining municipality?

(6) What will happen to the present police station? Will the property be sold or put to other uses?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The Public Works Department advised today that the premises will be ready for occupation three weeks hence.

(2) Yes.

(3) Yes.

(4) As at present, one sergeant and five constables—one of whom is superintendent of the Claremont Police Boys' Club.

(5) Yes, in the Cottesloe area.

(6) This matter has not yet been decided.

TELEPHONES.*Instruction on Use.*

15. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Education:

As telephone connections in this State are increasing, and bearing in mind that many children in country areas do not receive any instruction in the use of the telephone, would he give earnest consideration to having explanations on the use and the workings of the telephone, given by the P.M.G. Department in secondary schools at least once in 12 months?

The MINISTER replied:

Even if the P.M.G. Department were in a position to make suitable personnel available to provide this instruction, it is doubtful whether any useful purpose would be served thereby.

TERMITES.*Damage to Pastures and Crops.*

16. Mr. BOVELL asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Is he aware of the widespread damage being caused to pastures and crops by termites?

(2) What action is being taken to arrest the spread of these pests?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Agriculture) replied:

(1) No.

(2) Answered by No. (1).

RAILWAYS.*Reports of Royal Commissioner.*

17. Mr. COURT asked the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

How many interim reports of Royal Commissioner A. G. Smith have been presented to the Government, and which of them are proposed to be tabled in Parliament?

The MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT replied:

Five interim reports have been submitted to His Excellency the Governor, Sir Charles Gairdner, K.C.M.G.

Nos. 2 and 3 were tabled last session.

Nos. 1, 4 and 5 will be tabled next week.

CITY BEACH.*Swimming and Fishing.*

18. Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Health:

(1) Is it correct that the Commissioner of Public Health has advised that City Beach will be safe and open for swimming

during the normal swimming season each year until the new treatment works are completed in 1961, and from 1961 onwards the beaches will be open for swimming all year round?

(2) If so, for what period of the year will the beaches be closed until 1961, and for what reason?

(3) What attitude is proposed in respect of fishing from these beaches?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) The Commissioner of Public Health has advised that, provided sufficient chlorination levels are maintained and other tests are satisfactory, the beaches can be regarded as safe and may be opened for swimming.

(2) No decision has yet been made in this respect.

(3) A similar attitude as that in respect of swimming.

HOLLYWOOD CHEST HOSPITAL.

Capacity and Opening Date.

19. Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Health:

(1) What is the capacity of the new Chest Hospital at Hollywood?

(2) What number of patients is anticipated when it is opened and all transfers are made?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Two hundred and sixteen beds.

(2) Seventy-five patients by the 1st September and 216 patients as soon as nursing staff can be built up.

NARROWS BRIDGE.

Technical Problems and Responsibility.

20. Mr. COURT asked the Minister for Works:

(1) (a) What is the nature of the technical problems which have delayed work on the Narrows bridge, and which, in answer to my questions on the 12th August, he stated have been overcome?

(b) Were these technical problems related to the preparation of the site to a point where the contractor's responsibilities commence, or were they related to constructional responsibilities of the contractor?

(2) When does he now expect the bridge to be completed?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied:

(1) (a) A delay was caused when the first permanent piles were being driven at the south abutment because of a weakness in the type of welded joint in the steel casing. An amended detail overcame this weakness.

The major delay was occasioned by a suspension of pile driving at the site of the river and shore piers and the abutment at the north end. The suspension was ordered by the consultants because of an observed slight movement in the temporary staging piles. During the suspension, remedial measures were taken by redesigning the piles in the north shore pier to safeguard against any earth pressures from the changed conditions which had been observed. Manufacture of the piles to the amended design was commenced at the State Engineering Works. In addition, fill in excess of the ultimate height was placed on the north bank to ensure that earth movements, if any, would occur before the permanent piles were driven. The need for these measures was not revealed in the original bores taken to determine the foundations, but disclosed itself during the progress of the work and as reclamation proceeded.

(b) The problem occasioning the major delay was related to the preparation of the site on the north bank and was not related to the constructional responsibilities of the contractor.

(2) The date for completion cannot yet be determined, but is expected to be in the latter half of 1959.

UNFAIR TRADING AND PROFIT CONTROL ACT.

Proposed Amendments.

21. Mr. COURT asked the Premier:

(1) Is he correctly reported as having agreed to submit proposed amendments to the Unfair Trading and Profit Control Act to Perth Chamber of Commerce, and W.A. Chamber of Manufactures for comment and discussion before such amendments are presented to Parliament?

(2) If not, what is the position?

(3) Have the proposed amendments been drafted and submitted to the Chambers?

The PREMIER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) See answer to No. (1).

(3) The amendments are in the process of being drafted.

LANDS.*Agreement with Esperance Plains Pty. Ltd.*

22. The Hon. A. F. WATTS asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) Referring to the agreement between the Government and Esperance Plains (Australia) Pty. Ltd., dated the 19th day of November, 1956, approximately what amount of capital expenditure was contemplated on "the outlay of a large capital expenditure" referred to in the 26th line on page 1 of the agreement?

(2) What evidence was then available to justify the statement in the 27th line on page 1 of the agreement "the company being able to obtain the necessary capital for the purpose"?

(3) What capital has actually been provided by the company and expended under the agreement from its inception until the 30th January last?

(4) What area of land has so far been selected and applied for by the company?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Lands) replied:

(1) Based upon the estimates as submitted in the report by the Esperance Downs Advisory Committee, viz., £17,700 per unit—including plant and working expenses.

(2) Information made available from reliable sources, including one Minister of the present Federal Government.

(3) An inspection on the 19th March, 1958, showed improvements to the value of £155,485 on land held by Esperance Plains (Australia) Pty. Ltd.

(4) Permits to occupy have been issued in respect of 166,490 acres.

BOTANIC GARDENS.*Availability of Reports.*

23. Mr. LAPHAM asked the Minister for Agriculture:

Are the reports of—

(a) the committee appointed to study the problem of a botanic gardens for Perth;

(b) landscape architect, John Oldham, which are both reported by newspapers to have been submitted to the Government, available for perusal by members?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Agriculture) replied:

Yes, at the Lands Department.

HIRE PURCHASE.*Premiers' Conference.*

24. Mr. JOHNSON asked the Treasurer:

(1) Is he aware that Premiers of all States have indicated that they are agreeable to a Premier's Conference to discuss the problems of hire purchase?

(2) Will he request the Federal Treasurer to call such a conference?

(3) Could not such a conference take place in Western Australia instead of in less favourable climatic areas?

The TREASURER replied:

(1) Yes, but only on the basis of newspaper reports.

(2) It is understood at least two requests have already been made to the Federal Government along these lines.

(3) Yes. Northam would be suitable in every way.

DRAINAGE.*Work at Inglewood.*

25. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Is it intended to proceed with the scheme for draining the swamps situated in Crawford-rd. and Roseberry-st., Inglewood, this financial year?

(2) What is the estimated cost of this project?

(3) If the answer to No. (1) is in the negative, when can the residents of this area expect relief?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied:

(1) No.

(2) Approximately £50,000 for the main drain.

(3) This will be dependent upon the availability of Loan funds and the relative urgency of this work as compared with other works.

Work at Bedford Park.

26. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Minister for Works:

(1) (a) What work has, so far, been carried out towards the draining of Brown's Lake, Bedford Park?

(b) How much money has, so far, been expended on this scheme?

(2) (a) What work will be next undertaken on this project?

(b) What is the estimated cost?

(3) When is it anticipated that the scheme will be completed?

(4) What is the estimated total cost?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied:

(1) (a) Declaration as Bayswater Metropolitan Main Drain of existing drain from Swan River towards the locality, and design of the continuation of this drain to Brown's Lake.

(b) There has been no expenditure, as yet, on construction.

- (2) (a) Construction of the pipe drain in tunnel from Brown's Lake towards Beaufort-st. and continuation downstream of new pipe and open drain to the vicinity of Coode and Hester-sts.

(b) £75,000.

(3) The date of completion of the scheme has not yet been determined, but the work indicated in (2) (a) and (2) (b) will be completed at the beginning of winter in 1959, and will afford some relief.

- (4) This has not been fully determined.

CIVILIAN LAND SETTLEMENT.

Development and Situation of Areas.

27. The Hon. A. F. WATTS asked the Minister for Lands:

Will he please be a little more communicative in regard to the matters raised in Question No. 17 asked by me on Wednesday, the 13th August, 1958, and advise what approximate area is proposed for development, whether any, and if so, what funds have been earmarked for such development, and what kind of development will take place in the next twelve months?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Lands) replied:

The Lands Department has classified an area of approximately 1,000,000 acres, between Jerramungup and Ravensthorpe, and is preparing a submission for a project of approximately 500,000 acres, the final plans of which are now nearing completion, when consideration will be given to the question of earmarking funds for the proposed development. The Commonwealth Government will be asked to co-operate in financing the development.

SPASTIC CHILDREN.

Availability of Facilities, Accommodation, etc.

28. The Hon. A. F. WATTS asked the Minister for Child Welfare:

(1) Are any facilities available for the accommodation of or attention to spastic children who have passed the age where they can be assisted at the Mt. Lawley centre of the Spastic Welfare Association?

(2) If so, what are these facilities, and if not, is any proposal being developed to make such premises available, particularly for severely "crippled" cases?

(3) Is the Government likely to assist in any such proposal?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) No.

(2) No.

(3) Any such proposal would be assisted by the Government.

CROWN LAND.

Availability for Agricultural Purposes.

29. Mr. HEARMAN asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) Have the Nelson locations mentioned in his answer to question No. (7) of the 13th August, been advertised in the "Government Gazette"?

(2) If so, when is it intended to advertise these blocks?

The PREMIER (for the Minister for Lands) replied:

(1) Nelson locations 2461 and 9252 were advertised in the "Government Gazette" on the 23rd September, 1955, and the 23rd December, 1955, respectively, and locations 12368, 12369, 12370, 12376, 12378, 12416, 12418 and 12419 (Tone River) will be advertised in the "Government Gazette" of the 15th instant.

(2) Answered by No. (1).

WATER SUPPLIES.

Commencement of Scheme at Donnybrook.

30. Mr. HEARMAN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

When is it anticipated that work will commence on the projected town water scheme in Donnybrook?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Water Supplies) replied:

No date can be given when work will commence on the scheme. Limited funds only can be made available this financial year, but it is intended to install a stand-pipe in the town by the end of November next.

TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGE.

Establishment at Kalgoorlie.

31. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Would he give consideration to the establishment of a proposed new teachers' college in Kalgoorlie, having regard to the conditions availing thereat, such as the existence of several primary schools, two high schools, a technical school (for purposes of practice teaching) an Olympic swimming pool (for controlled instruction in swimming for teacher-trainees) and amenities offered by a large town, which is the centre of an area containing some 23,000 people; which conditions should be admirable for aiding adequate teacher training?

(2) Can any other centre beyond the metropolitan area offer better facilities for the establishment of a teachers' college?

The MINISTER replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes, a number of other centres would compare favourably with Kalgoorlie.

BRIDGES.*Repair Work at Upper King.*

32. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

As the Upper King bridge at Albany is fast deteriorating and bearing in mind that the bridge is called upon to carry heavy haulage trucks, will he give consideration to having repair work commenced as soon as possible?

The MINISTER FOR MINES (for the Minister for Works) replied:

Provision has been made for the construction of a new bridge near the site of the existing Upper King bridge at Albany, and plans are being prepared. Meanwhile, the maintenance of the existing bridge is the responsibility of the local authority.

Nos. 33 and 34: These questions were postponed.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.**ASSISTANCE FOR WOMAN IN NEED.***Appeal to Minister.*

1. Mr. WILD asked the Minister for Transport:

On the 23rd July last I wrote to the Minister, to which letter acknowledgment was made on the 25th, about an extremely urgent case involving a woman with seven young children between the ages of one and 13; and she was expecting an eighth. The case was a most urgent one, but I have heard nothing since. Can the Minister assure me that I will be communicated with in the next two or three days, as this is a case which, I repeat, is most urgent.

The MINISTER replied:

If the member for Dale will again supply me with the name of the person concerned, I will undertake to give him some information this afternoon.

TONE RIVER BLOCKS.*Tabling of File re Removal of Timber.*

2. Mr. HEARMAN asked the Premier:

As the Premier is representing the Minister for Lands today, can he tell me when the file that the Minister promised yesterday to table will, in point of fact, be tabled?

The PREMIER replied:

I am not in a position absolutely to say, but I should think on Tuesday next.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion by Mr. May, leave of absence for six weeks granted to the Minister for Works (The Hon. J. T. Tonkin—Melville) on the ground of urgent public business.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.*Third Day.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

THE HON. A. F. WATTS (Stirling) [2.36]: I do not desire to refer to a great number of matters on the Address-in-reply, but I would like to call three or four subjects to the attention of the Government, and in regard to one I regret that the Minister for Lands and Agriculture is not with us. However, I can appreciate that he has to go away, and I hope steps will be taken to refer this matter to him, as it is one which I think is of some importance. It deals with the provisions of the regulations under the War Service Land Settlement Act.

It has been generally understood that when a settler who has been placed on land under the war service settlement scheme dies, no difficulty whatever is experienced in the transmission of his property, either to his widow, if he has one, or alternatively to his next of kin. Yet I find that the position under the regulations is such—or at least is interpreted as such—that in certain circumstances it would be quite impossible for the next of kin to take over the property.

The matter was raised to me some few weeks ago on account of the death of a war service land settler, and I proceeded to make inquiries from the Assistant Under Secretary of the Land Settlement Board with a view to ascertaining just what the regulations provided. At first sight they look all right. Regulation 7 (c) states—

The widow of a settler, who was an eligible person under these regulations—

being briefly interpreted, that means a returned soldier or ex-service person—

is eligible to receive the benefits of the scheme in respect of the holding allotted to her husband at the time of his demise.

Then we find that paragraph 6 of Regulation 17 provides—

Where there is no eligible or qualified person willing to acquire the holding, and capable of working it, and in the event of the death of the lessee, the holding may be transferred to the person entitled in distribution in intestacy; or the lawful beneficiary of the lessee under his will.

It states that in the event of the lessee's death the property may be transferred to the person entitled in distribution in intestacy or the lawful beneficiary of the lessee under his will. It is now a considerable time since the war ended. Persons who are likely to be lawful beneficiaries, or next of kin under the will or intestacy of an ex-service settler, could now be of adult years; but at the time of the conclusion of hostilities, they could have been very small children.

That, as a matter of fact, is the case in one instance that I have in mind. The gentleman provided that his son should take over the property, and his son is about 21 years of age. As will be seen, at the end of hostilities he would have been a boy of approximately eight. But what is his position? He is not able to take over this property unless all debts due to the Crown are first discharged by him. That information is contained in a letter dated the 30th July, 1958, and written to me by the Assistant Under Secretary. He says—

You are assured that no consent to a normal transmission of the perpetual lease of a farm to the person entitled in distribution in intestacy or the lawful beneficiary of the lessee under his will, would be withheld, conditionally upon all debts due to the Crown being first discharged.

That, of course, is in regard to somebody who is not the widow and is not a qualified person under the Act.

The Hon. L. Thorn: That was never intended.

Hon. A. F. WATTS: Not as I understood the position; but I am giving hon. members the interpretation that has been placed upon it by the Assistant Under Secretary for Land Settlement. So I pressed the question to him in a letter dated the 4th August. I said—

I acknowledge and thank you for your letter 226/45 of the 30th July, dealing with the transmission of leases to beneficiaries. I notice that you use the phrase—"conditional upon all debts due to the Crown being first discharged."

Will you be good enough to advise me what obligations would be included under the heading "all debts due to the Crown" in this connection?

On the 7th August I received this reply—

Further to previous correspondence dealing with the transmission of perpetual leases to beneficiaries not entitled to the benefits of the war service land settlement scheme, you are advised that obligations under the heading of "all debts due to the Crown" include—

- (a) advances for stock, plant, structures and working expenses,
- (b) interest accrued due on advances, and
- (c) rent accrued due under the perpetual lease.

So in those circumstances, this person whom a deceased father desired to take over the property and carry it on—and undoubtedly he thought that could be the position—has to pay all the outstanding advances for stock, plant, structural improvements—which, of course, includes

the house in which the family has been living—working expenses, interest accrued due on advances, and rent accrued due under the perpetual lease. Similar circumstances could apply in many other cases.

Of course, I would take little or no exception to the question of rent, because that is a matter which comes up from year to year; but to suggest that the capital debt, which in the normal way is payable over a very long period of years, in respect to stock, plant, structural improvement and working expenses must be paid before transmission seems to me to be going entirely outside what was the original intention of the war service land settlement agreement.

I do not think it was ever intended that a person situated as I have indicated—the next of kin and a person entitled under the will of a deceased to his property—should be placed in such a position that it is extremely unlikely that he will be able, especially in these days, to obtain the finance necessary to take over the property. Because of the condition precedent as set out in this correspondence, that person will have to pay the obligations which have mentioned, and which are due to the Crown, before he can receive transmission.

The Premier: It rather sounds as though the only next of kin who could do it would be one who is quite wealthy.

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: That is how it appears to me, unfortunately. As I have said, I admit that the widow, if she exists, does not come within that category; I do not want to make the position sound worse than it has been made to me. But what I am concerned about is the fact that such a lad, and others in similar circumstances, who could not be qualified persons under the war service land settlement agreement because they were practically unborn at the time of the agreement, can be placed in such a position. I trust I am not misinterpreting anything, but it seems plain enough to me that he would be obliged to pay those lump sums before transmission which, in most cases of that nature, could not be done.

So the situation will be that instead of the property, as the deceased intended going on to the family, it will pass into the hands of strangers; and I do not think that was the intention of the legislation or of the Government, past or present. That is why I raised the question. I hope it will be gone into very carefully to see if the decision which has been given to me cannot be amended so that a different construction can be put upon it and allow these transmissions to take place to the next of kin or the beneficiary under the will provided—

The Hon. L. Thorn: There is no doubt that that lad would have helped considerably to develop the property.

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: There is no doubt of that whatever; and in this case—and one can form one's own judgment in this regard—the person is eminently suitable. But that does not matter very much, because I am speaking about the general principle. This particular case might be disposed of immediately and no one would worry about it any more. But other cases will happen in three or four months' time because these ex-service settlers are not getting any younger. Many of them are beyond middle age already, and the prospect of the demise of individual members is just as evident in the future as it has been in the past. In my own district no less than two settlers suddenly passed away during the last 12 months, so it is not unlikely that it will happen again. I do not want to see any unpleasantness or bitterness arise between the department and the people concerned when, I am sure, there is actually no need for it.

The Premier: I will discuss the matter next week with the Minister for Lands.

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: I thank the Premier. Last night the member for Dale referred to resumptions under the Public Works Act; and, in passing, referred to some rather extraordinary actions which appeared to have taken place under that statute. In order that members of the House and members of the Government may perhaps realise that operations under that Act are becoming more and more resented by the people, and that it is high time that something was done to remove that feeling, I shall quote what happened in a certain case that has come within my knowledge.

I said what I did a moment ago advisedly, because I realise that the Crown must have power to resume, and I think that every citizen ought to know that that power must be exercised from time to time in the interests of the community as a whole. But it does not want to be exercised casually or arbitrarily, or in any other way that is not courteous as far as it can be; it should be exercised carefully. Yet a few months ago a constituent of mine came to me and complained. He had been informed by the departmental engineer that two acres, consisting of 1 x 20 chains of his property along the main road were up for resumption. This would bring the main road within 6 ft. of his front verandah, and would require him to remove two or three sheds which were erected on the property.

He said he was told that the resumption must proceed and he asked me to find out exactly what was proposed. Accordingly, on the 11th of February I wrote to the Minister, and he replied as follows:—

... I have to inform you that the proposed resumption is one of a number delayed because of congestion in the Department of Lands and Surveys.

In accordance with the procedure in force in 1954, Mr. ——— was advised of our proposal to take a strip of his land for the widening of the Perth-Albany Road. After receiving the notice he pointed out to us that the resumption would seriously affect his residence. This complaint was investigated and the resumption was varied to give him relief.

As the proposed resumption encompasses several structural improvements, Mr. ——— desire to have the matter finalized is understandable, and I can assure you that as soon as we can have the necessary surveys carried out, the Department will proceed without delay.

I informed the gentleman along those lines, and for some time heard nothing more about it. In the meantime he received the following letter dated the 28th of April from the Main Roads Department:—

I refer to the recent representations made on your behalf by the Honourable Leader of the Country Party to the Honourable Minister for Works in regard to compensation for the land to be resumed from your property.

The survey and resumption is still in course with the Department of Lands and Surveys and no firm date can be given as to when this will be effected. In view of this, my Commissioner is prepared to negotiate a settlement of compensation in anticipation of resumption provided a satisfactory settlement can be arranged.

If you desire to follow this course, would you please let me have, for the consideration of my Commissioner, the price you are prepared to accept for the land and improvements involved in the resumption.

On the 28th of June the person in question wrote to the Secretary of the Main Roads Board, advising that he had gone carefully into the matter dealing with the question of the removal of buildings, and so on, and making a claim of £870. He said—

I think this the minimum amount which it would be reasonable for me to accept as compensation and I am asking you to agree accordingly.

Let us not forget that the Secretary of the Main Roads Department said on the 28th of April that he wanted to negotiate a settlement in anticipation of resumption and, "If you desire to follow this course let me have a claim". Accordingly a claim is sent in and this is the next, and the last, thing that happens. I received a letter dated the 4th of July from the Commissioner of Main Roads which reads as follows:—

I refer to your letter of 23rd June with which you forwarded a letter from Mr. ——— regarding

compensation for the piece of land it was proposed to resume from his property, Kojonup Location 94.

The Department's proposal to resume a strip of land from the frontage of Mr. ——— holding was part of an extensive scheme to include in the road reserve land which was in its natural state, that is, with the natural vegetation substantially intact. However, due to the considerable delay in surveying and acquiring the land in accordance with the Public Works Act, a delay which incidentally was outside the control of this department, much of the land it was intended to take has been substantially cleared of vegetation, and therefore the purpose of the proposed resumption cannot now be served.

Having regard for these facts, which have just been put before me, I have instructed that the proposed resumption shall be cancelled on certain sections of the Perth-Albany Road and, in particular, that section with which Mr. ——— is at present concerned.

A telegram has been sent to Mr. ——— informing him of the decision in order that he may be relieved of the necessity of shifting any further buildings. Some expense has already been incurred by Mr. Tunney, and I propose taking up this question with him direct.

The Hon. D. Brand: A little too late.

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: Of course one of the sheds had been shifted at least, and any intelligent person would have shifted the sheds, I should think, after receiving these indications first from the Minister, and then from the commissioner, saying that he wanted to settle in advance of resumption because of the delay. Then all of a sudden there was a stop.

It is certainly most curious; and I am given to understand that it could have occurred in a dozen places on the Perth-Albany-rd., because, as has been mentioned, there apparently was some intention, way back in the beginning of last year, of resuming this land in order to preserve the natural trees for purposes of shade along the Perth-Albany-rd. That, of course, is a very laudable idea.

In the meantime, it would appear, the people who do the road work—whether it be the local authority or the Main Roads Department, does not matter—lopped all the trees down, so there is nothing to preserve, and hence the resumption is cancelled. It does not smack of the efficiency we hoped to display. Far be it from me to be too hostile about this.

The Premier: Normally the Main Roads Department is very efficient.

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: Exactly; but there it is. I think people should not be muddled about in this fashion; and I started by saying that this is the kind

of treatment which engenders hostility to the resumption powers placed in the hand of the Minister.

The Premier: I think sometimes the surveyors get ahead of themselves.

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: It is possible they do, but I have not been able to track the origin of it at all. I merely content myself with giving the facts. I asked a couple of questions today which had reference to the agreement between the Government and Esperance Plain (Australia) Pty. Ltd. I did so because, at the time this agreement was submitted for ratification to Parliament, the thing that was uppermost in my mind was the desirability of developing a big lump of Western Australia as quickly as possible—perhaps I should have said another big lump of Western Australia, because there have been several big lumps developed in more recent years.

At the same time there was a feeling when the agreement was made between the Government and the company, and submitted for ratification that it was more a statement of honourable understanding than an actual agreement. I think some criticism was levelled at it along those lines; but because the over-mastering matter was the question of helping, if possible, a portion of an area of Western Australia which, on all the evidence before us, was capable of tremendous development and production; the difficulties that might have occurred, and in fact did occur to us, in respect of the agreement were submerged, and with reasonable speed, I think, Parliament ratified the agreement made.

In the meantime we have been told very little. In fact, the major things we have been told have come to us through the medium of the Press, such as they are; and they seem to have consisted of the resignations of the people originally concerned in this, and associated concerns; and in statements by other people equally concerned with their going on with the development, that what they have done has not been the success they would have liked.

But we have not really any satisfactory information as to just what has been achieved in the intervening 18 or 20 months; and I think that much of the doubt and unhappiness which exists in the minds of many people in regard to this would be removed if we could get from the Government a plain statement of the facts as to just what has happened and what is going to happen so far as it knows. I do not think anything so far has given any of us a different idea about the potentialities of the land in the Esperance area.

I think we are completely satisfied still from the activities of the research station and individual settlers with whom some of us are acquainted that properly handled it is capable of tremendous production

even up to the extent which was referred to in this House by one or two optimistic people. At the time we did not question that, but we wonder what the deuce has been going on.

This agreement said in the middle of the first page, after having referred to the report presented by the committee to the Minister for Lands and Agriculture—

It appears that rapid and large scale development of the area cannot be accomplished without the outlay of a large capital expenditure. The company being able to obtain the necessary capital for the purpose, the State has offered to the company, and the company has accepted the opportunity to effect the rapid and large scale development and settlement of the area upon and subject to the terms and conditions hereinafter mentioned.

The impression gained from that, both then and at all times thereafter until quite lately, was that the company in question had virtually unlimited resources. I do not think anybody inquired at the time as to what would be likely to be the cost of development in the Government's opinion. A lot of us had formed our own estimates, but none of us anyway came fully to the idea of £10 or £12 per acre. There is no question about that. Therefore, ultimately, 1,500,000 acres were going to cost £15,000,000 or more, and every 100,000 acres taken by the company were going to cost £1,000,000.

Therefore it was assumed, as I said—mainly for the reason that most of us were anxious to see development go on—that this organisation had the funds actually available, which it could put into the industry progressively and as rapidly as possible as expressed by the agreement. However, we have had, in the intervening time, to feel that these forecasts have not been carried into effect. Far be it for me to form a wrong opinion as to the activities of this company on insufficient evidence; but if I form any opinion at all, it is because I cannot, up to date, get any evidence other than that to which I have referred.

So I would again suggest to the hon. gentleman that some very clear statement be made to this Parliament so that we can be reassured, if reassurance is practicable, as I believe it may be; and, also, so that those who are interested in the development of Western Australia, not only within the State, but outside it, will not have any brake put upon the enthusiasm which they were developing in respect of this area, because of doubts which have crept in, due, in my opinion, not to the area itself, but to the way, up to date, in which the proposition has been managed. I will leave the matter at that, hoping the hon. gentleman, later in the session, will be good enough to give us this information.

I was somewhat astounded last evening, when the Leader of the Opposition moved an amendment to the Address-in-reply, to find that no member of the Government took the opportunity of rising in his place to make any comment upon the observations made by the Leader of the Opposition. I admit quite frankly that the Premier was not in his place, so personally I must exclude him; but there were other and presumably equally responsible members of the Government in their places.

For the moment, I am not going into the rights and wrongs, whichever they may be, on the charges or criticisms laid by the Leader of the Opposition at that time. It does not concern me two hoots. He may have been entirely wrong, or he may have been entirely right. What I am complaining about is this: the apparently steadily dwindling respect among certain members of the Government for the person, whoever he may be, who occupies the position of Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition in this Parliament. Permit me to say, sir, that an amendment of that nature, moved by the Leader of the Opposition, would have warranted the adjournment of the debate by the Leader of the Government and a suitable reply prepared and made available next day.

The Premier: The time was when the Leader of the Opposition intending to move such an amendment would have given prior notice.

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: That is true.

The Premier: It is very true.

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: I was not dealing with that aspect at all. I do not know the circumstances. The only circumstances I do know are those I heard with my own ears and saw with my own eyes; namely, there was no attempt to make any reply by any hon. member of the Government to the criticisms made by the Leader of the Opposition; good, bad or indifferent, it does not matter, as I have said, to me. They were criticisms he was entitled to make. He holds a position in the House which entitles him to certain consideration. In my view he did not receive it.

The Premier: The Opposition was not very keen about the amendment, or there would have been more discussion on it.

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: I do not think the Premier can justify that statement.

The Hon. D. Brand: Oh, no!

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: I will tell the Premier quite frankly that it was nearly tea-time and I fully expected some member of the Government to rise, or I would have risen myself to air a word or two—not very much—on the subject. Of course, I was completely taken by surprise when no member of the Government sought to rise in his place at all. But, as I have said, I am not concerned about the merits or demerits of the points raised by the

Leader of the Opposition. Do not let me get into that argument for the moment. My point is solely and completely this: It was an amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition in this House, the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition; and therefore he was entitled to the courtesy of a reply from some member of the Government.

The Premier: Did the hon. member have any prior notice of intention to move?

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: Yes; but that makes no difference to me. I did not know that the Premier had no notice.

The Hon. D. Brand: Does the Leader of the Country Party recall, when he was Deputy Premier on the other side of the House, the present Premier moving an amendment without notice? Of course he did!

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: I did not know yesterday, and I do not know what happened 10 or five years ago. All sorts of things happen; but I did not know until yesterday that someone on the Government side would not do something with an amendment or motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I have never known such complete silence as in the manner used yesterday. That is the point I want to make.

The Premier: Complete silence on both sides after the amendment was moved.

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: I was completely taken by surprise. I know the Premier was not there, but his colleagues were. In my humble opinion the Minister in charge of the House deliberately refrained because he thought it was smart. It is my idea that had the Premier been present he would have done something.

The Hon. Sir Ross McLarty: Amended it.

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: Yes! The Minister thought it was smart not to. It is to right a wrong that I am going to commit the unpardonable sin and move an amendment.

The Minister for Native Welfare: Did you give notice of it?

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: No notice.

The Minister for Education: Does the Leader of the Opposition know?

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: I do not know.

The Hon. D. Brand: Yes.

The Minister for Education: He said "yes."

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: I move an amendment—

That the following words be added:—

But this House expresses its amazement and concern that no member of the Government saw fit to make any reply to the amendment moved yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition referring to various matters affecting the economy of the State.

THE PREMIER (The Hon. A. R. G. Hawke—Northam—on amendment) [3.12]: I appreciate very much the light-hearted approach of the Leader of the Country Party to this matter. The Leader of the Opposition obviously consulted with the Leader of the Country Party yesterday, or prior to yesterday, regarding his intention to move the amendment. I do not object to that at all; that is the business of the Leader of the Opposition. The amendment was moved, so I was informed, at about 13½ minutes past six. Nobody on the other side of the House rose, and the Speaker, as he was bound to do, put the question. There was a division and that was that. I oppose this amendment.

MR. COURT (Nedlands—on amendment) [3.13]: I feel that I should make some observation on this amendment because, quite frankly, those of us who were sitting on this side yesterday were amazed that a member of the Government did not rise. There were some very experienced Ministers sitting there in the absence of the Premier.

Mr. May: Too experienced!

Mr. COURT: They just failed to rise. Now the Premier has chided us on this side with the suggestion that none of us were willing to participate in this debate. I can assure him we were very willing and anxious to participate. Some of the members of the Government will recall and be fair enough to admit that the member for Cottesloe made an attempt to rise as the Speaker put the question.

Mr. May: The member for Cottesloe did not wake up soon enough.

Mr. COURT: It is proof of our desire to go on with the matter and give the Government an opportunity to reply; but there is this argument we can fairly use with conviction; that the silence of the Government can be interpreted by us as being its consent.

The Premier: The division proved our view.

Mr. COURT: The Premier laughs at that, but it is not a laughing matter.

The Hon. D. Brand: He said the division proved it; 25 solid Labour votes all lined up.

Mr. COURT: When the division was called for, the Government naturally marshalled its forces and voted in accordance with its party policy, because this was an attack on its policy of socialism. The Minister for Labour laughs; but does he deny that his policy is one of socialism?

The Minister for Labour: We are not debating the Government's policy, but the amendment.

Mr. COURT: I am debating the merits of the amendment moved by the Leader of the Country Party and I wholeheartedly agree with the proposition he

put forward—that this House expresses its amazement and concern that no member of the Government saw fit to make any reply to the amendment, moved yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition, referring to various matters affecting the economy of the State. I invite the attention of the House to this fact; that the Premier has had an opportunity given to him today, by the Leader of the Country Party, to deal with the arguments put forward yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Johnson: What arguments?

Mr. COURT: Some very unpalatable arguments, as far as the Government side of the House was concerned; and if the hon. member could have seen the looks of uneasiness on the faces of hon. members on the Government side, he would realise that that is so. The Leader of the Government has not seen fit to deal with those arguments.

Mr. Johnson: You have not produced an argument.

The Minister for Transport: We dealt with arguments of that type at Warren, some months ago.

Mr. COURT: The Minister for Transport will keep on bringing up the Warren by-election.

The Minister for Transport: You talked enough about socialism down there.

Mr. COURT: Since then there has been a very important biennial election, which the Minister and others considered to be in the bag.

The Minister for Transport: A farce of an election under a restricted franchise.

Mr. COURT: An election in the heart of Labour, in the metropolitan area; and what happened. At that biennial election the Liberal candidate was returned with a sweeping majority.

Mr. May: And nobody was more surprised than you were.

Mr. COURT: I think you boys over there were very surprised; but we were not, because we had made a thorough canvass of that province and knew what to expect, while you people were smug about it, thinking you had it all sewn up, because it was in the stronghold of Labour.

The Minister for Labour: You have not mentioned the Central Province.

Mr. COURT: We would have done the same to you there, had you been there. The Minister for Transport should remember the Suburban Province because it reflects the current thinking of the people of this State.

The Minister for Transport: We are not afraid of the people, but we do not like the restricted franchise.

Mr. COURT: I wish we could have an election tomorrow.

The Minister for Transport: You would be most unhappy.

Mr. COURT: I support the amendment.

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—on amendment) [3.18]: I wish to comment on the amendment moved by the Leader of the Country Party, because, during my 11 or 12 years in this House, I sat behind the former McLarty-Watts Government for some years; and never during that term experienced what I believe was the discourtesy extended to Her Majesty's Opposition by the Government last evening. On many occasions, during the six years that the McLarty-Watts Government occupied the Treasury bench, there were motions moved similar to that moved by the Leader of the Opposition last night, and on each occasion the then Government gave serious thought and consideration to and replied to the accusations of the then Opposition.

Both a former Premier, the Hon. F. J. S. Wise, then Leader of the Opposition; and later the present Premier, as Leader of the Opposition, moved, on many occasions, similar amendments. A perusal of Hansard will show that the then Premier or his deputy, the Leader of the Country Party, always extended to the Opposition the courtesy of answering any accusations made rightly or wrongly. In my opinion the democratic principles of the British Commonwealth are being ignored here.

We know that in every Parliament in the British Commonwealth the Opposition has a vital part to play. We know, also, that in the Parliaments behind the Iron Curtain no Opposition is permitted and it is not recognised. I believe that, in the discourtesy extended to Her Majesty's Opposition in this Parliament last night by the Premier, there is an indication of the position which could arise in this country if our democratic principles were overthrown. I hope that, in the interests of our British democracy, in future the Government of the day will at least recognise the Opposition, although it has a minority in numbers.

By interjection the Minister for Transport referred to the Warren by-election. I know that you, Mr. Speaker, will not permit me to discuss that matter further; but I say that if the new member for Warren ignores the people who oppose him and voted against him—which I am sure he will not do—he will be contravening the greatest principles of democracy known to the British people. I support the amendment.

THE HON. D. BRAND (Greenough—on amendment) [3.21]: I rise, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that this House realises that the concern of the Premier at my not notifying him of my proposed amendment was

unreal, because he knows that in this Chamber he has stood up on many occasions—as the then Leader of the Government could testify—and moved amendments without notice or intimation of any kind being previously given. As you know, Mr. Speaker, I was not setting any precedent last night.

It might be said that the Premier could have anticipated some amendment being moved to the Address-in-reply, as has been done on two previous occasions when, by force of numbers, the Address was amended and finished up with a bit added to it making no sense at all. I support the amendment moved by the Leader of the Country Party, when he says that, whether the case was strong or weak or right or wrong, it was up to the Leader of the Government to justify his stand and the policy he has taken, in opposition to our own, in order to give the public some idea of what the Government is doing in relation to its responsibilities in this State.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (The Hon. W. Hegney—Mt. Hawthorn—on amendment) [3.22]: I have examined the amendment moved by the Leader of the Country Party and, as I think it requires alteration, I move—

That the amendment be amended by striking out the words “and concern” after the word “amazement”, and striking out the word “Government” after the word “the” in the second line and inserting the word “Opposition” in lieu and striking out the words “make any reply” after the word “to” in line 2 and inserting in lieu the words “give any support”.

The amendment as amended would then read—

That this House expresses its amazement that no member of the Opposition saw fit to give any support to the amendment moved yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition referring to various matters affecting the economy of the State.

The Hon. D. Brand: Don't make a farce of Parliament!

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: If given opportunity, I will put forward one or two reasons for the amendment on the amendment. It was said by the Leader of the Country Party that he had a copy of the amendment which the Leader of the Opposition moved yesterday; but I suggest that, if the Leader of the Country Party had been Leader of the Opposition in such circumstances as this, at the beginning of a session, and had intended moving an amendment as far-reaching as that, he would at least have supplied the Premier with a copy of it.

The Hon. L. Thorn: Why not try some other bait?

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I did not know that the member for Toodyay was in his seat; but I am pleased to know he is there, for once.

The Hon. D. Brand: At all events, he is awake while he is there.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: The Leader of the Opposition spoke for quite a time to the Address-in-reply; and, after he had been going for about three-quarters of an hour, I said to the Minister for Transport. “He has not done the Government much harm to date”. And when one in due course reads the speech of the Leader of the Opposition—as I no doubt will when it is printed—it will be found that the major portion of it was nothing but a very mild criticism of the Government.

I did say, in all honesty, before the House sat, that if we could delete the words “totalitarian”, “socialism” and “unfair trading” from the dictionary, the Leader of the Opposition and his followers would have nothing to throw at the Government. In fact, it will be found in the speech of the Leader of the Opposition—when printed—that towards the end he began to labour a bit more and started to use the expressions to which I have referred. At about 6.13 p.m. yesterday the Leader of the Opposition very casually and innocently moved his amendment. I say—not in any critical sense—that I do not think he expected a reply. Why did not one of his supporters get up, when he sat down, and support the amendment?

Mr. Court: We were not replying to him. We believe all he said.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: That is what I think the leaders of the Liberal Party—

The Premier: Especially the Deputy Leader!

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: Yes, I suppose the Deputy Leader could be held responsible in the first place; but even the members of the shadow Cabinet did not see fit to get up and support their leader. It was just about time for the tea adjournment—

Mr. Bovell: And the shadows lengthened.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: It is amazing to think that no member of the Liberal section of the Opposition saw fit to support the amendment, and by that I mean, to amplify its terms. It was a bald statement with no substance; and personally I felt that a strong reply was neither justified nor warranted. I thought that if the Leader of the Opposition wanted some debate on his amendment at least one or more members of the Liberal Party would have seen fit to stand on their feet, and then no doubt the debate would have been adjourned until 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. D. Brand: You explain to the House why you, as a responsible Minister, and the Minister for Transport and one or two others, in the absence of the Premier, simply fell down on the job of carrying on the debate until such time as either he or yourself spoke to the amendment.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I know that our faces must have shown some shock treatment at the adjournment at 6.15 when the division was taken. But it was not necessarily the responsibility of any member of the Government to jump up and reply to the amendment and the speech made by the Leader of the Opposition, because actually there was nothing to reply to. He dealt with other matters during his speech and then this specious amendment to the House at 6.14 p.m.; and so I have no hesitation in saying that this House expresses its amazement that no member of the Opposition saw fit to give any support to the amendment moved yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition referring to various matters affecting the economy of the State.

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Education has moved an amendment on the amendment to delete certain words with a view to inserting and adding others. We will first consider the deletion of the words "and concern" and then deal with the others stage by stage. For the benefit of members I wish to state that the question before the House is that the amendment be amended by deleting the words "and concern" with a view to inserting other words in lieu.

MR. I. W. MANNING (Harvey—on amendment on the amendment) [3.34]: I oppose the amendment on the amendment moved by the Minister for Education, and I feel that the Government is trying to turn this Chamber into a circus for the benefit and the entertainment of those members in the back Government benches, with the Minister for Education as the star clown. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition brought to the notice of the Government that there are many people in this State—the taxpayers, from whom the Government obtains its revenue—who are concerned about the State's economy and the various industrial factors which are affecting the economy of Western Australia. It is the duty of the Leader of the Opposition to place that information before the Government.

I believe it is the duty of the Premier to tell us and the people of Western Australia why he is pursuing this policy and what he hopes to achieve by it. The Minister for Education has set out to ridicule an already farcical situation whereby the Government has failed to tell us—and we want to know—what it hopes to achieve

and what it has failed to achieve by sending a trade mission overseas in an endeavour to bring industry and capital to this State. I think an explanation was certainly due by the Government. I would like to add my protest to that of the Leader of the Opposition and to support the stand he has taken in this House. Therefore, I hope the Government will tell us what exactly is its policy in this regard and what it hopes to achieve by its general socialistic policy.

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—on amendment on the amendment) [3.37]: I oppose the amendment on the amendment moved by the Minister for Education because this Government has set a precedent in amending its own Speech which it has presented to Parliament. I cannot remember any other occasion, in the history of responsible Government in Western Australia, when His Excellency has presented a Speech to Parliament for consideration and the Government of the day agreed to amendments to it so that when the Speech was returned to His Excellency those presenting it had to say, "and the Speech has been amended by deleting so-and-so and adding such-and-such."

If the Government considers that the amendment moved by the Leader of the Country Party is not satisfactory or worthy, I say that if our system is to be maintained the Government should take steps to defeat it, because it is only casting a reflection on its own administration when it is prepared to accept silly, ridiculous amendments to the amendment which will be tacked on to His Excellency's Speech. I violently—if I may say so—oppose the principle of the Government ridiculing His Excellency's Speech.

MR. JOHNSON (Leederville—on amendment on the amendment) [3.39]: Although this matter has been treated with some hilarity, I feel that it is one of importance to the parliamentary system because, to some extent, I can agree with members of the Opposition in their argument that it is not a good thing for Parliament to be held up to ridicule by the action of its members. I believe that we are all responsible people; that we have been put here for a responsible purpose—namely, to carry out our duties. The house is divided into two parts—

The Hon. J. B. Sleeman: Three.

Mr. JOHNSON: —the Government and the Opposition; and the Government has a responsibility to govern and to return to the people for endorsement or for rejection once every three years on the question of policy. The Opposition has a responsibility which is not fully covered by the word and name of "Opposition." Its duty is not to oppose merely for the sake of opposing. Its job is to show that

it is capable of putting forward an alternative and more acceptable policy, and to pick out faults in the Government's administration.

The Hon. D. Brand: That is something like what they are doing in the Federal sphere.

Mr. JOHNSON: I am speaking of what takes place in this House and of what took place yesterday, because we are dealing with matters concerning this House at this time, and I am not going to be led astray by mere words. We are dealing with quite a serious subject, and we are dealing with this House. We are responsible to the electors of this State, and we are not seeking preference from the people in Canberra as the Leader of the Opposition tried to do yesterday; endeavouring to curry favour from Canberra at the expense of Western Australia. He would sooner see this State going short of money, because he is like some Liberal members in the Federal House who are prepared to do nothing for Western Australia so long as they make progress at crawling pace.

The responsibility of the Government is to govern, and it is elected by the people on its policy—the policy with which it faces the people next time. The job of the Opposition is not to do anything other than to accept the policy of the Government which has the endorsement of the people. It is responsible for criticising the Government's actions only. Its responsibility lies along a two-way street; its job is to carry out its duties to the electors and to put up an argument against the action of the Government which is fit to answer. It is significant that the Leader of the Country Party did not see fit to support the amendment put forward by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Court: He did! He voted for it!

Mr. JOHNSON: But he is not going to support it; because he and his colleagues, the previous evening, had been advocating a considerable increase in the socialistic efforts of the Rural and Industries Bank in order to promote the development of the State. Quite a number of other people do the same. The difficulty is to find sufficient capital to do that particular job. It is the responsibility of members on the other side of the House to be a useful Opposition. There is no point in making a rambling speech and then concluding it with an amendment which has very little relationship to the main speech.

Point of Order.

Mr. Hearman: Can I rise on a Point of Order, Mr. Speaker? Have these remarks anything to do with the amendment on the amendment to delete certain words?

The Speaker: Yes; they are very relevant. The hon. member is dealing with the substance of the amendment which relates to

the economy of the State, and he is keeping very closely to the wording of the amendment. The amendment on amendment reads—

But this House expresses its amazement that no member of the Opposition saw fit to give any support to the amendment moved yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition referring to various matters affecting the economy of the State.

The member for Leederville has dealt with that very clearly and has logically kept to the terms of the amendment. Therefore, I rule that he is in order.

The Premier: The member for Blackwood would not understand.

Debate resumed.

Mr. JOHNSON: I did feel that at the moment I was interrupted I was dealing very closely with the matter that no member of the Opposition rose to support the amendment. The amendment was moved as a final point in the speech just as the doors of the Chamber were due to open to permit us to go to our evening meal. It was moved at the end of a speech, and had very little reference to the context of the speech apart from some carping criticism about policy; and I might say that any criticism levelled in regard to policy should be kept for the election platform and should not be made in the House of Parliament.

The Hon. D. Brand: Calling your own terms? Don't be so stupid!

Mr. Court: You are not advancing that argument seriously, are you?

Mr. JOHNSON: The duty of the Opposition is to pick out the faults in the Government's administration. Perhaps we do make use of the forms of the House to do a little electioneering at times. However, the task of the Opposition is not just that of electioneering. But it was a purely electioneering speech that was made by the Leader of the Opposition; and I must say that I was a little surprised that we did not anticipate a motion and, having listened to the whole speech, I was surprised that a motion followed it because it seemed so out of keeping with the main body of the speech.

I am one who is reasonably ready, as most people know, to support the Government behind which I sit. I did not feel that an answer either by a Minister or myself was necessary; and so we did not give any reply at all, because the speech contained all its own replies; it could not be treated seriously. The leadership of the Liberal Party has deteriorated to such an extent that obviously it is necessary for that party to seek guidance from the other party before its members can make even an effective stand.

The Premier: I feel that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition let his Leader down badly.

The Hon. D. Brand: What other party?

Mr. JOHNSON: The other point is that if Parliament is being brought into disrepute because of what is taking place in this Chamber, it is because the Opposition is not doing its job; it is not studying the regulations that have been laid on the Table of the House, and therefore it has shown that it will never be capable of governing Western Australia. I feel that the amendment on the amendment is one which does express quite clearly the feelings, not only of the members in this House but also the people who are the electors of this State. This is a great pity, because the parliamentary system will not operate unless there is some effective and useful Opposition.

Mr. Wild: Isn't there one in the Federal House?

Mr. JOHNSON: Do not quote the newspapers! The Federal Opposition is far more effective than the newspapers suggest.

Mr. Wild: You should not run for cover.

The Hon. D. Brand: Do you listen to the news over the air?

Mr. JOHNSON: I have work to do. I am afraid I have not the time to waste. I can tell members this: In this Parliament, in which I have some responsibility, we have a very weak Opposition. I support the motion.

Sitting suspended from 3.46 to 4.5 p.m.

Amendment on amendment (to strike out the words "and concern") put and passed.

THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I move—

That in the second line of the amendment the word "Government" be struck out, with a view to inserting the word "Opposition."

MR. HEARMAN (Blackwood—on amendment on the amendment) [4.6]: I must oppose the amendment on the amendment because the whole thing is undignified. Here we have a speech from the Lieut.-Governor in his capacity as representative of the Queen. The proposition now is to play the fool and do what, I think, everyone will agree is nothing less than farcical. This is no more than a gratuitous insult to the Lieut.-Governor.

If the Minister had given a little more thought to the matter, or possibly if he had not been put up to it like a small boy, he might have realised that this sort of thing does nothing at all to uphold the dignity of Parliament. Can anyone imagine the British House of Commons, regardless of the Government, tagging an amendment of this nature on to the

Queen's Speech? Does any hon. member think that the members of the British House of Commons would be so lacking in taste or so lacking in regard to the feelings of the Queen that they would be prepared to play around with the Queen's Speech and make a complete and utter farce of it in this manner? Is that the belief of the Government?

Mr. Evans: That is what the Leader of the Opposition tried to do.

Mr. HEARMAN: He did nothing of the kind; and the member for Kalgoorlie demonstrates his ignorance by talking like that. I have simply suggested that the way in which the Government is handling this amendment of the Leader of the Country Party is completely out of keeping with the dignity of the occasion. I think that the occasion on which Parliament should be least willing to play the fool—and that is all it amounts to—is when dealing with the Lieut.-Governor's Speech.

If this concerned some other matter, such as a motion for adjournment, an amendment to a Bill, or something else, then there might be some justification for attempting to ridicule it in this manner. But the matter is now being handled in such a way as to make a fool of the Lieut.-Governor's Speech. We will look completely ridiculous when we present the Lieut.-Governor's Speech with this amendment.

The Hon. J. B. Sleeman: Who started it?

Mr. HEARMAN: I know the Minister himself does not regard the amendment seriously. I think his general demeanour before the Chamber suggests that he does not.

The Minister for Education: You have no grounds for saying that.

Mr. HEARMAN: If the Minister considers the matter, he will realise that this makes the Lieut.-Governor's Speech completely foolish, and this Government will go down in posterity as being a Government that deliberately made that Speech look foolish on the motion of one of its own Ministers.

If the Government does not want the amendment moved by the Leader of the Country Party, it is not bound to accept it; but the proper way to deal with the amendment is to defeat it with the numbers which the Government has. There is no justification whatsoever for making a fool of the proceedings in this manner. If the Premier gives the matter some consideration he will realise that this is not in keeping with what the public in general, and the Lieut.-Governor in particular might expect from Parliament.

The Premier: If the Leader of the Country Party is prepared to withdraw his amendment, that will suit us.

Mr. HEARMAN: I cannot speak for the Leader of the Country Party, and the Premier knows that perfectly well. Whether the hon. member is prepared to withdraw it or not, I do not know; but even if the amendment moved by the Leader of the Country Party was completely farcical and unjustified, it still would not vindicate the Government for behaving as it is. The Government has the numbers, and it could defeat the amendment. It would be far better for the Government to do that than to continue this farce which, I think, is in the worst possible taste.

I appeal to the Premier to give some consideration to that aspect. Even at this late stage—without asking the Leader of the Country Party to withdraw his amendment—why cannot the Minister for Education withdraw his? That is the worst feature of the whole thing. Why should not the Premier get the Minister to withdraw his amendment on the amendment? Then we could debate the amendment moved by the Leader of the Country Party and the Government could defeat it if it so desired, because it has the numbers.

The Premier: We could agree to the Leader of the Country Party withdrawing his amendment, and that would end the whole thing.

Mr. HEARMAN: The Premier could easily ask his own Minister to withdraw the amendment on the amendment, and that would enable the original amendment to be dealt with along accepted lines, and the whole matter would be in keeping with the dignity that should surround Parliament. At present this is a complete farce and does the Government no credit whatever.

The Lieut.-Governor's own feelings might well be considered in the matter; because after all, even if he did not write the speech, traditionally he is responsible for it. We should treat the Lieut.-Governor's Speech with the consideration and dignity which it is his right to expect us to exhibit in these matters.

The Premier: You want to censure the Government to the Lieut.-Governor.

Mr. HEARMAN: I did not hear the interjection.

The Premier: It doesn't matter.

Mr. HEARMAN: The Premier, from his long experience in Parliament and as a result of his trips overseas, knows that there is a certain dignity to be preserved.

The Premier: I do not think you are a judge of that.

Mr. HEARMAN: There is no need for the amendment on the amendment. The action necessary to bring the matter back to some degree of decorum rests entirely with the Premier and the Minister. There is no need for him at this stage, when the

dignity of Parliament is at stake, to make political points against the Leader of the Country Party. The present action is reducing the whole matter to stupidity.

The Premier: You would censure the Government to the Lieut.-Governor, but you would object to the Government censuring the Liberal Party section to the Lieut.-Governor.

Mr. HEARMAN: I am not discussing that point, but the amendment. This does the Government no credit.

The Premier: You would be no judge of that.

Mr. HEARMAN: Even if the Government is prepared to do something, on reflection, to uphold the dignity of Parliament, I intend to enter my protest.

MR. W. A. MANNING (Narrogin—on amendment on the amendment) [4.14]: I cannot say I have had years of experience in the House, but I do wish to raise my voice on this subject, because we must look at this matter from the point of view of the dignity of this place. This matter arose when the Leader of the Opposition spoke on the Address-in-reply. He mentioned certain matters that he objected to. The member for Leederville raised one point, and I agree with him on that. He said that the duty of the Government was to govern. The Leader of the Opposition was pointing out that instead of governing, the Government was trading. I feel that his speech was perfectly justified; in fact it was just what one would expect of him as Leader of the Opposition—one could expect him to criticise in his speech on the Address-in-reply. Then, when he had finished his speech, he saw fit to move an amendment to the motion. Surely there was nothing wrong with that attitude. Yet the Government made no attempt to reply to him or speak to the amendment.

The Minister for Education: Why didn't you support his feeble effort?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I will come to that point in a moment. Because of what happened, the Leader of the Country Party moved an amendment to the motion today; and now the Government is seeking to say that the Opposition is wrong because it did not support the Leader of the Opposition yesterday by way of speeches. Surely there is nothing wrong with what we did! Surely we were entitled to remain in our seats at that particular time, especially when one remembers the attitude of Government members, who remained in their seats and made no attempt to speak to the amendment!

Surely the Opposition should not be treated in this fashion simply because members do not speak to a motion! Because we did not speak that does not mean to say that we did not support the

amendment; we did not support it with words but we certainly supported it when the vote was taken.

The Government made no attempt to reply, and now the Minister for Education seeks to amend the amendment moved by the Leader of the Country Party. To my mind the way in which he is seeking to amend it simply proves the case put forward by the Leader of the Opposition—that the Government is irresponsible. When the Government attempts to amend the wording of the Lieut.-Governor's Speech in the way it is doing this afternoon, it proves that the Government is irresponsible. Because of that, I hope that the Minister's amendment will be agreed to, so that the people of this State will be made aware of what the Government thinks, and how it treats the representatives of the people who are on this side of the House.

Even if the Government thinks it wrong, we should be heard. If the amendment is agreed to, it will prove to everybody that the Government is quite irresponsible in its attitude to the welfare and feelings of people in this State.

THE PREMIER (The Hon. A. R. G. Hawke—Northam—on amendment on the amendment) [4.18]: I support the amendment on the amendment, and I have never heard worse logic than was to be found in the speeches of the members for Blackwood and Narrogin. They would have made the Address-in-reply to the Lieut.-Governor's Speech look most untidy and embarrassing by censuring Ministers of the Government to the Governor. Simply because the Government, upon a move made by a member of the Opposition, turns the tables, members opposite get up and put on the woeful performance that we have just heard.

The Hon. D. Brand: No; they were right to the point.

THE HON. A. F. WATTS (Stirling—on amendment on the amendment) [4.19]: I do not propose to take long in speaking to this amendment, but I oppose the Minister's move. I think it is being childish. Quite obviously, if the Government can carry this amendment it can defeat the motion; therefore, if it did that, there would be nothing on the record which would go to the Lieut.-Governor. That is the procedure which one would expect if the Government had, as I presume it still has, the confidence of the majority in this House. The reason for moving the amendment which I moved was to enable, as it has in every other case, a point of view to be ventilated; and we hope, even if that hope is only scantily fulfilled, to give the Government an opportunity of expressing its views on the subject at some reasonable length.

If, as we fondly imagine, the Government still has the confidence of the majority in this House, it could defeat my amendment and there would be nothing on the record, and the Government would have nothing to look at but the Address-in-reply as originally moved. However, if the Government no longer possessed the confidence of the majority in the House, my amendment would be carried. It was a most unlikely coincidence, as far as I was concerned, and one which I think will not be carried into effect.

My point in this matter, as I have endeavoured to stress, is not the Government's wrong doing or right doing, up to yesterday afternoon; it is the wrong doing of yesterday in overlooking, as I understand it, the courtesy which is due to a motion or an amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition. It is only that point which I wish to stress. If the Government and its supporters did not think it necessary to pay any attention to that aspect of our parliamentary procedure, they should have defeated my amendment. But for heaven's sake do not let us clutter up the issue—and that is what the issue was—by trotting out the rubbish that is in the amendment moved by the Minister for Education.

The Minister for Education: It is only taken from your amendment.

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: It is nothing of the kind! The Minister knows perfectly well that it is normal procedure for Opposition members from time to time to move amendments to the Address-in-reply in order that certain objections or criticisms which they have to Government policy or action may be ventilated. It has been done here and done everywhere else, almost from time immemorial; and I have no doubt it will be done in the future. The usual procedure of a Government which consists, and has the assistance, of a majority of the House, is to defeat those amendments after some reply has been made to them. It has been done repeatedly, and this proposition of the Minister is just so much rubbish. He wants to strike out the word "Government" and insert the word "Opposition."

The Minister for Education: It improves rubbish like the Country Party.

The Hon. A. F. WATTS: At least I have some case; whereas the Minister has no case at all. The relationship between the two parties in every British Parliament is well established. In fact, for the benefit of hon. members I will read a few remarks from a little book called "Parliamentary Affairs" which is published by the Hansard Society for Parliamentary Government, and is dated 1958. This is what it says in part—

Those who admire our political arrangements most, and who believe most strongly that the British peoples

have as one of their characteristics a "flair for governmental technique," regard this as one of the most ingenious of them, and even as indispensable to their functioning; "the right hon. gentleman, the member for South Leeds, is in his place on the front Opposition Bench to exercise a function which is almost as important as the function of the right hon. gentleman opposite. The one permits the other to govern, because the second permits the first to oppose, and together they lead their parties in the operation of the constitutional machine."

I think that is a fair summing up of the position and the relationship which ought to exist between the two sides of this Chamber, or at least the two leaders to whom I have been referring. It certainly does not justify the attitude of the Government last evening. I have already absolved the Premier because he was not here; but I am talking of the attitude of the rest of the Government last evening in not offering any reply to a legitimate criticism—soundly based or not it does not matter—by the Leader of the Opposition.

Amendment on amendment (to strike out the word "Government") put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	23
Noes	14
Majority for	9

Ayes.

Mr. Andrew	Mr. Lawrence
Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Marshall
Mr. Brady	Mr. Moir
Mr. Evans	Mr. Norton
Mr. Gaffy	Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Hall	Mr. O'Brien
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Potter
Mr. Heal	Mr. Rhatigan
Mr. W. Hegney	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. Jamieson	Mr. Sleeman
Mr. Johnson	Mr. May
Mr. Lapham	

(Teller.)

Noes.

Mr. Bovell	Sir Ross McLarty
Mr. Brand	Mr. Owen
Mr. Court	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Crommellin	Mr. Thorn
Mr. Hearman	Mr. Watts
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Wild
Mr. W. Manning	Mr. I. Manning

(Teller.)

Pairs.

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Tonkin	Mr. Mann
Mr. Sewell	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Kelly	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Graham	Mr. Grayden
Mr. Toms	Mr. Oldfield

Amendment on the amendment thus passed.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I move—

That the amendment be amended by inserting the word "Opposition" in lieu of the word struck out.

Amendment on the amendment put and passed.

The MINISTER FOR EDUCATION: I move—

That the amendment be amended by striking out the words "make any reply" in the second line and inserting in lieu the words "give any support."

Amendment on amendment put and passed.

Amendment, as amended, put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes	23
Noes	14
Majority for	9

Ayes.

Mr. Andrew	Mr. Lawrence
Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Marshall
Mr. Brady	Mr. Moir
Mr. Evans	Mr. Norton
Mr. Gaffy	Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Hall	Mr. O'Brien
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Potter
Mr. Heal	Mr. Rhatigan
Mr. W. Hegney	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. Jamieson	Mr. Sleeman
Mr. Johnson	Mr. May
Mr. Lapham	

(Teller.)

Noes.

Mr. Bovell	Sir Ross McLarty
Mr. Brand	Mr. Owen
Mr. Court	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Crommellin	Mr. Thorn
Mr. Hearman	Mr. Watts
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Wild
Mr. W. Manning	Mr. I. Manning

(Teller.)

Pairs.

Ayes.	Noes.
Mr. Tonkin	Mr. Mann
Mr. Sewell	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Kelly	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Graham	Mr. Grayden
Mr. Toms	Mr. Oldfield

Amendment, as amended, thus passed.

MR. MARSHALL (Wembley Beaches) [4.35]: I would like to have something to say on the Address-in-reply, now that this dispute has been partly resolved. It occurs to me that we have been talking quite a long time about nothing at all.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MARSHALL: I would like to reply to the criticism of the Government by the Leader of the Opposition, and will endeavour to give some enlightenment on the subjects he raised. All the Leader of the Opposition seemed to have had in mind when criticising the Government, appeared to be directed at a policy of attracting and establishing more industries in the State.

This seems to be a popular cry at the moment; and even the Press frequently plays up the fact that the Government should try to establish what they consider to be most important; namely, additional industries in this State.

We should view the position as it exists today. Mention was made that unfortunately we have some unemployment in our midst. It is quite true that the figures given by the Social Service Department would indicate that there are approximately 6,000 people unemployed today. But

I feel it is quite obvious to any right-thinking person that those figures do not disclose the true position, because there are certain limitations in the social services that prevent people who are unfortunate enough to become unemployed from registering for these services.

For instance, if a married man becomes unemployed, and his wife happens to be working—which quite a number of them do—then, of course, the unemployed male of the family does not receive social service benefits; and, as a consequence, he would not be recorded as seeking employment. So I think that the position does exist; and we should see if we can overcome this most unfortunate state of affairs, particularly in this State.

Much has been said about the Government activity—or inactivity as the Opposition alleges. Members of the Opposition say that we should endeavour to establish more industries in Western Australia, and that we should encourage finance from overseas to support those industries already here. In the first place, I consider that the establishment of types of industry which are not already in existence in this State would be a very good thing. It is something we should try to encourage and foster. But my concern is the fact that we have in this State quite a number of industries already established; and I would like to know what the Leader of the Opposition, and the people in the Liberal Party who sit behind him, have done to encourage the expansion of those industries already established.

When we look at the figures of imports into this State, we find that Western Australia purchases something like £70,000,000-worth from the Eastern States. This is astounding, particularly in view of the fact that the population of this State would not be much more than one of the provincial towns in a State like Victoria. I suppose that the approximate population of the metropolitan area of this State is only about 400,000; the rest of the population is spread out through the seaport towns, and in parts distant from the metropolitan area. The entire population of the State is only 700,000. Even though we have quite a number of industries established in this State, it is rather astounding to see what the trade balance figures are, particularly as they refer to goods purchased from the Eastern States.

Mr. I. W. Manning: That is not the fault of the Opposition.

Hon. D. Brand: It is the Government's fault.

Mr. MARSHALL: It would appear that the people of Western Australia have bought £70,000,000 of goods in excess from the Eastern States, to the detriment of Western Australia.

Mr. Court: Are you implying that the Opposition is to blame for that?

Mr. MARSHALL: I take it that the Liberal Opposition party in this State represents big business, the manufacturers, the wholesalers and the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Roberts: And the workers.

Mr. MARSHALL: I would like to know what the Liberal Party in this State has done in an endeavour to encourage the more liberal idea of people purchasing local products. It astounds me when they say that they want more industries to create more work, particularly when we have industries already established here, and yet find goods being purchased from the Eastern States.

Mr. Roberts: Don't you want any more industries?

Mr. MARSHALL: I have already said that if we have not a particular type of industry it would be a good thing to encourage one of that nature.

The Hon. D. Brand: But the Government sends all its business to the State concerns without calling tenders.

The Premier: You have the Liberal Party members on a raw spot.

Mr. MARSHALL: Practically all the big retailers and merchants in Perth are controlled from the Eastern States. They do not care about buying locally-produced goods.

Mr. Wild: Is Boans controlled from the Eastern States?

Mr. MARSHALL: Admittedly they are big buyers, and they buy a lot of goods from the Eastern States as well as a lot of local products. There are however, a number of firms which could emulate that example.

Mr. Wild: Name the firms which are doing all their buying in the Eastern States and not locally.

Mr. MARSHALL: If the hon. member will be patient I shall give him the names of the types of commodity we are importing. It proves conclusively that these firms are importing large quantities from the Eastern States.

Mr. Wild: Name them.

The Premier: The member for Dale knows.

Mr. MARSHALL: As a consequence of goods being imported from the Eastern States, our own industries are suffering. We cannot provide the employment necessary; and that is why, to a great extent, we have the unemployment position that exists today.

Mr. Wild: Are you sure the clothes you are wearing were made in Western Australia?

The Premier: More than you are.

Mr. MARSHALL: The clothes were made here even if the cloth was not.

Mr. Roberts: Who made the tie?

Mr. MARSHALL: The point I am endeavouring to make is that there is a good deal of talk here about the Government not establishing industry, and the type of legislation that is supposed to prevent industries coming here. To my mind it is a lot of ballyhoo on the part of the Opposition; and I think it is up to members on that side of the House to get behind the Government and encourage people to purchase more locally-made products.

The Premier: Members of the Liberal Party are too scared of the importers to do that.

Mr. MARSHALL: Members of this House will know that a couple of years ago the Government sponsored a Trade Promotion Council—

The Hon. D. Brand: The Premier has everybody else scared.

Mr. MARSHALL: —in an endeavour to foster a greater use of local products. I would like to know how many members of the Liberal Party—particularly metropolitan members—have distributed thousands of these pamphlets. I have the largest electorate in the State—that is, numerically—and I and my family have distributed 7,000 throughout my electorate in an endeavour to encourage the people to buy local products.

We realise the difficulty which has to be faced every year when 6,000 to 8,000 children leave school and look for work. We had the spectacle last year of children leaving high school and having to return for another year or two because they could not find employment.

The Hon. D. Brand: Isn't it the Government's responsibility?

Mr. MARSHALL: It is not the Government's responsibility at all. This situation is brought about by the people not supporting local products and local industries; and they must be educated to do so. Of course, the Opposition is not concerned about that.

Mr. Roberts: Don't you think an increase in industries would also assist in that regard?

Mr. MARSHALL: The Opposition says the Government is doing nothing about encouraging industry.

Mr. Wild: It has not done much about unfair trading. Tell me what industries the Government has got to come to this State in the last five years!

Mr. Norton: How many countries have got that legislation?

Mr. Roberts: Local industries have at present increased their production capacity.

Mr. MARSHALL: If the member for Bunbury will wait, I will give figures that might interest him.

The Premier: You flatter him!

Mr. MARSHALL: In January, 1956, financial assistance under the Industries Assistance Act totalled £743,300. This money has been made available by the Government to 26 manufacturing concerns. In the same period, eight concerns have retired guarantees to a total of £218,775. Of these, only one concern showed a loss. In the year 1956, 84 factory buildings were commenced, to cost an estimated £994,000; and 97 factory buildings were completed at a cost of £946,000. In 1957, 109 new factory buildings were commenced, the estimated total value being £812,000; and 100 new factory buildings were completed at a total cost of £1,110,000.

Mr. Roberts: It shows what private enterprise can do.

Mr. MARSHALL: With Government assistance.

Mr. Roberts: In every case?

Mr. MARSHALL: The Opposition says there has been no increase in industrial capacity and that the Government has done nothing by way of assistance.

The Premier: The Liberal Party section of the Opposition would say anything at all.

Mr. MARSHALL: The Opposition has alleged that under this Government there has been no improvement at all. It says the State is slipping back all the time, and there has been no increase in production. I would like to inform the Leader of the Opposition that the net value of manufacturing production for the financial year 1955-56 was £69,732,802, being an increase of £8,736,973 from the previous year.

Mr. Court: Does that include Kwinana?

Mr. MARSHALL: It would not include Kwinana. In 1956-57 the net value increased by £3,595,926 to £73,328,728.

Mr. Court: Did you say it did or did not include Kwinana production?

Mr. MARSHALL: The last figure I quoted did not. I said 1956-57.

Mr. Court: That would have Kwinana in it.

Mr. MARSHALL: That may be so.

Mr. Court: It is a very mighty figure.

Mr. MARSHALL: It may be so far as oil production is concerned. The fact remains that we have industrial factories here, which could produce more goods than they are producing today; and it is evident to me that instead of criticising the Government, the Opposition should encourage the people to buy more local products.

Quite a lot of articles that could be produced here are shown on the summary of imports during the 12 months ended the 30th June, 1957, page 22, of

the Quarterly Statistical Abstract. As shown in Class 1, foodstuffs such as milk, condensed milk, butter, margarine, invalid food and fish foods imported from the Eastern States amounted to somewhere close on £3,000,000. The second schedule on the same page of the abstract sets out breakfast foods, biscuits, onions and potatoes—when we get short we have to import some. We imported foodstuffs under this category to the value of £8,250,000. This list includes tea, which is not produced in Australia, although we do import some from the Eastern States. However, I do not know why.

Everybody knows that we have an excellent factory established at Albany, which is manufacturing woollen goods. I venture to say that if the people of Western Australia supported that establishment, as they should do, when buying blankets and various types of woollen goods for household use, that factory could probably turn out ten times more than it does today.

Mr. Court: Are you correct in that? My understanding is that they are fairly well up to capacity with their present plant. The people are proud of the Albany products.

Mr. MARSHALL: I am going to tell the Deputy Leader of the Opposition how much we import.

Mr. Court: If we import, then local production is not up to the amount of local requirement.

Mr. MARSHALL: I am trying to point out to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that there is a possibility of expansion.

Mr. Court: That is what we are trying to do.

Mr. MARSHALL: In that category we are importing £4,000,000 worth of goods—that is woollen goods, blankets, and that type of thing—from the Eastern States. These goods could be made at Albany.

Mr. Court: Are you wearing an Albany suit length in your suit?

Mr. MARSHALL: I could not tell you where it came from.

Mr. Court: It would be a good thing if you could before preaching to us.

Mr. MARSHALL: They told me it is available here.

Mr. Court: You answer your own question.

Mr. MARSHALL: There has been some talk by the Government and the Minister leading the mission overseas in regard to the encouragement of a carbon black industry at Kwinana, and also a company for the manufacture of tyres. It is interesting to notice that for the year ended June, 1957, various types of rubber and rubber manufactures such as hoses, pneumatic

tyres, tubes, and so forth were imported from the Eastern States, representing an amount of £3,500,000. Therefore, it is quite obvious that there is scope to establish that type of industry here.

As I said in my opening remarks, I am concerned about the fact that we have industries established here and there is no reason why, with the support of the people in Western Australia, that they could not be expanded in order to provide employment for those people who are at present unemployed.

The Premier: If they were fully supported they could employ 10,000 more than at present.

Mr. MARSHALL: I now wish to speak about a matter which I think should be given some very serious consideration, because I do not want to see all industries established at Kwinana. I think that where we have closely settled areas we should make every endeavour to see that there is a light industrial area set aside; and every encouragement should be given to the establishment of various types of industries, in order to provide work in the immediate vicinity of those areas.

I pointed out before that the electorate which I represent has the largest population in the State, and I do not wish the people in my district to have to travel to Kwinana in order to find work. There is plenty of land, and some of it has already been allocated for a light industrial area in the Osborne Park district. I would like to see the Government resuming more land, although it might cost more money than anticipated, as it already has land at Kwinana which it can give to firms.

However, there are many thousands of acres in the Osborne Park area lying between very thickly populated areas. I cite Nollamarra and the Scarborough-Innaloo area. Some industries are already established there, but I think there is room for a lot more. These industries would provide work for people in those areas, and would alleviate the position of their having to travel many miles to their employment. Everybody knows that the cost of transport is high, and that a great deal of time is involved in travelling backwards and forwards to work. Therefore, I would point out to the Government that it might give some consideration to establishing industries in that particular area.

Another matter on which I desire to touch is the intention of the Government to introduce legislation to set up a cancer council. I think members of this House should know by now that I am interested in this matter and have spoken several times on the subject. At long last the Minister has been very kind and helpful, and has instructed his officers to set up a laboratory to investigate many of our

types of native flora that are considered to contain extracts which could be of great benefit in medicine. I hope the Treasurer will give the Minister all the assistance required, as this project will be costly. I hope, also, that when the proposal has been fully discussed the laboratory will be put into operation speedily, in order that it may get on with this vital work.

I will refer now to the nursing profession. I saw in the Press some time ago a statement to the effect that the Government had set up a committee of nurses and various other personnel to consider ways and means of improving the relationship between nurse and patient and of improving nursing conditions generally. I think Commissioner Finlay has just heard a protracted case put before him by the nurses' organisation in the Eastern States; and I would like to know, later, whether the Minister intends to implement, for nurses here, some of the conditions and rates of pay laid down under Mr. Finlay's award.

Mention has been made in the Press of the grave difficulty in securing nursing personnel for our mental hospitals. The position is serious, and I feel sure it is causing the Minister and his department great concern. I believe we must make nursing conditions as attractive as possible in order to secure the services of suitable people for this important work.

The Leader of the Opposition raised some criticism of the Government for not establishing more industries; and I can only repeat that if we can secure the co-operation of all concerned and encourage our people to buy more local products, the fear of unemployment will recede and children, on leaving school, will be able to find employment. I support the motion.

MR. CROMMELIN (Claremont) [5.2]: I hope that some of the suggestions that I intend to put forward will be of interest to the Government. A year or so ago, while in the Eastern States, I took the opportunity—as at that time there was a lot of talk of juvenile delinquency—to visit certain institutions there; and I am glad to hear that in the near future this State is to be provided with what is known as a closed institution.

In an endeavour to find out what type of boy eventually finishes up in these places of correction, I have paid some visits to the Children's Court, where I have observed the unfortunate children who appear there. I believe every member should visit that court in order to see how it is conducted, and the effect on the parents of the sentences passed on the children.

On one occasion I saw five small boys who were before the court on four separate charges of breaking and entering.

They did not say much, and possibly they were too young to do so; but their parents were brought in and asked had they anything to say. One parent informed the court that on Saturday nights he and his wife went to the pictures and did not think it was incumbent upon them to give up that practice.

When the magistrate suggested that if the children went to the pictures on Friday night the parents could attend also, the father replied, "No, the children's programme is not the sort of thing I could sit out." The consequence was that the children went by themselves to the pictures on Friday night, while he and his wife attended the pictures on Saturday night; and the final result was these charges of breaking and entering.

I learned, further, that in some cases where the children are put on probation for varying terms, the attitude of the parents is, "We have done our best with these children. Now let us see what the court can do." I think that view shows a very poor outlook.

As hon. members are aware, following certain offences against the Traffic Act, the offender is requested to attend lectures in order to learn what is required by that Act. Would it not be wise to suggest to parents, whose children have been given sentences for offences, that they should attend some similar instruction in order to fit themselves better to look after their children? I think such a course would be worth while.

I believe that when our closed institution is established, one of its most important factors will be the staff who are to run it. A few years ago, when there was a shortage of health officers, it was made possible for interested people to go to the technical school, study, sit for examination, and obtain a health officer's certificate. I am wondering whether there is any course available to the men who are to be in charge of the closed institution, in order to fit them for the heavy responsibility that they will assume when they commence their duties. It is obvious that, when a boy reaches the stage where he has to be committed to an institution, his mental outlook and his attitude towards law and order must be very bad.

It is the intention of the Government, I understand, that, when this closed institution is built, it will be almost impossible for a boy to escape from it; and that is a most important point. If a boy who is placed there knows that he cannot escape, that will have a big bearing on his behaviour.

I go further and say that a boy who offends should be committed first to an open institution, with the knowledge that if he does the right thing there he will be released; but also with the knowledge that if he behaves badly, he will be sent to a closed institution, where he will have

to prove to the officers concerned that he has redeemed himself, before he will be returned to the open institution. I understand that, in New South Wales, boys sentenced to a closed institution seldom remain there for a greater period than five months; and there has been practically no case of a boy who has been released from such an institution having appeared in it again. I do not think these boys should serve a term in a closed institution and then be returned to freedom. I feel that they should, if they serve a term in the closed institution, be returned to the open institution before being finally released.

I trust that the Government will do its utmost to secure the right type of men to control the boys in the closed institution. I understand that it is considered essential that there should be sufficient staff in that place for individual attention to be given to practically all the boys, and that their routine shall be so ordered that they have no spare time. Under those conditions, and with firm discipline, they will realise that it is not worth while their acting in such a manner as to have to be returned to that place.

We have read in the Press, within the last few days, of an accident in Stirling Highway, in which two women were killed while standing in the middle of the road. I have not hesitated, at times, to criticise motorists for driving at speed; but I think the time is approaching when we must criticise pedestrians to a large extent, because, through thoughtlessness, they are in increasing numbers becoming a hazard, even to the motorist who is prepared to drive with care and at moderate speed.

Last year 574 pedestrians were involved in accidents with motor-vehicles in this State. In the metropolitan area there were 486; and of the total in 501 cases, the pedestrians were themselves responsible. In other words, 76 per cent.—or three out of every four pedestrians hit by a motor-vehicle—had to accept responsibility for it.

The Premier: Is that the assessment made by the Police Traffic Branch?

Mr. CROMMELIN: No; these are the statistics that we get from the National Safety Council.

Mr. Lapham: Are you implying that the accidents which occur on Stirling Highway are the fault of the pedestrians?

Mr. CROMMELIN: No; I am merely pointing out a serious accident in which two pedestrians were killed. I did not say that it was the fault of the pedestrians or that it was fault of the motorist, because no inquiry has yet been made to determine whose fault it was. I was just referring to that accident to show how the rate of accidents has been accentuated in the last few days.

With regard to casualties to pedestrians in the metropolitan area, these figures

show that 149 were caused by people walking carelessly across the road; 120 by people running across the road carelessly; and 55 as a result of people passing either in front of or behind a vehicle or object.

The Premier: Many pedestrians run across the road in fear.

Mr. Lapham: Yes; and they have reason to!

Mr. CROMMELIN: That is perfectly right; but I am merely pointing to these accidents to show that there is a great number of them. When we come to analyse the age groups in which the accidents occur we can narrow them down to two. Among people 60 years of age and over there were 118 accidents, and 200 children under the age of 16 were involved in accidents. A total of 318 accidents occurred within those two age groups.

A most disturbing feature revealed by these figures supplied by the National Safety Council is that 200 accidents occurred to people under the age of 17 years, which represented one-third of the total number of casualties. Of these, nine were killed. Also nine casualties were recorded for the age group 60 years and over.

So I think the time has arrived when there should be a greater warning issued to pedestrians that they must endeavour to shoulder some of the responsibility by taking more care when using the highway, in view of the ever-increasing motor traffic.

Mr. Lapham: In your opinion, are the headlights of motor-vehicles sufficiently high in their beam to outline a pedestrian who is crossing a highway?

Mr. CROMMELIN: That is a very interesting point. Only two days ago I made the statement that I considered that the lighting of highways in Perth was far below standard, and I emphasised the fact that local authorities did not have sufficient funds to bring the lighting up to the required standard. Quite a number of hon. members will know that on the Continent it is an offence for a motorist to travel along a highway with his lights on full beam. It is incumbent on him to keep his lights on dim, because the highways are adequately lit.

However, on the Continent there is a very strong traffic sense; and, frankly, if a man is driving at regulation speed on our roads and somebody steps out in front of him, his lights are too low to give him sufficient time to stop his car after he has seen the pedestrian.

Mr. Lapham: Has that fact been brought to the notice of the National Safety Council?

Mr. CROMMELIN: Yes; but the National Safety Council has not the power to tell the Police Department to make motorists leave their headlights on high beam.

Mr. Lapham: Is the council making any recommendations in regard to that?

Mr. CROMMELIN: It is always making recommendations. But its first recommendation is for improved lighting on the highways. That is the simple solution to this problem. I still think that a great deal of the accidents which occur on the highways are caused by the motorists. For example, drunken drivers are still the greatest menace on the roads, and they are closely followed by those who do not drive within the speed limit, and who think that by travelling an extra five miles an hour they are going to save a great deal of time. This is quite wrong when it is considered that the speed limit in the metropolitan area is 35 miles an hour, and by travelling at an extra five miles an hour one saves very little time.

So I am now making my second point; namely, that the law should be enforced on motorists who are prepared, at all times, to break the speed limit in the hope that they may save a few minutes; but who, at the same time, may cause an accident by so doing. We have a large number of road traffic patrolmen engaged in endeavouring to keep motorists within the speed limit in the metropolitan area; but members can easily visualise the large army of patrolmen that would be required to police all those motorists who are committing a breach of the regulations. It would be an utter impossibility. I can remember the Minister for Transport saying a few years ago that he would need a police patrolman for every motorist if he wanted to enforce the regulations to the letter.

Further, there is also the motorist who, no sooner has he seen a road patrolman out of sight than he steps up his speed once more beyond the limit. From the statistics of the National Safety Council, I discovered that New Zealand has the lowest rate of accidents in the British Commonwealth of Nations. Apart from the tremendous wastage that is caused by the accidents themselves, one can imagine the loss in production, together with other indirect results, which follow when people are killed or injured day after day and week after week. The cost to the nation must amount to a fantastic figure.

I found that in New Zealand, for a number of years now, the Police Department has been using what is known as a radar speed cop, which does the work of a large number of police patrolmen. The idea is a very simple one, and the knowledge that this radar speed cop is operating has a great effect on those who want to drive on the highways at an excessive speed.

If the Government wants to say that 35 miles an hour is the limit in the metropolitan area, I, personally, would be fully in agreement with the Government's enforcing it. It is all very well to say that another five or six miles an hour will not

make any difference. Perhaps it will not. But what is the use of having laws unless they are enforced?

The radar speed cop consists of a radar set fitted to the back seat of a motorcar. In New Zealand the department makes no secret of the fact that these cars are placed on certain highways at certain times; and it is not a matter of having to operate the machine in the dark or of turning it on in the dark and catching everybody who passes that way. The mere fact that the car is on a highway all day long—or even if it is only for a set period of the day—is sufficient to stop the people from speeding. It certainly must have had some effect, because the New Zealand accident rate is the lowest in the Commonwealth; in fact, I think it is the lowest in the world.

Mr. Court: Don't the countries that have radar detection also place notices on the highways to indicate that people are entering a radar area?

Mr. CROMMELIN: In America they have gone a stage further and have radar screens placed on the side of the road, in the same way as a hoarding is here. The authorities in New Zealand have not gone that far, but they are relying on the use of radar cars. They started installing these sets in 1948 in New Zealand; and they cost £659 each in New Zealand currency, or about £800 Australian. A sum of £800 would pay the salary of lots of policemen for a week.

The system is that the police drive these cars on to a highway—such as Stirling Highway—and park there. By looking into the screen, the police can check the speed of every car approaching from behind, over a distance of 600 yards, if the ground is reasonably level. If a motorist is travelling at a speed beyond the limit, he is stopped as he passes the patrol car and is appropriately dealt with. Of course, when they first introduced the system there, they had the usual challenges to the court. Some people said that it could not be proved, simply by the use of a radar set, that they were speeding, but those offenders soon found that such evidence was accepted officially; and now there is never an appeal against a conviction on such evidence.

There are only six sets in operation throughout the whole of New Zealand, and so hon. members can imagine what could be done in the metropolitan area even if we had only two of them. These units could be used for one hour on Albany Highway, then shifted to Canning Highway, and so on. It would save having to use a tremendous number of police motor-cyclists, and the mere fact that people knew that a set would be operating would be sufficient to deter them from speeding. I think it would have a particular effect on those who are consist-

ently endeavouring to break the speed limit. Frequently these people, when they meet with an accident, are not the ones who are badly hurt; it is the poor unfortunates whom they hit that suffer most.

Possibly the Minister for Police or the Minister for Transport know more about these sets than I do; but as the number of cars on the road is increasing every day, and there are more and more accidents because of speed, I think something like this should be put into operation. I put the suggestion forward in the hope that it will be given some consideration.

MR. HALL (Albany) [5.29]: In speaking to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply, I should like to start on a note introduced by His Excellency on opening day when he stated that there was a very keen demand for land, particularly in the south coastal areas extending from Albany to Esperance. He went on to mention the fact that there are many people in the Eastern States who are desirous of settling in the West, and that further land is being classified for subdivision and allotment.

I would like to digress for a moment and deal with the replies I received today from the Minister for Education to the questions I asked pertaining to the usage of telephones. We talk about taking up land, and the difficulties associated with educating our children, and even their parents, from these outback districts. I would like to read the question I asked the Minister for Education this afternoon. It is as follows:—

As telephone connections in this State are increasing

I might interpolate here that they are increasing at the rate of over 5,000 per annum—

. . . . and bearing in mind that many children in country areas do not receive any instruction in the use of the telephone, would he give earnest consideration to having explanations in the use of the telephone, and the workings of the telephone

I emphasise that point

. . . given by P.M.G. Department in secondary schools at least once in twelve months.

Before dealing with the reply, I might say that I spent some time at the P.M.G. Department before I framed my question. Members will be interested to know that this department has a complete panel where they educate their own pupils not only in the usage of the telephone but in its workings. I would suggest that there is not one member in this Chamber who could say that he knows all about the telephone; or that he knows how to operate it successfully; or that he is aware of the correct treatment that should be applied to the telephone directory.

Unless these children are educated in the use of the telephone, it is quite possible that hundreds of pounds of damage could be sustained by the Commonwealth in the misuse of the telephone. I am sure the P.M.G. Department would be hard to convince that there is no necessity to have the children in secondary schools educated in the use of the telephone. The reply I received was as follows:—

Even if the P.M.G. Department were in a position to make suitable personnel available to provide this instruction it is doubtful whether any useful purpose would be served thereby.

I feel that I would be right in saying that that reply was framed in complete ignorance of the purport of the question, which referred to the use of the telephone. A qualified man demonstrated to me what happened when a businessman picked up a telephone to make a call. It was quite obvious that all the businessman does is to dial the number without first listening to see if the dial tone is correct. That applies both to business people and to children.

Country people do not have many opportunities to use an automatic telephone; and it is most difficult for them when they come to the city, unless they are able to find someone who knows all about it. It is natural that they should be confused, and possibly waste many coins in an endeavour to make their calls. This is only because of their lack of knowledge in the use of the telephone. We all know that land development is the biggest job the State has to tackle and we must try to give those people in the outback districts the same chances as are provided to those in the metropolitan area because the farmers already have quite enough hardship to put up with.

The flood of applications that have been received for 90,000 acres of virgin land in Albany is a heartening reminder that there are still many people who want something which this State has in abundance; namely cheap land which must be brought into production. It is well known that many prosperous Eastern States farmers have no hope of finding reasonably priced farms for their sons. That in itself is a very important matter, because the sons of the farmers will eventually be the experienced men who will be needed for this new development to enable them to produce articles at the minimum of cost.

We know that the price of wool has perhaps reached the ceiling. We cannot hope for a much higher price, particularly with the competition that is being experienced from synthetics. It is essential that we have experienced men; and if the retention of these men in the primary industries can be achieved by offering cheap land, then the capital which will

be provided by their fathers will, without any doubt, be of great assistance to industry in Australia as a whole.

In our efforts to attract secondary industries during the past 12 months we have been inclined to overlook large tracts of undeveloped land between Cape Londonderry in the North and Esperance in the South, and also the west coastal light lands. There are more than 2,000,000 acres of light land available for selection, the potential of which has become known throughout the world. There will be a demand for this land from people with experience and money; and it will continue to be utilised quickly and efficiently, despite the drop in wool prices.

The sons of the farmers are capable of developing this land, because it is necessary for them to compete with the falling price of wool and increasing production costs. This land should be handed over to them and to those who are so qualified to enable them to maintain the high standard of wool required. It is most desirable from the State's point of view that people with sufficient money should open up new land, and we should help the energetic and resourceful Australian who wants land but lacks the finance to purchase it. Fundamentally the scheme is a good one.

Many applications for Green Range blocks showed an Australian-wide interest in this Albany land. The Green Range blocks range from about 1,600 acres to about 2,800 acres in area, and are regarded as being very suitable for pasture development. The nature of the land varies very considerably, but much of it is light sandy loam overlaying clay subsoil. The rainfall is considered adequate for stock and pasture development.

Interest has been focussed on the area since the successful development of the Mt. Many Peaks war service land settlement scheme which has taken place during the last 10 years. Before that, however, little attempt had been made to establish farms there, apart from Warriups Station, developed by the Hassell family, and Cape Riche Station, developed by the Moir family, both of which have been in operation since the last century.

Road access, beyond Mt. Many Peaks, is confined to a narrow, lightly-gravelled road, built to give access to the Warriups and Cape Riches, with many "sand traps" in it. The building of a more substantial road will become essential when the development of the 453 new farms begins.

I think members will be interested to know that I recently attended the opening of the new Kalgan River bridge. A number of people in certain areas queried the advisability of renewing the bridge, but it was essential for the old settlers; and apart from that, it will provide a filip to tourism, and be the means of

helping to open up new land settlement near Moates Lagoon. The Lands Department has announced the opening up for selection of 12 blocks ranging from 750 to 900 acres in the vicinity of that lagoon between Nannerup and Two People Bay. Moates Lagoon is about 12 miles north-east of Albany, and the land now thrown open is part of an area adjoining a water catchment.

Mr. Hearman: What is the price of the land?

Mr. HALL: No price is shown. The lot numbers of the new blocks are 644, but that does not really matter. This development, on which I congratulate the Minister for Lands, his predecessor Mr. Hoar, and the Lands Department because of their vision in opening up this land, will no doubt add to Albany's economic stability to a great extent. Its effect on Albany and its district is really tremendous, as it will attract industrial and commercial assets to Albany plus its surrounding area. Thomas Borthwick, the exporter of frozen beef, meat, lambs, and such like, has expanded his works considerably. He has shown the utmost confidence in the district by pouring in capital to develop it. That in itself will meet a big demand from overseas.

Furthermore, many thousands of pounds have been poured into the expansion of the Albany woollen mills, which I have heard discussed in this Chamber this evening. The expansion of that industry will, I am sure, not only provide more employment in Albany but should also add towards meeting the increasing demands for its products. There is something wrong at times with the marketing programme. Sometimes certain lines of materials are being made to their full capacity and the firm does not feel inclined to go into more production which would entail the working of overtime. With the new machine, it will be able to meet adequately any increased demand inside the State as well as satisfying customers in the Eastern States.

We have received some good news recently. A further confidence has been placed in Albany by the firm of Stewarts & Lloyds who for many years have contemplated setting up an industry at Albany. It has taken up 2½ acres of land for the purpose of establishing a very big project. I am not prepared to disclose the price, although I have heard it unofficially.

Now, from there we go further forward. I might say when I mention the woollen mills, that I consider a making-up factory in this State on a big scale is very necessary. If I might quote the figures and give some statistics relating to the clothing industry: In Australia the total number of persons employed in the factories and the clothing industry during 1953-54 was 11.37 per cent.; in 1954-55, it was 10.94 per cent.; and in 1955-56, it was 10.45 per cent.

The total wages paid in Australia was 8.52 per cent. during 1953-54; in 1954-55, it was 7.98 per cent.; but in 1955-56, it went down to 7.47 per cent. In Western Australia the clothing industry employed 9.38 per cent. in 1953-54; 8.4 per cent. in 1954-55; and 7.58 per cent. in 1955-56. There is a drop since 1953-54 from 9.38 per cent. to 7.58 per cent.

The total wages paid in 1953 was 6.40 per cent.; in 1954, it was 5.57 per cent.; in 1955-56, it was 4.85 per cent. Wages paid to the clothing industry per head of population in Australia were—

	£	s.	d.
1953-54	6	13	9
1954-55	6	15	7
1955-56	6	15	3

In Western Australia the figures were—

1953-54	3	3	3
1954-55	2	18	9
1955-56	2	13	3

In this State an amount of £216,244 less in wages was paid in 1956 as compared with 1954. That is a tremendous drop. I repeat that £216,244 less in wages was paid in 1956 as compared with 1954, although the population in that period increased by 37,618; whilst importations from the Eastern States for the year ended the 30th June, 1957, were approximately £1,250,000. This means that Western Australia is paying about £400,000 a year out in wages in the Eastern States for this item alone.

When one looks at those figures, the necessity for a making-up factory in Western Australia is evident. We have a factory capable of producing materials to measure up to the standard of anything in the Eastern States and comparable with most English cloths. The woollen trade, which I heard discussed here to-night, leaves nothing to be desired. It can compete not only in quality and standard, but also in price with the Eastern States' product.

Reverting to the question of primary expansion, on which I began, we come to the wool sales. They have a tremendous effect on the economy of Albany. The expansion policy of the firms concerned in the wool sales continues to be big, and new buildings have been erected to give the best possible display conditions to the wool, which should enable the buyer to see the products of the South. I quote the South because a big percentage of the wool in the State comes from the southern areas. This would provide good selling conditions equal to the show window display one sees in the shops.

It is essential for any high price commodity that there should be highlighting conditions and a good place on the display floor. The firms are going to erect another two buildings, because what is available now is not, I feel sure, adequate.

This year they hope to hold four sales, and they are hoping for further support. That is very encouraging for the south.

In pushing for the wool sales, I asked a question appertaining to what was sent to the metropolitan area and how many bales of wool, considered suitable for export, were railed to the metropolitan area for treatment from the Albany wool sales. Dealing with the questions as they arise, the answer was 7,600 bales. For the information of hon. members, that means wool which has to be scoured. By scouring is meant blended scouring. I would say that blended scours would operate to the disadvantage of the producer.

Weeded-down wools and wools of a shaded nature are taken away to a scouring works and blended with different types of wool to be scour blended. They might start off by being classified and done up for sale as a wool quality such as 46's. By blending a section they might be brought up to first-class—say 60's or 56's—from that low-class wool. The person with weeded-down wools loses something in production. That type of scouring goes on, and it only removes portion of the oil from the wool. Oils are retained in the wool; and when it goes overseas, lanoline and other things are obtained from it by reclamation. The scouring of 7,600 bales is a loss to Albany.

The Hon. J. B. Sleeman: Is there no scouring at Albany?

Mr. HALL: No; that is why I raised the point. I think we have sufficient wool now, but 7,600 bales would not be enough for the establishment of our scouring works at the moment. However, with the increased expansion in Albany, and from its districts and from the member for Stirling's electorate which includes Jerramungup and Gardiner River; and down to Esperance, Ravens-thorpe, Katanning, Narrogin, and Wagin, we will get the wool, and the various types to make up a blend which would warrant the establishment of a scouring works. The subsidy paid by the Government on that 7,600 bales was £2,724 10s. 3d. That subsidy would not have to be paid if we had a scouring works at Albany.

Mr. May: You will have to build one.

Mr. Norton: Another State enterprise.

Mr. HALL: We find a certain amount of wool came to the metropolitan area which was not subsidised by way of rail freights. There were 2,085 bales of that wool. In that way we gained a bit from the sale. These figures show a drift to the metropolitan area and a loss to shipping at Albany; and if we take these things into consideration we see what is occurring. That is the point we have to watch.

I agree with the member for Vasse in respect to the fact that areas are sometimes held in reserve for forestry purposes,

when there is very little on the reserve other than small quantities of firewood which could be removed and the land put to a useful purpose. Perhaps other hon. members have had the same experience. The timber should be removed and the land utilised for useful purposes. I do not mean in areas where there are large quantities of timber, such as at Manjimup.

I visited the Eastern States to make representations for the establishment of a paper pulp industry in Albany. The representations were unsuccessful because of the character of the area and lightness of the forests. The area had the rainfall, but not the forest. They sent a man over here to make an investigation, and it fell down for the reason I have just mentioned. I take nothing away from Manjimup, which has the timber, water and manpower; and I hope they are eventually successful in establishing an industry there.

But there is a refusal to make land available for primary production in a primary-producing area. We have been refused a paper pulp manufacturing industry because we lack density. One contradicts the other. It has to be one or the other; it cannot be both.

I might digress here and suggest that if the Government is keen to place Collie coal on the market, it should make an all-out effort to perfect the Collie coal briquettes; because areas around Perth are becoming denuded of wood, and people will be looking for the products of Collie to supplement their home fuel supplies. I know that in the first year of television in Melbourne the consumption of firewood rose by 250,000 tons.

Mr. May: Are you talking about briquettes or coke?

Mr. HALL: I do not care whether it is briquettes or coke, or whatever the form is in which the fuel can be supplied so long as it is easy and clean to buy and handle. If the presentation of the fuel to the public is right, there is no reason why briquettes made from Collie coal could not be used far more extensively in the home.

I have been approached by a chap who is very interested in the breeding of good sheep—ewes and lambs. He is a qualified breeder, who has taken many prizes with his stock; and his object was to breed the Dorset Horn so as to enable Borthwicks to get a well-proportioned lamb for export. These lambs would beat the New Zealand lambs to the English market by at least four weeks, and there would be an increase of 4d. per lb. The type of land that he needs for breeding purposes must be dry; and it was to be found in the reserve, which I understand is country that is reasonably high and dry. But he has been unable to expand because his property is too small. That is what the

Government will have to look into, as it is very important from the point of view of our primary production.

The Hon. D. Brand: Before you leave that, do you agree with Borthwick's application for greater freedom in regard to the transport of lambs to Albany?

Mr. HALL: Provided it does not interfere or compete too much with the rail transport.

The Hon. D. Brand: What is your opinion of it?

Mr. HALL: I do not know the details of the case, as I have never been approached in regard to it; but I know Borthwicks are already transporting a large number of lambs by road transport.

Mr. Court: What do you think of the road transport, not only of lambs to the port but of meat back to the Great Southern?

Mr. HALL: I know nothing of the case at all.

Mr. May: Don't let them put that over you!

Mr. Court: Everybody in Albany knows about it.

Mr. HALL: I have not been approached at all in the matter. I have made it clear to everyone in the Albany electorate that if there is any fair case for representation, and it is brought to me, I am only too pleased to place it before the Minister concerned.

The Hon. D. Brand: But what is your attitude to road transport, which would be helpful to many centres in that area?

Mr. Court: There is a case before the court at the moment in relation to this matter. It is currently before the court.

Mr. HALL: I think Borthwicks know where I live. Reverting to wool, I feel that the greatest emphasis must be placed on pasture development if we are to hold our costs at a lower level and, with more adequate funds available, I am sure we can look for better results from the C.S.I.R.O. Last year we saw some of the finest fleeces in this State at the Royal Agricultural Show, both on sheep and as the shorn clip on the table. Those exhibits were of particular interest to a large number of people, as they represented years of endeavour on the part of breeders and growers, to produce fleeces with the desired characteristics.

In this respect a tremendous amount of time and effort has been directed towards the breeding of better strains. I have already touched on that but am now dealing with the subject from a different angle; better strains of ewes and rams for wool improvement. Although good breeding may confer on the offspring superior ability to produce wool, it may never achieve its maximum expression unless a

suitable nutritional environment is provided and maintained, throughout the animal's productive life. No amount of breeding can substitute for the correct feeding of any animal whether for wool, meat, milk, or egg production. A bad animal can never produce the best product but neither can a good one, without proper feeding.

The sheep is often regarded as a machine for the conversion of its diet into the special type of proteins which make up the wool. However, unlike most machines whose requirements are intermittent, depending on operation, the requirements of the sheep for wool growth are continuous, as wool growth is itself a continuous process. Even under conditions of severe drought, when the animals reach a state of semi-starvation, wool growth still goes on at a very much reduced rate.

The constant demand, on the part of the sheep, for the raw materials used in the synthesis of wool protein, is seldom completely satisfied throughout the whole year by the pastures normally available to the animals for grazing. This applies particularly in the case of the requirements for protein, or protein forming materials, which are derived from the proteins of the plants.

It is unfortunate that under our Mediterranean climatic conditions, the plant proteins suffer a dramatic and rapid decline with the maturity of the plants. This decline in the protein content of the plant is nearly always accompanied by a decline in the appetite of the grazing animal, so that its protein intake fluctuates with the composition of the plant.

The Hon. D. Brand: When did you do all this research?

Mr. HALL: This research was done by a man much better qualified than I to do it, but one with whom I am associated in the industry. In the spring flush the pastures usually provide ample good quality protein for wool growth. This season is of relatively short duration, however, and is followed by one extending from four to seven months each year, when the grazing is low in total protein, and extremely low in digestible protein. This low protein status of the pastures is reflected in the quality and the quantity of the wool produced, unless steps are taken to supplement the diet of the animals with materials rich in protein, such as grains and good quality legume-hay. Both of these have proved effective in maintaining wool growth during the summer.

I could elaborate on this theme for a long time; but, to drive my point home, I will simply state that the essential requirement is pasture research, because it is necessary to reduce the cost at the beginning of the journey and not ask the public to pay too much for the final product. By achieving that result and with correct handling by men trained in the

industry—I have in mind the sons of the farmers coming into the industry instead of being lost to it—the position will be improved very largely.

With the increased development of Albany and adjacent areas I feel that the Government should now be making plans for the future development of Albany Harbour. I hope the member for Bunbury is listening to this. With the lifting of the winter load line, Albany is no doubt coming into its own. The restricted depths have for years hampered loading at Albany and the lifting of the winter load-line—

Mr. Bovell: Senator Paltridge must be given credit for that.

Mr. HALL: He did no more than I did, although he may have given the final decision.

Mr. Court: Gordon Freeth has been working on that for years.

Mr. HALL: I notice that that raised a lot of comment. The point to be remembered is that, in spite of all the years of negotiation, the result has been achieved only since I was elected. It has been done within the last three years; whilst, on the other hand, negotiations have been going on for about 40 years.

Mr. Bovell: That might be equally true with Senator Paltridge and Mr. Freeth.

Mr. HALL: That is quite correct. Getting back to the shipping and the effect of the winter load line, I will quote the following figures to show the increases that have occurred since 1950-51. The figures which show the number of vessels that entered the port of Albany and the gross tonnage are as follows:—

Year.	Vessels.	
	No. Entered Port.	Gross Tonnage.
1950-51	59	432,777
1951-52	68	493,774
1952-53	50	380,352
1953-54	56	415,389
1954-55	67	520,519
1955-56	66	457,082
1956-57	87	627,979
1957-58	124	838,030

Without quoting the figures any further, that shows what the development in the area has done.

Mr. Roberts: Do you take credit for that?

Mr. HALL: I cannot take all the credit, but I take some.

On motion by Mr. Court, debate adjourned.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 1), £21,000,000.

Returned from the Council without amendment.

House adjourned at 6.10 p.m.