

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development), and returned to the Council with an amendment.

**LEGAL PRACTITIONERS
ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2).**

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 21st November.

MR. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [11.55 p.m.]: As I mentioned when speaking to the previous measure, I support this Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development), and passed.

House adjourned at 11.58 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 23rd November, 1967

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 11.30 a.m., and read prayers.

**QUESTIONS (9): ON NOTICE
ROSSMOYNE HIGH SCHOOL**

*Intake of Children from
Lynwood School*

1. The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Will the 7th grade children living in the Lynwood area be compelled to attend the Rossmoyne High School in the 1968 school year?
- (2) If so, what arrangements have been made to enable parents to make advance preparations for their children who will be attending the new school in terms of books, uniforms, etc.?
- (3) Will sufficient equipment be available at the Rossmoyne High School to meet the requirements of all pupils, particularly the provision of lockers?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A circular now being prepared by the principal covering all of these matters will be issued to the pupils concerned shortly.
- (3) Yes.

FLORA AND FAUNA RESERVES

Grass Patch and Scaddan: Tracks for Fire and Vermin Control

2. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna:

Further to my question of the 21st November, 1967, will the Main Roads Department provide access tracks, where the 10-chain roads exist in the area west of Grass Patch and Scaddan, for—

- (a) firefighting purposes;
- (b) dog and vermin control; and
- (c) dog tracking, baiting and trapping purposes?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

No. These roads are under the control of the local authority which is responsible for the provision of any access tracks which may be required for the purposes stated.

MINERAL FIND NEAR ROEBOURNE

Authenticity of Press Report

3. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Will the Minister advise the House if the article published in *The West Australian* of the 11th November, 1967, under the heading "mineral find near Roebourne" is authentic?
- (2) If the report is factual, where is the location of the 1,000 tons of ore claimed in the report to have been mined?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) and (2) The contents of the report in *The West Australian* of the 11th November, 1967, were not supplied by the Mines Department, and the department has no information respecting this report.

LAND EAST OF HYDEN

Release and Access Roads

4. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What work has been carried out east of Hyden, including the Forrestania area, in testing and proving the suitability of this area for agriculture?
- (2) Is it intended to release any land in this area in the near future—
 - (a) If so, when?
 - (b) If not, what is the reason?
- (3) Does road access to this area exist?

- (4) If the reply to (3) is "No," will the Main Roads Department construct access roads?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Between 1960 and 1966 a wide range of experiments were conducted on the Forrestania experimental area to determine yields of wheat, oats, barley, and pasture. The provision of stock water is likely to be difficult as suitable dam sites appear to be scarce. In addition to the experiments at Forrestania, the Department of Agriculture conducts a wide range of experiments on farmers' properties in the Hyden area.
- (2) A soil survey, with the bulldozing of access tracks, is to be carried out in the Marvel Loch-Forrestania-Lake Johnson area commencing approximately mid-1968. A decision on which areas might be released is dependent upon the results of this soil survey, and water storage investigation being carried out by the Department of Agriculture.
- (3) Limited access is available.
- (4) Normally the responsibility of the local authority.

ROSSMOYNE HIGH SCHOOL

Books, Uniforms, Fees, and Transport

5. The Hon. J. M. DOLAN asked the Minister for Mines:

Will the parents of the students who will be attending the new Rossmoyne High School in February, 1968, be advised in good time of the books, uniforms and fees needed, and of transport arrangements, etc., so that they can make the necessary preparations for their children's attendance?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Yes. A circular now being prepared by the principal covering all of these matters will shortly be issued to all grade VII pupils in contributory schools.

AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOLS

Applications for Admissions, Accommodation, and Cost

6. The Hon. J. M. THOMSON asked the Minister for Mines:

Further to my questions on Tuesday, the 21st November, 1967, relating to agricultural high schools—

- (1) Must applicants for admission to these schools—
- (a) possess the Junior Certificate; or
- (b) have attained the Junior standard?

- (2) If neither of the above requirements are necessary, what are the scholastic attainments necessary for admission?

- (3) (a) What were the numbers of unsuccessful applicants who applied for admission for the years 1962 to 1966 inclusive; and
- (b) was the lack of accommodation the sole reason applying to these unsuccessful applicants, plus the 30 to the 30th June, 1967?
- (4) (a) Has additional accommodation been added during this current year to any of the four schools mentioned in my previous question; and
- (b) if so, at what schools; and
- (c) what have the additions provided for?
- (5) Is it envisaged that additional accommodation will be provided at any of the other schools in this financial year?
- (6) Could an estimated figure be given as to what amount of money would be required to establish an agricultural high school with the minimum requirement of housing, say, 40 students utilising Crown land?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) No.
- (b) No. However, educational standard is considered at the time of selection of applicants.
- (2) The minimum requirement is completion of grade VII.
- (3) (a) It is regretted that figures for these years have not been retained.
- (b) No. Some applicants were rejected as being unsuited to training in agriculture.
- (4) (a) Yes.
- (b) Harvey, Narrogin.
- (c) At Harvey a new wing has been added to the existing dormitory. This wing accommodates 24 students. At Narrogin a new dormitory for 60 students will replace the existing substandard structure.
- (5) Plans are being drawn for new accommodation at Cunderdin.
- (6) It is difficult to estimate without an indication as to the district and, therefore, the major farming

emphasis. However, it is unlikely that minimum student accommodation, staff housing, farm improvements, machinery, and livestock could be provided at less than an estimated \$350,000.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Extension to Kondinin Area

7. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is it contemplated that the State Electricity Commission will, in the near future, extend the power lines to service the Kondinin Shire Council and other adjacent areas?
- (2) If so, when can it be expected that this service will commence?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) It is too early to give a firm date.

RAINFALL

Widgiemooltha-Pioneer-Marvel Loch Area

8. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Has any rainfall gauging been carried out in the area bounded by Widgiemooltha-Pioneer and westward to the Marvel Loch area?
- (2) If so, what are the average readings since gauging commenced?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) and (2) Some gauging has been carried out on the borders of the area designated. The Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology has records going back in some cases for over 50 years in areas close to those mentioned.

If the honourable member cares to contact the bureau the information will be supplied.

HOUSING

Kalgoorlie Programme

9. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Will the Minister ascertain whether the Minister for Housing is aware of the report in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* dated the 15th November, 1967, wherein it was stated that there is need for 300 homes in Kalgoorlie, and that immediate and strong representation would be made to the appropriate authorities stressing this need?
- (2) Is this particular housing need confirmed by the State Housing Commission, and is it borne out by investigation by its officers?
- (3) If so, what are the immediate plans of the State Housing Com-

mission to rectify or alleviate this housing shortage?

- (4) How many houses is it planned to erect in 1968?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) The Minister for Housing advises that he has not seen the report referred to.
- (2) See answers to (1), (3), and (4).
- (3) and (4) Five houses are nearing completion. At present there are 11 family applicants and one couple. These include four applications lodged only this month. After allocation of the five houses the application position will be reviewed early in 1968.

MARKING OF LAMB AND HOGGET BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 22nd November.

THE HON. R. H. C. STUBBS (South-East) [11.39 a.m.]: This Bill, as the Minister has told us, provides for the use of an approved roller brand; and for the issue of such brand to particular approved abattoirs or slaughteryards for the purpose of marking lamb and hogget. The marking of carcasses will be under the supervision of an inspector who is trained in meat inspection. It will be his responsibility to ensure that a slaughtered animal is hogget or lamb, and this will be determined by inspection of the mouth of the animal.

We find advertisements in the paper for spring lamb and sucker lamb, and others for lamb and hogget. I am afraid some of the carcasses that have been advertised in the past have been over-rated. I think some carcasses in the various categories have often been of very much older sheep. Of course, there are smart alecks in every trade; so naturally there are some in the butchering trade.

The main thing is that this Bill will protect the consuming public who, by the markings, will know whether meat is lamb or hogget. The markings will be from the neck to the rump, and in different colours. The public will get to know those colours.

The measure will have the effect of helping the producer, because once the public is aware they can get meat marked in a *bona fide* manner, it will boost the trade and there will be another outlet for the producer. Besides helping the housewife and the producer, the measure also will help the butcher who suffers from dishonest competition from another butcher who is now passing on mutton as hogget.

I have seen some dreadful looking lamb and hogget labelled as such in some of the butcher shops I have attended. I think

that some of the sheep slaughtered in country slaughteryards are slaughtered to save them from dying.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Are you sure they were not dead first?

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: Meat inspectors will decide which carcasses are lamb and which are hogget, and the other carcasses will be mutton. A lamb is a young animal of either sex which has not acquired any permanent incisor teeth and shows full lamb characteristics of colour and conformation. A hogget is a two-tooth animal; or, to put it in another way, a sheep of either sex is a hogget from the time the first pair of permanent incisors cut through the gum. Therefore carcasses passed and branded will be identifiable and be true to label.

In the past, the reason for branding meat was to identify the abattoir and to show it had been properly inspected, but now the public will have a guarantee that meat is either lamb or hogget. The inspectors will be looking for shortcomings in the slaughteryards or abattoirs, because they are there not only to inspect the meat but also to see that high standards are observed. So it is comforting for the public to know that they will be buying meat that is passed by an inspector and which is of a high quality, clean, hygienic, and properly branded.

I am interested in the penalties of \$100 for a first offence and \$200 for a second and subsequent offence. This will make it unattractive for anyone to try to put something over. Naturally there are people who do this sort of thing. I am interested in the powers of entry of an inspector; and the penalty for obstructing an inspector in the course of his duties is again \$100 for a first offence and \$200 for a second and subsequent offence.

Under the Health Act, a health inspector has very wide powers and, if necessary, he can break down obstructions in order to gain entry. What intrigues me is that the penalty for refusing entry to a health inspector is only \$10, or a daily penalty of \$2. Penalties for obstruction should be high, because an inspector has a duty to the public, the consumer, and the producer.

I support the Bill. The good that will come out of it is that everyone will benefit from a high standard of meat and the honesty that will be achieved.

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central) [11.45 a.m.]: I, too, believe that the general public will welcome this Bill. In the past only lamb has been branded to indicate the quality of the meat. I think everybody has seen this branded meat in a butcher's shop. There is a red brand down the side of the carcass indicating that it is lamb. However, as Mr. Stubbs said, a lot of old mutton has been sold as hogget.

If one goes to the Midland market—as most of the farmer members of this Cham-

ber, as well as you, Sir have done—one sees very little hogget at the weekly market and one realises that more hogget is sold in the metropolitan area than ever went into the Midland market. That is why the housewife and her family will benefit from the passing of this measure; they will know that when they buy hogget it will be hogget because of the brand.

There is no doubt about the fact that inspectors will ensure that hogget is branded hogget and mutton is not branded hogget or lamb. It is not right for a wholesaler to buy a line of sheep at Midland, and dispose of those sheep to a butcher as hogget when they are many years older. For that reason this Bill will do a lot of good in respect of the consumer; and it will possibly assist the primary producer in the sale of his sheep at the markets. I support the Bill and believe it will receive the full endorsement of this Chamber.

THE HON. S. T. J. THOMPSON (Lower Central) [11.48 a.m.]: I did not intend to speak to this measure, which is quite a worthy one, but I cannot let the remarks of Mr. Stubbs and Mr. Baxter pass when they speak of sheep in the country areas being slaughtered at a time when they are ready to die. I absolutely refute this. Farmers with old sheep to sell send them to Midland, and not to saleyards in the country; because no local butcher in the country would have any chance of selling that meat.

I was interested to see that provision has been made in regard to areas not served by a meat inspector. I notice there is provision for the Governor to proclaim certain areas. Quite a number of small country areas do not have regular meat inspectors; and it would be impossible for the present inspectors to operate over the whole of the State.

Generally speaking, this is quite a worthy Bill because of the protection it provides. I remember Mr. Abbey talking about tooth clipping. It will be too bad if this method is tried in order to make sheep appear to be hoggets as the Bill mentions that if they have two permanent teeth they are still hoggets. I support the Bill.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North) [11.50 a.m.]: I did not intend to speak to this measure, but was provoked into doing so. I wonder whether all members are aware of the large teeth which sheep get in the upper jaw. The situation is the same as judging a hen by its teeth. Hens not having teeth, it is our own teeth which tell us.

However, being very serious on the matter, I think it is important that the public be assured that the dyes used on the animal to brand it from stem to stern—I will not borrow the term used by Mr. Heitman—are not deleterious to health.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: I said from neck to rump.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I said from stem to stern, but Mr. Heitman said something else. Very often a fine portion of a carcass of a lamb is smudged by the dye and is most unattractive. It is very important that the public has confidence in the brand and knows that there is nothing deleterious in the dye used. A smudged brand is very unattractive and must prejudice sales unless carefully watched.

THE HON. J. HEITMAN (Upper West) [11.52 a.m.]: Like Mr. Wise, I am provoked into saying one or two words on this Bill. A minute ago the honourable member asked me privately if the dye had anything to do with the dying of the sheep. I said that most sheep are not dead when they are killed; they die afterwards. It will be a big advantage for the housewives to know they are buying younger sheep when they buy hogget. However, I would remind members that a very old ewe, if killed at the right time, can have a delicious flavour when cooked. In the past, many butchers have been able to pick out these sheep at the saleyards. They are mainly the small-framed ewes which are fattened quickly before they are killed. I defy the best of housewives to pick the meat out in the shop and indicate that it is not hogget. It has a lovely flavour and is very tender to eat. Therefore, although the housewife would be paying hogget prices for it, it would still be a flavourous piece of meat and be very tender.

As Mr. Wise said, it is not always the sheep's teeth which indicate whether the animal is hogget. It is often our own. Actually, this applies to any meat. Although the Bill indicates that hogget must have no more than two teeth, it is possible for a 1½-year-old sheep to have four incisors on the bottom jaw, not on the top jaw as Mr. Wise mentioned and where some people look for them. Despite the fact that the animal has four teeth, it could still be only one and a half years old.

Under this measure I feel the housewife will be able to buy with the utmost confidence. She will know that she is not getting meat from sheep which died before they could be killed. I support the Bill.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West—Minister for Local Government) [11.55 a.m.]: I had no intention of replying to the debate, but I, too, have been provoked into doing so. I sincerely hope that the spirit which has prevailed during this debate continues for the rest of the day. I do not know that there is anything to which I must reply, except the question raised by Mr. Wise about the dye. I have been informed by my learned friend, the Minister for Health, that the dyes are

tested by officers of the Public Health Department, and therefore, as far as possible, this would be a guarantee to the housewife. Incidentally, it is not only the housewife who is concerned, because I have to do the shopping at the moment.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Do you agree about the smudgy brand?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I agree that it makes the carcass very unattractive, and some care must be taken by those doing the branding to ensure that the meat is presented in the most attractive form possible. I think this has some effect on the price the housewife is prepared to pay.

I agree with Mr. Syd Thompson that most of the old stagers find their way into smallgoods, and as most smallgoods are manufactured in the metropolitan area, this is their destination. I think it is fair to say that without this type of meat the quality of the smallgoods today would not be so high. A few years ago all our old beef cattle were exported to America purely for the manufacture of smallgoods, because most American beef is produced so rapidly that most of it is fat in any case, and is no good for hamburger steaks, and so on. Therefore it is essential that the type of meat to which I previously referred be available for our smallgoods.

I agree that a freshly-fattened, old, gummy ewe is possibly as good as any sheep to eat, from a mutton point of view. However, if they are not fattened smartly, they are very tough.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: That is generally the taste of a man who has been on the land.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I appreciate my own taste and I would much prefer the flavour of a newly-fattened and freshly-killed gummy ewe to a lamb, because the flavour is so nice. However, it is almost impossible to get enough of these animals of the same quality at the same time. Therefore it is essential to ensure that the housewife does not have the gummy ewes passed on to her as lamb or hogget.

While this Bill may not be perfect, like Mr. Stubbs I believe the penalties will be some deterrent to those who might like to make a few quid on the quick by doing the wrong thing. I believe the Bill is a move in the right direction and will give some security to those who purchase meat. If they desire to purchase good quality lamb or hogget, they can rest assured that to the best of the ability of the department, they will be able to do so.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (The Hon. N. E. Baxter) in the Chair; The Hon.

L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 4 put and passed.

Clause 5: Manufacture of marking devices, etc.—

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: During my second reading speech I indicated that a query had been raised in the Legislative Assembly with regard to the definition of a marking device. I gave notice that I would introduce an amendment, and it appears on the notice paper and is self-explanatory. I move an amendment—

Page 5—Insert after subclause (3) the following new subclause to stand as subclause (4):—

- (4) In subsection (3) of this section "marking device" means any device that is capable of being used with an ink or stain to produce on the carcass of the sheep a mark similar to that described in paragraphs (d) and (e) of subsection (1) of section 4 of this Act.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 6 to 12 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, with an amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), and returned to the Assembly with an amendment.

RESERVES BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 22nd November.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North) [12.3 p.m.]: For very many years it has been customary for the Reserves Bill to be introduced within the last day or two of the Parliamentary session. The reason for this is that much work has to be done in connection with reserves, especially where there are to be excisions from Class "A" reserves. The matters raised during the year require a lot of scrutiny, examination, and thought before a decision is reached by the Minister.

Because of that, the delay in some cases is understandable. However, I have often thought—and I have been guilty in this regard—that it is not fair to Parliament or to the people concerned to have such a restricted time to consider the Bills, and to be able to give them only a cursory examination. This is something which successive Governments have done, and I do not raise the point in a complaining manner, except to say it would be better to have two reserves Bills a year than to

have one dealing with 20 proposals put before us in the last hours of the parliamentary session.

For example, I have in front of me a file which was given to me last evening by my leader. The file deals with all the proposals in the Bill, and it also contains all the plans. But who else has seen the contents of this file? No-one. So I raise the point and I hope that in future consideration will be given to the introduction of two reserves Bills, one concerning those areas which have been considered up to the commencement of the session, and another Bill dealing with those which are handled during the session.

Important areas are concerned in this Bill, and I hope someone will adjourn the debate. For example, there is a very important excision dealing with a boronia reserve at Albany. I feel sure that Mr. Jack Thomson would need no provoking to realise the importance of that excision. Similarly, other members will find something in the Bill affecting their districts. I am not provoking arguments—or speeches—but I say that members are not giving enough consideration to these matters if we continue in this manner.

There are only two or three clauses to which I shall refer. Clause 5 of the Bill deals with a reserve at Broome. Anyone who knows Broome can picture the shire office, the infant health centre, the cricket pitch, and the tennis court. Believe it or not, I played on both the cricket ground and the tennis court when I was living in Broome many years ago. I am concerned with this particular clause, and others. Where this Bill takes definite action to reduce the status of a reserve from Class "A" to Class "C"—which renders the reserve disposable—we should have a definite and carefully prepared plan presented indicating the future of the land, before we agree to the change.

However, in the case of the reserve at Broome no such purpose is shown. The reason given is that the land is no longer required for, or is suitable for, the purpose initially contemplated for that area. There will be some town planning associated with the area, but I think the time to make the change of purpose is when the decisions have been reached. Hypothetical cases are not good enough.

I think members will agree with that point of view. The only land in this community which is sacrosanct is a Class "A" reserve, whilst so classified. However, it will be found in more than one clause of this Bill that reference is made to some future planning for an area, once its purpose is changed. We should know, at this stage, what will be done with all Class "A" land which is changed. I think that what is proposed in Broome could well satisfy everybody, but I also think there is an obligation to provide Parliament with all the information and the plans for the area at the time of the introduction of this Bill.

The next area I will refer to is the site for a concert hall and associated uses. The reserve involved is No. 22240, in Perth, classified as of Class "A." The area is proposed to be reserved for concert hall purposes.

Mr. President, I do not like using a personal pronoun, but I am afraid I must in this case, because I have had an association with this area for a long time. I was chairman of a Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament which was appointed to inquire into sites for public buildings. From memory, the inquiry was held in 1938. The report of that Select Committee is filed in the records of Parliament. We recommended to Parliament, and Parliament agreed, that the area from Victoria Avenue to a point just past the lodge of Government House should be excised and Christian Brothers' College, as it then was, purchased. We suggested that the whole site should be reserved for public buildings of Perth, and also that the buildings should be erected during a certain period.

That recommendation was made by three members of this Chamber and three members from another place. It was made after we had scrutinised 15 possible areas which existed at that time around Perth to consider their suitability for public buildings. We believed that the area we selected would provide something similar to the type of area that obtains in Victoria, near the Fitzroy Gardens, where there is a glorious row of public buildings behind the Victorian Parliament House in Spring Street. We thought this idea could be duplicated on the beautiful area overlooking the Swan. This area was accessible to all transport which was then operating and anyone alighting from a bus, train, or ferry did not have to take a taxi but was within walking distance.

I know at the time I was criticised for suggesting that ground should be taken from the Government Domain. The area involved was 7½ acres. However, I am sure all members can imagine what a glorious sight it was, extending as it did to the Esplanade and embracing the Christian Brothers' College site.

Now the purpose has been changed. The land which was formerly owned by the Aquinas trustees and set aside for the Chevron-Hilton hotel has now been selected by the Government as the best site for Perth's concert hall and associated uses. Of course, it may be the best site now available.

However, if members look at the complete plan of the area, they will see the extremely valuable land in the near vicinity which will be used only for the purpose of parking, if this project goes through. I sincerely hope that the lovely avenue of trees in Victoria Avenue is undisturbed, even if a concert hall is erected on the site.

I am not going to hold up the passage of the Bill. I am sure other members will

wish to have the opportunity I have had to look at the file and the associated plans. I do not want to delay the Minister in his endeavour to get Bills through today. However, we would be neither wasting time nor delaying matters if the debate were adjourned by somebody who is interested in a particular item so that he can study the plans on the file.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Two files are available.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I did not know that. I hope the Minister will take heed of the criticism I have levelled—even against some of my own actions in the past—in bringing a Reserves Bill to Parliament at an hour such as this. I think it is very important legislation. I support the Bill.

THE HON. V. J. FERRY (South-West) [12.15 p.m.]: I wish to support the Bill and also some of the remarks which Mr. Wise has just made. I consider the Bill is, indeed, an important one in the parliamentary year. It appears every year because, by custom, it is an annual measure.

I can see no real reason why a Bill to consider measures that are proposed up to a particular point of time in any one year should not be introduced earlier in the parliamentary session. At the end of the parliamentary session in the same year, if necessary, we could consider a further Bill. I think this is a reasonable suggestion; because, as Mr. Wise has mentioned, there are a number of very important matters covered by a measure of this type. It is only reasonable that members of Parliament should have the opportunity to examine thoroughly any areas which may be considered for change and alteration. As members of Parliament, this is our prerogative and we should have as much opportunity as possible to consider this type of legislation. I wished to record my thoughts on this matter, and I support the Bill.

THE HON. N. E. BAXTER (Central) [12.16 p.m.]: Rather than move an adjournment of the measure, I will raise a few queries which the Minister, when he replies, may be able to clarify from his own notes and from the file.

I refer, firstly, to clause 11 of the Bill which refers to Mosman Park Reserve No. 2077. Subclause (2) reads as follows:—

(2) The purpose of Reserve No. 2077 is hereby changed from "Recreation" to "Housing".

The reserve is being reclassified as a "C"-class reserve. My mind goes back to the provisions of the Town Planning and Development Act whereby, when a subdivision is made, the local authority can take 10 per cent. of it. If a local authority takes 10 per cent. of subdivisional land for the purpose of recreation, as laid down in the legislation, and, at a later stage, the reserve is reclassified for housing it does

not appear to be right that the land vested in the local authority can be sold by it and, probably, at enhanced values.

I refer, secondly, to clause 14, subclause (2), where it is stated that an area of approximately 55 acres is to be excised. It is stated in subclause (3) that this area of land may be made available for forestry purposes.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: What clause is this?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I am referring to clause 14. Perhaps the Minister may be able to indicate whether the area will be used for forests, for forestry buildings, or for what purposes it is envisaged the Forests Department could use this land. These are the only two queries which I raise through glancing at the legislation and without having much information to hand. I support the measure.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [12.18 p.m.]: This time, I rise completely on the side of the Mosman Park Town Council. I congratulate it, firstly, on the conference which was held at which members of departments were represented and, secondly, on the suggestion that the area of Reserve No. 2077 should not be used for recreational purposes but for the purposes of housing. The council should be given credit for producing an argument to this effect. I do not think there is any reason to read out all of the reasons which have been given by the Mosman Park Town Council. When regarded as evidence, all the reasons are pure quality.

I am pleased the council has taken the opportunity to make a claim that the purposes for which this area is to be used should be changed from recreation to housing.

An interesting point which would possibly support some of the arguments submitted by the council is that if any type of recreation was being conducted on the area there is every likelihood that the driver of a vehicle travelling along Stirling Highway may have his attention distracted from the road to the activities on this recreational area which may lead to an accident. The reserve is situated on the corner of Wellington Street and Stirling Highway and at this point the driver of any vehicle requires to exercise the greatest care and attention whilst approaching the intersection.

Therefore I fully support the council in its claim to have this area used for housing purposes rather than recreational purposes.

THE HON. F. D. WILLMOTT (South-West) [12.21 p.m.]: I do not wish to delay the House for any length of time, but I agree with Mr. Wise that his suggestion that perhaps two Reserves Bills could be introduced each session is worthy

of the department's consideration. As it happens, in the Reserves Bill at present before the House there is only one item which is of any importance or interest to the people of my district, but on other occasions there have been quite a number of areas set out in the Reserves Bill which are situated within the boundaries of my province and which could be of considerable interest to those I represent.

Whilst I am on my feet I draw the Minister's attention to clause 4 of the Bill which deals with Class "A" Reserve No. 24364. In the Minister's notes the number of the reserve is given as 24363. I have checked the plan submitted with the Bill and I have found the number in the Bill is correct, and that in the Minister's notes it is incorrect, so it may be advisable for the Minister to make the necessary correction in his notes.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West—Minister for Local Government) [12.23 p.m.]: I thank members for at least studying this Reserves Bill in the short time it has been available to them. I appreciate the remarks made by Mr. Wise, Mr. Ferry, and Mr. Willmott, and I will certainly pass on to the Minister for Lands the suggestions made by them. Offhand, I, too, cannot see any reason why two Reserves Bills should not be introduced each session.

In regard to clause 5, which deals with Class "A" Reserve No. 8519 at Broome, if my knowledge is correct the Broome Shire Council is in the process of preparing a town planning scheme. In preference to having the scheme completed with this reserve being shown as of "A" class when it is too small to be used for recreational purposes, it was decided that the area would be put to better use if it were made available for commercial purposes when the town planning scheme is finally accepted, and this has been done in anticipation of that acceptance. It is also considered that some part of this area could be set aside for new shire offices which, as Mr. Wise has observed, are badly needed.

I believe Broome will expand—I certainly hope it will—and so a town planning scheme, incorporating a good commercial area, may be the means of assisting the town planning development.

In regard to clause 11, which was discussed by Mr. Baxter and Dr. Hislop, I, too, appreciate the need for the purpose of this area to be altered from recreation to housing, with the exception of a small grassed verge. In reply to the point raised by Mr. Baxter, this area was never regarded as open space for subdivision. In fact, it was classified for public utility purposes as far back as 1892. I think members can rest assured that 10 per cent. of the open space which becomes the property of the Crown and not the local authority will not be used for the purpose of subdivision unless special cir-

cumstances arise. This area is held in very high regard and that is not likely to occur.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That is, whilst you are the Minister.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes, and I hope a similar policy will be followed by successive Ministers. At the moment I have no knowledge that this area is likely to be developed, but I trust that, if it is, cognisance will be taken of the fact that the development should be set well back from the highway. I believe, in making this land available for the building of houses, it will fulfil a very great need, because it is in close proximity to Fremantle and its environs where a large workforce is required. It is also close to transport and shopping facilities.

If I thought that Mosman was short of open space I would not have hesitated to oppose this application. I have been supplied with a list of the reserves in the Mosman Town Council area and I find there is a good sprinkling of playing fields, golf courses, bowling clubs, undeveloped areas, undeveloped foreshores, and other vacant land available. Therefore, I am satisfied that reducing the amount of open space in the Mosman area to this extent will not affect the overall picture.

In regard to clause 14, referred to by Mr. Baxter, the situation is that this reserve is encompassed on all sides by pine forest. The excision is needed to provide a firebreak and to allow for effective fire control, and in return for this area the Forests Department will make available other land on another site. I think that explanation covers the point raised by Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Wise made reference to Class "A" Reserve No. 22240 in Perth and I am hopeful that some day in the not too distant future a concert hall will be built on this site. I have studied the reports that have been made on this area, because my office overlooks it and whenever I get the opportunity to gaze out of my window I have a clear view of it. It will be necessary, of course, if a concert hall is built on this site, to co-operate with the Commonwealth Government which intends to erect a large building on the corner of Victoria Avenue and St. George's Terrace to accommodate the Taxation Department. The Commonwealth Government has already promised to co-operate with the State Government.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I hope it will not turn out to be a building of the same type as the Opera House in Sydney.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Plans have not reached that stage as yet and, in any case, I do not think we will ever duplicate the building situated on Benalong Point. This area is one in regard to which one could give plenty of scope to one's imagination, and if this is done I think the site will prove to be of great value not only to

the City of Perth but also to the State of Western Australia as a whole. I appreciate everything Mr. Wise said about the history of this area. Perhaps in one way it was fortunate that the proposed Chevron-Hilton hotel was not built on this site. As events have turned out, it is probably better that the block has remained as it is so that plans can be made for better use of it in the future.

I thank all members who have spoken for their keen interest in the Bill. Usually, there is not a great deal of controversy surrounding a Reserves Bill, because generally when it reaches this House it is a *fait accompli*; that is, this House merely gives its approval to what has been done in another place. However, the appearance of the Bill before this House gives members an opportunity to review what is taking place in their various provinces and make any remarks they so desire.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), and passed.

EVIDENCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 22nd November.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Justice) [12.36 p.m.]: I would like to make a few brief comments in connection with this Bill and to say at the outset that I support it. When introducing the Bill Mr. Heenan gave us a very useful explanation of its purpose. Briefly, I would comment that its purpose is to introduce into the Evidence Act some changes in respect of the admissibility of certain kinds of evidence as yet not considered admissible.

The type of evidence which the Bill proposes be admitted can be stated as coming under two main headings: Firstly, certain documentary evidence as to facts in issue in any civil proceedings; and, secondly, certain trade or business records being produced in any criminal proceedings.

In both cases the weight to be given to the evidence admitted will depend on the circumstances attending the making of the particular document or record—particularly the fact of whether or not the statement contained in the document or record was made contemporaneously with the occurrence or existence of the fact stated, and the fact of whether or

not the maker of the statement had any incentive to conceal or misrepresent the facts. Furthermore, notwithstanding that the requirements set out in the Bill have been met, a court may reject any such document or record where it appears to it to be inexpedient in the interests of justice that the statement contained therein should be admitted.

At this point I would mention that I understand Mr. Heenan has in mind one or two minor amendments as affecting subsection (3) of proposed new section 79E, purely as affecting the use of certain words which differ from those used in both the Acts of the United Kingdom and New South Wales, and it is not understood why these minor amendments have been made.

The Hon. E. M. Heenan: They are on page 5 of the Bill.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The matters covered by the measure have been under consideration by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General and by the Law Council of Australia. One of the projects being undertaken by the Law Reform Commission of New South Wales is the entire question of reforming the laws of evidence along the lines of the findings of an English law reform commission.

It is possible, when final drafts are prepared by these bodies, that they may depart in some respects from the form of the Bill before us. However, subject to one or two minor amendments to which I have previously referred, and in the light of present knowledge, I can see no objection to supporting the Bill as drafted.

THE HON. E. M. HEENAN (Lower North) (12.40 p.m.): I am appreciative of the remarks made by the Minister, and I am sure they satisfy members that the Bill is worth while. In my second reading speech yesterday I mentioned that a very interesting paper had been delivered by Mr. Justice Campbell of the Supreme Court of Queensland, to a summer school conducted in Perth this year, and I read a couple of extracts from his address.

It might be of interest for me to read another which is perhaps more apparent than those I quoted yesterday. In the course of his address, Mr. Justice Campbell said—

It is not only lawyers who consider that many of the narrow and exclusionary rules of evidence are not in accord with the need in the modern world for speedier and better justice.

Further on he had this to say—

It is agreed on all sides that hearsay should be accepted with caution, but much of the evidence on which men act in the course of their daily lives consists of hearsay. Such evidence is accepted by administrative tribunals, by legislative committees,

and yet we bar it from the courts and even more strictly from jury trials. It is no wonder that the laymen (including the man on the jury) becomes fed up at times with the procedure of the courts. If the strict rules of hearsay were applied in all cases a great deal of relevant evidence would be excluded because statements made by a witness concerning time, age, distance etc. are based to a very large extent on hearsay.

This measure proposes to do something which I think in the light of experience is justified. The procedures in the courts have to be reviewed from time to time, just as institutions and other bodies review their procedures to keep up with the times which we now face, and which are so vastly different from what they were even a few years ago. It is creditable that a move such as this is being made to the Evidence Act in Western Australia.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (The Hon. F. D. Willmott) in the Chair; The Hon. E. M. Heenan in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1 put and passed.

Clause 2: Interpretation—

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I move an amendment—

Page 5, line 30—Delete the word “questions” and substitute the word “question”.

This is merely a typographical error.

Amendment put and passed.

The Hon. E. M. HEENAN: I move an amendment—

Page 5, line 32—Delete the word “copying” and substitute the word “keeping”.

This is another typographical error in the drafting.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, with amendments, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. E. M. Heenan, and returned to the Assembly with amendments.

Sitting suspended from 12.52 to 2.30 p.m.

CHIROPODISTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Assembly without amendment.

LEGAL CONTRIBUTION TRUST BILL*Returned*

Bill returned from the Assembly with an amendment.

Assembly's Amendment: In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (The Hon. N. E. Baxter) in the Chair; The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Justice) in charge of the Bill.

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

Clause 13, page 8, lines 34 and 35—
Delete the words "a rate that is not less than".

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: During the preparatory period of the Bill certain discussions took place with the associated banks; because, to a marked extent, the banks came into the consideration of the legislation. In fact, this has been mentioned in debate. The associated banks asked me whether the Government would be prepared to express in the Bill the interest rate derived from investment at the short-term bank interest rate, which is prescribed from time to time by the Reserve Bank of Australia. On behalf of the Government, I agreed to this, and I thought at the time that the appropriate amendment had been made to the Bill. However, following the passage of the Bill through this Chamber, my attention was drawn by the banks to the fact that the words "a rate that is not less than" still appeared in the Bill. To give full effect to what was intended, I asked my colleague, the Minister for Industrial Development, to move this amendment in another place.

It obviated reprinting the Bill prior to the third reading. With these words out the telling portion of the clause will speak of moneys deposited with the bank by a practitioner with which the practitioner maintains his trust account, or trust accounts, at the short-term bank interest rate. The other words become unnecessary. I move—

That the amendment made by the Assembly be agreed to.

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

Report

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

**LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT
AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)***Returned*

Bill returned from the Assembly without amendment.

**PETROLEUM (REGISTRATION FEES)
BILL***Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 22nd November.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [2.42 p.m.]: When dealing with the other petroleum legislation we were advised that this Bill would be coming forward to us for consent from another place; that it was to be considered as part and parcel of the Petroleum Bill.

For obvious reasons the Bill could not be introduced in this House, and therefore it was necessary for it to go through the routine of being introduced in the Assembly and then being sent to this Chamber. The Bill merely deals with the payment of fees in respect of the registration of certain instruments under the Petroleum Act. Clause 3 states—

The Petroleum Act, 1967 is incorporated and shall be read as one with this Act.

We are merely continuing an Act we have already passed, and there would be no point in delaying the issue unduly.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Thank you.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

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

**SOIL CONSERVATION ACT
AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 22nd November.

THE HON. J. DOLAN (South-East Metropolitan) [2.46 p.m.]: I must confess when I left here last night I went to my office and had a look at this Bill. I was convinced then that it would take me only about two minutes to discuss it and agree with its contents. I then thought I would like to find out a little more about the measure and, after making inquiries about it, I found that the parent Act is probably one of the most important pieces of legislation that has ever been submitted to Parliament.

When I had a look at *Hansard* for 1945 and found that the original legislation was introduced by Mr. Wise, when he was Premier of the State, I felt that this was one Bill which needed very careful scrutiny, as I know how thorough Mr. Wise is in everything he does. I realised

the debate on the original legislation would be well worth reading. Having read it I recommend it to members as an exposition of a matter of national importance.

The debate on the original legislation can be found at page 555 of *Hansard* for the year 1945. Although it is 22 years since the parent Act was passed, the problem of soil conservation is still with us today. The pitfalls that were pointed out in those years still exist; indeed I often wonder whether we really learn the lessons taught us by history.

If members would like to turn their minds back to the beginning of recorded history they would find that the greatest civilisations of the world have gone out of existence probably because of soil erosion. I refer particularly to some of the Middle East countries and to North Africa, where erosion has been responsible for the development of such places as the Sahara Desert. I also call to mind countries like Egypt which suffered badly in this respect; and I think of some of the old towns that passed out of existence—towns which at one time had a population of 400,000 people.

I refer to the well-known town of Antioch, which is mentioned in the Bible. If we refer to history, we could find mention made of the cedars of Lebanon—the people there were not happy until they had chopped them down, with the result the place has suffered the penalty of man's destructiveness.

I well remember when I was a young fellow attempts were made to discover some of the lost cities of Egypt and the tombs of the old Pharaohs, like Tutankhamen. Mankind had allowed these places to be covered with soil over a long period of years. All this destruction has been caused by soil erosion.

I think we could all learn a lesson from our tour of the north last year, where we witnessed the results of man's inhumanity to the land, to the extent that it was necessary for the Government to take action and resume some of the land in question in an endeavour to repair the result of man's greed. These ravages have been caused by the policy of man; and because man has not learned the lesson.

I would refer briefly to the fact that in 1939 a committee under the chairmanship of the Conservator of Forests (Mr. Kessell) was set up to inquire into this very subject; and the composition of that committee was an excellent one. In addition to the Conservator of Forests, as chairman, the other members were the Under-Secretary for Agriculture (Mr. Barcn Hay), the Deputy Conservator of Forests (Mr. Stoate), the Plant Nutrition Officer (Dr. Teakle), the Superintendent of Horticulture (Mr. Powell), the Superintendent of Wheat Farming (Mr. Thomas), the officer in charge of irriga-

tion (Mr. Clifton), the sheep officer (Mr. Murray), and the Director of Land Settlement (Mr. Fyfe).

I would have thought that great notice would have been taken of any recommendation brought forward by that committee, but I find today the country is suffering as a result of the same mistakes that were obvious then. That committee sent out a questionnaire to over 600 farmers and, arising from the answers received, it was found that farmers generally were aware of the problem of soil erosion and, in fact, would be ready to collaborate.

The comment of the committee to the Minister was that although soil erosion was widespread throughout the agricultural areas, in most cases it had not yet become severe. However, there was no doubt the damage was increasing and measures should be adopted as early as possible to effect appropriate changes in farm management in order to promote conservation. I would have thought a warning note from an eminent committee such as that would have been heeded.

As the years have gone on we have been opening up farming lands, the latest rate being 1,000,000 acres per year. Is this going to lead to further erosion, as no notice was taken of the warning given in 1945? No doubt we could do well to take note of it today.

The purpose of this measure is to increase the number of persons on the committee. If the committee were increased by another dozen, and most of them were situated in the pastoral areas where probably soil erosion is at its worst, and they were given plenty of power to back up the policy of the Government, we might save this country. If we do not do that, the country is going to look like some of the territory near the Ord; and once the damage is done it will take generation after generation of hard work to reclaim it again. Even in my lifetime there has been the example in America where dust bowls have been created as a result of poor farming methods. This was brought about by almost criminal acts by people. Eventually some of these areas were reclaimed, principally because the Americans were able to devote enormous sums of money for this purpose. I think this reclamation involved an area of no less than 600,000,000 acres of land. What a tragedy it is that a problem like that should have arisen because men would not learn a lesson from the past ages.

We are faced with the problem today; and this Bill might represent a partial solution. However, we sometimes have Government agencies which help to promote soil erosion. We have seen some wonderful avenues of trees in various parts of the country; and the P.M.G. Department has come in for the purpose of providing modern lines of communication.

The first thing the department does is to have these beautiful avenues of trees cut down or bulldozed in an indiscriminate manner. No attempt is made to select a path where none of nature's remedy for soil erosion exists. Instead of that, the department gets rid of the trees.

Without being critical of our farming community, I would say that many farmers have a lot to answer for because of the way they have destroyed windbreaks. The result is that after heavy wind and rain, some of the places are becoming dust bowls. An example of this can be seen in parts of the Wimmera which, with correct farming methods, would have become one of the granaries of Australia. This has been a criminal sacrifice of one of nature's assets.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: What about the S.E.C.?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: Other bodies do the same. There are times when roads have to be constructed and our timber is destroyed.

This problem usually starts with the indiscriminate clearing of land and the lack of the provision of windbreaks, without which erosion will take place. It is estimated that in the Eastern States millions of tons of soil have been blown into the Pacific by dust storms. Once again, this soil cannot be put back except perhaps by centuries of excellent farming.

When we look at a country like Great Britain, we realise that it has plenty of problems, but none are associated with bad farming or erosion. Great Britain is subject to diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease, and that is no fault of the farmers. The land has been farmed systematically and well; and we will have to do the same.

I would like to see more than the addition of two men to this committee. As I said before, they should be sent to the pastoral areas in order to do their work. Committees are not effective, no matter what know-how their members may possess, unless they receive a proper backing and notice is taken of their recommendations. On a previous occasion I mentioned the definition of a "committee." This was in relation to the platypus and I said: A platypus is a duck designed by a committee. I can add another definition, as I have heard it said: A camel is a horse designed by a committee. I think we can learn from that. To be effective, committees must be composed of men who are worth while; and when I look at the membership of the committee to which I referred earlier in my speech I would pay a tribute to them. They were the best of public servants and men who knew the parts of the State that were affected by soil erosion problems.

In respect of this committee, I say its recommendations should be given effect

to. If this is not done, future generations in a few hundred years will say that the people of our generation did not learn from the lessons of three or four hundred years before that. If we take a long while to learn, we will learn the hard way.

The Bill has my full support and I commend it to the House. I feel that this is a subject in which any member would be interested, because soil erosion is taking from us our natural heritage, which we should guard and pass on to future generations. If we do not do our share by passing legislation such as this, I am afraid the services we render to the State are not as good as we think they are. I support the Bill and wish it a speedy passage through the House.

THE HON. T. O. PERRY (Lower Central) [3 p.m.]: This Bill proposes to amend the parent Act by increasing the number of members on the Soil Conservation Advisory Committee from eight to 10. It is stipulated that one of the new members shall be an officer of the Main Roads Department, and the second new member shall be a representative of persons engaged in agriculture.

Much has been written, and more has been said, about the need for soil conservation. I have heard you, Mr. President, and Mr. Wise, Mr. Dolan, and many others speak of the need for adequate soil conservation. Although the measure is an important approach to the problem, I feel it does not go far enough. I would press for the setting up of a soil conservation authority with wide powers to enforce the implementation of the findings of research into soil conservation. I believe that the whole of our agricultural areas should be mapped, and the types of soil should be shown. The types of soil should be graded into classes according to their susceptibility to erosion. A master plan could then be prepared for soil conservation.

We boast about throwing open 1,000,000 acres of land annually for agriculture, and perhaps this is quite an achievement. However, can we boast that we know how much of our farmland is lost through soil erosion and salt encroachment each year? For the sake of our children, and their children's children, we should set up an authority which has the power to see that the recommendations of our scientific advisers, and the recommendations of the conservation committee are carried out.

The addition of the two new representatives should increase the efficiency of the committee and I support the Bill.

THE HON. J. HEITMAN (Upper West) [3.2 p.m.]: I, too, rise to support the Bill. I support it not just because two extra men will be appointed to the advisory committee, but because soil conservation is a mighty important matter to agricul-

ture of this State. I would point out that the Soil Conservation Advisory Committee has operated for a number of years. It will be remembered that I asked a question regarding the number of meetings held, and whether the meetings were fully attended during the last 10 years.

It might be interesting if I mention the details of the reply to my question. I asked the Minister how many meetings had been held and he replied that in 1957 there were two; 1958, one; 1959, two; 1960, two; 1961, one; 1962, two; 1963, one; 1964, two; 1965, two; 1966, two; and 1967, one. A second meeting was to be held on the 14th November, 1967. It was then decided that it would perhaps be better to hold the meetings three times a year.

A total of 18 recommendations were made to the Commissioner of Soil Conservation, arising out of those meetings, held over 10 years, and three were made as a result of the last meeting held in 1967. The meetings were well attended but at no time have all the representatives been present. I asked which members had been absent over the 10 years and I was advised that on nine occasions the Public Works Department nominee did not attend. On eight occasions, the Department of Agriculture member did not attend, but on two of those occasions he sent a deputy. On four occasions the representative from the Forests Department did not attend, but on two occasions he sent a deputy. On one occasion the representative from the Lands Department did not attend but he sent a deputy. Over the 10-year period, the one farmer member missed three meetings.

So that goes to show we can have a committee but if it does not function we cannot hope to get the best out of it. I would have thought the Public Works Department, knowing that its engineers were very interested in deep sewerage, water conservation, and so on, could have been of great assistance to the Soil Conservation Advisory Committee. By having either Mr. Bryden or Mr. Nelson on the committee it would have been assisted greatly.

Also, I feel that the Department of Agriculture could have taken more interest in the meetings which were held. We realise that the members attend in an advisory capacity, but at the same time the Department of Agriculture is very interested in soil conservation, because agronomy to my way of thinking deals with soil conservation.

It is intended to have another farmer representative on the committee, and he will represent the areas with a rainfall of under 20 inches. This might be a good thing because I do not think we could find anyone more interested in soil conservation than a farmer. However, we

have to realise that a farmer is only a layman but he would be very useful to the committee by pointing out where conservation was badly needed, and in what part of the State soil conservation should be practised.

I do not think the committee is ignorant of this fact at the present time but if we are to have more representation on the committee I feel it is the professional men with engineering qualifications whom we really want. Such men, with their know-how, can assist in the problem of soil conservation.

We should spend more money on research into soil conservation. On the 1st August, this year, I asked a series of questions. I asked how much finance had been made available for research on soil conservation, and salt encroachment, between 1965 and 1967. The reply I received was that in 1965-66 the finance available was \$142,135; in 1966-67 it was \$183,269; and it was estimated that for 1967-68 the expenditure would be \$225,867—an increase of some \$42,000. All of this money would not be spent on research, but it was later stated that approximately \$35,000 would be spent on such research.

Possibly this sounds all right to those who do not understand just how much money is needed in this field of investigation. I know that the smallest experiment could cost anything up to \$5,000, and such an experiment would cover only one season. Therefore, it could cost \$5,000 a year for up to seven years just to get something definite at the end of the seven years from the smallest experiment.

In view of the research needed on soil conservation no limit should be placed on the money that should be spent in this field. If experiments are to be conducted on any particular item of soil conservation, finance should not be a controlling factor. However, this has been the policy in the past and I am sure that by following such a policy the progress of soil conservation has been retarded to a great extent. I know many men who are engaged in the work of soil conservation and, to my way of thinking, the new soil conservation commissioner, Mr. Tom Smith, is a man who has his feet on the ground and who has had extensive experience in the work on which he is engaged. He is also a man who is able to work with the men in the field. To obtain a successful team effort, with a view to achieving results from soil conservation work, it is essential that a lead and encouragement should be given to the men who are actually engaged on this work.

So all in all, I think Western Australia is on the threshold of a programme which will achieve effective soil conservation. I do not know whether the appointment of two additional members to the advisory committee will be of great help. The

one who is to represent the Main Roads Department, and who is a road engineer, could give valuable advice to the commissioner and his band of willing workers who are engaged on this work, and therefore his appointment could prove to be an advantage.

Mr. Dolan made some pertinent remarks in regard to the damage wind erosion can cause; more particularly in drought years than in a year of good rainfall when there is plenty of top cover for the soil. Following on his remarks, I would like to mention that during the war years members will probably recall that New South Wales suffered a severe drought. I had a man working for me but he was in the Navy at that time and he was a very keen farmer. During the course of his service he wrote to me advising that he was on the other side of New Zealand and the dust that had been blown from New South Wales as a result of the soil erosion caused by the drought was dropping into the sea on that side of New Zealand.

The damage that was caused in New South Wales as a result of the drought in those years and the extensive soil erosion which followed was alarming. This is a situation that can be created at any time following one or two drought years. In Western Australia we can be thankful that we do not suffer from drought to the same extent as the Eastern States do. This is one of the reasons it is not essential to establish a soil conservation commission, as mentioned by Mr. Perry. I know there is a commission established in New South Wales which costs about \$1,500,000 a year; but, nevertheless, if a drought does occur in any State all the soil conservation efforts in the world would not be of much help.

However, if, as Mr. Dolan has said, we allow trees to remain on farming properties and do not clear so much land so that effective windbreaks can be provided, such effort must have some effect in preventing soil erosion. One cannot rely on cereals and clover alone to provide top cover for the soil. I support the Bill and I hope that those who are engaged on the work of soil conservation will give their wholehearted support to the committee. If this is done we will make greater progress with soil conservation in this State.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Upper West—Minister for Local Government) (3.15 p.m.): I thank those members who have spoken for their contributions to the debate. I agree with Mr. Dolan that soil conservation plays a very important part in our lives, and will have a great effect on our standard of living in the future. I do not know whether any member was watching television the other evening when a series called "People," conducted by a Mr. Bob Sanders, was being shown. He was shown to be interviewing a person who had had a great deal of experience with desert

erosion. According to what the interviewer said, the encroachment of deserts over what was previously land suitable for cultivation was alarming, and this trend was evident in many parts of the world.

It was also pointed out that efforts were now being made to bring this desert land back to a state where it could produce more food for the people of the countries concerned. He pointed out that the area of land which has been lost as a result of the encroachment of deserts over the past years was sufficient to produce enough food for all the people in the world in any one year.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: That is in recent times?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes. As I have said, efforts are now being made by a world-wide organisation in countries throughout the world to bring these deserts back into production to provide food for those countries where the people are near starvation. During this television series it was of interest to learn that a great many Australian eucalypts were being planted in many of these deserts to prevent further encroachment.

We should be glad to know that eucalypts are being used for this work. In watching this television show the other evening it was rather interesting to realise the large amount of land which has been turned into desert as a result of bad farming methods and the neglect of the various authorities concerned. I am beginning to wonder whether conditions should have been included in the conditional purchase agreements for farmland to ensure that soil conservation was carried out by the lessees.

It was not the policy of the war service land settlement scheme to clear all the land on any one property. Only portion of the property was cleared, the idea being to establish an economic farming unit and to leave sufficient land for further development by the settler himself. On many of these properties the acreage cleared has been sufficient to provide an economic farm, and much of the land has been left in its virgin state.

I can only hope that some farmers will appreciate the value of soil conservation and learn from the mistakes that have been made in the past. In the future I hope that conditions will be included in conditional purchase agreements to the effect that some timber belts will have to be retained for the purpose of preserving the top soil. After watching that television show the other evening I can easily visualise that if we are to lose top soil at the rate it is being lost in many countries throughout the world, Australia, as well as other countries, will suffer to a great extent.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), and passed.

ACTS AMENDMENT (SUPERANNUATION AND PENSIONS) BILL*Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 22nd November.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [3.21 p.m.]: This Bill has been awaited with a lot of interest for a considerable period. It is the result of a promise made by the Premier to the Joint Superannuation Committee that he would introduce such a Bill in the 1967 session of Parliament. Upon the introduction of the second reading the Joint Superannuation Committee circulated a letter to all members of the Western Australian Parliament expressing its disappointment with the provisions of the Bill, and drawing the attention of members to various aspects of superannuation which it considered should be given greater prominence.

I do not propose to read the letter, because all members have a copy and, no doubt, they have studied it. To this committee obviously the unsatisfactory situation that exists lies basically in the action of the Commonwealth Government in updating pensions on two occasions, and it expected that something similar would be done by the State on this occasion.

Let me say at the outset that, because the Bill is an improvement on the existing situation, I support it. I have a feeling we can reasonably expect this legislation to be before us again within a short time, in view of the action of the Commonwealth and after the State Government has given further consideration to actuarial advice as to what it can do on the basis of updating the pensions. Without knowing the particular form of subsidy that is required to be paid, it appears to me to be a grant by the Treasury to overcome the lag that is apparent in pensions which were instituted several years ago, and which at the present time have fallen a long way behind as a result of inflation.

There are two instances I can cite with regard to the problem of inflation. One concerns a former employee of the Railways Department at Midland. I am told that upon his retirement he received a pension of approximately \$4 over the

basic wage, but today his pension is about \$10 under the basic wage. There we see the crux of the very real problem which confronts such people.

The other instance concerns a retired police officer. He retired on a pension of \$15 to \$16 a week, at a time when the basic wage was \$12 a week. As the basic wage has risen to \$33 we can see the plight he is in. Side by side with that we have the problem of people who receive fringe benefits—the people on low pensions who received adjusted payments from the Commonwealth and who enjoy the fringe benefits available to pensioners. When small increments come their way as a result of increases in the State pension the increases are of no direct benefit to them, because they lose the fringe benefits from the Commonwealth. So they are placed in the position where they are actually worse off.

All these matters taken in total resolve themselves into the basic fact that this is a big problem. The great difficulty is to work out a formula which will do justice to the varying grades and overcome injustices which exist and which have been brought about by reasons over which these people have no control.

The increments proposed in the Bill are considered generally by these people to be inadequate. Apparently they have looked to the Government on this occasion to produce something to alleviate their plight—a substantial alleviation and one very large in concept—and in order to overcome the problem with which they have grappled for so long.

The payment of a reasonable proportion of one's salary upon retirement, based on what one did at the time of retirement, is of course a problem with us all. We have seen similar instances in the case of retired members of Parliament who, over the years, have suffered from this very same disability. The greater the basic wage becomes and the less a dollar can purchase, the more obvious it is that this problem will be a constantly recurring one.

It would appear that only direct Government aid can overcome the problem. In that respect I have something in common with the Minister when he said in his introductory remarks that this problem has existed for many years—that is, the adjustment of pensions to allow for an increase in the cost of living. He went on to say that several methods of compensation for increased costs have been applied during the past 20 years, but they have not proved to be satisfactory.

I do not know what we can do on a practical basis, other than to acknowledge that the solution lies with the Government of the day, to urge the Government to give the highest priority to this problem in the future, and to request it to consult the best brains available to find

out whether anything definite can be put forward which will reduce the consequences of the varying aspects of this very great problem.

Obviously, even if a person budgets carefully for the future and takes out an insurance policy to mature at a certain date in, say, 20 years' time, when the 20 years have elapsed he finds that the amount he budgeted for is totally inadequate because of the rise in the cost of living, and so on. But he can do nothing about it. Probably even when he realised what the position would be, he was not able to take any steps to overcome the problem because his income at the time was limited. This would apply also to superannuated employees who probably took all the units possible at the time. In any event, it was thought then that the amount provided for would be sufficient.

I sympathise with the people who are in this invidious situation, but it is apparent that the fund itself cannot meet the situation and so the Government must close the gap.

Without repeating myself I would say that I support this Bill because it does provide something. From the general tone of the introductory remarks of the Minister I would say that further urgent consideration will be given to this matter.

I have one query, but I fully realise that the Minister will probably not be in a position to answer me straightaway. However he may be able to do so, even perhaps by letter, when he has been able to obtain the information for me. On page 5 is the fifth schedule, and this includes the heading "Units of Pension contributed for before 1st July, 1964." In, I think, August, 1964, a number of people were employed by the railways, after the closing of the Midland Railway Company. I want to know whether those people will come under the provisions of this Bill. From my reading of the schedule and the information given, I think they would, but I believe the point needs clarification, because there is doubt in the minds of those concerned.

With the reservation that the solution of this problem rests entirely with the Government of the day, and with the observation that it is a problem which is still unsolved, I support the Bill, because it does go part of the way towards a solution.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [3.34 p.m.]: I feel bound to say that I appreciate very much the commendable speech made by Mr. Willesee, and his approach to this Bill. I cannot with any degree of confidence answer the point he raised at the conclusion of his speech, and for fear I should convey to him some inaccurate information, I will take time out to ascertain the answer and inform him when I am able to do so accurately.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Thank you.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I would like to mention the circular from the Joint Superannuation Committee and make some comment on it, because I think the circular itself is of such a nature that I should comment on it in order that the position might be more clearly understood.

I am compelled to say that it is unfortunate that the Joint Superannuation Committee has found it necessary to comment as it has done on the Government's intentions to adjust superannuation payments. I believe that perhaps the Joint Superannuation Committee does not appreciate the Government's intentions, and it is a pity there was not time for discussion on this subject with Treasury officials.

However, to put the record straight, I have obtained some further information I want to give to the House. The special committee appointed to inquire into and report on superannuation made a number of recommendations in a submission addressed to the Under Treasurer. The committee's proposals were also referred to the Government's consulting actuary for his comments.

The committee's main recommendation was to implement an updating scheme similar to that applied to the Commonwealth and the Victorian superannuation schemes.

Under this updating method, pensioners have their superannuation adjusted to accord with movements in the entitlement of officers still serving in the Public Service. In effect, a retired pensioner is paid an additional sum equivalent to the Government's share of units that the pensioner would have been able to take up had he continued in the Public Service.

Here I interpolate to comment on the point of view expressed by Mr. Willesee. This is an old problem. A man retires on a fixed income, but the cost of living rises. As the honourable member said, it is difficult in the case of all pensioners and, in some instances, in the case of members of Parliament, to get beyond this point; and someone must foot the Bill because although a pensioner contributed to a scheme in the proportion he was able to contribute at the time, he reaches a point where the situation is beyond his control.

The Premier made it clear when the proposed amendments now before us were introduced in another place, that the Government agreed to an updating scheme in principle and proposed to put in train immediately the necessary work to determine each pensioner's entitlement. Until this information is obtained, it is quite apparent the Government could not commit itself to an unknown quantity. This, surely, would lack wisdom. It may be that the updating scheme cannot be implemented in full because of financial considerations,

but in view of the substantial surplus in the superannuation fund, it is considered that there is every possibility of a satisfactory scheme being implemented within the next 12 months. This is the point which the honourable member read into the remarks I made.

If the Government is able to do this, it will have achieved more than the special committee contemplated because its recommendation envisaged the implementation of an updating scheme as soon as possible after the 1st July, 1969, compared with the Government's aim of July, 1968. In view of the long delay in implementing an updating scheme envisaged by the committee, it no doubt felt obliged to recommend some interim adjustments to cover the intervening period.

I think that is the whole crux of the matter. Instead of waiting until the time came when the whole thing could be put into effect, it was decided to take some interim action. The committee recommended an interim supplementation at the rate of 50c per unit per fortnight for maximum age and invalid pensions, the cost of which was to be allocated two-sevenths to the superannuation fund and five-sevenths to the revenue fund.

Such a supplementation is directly opposed in principle to the updating scheme which allows for the biggest increase in pensions going to those who have been on the pension for the longest time. The committee's interim supplementation would result in the largest increases being paid to those who only recently commenced on the pension. Surely this is contrary to the matter being complained about; because the person on the pension for the longest time is the one who finds himself in the greatest difficulty.

It is suggested that we could not have an updating scheme which was to operate from now on which provided for one form of adjustment, and an interim payment to pensioners which operated in the reverse direction. It is also most important indeed that no step be taken at this point in time which would prejudice the introduction of a suitable updating scheme in Western Australia.

If there is a large outlay from the superannuation fund now to pay an interim supplementation of pensions, then obviously there would be so much less to finance the updating scheme in due course.

There is no doubt that the superannuation fund itself from its surplus will have to make a substantial contribution towards meeting the cost of updating. In fact, Victoria is financing the total cost of its updating scheme from surplus in the superannuation fund, and there is to be a charge to the Consolidated Revenue Fund only in the event of the surplus being insufficient to meet the total cost of the scheme. Therefore, it will all be taken out of the fund.

I would also like to point out very strongly that only one State has adopted the Commonwealth's approach to superannuation adjustments through updating, and that is Victoria. No other State has indicated its willingness to adopt this scheme which, of course, should be taken into consideration, having in mind Grants Commission implications.

Nevertheless, the Government in this State is prepared to go ahead with an updating scheme and the only issue in doubt is the extent to which adjustments to pensions can be financed in accordance with the principle of the scheme.

As I said earlier, we will not know what is involved financially until every pensioner's record is analysed and a calculation made of his entitlement to additional benefits on the basis of the Commonwealth and Victorian schemes. It has been stated also that contributors in Western Australia are not entitled to the same benefits on retirement as contributors in the Commonwealth and other States.

This suggests that the unit entitlements of contributors in this State need review. It is surprising, therefore, that the special committee made no recommendations to adjust the scales in Western Australia. This is something to which the Government will give attention and I can assure members that the Government intends to press on with the object of introducing such a scheme as soon as possible.

In the meantime, the increases proposed in the Bill are as much as the Government believes should be paid until such time as all necessary steps have been taken to formulate an updating scheme. In the circumstances, I thought I should give that explanation to the House and I conclude by saying that the consulting actuary supports the updating scheme but does not believe that there should be any interim adjustments in the meantime.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Actuaries are always careful people.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I agree with that remark. However, when one is on the receiving end one looks at the fund and says that it can afford to pay, and the actuary holds his hand.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: If we believed in actuaries, we would not have had the Parliamentary Superannuation Fund.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It depends on the point of view.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: It is reported in *Hansard* if the Minister wishes to refer to the original debate.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It still depends on the point of view and how one looks at what the actuary says. However, it can be said that the Government is approaching this matter in a generous way, having in mind the need to avoid

action which would prejudice the introduction of an updating scheme in due course.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Sitting suspended from 3.47 to 4.2 p.m.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (The Hon. N. E. Baxter) in the Chair; The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.

Part I.

Clauses 3 to 6 put and passed.

Clause 7: Section 60 amended—

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In line 10 on page 4 an incorrect word has been used. "One-tenth" is referred to and it should be "one-twentieth." This is a typographical error and I move an amendment—

Page 4, line 10—Delete the word "tenth" and substitute the word "twentieth".

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clauses 8 and 9 put and passed.

Part II.

Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.

Part III.

Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, with an amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), and returned to the Assembly with an amendment.

LOAN BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 21st November.

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [4.8 p.m.]: I received what I thought was a most interesting letter early this month from the Shire of Bayswater. It dealt with the metropolitan regional plan and the problems which it was causing to people holding land in areas set aside for controlled access roads; and in particular the letter referred to the proposed Beechboro-Gosnells highway. The letter states—

This Council at its meeting held on the 4th October, 1967, viewed with much concern the unsatisfactory state of affairs which exist at the present time relative to the indefinite timing with regard to the construction of the

proposed Highway which is causing undue hardship to the owners of the land involved. The owners are prevented from developing their property and as an alternative, endeavour to sell. This land does not attract purchasers because of the proposed Highway.

In some cases people are off loading this through Estate Agents who could be unaware of the Metropolitan Regional Authority's future requirements and the new owner is placed in an unfortunate position due to their not being informed.

It is felt by this Council that all land affected by the Metropolitan Regional Plan should be the subject of suitable endorsement on the Title at the Land Titles Office in order that all would-be purchasers or owners may be fully aware of such future development. It is realised that under the Metropolitan Regional Planning Act, 1959-65, the Authority is not obliged to lodge such an encumbrance on the Title and it is felt that the Act could be amended to provide for such.

That appealed to me as being a very sensible proviso which could be given effect to quite easily. Because I felt it was a good idea I brought the letter here so that it would hold the attention of the Minister for Town Planning when I discussed this matter. I felt that if something like this were done it would obviate many of the disappointments that people have from time to time when they buy land only to find that certain restrictions are imposed in regard to it. If a title were endorsed with the restrictions there would be no excuse for a purchaser not knowing what was to happen to that land in the future.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Did you say that the estate agents were buying this land without knowing what encumbrances there were on it? Don't tell me they don't know.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: That portion of the letter reads as follows:—

In some cases people are off loading this through Estate Agents who could be unaware of the Metropolitan Regional Authority's future requirements . . .

The Hon. L. A. Logan: The estate agents know—every one of them.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I do not know how anyone could say what estate agents would know and what estate agents would not know. I would not be dogmatic on the point, but surely it would be better to refer to the encumbrances on the title—a form of caveat if necessary. That would be a much better way of dealing with the problem and whether or not

estate agents know about future plans for land is not material to the issue. The title should show any restrictions and, if it does, and an estate agent is in a position to make a sale he is able to use his own discretion. The basic thought behind the suggestion is a good one and I ask the Minister to give serious consideration to it. I will further refer to the matter by letter to him, and will incorporate the details I have mentioned, when the session has concluded.

During the current week the 1967 annual report of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority was tabled and, in looking for a topical subject, I decided to have a look at it. There is no doubt the subject of town planning is a very demanding one and covers many great problems. It is associated with land and the price of land. I wanted to have a look at the report in the light of all that has happened in this House throughout the session, and also in view of the various developments that have taken place during the past year, having in mind the authority's acknowledged acceptance that a problem exists, and also in view of its published reports from time to time and the comprehensive report it submitted as late as August last.

Without dealing in detail with the report, and boring members, I intend to refer to some extracts from it which I think are of interest. I refer, firstly, to page 7 where, under the heading of "Review," the report states—

The first thing that we must do—and we've started on it already—is to review the Region Scheme itself.

It wasn't so long ago that the Region Scheme came into operation. It was however based on the findings of a survey that had been carried out nearly a decade earlier. By 1968, when the MRPA hopes to have done most of the review, the survey will be fourteen years old. A whole host of things have changed since then.

That paragraph gives hope. It is undoubtedly true that many of the ideas in the original plan have already proved terribly cumbersome—if not outdated. It is pleasing to note that whilst all the review will not be completed, the great majority of the work will be completed by some time next year. On page 12 of the report there is a summation of the conclusions of the authority, and some of the conclusions to which it refers are as follows:—

- (a) The vexed and complicated problems that surround the availability of land cannot be solved by any simple-seeming and superficial course of procedure designed for the sole purpose of injecting into the market massive areas of yet more building-land;

and the authority sticks religiously to this point throughout—

- (b) there are reserves of urban land and urban-deferred land (enough for 1.4 million people!) that will be adequate for a long time;
- (c) the relationship between the number of undeveloped blocks and land values is only one of the many factors that influence the price of land;
- (d) any hurried and ill-considered move to throw open great areas of unplanned and unserviced land would be wrong; and
- (e) a variety of controls should be investigated (eleven possibilities were suggested by the MRPA) and a suitable combination of them should be vigorously employed.

I do not see where the authority suggests a combination of a variety of rules to be applied; but with the attention that has been given to the matter in the Press, and with all the authorities that have come forward with solutions of one kind or another, and with the authority constantly examining the situation, it should give to the Government something which it could implement, if only on the basis of a trial. On page 13, when dealing with speculations, the report states in part—

Every indication was that land was not available, not because of a lack of physical supply, but because it was being held off the ordinary market or was being priced too high.

It went on to state—

It discussed a number of remedial measures and recommended them to the Government for investigation and implementation.

I hope to see some response to that statement in the very near future. The report continues—

The planning people believe that it will be possible, even in this difficult field, for a combination of far-reaching measures to be put forward. If resolutely implemented, these would result in the release on the market, at reasonable prices, of a large number of residential blocks. With the other measures being taken by the MRPA, this should satisfy the legitimate needs of homebuilders in the community.

Such optimism does not go hand in hand with facts. I hope we will reach beyond the stage of hesitancy; beyond the point where so many things are known to be wrong, and where nothing is done to curb the obvious problem. Suggestions are made that this should be done and that should be done, but nothing is ever done.

On page 27 of the report we find a paragraph dedicated to the price of land which states—

The Department's representatives attended all meetings of the Inter-departmental Committee on the Taxation of Unimproved Land and submitted to it a number of memoranda on the price and availability of land. The Department has high hopes that the Committee's report, and the reception and implementation of it by the community will amount to a determined, comprehensive and effective attack on this worldwide problem.

Let us hope that something comes out of that paragraph. One could go on reading and be excused for feeling that we are no further ahead with this very vital problem this year than we were last year.

We must, however, have a far greater knowledge of the programme now; we must all be conscious of the fact that as a problem it is infinitely worse this year than it was last year. On the one hand we are given an assurance that sufficient land is available, and we are then told that it is not possible to obtain such land because the price is too high. The continuing land boom is one of the longest that has been known in the history of this State.

In spite of all the platitudes we hear, nothing definite is done, and if nothing definite continues to be done the problem will continue to spiral for another twelve months; and it will become steadily worse.

In appendix A of the report, on page 29, we find a schedule of loans tabulated. It is interesting to see these figures set out in such a stark manner, because it gives one an idea as to the very high cost of money. It is surprising, when money is borrowed, even on what might be termed a cheap loan, how very high the amount of interest is in terms of repayment of the principal.

For instance, on the 5th April, 1962, a loan of \$200,000 was issued, repayable on the 5th April, 2002, at 5½ per cent. The sinking fund created at the date of the report was \$9,127—that is towards the repayment of the loan. But the amount of interest paid on that loan to date is \$58,750. At the moment the total sinking fund contributions in the loan schedule are \$81,850, with the amount of interest paid totalling \$514,707.

We see from that what a tremendous drain on the fund is the item of interest alone. The amount borrowed over the year 1966 was \$600,000, on which no sinking fund has yet been paid, though an amount of \$7,375 has been expended by way of interest. On the total loans up to date of \$3,690,000 there is an outstanding liability of \$3,608,142. So it will be seen that the repayment progress is very small

indeed. While considering the sinking fund figure in the statement of receipts and expenditure, I looked for an item which would show the interest-earning capacity of the money, established probably with the Treasury by the sinking fund itself, acting on the assumption that the sinking fund amounts were being placed to trust accounts to the point of redemption.

I found no figure which would lead me to believe that was the case. But when I turned to the statement for 1966 I found among the receipts an item of "interest on unused balance moneys at Treasury—\$6,685," which I took to be accrued interest on the established sinking fund.

That item, however, is not in the current report, and I wonder just why it was in the previous report. I also know there is an item of principal, which I would take to be a principal repaid at \$5,247 in the present report, which did not appear in the 1966 report.

Does that mean there are some loans being directly repaid by way of principal which are not shown in the schedule? If not, just what does the item mean?

The Hon. L. A. Logan: I do not know, I would have to find out.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I realise that some loans are funded on a different basis from the old established idea of sinking funds, but in any case I feel they would be listed, and from that list we would be able to ascertain how much was interest and how much was principal. It is obvious from a study of the report that the authority needs a great deal more money.

In the brief time I have had to compare the two reports and study them it seems quite obvious to me that a tremendous burden will be placed on interest on loans, particularly when we have regard for the enormous amount of interest that will accrue if we keep on borrowing for projects from time to time, and if the repayments are to continue for 25 to 30 years.

If we consider this matter on a cash basis there is no doubt that progress will be very slow. If we borrow at great depth the burden of interest will be felt for a quarter of a century. It would seem that development within the metropolitan area at the moment hinges on drainage, which is most expensive; and the authority has made it clear that nothing can be done until drainage and sewerage facilities are in fact ahead of building. If that is so, it would seem that under the present policy there will be no great speeding-up of the programme but rather a process of slowing down.

The *West Australian* newspaper came out with the heading. "Metropolitan Region Planning Authority Urges a Variety of Land Controls." Whilst many of us do not like the word "control," I feel it will have to be a case of control, step by step with development of some of the principles

enumerated in this report. I know the Minister has a problem; and I know he looks at this problem daily. No doubt he worries about it personally; but I feel once again something positive must be done very soon.

I wonder that some thought has not been given to using leasehold land held by the Crown, whereby building could take place but the land would not be sold. The land could be used for the purpose of building, but it would remain Crown land forever.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The State Housing Commission has leasehold conditions in its legislation.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: It does not operate on it to any great extent.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It operates a contract of sale which, from the purchaser's point of view, is a better form of contract.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: The idea I have in mind is one to act as a buffer to the process of buying and selling, because I believe it would take very little to stop some of this speculation. Many of the buyers I know who, in turn, became sellers, are not speculators in the sense that they are moneyed people. Surprisingly enough they are young people who are on the bandwagon, buying land on terms and selling whenever there is a profit available. If this field alone were curbed, it would cause a stationary point in the finances of these people, because obviously they are working on deposits.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You are suggesting the stopping of something which is as old as time.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I suppose the Minister is back to what I first said. Every time a suggestion is put forward it is said that that has been tried, but everything will be all right. It does not do the Minister justice to smile. Why should one bother to get up and say anything at all? Why not let the State go on happily and contentedly; why not let costs spiral because, as sure as God is in heaven everything is all right in the world?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It is not in your make-up to take advantage of a helpful interjection.

The Hon. J. Dolan: The definition of "helpful" is the thing.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I know the Minister would help me in certain circumstances.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: In most.

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: It is a bit like the actuary. I regard the Minister in rather the same manner as Mr. Wise regarded the actuary. I did not think the Minister was helping me on that occasion.

I have almost concluded my remarks, but because of the assistance I have received, I am not able to wind up with a climax. I will do what the Minister has

done; pass the problem over to the Minister for Town Planning.

THE HON. F. R. WHITE (West) [4.34 p.m.]: I rise to support the Loan Bill but, in doing so, with your permission, Mr. Deputy President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Sir, other members, and the staff, for the wonderful co-operation and assistance they have given me during my very short period in this House. For this help and advice I am grateful; and I have been very surprised at the courtesies extended to me. I thank one and all and trust that members will convey my thanks to anybody who is absent at this particular time.

With those few remarks, I should like to speak to the Loan Bill. During my short period in this Chamber, I have been impressed with the amending legislation that has been introduced. In times like the present, legislation must be continually reviewed and brought up to date. I have seen obsolete passages amended and brought up to date during my brief stay here and I feel this shows the Government is a very worthy one. In these rapidly changing times, together with expanding development, it is necessary to bring the legislation up to date in order to make for better Government.

However, though a great deal of legislation has been amended, I think we are all aware many irregularities still exist. I do intend during the afternoon to speak about some of those irregularities.

For example, one minor anomaly is in connection with school children. We find at the moment if school students wish to travel by railway during the Christmas vacation, they can travel at half fare, less a special rebate which they can obtain if they have filled in a railway concession form. At the moment, if a child is under the age of four years, that child can travel free of charge. However, during the school vacation, a child between the age of four years and six years must pay half fare. That child cannot get any further reduction whilst its older brothers and sisters can do so, provided they fill in a railway concession form.

As I said, this is only a minor anomaly, but during the afternoon I will mention a few more that exist and which should be rectified. Still dealing with railway concession forms, I think many members may be surprised to learn that there is no provision on these railway concession forms for the signature of a parent.

A child who wishes to travel on a train during vacation periods goes to his principal or headmaster, as the case may be, obtains the principal's signature and the school stamp on the form. Following this, all the child has to do is to present the form to the railway station—without its parent's knowledge if so desired—in order to get a cheap train fare to travel, not only

throughout the State, but throughout the Commonwealth.

If an adolescent wishes to travel without his or her parents' knowledge at this cheap rate, it is possible for that adolescent to do so. I feel this is a minor anomaly, but it should be rectified. There should be some provision so that a parent may know that a child is making use of this particular avenue of transport. However, as I said, this is only a minor matter.

There are several anomalies within our legislation; and, as I said before, the Government, at the present time, is rectifying many of them. Nevertheless, I feel there is an avenue for the appointment of Select Committees—not departmental or parliamentary committees, but joint party committees, or party committees. Departmental committees are handicapped as they do not have the avenues open to them in order to inquire, or subpoena witnesses to provide the information that is required. Select Committees can unearth information which otherwise would be very difficult to obtain. A Select Committee should have at least one impartial member incorporated within its membership. Very often departmental committees, and so forth, are not composed of impartial people. We find departmental officers being appointed to investigate fields into which they have already inquired and for which they have produced findings. They are, to a certain degree, already partial to certain avenues of thought. That is why I feel Select Committees are preferable; and impartial persons should be appointed.

I do not want members to think I am criticising the Government as I certainly am not. I have already stated it is doing a wonderful job. However, no organisation or Government is perfect; there is always room for improvement. I feel there is still room for improvement to be made to some of the legislation on our Statute book. We have, of necessity, to give attention to some of the anomalies which do exist.

Anomalies can be very irritating to the average people in the street as they can be confused when there is a lack of consistency. I feel it is our responsibility wherever possible to overcome this confusion in the public mind; and some of the avenues which I think should be investigated are in the areas of a more equitable method of rating and taxing. Another area, as mentioned this afternoon by Mr. Willesee, is in the reorganisation of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority and the Town Planning Department. There is also the field of education; and most important of all there is the matter of public relations between departmental officers and the general public.

If I may, I shall deal with these one by one. Firstly, I will refer to a more equitable method of rating and taxing. As members are aware, I represent the West

Province in which there are 11 shire councils, eight of which can be referred to as being on the fringe of the metropolitan area. There is the Wanneroo Shire, the Swan-Guildford Shire, the Mundaring Shire, the Toodyay Shire, the Kalamunda Shire, the Rockingham Shire, the Kwinana Shire, and the Armadale-Kelmscott Shire, all being on the fringe of the metropolitan area.

All methods of rating and taxing in this area are based on unimproved capital value. With unimproved capital value, we find that regularly, at the request of the local authority, a valuer from the Lands Department will move into those areas and assess the value of land on recent sales within the area. This unimproved capital value is set as a basis not only for shire rates, but also for land tax, vermin tax, and noxious weeds tax. In amendment No. 15 to the Land Tax Assessment Act, 1907, on page 5, in paragraphs (a), (b), (c), and (d), are written the provisions which authorise the method of setting the unimproved capital value.

The general easy way of describing this method is the values, or prices, which have been obtained in recent sales within a reasonable vicinity of the block under consideration—that is, the block devoid of any improvements whatsoever. We find that in the fringe areas, land which is zoned as rural is affected. A high value is placed upon that land. Speculators might have moved in nearby and they might have purchased urban or rural land in broad acres which they envisage as becoming available for development. This land is close to rural properties which cannot be utilised for other than rural purposes. The land tax assessors then come along and assess on the high price paid by the speculators nearby.

Recently, in the Shire of Kalamunda, the marshalling yard area was transferred from the Welshpool complex to Forrestfield. The Government acquired land—that is, purchased it by agreement—and, I understand, only two properties had to be resumed. The agreed price varied between \$1,000 per acre, and \$1,700 per acre. That means the value of \$1,700 per acre was placed on that rural land by the Government, to acquire land for the Forrestfield marshalling yards—as I understand they are now being called.

In the near future there will be a re-valuation. Land in close proximity to this area obviously must have its value placed between \$1,000 and \$1,700 per acre. This will obviously cause hardship to the people using that land for primary production. We find that all rural properties being used for primary production have to pay shire rates, vermin tax, and water rates where scheme water is laid on.

In June, 1964, in the Shire of Kalamunda, one property had an unimproved capital value of \$2,240. That was for an

area of 20 acres used wholly and solely for primary production. However, as at the 30th June, 1967, this land was revalued and it is now valued at \$8,600, which is an increase of slightly over 380 per cent. The Shire of Kalamunda realised that it could not charge 3.8 times its former rate, so it reduced the rate in the dollar and made a more equitable charge against this property owner. Land tax, which did not apply in this particular instance because it was a rural property, obviously did not come under consideration.

Regarding the vermin tax and the noxious weeds tax, prior to the 30th June, 1964, the amount was \$6.48. However, since then the tax has been increased to \$24.62; a little less than four times as much; in other words, an increase of 380 per cent. in the vermin and noxious weeds taxes, which have to be paid. The Government did not decrease the rate in the dollar at all.

I do realise there are great problems, and I realise the Government cannot decrease the rate in the dollar, but with rural properties which are used as such there must be some different method of rating. There must be a basic control plan whereby increases in the value of land nearby—which is used for residential and industrial purposes—will not affect the value of the land which is used for primary production.

We find the same problem applies to other people living in ordinary homes on, say, a five-acre property, but not necessarily a primary-producing property. It might be an old couple who have been established for many years. Due to the rapid development taking place, and the area being zoned as urban, the land has to be rated on a much higher value and very often those people are faced with hardship and have to dispose of their property to an agent who might be prepared to buy it. In these cases it is difficult to find any solution to the problem. It appears that those people must conform to changing times, and dispose of the land and try to find an equitable situation with the same type of home with the money they receive for their property.

I point out that in the case of rural properties there is a necessity for the reconsideration of the method of rating. I have merely quoted a 20-acre property where there has been a 380 per cent. increase in the unimproved capital value. Within the same fringe area, and extending through many shires, we have properties of up to 140 and 150 acres which are used for grazing cattle and sheep. Obviously, by the time the owners of those properties pay rates and taxes it is not an economical proposition to use the land for the purpose for which it was zoned. Many people have to pay out a sum greater than the basic wage to be able to remain on

the land and use it for the purpose for which it was zoned.

I would like to point out that there is need to look into this field. Obviously it has been examined for a long time, but we have not been able to come up with a solution. I feel that this is a situation which would call for the appointment of a Select Committee to investigate the problem to see whether it could suggest a solution. Unfortunately, Mr. Willesee has quoted some of the instances concerning the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority which I intended to quote. I consider there has been an absence of forward planning by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority. To me, an area such as our metropolitan area should be planned for at least a minimum of 30 years ahead—or even 50 years ahead. However, we find it is not planned so far into the future.

A report on the undeveloped land south of the Swan River has been presented to us, and also we have had the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority annual report for 1967, which states that we have sufficient urban land for a maximum of 12½ years ahead. The guarantee is eight years ahead, and eight years is not a very long time for planning. The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority is not planning far enough into the future.

I can quote instances from my own shire where this lack of forward planning is evident. I think that in the reasonably near future things which I have been advocating for the last four years, and which have met with nothing but negative replies to the effect that it will be 15 years before they will be considered, will take place. I think the time will be even less and these things will occur in the comparatively near future—within the next 12 months if some of the whispers—unfounded, of course—can be believed.

We find that in the report on land available south of the Swan River the near metropolitan shires were mentioned. However, the fringe shires were not referred to. The report stated that there is an increase of 10 per cent. per year in the building rate in the named shires. But in the Shire of Kalamunda, for example, the increase per year is far above that figure. If we go back only three years the value of building was \$2,000,000. However, for only the first three months of this financial year—I cannot state this as being factual—the value of the building rate was near to \$2,000,000.

So obviously the building rate is increasing more rapidly than 10 per cent. per annum in that shire. This area, even though it is south of the Swan River, has not been mentioned in the south of the river report. I trust that somebody will be able to explain why because these omissions tend to upset the figures which are quoted. Personally, I do not have much

faith in the figures which have been presented. I have records and newspaper cuttings of statements made by the planning authority stating that in one fringe shire there were sufficient urban blocks to cater for a population of 45,000 to 47,000 people.

An engineer in that particular fringe shire took out a physical count of the properties which would ultimately be available for urban development, and he found that the figure was far less than that quoted. He did a physical count using the actual size of the existing lots; that is, one fifth acre—generally referred to by the planning authority as a quarter-acre—quarter-acre, three eighths of an acre, half-acre, and so on. The local authority expects the larger blocks to remain as such, but the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority apparently calculated the future development on the basis of quarter-acre—or blocks of 32 perches. However, as I have said, the figures which have been presented are not 100 per cent. correct.

I would like to see a continuous review made by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, and I should also like to see an investigation carried out to see how this department is operating. We must have far-distant planning. Eight years, as quoted in the report, is not planning sufficiently far ahead.

People who buy land now do not expect something which does not suit them to occur in eight years' time. Those people should be able to buy a property and know that for the next 30 years the present zoning will be guaranteed. They can then settle there, raise their children, and be quite happy. If they go to an area and then, virtually tomorrow, rezoning takes place, they have to move elsewhere. This obviously leads to dissatisfaction.

The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority also stipulates that if one owns a rural property it cannot be subdivided unless the subdivided blocks can be used economically for rural purposes. Some rural properties are being subdivided into comparatively small lots; they are even being subdivided into lots of a size suitable for residential purposes. I have no objection to that. What I do object to is that if one has a rural lot of a size suitable for residential purposes the Town Planning Board will not recommend to the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority that it be used for this purpose, nor will the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority rezone a rural lot of this kind so that it can be used for residential purposes.

In such circumstances council by-laws cannot be applied as they should be. If the council by-laws are not complied with by the owner of a rural lot he can meet with many problems. Therefore, in my opinion, this is another avenue of town planning which could be investigated by

a committee and recommendations made that, for the sake of health and convenience, rural lots suitable for residential purposes should be rezoned to urban.

I also consider that a Select Committee could be appointed to make inquiries into the field of education, because many weaknesses in the education system are apparent. In the high schools a basic course is set which must be covered in the school year, but there is no uniformity between the various high schools as to how the course should start and finish. For example, in one high school section A of the course will be commenced in the first term and the course will be continued through to the final term, when section Z is dealt with. However, another high school may start section Z of the course in the first term of the school year and finish the school year by dealing with section A.

So it can happen that a child attending a school in the country which is teaching section A at the beginning of the year can be transferred to another high school elsewhere which is teaching section Z at the beginning of the school year. Thus the education of this child suffers because he has to make a fresh start on a new section. No attempt is made to adopt a uniform method so that a child can go through the course progressively from section A to section Z in the school year. Obviously there is a need for co-ordination between the high schools in regard to the presentation of various courses.

I also wish to refer to school textbooks. If one cares to examine the books in any school library one will find numerous text books by American publishers. Americans do not spell many words the same as we do. For example, an American dictionary will show the word "centre" spelt as "c-e-n-t-e-r." Many parents complain about how poorly their children spell. One often hears complaints, also, about the poor quality of spelling among University students. The fact that so many textbooks published in America are to be found in our school libraries is possibly one of the reasons for bad spelling amongst school children and University students. Further, they are saturated with American sayings in films and on TV.

This is another avenue of our education system that should be investigated. We should try to encourage the publication of textbooks which are written by Australian educators. If Australian educators wrote and produced school textbooks the children would be presented with the correct spelling of words which undoubtedly would train them to spell correctly. If this were done, and if steps were taken to present the school courses in a regular and proper manner, great improvement would be effected in the education field.

Whilst on the subject of education, another important aspect is the necessity

for one to have paper qualifications for the purposes of obtaining promotion. Among members of our teaching profession we have men without paper qualifications, but who are most efficient in their work. Unfortunately, however, without such qualifications they cannot gain promotion and reach the top of the ladder in their profession. Undoubtedly, paper qualifications are most desirable, but so are practical qualifications. The man who possesses both qualifications, and who has reached the ultimate in the education standard, would represent the perfect product of our education system.

It is also found that men who have many paper qualifications, but who have had no practical experience, often make very poor teachers; yet they can be promoted to the top and be placed in a position where they can tell others what to do. On the other hand, there is the practical man who has no paper qualifications. He, perhaps, has met with adverse financial circumstances in his youth and he has been unable to take tertiary education courses or other courses which would add to his qualifications. Yet he could prove to be an excellent teacher because he is intelligent and is qualified in all respects, except that he does not hold the requisite piece of paper which will take him to the top of the ladder and place him in a position where he could guide and direct others.

To support my arguments I can cite a recent salary classification. When this was made a rather strange anomaly occurred. One gentleman, for whom I have the greatest respect, is at the moment an acting deputy principal. Three years ago he was a senior master. In the near future he will have to revert to the position of senior master because he lacks the piece of paper which he must hold if he is to be paid more than a grade 15 salary. When he reverts to the position of senior master he will be on grade 15, and it is very likely he will have under him a member of the staff who is on a higher grade and drawing a higher salary than he is drawing. This is a ridiculous situation. It is obvious, therefore, that the system under which the salaries of teachers are paid should be investigated with a view to rectifying these various anomalies.

Another point I wish to make is that more and more teachers are being loaded with duties which should be performed by a clerk. At present a teacher has to perform administrative duties, such as the collection of banking money and various other clerical tasks because of the lack of available clerical assistants in schools. We find this applies particularly to high schools or secondary schools, but primary school teachers are still obliged to perform many such clerical duties.

In the secondary schools, after the term examinations are held the teachers are obliged to mark the examination papers.

They then have to record the marks on an examination sheet. Those marks are then recorded elsewhere on as many as five other documents. Yet any ordinary secretary or clerical assistant could be engaged on this work. A qualified teacher should be in the front of a class expounding his knowledge and developing the education of the children. Very often a teacher has to sit in front of a class while he records the marks given on the examination papers, and hence the children cannot be taught effectively.

Teachers should be teachers and not be taking the role of clerical assistants. Therefore this is another avenue in the education system of the State which could be investigated with a view to introducing two separate sections within the Education Department. One section would embrace all members of the teaching profession and the other section would be composed of administrative officers. In this way a teacher would be kept fully engaged on his proper duty of teaching children with a view to getting the most out of him in the teaching field. Those in the administrative section should be engaged on banking money and other clerical duties and so relieve the teachers of this work.

A great deal of money is spent on the training of a teacher so every endeavour should be made to allow him to teach as much as possible. Therefore, as I have said, in this field of education a Select Committee could be appointed to investigate and recommend ways and means of overcoming these anomalies. I have cited the instance of one man who is a senior master who is receiving less than his junior. This is one anomaly that could be rectified.

I also believe that experts in the Education Department, and in other departments, should advise us what they want. If they are not capable of advising us, their departmental superiors should be capable of performing this duty or, alternatively, their unions. Where we have a system that is not working at maximum efficiency—as I said before, there is no system that operates to perfection—obviously the people in charge are not capable of being able to direct their own future. Many people become complacent and very often someone is needed to stir them up, or to perform their duties for them. As leaders in Government we must take the initiative, and if we become aware of deficiencies in any system we should try to organise and control, with a view to rectifying any anomalies. I thank you, Mr. President, and the members of the House for listening to my speech.

THE HON. R. F. HUTCHISON (North-East Metropolitan) [5.14 p.m.]: I wish to make my contribution to the debate on the second reading of the Bill, and I will open my speech by referring to the housing problem we have in our midst. There is no doubt that this problem is the cause of many of the ills in our community at pres-

ent. The shortage of housing in Western Australia causes a great deal of mental stress and physical hardship which should not be imposed by any Government on any community.

Nearly all the problems I have had to deal with concern the lack of housing. The State Housing Commission has reached the stage where it cannot even provide houses for families who have been evicted, through no fault of their own. Humiliation and mental stress is being imposed on unfortunate tenants who are evicted and who cannot find alternative accommodation. I attribute the reason for so much child delinquency directly to the acute shortage of housing, ever since this Government took office.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: Tell us about the housing shortage when your Government was in office.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: We cleaned up the mess that had been left by the previous Government, and the next Labor Government will also be left to clean up the mess which this Government will leave behind. The previous Labor Government had almost reached the stage of providing houses for all those who were in need of housing, but then the Government changed. We could not help that; it was the will of society.

The cases which I have had to deal with will cause surprise to the House when I refer to them. Last week I went to court to try to help a man who had been given notice of eviction, but I could not do much for him. He has six children and he is an English-trained worker. After listening to this person's story the magistrate gave him a month to vacate the house. Since then he has been pestered by the owner to leave, and his already untenable position was made worse. I have made approaches to the Housing Commission to provide a home for him. This man requires a three-bedroomed home, because he has children of both sexes of varying ages. It cost him a day's work to appear before the court, only to be given an extension of one month to vacate the house. He came to Western Australia with a promise of work, and I can say that he has been in employment ever since he arrived here. Can any man be placed in a more hopeless position than this man is in? He cannot be provided with a roof over the heads of his six children, and the State cannot help.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What is his trade?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Don't ask me what is his pay!

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I asked you politely what is his trade.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I misheard the Minister. I thought he asked me what was this man's pay. I forget his trade; I did not write it down, but I will remember it shortly. I think he is engaged

in the electrical trade. Generally I do not go to court, but the position of this man was so desperate that I did on this occasion. This is not the only case I have had to deal with. Day after day I deal with similar cases.

I accuse this Government of putting everything into big business. It does not matter how much a country has; if it cannot house its people it is not worth living in, and this State is fast approaching that position.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: Are you saying Western Australia is not worth living in?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I will make my speech if the honourable member will permit me.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Silence was the grim reply!

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: More than half of the cases concerning the lack of housing have arisen as a result of the conditions created by this Government; for instance, the outrageous price of building blocks, and the things the Government does to encourage land agents. Instead of doing that it should ensure that the people who are brought to Western Australia are properly housed, because the wealth of a country is earned by the hands of the workers, and what they make represents that wealth. If it is machinery, it is the machine worker who makes this wealth. Because of the acute housing shortage the position is becoming so desperate that child delinquency and mental distress are following in its wake. Most stresses in the community—and nobody can say that stresses do not exist—are caused by the lack of housing. It is not only the members on the Labor side who are called upon to deal with housing problems; those opposite are, too. Half my time and half of my husband's time seems to be spent in dealing with housing cases. There does not appear to be an answer.

In the case of the person with six children I am still waiting for an answer for alternative accommodation to be provided. He is living in a strange country, and he is engaged in industry—although at this moment I do not remember his particular trade—but that is what is happening to him. I object to my spare time being taken up in dealing with matters such as this, when there is a simple answer. This Government threw away the policy of the Labor Party and of the previous Labor Government. The Labor Government had almost caught up with the lag in housing in 1959, just before it went out of office. If the present Government is defeated at the next election then the new Labor Government will be faced with the problem of overcoming the present lag in housing. It will make every attempt to house the people, because it knows happy homes make good nations. I do not want the Minister to make the mistake of believing there is no acute shortage of

housing in the community. Speculators are reaping a great harvest, but the family men are being given the worst deal which any community can give. This occurs when millions of dollars are being poured out on speculator projects and into big business. I have said that happy homes make happy people and that is a requisite to a decent, well-behaved society.

I can go on telling the House of the different cases I have dealt with, where court orders have been made and the tenants to be evicted are left in suspense. I have to leave those without families to fend for themselves, because the housing shortage is so acute; but in the case of men with large families something has to be done. If something is not done for them the results will burst out in our society, and that will be all the worse for us.

I have written down the amount which the Government has allocated for housing in the future. It is a sum of \$2,500,000, and this amount has been allocated to catch up with the backlog. To do that would probably require twice that amount.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: For the sake of accuracy will you quote the figure again?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: The figure is \$2,500,000.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: For what period?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: For the period shown.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What period?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I understand for a year or for three years.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You are the one who is telling us. Of course there is not much difference between a year and three years!

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: The way the present Government is going there will be no difference in its achievements, whether the period is one year or 10 years. The allocation for mental health services is \$1,200,000. Western Australia is fortunate in that it has a man of the calibre of Dr. Ellis in charge of those services. What is being done at the Claremont institution and in the mental health services is open for us all to see. When Dr. Ellis took over I remember the controversy which arose in this Parliament; at that time mental health was the undernourished, poor relation of the Public Service. The position is very different today. I saw a report in the newspapers the other day in which Dr. Ellis mentioned the shortage of funds. If any man is doing a good job for the State he is. He has revolutionised the whole picture of mental health. I pay the Minister in charge a compliment for the improvement, because he is in favour of extending the facilities, but I suppose he cannot do what Cabinet will not allow him to do.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I am suspect now.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: With the rebirth of the mental hospital under the guidance of Dr. Ellis and his staff of leading doctors, a sum much greater than \$1,200,000 is needed to bring the mental health services up to the standard required in a modern society. I am not talking about the requirements of 10 or 20 years ago, but of the requirements of a modern society of today. That sum leaves much to be desired.

I first visited the Claremont institution officially in 1954, when I entered Parliament. At that time it was almost a limbo of the lost, and the complaints I made were loud and sustained. We have now reached a stage where mental health has attained a respectable standing in society, but the pattern is far from complete. It needs urgent consideration by Ministers, because of the human distress that is caused by mental disability which reaches the stage where a hospital should care for and rehabilitate patients, if possible, to fit them into a fast-developing atomic age.

Stresses can reach us all; so it behoves the Government to act early and surely in this matter. With the stresses caused by the fast pace at which we are developing, with a war on our hands, and with the different ways in which we have to live, more mental breakdowns than I have ever known before are evident—and my life has not been a short one.

I call on the Government to ensure that the mental health services under the new regime are provided with enough funds, in order that they might do what they should do to meet the urgent needs in this matter. People who visit the mental health institutions—especially the one at Claremont—will be amazed at the improvement in conditions that has been made since the new effort has been put into effect. I give credit where credit is due; I am not mean in doing that. I wish I could say that this Government will make available, and keep on making available, the necessary funds without question. We have good men at the wheel, and we have some of the finest officers here from Victoria. I think they are levelheaded and sensible enough to ask for just what they want, and I am sure they do not want to be flamboyant.

It is wonderful to see the happiness in the faces of the people in the Claremont institution, although they still have a great disability. A few years ago when I went there with Mr. Burns, who started the Mentally Incurable Children's Association with me, we were horrified at the misery shown on the faces of the inmates. The conditions nearly drove Mr. Burns mad and that is why Nulsen Haven was established.

We have many groups in our midst who work with handicapped children, and one

of these which is doing a fine job is the Mentally Retarded Children's Association. These children are referred to as slow learners, an expression to which I have always objected.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: The attribute of slow learning sometimes is to be found in those of advanced years.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Yes, I know. The following wonderful feature by Athol Thomas appeared in *The West Australian* on the 6th November:—

The Best We Can Do Is A Stable

The Como day-minding centre for mentally-retarded children is not the place to go for those who want to sleep without dreaming of the night of their visit.

One of the reasons I am reading this article is to indicate that we have not made anywhere near the progress which is necessary—and necessary soon. The article continues—

It used to be a stable and it is still a patchwork building. Bits and pieces have been stuck on in home-handyman fashion with any available material.

In one of the two playrooms, a corner of the low iron roof is lifting. There is no lining and in summer the room is an oven. The floor is covered with a piece of old linoleum. The other playroom is better but both rooms are too small.

The centre has no hot water and no bathroom, though both are badly needed several times a day.

There are two lavatories. One is outside the stable, the other simply a pedestal in the middle of the wash-room.

But it is the best that the Slow Learning Children's Group, with its commitments for half a dozen centres of the other kinds, can do.

It is not enough.

The converted stable is the State's only day-minding centre for children of school age who are too retarded mentally for the Education Department's special classes.

Under emergency conditions, it handles 40 children of the 100 or more in this mentally-retarded group in the metropolitan area.

They attend for only a few hours two or three days a week. The 60 who have nowhere to go have been called, by one parent, the excluded.

The staff at Como is untrained. Its only qualification is dedication to the work.

The director, a smiling middle-aged woman who seemed to have two pairs of hands, told me about some of the children.

One, a boy of seven, was not educable or trainable. He slithered across the floor like an animal, occasionally taking a fleeting interest in noise.

"His mother has two others like him," the director said. "How she copes I don't know. I suppose it's because she loves them."

A teenage girl was described as a walking doll. All she could do was carry food to her mouth. Everything else had to be done for her.

The director introduced me to a boy who took my hand and held it hard. He made a noise of greeting.

"He is happy here," said the director. "At home he gets bored and pulls his hair out."

Most of the children could be trained socially, she said (she meant to go to the lavatory and to eat). But often this job was beyond their mothers.

The children had to be watched 24 hours a day every day in the year. It was no wonder many mothers had nervous breakdowns.

I asked Mr. D. McGillivray, the organising secretary of the group, how 60 or more children like the ones I saw could be excluded in our affluent society.

"The Education Department says they're untrainable—and it's right," he said.

"Mental Health Services tells us it has no room for the children—and it is right.

"It is left to us, a voluntary group, to do the best we can."

This year the government has increased its maintenance grant to the group to \$31,000—an increase of \$15,000. It will rise to \$41,000 in 1969-70.

"But the plain fact is that with our existing centres and others being opened, even this increase is not enough," Mr. McGillivray said. "The submission we made to the government for the year ended September 30, 1966, showed a difference between income and expenses of all facilities to be \$30,000.

"What we need is help on a per capita basis—particularly as the number of children who need our care is increasing."

Mr. McGillivray said it would cost \$30 a week to keep a child fulltime at Pyrtton or Claremont—if accommodation was available. Admittedly, Como was run on a cheeseparing budget but the cost was only \$5 a child.

"Mental Health Services agrees that day activities are essential but that they have no money available from their vote," he said.

I interpolate here to ask "Why?" The article continues—

The group wants a new centre in the Fremantle area. It would cost about \$15,000.

"The Education Department claims that this cost and the running costs are not its responsibility," Mr. McGillivray said. "And so the children are excluded. Mental Health Services and the Education Department say they cannot help. The children do not get pensions till they are 16. We have had to go to the public to find \$30,000 a year."

This state of affairs led Mr. T. Dundas Smith, of Doubleview, the father of a boy excluded from a school, to suggest with bitterness that perhaps a gas chamber was the answer. He claimed that the number of slow-learning children was increasing by 200 a year.

He agreed with Mr. McGillivray that more day centres were the answer—in addition to re-building the stable at Como.

There is a ray of sunshine for the excluded. A new \$12,000 day-minding centre will be opened in Inglewood early next year. The North Perth Lions' Club has contributed \$3,000 and has promised more help and the government has also made a grant. The centre will relieve some of the pressure at Como.

Mr. McGillivray said at least three more centres were needed—at Fremantle, near one of the northern beaches and perhaps in Victoria Park.

He suggested that councils might give up to an acre of land, that service groups like Lions, Rotary and Apex might help with money and that the government could then make a matching grant.

"These centres would give us a breather," he said. "The relief that would be brought to mothers of afflicted children could not be described."

The new day-minding centres would be only a beginning, Mr. McGillivray said. As the children grew older, many of them would have to be admitted to an institution.

"As far as we know, no suitable institution of this kind is under consideration," he said. "There was a time when W.A. led Australia in coping with the problem of mental deficiency but now we are marking time."

"The answer may be in the formation of a mental deficiency department, separate from Mental Health Services."

"There has to be an answer somewhere."

I have here a letter from a woman who has one of these mentally retarded children. I have spent a week trying to help her, and the Minister has been very co-operative; in fact, as co-operative as he could be. After much worry and effort, I was able to get her child admitted to the Nathaniel Harper Home, through Mr. McGillivray. I thank the Minister for his efforts in this case.

This woman was deserted by her husband in Broome. She feels she must work to keep her family. She has three children on her hands and has this Mongoloid boy. I spent a week visiting every department and place I could think of in an effort to have this child taken off her hands so she could earn a living. I have received about four letters from her and I want to read the last one I received to indicate what it means to a woman in these circumstances to obtain help. The letter reads—

Dear Mrs. Hutchison,

Christian is now happily settled in at Nathaniel Harper Home under the excellent care of the Matron, who impressed me considerably. Within minutes he was playing with the other children, and did not even want to stop playing to say goodbye to me when I left, this should have hurt, but I am so pleased that it is this way as the heartbreak of saying goodbye, even for a short while to a child who clings is very worrying, he has found happiness with people of his own kind, and I am glad for him.

One thing is rather worrying, Mr. McGillivray mentioned that Christian's stay in Nathaniel Harper Home is only for two weeks, yet Matron seemed to think it was permanent as she explained about the child endowment being transferred to the Home, and asked whether I objected to Christian having the usual injections and so forth, and so of course I am a little worried as I do have to find work as soon as possible.

Once again, I thank you so very much for all you have done.

Although this woman now has her child at last placed in this centre, she is still left with the worry and doubt about the permanency of the arrangement. Why is that necessary? The child was admitted, but the mother has still been left in doubt. She is a good type of woman. I understand her husband cleared off with someone else in Broome. My daughter brought her plight to my attention and that is how I came to help.

Both the Minister and I tried all sorts of places in an effort to help this lady but all we received were refusals. How we were successful finally, I do not know, but it must have been through Mr. McGillivray. For three weeks this woman has been worried and has had to go

through all this misery in an effort to get a child admitted to a centre where he could be cared for.

These are the things which worry me and this is the only place where I can make my thoughts known. The Government is not doing its job because it is not looking after those who need care. The responsibility is left to the parents or guardians of these children. It is because the responsibility is not being shouldered in the right quarter that delinquency is so rife in the community today. This is a bad business because our gaols are filling up very quickly and the inmates must be taken care of at Government expense. I cannot see the common sense in putting all our effort into things which do not matter instead of helping those who desperately need it. These include the slow learners, the spastics, and other groups.

Another group which is severely handicapped is composed of the aged people. I have seen more unhappy aged people in our "C"-class hospitals than I ever thought was possible. If the Minister does not believe me, I will take him and show him. These "C"-class hospitals need a thorough cleanout with a new broom. People are being paid to look after these aged folk, and they should do their job properly. Those people from Claremont who are able to go out are being placed in these hospitals. However, having been in a sheltered place, and having made many acquaintances and friends in Claremont, they are most unhappy to be transferred to a strange place, especially so late in life. It is a cruel thing, and this Government just does not seem to care about these people who feel so miserable.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is absolute and utter nonsense!

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: It is not utter nonsense!

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It—

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: How can it be nonsense when the situation exists?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I—

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: You prove it is utter nonsense and I will beg your pardon!

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I am trying—

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Does not the Minister believe what I am telling him?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You don't give me a chance to get a word in edgeways.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: The Minister does not appear to believe me, but I could prove it to him if he would give me a day or two of his time. I could do just as much for him as some of the wealthy people do.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I ask the honourable member to address herself to the Chair and to take no notice of interjections.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: What I am trying—

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I am sorry, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT: I ask the honourable member to address the Chair and take no notice of the Minister's interjections. I am sure we will make much more progress that way.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I like to have a good row occasionally.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I would not like to have a good row; I know which side I would be on.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: These things are happening and something must be done unless we are to become a lawless society. Surely we do not want that in Western Australia. It is lawless enough at the present time. These are the things which breed discontent and unhappiness. I emphasise that happy homes make happy people, and happy people make good societies. No-one can get away from that truth. I have reared a family of seven children on my own and I learnt that at least.

I wish to refer to an editorial which I cut out of the *Daily News* of the 15th November. The article is headed, "Time for Revision" and it deals with the deserted wife problem. Of all the knocks on my door, at least half of them, and probably more, are from deserted wives who are in trouble. Sometimes they are worried about their living accommodation because they are afraid of being put out if they cannot pay the rent. Sometimes the children get into bother when the deserted wives have to leave them in order to go out to work.

When I consider the great number of problems with which I am faced as a member of Parliament, I begin to wonder to which I should give priority. The article I have mentioned refers to a woman who was taken to court because she had done wrong and had transgressed the law. I am not excusing wrong nor, for one moment, am I suggesting that she should have done what she did. However, it shows the stress under which people are living. The article reads in part as follows:—

For many women faced with the severe costs of raising and educating children, their position poses a cruel dilemma: Either they and their children live in miserable circumstances or they break the law.

A man can desert his wife and, if he can keep out of the way of the law, he does not have any problems. However, the forgotten wife receives very little help and, as a consequence, has to go out to work. Half the problem of children on the street stems from the fact that many mothers have to go out to work in order to earn their own living. I do not know the answer, but I wish some Minister would give

thought to this matter. These cases are a sign of community insecurity and mental stress. The other day I visited a woman whose husband is in Fremantle Gaol for a crime which he has committed. The wife maintains that he committed the crime as a result of psychological disorder and he needs psychiatric treatment. However, she is facing all the trouble in the world to try to get him that treatment. When a woman sticks to a man who has committed a very bad crime against society, such as this man has done, he must have some good in him.

I wish now to refer to the first item which I mentioned; that is, housing. I intend to complain and to censure the Government as much as I can over the housing situation. The Government is doing nothing to alleviate the problem of land prices. The other day I saw land, which was put aside by a previous Labor Minister for the purpose of State housing and to provide homes for ordinary working people, sold at a colossal price to speculators. The land is at Mt. Yokine.

It made my blood boil to see it happen; because the Government could have made the land available for State housing and so relieved a certain amount of distress which exists in the community now. Many working people are almost pioneers in that they are forced further and further out of town because of the price of housing. They are not very affluent and do not have motorcars, with the result that their only means of getting from place to place is to ride a bicycle or walk.

Tradesmen are sent all over the place. I know this personally, because I have a son who is a carpenter and he has to travel all over the place. The motorcar has become a necessity for ordinary working people, if they can raise the money to buy one, because they must have some means of travelling to work. I refer in particular to tradesmen, such as carpenters as I have mentioned, or others engaged in the building trade. This kind of tradesman is sent all over the place and his life is being made more difficult all the time. I am appalled that land is sold in the suburbs for an exorbitant price and the working people have to go to the perimeter of the metropolitan area to live. They should be given a better deal than that.

I now wish to speak on women teachers. I am happy to see that at long last the Government has given way a little so far as female teachers are concerned. However, I am critical of one aspect and, that is, during absence for childbirth, they are not to receive any pay. It virtually means that a woman who is a teacher is paying for her ability to have a child, because she is penalised. Men's minds work in stupid ways at times, and I can never make them out. What reasoning is involved? The woman is teaching and the Government is happy to have her as a teacher, but she is penalised when she has a child.

The Hon. C. E. Griffiths: You are talking about married women?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Naturally I am talking about married women. They can do what they like before marriage, but as soon as they are married the trouble starts. This is quite true.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You have not discovered anything there, have you?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: A child is a gift of nature, or is supposed to be. The ability to have a child should be regarded by the community as a gift. Through force of circumstances, men have given way on the usefulness of women in the work force. They certainly have not given way out of the goodness of their hearts. It is sheer force of circumstances which enables women to enter the work force. A teacher is allowed to marry, but she is not allowed to have a child without being penalised. Will you tell me the logic of that, Mr. Dolan?

The Hon. J. Dolan: Don't ask me.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable member cannot ask for interjections, and must address the Chair.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I am always in trouble, Mr. President, and I am sorry. That provision in the legislation is the result of a man's reasoning, and I do not speak very often on the subject. Men are supposed to be the rulers of the world, because of their reasoning powers. I wonder! I think a much more reasonable situation would exist if there were equality through everything in life. The provision to which I have just referred is the silliest I have ever seen.

Previously I took up the case of a young school teacher who was married and who had been sacked. She was attending the teachers' college and had to repay all the money involved. Mr. President, I am sure you will remember that I brought the case to Parliament. In fact, it started the amendment that has now been made.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Don't kid yourself!

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: The Government is short of teachers and, for this reason, is allowing married women into the profession. However, as I have said, if they have children they are penalised by having to pay for it. This is the poorest thing I have ever heard of. I am ashamed to be amongst men all of the time, when men are responsible for this kind of reasoning. I am going to ask the Minister to have this provision altered, and I will be on his back all the time until it is.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I wish you would not use that expression.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: It is not half as bad as some of the expressions which the Minister uses. I cannot be a perfect lady all of the time when I am amongst such company as some of the members in the Chamber. I have pointed

out that it is brainpower and intelligence which matters in teaching. I am sure everyone is recognising this fact. Women, of course, are equally intelligent as men. Women are born with the same faculties as men; and an intelligent woman, the same as an intelligent man, is born that way. The only disability from which women suffer is when men have not been fair to them during their life.

I have a final suggestion to make to the Minister. If we abolished the Legislative Council, we could pay many of our social debts. This would be a very good thing, and a great gift to the community. The money which it costs to keep the Legislative Council of Western Australia in existence could be used to pay for the social services of Western Australia.

THE HON. F. J. S. WISE (North) [5.57 p.m.]: Mr. President, I hope I will be able to finish before the tea adjournment but this may be a pious hope. I wish to speak on a matter which, in my opinion, is of great national importance. Everyone in Western Australia—and, indeed, in Australia—has benefited from, and been overjoyed with, the remarkable increase in the economics of the State, brought about by the discovery of metals. We have all benefited from some of the finds of important minerals for which rewards and bonuses have been paid. The discoverers of uranium were paid from the Commonwealth Consolidated Revenue Fund to the tune of £20,000 in one year. What an important thing that discovery was for the British Commonwealth. Rewards have been paid for the discovery of bauxite in places such as Gove Marchinbar Islands, and other parts of Australia. I would like to pose the question: What would be the most important discovery in respect of Australia's future? I would say the most important discovery in Australia in a mineral sense for Australia's future would be a large deposit of good quality phosphate, which would be as valuable as any potential which is to be had from goldmining.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I agree that it would rank very high in importance.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: I have made that statement, and I would be prepared to debate it if the Minister wishes to analyse what I have said. To a very large degree the future of Australia depends on the availability of phosphatic rock. It is interesting to retrace the history of superphosphate in Australia from the period around 1840 when it was first discovered to the days when that remarkable man, Professor Lowry, of Roseworthy College, stimulated interest in this subject. Tracing through one of the most important discoveries in Australia's history brings us to the availability of phosphoric acid in soluble form. It revolutionised the use of land in all parts of Australia, and it certainly made possible the development of millions of acres in this State.

Now let us look at recent figures to appreciate how more and more important the discovery which I have mentioned would be to the Commonwealth, and to this State in particular. I shall use only a few figures, but in 1946-47, Western Australia used 237,000 tons of super, and for the whole of Australia the figure was 875,000 tons. In 1964-65 the figures jumped to 811,000 tons for Western Australia and to 3,173,000 tons for Australia as a whole. The figures for last year were 1,047,000 tons for Western Australia and 4,000,000 tons for Australia.

Commensurate with that production of super has been, of course, the importation of phosphatic rock. This has jumped from the 1946-47 figure of 174,000 tons for Western Australia to 843,000 tons for last year. For Australia as a whole, 723,000 tons were imported in 1946-47, and for last year the figure was 3,277,000 tons. These are up-to-date figures because I obtained them from the statistician today.

As regards the acreage, if we take this State firstly, in 1946-47 the total acreage developed in Western Australia was 14,600,000 in all forms—that is, under pasture and for agriculture generally. For the year ended the 30th June, last, 31,800,000 acres had been developed. So since the 1946-47 period the acreage under production in Western Australia has more than doubled, but our super requirements have increased five times.

From the days when Nauru was bombed, until now, we have received from Commonwealth sources very large sums of money by way of subsidies to offset the increased costs of transport. Subsidies have risen from 15s. a ton to today's figure of \$6 a ton, and if we look at the sources of supply we will find considerable cause for concern. Nauru is now under its own administration and, since it has been divorced from the British Phosphate Commission, it has said that the price will increase substantially.

At Christmas Island, from which a large portion of Australia's needs are now coming, the last stocktaking showed 60,000,000 tons as being available, and until those operating on the island are able to build up the content by a sweetening process not many years' supply is in sight from that source, even though that looks to be the best prospect. To the port of shipment the phosphatic ore coming into Australia has been worth \$29,000,000 in recent years. I know not only the Bureau of Mineral Resources, and the geophysical section, but also our own Mines Department have endeavoured to stimulate and encourage the search for phosphatic rock in Western Australia and also—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I threw open the whole State for it.

The Hon. F. J. S. WISE: That is so. Greater interest could not have been shown than is at present being shown. Six off-

shore licenses were issued, and most of them, I think, are still current. The Planet Mining Company and the Ocean Mining Company are interested in the search but, unfortunately, nothing of a substantial nature has been found. All of us would have read the stimulating news from Queensland where, in the Duchess area, which is near Mount Isa—and this find is still being investigated—it has been said there is a colossal deposit of high value. However, all the inquiries I have made from official sources in recent days suggest there is a lot to be proven in regard to this deposit.

While we continue to import into Australia from the adjacent Pacific and Indian Ocean islands rock that we use, we are also importing from the United States and from South West Africa. Therefore, I repeat what I said initially: Perhaps the most important mineral discovery so far as the future of this great nation is concerned, would be a rich and substantial deposit of phosphatic rock. Until, in a nation-wide way, intensive searches are made the prospects for continuing not only our present standard of farming and production, but also an extension of the farming industry within a decade or two, will be facing serious problems.

One incentive we could offer would be a large sum of money as a means of inducing prospecting and examining the whole of Australia by the best methods known, and we should offer a reward, such as was offered for the discovery of uranium and bauxite, as well as other minerals, of perhaps not less than \$100,000. That would be a cheap investment for this nation to ensure its future in this very important matter. I hope what I have said will stimulate some thought in the matter and perhaps the Commonwealth could be approached by the Government of this State to offer a very large reward for the discovery of a substantial deposit of phosphatic rock.

Debate adjourned until a later stage of the sitting, on motion by The Hon. C. E. Griffiths.

(Continued on page 2425.)

Sitting suspended from 6.8 to 7.30 p.m.

DAMPIER SOLAR SALT INDUSTRY AGREEMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), read a first time.

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [7.33 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill was introduced in another place by the Minister for Industrial Develop-

ment. Its purpose is to ratify an agreement dated the 21st November, 1967, between the Government and Dampier Salt Limited, a company which has been incorporated in Western Australia, the principal shareholder being Comcalco Industries Pty. Limited. The subdivision of interests is—

Comcalco	50 per cent.
British Tobacco	14 per cent.
Colonial Mutual Life Assurance	4 per cent.
Marubeni-Iida and Nissho Co. Ltd	32 per cent.
	<hr/> 100 per cent.

Through Comcalco, Dampier Salt Limited is closely allied to Hamersley Iron Pty. Limited and the area that will be leased lies between the mainland and the island which has been developed by Hamersley Iron Pty. Limited as the port of Dampier.

The salt company intends to ship its production out through the port of Dampier. However, whatever arrangements are made with Hamersley Iron Pty. Limited will have to be approved by the Government.

To help members in the consideration of the Bill, plans have been prepared which delineate the various areas referred to in clause 3 of the agreement and are available. I have a plan which I will lay on the Table of the House.

Initially, the company will be granted a lease over approximately 28,600 acres of land—mainly tidal flats at present of no commercial value. This area is in two parcels separated by the causeway carrying Hamersley's railway line.

The company will develop progressively these areas into concentrating ponds for the production of salt; the area nearest the causeway being that planned for crystallisers.

The company estimates that this production site will enable it to produce up to approximately 1,000,000 tons of salt per annum.

If the project prospers as expected, and in the future larger contracts are written, the company will need additional land. The agreement provides in subclause (2) of clause 3 that the company will have the option to take up the area edged in blue on the plan.

The company also sought to have included in the option area the land edged in green. However, as the surrounding sea is a potentially valuable prawning ground, and the Fisheries Department was not sure of the role played by local mangrove swamps in the breeding and development of prawns, it was decided not to commit this area until further investigation work had been carried out by fisheries scientific officers.

It was also at the request of the Fisheries Department that the production site lease was altered in the north-east corner. Members who study the plan will note that there is an indentation. The earthworks will conform to this. This will enable fresh water, which would normally be shed off the rocky land above high-water mark during rains—and particularly during cyclonic rains—to be able still to find its way into Nichol Bay and play its role in the life cycle of the prawns. Fisheries Department officers are of the opinion that entry of fresh water in the mangrove flats triggers off migration moves and breeding cycles of prawns.

It will be noted that the production site is initially leased for a period of 21 years. The company is granted rights of renewal for a further period totalling 42 years.

If the State requires any of the area under option for its own use, or to lease to enable another project to be established, the company has to exercise the option within two years on receiving notice during the first five years of the 10-year option period, or otherwise within one year. This clause was designed to prevent the company controlling an area which it did not intend to use to the detriment of another possible industry.

The agreement provides for a lease for shiploading facilities and stockpile site. At the present time it is expected that the company will arrange both of these through Hamersley Iron Pty. Limited. These clauses have been included to cover the situation if Dampier Salt Limited has a need to construct a jetty and associated facilities outside the area which is subject to the lease of Hamersley Iron Pty. Limited.

There is provision in the agreement for salt to be transported from the crystallisers to the jetty by road, rail, or conveyor system. At the present time the company favours road transport over the short distance which separates the two points.

The company has estimated that the first stage of its project will cost \$5,000,000 and will have a designed capacity of 650,000 tons of salt per annum with planned expansion to 1,000,000 tons per annum.

The royalty payable is identical with that payable by the Leslie Salt Company. Royalty and rental payments will be subject to escalation in the future, depending on the f.o.b. value of salt.

The company will provide all the houses required for its employees. Comalco is well experienced in establishing communities through its Weipa project. I am sure that the employees of Dampier Salt Limited will enjoy good housing and amenities once the project is established. The good example set by Hamersley Iron Pty. Limited will give an idea of the standard of living accommodation to be expected.

Another provision of the agreement is that any hospital or educational facilities required to meet the needs of employees of the company or their families shall be at the cost of the company. It is understood that Dampier Salt Limited intends to make arrangements with Hamersley Iron Pty. Limited to co-operate in the development and use of the facilities which that company has established at Dampier. This is a realistic way to handle the position and will make for early broadening of the base of operations and community of Dampier Salt Limited.

A clause providing that the company shall supply salt if it is required for use in Australia has been written into this agreement. The remainder of the clauses in the agreement are fairly standard and common to all agreements of this type.

This is the third formal agreement the State has negotiated for the production of salt on our north-west coast—additional to the potash-salt agreement with Texada near Carnarvon.

Shark Bay Salt, after early difficulties, is now in production. Its first shipment was loaded last July. It is anticipated that this company will achieve a production rate in the vicinity of 300,000 tons per annum during the forthcoming season.

The Leslie Salt Company is well advanced with its project. Sea water, in vast quantities, is being concentrated. A diversion barrage has been built across the Ridley River. A number of houses for employees has been completed and more are under construction. The fine new wharf, over which the salt will be loaded, is making good progress. The company expects that it will load its first cargo of salt in the first quarter of 1969. Dampier Salt Limited expects to load its first shipment of salt in 1970.

Our north-west coast, with its high temperatures and low rainfall, should be ideal for the production of solar salt. It also has a distinct advantage over other parts of Australia in regard to its proximity to the markets of Japan.

I have no doubt that, in the future, the solar salt industry will develop still further and make a major contribution to this State's economy both for export and as a raw material for local chemical industries.

I commend the Bill to members.

The plan was tabled.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the Opposition).

PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES BILL

Assembly's Message

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Council.

BILLS (2): RETURNED

1. Fisheries Act Amendment Bill.
2. Statute Law Revision Bill.

Bills returned from the Assembly without amendment.

EVIDENCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Assembly's Message

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Council.

MARKING OF LAMB AND HOGGET BILL

Assembly's Message

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendment made by the Council.

ACTS AMENDMENT (SUPERANNUATION AND PENSIONS) BILL

Assembly's Message

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendment made by the Council.

LOAN BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

THE HON. C. E. GRIFFITHS (South-East Metropolitan) [7.45 p.m.]: I wish to take the opportunity this Bill affords me to mention a problem that has been concerning me and the people in the Victoria Park district for some time. I refer to the large number of breaking and entering offences that have been committed in the area, particularly in the vicinity of Albany Highway.

Quite a number of articles have been published in *The West Australian* and other newspapers in regard to the offences that have been committed in Victoria Park, and mention has also been made of other areas in the metropolitan area where the effects of this type of offence are being felt.

On the 4th October I asked a question regarding breaking and entering offences in Albany Highway, from the Causeway to Nicholson Road in Cannington, a distance of approximately five miles. I asked how many offences of breaking and entering had occurred during the past 12 months. The answer I received was that for the previous 12 months there had been 118 reported offences and, in connection with these, the police had been able successfully to locate 46 of the culprits.

As a result of that answer I asked a further question on the 11th October. I wanted to know whether the Minister felt that 118 cases of this nature in one street in this area was considered to be excessive.

The answer was as follows:—

Considering that these offences extend over a distance of five miles of the busiest shopping and commercial area in the district, the figure of 118 offences over a year is not excessive.

I am afraid neither the shopkeepers who operate in this district nor I share that opinion with the Minister. As a matter of fact, I would go so far as to suggest that breaking and entering offences have reached epidemic proportions and I think it is time we took drastic action to ensure that the people in the area are given adequate protection for their shops and homes. We must bear in mind that the 118 offences are breaking and entering offences and do not include vandalism or any other type of offence in that area.

There was an article in *The West Australian* on Wednesday, the 15th November, which gave the numbers of breaking and entering offences in Mt. Hawthorn, Osborne Park, Joondanna, and other areas. Those numbers were large also. I do not think it is good enough to say that the number of 118 offences for the Albany Highway area compares favourably with the number of offences occurring somewhere else, and we can assume, therefore, that things are all right. I cannot go along with that.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Did the answer to the question say that?

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: I took it to say that.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It is your interpretation.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: Yes.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: There is no doubt about it.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: That is what the answer said. The Commissioner of Police and others have said that the people affected do not take sufficient precautions to combat this type of offence. I do not know what sort of precautions one should take. One locks up one's premises at the close of the business day and assumes that when one goes back again the premises will be in the same condition as when they were left. However, two offences of this nature per week—a little more than that—have occurred during the last 12 months in this particular section of Albany Highway.

I will say this of the police, that 46 culprits were apprehended; and this represents nearly half of them. So we have vigilant policemen in the district. In the report of the Commissioner of Police for the year ended the 30th June, breaking and entering offences in Western Australia totalled 4,799, for which only 25 per cent. of the culprits were apprehended. Therefore, while a great number of offences is being committed in Victoria Park, the police have been able to apprehend nearly half of the offenders.

Nevertheless, this is no solution as far as the business proprietors are concerned, because of the damage that is done, the business that is disrupted, and the distress that is caused. None of this is rectified simply because the police apprehend the culprit after the offence has been committed. In the interests of the business people we should make greater efforts to provide adequate patrols for the district to ensure that these offences are not committed in the first place.

As I said before, it has been suggested that the shopkeepers do not provide sufficient lighting. One of the proprietors of premises in Albany Highway, Victoria Park, provides for \$50 per week in his budget to cover damages caused by breaking and entering. He says he actually spends more than that. He has installed the best lighting there is available, and it is better than daylight. This is quartz iodine lighting, the installation of which cost \$2,000. As a result of this, he has the best lit area in Albany Highway, Victoria Park, but his premises are still broken into about twice a month. I do not know what causes young people to go in for breaking and entering in these days of affluence.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: There are not enough houses for them.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: We are living in an affluent society and an age when there is absolutely no need for young people to resort to this sort of thing. I wonder why the youths and people who resort to this sort of offence do, in fact, do so.

It is rather distressing to note in the annual report to which I referred that the majority of people who commit these offences are in the under-16 age group, and the 17 to 18 age group. The figure drops after that. Is it that in these days our sense of values has changed as compared with the time when I was 16, 17, and 18? I passed through those ages more recently than anyone else in this Chamber and I can vividly recall obtaining a certain amount of satisfaction from raiding somebody's orange tree, or at night-time rushing onto a person's verandah, ringing the doorbell, and then dashing away to wait and see the person open the door to find no-one there. Lads of my age got quite an amount of satisfaction out of that sort of thing.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You didn't put any crackers in Mrs Hutchison's letter box did you?

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: I did not know where Mrs Hutchison lived. I wonder whether our sense of values has changed and the young people today need more than they used to do. The things that satisfied me when I was a newly-married young fellow do not seem to satisfy the young people who get married today. I think the young people who resort to offences like breaking and entering do it for kicks or for something to do. If the

young people today raided somebody's orange tree, they would probably get quite a deal of fun out of it; and this would certainly be preferable to their committing breaking and entering offences and wilfully damaging the property of other people.

Earlier, I mentioned a five-mile section of Albany Highway. When I asked my question, I think I would be correct in saying that 75 per cent. of the offences that had been committed would have been in a two-mile stretch of Albany Highway.

Together with the shopkeepers, I feel these offences have reached epidemic proportions and I appeal to the Commissioner of Police to give serious consideration to increasing the patrols in the district by more than 100 per cent.

I am sure this is the only way the people in that district will get the protection to which I feel they are entitled. In this financial year the Police Department will have an additional \$1,000,000 made available to it. I do not know how far \$1,000,000 will go, but it is an increase of something like 16 per cent. on the previous year. I suppose a fair amount would be spent on the normal increased costs.

To give some idea of the staff involved at the Victoria Park C.I.B. and the area which that staff has to cover, I would like to read to the House some answers to questions which were asked in another place. The C.I.B. staff operating in Victoria Park comprises one detective-sergeant and three detectives—a total of four. The area covered by this staff of four is as follows:—

From the Swan River foreshore between Belmont Avenue and Berwick Street, extending to include the Lesmurdie, Bickley, Carilla area; Byford on the South-West Highway and to the 57 mile peg on the Albany Highway. This includes Maniana, Cannington, Gosnells, Kelmscott and Armadale sub-districts.

Those four detectives patrol that huge area and I would ask members to bear in mind that whilst they are not able to prevent crimes from being committed, their record of apprehensions is at least twice as good as the average in the State. I would suggest we could do with at least eight detectives, and probably more, in an endeavour to prevent the offences in the first place. There were other details in the answer to the question, asked, but they are all on the same lines, and I will not weary members by reading them.

I ask the Minister to impress on the Minister for Police that we in Victoria Park are very concerned. I am concerned about the position and I feel the people are entitled to the protection which they pay for through their taxes. The people in Victoria Park are certainly not being unreasonable in expecting to get some pro-

tection. One gentleman in Albany Highway has even thought of purchasing a couple of Alsatian dogs. This is fair enough; but to me it is unreasonable to think that in Albany Highway, Victoria Park—in the heart of a shopping centre—a private person has to resort to the purchase of two Alsatian dogs—at \$200 each—from the Police Department.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Plus the increased license fee which he has to pay.

The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS: I do not know about that. However, that man has to build a six-foot fence around his premises, and in addition if anybody gets over the fence and is bitten by one of the dogs, the owner has been told he will be liable for prosecution. I do not consider that to be fair. I have no doubt that a person who intended to break and enter might give some consideration to the likelihood of the Alsatian dogs attacking him, and might consider that such an attack would be worse than being able to claim damages.

A person should not have to resort to this sort of thing, in the heart of the shopping centre in Albany Highway, to obtain protection which we, as Western Australians, expect to receive. I do not think I am being unreasonable in making this request on behalf of those people. I certainly will continue to advocate that more patrolmen be provided, to give the people a measure of the protection to which I feel they are justly entitled.

THE. HON. H. R. ROBINSON (North Metropolitan) [8.6 p.m.]: I would like to say a few words on housing, but not along the same lines as we heard in the House this afternoon. I believe this Government has done a pretty good job as far as housing is concerned and I think Western Australia is a pretty good place in which to live—notwithstanding what was said here this evening. We have a good record of service and to criticise the Government continually on the housing situation is not fair at all.

A few months ago I asked a question in connection with housing, and I was told that in 1966-67, 10,000 houses were built.

The Hon. R. Thompson: By whom?

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: Wait until I finish and I will tell the honourable member. To continue, in this financial year, 1967-68, it is anticipated that in excess of 11,000 homes will be built. Mr. Ron Thompson asked, "By whom?" Admittedly they are built by the Housing Commission and the private sector, which plays an important part in housing the people—and should it not do so?

Only last Friday I attended the opening at Dianella of a new school for blind children. The school was not in my area; it was in Mrs. Hutchison's area.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I was there.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: It is a wonder the honourable member did not see all the houses which were being constructed in that area. There were not a few, but hundreds of them.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: But not for rental.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: How does the honourable member know? Some are for rental.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I know they are not for rental; I know everything about my electorate.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: The honourable member cannot know everything about her electorate when she talks about the Government in the way she did this afternoon.

The Hon. R. Thompson: How many houses did the Government build last year?

The PRESIDENT: Order! Will the honourable member please address the Chair and not encourage interjections. I ask those members who are interjecting to please refrain from doing so because it is distinctly disorderly.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: To continue: The building is taking place not only in the area I was speaking of, at Dianella, but also at North Beach where the Housing Commission is building 100 homes right near the beach. Those homes will be occupied within the next few months. Just two miles further down the road, at Karrinyup, the Rural and Industries Bank is building 80 to 100 homes.

If one considers the question of unemployment in Western Australia today, it will be found that it is the lowest percentage in Australia, and the lowest when compared with many other countries of the world. It is quite feasible to accept the fact that the building industry is working at its maximum at the present time. It would be difficult to know if many more houses could be built if the money were available. I will quote a statement which appeared in *The West Australian* on the 22nd July, 1967, under a Canberra date line. It is as follows:—

Building approvals for new houses and flats in Western Australia in June reached a new peak of 1,300 worth a record \$10,384,000.

The number of new houses and flats approved in 1966-67 was 11,447 an increase of 2,245 on the 1965-66 total.

The value of the 1966-67 new houses and flats was \$91,082,000, a rise of \$20,399,000 on the 1965-66 value and also a record.

Surely, that is a record of which any Government can be proud in a State which is expanding as ours is.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Particularly when compared with previous years.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: Some two or three months ago I asked how the figures compared with the period prior to the present Government taking over. We have a record to be proud of, and it just does not make sense to me when one hears the criticism which is offered.

This afternoon we also heard talk about emergent cases. I do not know whether the figure was tens or hundreds in reference to these people who required accommodation. Admittedly there are people who, through circumstances beyond their control, do come into the emergent class. But to make out that all these people are lining up at the door is something I cannot understand.

There are over 66,000 electors on the roll in the province which I, with my leader, represent. I am just as well known in my area as Mrs Hutchison is in hers, and I certainly have not had a line-up at my door.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: You are in an affluent district.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: That is nonsense. I represent what I would say was mainly a working class area. So to talk like that is just too silly. All the cases which come to the notice of members of Parliament are not genuine. Let me preface that remark by saying that there are many cases which are emergent and very sympathetic consideration is given to them by the State Housing Commission. We have our parliamentary liaison officer at the State Housing Commission in Mr. Johnson who goes to a great deal of trouble to assist members where they have urgent cases.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I do not complain about the Housing Commission.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: The honourable member complains about everything.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I do not; the Housing Commission cannot help.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: As I pointed out, not all of the cases which come to the notice of members of Parliament, and which go to the State Housing Commission, deserve emergent treatment. Admittedly, some do but even some of those accepted for emergent consideration by the State Housing Commission do not accept the accommodation which is offered to them. I checked with the Minister for Housing only this evening, and it is rather interesting to look at the figures. In 1965-66, 94 people refused emergent accommodation which was offered to them.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: After being on the emergent list?

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: Yes. The accommodation offered to them was refused so how sincere were those people? Last year, in 1966-67, 78 persons refused emergent accommodation which was provided by the State Housing Commission.

Why we should have to listen to what we heard this afternoon—that the Government, through its housing problem is causing child delinquency—is beyond comprehension.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: You know it is true.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Wait until I make my speech; I will give you a shock.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: And I will interrupt the honourable member as much as Mrs Hutchison has interrupted me. According to Mrs. Hutchison the Government is responsible for everything around the place which is wrong; and that does not make sense. The Government is doing a good job with housing in Western Australia.

THE HON. E. M. HEENAN (Lower North) (8.15 p.m.): Item 34 in the first schedule to the Bill, providing for an allocation of \$40,000 to State batteries, prompts me to make a few comments relating to our mining industry and matters incidental thereto. It is a fact of great significance that for the 1966 calendar year the value of the State's mineral production rose to a record \$77,000,000. Of this amount iron ore contributed \$22,000,000, and gold a little under \$20,000,000.

The production of oil from Barrow Island began in April of this year, and following on this there was the opening of the nickel mine at Kambalda. Numerous other minerals are also being produced and overall the outlook for the future of mineral production in this State is indeed fantastic. Western Australia, for so long the poor relation among the Australian States, is now entering an era where the sky seems to be the limit.

Undoubtedly, one of the most important events of this year was the opening of the Western Mining Corporation's nickel mine at Kambalda. Production of this valuable mineral is now well under way and it seems likely that in value of production nickel will soon rival the wealth being produced from iron ore and also from gold. The finding of a nickel field of world-wide importance, and the uplift it has given the goldfields, is a matter of the greatest satisfaction. It has also come about at a most propitious time. In my view full credit should be given to the Western Mining Corporation for the great feat it has accomplished, and all Western Australians should be grateful to this company which has such a fine record of achievement in the annals of mining in this State.

Other companies have joined in the search for nickel and it seems likely that in the year which lies ahead of us new mines, in addition to the one at Kambalda, will be brought into production. This happy state of affairs bears out the con-

tention held for many years that the State has a wonderful asset in its goldfields. Always there seems to be something over the hill in this area. However, although the hopes in regard to major nickel mines seem about to be realised, and it is most heartening, we must not lose sight of the fact that the goldmining industry is facing hard times and is really up against it.

Three of the four principal mines on which the economy and the prosperity of Kalgoorlie mainly depend are already receiving the maximum subsidy of \$8 an ounce, and with the continuous rise in costs and the falling off in production, the future of those mines is parlous unless further assistance can be given. The situation, therefore, in my view, calls for an urgent review by the State Government and, more particularly, by the Commonwealth Government. There is a great deal at stake—the preservation of our wonderful goldmining industry and the important outback centres of the State which depend on it.

The Commonwealth must face up to the one real issue: The wisdom or otherwise of ensuring the continuance of this industry. The goldmines are still working, but if they were to close down the task of reopening them, even in the event of an increase in the price of gold, would be almost impossible. The role of the State Government should be to exert more and more pressure on the Commonwealth Government for an increased subsidy for gold. It must have faith in the future of the goldfields and provide further amenities by way of better housing for the people who live in the goldfields towns. It must believe in the potential of this remarkable mineral field which is still largely unexplored in a geological sense and, lastly, the State Government must be very conservative about discontinuing railways such as those which go to Leonora and Meekatharra.

These areas, with encouragement, are undoubtedly destined to play a big role in the spheres of mineral production, pastoral wealth, and tourist trade. Railways are still essential if these goals are to be reached. Courage and faith in the future should be shown by Governments as well as individuals. The price of gold is almost wholly beyond our control. However, it is worth bearing in mind that ever since the days of Babylon gold has been sought after, cherished, and valued. It has always been in short supply and, even now, all nations of the world would like to acquire more of it.

Over the past 30 years an unreal and artificial price has been placed on it, but in my view, as sure as the sun rises, this state of affairs will alter and a fair and adequate price will be paid for gold. The alteration may come about much sooner than many expect. The devaluation of sterling could set the trend moving. A significant item in this afternoon's issue

of the *Daily News* refers to a frantic rush on gold which has developed on the London market, and it also refers to the determination of France to force an alteration in the international monetary system.

In my view, therefore, it would be a very sound policy to give the goldmining industry such immediate assistance as will ensure its survival over the critical period which now confronts it. Nickel has partly saved the situation on the goldfields, but a great deal still hinges on the fate of the goldmining industry. I have much pleasure in supporting the Bill.

THE HON. J. HEITMAN (Upper West) [8.25 p.m.]: Earlier this evening Mr. Wise asked: What incentive is being given in the search for phosphate? Eventually he went on to suggest that a grant of \$100,000 should be held out as an incentive to those who were interested in prospecting for this very important commodity which this State cannot do without. I do not intend to speak in the same strain as Mr. Wise did, but I intend to quote some figures relating to the cost of superphosphate over the past 10 years, and the amount that has been manufactured and sold over the past 20 years. The prices I will quote for the past 10 years relate to superphosphate paid for in cash, ex works, in bulk.

In 1957 the price was \$24.45; in 1958 it was \$22.40; in 1959 it was \$21.95; in 1960 it was \$20.35; in 1961 it was \$20.85; in 1962, \$20.85; and in 1963 the Commonwealth Government granted a bounty of \$6 a ton, which brought the price of superphosphate down to \$13.70. In 1964 the price rose to \$14.60; in 1965 to \$15.90; in 1966 to \$19.40; and this year it rose to \$20.45. In other words, the price of superphosphate this year is almost as high as it was in 1962. So already we have caught up with the \$6 bounty granted by the Commonwealth Government in 1963.

The bounty did, in fact, increase the use of superphosphate by primary producers. In 1947, 237,000 tons of superphosphate were used and, in 1957—10 years later—578,781 tons were used. Last year, taking into consideration all the super that was used, together with trace elements, the figure came to 1,201,433 tons. Therefore it can be seen that the use of superphosphate more than doubled in 10 years.

These figures prove it is a most necessary commodity and that every year farmers purchasing it find it is becoming more and more expensive. Therefore, if we could find phosphate rock in large quantities in Western Australia this would prove to be of great benefit to the primary producers of this State. As stated by the Minister for Mines, two years ago the Government did put out a call for prospectors to search for phosphate rock throughout Western Australia, and I think many firms were engaged in prospecting for phosphate rock.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: One is a world renowned company.

The Hon. J. HEITMAN: Despite that very little success was achieved. The discovery of a very large deposit of phosphatic rock north of Mt. Isa in Queensland, at a place called Duchess, by B.H.P. (South) Ltd., and a smaller deposit near that area enticed many prospectors in other spheres in Australia to go there, because they thought they might have a better chance to discover phosphatic rock.

With the use of phosphatic rock, which is manufactured into superphosphate, and with the use of trace elements, the way is paved for almost any type of land to be thrown open for selection, as long as the rainfall is sufficient. Even the hungriest land, if treated with sufficient superphosphate and trace elements, will produce some type of plant life which is quite suitable for the carrying of sheep. Eventually the soil can be built up for the growing of grain crops.

Here we come up against another very important commodity for primary production in Western Australia, and that is water. I noticed in this morning's newspaper a report headed "Government to help farms store more water." This hinges on the amount of rainfall; and in cases where the water can be obtained by boring it is raised to the surface to supplement the supplies to the agricultural areas. The report states:—

Premier Brand announced a new scheme yesterday to encourage farmers to provide adequate water supplies on their properties.

He said the purpose of the scheme was to enable farmers to provide a key dam or bore on their properties to provide a two-year supply of stock water.

All banks had agreed to co-operate in advising farmers about the scheme.

The Farm Water Supply Advisory Committee had made surveys of five wheatbelt areas—North Kalannie-Goodlands; Mollerin-Cleary-Beacon-Moondon-Kialki-Bonnie Rock; East Narembreen-Muntadgin-Mt. Walker; Holt-Holt Rock-Lake Varley; and Pingaring.

It found in each that farm water storage was generally inadequate and conservation capacity under-used.

FALSE SENSE

Many farmers lacked adequate provision for bad seasons, partly because more than ten years of above-average rains had created a false sense of security.

When a service of this kind had been offered to farmers 2½ years ago, few had taken advantage of it.

The committee had therefore sought the co-operation of banks in advising farmers because of their regular contact with them.

The scheme applied generally within the south-west land division, north and east of the boundaries of the comprehensive water scheme and in some cases within the committee's original comprehensive scheme.

Committee chairman J. P. Gabbedy said yesterday that the government had \$164,000 available, and it would make it easier for farmers to get funds and secure expert advice where these were not otherwise available.

While I commend this scheme to the primary producers, in my view \$165,000 would not be sufficient. That sum would be sufficient only to establish about 165 water supply points. Whilst this will be of tremendous help to primary production, I think greater incentive should be given to farmers to establish more storage points and to sink bores for water, in view of the fact that over 1,000,000 acres each year are being thrown open. Many applications are received for the blocks which are thrown open, but finance soon runs out after the settlers have been on their properties for some time. They find that their properties are not much good without sufficient water.

A scheme should be devised along these lines to give assistance to primary producers of up to \$3,000, instead of \$1,000, in each case. If that is done more farmers will participate in the scheme.

We are all aware that with the devaluation of sterling most primary producers in Australia will find the position much harder than they have ever done before. The prices of primary products will become lower than they have been for many years. The wool market, which has been depressed over the past 18 months, will be further depressed. For those reasons any help we can give to the primary producers, both on the Federal and State level, will be a great boon to them. After all, the farming community, and the primary producers, are the backbone of the State Government and of the Federal Government. I support the Bill.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [8.37 p.m.]: What I would like to present to the House this evening is a situation in regard to the medical services of the State which is rapidly growing acute. I have no intention whatever of laying the blame for the existing position at the door of any particular persons, because the subject is too difficult and too complex to enable me to lay a charge against one or more persons for it.

First of all, it might be wise for me to commence by quoting some extracts from articles which have appeared concerning the sick. For a considerable number of years it has been almost impossible for individuals and for the nurses' board to find uniform answers to the difficulties that lie before us. Since the Leaving Certificate is now required of trainee nurses

it is possible that what I am about to refer to will be the attitude in this State. Some very interesting stories are told by Dr. Windsor of Macquarie Street, Sydney, who has been investigating the question of nursing, particularly in America. In *The Medical Journal of Australia* of the 21st October, 1967, he made the following comments:—

Better education to a university degree standard (with its emphasis on the scientific rather than the human) has resulted, for nurses who complete the degree, in immediate seniority, in higher wages, in better working conditions, in higher social position, and a status approximating to doctor. These better conditions mean that now at the nurses' prestige stations outside the wards in many of the great hospitals of the U.S.A. are to be found the beautifully coiffured graduates busy with reports, rarely (except in recovery wards) lifting hands to help patients. Their training placed little emphasis on this. In the forefront, inside the wards, at the behest of the graduates are the practical nurses, and the often uneducated, frequently disinterested aides, whose wages and social standing are lower, whose working conditions are harder, for they have the personal contact that is nursing.

Further on he had this to say—

Improvement in Australian training standards is essential, but it must aim at the production, not of a lot of pseudo-doctors chary of work, but of well-educated graduate nurses, who will take their education with rolled sleeves and lead from the front, rather than with polished nails from a desk in the rear, and in so doing inculcate the registered nurses and aides with the humanity of nursing. All who have experienced the value of nurses with higher diplomas, energetic, capable and able to do the work of doctors, appreciate the value of education.

In another paragraph he said—

The careful observer must wonder, as do many Americans, where compassion, tenderness, gentleness, sympathy, all rights of the sick, have gone. The graduates are too busy with the science of nursing, whilst the aides, busy with the art, have neither the interest nor the intellectual background to confer those rights. Kindness as patients know it in this country is not apparent. Signs that we are to follow are evident.

Then he went on to say—

There are going to be three classes of nurses: the graduate (Class I), who has earned better conditions through intellectual effort; the registered nurse (Class II), who will carry out the

bedside nursing, but for whom, because she has not fitted herself intellectually, conditions will remain hard; and the aides (Class III), who will perform the unmentionables described by "R.M.O."

That gives a picture of the nursing profession in America where university trained and highly skilled nurses more or less work outside the wards. The article I have just read shows that the nurses who are trained to this degree apparently are not to work within the wards, but they keep an external view of what happens in the hospital. They have to be ready to assist at any time in highly intensive care. Apparently they do not have to handle the patients at all; they only give advice. Personally I cannot see that Australia can adopt the same method. The article goes on to state—

The great problem for Australian nursing, apart from the wastage, is how to achieve better standards through higher education, whilst retaining the compassion and humanity engendered by constant physical contact with the patient. Nursing must insist on higher education, but even more it must insist that gentle hands will untiringly care for the sick with dignity and compassion. It will only achieve this by the graduates remaining in the forefront of the work.

To some extent that is the doubt before us, if there is only to be an acceptance of young girls who have passed their Leaving examination for training. It is certain that what Dr. Windsor said is correct. There will obviously have to be considerable control over this aspect.

Dr. Rudge of Canberra spoke recently on the subject, and I shall refer to some of his comments.

This doctor is now holding a position at the Canberra Community Hospital and was speaking at an in-service programme for trained staff. The talk is recorded in the latest issue of *The Australian Nurses' Journal*. He said—

The sister must be aware of other services in the hospital whether of the physiotherapist, psychologist or the central dressing unit. She must be aware of rapid developments in nursing and medicine.

The social background of the patient was important.

The nursing service could not be isolated from the world in which young women of similar age lived. Personal provisions for staff must be related to the hopes and aspirations of a new generation which had so many alternative opportunities.

I would like now to deal with our own situation and discuss what will be required in the future if this is proved right. In addition to the rise in the standard of

work, and quite apart from wages, etc., and personal elevation in the nursing teams, there are necessities which have been ill-regarded. The appeal which is made to the young girls to achieve a nursing veil is no longer carrying the same degree of acceptance.

The days of harsh training have passed, but still the call does not bring the number of girls required as nurses. In these expansive, progressive days, nursing no longer appeals as it did when it was the main occupation available. Today the field of employment for females has widened. Nevertheless, young girls will still enter the profession if the conditions are inviting.

In my last address I emphasised how there is no difficulty in filling the nursing ranks at the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. To a large extent this is because of the personality of Matron Anstey. I have had it on very good authority in the last week that Matron Anstey has waiting lists for training schools extending into the year 1970.

There must be some answer to this question. I have spoken to matrons who agree that the proposed plans of nursing homes, and particularly one in connection with Royal Perth Hospital, are unacceptable. When I was in America, I noticed that a different viewpoint exists in this regard. A young girl is entitled to a bedroom to herself. It may be small, but she can make it a haven in which she can obtain peace and quiet. Once a trainee has qualified, she should be given the right to live away from the hospital, provided her duties permit it. I visited Honolulu 20 years ago and saw blocks of flats being erected to house the senior staff of the major hospital. They were being constructed with a single bedroom, a bed-sitting room, or with accommodation for two. It would be possible for a trained sister to prepare her own meals. In investigating these problems, I learned that the accommodation and meals at R.P.H. are, to some nurses, unacceptable.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Very unacceptable.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: The situation should be investigated because I am sure that some plans could be adopted which would lead not only to efficiency, but also to financial relief. A few years ago, the plan of a central laundry for all metropolitan hospitals was discussed, but the plan was found to be difficult. Today this situation is different. In discussions I had with the owner of a large laundry business, he said the plan could be accepted and relief given to the hospitals. The area now used by the laundry could then be used for other purposes.

Secondly, the food requirements could be taken over by a caterer of ability. To make this effective, the nursing staff should be paid full wages. The meals

would then be paid for by the nurses and sisters. This could extend also to the medical staff and even to other hospital employees. This is a fairer arrangement. If a trainee is invited out to a meal she has already paid for her hospital meal. If she dines out alone, she pays again.

The self-service meals provided at the Massachusetts Hospital in Boston are excellent. The rise in wages should approximate the cost of meals.

The financial aspect of this experiment, if we like to call it that, might well be left for a trial period because agreement can then be reached on a basis satisfactory to the hospital and the caterer.

It may well be that a trained nurse alone, or together with one or more colleagues, may desire to hold a dinner for friends in her main room, where possibly a stove or heater is installed. It should be possible for her to arrange a dinner with the caterer.

I saw this method of catering for a large medical and nursing staff at the Massachusetts General Hospital. The food was excellent and the charge low. In the same way, medical staff should pay the cost of meals. In fact, medical staff or visiting staff, not on the hospital payroll, should pay a small fee prior to the meeting or demonstration they attend.

The erection of another nursing home has been put off for some years, and there is no likelihood that it will be built for a year or more by which time the situation will have deteriorated further. Some of the matrons with whom I was speaking at a meeting some months ago, expressed the opinion that the plan which had been prepared was not up to standard. When we consider the housing of the trained nurses and some of the senior staff, we should have a new approach to the problem. Private enterprise, with its full exchequers, might provide the answer for us. The Government has a large area of land north of Wellington Street bearing on Lord Street, and this could be leased to a consortium undertaking the provision of the accommodation at a low rate payable over a period of years. This would provide accommodation at a low cost. This cost would, of course, have to be included in the salaries of the nurses and senior sisters. In this way the hospital board would not have to find the capital cost.

All these factors together indicate that in all probability there would not be any added expense in the provision of meals, when the staff obtained an increase to buy their meals.

Perhaps some of these ideas will not prove acceptable, but even if they are not approved some useful suggestions may emerge. I appeal to the board of management to approach these suggestions in earnest.

We must now cast our eyes on the hospital accommodation. The accommoda-

tion at Royal Perth Hospital is grossly overcrowded. Every member of the honorary staff will admit that. When I first spoke of the lack of beds in the hospital, the Minister said the beds were not in short supply. Later I read in the Press that the Minister did not like hospital beds to be empty. I am afraid the Minister is receiving the wrong advice. In order that sterilisation of beds can continue—a vital activity to prevent cross-infection—there must always be a percentage of empty beds.

The pressure is tremendous at R.P.H. One day last week one of the out-patients said that every bed was occupied. If an accident had occurred and even only a few beds had been required, it would have been impossible to find them.

May I here refer to the geriatric and pensioner patients who, between them, fill about 50 per cent. of the hospital beds. These sick persons deserve assistance, but in many cases they would be better catered for in a suburban hospital equipped with a suitable ward. It is interesting to note that one of the sisters at the Hollywood Repatriation Hospital said that one factor in the course which impressed her was the emphasis on the role the family played in the rehabilitation of aged people. She said that old people often become apathetic and lonely, and that families should be made aware of the capabilities of the aged.

This is exactly what I have said. Apart from those patients who have to have intense care, the geriatric patients could be nursed at a hospital close to where they live and to where their family is.

I will not this evening go into the question of fees except to say that the small amount paid per head for a pensioner adds up the cost for those who are members of the Hospital Benefit Fund.

Only last week I tried to find a bed for a very sick person; in fact, two people were in trouble. I could not find a single bed in any one of the five major hospitals, and temporary accommodation had to be made in the patient's home until a bed was available. Beds are very urgently required in the city area for patients who come not only from the central area of Perth, but also from the suburbs to obtain specialist advice and care. Patients also come from the country. However, it is not safe for a country patient to come to the city until it is certain a bed will be available.

It is pleasing to note that 100 beds are being added to St. Annes Hospital, but they will not completely fill the need of a central hospital. Although this is a good hospital, it cannot take the place of a hospital in a central position, such as the Mount Hospital. However, the Mount Hospital cannot remain in its present position. The noise at present from nearby works is just fantastic. Nevertheless people

prefer to be sent to the Mount Hospital because it has easy access for their relatives and also because of the well-trained staff who have a kind personality.

How can the future hospital be built? Apparently the board of the hospital must find the capital cost. From a statement I read recently it would appear that the Government will bear the interest on the capital cost involved with the additional beds at St. Annes. At a meeting recently at the hospital—unfortunately I was unable to attend as Parliament was sitting—the statement was made that the hospital is sick.

If that is the viewpoint of the staff who have so long attended to patients in the hospital, there must be something happening that is really not normal. Only once before have I known a hospital to be on the sick list, and that is when the old hospital was considered to be unsuitable because patients were placed on wet verandahs. Newspaper men were called in to supply evidence to the Government, and the man in the street was questioned. When one man was asked what a hospital was, he replied, "Isn't it just somewhere you lie down when you feel sick?" This was the individual's complete idea of a hospital. Later on, we won the issue but, unfortunately, the war intervened.

The Hon. C. R. Abbey: Would there not be a good site where the Mount Hospital is now situated?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: It has been damaged because of what has happened around it. I would like the House to bear with me for a little while longer, because I want to make clear the attitude I have adopted towards the hospitals, and towards medicine generally. I would like to read a few extracts from an article which was written by Professor W. S. Peart, M.D., F.R.C.P., Professor of Medicine, St. Mary's Hospital, London, W.2. Professor Peart had come to Australia for the specific purpose of assisting some organisation which is not stated in the article. I will read only the relevant paragraphs, which are as follows:—

I was still struck, perhaps more in certain Australian cities than in others, by the strength of the position of the general practitioner and the controlling influence which he must inevitably have on hospital practice, since the consultant physician may depend for his living on reference of cases from general practitioners, or at the other extreme, may become like a general practitioner since patients may come direct to him without any other reference. Despite the glories of independence and high standards of general practice, in the present state of advance in medicine this strikes me as an anachronism which will perpetuate what is to me an unhealthy

situation since the controlling influence in medicine may then rest with those for whom critical exchange of ideas leading to better standards of medicine is necessarily the least. For different reasons this is a pressing problem also in Britain and much of the current discontent can be traced to a failure in the opposite direction where the status of the general practitioner has been decreased and his relation to hospital practice lessened. It is essential in both countries to try very hard to get a better relation of general practice to hospital medicine.

Later on he says—

It is perhaps not surprising that I noted a great desire on the part of the younger doctors to have done with this system—

Professor Peart is referring to the system of junior and senior physicians within the hospital. To continue—

—and, in many cases, to aim for full-time salaried hospital appointments, and it has of course, as pointed out earlier, got a close bearing on the relationship between the general practitioner and the hospital consultant. Despite the wrench that would be felt if yet another bastion of rugged Australian independence were to fall, this system should be removed as quickly as possible to enable the proper growth and development of Australian medicine to occur.

Further on, he says—

The only way to liberate the hospital consultants seems to me to pay him for his services and all should have equal access to out and in-patients. For the better health, especially of university hospitals, the idea of part-time physicians seeing private patients at their hospital should be encouraged so that they would be readily available to their colleagues and could take part more readily in the whole life of the hospital.

Then, Professor Peart said—

One of the consequences of the wish of younger physicians and surgeons to take on full-time paid posts is the development of special units within hospitals requiring not only space for special investigations, but funds for the support of research activities where these develop. It is clear that this will ultimately lead to competition for all these things with the university academic departments and, while competition in itself is always desirable, this will inevitably lead to much infighting which will help nobody.

This really is a very long document, and I think I have suggested most of the points which are contained in it. There is one more very important remark which I would

like to quote to the House. Professor Peart said—

I believe that to bring together the best of the Australian and British system with the American system is the target at which to aim. I would therefore suggest that in teaching hospitals the only real future lies in large departments of medicine involving all the medical activities within that hospital, so that all the staff have a relation to the university. This is seen in the best American universities. The grave disadvantage of the American system is that the chairman of the department has an enormous administrative load, there is a risk of either a too dictatorial approach by the professor of medicine or the current chairman of the department.

Professor Peart referred to a matter which I have mentioned very often as something which is definitely taking place within our own country. I refer to the fact that there is very little possibility for individuals to obtain satisfaction in their occupation when they return to Australia from, say, America. I am referring to young physicians, surgeons, and others who wish to study some aspect of medicine abroad and go overseas in order to do so. I do not know whether Governments are awake to the problem which has been described, but it does exist in this State and, I am sure, in the other States as well. Young men and women who are capable of doing research work and who could develop into first-class scientists, physicians, or surgeons arrive in America and realise that if they go back to Australia there will be no basis for them to begin. They prefer to stay in the United States. Professor Peart remarks on this.

I have first-hand knowledge of this problem, because my son has just returned from America. He told me that quite a number of young Australians who have gone to America have decided to stay there as there is nothing for them in Australia at the moment. After three years' work in a section of a university or at a teaching school in America, they will be eagerly sought and will be paid handsome salaries. I think it would be quite common to find that a medical practitioner who had decided to stay in America, and who had proved his worth, would be granted a salary of \$25,000 a year after he had been there for a period of three years. After a further period of two or three years he would receive a salary of \$50,000 a year. This is why we are losing so many of our young people. As I have said, Professor Peart emphasised this, and I must stress it is definitely not good for Australia. England is losing some of its young men in the same way.

It seems to me there must be a general inquiry as to how the medical profession could come together again and how sections of the profession could be rejoined, as

it were, with the common aim of caring for the sick. I consider this is essential.

If members were to read Professor Peart's article very closely they would see the rapidity of thought and clarity of vision which this man has on the subject of the medical profession in Australia. He did not visit Western Australia, and his remarks are based on the observations which he made in Melbourne and Sydney. No matter how much it cost, I think it would be cheap to ask him to obtain leave from office and come out here in order to look at what we are doing, because there is dissatisfaction in almost every corner. If Professor Peart would accept the task of telling us how we could start again it would be a wonderful thing for this State.

A number of the medical profession, myself included, wonder why young men who qualify stay in the city. In the main, they are often very reluctant to go to the country. We have had complaints about this and I think they are justified, because the people in the country areas made remarkable contributions to the foundation of the University. They were told that some years after the University was established doctors would be available for country areas, but very few doctors have wanted to go to the country.

It was suggested to me a few days ago that if a bonus were paid to any young men who wish to study medicine, after they had passed their examinations, qualified, and were recognised in the hospital where they were practising, we should then suggest that they have a duty to spend some time at least in country areas. I do not know whether or not one can force these things on to young people, but I do consider something has to be done in order to provide country areas with a first-class medical service.

Another group of us believes that an honours course in medicine should not have been included the moment the University was started. Perhaps it would have been better to have a normal medical course and then those with higher mental capacity could go abroad for further experience. I do not know to what extent one could run an honours course and a course for those who are not able to pass the entrance examination to a higher degree. We have looked back over the period and I could mention the names of 12 young men who were keen to be doctors and who were all sons of doctors. It is a curious thing that medicine is one of those subjects which perpetuates itself down a family tree.

It is considered that if these boys had been given a chance some of them would have practised in the country, because many of their fathers had started their medical careers in the country. Whilst I have no intention of throwing bricks at anyone, I want to stress that we have arrived at a very difficult situation. However, if we could obtain the services of

someone of the calibre of Professor Peart I feel certain they would rally round him in such a way that it might mean the end of our problem. I hope something does happen; because, unless it does, disaster is around the corner.

THE HON F. R. H. LAVERY (South Metropolitan) [9.16 p.m.]: This Bill which seeks to authorise the raising of a large sum of money for the construction of public works and for other purposes affords back-benchers an opportunity to make suggestions on matters affecting their provinces. Whilst many suggestions put forward by members sitting on back benches very often do not break through, I hope that this evening some of our suggestions will break through. Nevertheless I realise it is adopting a very parochial point of view to discuss matters affecting one's own province, because the Bill deals with matters of State-wide importance.

I wish to make a suggestion in regard to housing, but I do not know whether it will be accepted. I also wish to refer to the problem of town planning and of sufficient land being made available for the building of houses. I would like to mention that whenever Mr. Ron Thompson or I speak on the subject of housing, the Minister for Mines never fails to refer to the 44 empty houses at Medina.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Is that all there were?

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: The reports of the State Housing Commission show that was the figure. Before commencing my remarks I would like to state that I have to be very careful about using the word Medina, because when I asked a question in regard to the high school, the Minister in his answer said there was no such school at Medina, but there happened to be one at Kwinana. So in returning to my first point I would like to make it clear that the Lands Department is not making land available at Medina because it is built out.

However, at Calista, another suburb adjoining the same area, there is great activity in house building at the moment. It was this that caused me to ask a question of the department about what was to happen in regard to the high school next year, and it is also the reason why I decided to ask the Minister what was to happen in regard to the high school in the coming year.

The Lands Department is making land available to individuals for purchase, and it is also making tracts of land available to builders who, after completing the construction of the homes, have to offer them for sale. This is quite a good arrangement, but it has a drawback because at the last two land sales in that area there were more applicants for the blocks of land than there were blocks available.

Although 65 blocks of land were made available to individuals for purchase, tracts of land were also sold to two or three construction companies, such as Landall and other similar development companies, and it seems that some people are justified in voicing complaints, because these private purchasers buy this land from the Lands Department auction at a price of \$1,200 or \$1,300 for each block and they must build homes on them within two years. These development companies not only make a profit on the house which they construct, but also on the block of land, which means that the price of the blocks made available to private individuals for purchase is increased.

I have had many discussions with master builders who are concerned that land is being made available to one or two construction groups and they want to know the reason. My answer to them is: What have you done to obtain some of this land? Following the last sale of land in that area the construction firm Landall and other development companies will build approximately another 180 homes. A further 60 will be built within two years by private purchasers, and construction work has already commenced on some of them.

What the master builders are concerned about are the remarks made by the Premier when members of the Real Estate and Stock Institute held a conference in Perth a few weeks ago. At that conference the Premier stated that whilst he agreed there was great speculation in land which caused prices to rise he did not consider any legislative action could be taken to prevent this trend.

I now wish to refer to town planning and in doing so I will quote an article written by the President of the Master Builders' Association, Mr. Matyear, which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 19th October. It reads as follows:—

Builders Want Land Rezoned

T. Matyear, president, W.A. Master Builders' Association: The price of land—no other subject has so held the headlines in the metropolitan area over the past 12 months. Everyone has a reason, an idea, a remedy.

The Government has been urged by some to legislate against anyone holding land. It has been urged by others to release Government land at a low cost; by others to force the various authorities to rezone more land for urban development.

There is no doubt that the powers-that-be are running in circles, wringing their hands and achieving nothing.

From time immemorial there has been one sure cure for high prices of anything—make it plentiful. There is no doubt at all that the price of land would come down with a thump if more urban land was released.

Services

Why can't more land be released? The plaintive answer (and the only answer so far) has been that the S.E.C. and water supply and sewerage departments would have to provide more services. This was confirmed by Premier Brand in his speech to the Real Estate and Stock Institute on Monday.

Now we come to the real crux of the matter. The high price of land today is not caused by the speculator the public or the developer, but the Government departments that are supposed to provide the services.

The metropolitan area is being held to ransom by these Government authorities. Even if the developer offers to pay for all the services himself, the rezoning is refused. Except in one small area, rezoning is, and has been, refused at all levels.

If this metropolis of ours has to be geared to the thinking of department officials and our various planning authorities, we will sink into mediocrity.

The Premier in his speech on Monday asked for a commonsense answer to the problem. Here it is: Rezone more land immediately for urban use.

At least nine master builders have approached me on this subject and asked what we are going to do about it. I know that almost every member in this Chamber has different ideas in regard to arriving at a solution. I also know that the Minister for Town Planning has, at all times, when he has been approached by members of Parliament or other authorities to agree to subdivisions of land suitable for building, bent over backwards in an effort to make such land available. However, at the same time, the Minister himself is restricted by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority and the Town Planning Board by-laws and regulations, and Government policy.

What seems to irk master builders most of all is that they believe there is a great deal of land available in the metropolitan area and that there are many owners who are prepared to subdivide it so that it can be sold as residential blocks, but when these owners apply to the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority for the right to subdivide they are told that the area is not yet ripe for development. I would point out that those are my own words.

The position is as set out in the letter I have mentioned. Because there is a shortage of land or a shortage of building blocks, people who require blocks are prepared to pay more than they can afford. There is a developed area in the Cockburn district known as the Gerald Road scheme. This scheme was inaugurated because of a number of factors. The Cockburn Shire thought that it could have the land

zoned if part of it which was used for quarries could be filled in. A part of it has been used as market gardens also. This land would be suitable for housing. The Minister for Local Government did all he could to assist with this project.

The shire thought the blocks would be sold for \$800 to \$900 each. The subdivision was put through and the roads were built, but the Metropolitan Water Board would not provide a service unless there were four houses built in close proximity to each other. Where a block in Doolette Street, which is one of the streets at the back of the subdivision, is sold and a house is erected on it, and another house is erected at the other end of the street, then neither block can be provided with a water service. It seems that the town planning authority is being bulldozed into refusing subdivisions of land, because of restriction of services, such as water and electricity. I am sure the planning authority in many cases considers the land should be subdivided to make blocks available at reasonable prices, but because water cannot be connected the authority will not allow a subdivision. I do not know whether or not it is doing the right thing. This is a matter which the Government should consider urgently, in regard to future planning. It seems that master builders are prepared to purchase blocks for the purpose of building houses in groups of 50 to 100.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Do you know how many people in the last two years have built in the area you mentioned? If you study the figures you will find the owners are not building.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: How many acres of land have been made available?

The Hon. L. A. Logan: About 4,000 acres out of the urban deferred land.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: The Gerald Road subdivision consists of 700 acres. How long will the purchasers have to wait before they can be provided with a water service?

The Hon. L. A. Logan: There is water in all those areas.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: There is none in this area, although the blocks have been sold. The owners were told by the Metropolitan Water Board that unless there were four houses built in close proximity to each other a service could not be provided.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Unless there are four houses in close proximity to a main.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: That is right. Some of the people who purchased the blocks have had to sell them. The General Agency Company has bought many of those blocks, but instead of selling them at \$800 or \$900 each it is asking between \$1,800 and \$2,400 a block. I have nothing against the General

Agency Company, but it should not be given the opportunity to make such huge profits for doing practically nothing towards development, costs of roads, etc.

The Minister has spent days and weeks in trying to put this subdivision through. Although the Minister has not said so to me, he must have thought at the time that the blocks would be made available at reasonable prices. The roads have been built, but water has not been connected and so there is little development.

The master builders have another complaint. When they see a block which is suitable for development they approach the owner to negotiate for a sale. If the owner agreed they would approach the town planning authority for approval for subdivision and sale. But the master builders have to wait several weeks, and sometimes months, before they are told whether or not they will be permitted to purchase for subdivision and development. I suggest that the time has arrived when the town planning authority—after all the experience it has had—should be able to prepare a master plan for the whole of the metropolitan area, so that when the owner of a block of 40 or 50 acres inquired at the office the department could inform him within minutes, from the details on the master plan, that he could develop it, or that he could not do anything with the land for two or five years.

Groups of builders have told me about this matter, and have asked me to make it as public as I can—not that they have any complaint against the town planning authority as such, but they feel that after 14 or 15 years the time has been reached when an overall plan should be available.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: All local authorities should submit their own town planning schemes.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: The Minister has something there. I am aware that some shires have not played the game with the Minister or with the town planning authority. The land south of High Road, where the Jandakot railway line has been pulled up, to Armadale lends itself to residential development. There are some swampy parts which could be developed into parklands. Development to the north of the city has extended beyond Wanneroo and the wireless station. If the industrial development at Kwinana, mentioned by the Minister for Mines last evening, takes place then a lot of the land in that area will be required for housing.

Approval for a subdivision has been given to the Progress Development Corporation. This land lies at the corner of North Lake Road and South Street. Within days of approval the surveyors and bulldozers were in, and now the roads are being built. One house which cost \$12,000 three years ago has been bulldozed. Large organisations are able to obtain approval

for subdivisions but some master builders who have been in business in Perth for 20 to 25 years are refused such approval.

Another point I wish to raise is that subdividers of land are required to set aside a portion for open space. I was told by a number of people that on seeking approval for subdivisions they had to give up part of the land for the building of roads and for development as open space. I would like to know what is the policy of the Government in this regard. Do the owners have to give the land away without payment, or is the land purchased from them?

Some of them have become a little upset when they learned that Landall, which is developing a block on the south side of St. John of God Hospital at Belmont, was paid \$22,000 for a strip of land fronting Great Eastern Highway which is required for the widening of the highway. They want to know why the company was paid that amount, while they themselves had to give up some of their land without payment.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: This was for the purpose of road widening, and everybody is treated in the same way.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: Who pays for the land which is taken for open space? There is an area at Bibra Lake belonging to a Mr. Wills Johnson. This adjoins the Coolbellup area, but Coolbellup will be built out within a few months. This area will be similarly affected. There is the Dolson development project which is in the same category. There is also an area between Willagee and Coolbellup which lends itself to development. The services are already connected to both ends of it, and it is only a matter of joining the services. I have been asked to bring these matters before the notice of the town planning authority.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: We tried to get an overall scheme, but we could not get all the owners to co-operate.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: This is a comment which the people concerned will be able to read. I know it took about five years to get approval for the development of the Gerald Road project. The master builders are wondering whether it is the shortage of staff, or the large number of applications before the authority which is causing the authority to take such a long time to make decisions. Is it a case of the authority trying to get an overall plan?

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Plans have to be processed by many departments. They must be sent back to the local authority concerned and to the departments.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I hope these matters which have been drawn to the attention of the Minister will not be regarded as criticism of the town planning authority. After having been established for 13 or 14 years it should have developed

sufficiently to arrive at decisions expeditiously. Some of the red tape should be put aside. It is an anomaly that a firm like Landall is paid \$22,000 for a small piece of land fronting a road, while other owners have to give up portions of their land without payment.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: The owners have only to give up the land from within their subdivisions. All owners have to do that.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I am not going to conclude my speech without saying something about housing. I have already said a great deal on this subject this year, but I have a lot more to say. Mr. Robinson said that 79 or 80 people have refused the accommodation offered them by the State Housing Commission. In three years I have had the experience of two families doing this, but they had five and six children and were offered accommodation with only two bedrooms. Of course this was nowhere near sufficient.

The situation is that the Housing Commission is not building sufficient houses for either rental or purchase purposes. During the debate on the Address-in-Reply, quoted letters—and they are recorded in *Hansard*—about people who applied for homes in October, 1965. A few weeks ago I was informed that at present applications for May, 1965, in the Fremantle priority area are only now being processed. The Parliamentary liaison officer in the S.H.C. is Mr. Alan Johnson. I do not suppose any officer has ever served the department better than he has. However, he has to refuse applications time and time again because he just does not have the houses available. It is no good Mr. Robinson letting off steam and talking about 10,000 houses being built.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: These are the facts of life.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I have the facts of life in the 1965-66 annual report of the commission.

The Hon. R. Thompson: He did not know what he was talking about.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: Mr. Robinson would not even know that such a report had been printed. No-one is denying that a State total of 8,880 houses was built in 1965-66. It is here in black and white in the report. However, of that number the State Housing Commission built only 2,025 and, incidentally, that includes war service homes, purchase homes, rental homes, and everything else.

The Hon. R. Thompson: As against the 4,000 homes the Labor Government erected in 1954.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You know what the Labor Government did to us by that, don't you? It nearly sent us broke.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: It is no good the Minister for Mines persisting with his arrogant manner in regard to what he

found in 1959-60, because the facts are here in the report of the State Housing Commission. Actually it gives all the figures right back to 1945-46. It gives the total number of houses erected by all authorities, and the number erected by the State Housing Commission.

In 1953-54, the State Housing Commission built 3,300 houses out of a total of 7,800 for the year. In 1954-55, it built 4,425 of the total 9,000 erected in the State with the help of private enterprise. In 1964-65 the total number of houses erected by all concerned—Government and private enterprise—was 9,125.

The Hon. E. C. House: Does that include those erected in the country?

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: Yes. Accompanying this report is a map which indicates the number of houses built in each country town in the State. This is actually the best report which has ever been produced by the State Housing Commission, and it will answer for ever the political attitude of the Minister for Mines as to what he found in 1959. I will tell the Minister of the position as he found it in 1959.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You are getting arrogant now.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: The Minister found that in 1959 the number of houses built in the whole State was reduced from 9,100 in 1954-55 to 6,000. I am quoting the figures for the whole of the State because they were the figures used by Mr. Robinson. Why was the figure reduced to 6,000 in 1959? The reason is that the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Menzies) did what Ben Chifley wanted to do. He nationalised the banks. The banks were told that they could lend only so much money. No-one knows better than does Mr. Griffith, who followed Mr. Graham in office, the difficulty which this created.

This is the last time I want to speak on housing. I do not even want to speak about it next year if I can avoid doing so. I have here a letter from the State Housing Commission but I do not wish to quote the name concerned. However, the file No. is 7842 of 1966. The letter, addressed to me, reads—

Dear Sir,

I refer to your representations on behalf of of 159 High Road, Melville, regarding their housing problem.

The investigation of this case has been completed but I regret to advise that approval is not granted for this family to be offered accommodation on an Emergent basis.

The applications for both rental and purchase are recorded on the Fremantle Priority Lists as from the 11th October, 1966.—

Admittedly, that is only 13 months ago. The letter continues—

—and from the report it is noted—

I hope members will digest these next two paragraphs, which read—

that . . . and his dependants have been living at the current address since marriage in January last, and that the applicant is receiving approximately \$48.40 per week, inclusive of overtime.

I know you realise there are many applicants who are experiencing housing hardships of varying degrees, but who have a far higher priority by virtue of date of lodgement of their applications. Therefore, it is considered it would be most unfair to those earlier applicants if the Commission were to grant assistance ahead of turn in this instance.

You have my assurance that when the Commission is in a position to deal with applications lodged in October, 1966,—

The State Housing Commission is only now processing houses from the priority list for May, 1965. It has made no progress at all. I have written to this gentleman tonight and informed him this was an impertinent reply. I told him I intended to speak in the House tonight, but that I would not quote his name.

He is a young married man with two children. The second baby arrived only three weeks ago. The inspector came to the house. They are living with the wife's mother, father, adult brother, and adult sister. Originally he was told that as he had only one child he had no chance of obtaining emergent accommodation, so he thought he would be in a better position when the second baby arrived. However, I have just read the reply received to the latest letter written to the commission.

What I want to know is what it has to do with the State Housing Commission that this man has been living with his in-laws since his marriage? What business is it of the commission that this man is earning \$48.40 inclusive of overtime? That is only £24 a week. Is the commission suggesting that he is living cheaply because he is with his in-laws, and that therefore he can afford to find accommodation elsewhere?

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: When did he lodge the application?

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I have already admitted that it was only 13 months ago; but the situation is that the house in which they are living is overcrowded. The health inspector from the Melville Shire has told the family it must move out, but where will they go?

Mr. Robinson said that it was no trouble to obtain houses. I have here letters dated the 9th April, the 5th April,

the 1st November, the 14th July, and many, many more.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: Don't you think the situation has been created by the increase in the population and the affluent society?

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: Of course it has been. But what has the State Housing Commission done to meet the problem? I know that a member has only to say a couple of words to Mr. Robinson and he will sit down. I will not sit down.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You are becoming arrogant.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I certainly am because I am now starting to have sleepless nights worrying about these unfortunate people. I even had to appear in court a week ago to try to persuade the magistrate to do something, but his hands were tied as he is permitted to give a tenant relief to a maximum of 28 days, when he must be evicted.

I have here a cutting from that very good paper we receive, *The Good Neighbour*, and it reads—

Rents "too high" for new arrivals

Few migrants arriving in Australia were in a position to buy a house, the Emigration Attache of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Mr. F. Jensma, told the annual meeting of the A.C.T. Good Neighbour Council.

"The majority are not in a position to buy a house and therefore must look for a place to rent," he said.

"Since there seems to be a great shortage of houses to let and a large demand, the rents are high—in many cases too high for recent arrivals."

Families with two or more children were handicapped most, Mr. Jensma said.

High rents hindered any chance the migrant had of saving enough for a deposit on a house of his own.

And the demand for houses was increasing because people born in the "baby boom" after the Second World War were now establishing families.

"It might be something for the Good Neighbour Councils to look into," Mr. Jensma said.

"To quote Alan Stoller in the book, *New Faces*: 'If we are to encourage integration, good standards of housing are necessary'."

Mr. Jensma said that, unlike in the immediate post-war period, a person thinking of migrating today was likely to weigh the pros and cons of each immigration country.

This applied particularly to the migrant who had no relative already settled in one of the countries.

"Nowadays, more than before, the people want to know what they can

expect to find in the receiving country and compare this with what is available in their own country," Mr. Jensma said.

Comparing the growing preference for Canada of Dutch migrants, he said that, as Canada had plenty of house and apartments for rent, it did not need hostels.

But Australia's main advantage over Canada were its stable employment situation and its climate.

Mr. Jensma quoted the Minister for Immigration, Mr. Snedden, as having said: "Australia is in a strongly competitive market for a valuable commodity."

"This statement puts in a nutshell that things have changed tremendously since the early post-war period," Mr. Jensma said.

In his annual report, the president, Mr. J. R. Paget, said three branches of the A.C.T. Good Neighbour Council had been formed during the year.

The article continues—

This year we hope to achieve the formation of at least another three or even four more branches.

The idea is to discuss the matter of rent being too high. The letter which was received from the State Housing Commission on the 22nd November suggests that a man cannot get out of the crowded home in which he has been living since January last. What is the State Housing Commission suggesting? I am going to take this letter to Mr. O'Neil.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Don't do that before I get to him.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: Two people are being evicted. I spoke to two this afternoon, and Mr. Ron Thompson knows both of them. One is to leave on the 7th December and the other is to leave on the 2nd December, because they have received replies today from the S.H.C. to the effect that the commission cannot help them. One man has four children and the other has three. Where are they to go? Of course, they could go into flats or some thing similar, provided they could pay \$2 or more per week in rent. They are working people and not the people to whom Mr. Robinson referred who are building in Dianella and who, after having paid \$4,000 for a block of land, pay \$12,000 to build the house.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: Do you think that is the only type of person who lives in Dianella, Scarborough, or Karrinlyup?

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I have relatives who live in Dianella and they paid \$14,000 for a home and \$4,000 for the block of land. The people to whom I am referring cannot pay this money. One man is receiving \$48 per week and he just cannot afford to pay \$20 per week in rent.

The Hon. H. R. Robinson: You want him to get a home in 13 months.

The Hon. J. Dolan: Mr. Robinson has made his speech, such as it was.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I have mentioned twice that what I am complaining about is the audacity of some person writing an insulting letter such as the one I have referred to, not to mention the fact that I have to send this letter on.

Rents are such that a man appeared in the Perth Police Court last Monday on an eviction charge. He has six children. The amount of rental he was paying was \$18 per week. Perhaps he is paying \$17 per week; I could stand to be corrected on that figure. He was informed by the magistrate that he had until the 14th December to get out. Then the owner came to him and said, "As from today your rent is going to be \$20."

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: They did the same with a person who has six children.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I went to the Crown Law Department and found that this is illegal. I told the man to pay the rent he was paying at the time he went to court and let the other man summons him. He has six children. How or where is he going to find a house? He is a migrant who has been in the country for 13 months. He is a joiner by trade and tried to work in the open spaces up north in order to earn more money. He is not particularly strong in the chest and was unable to do this kind of work. He has until the 14th December before he will be evicted. I repeat: Where is he to go?

It is because of added population that this problem is so acute. I would like to mention this for the benefit of Mr. Robinson. More than 2,500 people each year are coming into my electorate in Melville, Applecross, and Kwinana. The State Housing Commission has done a wonderful job at Coolbellup. However, for whom did the State Housing Commission build these homes? It built them for people who are earning under \$50 per week. They were not built for people who can afford to build houses in Dianella after they have paid \$4,000 for a block of land.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That is robbery.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I want to thank members who have listened to me for so long. I did not mean to take up this length of time. As a responsible citizen in the community, and as the representative for my electorate, I want to emphasise that I do not stand up in this House in order to tell lies. The situation is very drastic. People who are earning \$50 or less per week are finding it impossible to obtain accommodation; and if a man has two or more children, where can he obtain a flat? I must mention that yesterday I managed to get a flat for a man who has

five children. The owner allowed him to have it for six weeks because of the children. The previous tenants paid \$16 per week, but this man will have to pay \$20 per week.

I must mention something about Rockingham. The State Housing Commission has put its foot down so far as evictions at Rockingham are concerned. I do not blame the commission. People who own properties in Rockingham let them in the off-season for between \$16 and \$18 per week. Now these owners are starting to give notice to evict the tenants, because during the summer season it will be possible for them to receive between \$40 and \$50 in rent per week. I took an application to the State Housing Commission of a person who had an 18 months' priority. The State Housing Commission said straightout that, because he is living in Rockingham, it just will not listen to the case.

The Hon. E. C. House: Will high-density flats and housing help?

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I wish to make one final suggestion before I conclude. This does not come from me, but I am picking somebody else's brains. At the moment there are between 300 and 400 homes in the metropolitan area occupied by single persons—widows or widowers.

The Housing Commission has always been gracious in the matter and has never said that these people have to get out. The commission allows them to carry on. Would it not be possible to build 300 or 400 one-bedroom units? It would certainly be much cheaper to build 300 single units for people who are now living in a home which could accommodate families of two or three children, because there is adequate bedroom accommodation. If Mr. Johnson could have a guarantee of something like this, I am sure he would feel 10 years younger, because he knows this is the situation. Perhaps the Government could do something about the problem by this means. It is not necessary that all of them should be built in the one place; the commission could build these blocks wherever it wished. If a person who was occupying a home refused to go into a single unit when it was built, I think the Housing Commission would be quite justified in saying, "We give you a month in which to get out, because we want to put a family into the house."

I thank members for listening to me. I hope something will be done to overcome the very difficult situation which exists with high rents and a lack of housing for those who are on low incomes. I stress that the majority of people in the low income bracket are prepared to pay a reasonable rent in cash and not run into debt.

THE HON. G. E. D. BRAND (Lower North) [10.10 p.m.]: I would like to go mad about housing too, but I dare not. However, I have a few requests to make later on. First of all I would like to say

that I have enjoyed listening to members speaking on their various topics this evening. I have a soft spot for the troubles which Mr. Clive Griffiths encounters; though he apparently does not have vandals down his way. I read in this evening's *Daily News* that some unkind person in Exmouth who does not like Americans decided on Thanksgiving Day, which was last Thursday, to let down half of the tyres of the cars which were in the town. I do not know why it was done; but, apparently, somebody thought it was a lot of fun.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: You are having trouble up your way?

The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND: Yes. I would like to mention a few matters this evening which I think require some attention. In some cases I want to give thanks to people who have done certain jobs, and in other cases I wish to express the hope that certain action will be taken in the future.

Members might recall that we had some trouble with natives' dogs in Laverton some time ago. Members may also recall that one of the stations had lost a large number of sheep due to the depredations of these dogs. The pastoral people tried their own method of strewing poison baits around, but the natives were too quick and went around the stations picking up the baits and throwing them around the properties. They got their own back by killing the dogs which belonged to the pastoralists.

I want to record a vote of thanks to Inspector Clarey who has been to Laverton and has settled the whole matter. He put on his best uniform and had a serious talk, through interpreters, with the natives. The matter has been fixed up satisfactorily. It is now one dog per man or else! I do wish to record my own vote of thanks to Inspector Clarey on this matter.

I was not joking when I said earlier that I wished to make some remarks on housing. As members know, most of the houses which are erected at Exmouth Gulf have been erected on a partnership basis by the Commonwealth and the State for the purpose of housing Commonwealth and State employees. Colonel Murdoch, who is the commissioner, has has a hard job persuading his staff at the shire office, which is under his control, to stay while they have to live in caravan parks, and other makeshift accommodation. I know it is the policy of the State Housing Commission and of the Minister to keep a watchful eye on a new townsite for a little while to make sure that the area warrants the building of State Housing Commission homes.

I wish to request that the Government does keep an eye on this case and, as soon as possible, builds some State Housing Commission homes. If this were done, the commissioner would be able to keep some of his staff, and other people who are not able to secure homes, because they are

not working for the Commonwealth or the State Government, would be able to find a pillow upon which to lay their heads. I hope the Minister will offer some help in the not too distant future.

I noticed recently in the *Northern Times* that the Carnarvon Shire Council had received a letter from Mr. Brightwell, a Carnarvon businessman, requesting the Council to give consideration to erecting a block of toilets and establishing a rubbish tip at Quobba Blowhole Reserve, which is a well-known area where people go to swim and fish in the summer months. Knowing this, I wonder if the Tourist Development Authority would be able to give some sort of financial assistance. I do not know whether application would have to be made, but I suppose it would. I wanted to point it out so that the Tourist Development Authority knows the request is being made, and perhaps it may do something towards it.

Today a report on fishing has been tabled by the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna. The report covers the Shark Bay area. It is quite interesting to read this document, but probably it would take more time to discuss than I have available.

I would like to mention a couple of facts. We all know there has been a decline in fishing at Shark Bay. It has been more or less suggested that in the very near future the processing factory at Shark Bay or Denham will be closing down. The annual production in the processing factory has dropped by 500,000 lb. in the past two years, as was stated by the general manager—Mr. F. Pensabene—on the 5th August, 1967. He was referring to the fish treated at the Planet fisheries factory. He made these observations during the visit of the committee which investigated the situation at the time.

I hope that if anything comes out of this report it will be investigated with a view to making sure that the people there have something solid behind them; particularly those who depend on fishing in that area for a livelihood. Fishing has been their main source of income for many years.

We all know this is the oldest part of Australia—it was discovered in 1616. When the report is studied I hope the Government in its wisdom will find some way to assist the people at Shark Bay; to help them restore the fishing industry to a more sound footing.

I have some rather interesting notes here concerning my electorate, though I fear I will not have time to deal with them all. I would, however, like to take the opportunity to thank the Main Roads Department for the excellent work it does in the northern part of the State.

Recently we have heard a great deal of talk about soil conservation, and we are all aware that soil erosion affects the roads in that area. At about this time

last year I visited Shark Bay and Exmouth Gulf. There were very strong southerly winds blowing at the time—and they had been blowing for some time previously—which resulted in the sand being blown away.

It also resulted in outcrops of gravel being left, to such an extent that one did not know whether one was on the road or in the sand. The Main Roads Department did a wonderful job in bringing the road back to a suitable condition. This not only refers to the Shark Bay road, which is 80-odd miles long from the turn-off at the Overlanders, but it also refers to the 120 miles from Minilya Station into Exmouth. It was quite a difficult job, but the Main Roads Department carried out the work most efficiently, despite the fact that there was no gravel on which to work; it was mostly sand which had to be tamped down and treated. The department has done everything possible to help the motorist in this matter.

There is nothing more that I can say. I do hope that some good will emanate from the report that has been handed in by the fisheries advisory committee.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. J. Dolan.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [10.19 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 2.30 p.m. tomorrow (Friday).

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 10.20 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 23rd November, 1967

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

BILLS (3): RETURNED

1. Marking of Lamb and Hogget Bill.
Bill returned from the Council with an amendment.
2. Reserves Bill.
Bill returned from the Council without amendment.
3. Evidence Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).
Bill returned from the Council with amendments.

QUESTIONS (16): ON NOTICE

GIFT DUTY

Deduction from Probate Duty

1. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

Regarding gift duty which is paid by a person who dies shortly afterwards so that the amount of the gift is deemed part of the estate for probate duty purposes, is the amount of gift duty already paid refunded or deducted from probate duty payable?

- Mr. COURT replied:

In the circumstances indicated, section 99 of the Administration Act provides that from probate duty assessable by the State Government there shall be deducted the *ad valorem* stamp duty paid to the State Government on the deed or instrument that evidenced the gift.

Gift duty paid to the Commonwealth Government is similarly allowed as a deduction from State duty assessable by the Commonwealth Government.

FREEWAY

Darlington-Boya Area

2. Mr. DUNN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has the Main Roads Department made any formal approach to the overall planning authority in connection with its consideration of the possible freeway through the Darlington-Boya area as a possible alternative or adjunct to Great Eastern Highway?
- (2) Have any properties been taken over by the Government in order to provide for this proposed freeway?
- (3) Is the subdivisional planning of this area being developed on the basis of this proposed freeway?
- (4) If the answer to (2) and (3) is "Yes," does not this indicate that a firm decision has been made regarding this proposed freeway?
- (5) If the answer to (4) is "Yes," can he advise when the decision on this proposed freeway was made?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No properties have been acquired to date.
- (3) to (5) Preliminary investigations are being carried out to locate a future alternative route to Great Eastern Highway. One of the routes being examined is that passing through Boya and