

The Hon. W. R. Withers: I disagree with you.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Mr. Withers believes that is democracy?

The Hon. W. R. Withers: Yes.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: He believes it is democracy when his voters have nine times the voting power of my voters?

The Hon. W. R. Withers: It depends on how big your province is.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Will members please stop interjecting and allow the Minister to conclude his speech so that the House can deal with its business?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I was about to close and in so doing I would like, in lighter vein, to advise Mr. MacKinnon, who indicated that I was getting tired and old in my new job, that I will still challenge him to a 100-yard race, accompany him to the gym, or put some gloves on and tackle half a dozen rounds with him if he so desires.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That might be risky!

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes—17

Hon. C. R. Abbey	Hon. I. G. Medcalf
Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. T. O. Perry
Hon. G. W. Berry	Hon. J. M. Thomson
Hon. V. J. Ferry	Hon. F. R. White
Hon. A. F. Griffith	Hon. F. D. Willmott
Hon. Clive Griffiths	Hon. W. R. Withers
Hon. L. A. Logan	Hon. D. J. Wordsworth
Hon. G. C. MacKinnon	Hon. J. Heitman
Hon. N. McNeill	(Teller)

Noes—9

Hon. R. F. Claughton	Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs
Hon. S. J. Dellar	Hon. R. Thompson
Hon. J. Dolan	Hon. W. F. Willesee
Hon. J. L. Hunt	Hon. Lyla Elliott
Hon. R. T. Leeson	(Teller)

Amendment thus passed.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan.

## COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

### Assembly Personnel

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying the personnel of sessional committees appointed by that House.

House adjourned at 10.02 p.m.

## Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 21st March, 1973

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

### QUESTIONS (57): ON NOTICE

#### 1. HOUSING

##### Wundowie

Mr. MOILER, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many vacant residential lots does the State Housing Commission hold at Wundowie?

- (2) Does the Commission propose to build further houses at Wundowie?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), when does it propose to commence the next group and how many houses will be constructed?
- (4) How many applicants on the waiting list for—
  - (a) rental homes;
  - (b) purchase homes,
 have indicated their preference for Wundowie?

Mr. Davies (for Mr. BICKERTON) replied:

- (1) Three lots, two of which are unsuitable for immediate use.
- (2) and (3) The commission will construct a further five houses in Wundowie on lots yet to be obtained from Lands Department. Tenders will be invited as soon as arrangements are finalised for the provision of the necessary services and land allocation is confirmed with the Lands Department. It is anticipated construction will commence early in June, next.
- (4) (a) and (b) Six applicants are listed for rental accommodation in Wundowie. One of these is also listed for purchase assistance, and another is seeking single unit pensioner accommodation.

2.

## EDUCATION

### Television Aids: Country Areas

Mr. McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Education:

As many country school children are deprived of the benefits of participating in the very well presented A.B.C. T.V. programmes, particularly in the primary schools—

- (a) will he make representations to the Commonwealth Minister for Education requesting that facilities be provided by the Commonwealth Government for the location of T.V. repeater stations in areas which will cover the eastern and north-eastern wheatbelt of Western Australia;
- (b) will he give consideration to the provision of higher T.V. aerials for schools and teachers' houses in the more remote areas where reception is variable?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (a) The need to extend the transmission range of educational television broadcasting in each Australian State is to be included in the agenda of

the meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee on school broadcasting to be held in June 1973. The Director-General of Education represents Western Australian interests on this committee.

- (b) The provision of higher masts would not guarantee adequate daylight television reception in marginal viewing areas. The present policy provides for the installation of sets and appropriate antennae in all schools where the signal strength indicates a possibility of reasonable reception during school hours. Signal strengths are determined by several factors, one of which is the nature of the terrain.

### 3. SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS

#### *Enrolments*

Mr. MOILER, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the present enrolment figure for Governor Stirling Senior High School?
- (2) What were the grade enrolments as at 9th February for grades 4, 5, 6 and 7 at the following primary schools:—

Darlington, Glen Forrest, Mundaring, Parkerville, Sawyers Valley, Mt. Helena, Chidlow and Wooroloo?

- (3) What were the enrolments as at 16th February, 1973 for 1st year, 2nd year and 3rd year students at the Eastern Hills High School and Como Senior High School?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) 1,585.
- (2)—

	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
Darlington ....	58	56	50	35
Glen Forrest ....	16	22	17	22
Mundaring ....	39	31	44	42
Parkerville ....	12	12	12	24
Sawyers Valley ..	2	7	9	2
Mount Helena ..	38	38	35	56
Chidlow ....	9	7	11	8
Wooroloo ....	12	8	5	4

(3)—

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Eastern Hills high ....	155	147	123
Como Senior high ....	179	202	209

### 4. CROWN LAND

#### *Mt. Helena: Auction*

Mr. MOILER, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) When was Crown land at Mt. Helena last offered for sale by public auction?

- (2) What was the area of each lot offered for sale?
- (3) What was the location of the lots?
- (4) How many lots were offered for sale?
- (5) Are the lots still available for purchase?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) 18th June, 1971.
- (2) Lot 329 1596 square metres, lot 330 1740 square metres. Lot 331 1740 square metres, lot 332 1791 square metres.
- (3) The lots front Marquis Street.
- (4) Four lots, numbers 329-332 inclusive. Only lot 331 was purchased.
- (5) No. Lots 329 and 330 have since been reserved for "Government requirements", Lot 332 has been set aside as a reserve for "hall site" (Boy Scouts Assoc).

Lot 331 has been forfeited to the Crown for non-compliance with conditions and is at present vacant Crown land.

### 5. BUILDING BLOCKS AT GREENWOOD

#### *Sale by R. & I. Bank*

Mr. O'NEIL, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What was the price paid by the State Housing Commission to the Rural and Industries Bank for 20 blocks in Warwick Road, Greenwood?
- (2) What was the average price paid for blocks sold by the Rural and Industries Bank in the immediate vicinity of the blocks purchased by the State Housing Commission?
- (3) At what price is it proposed to make available State Housing Commission blocks to home purchasers?
- (4) Is he aware that purchasers of land from the Rural and Industries Bank in this area are not permitted to sell for four years?
- (5) Will a similar restriction be placed on purchasers of State Housing Commission homes built on the lots in question?
- (6) What will be the terms and conditions, e.g., deposit, repayment period, interest rates, etc., upon which State Housing Commission homes on these blocks will be sold to eligible applicants?

Mr. Davies (for Mr. BICKERTON) replied:

- (1) \$4,000 per lot.
- (2) The commission is not aware of prices obtained by the Rural and Industries Bank for sale of residential lots.

- (3) In accordance with long standing policy.
- (4) The commission has not investigated Rural and Industries Bank conditions of sale.
- (5) The lots purchased by the commission are free of encumbrances.
- (6) It is proposed intending purchasers should arrange their own finance through building societies.

6. **PAMPHLET "ANOTHER CASUALTY IN 1973"**

*Distribution in Parliament House*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Speaker:

- (1) Has he seen the pamphlet "Another Casualty in 1973"?
- (2) Is he aware who distributed these pamphlets in Parliament House, including the public gallery of the Assembly on the Opening of Parliament on the evening of 15th March?
- (3) If (2) is "No" will he obtain this information and advise the House?
- (4) Did he authorise the distribution?
- (5) If "No" to (4), does this unauthorised act contravene any order, practice or regulation governing conduct in Parliament House?
- (6) Were the pamphlets produced or duplicated on Parliament House equipment?
- (7) Does he intend to take action against the person or persons responsible?
- (8) If "Yes" to (7), what action does he intend to take?

The SPEAKER replied:

- (1) Yes—that supplied by the Member.
- (2) No. All Legislative Assembly staff have assured me that they had no part in any alleged distribution.  
It should be noted that another circular from an outside source was distributed within the Chamber to all Members on Thursday, 15th March, without authority or knowledge of any Assembly staff.
- (3) This would be difficult unless the person or persons involved came forward and supplied the information.
- (4) No. This is the only copy that has been reported to me.
- (5) If pamphlets were distributed in the public gallery it does contravene general practice in the Legislative Assembly. Parliamentary attendants have been instructed that unstamped mail delivered to Parliament House from outside sources is to be separated on Party lines and addressed to the secretary of each party for distribution or otherwise by the secretary.

- (6) Not to my knowledge. The copy supplied to me by the Member for Dale appears to have been done on an off-set copier.
- (7) Unless the person responsible is known, no action can be taken.
- (8) See answer to (7).

7. **ABORIGINES' WELFARE NEEDS**

*Royal Commission: Terms of Reference*

Mr. W. A. MANNING, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Further to my question on 17th October, 1972, will he advise the reasons for the long delay in appointing a Royal Commission to inquire into Aboriginal affairs in accordance with my motion on the subject?
- (2) What terms of reference have been prepared?
- (3) When will the commission be appointed?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) As no W.A. judge will be available within the foreseeable future, a request was made to the Commonwealth Government on the 4th October, 1972 for the release of a Federal judge to act as a Royal Commissioner. The change of Federal Government has caused a delay in the decision, but the matter is currently being pursued.
- (2) The terms of reference proposed are:—  
"to enquire into and report upon all matters affecting the well-being of persons of Aboriginal descent in Western Australia  
(with particular reference to their health, education, housing, social welfare, economic and cultural needs)  
and to make such recommendations as are thought desirable—  
(a) as to legislative changes  
(b) as to action by appropriate authorities."
- (3) Not known.

8. **AUSTRALIAN CLASSIFIED BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

*Accounts to Businesses*

Mr. HUTCHINSON, to the Minister for Consumer Protection:

- (1) Is he aware that a pink, official looking coloured account is being sent to many businesses who are listed in the pink pages of the telephone directory by the Australian Classified Business Directory whose base of operations is in Sydney?

- (2) Is he further aware that most if not all of the Western Australian firms who are billed in this "pseudo official" way do not request any listing in the Classified Business Directory and that despite a small print statement on a back page of the account that it is "a solicitation and not an assertion of a right to payment" many businesses small or large can be virtually tricked into paying for something they do not want?
- (3) Is there any way that people concerned can be protected from this off-beat method of advertising?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

- (1) Yes. The Consumer Protection Bureau has received many complaints in this regard not only relating to the firm named, but two others, including one from overseas.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) At present there is no protection against this deceptive practice as the practice is carried on interstate through the mails. For any legislation to be effective it will need to be uniform throughout Australia. The need for such legislation has been discussed at various State Minister for Labour conferences. Several States brought in legislation which we do not consider is fully satisfactory. The matter was referred to the first meeting of the Consumer Affairs Council by the Consumer Protection Bureau for consideration. I anticipate the Council will shortly be making recommendations to me on the most effective way of protecting people from this practice.

## 9. CHILD WELFARE

### "Latch-key" Children

Mr. HUTCHINSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) What steps, if any, have been taken to try to solve the problem of the "latch-key" children?
- (2) Have the representations of the Mosman Park Council been considered and any agreement reached on the submission put forward by the council?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Several experiments have been conducted by the W.A. Council of Social Service and voluntary organisations into the extent and the needs of latch-key children in Western Australia. The department is aware of and concerned with, this problem. Two submis-

sions have been received for assistance with the establishment of after school activity centres.

One such centre is currently in operation at a local primary school. The department is assisting with advice and finance for the employment of play leaders.

- (2) Assistance has also been offered to the Mosman Town Council. I believe that the council is at present endeavouring to engage suitable play leaders for their proposed scheme. Once play leaders are found action will be taken to make the offered funds available to the council.

## 10. RESCUE AIRCRAFT

### Stationing in Western Australia

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware that during a recent crisis on an oil rig off the north-west coast, it was stated that an Orion R.A.A.F. rescue aircraft was standing by in South Australia, presumably because no such unit was stationed in Western Australia?
- (2) Will he make representation to the Commonwealth Government requesting that suitable rescue aircraft be stationed at a R.A.A.F. base in Western Australia?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) No. It is understood, however, that it is normal practice at R.A.A.F. bases for an aircraft to be on "stand-by" for any emergency which may occur.
- (2) A suggestion to this effect was submitted by the Fort Hedland Voluntary Emergency Service, and is currently under consideration. I am advised, however, that it is a matter of some difficulty to determine what is a suitable aircraft. Apart from air dropping of supplies, aircraft, other than helicopters, have no ability to rescue personnel from oil rigs. Helicopters themselves are subject to limitations of fuel, range, and cyclonic conditions.

## 11. TOWN PLANNING

### Footpaths: Liability for Provision

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) Is he aware that the Minister for Local Government recently dismissed an appeal by a land developer against a decision of a local authority to force the developer to provide footpaths in addition to other works which were prescribed as conditions of approval issued by the Town Planning Board?

- (2) Does he agree that a local authority has the right to impose restrictions over and above those of which land developers are advised when the Town Planning Board grants permission for development?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes, a local authority may impose additional conditions within the limits of its statutory powers, subject to whatever rights of appeal are available to the owner.
- Whether such a requirement would be regarded as a prerequisite by the Town Planning Board before endorsing the survey plan or diagram would depend on the particular circumstances and the terms of its preliminary approval.

## 12. KWINANA-BALGA POWER LINE

### *Easterly Route: Survey and Components*

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Is the survey of the more easterly of the two routes of the 330 kV Kwinana-Balga transmission line complete?
- (2) If not, when will it be completed?
- (3) Has fabrication of the component parts of the towers been started and, if so, how much work has been done?
- (4) When is it expected that fabrication will be complete?
- (5) How many tower bases have been constructed on this route and where are they placed?
- (6) When will this section of the line be complete?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) The survey for the centre line of the route applying to engineering and construction purposes has not been completed.
- (2) In approximately two months.
- (3) (a) Yes  
(b) 450 tons.
- (4) Approximately 21 months.
- (5) (a) 27.  
(b) Between Peel Estate and Wungong River.
- (6) Mid-1975.

## 13. KWINANA-BALGA POWER LINE

### *Coastal Plains Route: Survey and Components*

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Is the survey of the foothills (coastal plain) route of the 330 kV Kwinana-Balga transmission line complete?

- (2) If not, when will it be completed?
- (3) Has fabrication of the component parts of the towers been started and, if so, how much work has been done?
- (4) When is it expected that fabrication will be complete?
- (5) How many tower bases have been constructed on this route and where are they placed?
- (6) When will this section of the line be complete?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) The survey for the centre line of the route applying to engineering and construction purposes has not been completed.
- (2) In approximately two months.
- (3) (a) Yes.  
(b) 300 tons.
- (4) Approximately 18 months.
- (5) (a) 26.  
(b) Between Mason Road and Allen Road and in Guildford Grammar School property.
- (6) By the end of 1974.

## 14. KWINANA-BALGA POWER LINE

### *Estimated Cost*

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) How much money has so far been expended on the 330 kV power line?
- (2) What is the current estimated cost of the line?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) \$755,326 to 20th March, 1973.
- (2) \$15,000,000.

## 15. EDUCATION

### *Commonwealth Grant of \$2,500,000*

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Education:

Will he name the schools, and state the extent of the work at each of those schools, which will benefit from the \$2.5 million Commonwealth grant, some details of which were given in an item in *The West Australian* on 27th February?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Halls/gymnasia  
Senior High Schools  
John Forrest  
Scarborough  
Kent Street  
Kwinana  
Melville  
Churchlands

(2) Library/resource centres  
 Cunderdin Agricultural Junior High  
 Pingelly Junior High  
 Quairading Junior High  
 Denmark Agricultural Junior High  
 Norseman Junior High  
 Boyup Brook Junior High  
 Wongan Hills Junior High

(3) Library/resource centres  
 (primary)

Medina  
 East Hamilton Hill  
 Coolbellup  
 Gosnells  
 Riverton  
 Karrinyup  
 Spencer Park  
 Rangeway  
 West Morley  
 Thornlie  
 North Beach  
 Safety Bay  
 Wilson  
 North Lake  
 Carey Park  
 Highgate  
 Katanning  
 Beckenham  
 Kalamunda  
 Rossmoyne  
 North Kalgoorlie  
 Whiteside  
 Maddington  
 Kapinara  
 Attadale  
 Adam Road  
 Deanmore  
 Nollamara  
 Mt. Barker  
 Carnarvon  
 Mandurah  
 Carlisle

(4) Major upgrading

East Fremantle primary  
 Guildford primary

(5) Minor upgrading

Works to be allocated according to estimates received.

(6) Does the contract carry a penalty clause (or liquidated damages) and, if so, what does the clause say?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

(1) This work was part of the main contract for extensive additions to the school which was let on 1st November, 1972. No separate price was allocated to the 4" ring-main water line.

(2) 2nd May, 1973.

(3) The contract is anticipated to be completed on the due date.

(4) (a) Jaxon Constructions Pty. Ltd.  
 (b) \$312,525.

(5) The other tenderers for the overall contract were:—

	\$
G.K.W. Construction & Development Pty. Ltd.	312,608.00
Anka Constructions (W.A.) Pty. Ltd.	314,376.00
R.D.C. Constructions	318,816.00
Hobbs & Walters Pty. Ltd.	319,236.00
Landall Commercial Constructions	322,995.00
Trident Construction Pty. Ltd.	323,411.00
Sabemo (W.A.) Pty. Ltd.	326,383.00
Lilleyman Construction & Development Company	334,670.00
K.R. Stewart Pty. Ltd.	334,940.00
A. Walters & Sons Pty. Ltd.	353,447.00
Woodland Constructions Pty. Ltd.	362,669.00
A. Spiccia Building Co. Pty. Ltd.	372,155.00
S. Stojkos & Co. Pty. Ltd.	388,434.00
Colin Fogliani Pty. Ltd.	414,514.00

(6) (a) Yes. Liquidated Damages.

(b) \$50.00 per day including Sundays.

## 16. KALAMUNDA HIGH SCHOOL

### Water Main Contract

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Education:

(1) On what date was the contract for provision at Kalamunda high school of the new 4 in. ring-main water line let?

(2) What was the specified date of completion?

(3) When will the work be completed?

(4) To whom was the contract let and what sum of money was involved?

(5) What is the name of other tenderers and the prices they quoted?

## 17.

### HIGH SCHOOLS

#### Hall-gymnasium: Construction

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Education:

(1) At which State high schools will construction of hall/gymnasiums be started in the next financial year?

(2) Which of these will be built using special funds made available by the Commonwealth?

(3) What is the present enrolment at each of the schools to receive such facilities?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

(1) and (3)	
Senior high school	Enrolment
John Forrest	1373
Scarborough	1434
Kent Street	1116
Kwinana	1224
Melville	1403
Churchlands	1355

- (2) All of the above will be built from Commonwealth funds.

## 18. KALAMUNDA HIGH SCHOOL

### *Hall-gymnasium*

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Education:

When will a hall/gymnasium be built at Kalamunda high school?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

It will not be possible to provide such a hall before the 1974/75 financial year.

## 19. KALAMUNDA HIGH SCHOOL

### *Enrolments*

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the present enrolment at Kalamunda high school?
- (2) What is the predicted number for the start of 1974?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) 1244.
- (2) 1363.

## 20. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

### *Dust Nuisance: Paddocks in Boya-Guildford*

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Environmental Protection:

- (1) Is he aware that apparent overstocking of stock firm holding paddocks along the bank of the Helena River between Boya and Guildford is causing a dust problem?
- (2) Is it true that irreparable damage will be done by wind erosion if the present position continues?
- (3) What action is he prepared to take to ensure that the present dust nuisance is reduced?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It is not intended that the present position will continue indefinitely and therefore the damage will not be irreparable.
- (3) My department is collaborating with the Agricultural Department which is advising the companies concerned on corrective measures to be considered. These will include

a heavy topdressing with superphosphate and seeding with clover this year after the first rains and advice has been given that the area should be vegetated before stock are held there again. It is anticipated that the position will be kept under review.

## 21. MIDLAND ABATTOIR

### *Effluent Disposal*

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has the open pond effluent disposal system at the Midland abattoirs been replaced by a new system?
- (2) If not, when will the new treatment plant be installed?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) No.
  - (2) Contracts have been let for the new system and excavations have commenced.
- It is hoped that the plant will be installed by December 1973.

## 22. CATTLE ROAD TRAINS

### *Overheight Units*

Mr. RIDGE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it a fact that an out of the State cattle haulier has been granted permission to operate cattle road trains in Western Australia which exceed by 6 inches the maximum height stipulated in the Traffic regulations?
- (2) If "Yes" in what other respects do the units not comply with the Western Australian regulations?
- (3) When was permission granted, and by whom?
- (4) Have the same concessions been granted to Western Australian road train operators who are currently building or contemplating building double decked units?
- (5) If "No" why not?
- (6) Does he not consider the proposal unfairly discriminates against Western Australian operators?
- (7) What restrictions, if any, have been placed on the operation of the overheight units?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) With spread axles they exceed the 96" maximum for a tandem axle group defined in the Vehicle Weights Regulations.
- (b) The distance from the leading edge of the trailer to the centre of the rear axle exceeds 31 feet.

- (3) On the 9th March, 1973, by the Minister for Police, Transport and Railways.
- (4) No. However, at least one known Western Australian based owner with a vehicle which does not comply with the Vehicle Standards Regulations is operating at present under the same concession.
- (5) The Minister for Police and Transport has approved the formation of an expert committee to investigate the desirability of an amendment to the Vehicle Standards Regulations limit of fourteen feet in height.
- (6) No.
- (7) They have been limited to operate for the balance of 1973, pending the receipt of expert committee recommendations.

## 23. ABORIGINES

### *Pantjün Downs Station: Acquisition*

Mr. RIDGE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) What was the purchase price of Pantjün Downs station which was recently acquired by the Commonwealth Government for the Mowanjum Aboriginal group?
- (2) What State and/or Federal funds have been provided as working capital in order that the venture can be established on a firm foundation?
- (3) If any, what other assistance has been granted by way of the provision of stock, plant and buildings, etc.?
- (4) By what means of transportation will cattle be shifted from the station to the meatworks?
- (5) How is it intended to transport stores and equipment into the station?
- (6) What action has been taken in relation to the early provision of road access to the property which will be suitable for use by conventional vehicles including cattle road trains?
- (7) If no funds have been provided for the purpose of constructing a road to the station homestead site, will he make representations to the appropriate authorities and seek to have the work performed at an early date?
- (8) Will he broadly outline what plans the Government has for advising training and supervising the Aborigines in order to ensure the successful operation of the project?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) to (8) The purchase of Panta Downs Station was conducted by the Commonwealth Government and the Minister for Community Welfare has referred your question to the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

He will advise you further on receipt of a reply.

## 24. PENSIONERS IN THE NORTH-WEST

### *Free Transport*

Mr. RIDGE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Now that the passenger vessels of the State Shipping Service fleet have been phased out of operation, will he advise what arrangements have been made for free transport to the south every two years for age pensioners who have been resident in the north-west for five years or more?
- (2) If none, will he advise what action is contemplated?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) No arrangement has been made with regard to this concession which was formerly provided by the State Shipping Service.
- (2) This matter will be reviewed by the Government in the forthcoming estimates. At present no funds are available to the Community Welfare Department to provide the service.

## 25. HOUSING IN METROPOLITAN AREA

### *Rental Homes, Outstanding Applications, and Vacancy Rate*

Mr. W. A. MANNING, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What is the total number of State Housing Commission rental homes, flats, etc., in the metropolitan area which are—
  - (a) at present under rental;
  - (b) vacant?
- (2) What is the number of waiting applications in the metropolitan area?
- (3) What is the annual "vacancy rate"?
- (4) (a) How many homes, flats, etc., are in course of construction;
  - (b) for how many homes, flats, etc., are tenders now being called?

Mr. Davies (for Mr. BICKERTON) replied:

- (1) (a) 14,430 units.
- (b) 379 units.



- (2) Outstanding rental applications in the metropolitan area as at 28th February, 1973, were 6,975 of which 790 applications are also listed for purchase assistance.

The estimated withdrawal of applications would reduce the figure of 6,975 to an estimated real demand for rental assistance of 4,900.

- (3) The figures for 1971/72 show the annual vacancies at a level of 1,300 units for the metropolitan area.
- (4) (a) In the metropolitan area 1,075 units of rental accommodation are presently under construction (that is the contract has been signed or the work commenced).
- (b) In the metropolitan area tenders for 382 units of rental accommodation have been called but contracts are not yet signed.

## 26. YUNDURUP CANALS DEVELOPMENT

### *Government Guarantee*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Premier:

- (1) What is the current contingent liability of the Government under the \$1,750,000 guarantee in favour of the Yundurup canals project?
- (2) How much is this contingent liability reduced for each block sold?
- (3) Does he still contend the Government had a moral obligation to give the guarantee, due to conditions of development being changed which caused the loss of financial backing?
- (4) If "No" to (3), why was the guarantee given?
- (5) If "Yes" to (3), now that he has announced his intention of "open Government" will he present, or obtain and present factual evidence of the proprietors' denial—
- (a) that they did not hear at a meeting of the North Yundurup Ratepayers Association, prior to 4th September, of the terms and conditions of development;
- (b) that finance was available before the 4th September, 1970 and consequently withdrawn after that date, due to conditions of development?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) \$1,750,000.
- (2) It is not a condition of the guarantee to apply proceeds of sales in reduction of the principal sum.

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

27.

## DRAINAGE

### *Neerigen Brook Reserve*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is it planned in the near future to re-route the Neerigen Brook drainage reserve adjacent to Dawson Street, Armadale?
- (2) Will he assure me the delightful eucalypts in the vicinity will be preserved?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Every effort will be taken to preserve the existing eucalypts.

28.

## APPLE AND PEAR INDUSTRY

### *Legislation, and Shipping Space*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Does he intend to reintroduce this session the apple and pear legislation debated in Parliament last year?
- (2) Does he intend to introduce a re-drafted new Bill?
- (3) How does he reconcile the claims of the shortage of shipping last year with the present resolved position?
- (4) Will he table a copy of the appendices listed in part 12 of the Fruit Handling and Transport Committee report?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Legislation will only be reintroduced as a result of a firm request and assured support from fruit growers.
- (2) Dependent upon (1) but if reintroduced some re-drafting could be required.
- (3) The Australian Apple and Pear Board, as a result of negotiations with shipping companies in October, 1972, was only able to secure contracts for approximately 60% of the refrigerated space required. Subsequent efforts by the board assisted by certain changes in world demand, e.g., the reduced tonnage required by Argentina as a result of crop failure and inquiries with charter companies outside the normal consortium, have now enabled sufficient space to be obtained. Also the W.A. crop is less than anticipated as a consequence of dry conditions.

- (4) A copy of the appendices is submitted for tabling for one week, with the exception of No. 15, which contains information of a confidential nature which could affect the operations of a certain firm.

*The papers were tabled (see paper No. 65).*

## 29. ROLEYSTONE SCHOOL

### *Classrooms, and Playing Area*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is additional classroom accommodation to be erected at Roleystone school this year?
- (2) Is it to be in the form of a cluster school?
- (3) When can installation of the water bore and reticulation be expected for the school oval?
- (4) Has extension of the bitumen playing area been approved?
- (5) Will he please provide me with a simple sketch of the additional area to be sealed?
- (6) What is the criteria for provision of two-stage filing cabinets for primary schools and does Roleystone qualify?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) and (2) It is not proposed to add permanent accommodation at Roleystone primary school this year. Temporary buildings will be provided until enrolments are sufficient to provide a half cluster addition.
- (3) Installation has been listed for consideration in the 1973-74 estimates.
- (4) No.
- (5) A plan has not been drawn.
- (6) Class 2 schools are provided with a 2 drawer cabinet if a contract bus service terminates at the school. Roleystone does not qualify.

## 30. MEAT MARKETING

### *Legislation: Introduction*

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is legislation under consideration which would have a bearing on meat marketing?
- (2) If so, when will it be introduced and what are the broad objectives of the legislation?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) No such legislation is under consideration at this time.
- (2) Answered by (1).

## 31. PASTORAL LEASES

### *Conditions: Amendment of Land Act*

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is legislation proposed for this session which will be aimed at major amendments to the Land Act and in particular the conditions pertaining to pastoral leases including transfer conditions?
- (2) If so, when will it be introduced and can he please indicate the broad objectives of the proposed legislation?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) and (2) No.

## 32. STAMP DUTY

### *Homes*

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Have there been discussions between the Commonwealth and the State Government about a proposal for the Commonwealth to accept responsibility for stamp duty on homes (*Sunday Times* 11th February, 1973)?
- (2) (a) If not, are such discussions contemplated;
- (b) if discussions are not currently scheduled, does the State Government plan to approach the Commonwealth?
- (3) If discussions have taken place, what was the outcome?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) (a) It is assumed the Commonwealth will approach the State in due course.
- (b) Yes.
- (3) Answered by (1).

## 33. TRAFFIC

### *Fatal Accidents: Influence of Alcohol*

Mr. W. A. MANNING, to the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) Of the persons involved in the accidents resulting in the heavy death toll to date this year, how many were tested to ascertain the influence of alcohol?
- (2) Will he give a full analysis of the results?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) From 1st January, 1973 to 21st March, 1973, 88 persons died as a result of fatal accidents. The information available indicates that 53 persons were tested, as follows: 35 drivers, including 5 drivers of

motor cycles, 12 passengers, including 2 pillion passengers, 6 pedestrians.

- (2) 25 under 0.08%.  
10 over 0.08% and under 0.15%.  
18 over 0.15%.

### 34. HOSPITALS

#### *Theatre Fee*

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that some private hospitals—unlike public hospitals—charge what is known as a “theatre” fee?
- (2) Is it a fact that the said theatre fee is not recoverable by way of the hospital benefit scheme?
- (3) If (1) is “Yes”—
  - (a) is such theatre fee properly raised and therefore enforceable at law;
  - (b) what action can be taken to ensure that persons who subscribe to hospital benefit funds will receive benefits in respect of said theatre fees?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, for the inpatient theatre fee charges.
- (3) (a) Yes, there is no legislation covering private hospital charges.
- (b) If private hospitals were to adopt an “all inclusive” fee system as operated in public hospitals the problem would be overcome.  
Some relief could be provided for members of hospital benefit funds if the funds were to provide a specific theatre fee benefit.

### 35. DENTAL TECHNICIANS

#### *Employment by Government*

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Minister for Health:

What is the percentage of dental technicians being employed by the State Government or Government instrumentalities as compared with those employed in private practice?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

It is understood that some 112 dental technicians are in full time employment in this State. Of this number 32 are employed in Government instrumentalities and 80 in private employment, i.e. 40%.

### 36. NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

#### *State Aid*

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Minister for Education:

Considering his reply to question 4 without notice on 15th March, 1973, could he say whether the Commonwealth amount of aid to non-Government schools will reach the proposed maximum of 20% of the cost of educating a pupil or student in Government schools even if the State Government—as he appeared to indicate—will not increase its aid to the full 20% in the current school year, or will it only match the aid proposed to be given by the State?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

Commonwealth assistance will be provided at the full rate of 20% of the cost of educating a pupil in Government schools.

### 37. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES

#### *Royal Commission*

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Was it correctly reported that the Government will appoint a Royal Commission to report on the desirability, if any, of local government boundary changes?
- (2) If so, could he inform the House about the proposed terms of reference and the number of persons to be appointed to the Royal Commission?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The precise terms of reference have not yet been finalised, but as already communicated to the press, will generally be as follows:
  - (a) To examine any evidence or submissions in opposition to the recommendations contained in the Local Government Boundaries Commission Report on metropolitan municipal boundaries, 1972.
  - (b) To examine any alternative proposals for revision of metropolitan municipal boundaries.
  - (c) To make recommendations in respect of desirable boundaries for municipal districts in the metropolitan area.

- (d) To make recommendations in respect of procedures considered necessary to expedite implementation of any recommendations.

The composition of the commission is still to be determined.

38.

**COAL**

*Deposits: Fitzgerald River Reserve*

Mr. W. G. YOUNG, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) When will the report of the Government's drilling programme of coal deposits in the Fitzgerald River reserve be made public?
- (2) If the report is completed, is the field a commercial proposition, and if so, will negotiations be entered into to allow this deposit to be opened up?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) and (2) The report of the Government's drilling programme and analyses of lignite deposits in the Fitzgerald River Reserve has been examined by the Environmental Protection Authority whose findings, which were received this week, will be considered by the Government as quickly as possible.

39.

**EDUCATION**

*Teacher Bursaries, and Free Books Scheme*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How much is saved by not awarding further teacher bursaries this year for 4th and 5th year students?
- (2) What is the total subsidy paid to parents this year towards assisting first year secondary students?
- (3) Is it a fair assessment that it will cost on average another \$5 to \$6 for each pupil at primary school to adhere to the Government's promise of free school books?
- (4) How many pupils are estimated to be involved in the scheme now and in 1974?
- (5) If "No" to (3), what would be a fair average figure per pupil to make primary school books and materials free?
- (6) What is the total subsidy to secondary students this year?
- (7) What would it cost to give free school books and materials to secondary students in 1974?
- (8) What was the estimated and actual cost to date of implementing the free school books and materials to primary students for the years 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974?

- (9) What has been the percentage increased cost of school books and materials over the past two years, and what portion of this increased cost is due to the present fragmented dual supply systems?

- (10) Is he aware of the deterioration in quality of a number of the articles under free supply and if so, what is the extent of the return of articles and complaints from schools?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) The estimated annual saving is \$32,400.
- (2) The only assistance to be paid this year, to parents of 1st year students, is the text book subsidy. The payments in Government and non-Government schools will be \$81,660 and \$21,550 respectively.
- (3) No.
- (4) Approximately 154,000, subject to daily variations. The estimate for 1974 is 156,000.
- (5) The additional text materials to be issued during 1974, for the completion of the scheme as planned, will cost \$2.00 per pupil.
- (6) The text book subsidy in 1973 is estimated to cost \$546,560.
- (7) This is difficult to determine as costs will depend on courses, subjects and methods of procurement. Estimates indicate at least \$1.5 million and possibly as high as \$2 million.
- (8) In the 1971-1972 financial year the estimate was \$270,000 and the expenditure \$275,332. For 1972-1973 the estimate is \$603,000 and to date \$344,120 has been expended. The estimate for 1973-1974 is \$817,000.
- (9) No comprehensive retail cost figures are kept by the Education Department.
- (10) No complaint has been received by education supplies. Curriculum Branch has had one book returned because of defective binding.

40.

**POWER STATION AT QUINNS ROCK**

*Transmission Line Routes*

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Now that a firm decision has been made to construct a power station near Quinns Rock, will he provide details of routes to be used for transmission lines associated with the station?
- (2) If the routes of these lines have been chosen, will he take immediate steps to acquire the land over which such lines will pass?

- (3) If the routes have not been selected, will he ensure that the State Electricity Commission decide the location of the lines and set the land aside in the near future?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) (a) A site has been selected for a future power station and at this stage no firm decision has been taken to proceed with construction on the site being acquired.  
 (b) Details of transmission line routes which would be associated with the station are not available.  
 (2) See (b) above.  
 (3) The State Electricity Commission is working in conjunction with the planning authorities to make suitable provisions.

41.

### POLICE

#### *Stock Thefts*

Mr. STEPHENS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) From 1st July, 1972 to 28th February, 1973, how many cases of stock stealing have been reported involving—  
 (a) cattle;  
 (b) sheep?  
 (2) What were the numbers for the corresponding period last year?  
 (3) How many members of the police force are engaged full time investigating stock stealing?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) (a) 31 involving 67 head of cattle.  
 (b) 37 involving 8,723 sheep.  
 (2) (a) 8 involving 10 head of cattle.  
 (b) 11 involving 674 sheep.  
 (3) One.

42.

### EDUCATION

#### *Gymnasiums: Criteria for Provision*

Mr. STEPHENS, to the Minister for Education:

As in a recent Press statement the six high schools to receive gymnasias were all situated in the metropolitan area, will he advise the criteria for making the allocations?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

In general terms, the criteria used for allocating halls/gymnasias to high schools were:—

- (1) The length of time the school has been in operation without a hall/gymnasium of any type.

- (2) The size of the enrolment at the school.

- (3) General accommodation needs.

43.

### EDUCATION

#### *Libraries: Departmental Policy*

Mr. BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Would he advise his department's policy regarding assistance for the provision of libraries in both Government and private high schools?  
 (2) What is the number of books per student recommended as minimum library requirement for high school students?  
 (3) What funds have been allocated to private high schools for the provision of libraries since 1st July, 1971?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Government high schools.

The policy is to provide adequate library facilities in all high schools. Libraries are provided in all new buildings but the upgrading of inadequate facilities in existing schools is undertaken under the Commonwealth (Libraries) Grants.

Non-Government schools.

No assistance is provided by the Education Department.

- (2) The minimum requirement of books per student depends upon the size of the school and ranges from 9 per student for a school of 500 students to 5.75 for schools with 1,200 students.  
 (3) No State funds are provided for private school libraries and the Education Department has no knowledge of what funds have been provided from Commonwealth sources.

44.

### CURRENCY REVALUATION

#### *Financial Loss to Primary Industries*

Mr. BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Would he give details of the projected financial loss to those Western Australian primary industries disadvantaged by the Commonwealth Government's decision to revalue the Australian dollar?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

The details sought are not available at this time.

Information is being collected from those industries which have been disadvantaged in order to determine whether a case for assistance can be prepared on the basis set out by the Commonwealth Government.

45.

## PRISONS

*Trivial Offences: Detention of Offenders*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Attorney-General:

- (1) Is it true that a number of persons are being held in Western Australian prisons for trivial offences and not permitted bail until pre-sentence reports are submitted by the Parole Board or for other reasons?
- (2) Does he agree these people are occupying valuable prison space and could be of more use employed instead of being retained at taxpayers' expense until sentence is imposed?
- (3) Does he feel these people are being fairly treated in view of the fact at least one is a first offender and another being detained on an offence involving less than \$5?
- (4) Will he take action to see these people receive fairer treatment?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) In the main it is not the practice of the Courts to remand in custody for pre-sentence reports those people convicted for trivial offences.

It is a fact that there are some people held in custody awaiting sentence owing to the fact that they are unable to raise the bail set by the Court.

- (2) Yes.
- (3) The court, if it is to be fair and equitable, must consider each case individually.

If the Member wishes me to investigate any specific case, I will be pleased to supply him with details.

- (4) Action is currently being taken in a number of areas, e.g., a welfare officer from the Department of Corrections is assisting people to secure the required bail, and a project has been accepted by the Institute of Criminology to investigate alternatives to the current system of remanding in custody those people awaiting sentencing.

46.

## YUNDURUP CANALS DEVELOPMENT

*Expenditure, and Sale of Blocks*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Premier:

- (1) How much money has been used in the Yundurup canals subdivision that would render the Government liable to guarantee?
- (2) For what purposes has the money been used?
- (3) How many blocks have been sold, and at what price?
- (4) Is the Government satisfied that taxpayers' funds will not be called on to satisfy deficiencies in this project?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) \$1,810,000
- (2) Development and administration of the project.
- (3) This information is considered to be confidential, but sales have been achieved to the satisfaction of the developer.
- (4) Yes.

47.

## GASTRO-ENTERITIS

*Foodstuffs from Dinelli Del Basso Co.*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Health:

In view of the epidemic of gastro-enteritis in the metropolitan area in February and comments of the Public Health Department stating this was traced back to the firm Dinelli Del Basso Co. will he advise—

- (a) the number of people infected;
- (b) how many of these were traced back to Dinelli Del Basso Co.;
- (c) if the firm was at fault;
- (d) if the firm was not at fault where the fault lay;
- (e) the value of goods destroyed;
- (f) was or is any compensation contemplated;
- (g) what is the risk of any further effect on local or export goods?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (a) 360;
- (b) 60;
- (c) No;
- (d) and (g) It is not possible to guarantee that all meat coming into a smallgoods factory is free of salmonella infection which infects livestock as well as humans.
- (e) Not known;
- (f) Not known.

## 48. ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

*Mr. J. Mullane: Warrant of Commitment*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is Mr. J. Mullane the only one with a warrant of commitment remaining unsatisfied for non-payment of road maintenance tax?
- (2) If not, how many others are involved and for how much?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) and (2) This information is not readily available as considerable research is necessary. The information will be collated and forwarded to the member when available.

## 49. RAILWAYS

*Deficit, 1968 to 1972*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

What was the railway deficit for the period 1st January, to 31st December for the years;

- (a) 1968;
- (b) 1969;
- (c) 1970;
- (d) 1971;
- (e) 1972?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (a) \$5,411,347
- (b) \$10,676,795
- (c) \$10,134,426
- (d) \$10,708,331
- (e) \$16,287,161

## 50. METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT TRUST

*Losses, 1968 to 1972*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

What was the M.T.T. loss for the period 1st January to 31st December for the years—

- (a) 1968;
- (b) 1969;
- (c) 1970;
- (d) 1971;
- (e) 1972?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

Figures for year ended 30th June, are as follows:

	\$
(a) 1968	553,504
(b) 1969	924,060
(c) 1970	921,439
(d) 1971	1,791,653
(e) 1972	3,209,044

## 51. HOUSING

*Completions, 1967 to 1973*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Housing:

How many State Housing Commission homes were built in the years—

- (a) 1967-68;
- (b) 1968-69;
- (c) 1969-70;
- (d) 1970-71;
- (e) 1971-72;
- (f) 1972-73?

Mr. Davies (for Mr. BICKERTON) replied:

(a) 1967-68	1,214
(b) 1968-69	1,475
(c) 1969-70	1,852
(d) 1970-71	3,046
(e) 1971-72	2,249
(f) 1972-73 (to 28th February, 1973)	1,095

## 52. HOUSING

*Rental and Purchase Homes: Outstanding Applications*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Housing:

How many applicants at present remain unsatisfied for State housing—

- (a) rental homes;
- (b) purchase homes?

Mr. Davies (for Mr. BICKERTON) replied:

- (a) and (b) Outstanding applications at 28th February, 1973:

Purchase	6,103
*Rental	7,647
	13,750
Less duplication (being applications for both purchase and rental)	908
	12,842
Less estimated withdrawals on the outstanding applications:	4,200
Estimated real demand	8,642

\* Excludes single unit aged and single unit working women.

## 53. HOUSING

*Bunbury: Completions, 1966 to 1972*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Housing:

How many State Housing Commission homes and units were completed in the Bunbury electorate for the years—

- (a) 1966;
- (b) 1967;
- (c) 1968;
- (d) 1969;
- (e) 1970;
- (f) 1971;
- (g) 1972?

Mr. Davies (for Mr. BICKERTON) replied:

For the financial year ended 30th June, the commission completed in the Bunbury electorate:—

	Units
(a) 1966	87
(b) 1967	82
(c) 1968	78
(d) 1969	21
(e) 1970	11
(f) 1971	102
(g) 1972	103
(h) 1973 (to 28th February, 1973)	Nil.

As at the 30th June, 1971, the commission held 15 vacant units. At the 30th June, 1972, the figure had increased to 53 vacant units, and as at the 28th February, 1973, 55 vacant units were held.

#### 54. BUNBURY ELECTORATE

*Government Expenditure, 1966 to 1972*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Premier:

How much Government expenditure has been placed in the Bunbury electorate for the following years—

- (a) 1966;
- (b) 1967;
- (c) 1968;
- (d) 1969;
- (e) 1970;
- (f) 1971;
- (g) 1972?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

This information is not available as Government expenditure is not classified according to electorates.

#### 55. PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS, AND PROMOTION OFFICERS

*Number*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Premier:

- (1) How many public relations officers are employed by the Government?

- (2) Will he advise the number employed by various departments?
- (3) Does the Government differentiate between public relations officers and Government or departmental promotion officers; if so, what is the difference?
- (4) In the case of the Government employing promotion officers or the like, will he supply the same details regarding promotion officers or others as requested concerning public relations officers?
- (5) How many public relations officers were employed by the previous Government?
- (6) How many are employed by the present Government?
- (7) Will he provide details of those who have become obsolete or where for some reason their services have been dispensed with?
- (8) Will he give similar details to the details requested in (7) for any additional persons employed in this field including names?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) to (8) This information will take some time to compile, and will be forwarded to the Member when completed.

#### 56. BOAT REGISTRATION

*Fees, and Administration Costs*

Mr. R. L. YOUNG, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) In reference to answers given to question 3 of 20th March regarding private boat registrations, can he advise details of cost of administration for the years 30th June 1967 to 1972 inclusive?
- (2) In respect of fees collected—
  - (a) what amounts were collected in the metropolitan area;
  - (b) what amounts were collected outside the metropolitan area?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) —

	1967 \$	1968 \$	1969 \$	1970 \$	1971 \$	1972 \$
<b>Salaries—</b>						
Inspectors	10,465	11,708	14,521	20,622	26,359	35,632
Clerical and Administration	6,500	6,750	7,000	8,000	8,500	11,511
<b>Expenses—</b>						
Travelling allowances	1,024	1,347	2,765	2,721	2,038	2,180
Uniforms	250	250	300	300	300	300
General	744	1,123	376	342	213	3,196
Boats and trailers	6,202	6,635	15,097	25,311	12,491	52,136
Vehicles	7,861	6,384	4,366	14,590	7,781	6,486
Postage and printing	2,500	3,000	3,000	3,500	4,000	4,500
	\$35,546	\$37,197	\$47,425	\$75,386	\$61,682	\$115,941



- (2) There are approximately 27,500 boat registrations on record. The records are not categorised into metropolitan and country registrations. However, it is estimated that approximately 25% of the private boats are registered by owners who are country residents.

57. *This question was postponed.*

## QUESTIONS (8): WITHOUT NOTICE

### 1. FOREIGN OWNED PROPERTY

#### *Nationalisation or Expropriation*

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Will he make urgent representations to the Prime Minister seeking an absolute assurance that the Commonwealth will not apply during the life of the present Commonwealth Parliament the policy enunciated on its behalf at the United Nations Security Council, "that sovereignty of natural resources included the right to nationalise or expropriate property owned by foreigners"?
- (2) Would he also undertake to tell the Prime Minister that such a policy enunciated by the Australian Government in an important international forum such as the United Nations Security Council can be expected to damage severely Western Australia's chances of attracting the risk capital we need to join with Australians in vital development projects in Western Australia?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) and (2) As a prerequisite to the taking of any action by the State, the Prime Minister will be requested to provide an explanation of the policy enunciated, and its implications.

### 2. PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS, AND PROMOTIONS OFFICERS

#### *Number*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Premier:

In reply to question 55 the Premier said he would forward the information to me when it is available. In view of the fact that he has previously requested that information of this sort be presented to Parliament, will he answer my question in Parliament when the information is available?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

As that procedure would be simpler and involve less of my time, I am very pleased to accede to the request.

### 3. TRANSPORT WORKERS' UNION

#### *Subscriptions: Blackmail*

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Is it true that the Transport Workers' Union has threatened the major oil companies in this State that strike action will be taken against a company if it delivers its products to persons of whom the union does not approve?
- (2) Is he aware that those proprietors of mixed businesses who sell the products of oil companies and who use their own vehicles to pick up those products at oil company depots are being forced against their will to join the Transport Workers' Union?
- (3) Does he agree that self-employed persons should be blackmailed into becoming unionists, even though they be employers of labour and not employees?
- (4) Will he comment on a rumour that is circulating in the Transport Workers' Union that farmers are the next on the list of persons who are to be forced to pay a subscription to the union?
- (5) What is his attitude to a recent memo to a member of the Transport Workers' Union which appeared on the notice board of an oil company and which notice I now quote—

#### TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE OIL STORES INDUSTRIES:

At a recent examination of Union cards at . . . installation, . . . Street, North Fremantle, an Organiser of this Union was threatened with violence. After a full report was made by the Organiser concerned to the Branch Committee of Management, the decision of the Branch Committee of Management was that Mr. . . . who on that day was driving truck number . . . be banned from loading, delivering or anything connected with Oil Stores operations for a period of three months commencing . . . March, 1973. ?

- (6) Does he consider that a union has the right to take the law into its own hands?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

I thank the member for Darling Range for some notice of the question, although it was fairly limited. The answer is as follows—

- (1) and (2) I have no knowledge of any threatened industrial action by the Transport Workers' Union for any reason.
- (3) I have no knowledge of the proposition suggested, but may say that in general I do not approve of blackmail in any circumstances.
- (4) I am unaware of the rumour and, in any case, would not comment on a rumour.
- (5) and (6) I am in no position to express an attitude on the matter contained in the question, other than to say that if a matter is capable of creating an industrial dispute it is also capable of being referred to the Industrial Commission for settlement. If the possibility of a dispute exists it should be referred promptly to the Industrial Commission.

#### 4. DEVELOPMENT AND MINING

##### *Foreign Investment: Curb*

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

- (1) How will the Federal Treasurer's reported announcement in today's *The West Australian* about the Commonwealth Government's action to "curb foreign investment by monetary exchange curtailments" affect his current negotiations and often announced policies regarding further mining and industrial developments in the State by encouraging and employing overseas capital?
- (2) Does the Federal Government's announced policy conform to the State Government's policy of development?
- (3) If so, does that mean that the Government will give up announced and promised development projects where overseas capital is involved?
- (4) If not, what action is the Government going to take with the Commonwealth Government to safeguard the State's interest?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) The Federal Treasurer referred to a study being undertaken in regard to overseas interests buying Australian land, and specifically mentioned that it was not concerned with foreign investment in land for the establishment or expansion of a factory.

(2) The State Government accepts the desirability of maximum Australian ownership of natural resources and industries.

(3) No.

(4) Not applicable.

#### 5. TRANSPORT WORKERS' UNION

##### *Subscriptions: Blackmail*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Labour:

If information can be provided supporting the views expressed by the member for Darling Range, will the Minister take immediate action to protect the public against blackmail or intimidation by any union?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

I understand the purport of the question of the member for Mt. Lawley. I would answer in this way—

Mr. O'Connor: Answer "Yes" or "No". Will you protect the public or not?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. TAYLOR: If a suggestion is made in the House that something is taking place which is unlawful under the Police Act, I would say the matter should be attended to by the police and not by the Minister for Police. Here is a matter which could lead to an industrial dispute and this Parliament has an Industrial Arbitration Act containing certain provisions which can be applied and should be applied in such circumstances. The Industrial Commission is the right place for the matter to be referred and it is certainly not the responsibility of the Minister to interfere over and above a body which has been constituted for that very purpose.

Mr. O'Connor: You will not protect them; that is what you are saying.

#### 6.

##### LAND

##### *Restriction of Foreign Ownership*

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) With reference to the Commonwealth Government's decision to curb overseas interests from buying Australian land as part of its policy of restricting foreign ownership of Australian natural resources and industries, has his Government received official advice of this decision from the Commonwealth?

- (2) If so, what is the nature of the advice received and does it involve the State Government and/or the appropriate departments holding up any pending or future transfers?
- (3) What is his Government's attitude to such advice?
- (4) What is the power of the Commonwealth Government to stop or interfere in any such land transfers in Western Australia?
- (5) If no official advice has been received from the Commonwealth Government, what will be his Government's attitude if, when received, it involves a Commonwealth requirement that land transfers which would normally conform to and be dealt with by the State under our Western Australian laws, are not to be transferred, or transfers are to be held up or made conditional on Commonwealth conditions?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) to (5) No advice has yet been received from the Commonwealth. When it is received, consideration will be given to supplying replies to the questions asked.

## 7.

### FERTILISERS

#### *CSBP Expansion: Effect on Inland Superphosphate Works*

Mr. McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

It was reported in *The West Australian* of the 15th February, 1972, that "C.S.B.P.'s decision to vacate the land (i.e. 49 acres of Crown land overlooking the Swan River at North Fremantle) earlier than necessary is part of a \$7 million company expansion programme announced yesterday by the Premier, Mr. Tonkin, and the Chairman Mr. A. McA. Batty." The Minister has been reported in today's issue of *The West Australian* as saying "that the State Government is prepared to back the construction of an \$8.7 million fertiliser works in the Eastern wheatbelt." I therefore ask—

- (1) Does he not consider that the proposed \$7 million expansion programme by CSBP and agreed to by the Premier has put the kiss of death on the proposed inland superphosphate works?
- (2) What stage has planning reached between CSBP and the Government on the proposed expansion programme?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No negotiations are taking place between the Government and the company on expansion proposals. It is the prerogative and business of the company to make its own decision.

## 8.

### LAND

#### *Restriction of Foreign Ownership*

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Premier:

Arising from the answer he gave to the question on the Commonwealth Government's decision on land being acquired or about to be acquired by overseas interests, will he seek early clarification from the Commonwealth Government of its decision in order to minimise any uncertainty which will obviously develop because of this widely-publicised announcement by the Commonwealth Government, rather than wait to see the outcome of such a decision?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

I am quite prepared to do that because I can appreciate the desirability of such a course.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

#### *Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by Dr. Dadour, and read a first time.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

#### *Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 20th March, on the following motion by Mr. Bateman—

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

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

MR. W. A. MANNING (Narrogin) [5.21 p.m.]: In view of the circumstances that have arisen I am concerned for the welfare of this State under the present federation. Last night we dealt with some of these aspects and I spoke in regard to them. I do not intend to reiterate anything I said then on the subject as a result of the actions of the present Commonwealth Government.

However, many other factors are gradually bringing home to us the necessity to take action to protect the interests of this State of ours. Members will know that the result of the last Federal election which brought about a change of Government was known in this State before the polling booths closed.

Mr. Hartrey: It was very good news, too.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: This indicates—and this is very serious—that no matter what the results of the Federal elections may have been, the polling in Western Australia did not matter very much.

Mr. T. D. Evans: If we had had daylight saving the position would have been otherwise.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: It would not have altered the result.

Mr. T. D. Evans: But we could have been aware of the result.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: There is no doubt that the important votes are made in Melbourne and in Sydney and we are merely small fry when it comes to a question of what goes on in Canberra. We have very little influence on what goes on in the Commonwealth Parliament.

Mr. T. D. Evans: I did not hear you say that last year.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I made a speech on similar lines in 1965 and what I said then has been accentuated by the actions of the present Commonwealth Government. I mentioned that last night and I reiterate it.

I have some figures before me in regard to our exports to and imports from the Eastern States. In 1969-70 we imported goods to the value of \$640,189,000 from the Eastern States. In 1970-71 the value of our imports from the Eastern States amounted to \$726,778,000, and in 1971-72 the total value of our imports from the Eastern States was \$787,788,000. If we analyse these figures we will find that our total imports from the Eastern States amount to \$749 per head of population, or, for a family of four, a total of \$2,996.

These figures are staggering, and included in these imports are tremendous quantities of processed foods, clothing, and footwear which could quite easily be manufactured in this State; and this is apart from many millions of dollars worth of other goods which could also be produced in Western Australia.

Turning to exports, it is found that to the Eastern States in 1969-70 we exported goods to the value of \$149,861,000. In 1970-71 the total of exported goods to the Eastern States was \$151,093,000, and in 1971-72 the value of goods exported to the Eastern States was \$138,479,000.

It will be noticed that in the first two years I have quoted, the rise in exports was only \$2,000,000, and in the last figure

I quoted our exports fell back by \$13,000,000. So our exports to the Eastern States are decreasing. Therefore up go our imports and down come our exports! Our exports have declined to the extent of \$10,000,000 in the last three years. We are losing rather than gaining ground, and my impression from all this information is that it is time we thought of secession once again. I am not the only one who is thinking along these lines today. Many people are turning their thoughts to secession once again because of the circumstances at present obtaining in Canberra plus the accumulated effect of federation over the years.

I intend to indicate to the House the results of federation that we have seen since 1900. On the 23rd May, 1900, the Premier (The Right Hon. Sir J. Forrest) had the following to say, reported on page 77 of *Hansard* for that year—

We are going to bind ourselves to join and never separate again, unless of course we are separated by an Act of the Imperial Parliament. That would be the only thing. An Act of the Imperial Parliament could sever us as it unites us.

Mr. Moran: That is not so certain.

The PREMIER: Oh, yes, it is certain: I think that would be all right. The power of the Imperial Parliament at any rate will remain. The chief reason why we desire this change, the chief reason operating no doubt in our minds, is one that does us very great credit, because I do not believe that anyone in this colony, who has any knowledge of public matters and takes the trouble to look into them, thinks he is going to have any great material benefit at the present time. It is not likely that such benefit will occur now. Of course I know in the other colonies they do expect material benefit. As I have told you before, South Australia expects to have her corn and wine admitted into all the Australian colonies free, whilst Victoria wants her manufactures admitted free, and Tasmania her fruit free. As to New South Wales, I think she has not so much to gain; but Queensland wants sugar to be sent in free all over Australia.

This really rings a bell when we consider the figures I have just quoted and in regard to what the other colonies in that year expected to gain. How true that has proved to be!

Let us now turn to 1906, six years after the founding of the Commonwealth federation.

The SPEAKER: There is too much audible conversation around the Chamber.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: We find that in 1906 a motion was moved by Mr. F. C. Monger, representing the electorate of

York. The motion appears on page 723 of *Hansard* of that year and reads as follows—

That in the opinion of this House the union of Western Australia with the other States in the Commonwealth of Australia has proved detrimental to the best interests of this State, and that the time has arrived for placing before the people the question of withdrawing from such union.

That was moved after only six years of federation. What Mr. Monger had to say on page 723 of that same *Hansard* is very interesting. It is as follows—

New Zealand had the common sense to stipulate for seven years within which she could join the Federation; and fortunately for her, the Premiers were unable to fall in with her views. Fortunate New Zealand, to escape so easily the Federal contagion! Watching, as she has been watching since, the gradual centralisation of all Australian interests in the city of Melbourne, the gradual destruction of individuality in the smaller States, and the enrichment of the larger Eastern States, New Zealanders must now be congratulating themselves on having escaped the Federal fever. The fact that they stood out of the cumbersome Federation has had the effect of enlarging their own nationhood, widening their trade, attracting population throughout the world, and making New Zealand a country of individuality, which the less fortunate peoples of Australia, comprised in separate States, can merely envy and admire. We in Western Australia have as varied resources and attractions as New Zealand. We are farther removed from the present Federal capital, in mere mileage, than New Zealand itself, divided as we are by a long stretch of seaboard.

That was in 1906. The situation began to reveal itself at that time and how fortunate New Zealand was that it did not enter the federation when it was considered that it might do so! That quotation points out that New Zealand is closer to the Federal capital than is Western Australia; and these are factors which must be considered seriously.

Mr. R. L. Young: But they learned faster in those days.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: It is a pity we do not learn a bit faster.

I now desire to quote from *The Case of the People of Western Australia* in 1934 issued at the time of the secession campaign. A Royal Commission was conducted on the effects of federation upon the finances of Western Australia in 1925 and a witness (Mr. H. R. Sleeman), a mining engineer at Whim Creek, said—

The reasoned belief that Australia is suffering from over centralisation

around Melbourne and Sydney, and that its worst feature is the effect on the West, is compatible with the highest Australian patriotism. That belief, which is held at least by some, including the writer, leads to the conviction that those conditions ought to be altered—with Secession if possible; with Secession, if necessary. But apart from the foregoing, by what right or on what grounds is it presumed that the belief in and desire for Secession is anti-Australian. Was it anti-British for Australia to desire to become self-governing? Was it anti-Australian for Victoria and Queensland to separate from New South Wales (which then meant Australia)? Were the inhabitants of these States worse Australians before 1901 than they have been since, or are now? For practical purposes this State is as far from Australia's economic centre of gravity as is New Zealand; can it be said that New Zealand ought to be in the Federation, that she is anti-Australian, because she is not? Can it be doubted that she is more prosperous outside Federation than she would be inside? Having seen the effects of a quarter of a century of Federation, would any one have the hardihood to now propose to New Zealand that she enter it? To every question the answer is "No."

And, further down, he says—

The SPEAKER: I hope the honourable member will not read his whole speech.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: No, only those extracts which are vitally important. Mr. Sleeman further says—

That Federation is injuring this State, you can now need no demonstration. The evidence before you must be overwhelming that the conditions—of a young and nearly unpeopled and undeveloped State of huge dimensions, having a fiscal policy imposed on it, designed, not for it but for others (and by others), a policy which heavily taxes practically all its existing and potential industries and helping practically none—are injuring it, and must continue to injure it yet more grievously.

It is very strange that what was said in 1900, 1906, and 1925 is relevant now simply because we have not been able to progress since those days.

Mr. Hartrey: The population of Western Australia was 300,000 when that was printed, but it has increased considerably since then.

Mr. W. A. MANNING. I should hope so. I would like to compare the increase with the increase in Sydney and Melbourne. I have here a quotation from *Hansard* of the 26th August, 1933. It is a speech by the then Premier (Mr. Collier)

the then member for Boulder. Perhaps the member for Boulder-Dundas might be interested in this. Mr. Collier said—

It is in the highest degree desirable that this motion—

That is, the motion to present the case to the British Parliament. To continue—

—should be discussed entirely free from party politics, and that whatever we may do, step by step, should be the decision and the will of Parliament, and not of the Government for the time being.

Mr. Collier maintained that the decision of the people was far more important than party politics, and he was the Premier at that time.

Mr. Collier included in his speech the results of the referendum held on the subject, and I may as well quote from his speech as from anyone else's. He said that the votes passed for secession numbered 138,653 and the number against was 70,706. The number of people who voted was very high percentage-wise; namely, 91.6 per cent. This was a record vote on such a poll.

We can see that over the years the situation has been outlined and it has again been emphasised by the actions of the present Federal Government that it is about time we did something to protect our own interests. We will not improve any more than we have improved in the 73 years since federation unless we can separate ourselves from the Eastern States.

The result of the presentation of the case to the British Parliament was unfortunate. The finding of a joint committee of members of the House of Commons and of the House of Lords was that as the case was presented by the State of Western Australia and not by the Commonwealth of Australia or the States as a whole it was not proper that the petition should be received. The petition was not rejected on any substantial ground; it was not stated that the petition was wrong or not necessary. It was merely stated that it was not proper that it be received. Consequently the efforts made in 1934 were futile. However, that does not alter the fact that the matter now is just as important as—in fact it is more important than—it ever was. It is my opinion that those who are at present actively engaged in obtaining secession should be encouraged to continue their work.

I can see no other answer. No-one else has given us one to overcome the impoverishment of this State to the enrichment of the Eastern States; and this situation will continue unless we do something along the lines I have suggested. However, I do not intend to pursue that subject further because I now wish to deal with other topics.

I am a little concerned about housing. I know the State Housing Commission has a task; that is, to supply houses in the metropolitan area and in country areas. At the same time it must ensure it does not over supply accommodation so that houses and flats remain empty.

According to an article in *The West Australian* on the 7th February a number of commission flats at Kwinana have been vacant and the weekly loss of rental is about \$1,800. Why have those flats been provided there when no waiting list exists for that area? I cannot persuade the commission to provide for those who are waiting for a house at Narrogin.

Mr. Taylor: Can I suggest a reason? Yesterday the Government was criticised for not planning ahead on migration. You now are criticising the Government for having planned ahead. That is exactly the opposite to the criticism made yesterday.

Mr. O'Neil: The downturn in the economy means that there are not enough people requiring the flats.

Mr. Taylor: Be careful! Your planning might have been responsible for those flats.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: If the Government can plan ahead for Kwinana it can plan ahead for other places. The situation at Narrogin and, to a lesser degree, at Pingelly, is that people cannot obtain houses. Businesses are trying to attract employees, but they cannot because prospective employees are unable to obtain accommodation. No rental houses are available and if a house is for sale it is sold within two minutes because of the acute shortage. A glance at any weekend paper will reveal columns of advertisements for rental houses. Accommodation is procurable in the metropolitan area, but none is available at present at Narrogin.

The situation in Western Australia is farcical. We have a high unemployment percentage, but when a business requires an employee, the employee cannot be obtained because no accommodation is available for him. In my opinion the Minister for Development and Decentralisation should involve himself in this matter.

As I have said, the commission must ensure that it does not have vacant houses on its books. The Minister for Development and Decentralisation is trying to attract world-shattering industries to decentralised areas.

Mr. McIver: He is doing it, too.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I have yet to see it. As I have said, the Minister is endeavouring to attract world-shattering industries. But what about catering for the little industries which are handed to him on a plate? Several little industries could employ one or two people, but they are unable to do so because no housing is

available. Surely this is a matter for the Department of Development and Decentralisation. Something must be radically wrong if the various Ministers cannot get together and solve these problems in a united effort instead of leaving them to the Minister for Housing.

Mr. Lapham: How long has there been a shortage in Narrogin?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: There has never been a surplus even when the agricultural industry was at a low ebb during the last couple of years. That is when the Government should have taken the opportunity to plan for the future. At present we have a waiting list in Narrogin and far more people are now approaching me with housing problems than in the post-war years when employment was plentiful everywhere. Under the previous Government so many industries were established that people were able to obtain employment, but the money available for housing would not go around. However, today we have many unemployed people and they are looking for work, but because of a lack of housing they cannot take advantage of the employment which is available. Admittedly only a few are in this position in Narrogin, but if the situation is the same in all country towns this would represent quite a total throughout the State. I cannot understand why the Minister for Development and Decentralisation does not take the opportunity to encourage the small businesses which could be handed to him on a plate. I hope that the Minister will take notice of my remarks today.

Still on the topic of housing, but now dealing specifically with Aboriginal housing, I was interested in how the Aborigines were getting on in the homes allocated to them when the Native Welfare Department was in charge and I had some doubts as to whether the Aborigines were paying the requisite rent. As a result I asked a question on the 21st March last year and the answer I received was a pleasant surprise.

The total rent charged as at the 30th June, 1971 was \$144,172.03 of which 93.02 per cent. was collected. I would say that is a fairly good record. The lowest collection percentage-wise was in the northern central division in which \$20,344 was collected, representing 84.9 per cent.

In the southern division, centred at Narrogin, the amount collected was \$37,701 representing 98.3 per cent. of the total charged.

These are very good figures and they indicate that the Aborigines who have been allocated a house have risen to the occasion and have paid their rent. All credit is due to them. However, many Aborigines are failing in their responsibility in that they do not look after the houses allocated to them and are, as a consequence, evicted. This is the situation not only in my area,

but throughout the State. In *The West Australian* of the 14th February last was the following—

The deputy-director of the State Housing Commission, Mr. K. M. McKenna, said that many of the Aborigines on the river bank were not fit for State housing.

"Many more have had a chance of housing, but failed to maintain a suitable standard of living," he said. "They have had their chance."

This is the other side of the story. Some Aborigines do not take advantage of the opportunities given them. Some are anxious to live within the community and they do the right thing, while others do not care. The problem is to know what to do with those who do not care.

I noticed in the Press that a threat—more threats!—was made to boycott estate agents. The following appeared in *The West Australian* of the 17th February—

The Guild of Undergraduates at the W.A. University has decided to organise boycotts and seek trade union support against estate agents who discriminate against coloured people.

The belief of the guild is that any coloured applicant should be given a house—a belief quite contrary to the opinion of the Assistant-manager of the State Housing Commission who says that "they have had their chance", and have proved they cannot look after a house and so should not be given the opportunity to go into another one and destroy it. This is the problem and it simply cannot continue.

An article appeared in *The West Australian* on the 15th February, 1973, in which the Minister for Housing is reported to have said—

Many of these people were probably not yet ready for urban housing because of their social and domestic standards.

The position is quite serious because of the number of these people. The problem is becoming apparent to people in the metropolitan area. Previously, the people in the metropolitan area could not understand the problem that existed but it is now much closer to them, because many of the Aborigines are living in shanties along the Swan River and elsewhere. People living in the city once thought that country people were crazy when they mentioned this problem but now they are beginning to realise just how serious the position is.

An article appeared in *The West Australian* on the 16th February, 1973, in connection with a proposed takeover by the Federal Government of part of the Department of Community Welfare in Western Australia. The article says, in part—

The 50 W.A. civil servants now working for the planning authority would become Commonwealth public servants.

The W.A. Cabinet is expected to agree to the takeover at a meeting this month.

Later, it states—

... the State Minister for Community Welfare, Mr. R. Thompson, said he agreed with Aboriginal affairs being controlled by the Commonwealth though he had minor reservations.

This is another instance of handing over our affairs to the Commonwealth. The Cabinet is expected to agree; indeed, the Minister for Community Welfare has said he does agree although he has minor reservations. It is difficult enough to try to help Aborigines on the spot. What would it be like to try to do this from Canberra? This is yet another indication of the direction we should be following in regard to secession. It is a plot on the part of the Federal Government to take over Western Australia and leave us with nothing at all. The Premier of Western Australia will be Premier of nothing if he continues to hand over matters for Commonwealth administration.

Mr. E. H. M. Lewis: What is wrong with standing up to this?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: We should be standing up instead of giving away our rights all the time.

The Collie council carried a motion dealing with Aborigines in State Housing Commission homes in Collie. The council resolved—

That in the opinion of the council people receiving social service unemployment benefits should after a certain period be made to work in return for the money received.

This is the stand we must take instead of simply handing out a dole. This is what is destroying our Aborigines throughout the entire State. In fact, such a policy would destroy anybody.

Mr. R. L. Young: It will destroy others, too.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Yes, but it is further accentuated in the case of Aborigines. If they are given money they should work for that money. If the Government does not want them to work for it they should work for local governing bodies. At the moment they are sitting back, wasting their time, and getting into mischief.

Narrogin came in for a certain amount of publicity recently because a restaurant proprietor refused to serve two well-dressed Aborigines at the table. He told them they could buy food to take away. This is a difficult problem. What was the proprietor to do? He had only just taken over the restaurant and had been warned that his business would be destroyed if he was not careful with Aborigines. Should they sit at the tables when many do not practise even elementary hygiene? I ask

members whether, under those circumstances, they would wish to sit near them. This is a difficult question. Is a proprietor to destroy his business by allowing these people to come in and sit at the tables?

Mr. T. D. Evans: They are human beings and one must have proper regard for this fact.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Of course they are, but I ask the Minister to put himself in the position I have described. The two Aborigines who were the subjects of the report were not fair enough to say they went to another restaurant where they were served in the same way as everybody else. I have an idea that these two were out to get this man who was new on the job. Health inspectors can examine food and ascertain general cleanliness, but they cannot deal with unclean customers. The proprietor himself must do it and this is what he did. I feel he made an error of judgment in this case, but it was a difficult matter to decide. The problem is a tremendous one.

I have tried to emphasise the wide difference between certain Aborigines. In fact 98 per cent. of those who go into houses in the Narrogin area pay their rent over the year. Others destroy the houses they occupy. These people are not fit to go into restaurants or even to be on the streets but that is where they dawdle.

We must give thought to allowing the Aborigines themselves to choose what they will do. They are the ones to make the decision. They should be asked whether they want to live in towns, occupy houses, and be respectable citizens, or whether they want to go bush. They must make the decision themselves. If they elect to go bush we should provide some place for them.

Mr. Lapham: What about training?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Training is possible, of course, but it presents many problems. If Aborigines choose to go bush the greatest problem is what to do with their children. It is not possible to force them to give up their children. The children would suffer in the bush but they are suffering now. I do not know that they would be worse off.

In many cases the adults would definitely be better off right away from civilisation. It would be possible to provide the normal finance to buy food. In the bush they could live in a hut, on the ground, or however they liked. It would be their choice. However, if they decide to live in towns they must obey the rules of hygiene in those towns. Something must be done about this problem and I would like to see the Aborigines make the decisions themselves.

Mr. Gayfer: You have had a fair amount to do with them.



Mr. W. A. MANNING: As the member for Avon says, I have had a fair amount to do with Aborigines and have tried to help them in every way. The Minister for Development and Decentralisation knows this from his experience of establishing experimental homes in Narrrogin. I have been doing this work for many years and I understand something of their problems as well as those of the community in regard to Aborigines. I am quite sure that what I am saying is correct and I am expressing my views in the hope of finding an answer. If anyone could find a full answer to the Aboriginal problem he would be a marvel. It cannot be done. Let us tackle the problems one at a time.

Mr. E. H. M. Lewis: There will be no marvels.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I have brought this matter forward in case something can be done. This is a different avenue of thought in the problem of how to cater for Aboriginal people.

I also want to speak about cars and alcohol. Today I asked a question of the Minister for Police in regard to the road toll this year and what has been done with persons involved in accidents. The gist of his reply is that from the 1st January to the 21st March this year 88 people have died as a result of fatal accidents. This is a terrible record. I asked whether the people had been tested for blood alcohol levels and the Minister said that the information available indicates that 53 people were tested. The 53 people comprised—

35 drivers, including five drivers of motor cycles

12 passengers, including two pillion passengers

6 pedestrians.

The results of the tests were—

25 under 0.08 per cent.

10 over 0.08 per cent. and under 0.15 per cent.

18 over 0.15 per cent.

It is a high percentage indeed when 18 of a total of 53 have a blood alcohol content over 0.15 per cent. In addition, the blood alcohol content of another 10 was over 0.08 per cent. This means that 28 of the 53—approximately 55 per cent. of those tested—were definitely under the influence of alcohol. The others had less than 0.08 per cent. blood alcohol content.

Mr. Lapham: They could still have been under the influence of alcohol.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: That is the point; they could still have been under the influence of alcohol. In some States the percentage is less than 0.08 per cent.

Mr. T. D. Evans: There is no statutory recognition of the fact that a person with a decimal reading of 0.08 per cent. is under the influence of alcohol, even though it has been made an offence. There is statutory recognition when the decimal reading is over 0.15 per cent.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: If the Minister is satisfied with this, he is easily satisfied.

Mr. T. D. Evans: The honourable member should read the Traffic Act if he can understand it.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I am talking of the effects of alcohol—not what is written into a Statute.

Mr. T. D. Evans: You are quoting a decimal reading of 0.08 per cent.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: That is the accepted level. Often a person is under the influence of alcohol when the level is lower than 0.08 per cent.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much audible conversation.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Further action must be taken on this matter. It has come under our notice time and time again but nothing has been done about it.

Last year I asked a question on the application of section 126 (1) (d) of the Liquor Act which reads—

126. (1) Subject to the succeeding provisions of this section, a licensee and the servant or agent of a licensee who—

(d) supplies liquor, or causes or permits the supply of liquor to a person who is, at the time, in a state of intoxication or is visibly affected by liquor to the extent that any further consumption of liquor by him is liable to induce a state of intoxication;

commits an offence.

The penalty is \$200.

I have asked how many convictions have been made under this provision during the last three or four years. In the police report for last year I notice that only 10 charges were laid under the whole of the section which includes eight paragraphs. Consequently, not many charges could have been laid under paragraph (d). I would not believe that there have not been hundreds of occasions when convictions could have been made under this paragraph. It is high time for us to take notice of this provision. At the moment we are avoiding the subject and dealing with the frills. It has been the practice that dashboards and other internal fittings should be cushioned to soften the blow in the event of an accident. If this is done it is felt the driver will not be hurt. In addition, we have taken action to make the wearing of seat

belts compulsory. All this action presupposes that someone will have an accident or will cause one.

We should be trying to prevent accidents but no-one has been willing to take action in this direction. Let us deal with the causes, which are twofold. Firstly, it is too easy to obtain a license. People should be put through more severe tests over a period of time before they are given a license because they will be driving a dangerous machine along our roads and highways. We do not seem to appreciate this simple fact. Secondly, we must deal with the problem of alcohol by ensuring the people who are under the influence of alcohol do not drive a car.

Mr. Lapham: What about the manufacturers of motor vehicles?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: They have nothing to do with the drivers.

Mr. Lapham: Some motor vehicles can travel in excess of 120 miles per hour.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: On many occasions the vehicle is not the cause of the accident. In this evening's *Daily News* there is a picture of an accident-prone section of the Albany Highway. There is nothing wrong with that road.

Mr. May: It is the lack of police control.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: It is a lack of ability or care on the part of the driver. It is useless to bring in police control. It would not be possible for a police car to follow every car on the road. On the subject of control, the Hotham Valley road patrol, which I often see, is extremely efficient. It would not be possible to obtain greater efficiency in that area. This has nothing to do with police control. The police will not take action unless they stop a motorist and subject him to a test. When driving behind they cannot tell whether a person is under the influence of alcohol unless he is badly affected.

A motion was moved in Queensland by Judge Demack which reads as follows—

Wherever it appears that an offence has been committed by a person under the influence of liquor or other drugs, or where drunkenness or the effect of other drugs has been a contributing cause to the commission of the offence the judge or magistrate be empowered to commit such persons for treatment instead of imposing a sentence of imprisonment.

He is saying that people who are convicted in this way should not be detained as criminals but should be placed where they can be properly treated and rehabilitated.

This is perhaps one way to deal with the problem, but certainly we must investigate the cause of the trouble. I did not look into the details of it, but I am discussing the principle.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has five minutes.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: It is a very good principle. People who are not competent to drive because of alcohol or lack of training should have their license suspended for a period. When they reapply for a license, the tests should be very stringent. At the moment, such a person may have his license suspended for six months but he is then permitted to drive on the road again. Not enough thought has been given to this aspect of the problem. Superficial matters, such as fittings in cars, have been given a great deal of thought. However, this presupposes an accident will occur. Let us stop the accidents.

The Minister today gave figures which indicate what is happening on the roads. In the last year 55 per cent. of road deaths were attributable to a driver, a passenger, or pedestrian with a blood alcohol content of more than 0.08 per cent. This is a very serious matter and something must be done about it.

MR. BROWN (Merredin-Yilgarn) [6.02 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. The motion was very capably presented to Parliament by the member for Canning. I believe that the principles enunciated by our Governor will be the policy for the Government's activities in the ensuing year, bearing in mind the needs of the people. The humane views expressed by the member for Canning will have been appreciated by everyone who had an opportunity to attend the opening.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the member for Blackwood to this House. The circumstances of his election are well known to all members, but irrespective of his term of office, I wish him well.

The absence of Mr. Williams, the ex-member for Bunbury, is rather noticeable. It is unfortunate that he will be unable to see the fruition of his labours as a member of the honorary Royal Commission into all aspects of hire purchase. However, it is very pleasing to note that some of the recommendations of the commission will be adopted by the Government and that the measures will be put into effect for the benefit of the people of Western Australia.

The member for Canning touched very briefly on the water resources of Western Australia. This matter is of vital concern to each and every one of us because the supply of water is an essential need throughout the length and breadth of the land. Without it no-one can prosper, as we are well aware.

It is significant to note that the comprehensive water scheme was first introduced in 1946 by the then Minister for Works and Water Supplies (The Hon. A. R. G. Hawke). It is unfortunate that members in another place did not see fit to

support the extension of the scheme. However, in 1947 a scheme was introduced to enable the commencement of the extension of the comprehensive water scheme. This is now of immeasurable value to people throughout rural industry.

One of the most constant needs of the electors within the Merredin-Yilgarn electorate is the supply of water. Whilst I am mindful of their needs, I have always supported the proposition for the inclusion of the 640,000 acres of land area known as the York and Corrigin area. I feel that the Corrigin-Bullaring area and the York-Greenhills area deserve much more consideration than they were given by the previous Commonwealth Government. My reason for this contention is supported by the fact that the supply of water to these areas will enable the Government to embark on a further programme to other essential areas in Western Australia. I refer, of course, to the unserviced areas in the shires of Merredin, Narrobin, Westonia, and Yilgarn. These are highly productive rural areas, which have supported the economy of the State. They deserve the provision of a water supply, and it is therefore rather disheartening to note the reply of the previous Prime Minister (Mr. William McMahon)—

Mr. Gayfer: What was the reply to the Premier when he asked the same question of the present Prime Minister?

Mr. BROWN: The then Prime Minister replied on the 5th September, and his reply was presented to Parliament. I quote as follows—

Following this assessment the Government has decided that expenditure of Commonwealth funds on York and Corrigin projects could not be justified. In view of the number of enquiries being received concerning the York-Corrigin projects it is intended to make reference to this decision in any replies to questions relating to Commonwealth financial assistance to these projects.

Mr. Gayfer: What was the reply given by the present Prime Minister?

Mr. BROWN: This answer clearly demonstrates, without a shadow of a doubt, that the Commonwealth Government rejected representations made by State and Federal representatives. The Federal Government intended to use that reply to any future requests. However, shortly prior to the last Commonwealth election, the then Deputy Prime Minister, whilst in Perth, was quoted as follows—

Mr. Anthony said that there would be a re-examination of the scheme because of the strong representations by the Member for Canning.

On the one hand we have a complete rejection of numerous representations to the Commonwealth Government, and yet

on the other hand we are told that the scheme will be re-examined. I sincerely hope that the member for Canning approaches the present Prime Minister and that the result will be the development of the project.

Mr. Gayfer: The Premier took this question to the Prime Minister. What was the reply?

Mr. BROWN: In making these submissions to Parliament, I am not carried away with any thoughts of grandeur, but I express my views with the sincere wish of supporting the member for Canning in his plea for the provision of water supplies. It is of the utmost importance that we do not try to play politics in this regard. We must press on and attempt to solve the problem.

Mr. E. H. M. Lewis: What was the result of your Government's approach to the present Prime Minister?

Mr. O'Neill: A lemon.

Mr. BROWN: I would like to talk about Commonwealth aid for local government bodies. In this morning's Press an article appeared in reply to a question to the Prime Minister following the announcement of Commonwealth aid to local government.

It is pleasing to see that the Grants Commission will be set up to make direct grants to local government, and also that the Minister for Urban and Regional Development (Mr. Uren) and a W.A. Senator (The Hon. D. R. Willesee) will be associated with it. Local authorities will be able to express their need for financial assistance to the Commonwealth. I trust that the members of local government in Western Australia will be able to achieve unanimity in regard to their representations, because it has been stated that development must be of a regional nature.

We can appreciate that work in the Wodonga-Albury region in New South Wales would be of vital importance, and therefore we realise that the only way to look forward to stability in our country areas, particularly the inland rural areas, is through a united effort by the local authorities. We must show a united front and endeavour to make the scheme well worth while.

Mr. Thompson: A better suggestion would be to change the Government!

Mr. Graham: That has already been done—thank you very much.

Mr. BROWN: The Minister for Local Government has continued with the Local Government Assistance Fund, and this has been of tremendous assistance to local authorities. This is the second year of its operation, and it is very pleasing to note the obvious signs of an upturn in the

economy. We have seen constant increases in the price of wool, but even before these astronomical rises it was very evident that confidence was returning to those engaged in rural pursuits, and this is particularly so in the eastern wheatbelt. I believe the Government has a rightful share in the responsibility for this upturn.

Mr. Nalder: In reference to wool costs?

Mr. BROWN: In reference to the confidence which has been demonstrated to me and possibly to some members opposite by the people of the rural community. I would like to add here that the Minister for Agriculture has left no stone unturned to pursue the duties of his office throughout the length and breadth of the State.

Unemployment funds were made available by the Commonwealth to the State and on to local authorities, and this too has played a part in the continued stability in the rural areas of Western Australia. People in country towns have been enabled to embark on programmes which would otherwise have been deferred. This has permitted indigenous people to be gainfully employed and therefore the resources of the State and Commonwealth have been utilised to the best advantage of everyone.

I would like to place on record my belief that the Coolgardie shire has been treated with consideration and generosity by the Government in connection with its responsibility in this expanding region. We must recognise that Coolgardie has been cut off from the standard gauge railway and yet it has had to supply new amenities to the people engaged in the nickel fields in Kambalda. Therefore, the action of the Minister for Local Government and his ministerial colleagues in making a grant of \$20,000 to the shire from the State has been of immeasurable assistance to the shire, as has the contribution of \$15,000 by the Western Mining Company.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

Mr. BROWN: Before tea I was referring to the part played by Western Mining Corporation in respect of its contribution of some \$15,000 to the Coolgardie Shire Council to assist the council in its pursuits and the endeavours it has made to bring about the stability of the area for the comfort of the people who work and live in Kambalda.

I would also like to touch on the question of the Local Government Boundaries Commission. This commission consists of the Assistant Secretary for Local Government (Mr. Herron), a member of the executive of the Country Shire Councils' Association (Mr. W. C. K. Pearce), and a member of the Canning Town Council (Mr. Ernie Clark), who is the Mayor of the Town of Canning. To my knowledge for some considerable time they have dealt with the question of the boundaries, and I know of no interference from Governments in this jurisdiction.

Therefore when the people are concerned that there will be alterations, I feel the Government's appointment of a commission to investigate and report on the activities and the findings of the Boundaries Commission will be well and favourably received by the people. I think this is a step in the right direction, and it should do a great deal to strengthen the activities within local government.

It is now opportune for me to make reference to the performances of the Western Australian Government Railways. In answer to a question tonight it was illustrated that there was a deficit of some \$16,000,000 in the operations of the commission for the 1971-72 year. We should recognise the importance of the W.A.G.R. because it is an organisation which really practices decentralisation and provides a service to the community. Whilst the present deficit might appear to be large compared with the previous year's deficit of \$10,000,000 it must be recognised that since 1965 the stability of rail freights has been maintained and over that period of time no increase has been imposed on the users of the services provided by the W.A.G.R.

In 1971-72 the W.A.G.R. carried a record tonnage of freight and also a record number of passengers. This is a tribute to the personnel who are responsible for the activities of the railways.

It is very pleasing to note that the standard gauge railway will be extended further. The standard gauge from West Kalgoorlie to Lake Lefroy, a line of some 56 miles, should be completed by the middle of this year. There will be an additional 190 miles of standard gauge track laid between Lake Lefroy and Esperance; and this will create a rail link between Kwinana and Esperance by August, 1974. This is indeed a progressive step which will benefit the people of Western Australia. There will be some 680 miles of standard gauge line in the State.

I feel there is not a good channel of communication between the Railways Commission and the public in respect of publicising what is taking place in relation to expansion and services. I do not know whether members have again travelled on the *Prospector* after the service was inaugurated, but I should point out that this is the fastest railway service in Australia. The people between Kalgoorlie and Perth have demonstrated their support of it by continuing to use it. The public of Western Australia will be well advised to take advantage of this magnificent service available to them. Without a shadow of a doubt it is the most comfortable means of rail travel which any person may undertake anywhere in Australia.

I would also like to point out that between Kwinana and Koolyanobbing some 105 railway wagons are hauled by three diesel locomotives each of some 3,300 horse

power. They do the round trip from Koolyanobbing to Kwinana and return—the wagons are empty on the return journey—in some 21 hours. An important feature is that their all-up weight is some 9,900 lb.

The services provided by the W.A.G.R. are a tribute to the people who operate them; and, of course, these range from the fettlers to the commissioner. Each and every one of them are concerned with the operations. For that reason I trust the Government will look at the part played by the people who maintain the track. I know it has been the policy to consider maintaining the railway track on a contract basis, but we should recognise that some people have indigenous habits and like to live in isolation. These are some of the people who perform the work of maintaining the tracks; and there are others who have made this pursuit their lifetime occupation. There is a great deal to be gained by continuing to utilise the services of these people and of allied workers who assist them in this occupation.

As I have mentioned, the standard gauge and the narrow gauge railway facilities enable decentralisation to be carried out effectively. Reference to decentralisation leads me to comment on the establishment of an inland fertiliser works. For some two decades such a project has been under consideration. I believe that in 1953 a report was presented by Mr. Reid, who was the chief industrial chemist in the Government laboratories. He said that superphosphate should be manufactured as close to the market as possible and should be handled in bulk. These are two very important facets in the use of superphosphate.

In 1954 there was a Labor Caucus meeting held at Merredin when the Leader of the Opposition of the day (The Hon. A. R. G. Hawke) announced that when a Labor Government was returned to office it would establish an inland superphosphate works at Merredin, encourage the existing industry to do so, or join with any industry to ensure such a venture comes to fruition.

This was not idle talk by the Caucus. In January, 1965, a local committee was formed to bring about the establishment of a superphosphate works at Merredin, and this committee was the responsibility of the people of the district and their members of Parliament. I think it is fair to acknowledge that Senator Edgar Prowse was a keen enthusiast and a promoter of this venture. He was equally enthusiastically supported by the late George Cornell, and The Hon. Lionel Kelly who made the claim that the superphosphate works should be established at Merredin.

However, in 1965 an interdepartmental committee was appointed to examine the feasibility of such works being established. We know that the interdepartmental com-

mittee brought down a report which was unfavourable to these works; but that report did not daunt the people who were anxious to see the superphosphate works established, and despite the thoughts of the Government of the day they continued in their endeavours.

There are certain references which I could quote, but I feel the time is not opportune because we have to look ahead rather than backwards. I could quote that a certain amount of apathy was, in my opinion, displayed before that committee. There was a lack of encouragement but that did not dampen the spirits of those promoting the venture one iota.

I want to pay a tribute to the people throughout the length and breadth of Western Australia who have been promoting this venture, and who must have been delighted to see the report which appeared in this morning's *The West Australian*. I am sure that Mr. Percy Payne from Bunbury—a person who held various positions in local government and in the Regional Councils' Association—was delighted, because he is an advocate of such a project; and has been more or less from its inception. Having been associated with Mr. Payne and members of the Regional Councils' Association, I can say there was a great deal of enthusiasm shown by people from Albany to the Yilgarn for this project. I refer also to Mr. Cliff Stretch who comes from Kojonup.

The reason I am mentioning these various names is that I want to demonstrate to the Parliament and the people of Western Australia that there is a great deal of support from within these areas. Mr. Ernie Lange from Pingelly was also a keen supporter of the establishment of a superphosphate works at Merredin. The three gentlemen I have named were and still are active members of the Regional Councils' Association. Not only do they believe that a superphosphate works should be established at Merredin, but they also believe additional inland superphosphate works should be established in Western Australia. In the course of my address I will make some comments in relation to those people who consider this is not feasible.

Mr. Gayfer: Do those gentlemen you have mentioned desire to have the works at Merredin or Kellerberrin?

Mr. BROWN: The committee has always been in favour of establishing a superphosphate works at Merredin. I am glad the honourable member has interjected because he has reminded me that I should mention other people who come mostly from the wheatbelt section of the State. Such people are Frank Nock of Tammin, Geoff Telfer of Merredin, Ken Beaton and Norm Temby of Yilgarn, Cyril Perrin of Westonia, Jim Fletcher from Belka, the Merredin Shire Clerk who is the secretary of the committee for the establishment of

the superphosphate works at Merredin, Roy Little, Kevin Feineler, the Shire President, and Paddy Crook, a shire councillor from Merredin who was co-opted to the committee. I could mention many other names but those to whom I have referred come readily to mind because of their interest and action in the establishment of a superphosphate works at Merredin.

One can imagine the enthusiasm aroused when the Government commissioned Davey Ashmore to carry out a feasibility study. The findings of that study gave much encouragement to the members of the committee and it was able to make further representations to the Government when it decided to look at the second stage.

Most members are aware of the results of the feasibility study into the establishment of a superphosphate manufacturing industry in the eastern wheatbelt. There were some rumblings throughout the State when the Premier announced that CSBP would have additional land made available at Kwinana. However, those rumblings were unjustified. I mention, in particular, the speed with which the member for Mt. Marshall wrote to the Press condemning the Premier for his action which was to benefit the people of Western Australia. The establishment of this very necessary facility and industry in Western Australia will bring about decentralisation. If there is any industry which performs satisfactorily for the consumer as well as the producer, and which also brings about a practical demonstration of decentralisation, it is a superphosphate manufacturing industry.

Sir Charles Court: Superphosphate manufacturing is the most decentralised industry in the State already.

Mr. BROWN: The existing superphosphate works are decentralised on the coastal regions.

Sir Charles Court: Are not Bunbury, Geraldton, and Esperance examples of decentralisation?

Mr. BROWN: There is decentralisation on the coastal areas right throughout Australia, but that does not make the situation right. Seventy-five per cent. of the raw material is unloaded at Kwinana where it becomes a 100 per cent. product. It can be readily understood that if 75 per cent. of the raw material is transported to the rural areas and then manufactured into a 100 per cent. product there must be some practicality in such a move. Many farmers believe in the validity of this concept. I can see no valid reason why the proposed superphosphate works should not proceed.

I acknowledge that we owe a debt to the existing manufacturers because they have carried on this pursuit and manufactured superphosphate and supplied it to the farmers. The present manufacturers have

carried on a business enterprise which has, in the main, been satisfactory to the consumers and the producers. However, any Government is responsible for expanding any operations which will benefit both manufacturers and consumers.

The members of the committee set up to establish a superphosphate works have clearly demonstrated that they are not afraid of any Government or any manufacturer. A superphosphate works will be established.

I now mention an article which appeared in this morning's issue of *The West Australian*, together with the magnificent announcement that the Government supported the establishment of a superphosphate works. The article to which I have referred was signed by Mr. W. J. A. Crosse, Chairman of Directors of Wesfarmers. The article states that Wesfarmers works for the farmer, and that the results of the six months show how closely the company's fortunes are linked with those of the farmer.

I have a letter dated the 15th March, 1973, headed "Westralian Farmers Superphosphates Limited." It is over the signature of W. J. A. Crosse, Chairman. It has been distributed throughout the eastern wheatbelt and, possibly, throughout Western Australia. The letter is as follows—

Dear Shareholder,

I want to report to you on the activities of your company and to let you know that the year is going well. Orders for superphosphates already received are for 1,200,000 tons, indicating a big increase on the tonnage used in 1971/72.

That is natural, and everyone would agree it is very true. We desire to produce every grain of wheat we possibly can, as well as other cereals. We want to grow every pound of wool we possibly can. The land has to be topdressed with superphosphate, quite apart from the superphosphate which is put into the ground with the seed. The letter continues—

It looks therefore as though 1972/73 should be a successful year enabling the payment of a satisfactory dividend and a reasonable rebate to all shareholder/users of superphosphate.

Last year, as you will remember, Westralian Farmers Superphosphates Ltd. was entitled to take up one-third of the new share issue made by the manufacturers, CSBP & Farmers Ltd. At the time, because of the downturn in agricultural industries, farmers did not take up all these shares. But your Directors, feeling it was essential that CSBP & Farmers Ltd. continue to be one-third farmer owned, borrowed funds to enable the taking up of the balance of the Company's entitlement. There is, therefore, a quantity

of shares in Westralian Farmers Superphosphates Ltd. available for farmer users.

I hope that you will take the opportunity of building up your holding. (Your Directors feel that it is important that farmers' shareholdings should be related to their usage of fertilisers). Shares are currently available at \$2 each—their par value, and other conditions of issue are shown on the enclosed application form.

Immediately following the upturn in wheat and wool prospects the Board of CSBP & Farmers Ltd. decided on a \$7 million expansion programme involving all six works at Kwinana, Bayswater, Geraldton, Bunbury, Albany and Esperance, together with additions to the bulk installation at Merredin and a new bulk installation at Wagin.

I will interpolate to mention that the bulk installation at Merredin was established when the committee was so active in 1965. I do not know whether the activities of the committee had any bearing on 1973 when we find that the supplier and manufacturer of superphosphate is very active once again.

Mr. E. H. M. Lewis: Where is the other new bulk installation?

Mr. BROWN: The installation is at Wagin. To continue the letter—

This programme will keep fertiliser supply at all centres well ahead of farmers' needs, and has the full support of the Government which facilitated part of the expansion by providing more land at Kwinana for this purpose.

I do not want to miss any of the points contained in the letter from Mr. W. J. A. Crosse, the Chairman of Westralian Farmers Superphosphates Limited. To continue—

Finally, I would like to comment briefly on the suggestion that farmers would benefit from an inland superphosphate works probably at Merredin. It is most unlikely that superphosphate from an inland works would be cheaper on the farm and Directors of Westralian Farmers Superphosphates Ltd. are firmly of the opinion that the building of such works would not be economic. They are supported in this view not only by their knowledge of the industry in this State but by the fact that every superphosphate works in Australia is built on the seaboard.

The SPEAKER: I hope there is not too much more of this letter.

Mr. BROWN: There is very little more. I respectfully request the indulgence of the House so that not one facet of this letter

is missed. I would not like parts of the letter to be taken out of context to give the wrong impression. To continue—

Nowhere in this continent has inland manufacturing been thought to be economic. The last attempt to promote an inland works at Euroa in Victoria failed, with considerable loss to farmer shareholders.

The Board of CSBP & Farmers Ltd., has made this point to the State Government and has offered to meet the Committee promoting the Merredin proposal in order that the facts (based on over 40 years experience) can be made available to them.

I, and my fellow Directors in Westralian Farmers Superphosphates Ltd., realise we have a considerable responsibility in this matter—we must use our best endeavours to see that all farmers throughout the State continue to have access to adequate supplies of fertilisers at a reasonable price. With CSBP & Farmers Ltd., we have successfully developed the biggest network of fertiliser plants in Australia. If an inland works could usefully be added to this, it would have been done long since.

In essence we don't believe this would be of advantage to the farmers of the State and, if built, would only add to the State's cost of manufacture.

If you would like to contact me about this letter please do so at your convenience.

Mr. Thompson: What is wrong with that?

Mr. BROWN: Nothing at all. The establishment of an inland superphosphate works is a practical demonstration of decentralisation. The feasibility study was carried out by Davey Ashmore and correspondence would show that the then Minister for Railways appointed the interdepartmental superphosphate committee in 1965. I know the expertise of this firm.

I can appreciate that CSBP & Farmers Ltd. desires to oppose such a venture. It was originally envisaged that 50,000 to 100,000 tons would be involved, but now the figure is up to 200,000 tons. What could be better than having raw material carted by rail to a terminal point in the eastern wheatbelt where it would be manufactured and distributed? The superphosphate would be supplied at a cheaper rate to shareholding farmers.

An important point to remember is that a Commonwealth subsidy of \$12 is available for every ton of superphosphate manufactured. Therefore, for a 200,000 ton works a subsidy of \$2,400,000 is available from the Commonwealth. If the Federal Labor Government believes in decentralisation, and the State Labor Government supports that policy, surely it is worth a try. We will be able to demonstrate that we

believe in Western Australia, and that we do not talk with our tongues in our cheeks. We will show that we are a responsible Government, and accept that responsibility in accordance with our policy.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has three more minutes.

Mr. E. H. M. Lewis: Would you not agree that the erection of works at Geraldton and Picton—

Mr. BROWN: I am not interested in discussing coastal fertiliser works. They serve only half the radius.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the committee will leave no stone unturned. It has received 100 per cent. support from every farmer contacted in the Yilgarn Shire Council area, which is the largest shire area in the region. So far 90 per cent. of the farmers in the Yilgarn have been contacted. From the farmers in the region who have so far been contacted, the committee has received more than 50,000 tons in pledges, which represents more than \$500,000 in share capital. The business people in Merredin realise the value of these works within their own enterprises, which will enable them to be more competitive. A sum of \$50,000 will be raised by them initially in debentures because they cannot buy shares in a phosphate works which will be run as a co-operative.

I congratulate the Government on establishing an example of decentralisation for the people of Western Australia. I urge the Federal Government to look at its subsidies, which should apply to inland works as much as to works in coastal regions. There are many other important matters but the one which is of importance to the people of the eastern wheatbelt is the establishment of a fertiliser works, and the people who are making this endeavour deserve the approbation of every person in Western Australia.

MR. A. A. LEWIS (Blackwood) (8.02 p.m.): Mr. Speaker, it would be remiss of me if at the commencement of my remarks I did not thank you and the members of the staff for the help I have received since I was elected. I am pleased to announce to the House that I have not as yet had to erect a tent, and I have settled in quite well.

Australia is one of the world's greatest exporters of agricultural products, yet our agricultural industries tend to be regarded as a source of economic instability in our economy rather than as the basis of our national wealth. I think the reason for this is that in times of good seasons and good prices our rural industries have not put aside enough money for the promotion of their products. Their marketing techniques went out with the horse and cart, to say the least.

When we look at modern marketing techniques, we find the first thing done by anybody who wishes to market a product is to make a survey of his market. He goes into the market place, finds out what type of product is required, how he wants the product to be presented, and relays this information back to the producer. At the same time, he attempts to promote his product in the market place.

Unfortunately, sound business practice dictates that we should use  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to 2 per cent. of our turnover on promotion. The agricultural industries use less than one-tenth of that amount, and this becomes obvious when one travels around the world to places where our agricultural products are being marketed and notes the lack of knowledge of Australian rural products.

The time to start promoting products is when prices are good. I do not think there is at the moment an agricultural product that is in the doldrums. Even apples, about which some people had fears several months ago, are returning to the producer \$1 a bushel more than they were returning at this time last year. Let us not use  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on promotion. Let us use  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. as the basis for a promotional scheme, which would mean that in this State we would be expending some \$3,250,000 on the promotion of our agricultural products. With that sum of money we could afford to hire international experts of high repute to go into the market place, make surveys, and communicate the needs of the consumers to the producers.

To give one example, the Canadians went to Italy to promote lamb, and through promotion they increased their sales to Italy by 800 per cent. in one year. International companies are promoting many products. I mention only soaps and motorcars. Can members imagine a soap manufacturer or a motorcar manufacturer leaving it to his engineer to promote his product? He pays experts to do his promotion, and the agricultural industries should do likewise.

All too often the answer to overproduction is seen as Government assistance and the creation of some impotent body which hopes to alleviate the farmers' mental and financial burden in the short term. The only answer to senseless, unplanned overproduction is what may be termed the "shotgun" approach—preferably with both barrels and from very close range. The long-term prospects for the expansion of rural production will depend in the future, as they have in the past, on profitable markets. These markets must be surveyed and the products must be promoted. To do nothing may be the recipe for survival but it is rarely the recipe for success.

At times we have heard of boards being set up to sell various agricultural products, with membership varying according to the type of board. Unfortunately, the majority



of members are usually grower representatives. These boards do nothing for the products as far as the public can see—either the consumer or the producer—except add an extra cost in the middle.

Let us take a fresh approach to marketing. Let us go out and market our agricultural products in the same manner as all other products are marketed. Let us sell through promotion and surveys of the markets, and modernise our concept of the marketing of rural products. When we do this we will have no overproduction because this country, with the markets it has on its doorstep in South-east Asia, will be able to supply the needs of those countries; and, strangely enough, in the years to come the European Economic Market will still be buying a great deal of our agricultural produce.

I will leave that subject and deal now with the controversy in regard to sleepers. We often hear how much the Federal Government might save—I think it estimates 10 per cent. One wonders how much of that 10 per cent. is made up of benefits that are handed out to the manufacturers of concrete sleepers by the South Australian Government and others. We, as members of the Parliament of Western Australia, must let the Federal Government know that the majority of the communities in the south-west of this State are built on sleeper production. Farms and farmlets have been established throughout the south-west because of there being a timber mill in close proximity from which they could make their daily bread.

Not only will we lose the market for jarrah sleepers and those farmers who are pioneering in the best sense, at great risk to their own capital, but we will also lose the communities, the tennis, football, and cricket clubs, and all the community efforts which make life bearable for the resident farmers who have not needed to rely on timber mills. I therefore urge that every member let Mr. Jones know that we in Western Australia expect him to appreciate the community problem which would be created in this State by superseding jarrah sleepers. Too often Governments think only of an odd saving in actual primary economic figures and not of the cost to the people in the community and the long-term cost to the State.

[Applause.]

**MR. McPHARLIN** (Mt. Marshall) [8.12 p.m.] : There are several matters to which I wish to refer during the debate on the Address-in-Reply. One of them is the general, overall buoyancy in the agricultural areas of Western Australia, which is referred to in His Excellency's Speech and which demonstrates that we are now reaching a stage which a couple of years ago we thought we would not reach for a long time.

Before continuing, may I offer my congratulations to the honourable member who has just resumed his seat. He has just made his maiden speech, which is a rather traumatic experience and one which none of us will ever forget. Now that he has broken the ice, I feel sure he will make a very useful contribution to the debates in this House.

When he opened Parliament recently, His Excellency referred to the agricultural industries. He said—

Western Australian agriculture shows a continually increasing stability, with fewer applications for Rural Reconstruction assistance.

Given a favourable season, it is expected that improved wool prices, wheat quotas and markets will make 1973 a record year for our rural industries.

In looking through the references to legislation that will be presented during this session, I cannot see any reference to the Government making approaches to the Federal Government for more financial assistance for extensions to the comprehensive water scheme.

In many parts of the State at the present time, as mentioned by the member for Merredin-Yilgarn, shire councils are so desperate for water that they are applying to have their areas declared water deficient areas and obtaining assistance from the Government for the carting of water to certain points so that farmers do not have to cart water more than 20 miles. Those who have never had to cart water over that distance do not know the costs that are involved in doing so.

Consequently, I think it is a matter of extreme urgency that the people who are in that position should be given some form of encouragement. They should be informed of the planning of the Government and whether or not it intends to continue extending the scheme or whether it proposes to implement some other methods whereby water supplies may be provided from areas which perhaps have a good rainfall and where dams may be sunk.

**THE SPEAKER:** Order! There is too much talking going on.

**MR. McPHARLIN:** Only recently I have received letters from people in various parts of my electorate who are desperate for water. I received a letter yesterday from the Wilgoyne-Bonnie Rock Progress Association. That area is north of Mukinbudin. The people there wrote to me and also to the district engineer of the Public Works Department in Northam, and they clearly outlined the desperate situation in which they find themselves. This area is, of course, outside the water scheme. It is only one example of many districts throughout the State in which people are

desperate for water and are asking whether or not some assistance will be forthcoming in the future.

I know the Minister has received numerous requests and approaches from many parts of the State, and several questions were asked in the House. Only yesterday the Minister replied to some questions. He indicated that a survey was being made at the present time and he expected the results within a few months. I understand it is a departmental survey and I hope it will produce some constructive suggestions so that the Minister may forward a case to the Federal Government to obtain much-needed funds to give impetus to further extensions of the comprehensive water supply scheme.

Upon looking through the Estimates for 1971-72 and 1972-73, one finds an interesting financial situation concerning country water supplies, sewerage, drainage, and irrigation. The Ord River irrigation scheme is also included in the figures. I will not weary the House by quoting many figures, but I would refer firstly to the 1971-72 Estimates.

We find that the net expenditure on all country water supply schemes was \$13,376,300, and the revenue obtained was \$6,916,000, leaving a deficit of \$6,460,300. However, then we find interest and depreciation charges add a further \$10,325,700, leaving a total deficit of \$16,786,000. On turning to the Estimates for the following year, 1972-73, we find the net expenditure is just over \$14,000,000, and revenue is \$7,633,000, leaving a deficit of \$6,507,000. Once again, interest and depreciation charges amount to \$10,714,000.

The charges for interest and depreciation amount to a very substantial figure, so perhaps there may be some merit in suggesting that the Minister make an approach to the Commonwealth Government to see whether it will give some thought to reducing the interest charge which is accumulating on the moneys made available from time to time by the Commonwealth for extensions to the comprehensive water scheme.

I have been asked at meetings in various parts of the State just what losses are incurred by water supply schemes outside the metropolitan area; and, of course, when one mentions sums of great magnitude one does not present a very encouraging picture. Therefore, perhaps the Minister may give thought to making an advance to the Commonwealth to reduce the interest on these loans. Apparently the Commonwealth Government has a great deal of finance available to it, judging by all the promises it has made in various spheres. It has made generous hand-outs to a number of departments, so perhaps it may view my proposal with favour.

One could speak at great length on the various aspects of the country water supply scheme. One could mention the history of the extensions of the modified scheme which commenced in 1963 and are now nearing completion in the Dalwallinu area in my electorate. However, I point out to the Minister that I think there is virtue in my suggestion. Whether or not there is a limit on how far water can be pumped, and whether or not we have sufficient storage capacity are factors which must be taken into consideration. Nevertheless I think there are avenues available to us. Perhaps catchment areas may be set aside in certain areas and the reticulation may be extended further afield to the places I have mentioned, such as the Wilgoyne-Bonnie Rock area.

I would touch briefly now upon a matter referred to by the member for Merredin-Yilgarn. I refer to the proposed construction in the eastern wheatbelt of a co-operative superphosphate works. I say at the outset that I have always supported this proposition, and I will continue to do so. Along with the member for Merredin-Yilgarn, I hope the project can be proved to be viable. If so, it will prove to be a material application of the policy of decentralisation in its true sense. Phase I of the Davey Ashmore report cost something like \$10,000, and upon examination it was found to offer sufficient encouragement for the commencement of phase II. Both the reports provided enough encouragement for the committee established in the area further to examine the situation.

However, I was amazed to hear on the A.B.C.—and the Premier may say so if it is wrong—the following news item on the 15th December, 1972—

Mr. Tonkin said yesterday "superphosphate railed from Kwinana would be cheaper to farmers than superphosphate from an inland works". Mr. Tonkin was announcing a \$7 million expansion programme by CSBP and Farmers Limited. The programme includes expansion of the capacity of the Company's Kwinana plant by 200,000 tons per year at a cost of \$3 million.

Mr. Tonkin said: "an independent study on the feasibility of inland superphosphate works had reported that capital of \$9 million would be required to operate a plant with a 200,000 ton capacity. This was three times the outlay of the same tonnage at Kwinana".

Mr. Tonkin said the Kwinana Works were one-third farmer owned and paid co-operative rebates each year on shareholders' purchases. He said it was evident that superphosphate railed from Kwinana would be cheaper to farmers than any cost practical from an inland works.

That is the release I obtained from the A.B.C. When I heard it I was amazed, in view of the enthusiasm which was generated by the Davey Ashmore reports and the enthusiasm of the committee appointed to investigate the proposition. That committee devoted a great deal of time and effort in an endeavour to foster interest in the project and gain support by trying to obtain promises of orders for at least the amount of superphosphate required to make the proposition viable. I am afraid that news release discouraged a number of farmers in the area.

Mr. Brown: Did it? How many papers did you write to saying that you were amazed?

Mr. McPHARLIN: I received phone calls and letters about the matter and in each case the person concerned was quite dismayed about the news item. Since that time I understand a deputation has been received by the Premier, and he has offered to consider the matter if a proposition is presented which proves to be sufficiently viable.

Mr. Brown: Very sound judgment.

Mr. McPHARLIN: A great deal of criticism has been expressed of the proposed establishment of a superphosphate works in the eastern wheatbelt area. Naturally one would expect that a large firm like CSBP & Farmers Ltd. would attempt to see that the project does not get off the ground. That company has been quite successful over the years and naturally would fight to retain as much of the market as possible. However, an interesting aspect in the Davey Ashmore reports is that a consultant by the name of Mr. Spedon condemned superphosphate depots as a method of distribution. He said he preferred to see the installation of a manufacturing works, because depots add to the cost of superphosphate by virtue of the fact that they involve double handling of the product and storage costs.

Mr. Brown: That is correct.

Mr. McPHARLIN: The farmer, of course, is looking for superphosphate on demand so that he can collect it in his own vehicle when he wants it. That is one of the main reasons that the establishment of a superphosphate works is desired in the area.

Another interesting fact emanating from the studies which have been made is that a great deal of superphosphate is transported by road to country areas. I think approximately 70 per cent. is railled and 30 per cent. is transported by road.

Mr. Brown: Those figures apply only to the eastern wheatbelt.

Mr. McPHARLIN: That could be right. The Railways Department is not in a position to be able to afford to lose any business at all because its deficit grows larger each year. It requires all the freight it can get to help meet the deficit it is sustaining. Of course, the farming community is afraid

that rail freights may be increased. I think freights have not been increased since 1965—for which the department is to be commended—but we are reaching a point where serious consideration must be given to increasing freight rates in an endeavour to meet the deficit.

It has now been suggested that the establishment of a superphosphate works in the area would greatly assist the railways.

Mr. Gayfer: Canada has not increased its freights since 1921, so it might apply here, too.

Mr. McPHARLIN: Let us hope our railways can attain a record such as that. If a superphosphate works were established in that area it would mean a constant source of revenue for the railways because they would be able to transport superphosphate rocks from the port to the works. That would mean that the railways would be handling constant traffic in conducting freight from point A to point B. Further, it would be the best type of freight that could be handled in that there would be no need for any offloading in between. The railways would be carting a constant tonnage week after week thus providing the extra freight for which they are searching. This is an important point that must not be lost sight of by the railways.

It has also been recorded—and I think the member for Merredin-Yilgarn made some comment on this when he read a letter from CSBP—that the Euroa works in Victoria proved to be a failure.

Mr. Brown: I never read any letter from CSBP.

Mr. McPHARLIN: I am sorry; it was from Wesfarmers. In any case, I have read somewhere that the Euroa works in Victoria failed. I have been provided with information that the Euroa works did not fail because, in fact, they were never built. The concept failed because of insufficient support. That is what actually happened. No feasibility study was conducted and therefore the project could not be proceeded with because of insufficient evidence to show whether it would be a financial success or otherwise. Therefore the report that the Euroa works in Victoria failed is completely incorrect.

When mention is made of a superphosphate works that could provide some 200,000 tons of super a year, the quantity of water that would be needed for such a project is an important factor. In the older type of plants a great deal of water was used for cooling purposes apart from that used in the manufacture of the superphosphate itself. Today, however, modern plants are cooled by air and they use about one-tenth of the volume of water that was used by the plants of yesteryear. Therefore, regardless of whether superphosphate works are situated on the coast or inland a certain quantity of water will still be used in the manufacture of the superphosphate. Further, the quality of the water

must be good and the works would still use a fairly large quantity. Therefore, I do not think the question of a water supply is one that should be used against the establishment of a superphosphate works, no matter where it may be situated.

In Victoria co-operative superphosphate works have been successful. One that comes to mind is known as the Pivot Works. It is claimed that in New Zealand there are nine private works and three co-operative works which are most successful. A study of the cash flow budgets in the Davey Ashmore report show the great benefits that can accrue to a co-operative works. In this study it is implied that by careful management and by operating the works efficiently farmers are enabled to enjoy rebates. The study sets out a list of the salaries, etc. that are required to be paid. If the farmers are prepared to put forward the necessary money for the establishment of a co-operative superphosphate works, rebates are paid after a number of years. In the first years of operation rebates may not be as high as farmers would like them to be, but in the following years the figures outlined in the study I have mentioned show quite clearly that farmers could enjoy definite savings after the works had been established for 10 or 15 years. Also, rebates up to \$6 could be paid to those farmers who participated in the financing of a co-operative works.

I hope the committee is successful in obtaining the required amount it has been asked to obtain for the purpose of establishing a superphosphate works in the area.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is far too much talking in the Chamber. *Hansard* is finding it difficult to hear.

**Mr. McPHARLIN:** I hope the committee is successful in getting this project off the ground because other aspects enter into the question. If a superphosphate works were established in this area they would represent decentralisation in its true form. The establishment of such works would attract more people to the area, and this of course means there would be a need for more schools. By encouraging people to leave the metropolitan area the ever-increasing city population is reduced. Further, by attracting more people to country districts more amenities are provided and this, in turn, assists the districts concerned.

Therefore, I can only hope that the committee is successful in its efforts because it is facing a tremendous task, one of the difficulties being to obtain a sufficient number of farmers to contribute the finance required. The amount stipulated is in the vicinity of \$2,000,000. I know the committee has been working extremely hard on the project because it is very difficult to get sufficient farmers to support the establishment of these works. Some farmers, of course, are more willing to contribute than others, particularly in the

more distant areas. However, I am sure there will be a nucleus of farmers who will join the project without hesitation, but in the fringe areas I appreciate it will be more difficult to interest farmers in such a project from which they may obtain benefit. I wish the committee every success and I hope it will obtain the results it is seeking.

I have referred to the Governor's Speech and to the Governor's overall comments on the position of the agricultural industry in Western Australia which, I think, shows great buoyancy. This gives a great deal of encouragement to each and every farmer, because not only does this affect the farming community but, indirectly, there is always a beneficial flow-on to industry and this in turn is of benefit to the entire economy of the State, because if a man is earning a greater income a large portion of that income is spent on various improvements and the purchase of machinery and materials which are necessary to carry on the farming property conducted by him.

The income derived from farming operations flows right through the community and everyone benefits. I hope we can continue in a more buoyant manner than we have in the last two or three years during which we have experienced a recession and been in the unfortunate position of seeing farmers walk off their properties. Many farmers applied for assistance under the Rural Reconstruction Scheme without success. This is rather unfortunate because a number of farmers under the improved conditions obtaining today would be able to carry on their properties without any trouble.

While speaking on this subject I would like to refer to an extract from the Premier's policy speech made prior to the last election. This speech was made by the Premier whilst he was campaigning. Had he acted on what he said I feel quite sure he would now be sticking out his chest and saying how far-sighted he had proved to be and that his policy was really sound. He could have proudly said, "Look what my Government has done." Unfortunately, he has not done what he promised he would do. The following extract is quoted from the Premier's policy speech made before the last election—

I pledge my party to face up to all farmers' problems, especially debt problems.

We propose to endeavour to institute a form of payment from the Treasury to the farmer to bring his nett income to a stated minimum. In this way, farmers with no real alternatives would not be forced to leave their farm or endure income-shrinking poverty.

A requirement of the proposal is for the farmer to give the Government first refusal of his farm in the event of sale and the total amount advanced would be recoverable from the result of the sale or from his estate.

Had the Government implemented that policy its actions would have been applauded. On the market there were a number of farms that could have been bought at very reduced prices. I have not heard, or perhaps I have not been informed, that the Government purchased any farms. However, I do not think the Premier could claim that his Government purchased even one farm in accordance with the policy set out in his policy speech.

I wonder whether any member or Minister on the Government side can give me any proof that even one farm was purchased by the Government. The policy speech was reported on in *The West Australian* of the 4th February, 1971 and many people took heart from the promises made by the Premier, because they gave the people a great deal of encouragement. Had such a policy been put into effect many farms could have been purchased cheaply by the Government at a figure suitable both to the farmer concerned and the Government.

Mr. T. D. Evans: When the present Government took office it faced a Budget deficit of \$12,000,000.

Mr. McPHARLIN: Not one farm was purchased by the Government. Why make promises such as that? The Government knew the depressed state of the economy at the time and that many farmers were desperate; they just could not see their way clear to carry on. Despite this not one farm was purchased by the Government. That was a cruel promise which should not have been made if it was not intended that it be fulfilled. In view of the improved situation in regard to wheat and to the remarkable increases in the price of wool, had any farm been purchased at that time by the Government it would have been practically impossible not to clear the debts owing on it. At least the Government could have recovered what it paid for the property and possibly obtained additional income from the sale.

If the Government had taken such action it would be of great assistance to it at the next State elections. However, the reaction to the promise made by the Government has been so violent that a change of Government is foreseeable at the next State Government elections.

Mr. T. D. Evans: That is what you think.

Mr. McPHARLIN: I wish I was as sure of winning charities.

Mr. T. D. Evans: I suggest you buy a ticket.

Mr. McPHARLIN: I now wish to refer to the question raised by the Leader of the Opposition when he was speaking to the amendment to the Address-in-Reply, which attracted some lively and animated interjections from members on the Government side. This was the question of the Commonwealth Government's action in recognising a foreign power which is now causing a great deal of distress among residents throughout Australia.

Mr. Bertram: Which country is that?

Mr. McPHARLIN: The honourable member would not know.

Mr. McPHARLIN: If the honourable member would like me to spell it out for him, I will do so. I am referring to the recognition of the Republic of China and the turning away from Taiwan. We all knew that at some time Red China would have to be recognised. This could have been done in a way which did not betray one of the nations with which we have been trading for a number of years—an energetic and prosperous small island. We could have achieved this and not neglected Taiwan.

Mr. A. R. Tonkin: How long did you want? You had 23 years.

Mr. McPHARLIN: The honourable member ought to know that our trade with Taiwan has been very good over the years.

Mr. A. R. Tonkin: You said—

Mr. McPHARLIN: We should still recognise Taiwan but the Federal Labor Government has backed out of that arrangement. America has recognised Mainland China or Red China but it also recognises Taiwan.

Mr. Bertram: Which is it—Mainland China or Red China?

Mr. McPHARLIN: The honourable member ought to know. Since his philosophy is on parallel lines he ought to be pretty familiar with it.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. McPHARLIN: Is it not amazing how one can attract interjections and inane laughter from the other side of the House!

Mr. Bertram: You are confusing.

Mr. McPHARLIN: The honourable member's philosophy is parallel to theirs.

Mr. H. D. Evans: Whose philosophy?

Mr. A. R. Tonkin: You really believe that?

Mr. Jamieson: Let us not sell them any more wheat then.

Mr. McPHARLIN: I am sure that some members on the other side of the House do not believe in all the actions the Federal Government has taken, and they would admit it if they were honest with themselves.

Mr. H. D. Evans: What about you being honest?

Mr. McPHARLIN: There are those on that side of the House who do not go along with all the actions of the Federal Government.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. McPHARLIN: This is becoming quite interesting.

Mr. T. D. Evans: That is a bit of a change.

Mr. McPHARLIN: Let me throw a few more facts into the ring and see what bites I receive from the other side.

I applauded the Leader of the Opposition when he said he was disgusted with the actions of several Federal Ministers.

Mr. T. D. Evans: You are just an echo!

Mr. McPHARLIN: In this State of Western Australia—

Mr. T. D. Evans: With a good Government!

Mr. McPHARLIN: —the Young Labor Association held a meeting.

Mr. May: So did the Young Liberal Party, and you do not agree with all they said either.

Mr. McPHARLIN: The Young Labor Association sent a telegram of congratulations to North Vietnam.

Mr. May: They sent one to the Leader of the Opposition about daylight saving, too.

Mr. McPHARLIN: It is appalling to read of this sort of thing.

Mr. McIver: They are not in Parliament.

Mr. McPHARLIN: Of course we know who was at the meeting to encourage them and no doubt he would have been active in the framing of the telegram. I am referring to one of the Labor Senators who represents Western Australia. It is easy to see that the association was influenced by that Senator in sending the telegram to Hanoi after its so-called victory. What a shocking state of affairs! The young people of our State are being influenced—

Mr. Jamieson: You are beginning to talk like the D.L.P.

Mr. McPHARLIN: —by those who have shown by their actions during the last 100 days or so that they are willing to sell our country down the drain and to cause distress and fear throughout the community. There is fear concerning what could happen in our country.

Mr. Bryce: What about Ustasha? Why don't you talk about that?

Mr. O'Connor: Why don't you? You have the opportunity.

Mr. Bryce: I will leave that to you.

A Government member: What is Ustasha?

Mr. McPHARLIN: The honourable member had better write to Senator Murphy to get him to tell him what he can about it because his actions over the last few days have created even more distress. Because of the performance the other evening I knew that, when introduced, this subject would prove to be a touchy one.

Mr. Bertram: You should not have raised it then.

Mr. McPHARLIN: This is one of those matters about which I feel very strongly and I am not the only one on this side who feels that way. I said before, and I say again, that if members on the other side were honest with themselves they would admit that they feel likewise.

Mr. Gayfer: Just excuse the bald-headed ones and count the rest.

Mr. McPHARLIN: Over the years we have seen the application of this doctrine in other countries. It can be said that we should not believe all the reports we hear, but we certainly should be able to believe the report by a professor from London who obtained his information from a group of experts who had carried out their investigations in one of the communist countries. It is reported in *The West Australian* that as a result of the investigations it was discovered that 1,000,000 people were held inhumanly in Soviet labour camps. If one reads a little more about what occurs in these prison camps in this particular communist country one realises that sworn testimony has been taken which reveals that the action there is not the same as in prison camps as we understand them but that starvation, torture, and all other kinds of vile atrocities have been experienced.

Mr. Jamieson: Like the tiger cages in South Vietnam, and so on!

Mr. McPHARLIN: That is the type of remark and joke we expect from the other side. It is disgusting, as the Leader of the Opposition said.

Mr. Jamieson: Sit down and cry if you are going to cry!

Mr. McPHARLIN: That is the type of remark we have come to expect from the Minister.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has five more minutes.

Mr. McPHARLIN: I wonder what the situation would be if there were a sudden third world war. What would be the reaction of the members on the other side of the House? I wonder at times whether they would have the courage to stand up for the way of life we at present enjoy.

Mr. H. D. Evans: There would not be too many of us left to find out anyway.

Mr. McPHARLIN: I do wonder what their reaction would be because we all know that they have gone along with the actions of the Federal Government and the Prime Minister who has betrayed us. He has betrayed us!

Mr. O'Connor: He has!

Mr. T. D. Evans: Would you have the courage of your convictions to go outside and make that statement?

Mr. McPHARLIN: The member for South Perth said last night that it is an open season for treason; and I agree.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Mr. T. D. Evans: You are invited to go outside and make that comment.

Mr. McPHARLIN: The other night the Leader of the Opposition referred to a cartoon in the Press and when he did so certain remarks were made which reflected no credit on those who made them. The cartoon depicts the Prime Minister of Australia taking flowers from the grave of an Australian soldier.

Mr. T. D. Evans: An absolute disgrace!

Mr. McPHARLIN: Why? Because the truth hurts?

Mr. T. D. Evans: There is no truth in that at all, and you know it!

Mr. McPHARLIN: Why is it that all the Press publicity seems to be directed against the crimes the Americans and allies were supposed to have committed? What about the crimes committed by the other side—the murder, the rape, and the slaughter they committed? What about the rape and murder in Rumania and Czechoslovakia, or have members opposite forgotten that? That is the same philosophy the Government is supporting.

Mr. Bryce: You sound like—

Mr. McPHARLIN: I would hate to mention, while I am on my feet, what the member for Ascot sounds like.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. McPHARLIN: I anticipated that when this matter was raised there would be animated interjections from the other side because we are striking them on a very sore spot.

A Government member: It is humorous.

Mr. McPHARLIN: Members opposite know this is the truth and no doubt other speakers will make similar comments. We have a wonderful State and country—

Mr. May: And a wonderful Government! Government members: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. McPHARLIN: We will have in 12 months' time.

Mr. Bryce: We agree.

Mr. McPHARLIN: This is a wonderful country with its prosperity and standard of living. We have certainly achieved something and we should cherish and protect our way of life of which we can be proud. We must ensure that we retain it and protect it for the future.

However good it is and however much we enjoy it, I am of the opinion that overhanging us is a shadow—the shadow of communism. It is a shadow we should dispel or endeavour to reject at every opportunity.

I would not be discharging my responsibility if I did not take the opportunity in this House to make these comments because I believe many people are distressed at what is occurring and are concerned about the actions of the Federal Government. Many people are fearful of what could occur. They are worried about the undercurrent of fear and distress prevalent throughout many parts of the country. Many people in my electorate have told me they are fearful of what is occurring and what has occurred since the change of Government in Canberra.

The Prime Minister took action so quickly that I do not think he knew himself its impact and ramifications. The people certainly do not know the ramifications of the action he has taken and so there is this fear and distress throughout the nation.

I hope that in the very near future we can get back some of the stability which existed before the change of Government.

MR. BERTRAM (Mt. Hawthorn) [8.57 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. T. D. Evans: Now we will hear something decent.

Mr. BERTRAM: —in 1973, more than in the past, young people who are members or adherents of the Conservative Party in Australia—the so-called Liberal Party—find themselves in a situation which is a classical anachronism. They take great exception to it and they are not at all sure there is any remedy likely to arise. I think I can say with confidence that in the foreseeable future in Western Australia the policies and activities of the so-called Liberal Party in this State will not alter in any way at all.

Mr. O'Connor: Are you on the policy committee, or something?

Mr. BERTRAM: Unlike the Leader of the Opposition who, last night, said that in due course he would return to the question of Vietnam but who did not do so for some reason best known to himself, I will follow my usual policy and come back to the subject and provide evidence and arguments to support the statement I have just made.

Firstly, however, I take the opportunity, very briefly, to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, for the ruling you gave yesterday concerning suitable attire in the Chamber. I do not think this is a matter on which one should dwell for more than a moment or two, but I mention it with respect because I think it was a good ruling and I think, quite clearly, it has been appreciated by members on both sides of this Chamber working here in pretty warm conditions.

A member: It has had a limited effect on the other side. One section is under party discipline.

Mr. Nalder: I agree with you entirely.

Mr. O'Neill: We have not started to warm the place up yet.

Mr. BERTRAM: Amongst other things, our task is to maintain the dignity of this House, but, again, I do not think that, in 1973, the dignity of a person can be judged by the clothes he wears. As I understand the situation in the courts, they are not concerned with the name on the back of the document involved. They are concerned with the document itself.

From time to time we have all observed people resplendent in their sartorial magnificence. These people are not necessarily dignified and are certainly not dignified if they lie, tell half-truths, or mislead others. The real test, as I think most members would concede, is the measure of who is inside the clothes and not the clothes which happen to adorn the person.

I am quite sure that the rule which you, Mr. Speaker, brought in will be adhered to and members will show due discretion at all times on the question of dress. The Australian Labor Party has always been known as the party of change. We are proud of this. There is an abundance of history to support this statement. Had a Speaker of a conservative party been occupying your Chair, Mr. Speaker, the ruling given yesterday would not have been the same as yours. Such a Speaker would come up with the same ruling in roughly 10 years' time.

Mr. Nalder: Do not spoil it.

Mr. BERTRAM: This is a manifestation of the attitudes of parties. It is a manifestation of precisely what young Liberals are observing. Indeed, they take a dim view of this attitude and are protesting substantially about it. I can understand their reasons.

Mr. E. H. M. Lewis: It took 23 years to change the Federal Government.

Mr. BERTRAM: It is interesting that the Leader of the Opposition has now departed from referring to the people as "Joe Blows". He now refers to them as the "grass roots". Now, of course, an election is close.

Mr. O'Connor: What a load of rubbish.

Mr. BERTRAM: The people, generally, remember perfectly well the way in which they were referred to. Their memories are good and they will not forget the term for a long time.

Mr. R. L. Young: You took your decency off with your coat.

Mr. BERTRAM: The contribution to the debate last night by the Leader of the Opposition was the poorest I have heard.

Mr. O'Connor: You should listen to your own.

Mr. BERTRAM: Obviously, the Leader of the Opposition is extremely concerned at what he has read in the papers in recent times. He is perfectly aware, as are all other members, that the Federal Government is an extremely popular Government.

Mr. Hartrey: Hear, hear!

Mr. O'Connor: How is the State Government?

Mr. R. L. Young: It would not be if there were a Federal election tomorrow.

Mr. O'Connor: The member for Mt. Hawthorn should shift to the Eastern States. The Federal Government is not popular over there.

Mr. BERTRAM: The previous speaker said that people have come to him and expressed fears in connection with what is going on. I put it to all other members of this Chamber that not one other member has had a statement such as that made to him. This is not the position at all. An elderly lady came to me today and referred to "Uncle Gough" because she has today received a cheque for \$60 representing a long overdue payment in aged pension, plus accumulated arrears to a certain time.

Mr. O'Connor: What will people call him later on when they have to pay that money?

Mr. BERTRAM: The Prime Minister has been compared with President Roosevelt by a number of writers who know what they are saying. The dynamic action he has taken justifies this comparison. The people of Australia are thrilled.

Mr. R. L. Young: You believe in Father Christmas.

Mr. BERTRAM: For the first time in 23 years we have a Federal Government which gives the appearance of leading the people.

Mr. Hartrey: Hear, hear!

Mr. O'Connor: Right down the drain!

Sir Charles Court: Right over the cliff!

Mr. BERTRAM: The Federal Government has a tremendous backlog to catch up with. I shall briefly refer to what the Governor-General said a short time ago on the 27th February.

Mr. W. A. Manning: Who wrote the speech?



Mr. BERTRAM: Australia has been drifting along without leadership for a long time. It had four or five "leaders" in four or five years. The people took the view that this was not good enough. They turfed out the person referred to by the Leader of the Opposition as "poor old Mr. McMahon". The voters shared those sentiments on the 2nd December. I shall quote from the Governor-General's Speech.

Mr. R. L. Young: Who wrote it?

Mr. BERTRAM: I can assure the honourable member the Governor-General's Speech, which was given on the 27th February, 1973, was not written for him by a highly-paid public relations officer. What a ludicrous position it is when a Government employs a public relations officer to write its policy speech.

Sir Charles Court: Did that not happen with the Labor Party?

Mr. BERTRAM: That would be the only "on the move" action because it was a departure from normality.

Sir Charles Court: The Labor Party boasted about it.

Mr. BERTRAM: I come back to my point of what the Governor-General of Australia said on the 27th February, 1973. The Governor-General is quite capable of writing a speech.

Sir Charles Court: You know the Governor-General's Speech is written by the Government.

Mr. BERTRAM: The Governor-General is the highest authority in the Commonwealth of Australia. He said—

My Government intends to ratify the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination and other international agreements dealing with human rights.

Mr. O'Neil: He should have said "my advisers".

Mr. Gayfer: When was that written?

Mr. BERTRAM: The convention was held in 1965 but the previous Commonwealth Government of Australia did nothing to implement the decision. He went on to say—

These include the ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948;—

How many years is that? The Federal Government did nothing for 25 years. The present Federal Government will now act upon it. He continued—

—the ILO Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949;—

This, too, has been rusticated. Australia was a party to the convention but the previous Government did nothing about its implementation. The Governor-General continued—

—the ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951;—

This represents another delay of 22 years. Something will now be done about this. The Governor-General also referred to—

—the ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958;—

The delay involved here is 15 years. Next in the list is—

—the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) . . .

This is the Speech given by the Governor-General.

Mr. W. G. Young: The Governor-General is talking about his Government.

Sir Charles Court: It is not his Speech.

Mr. BERTRAM: Of course it is.

Sir Charles Court: It is prepared by the Government.

Mr. BERTRAM: It is the Speech of the Governor-General.

Sir Charles Court: Do not give us that nonsense here. You are reflecting on the Governor-General.

Mr. May: Last night the Leader of the Opposition was reflecting on the Commissioner of Fuel and Energy.

Sir Charles Court: I was not.

Mr. May: We will have something to say about that. The Leader of the Opposition is always running somebody down.

The SPEAKER: Order! Members will keep order! There is a member on his feet.

Mr. May: It was a direct reflection last night.

The SPEAKER: The Minister will keep order. The member for Mt. Hawthorn.

Mr. BERTRAM: The interruptions are coming thick and fast. The top of *Hansard* reads "Governor-General's Speech". These are only a few words and I can hardly be inaccurate in reading them.

Sir Charles Court: We want to put the record straight. The Governor-General does not prepare it.

Mr. BERTRAM: With all the interruptions it is difficult to remember the point I have reached. The list continues—

—the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966).

The Governor-General says—

Where necessary, the concurrence of the States will be sought prior to ratification.

Last night we heard a pathetic contribution from members opposite who claimed that the Federal Government would stand over us and make us do all sorts of things. The Governor-General himself has pointed

out, amongst other things, that where necessary the concurrence of the States will be sought prior to ratification. If members of this Parliament and the people generally care to read the *Hansard* of the Commonwealth Parliament of the 27th February, 1973, from pages 11 to 18, they will gain a wealth of information in connection with what the present Labor Government proposes to do. Throughout the whole of the Governor-General's Speech to which I have referred they will see a golden thread of co-operation. Members on this side of the House do not think in terms of contention and competition. If we think of competition it is in the field of sport. It was not very mature on the part of members opposite to talk in such terms. In Government we, in Western Australia, speak of co-operation and so does the Federal Government. The Speech is printed for anybody who wishes to read it. "Co-operation" is the hallmark of the Governor-General's Speech and we are proud of that fact.

On a number of occasions over the past 72 years history has shown that all sorts of things begin to occur when conservative parties receive a mauling at the polls. The first question they ask is: Can we, perhaps, work a merger with somebody? The Leader of the Country Party (Mr. Anthony) seems to be keen on this idea and some conservatives in the so-called Liberal Party are also keen, for the simple reason that they are not keen on their leader. They have already observed the performance of the Leader of the Federal Opposition (Mr. Snedden) and are quite unmoved by it. They are not at all impressed. They would like an opportunity to be led by Mr. Anthony. Mr. Snedden is not keen on a merger because, as an editorial recently expressed it, one of his tasks is to get the party behind him. The Liberal Party is warring internally and the people of Australia will not tolerate it. The people want a concerted and co-ordinated party, and they cannot see this in the conservative movement at the moment. Mr. Snedden does not wish to see a merger at all.

In South Australia it is not so much a question of a merger between the conservative Liberal Party and the Country Party, but rather a question of a merger between the Liberal Party, so-called, and the Liberal movement. One of the senior members of the Liberal Party in South Australia—a member of Parliament—has gone so far as to suggest that the Liberal Party should be disbanded.

Mr. Jamieson: In fact their deputy leader until yesterday.

Mr. BERTRAM: Yes.

Mr. Hartrey: That may be a good idea.

Mr. BERTRAM: So the Liberal Party is in real strife and the public of Australia is thoroughly aware of the fact. No doubt

messages and directions are flowing from Melbourne to Canberra as to what should happen there.

Mr. May: A few faceless men!

Mr. BERTRAM: The faceless men are in Melbourne. The faceless men in the Federal scene are traditionally centred in Melbourne. That is common knowledge.

The despicable cartoon featuring the Prime Minister of Australia has been referred to. Politicians usually think that cartoons are wonderful, and can even appreciate something aimed at themselves. The cartoons convey messages and we appreciate them but, as with other things, there are limits, and the cartoon referred to earlier in the debate is a classic example of a cartoon in very poor taste. The people of Western Australia were disgusted with it—make no mistake about that.

Sir Charles Court: The other way around—they got the message.

Mr. BERTRAM: This is why the popularity rating of the Prime Minister has risen since the cease fire in Vietnam. Is that evidence of the treason of the Prime Minister of Australia or is it evidence that he is doing a good job? I believe he is doing a good job.

I have just been speaking about a proposed merger, and I will therefore refer to a cartoon which depicts a very worried, baffled Leader of the Federal Opposition (Mr. Snedden) occupying a chair and Mr. Anthony just walking in the door. On the table we see a headline, "Liberal—C.P. Merger Proposed", and the caption reads as follows—

You are still not happy with the office arrangements, Doug. What office do you want?

I believe everyone is aware of the office Mr. Anthony wishes to attain.

I feel we will not see a merger at the present time in the Federal sphere, although one thing is absolutely certain: within perhaps 20 years there will be a merger because the Country Party will not survive without it.

Mr. McPharlin: You would be surprised.

Mr. BERTRAM: This is a fact, and the Deputy Leader of the Country Party knows it. The people from the rural districts are coming to the city and the Country Party will not be able to maintain its present representation. The balance is unfair now.

Mr. W. G. Young: You are going to centralise and keep them out of the country.

Mr. BERTRAM: I am glad the honourable member brought up decentralisation, because three Governments, two of which are Liberal, have agreed on the greatest decentralisation project for Australia this

century. We cannot hope to decentralise at the same rate as the flow is occurring in the other direction.

Mr. E. H. M. Lewis: What flow is this?

Mr. BERTRAM: The flow of country people to other areas.

Sir Charles Court: You have given up already.

Mr. BERTRAM: This is happening because of technological advances.

Mr. Taylor: He is being a realist.

Mr. BERTRAM: The Country Party is clearly and irretrievably doomed. That is a certainty.

Mr. Nalder: They said that in 1913.

Mr. A. R. Tonkin: In 1913? When did it start?

Mr. O'Neill: The Labor Party has not started yet.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. BERTRAM: The Country Party is doomed and it is a little unfortunate that there will not be a merger. If I remember correctly, a few years ago the Liberal Party in this State changed its name. In fact, it has changed its name on many occasions throughout the years. A merger with the Country Party would facilitate another change of name.

Mr. May: They change their Prime Ministers regularly, too.

Mr. BERTRAM: I cannot see how a party can change its name yet remain basically the same entity if it does not have an excuse such as a merger.

Mr. H. D. Evans: That is food for thought.

Mr. W. A. Manning: You are also thinking of your electoral "deform", are you?

Mr. O'Neill: He is not thinking at the moment.

Mr. BERTRAM: I undertook earlier to tell the House the reason for the dissatisfaction—particularly amongst the young people—with the so-called Liberal Party. One reason is that the party operates and upholds faceless practices. An example of this appears in tonight's *Daily News*. A cartoon shows a building with "A.S.I.O." on the outside of it.

Mr. R. L. Young: You have been reading a lot of comics lately.

Mr. BERTRAM: I listened to one last night, and it was not a very accurate comment. I had to correct something.

Mr. R. L. Young: It must have been one of your great moments.

Mr. BERTRAM: Not at all—I thought it was "Peanuts".

The caption under the cartoon reads—

Confounded Labor Government!  
Won't give us faceless men a fair go . . . !

The Liberal Party has many faceless men, such as the people employed in A.S.I.O., who do not hold their positions through elections. I should imagine this is the thought behind the cartoon. I believe faceless men also appear at the Federal conferences of the Liberal Party.

I was very happy to read in today's issue of *The West Australian* an article under the heading, "Libs. will open doors to Press". I believe this is a wonderful step forward.

Mr. Jamieson: They are copying our policy.

Mr. BERTRAM: I am happy that it has happened in 1973 and not 1993. The article reads—

The Liberal Party Federal Executive, in a historic move—

Members will note that it reads "historic" and not "hysteric". To continue—

—decided today that meetings of the Liberal Federal Council will be open to the Press.

Mr. Gayfer: Why not read the rest of it?

Mr. BERTRAM: I will do that if the honourable member would like me to. I am sure he will appreciate the portion which quotes the reports of the Federal Leader of the Opposition for the time being (Mr. Snedden). It reads—

And we feel it is particularly appropriate to do it now because we are re-examining our policies and our platform.

Indeed we have already mentioned this. I want to know whether the Leader of the Opposition in Western Australia approves of it. He is the head of the conservatives here. He is anti-change and the Young Liberals of Western Australia are well aware of it.

Mr. Thompson: The Young Labor Movement referred to certain things, too.

Mr. BERTRAM: The Leader of the Opposition will have an opportunity to tell us his views in due course. I feel it is a good idea. For many years past the executive of the Labor Party has welcomed members of the Press to its meetings.

Sir Charles Court: That is for the executive to decide.

Mr. BERTRAM: The State Executive of The Australian Labor Party welcomes the Press. Our proceedings have been reported, and very often this has not helped us. However, we believe in open councils just as we believe in open Government.

Mr. R. L. Young: You do not tell your own Ministers what is going on!

Sir Charles Court: Don't make us laugh.

Mr. BERTRAM: How refreshing it has been to see Ministers of the Federal Government talking freely on television in the last few months.

Mr. R. L. Young: And saying straight out that the Prime Minister has not told them something.

Mr. BERTRAM: They are speaking fairly and frankly and letting the people know what is going on.

Mr. R. L. Young: They do not know what is going on.

Mr. O'Neil: They were not frank before the election.

Mr. R. L. Young: Tell us what Dr. Cairns said about devaluation.

Mr. BERTRAM: I would have thought that the member for Wembley would know that Governments do not rush around talking about our currency. This would permit the sharks to come in and rob the little people—to cut the "Joe Blows" off at the grass roots.

Mr. Thompson: Was not Mr. Barnard the fellow who was going to declare all about the American bases?

Mr. BERTRAM: To come back to the point I was making, the Leader of the Opposition barely touched on State matters last night. In a debate of this kind it is not unusual to comment on speeches made by other people. If we do not answer the Opposition when we have a good case, we are fools. Not only that, if we do not answer it we are acknowledged to have accepted it as gospel.

On this side of the House we do not accept any of the comments made last night.

Mr. R. L. Young: All the Premier kept saying last night was that we were not talking about the amendment.

Mr. BERTRAM: Before I was sidetracked, I was commenting that the Federal Government is currently riding on a very high wave of popularity.

Mr. Thompson: Tell us about the State Government!

Mr. Hartrey: You will see this in Bunbury.

Mr. BERTRAM: The Leader of the Opposition is very well aware of that.

Sir Charles Court: Certainly not.

Mr. BERTRAM: We must bear in mind that a State election is not very far away.

Mr. O'Connor: Can you hasten it for us?

Mr. BERTRAM: It is on the 7th April.

Mr. O'Connor: You said a State election.

Mr. BERTRAM: It is a State election; it is not a Commonwealth election.

Mr. O'Connor: It is a by-election.

Mr. BERTRAM: The technique used by the Opposition is as old as Adam—typical conservative technique. This type of thing went out with top hats. The Leader of

the Opposition is striving to damage the reputation of the Federal Government so that somehow or other the successes achieved by the Federal Government will be nullified.

Once again in a typically Conservative manner he used the old technique which was followed earlier this evening by the previous speaker by which he introduced fear. There is nothing like fear to win votes. We have seen Federal election after Federal election since 1959 in the Commonwealth of Australia which has been won on fear—fear of something or other.

Mr. R. L. Young: Fear of a Japanese takeover!

Mr. BERTRAM: The usual medicine has been the Wentworth medicine which implies there is a communist under every bed, and two communists under every table. In the last general election on the 2nd December the weapon of fear really was not present. The Conservatives worked out that we could not very well talk about the Russians invading Australia, like Sir Robert Menzies did in 1953 when he said we would be invaded by the Russians. It was mooted in 1878 that the Chinese would invade us and we built fortresses around Sydney Harbour to repel them! However, in 1972 the fear weapon was not available.

That fact, together with the complete disarray within the Conservative parties with their regular changes of leadership, with virtually no leadership, with secrecy of Government, and such things, all snowballed to bring about a result which turfed the Conservatives out of office; and they will remain out of office in the Federal scene for many years.

The intriguing feature is how after many years of opposition to new ideas the Conservatives suddenly get the message. For example, all around Australia there was opposition to the creation of an office known as the Parliamentary Commissioner or the Ombudsman. I read only in recent times that Victoria, which has a Conservative Government, is to appoint an ombudsman. What do members opposite think about that? As a result of the disarray in the Opposition parties in South Australia and in the Federal sphere—and this is manifest throughout Australia—we found recently in South Australia for the first time in its history an Australian Labor Party Government was returned to office.

It is interesting to observe that in the recent Federal election the A.L.P. in South Australia actually lost one seat, after being met by a tremendous campaign costing almost \$1,000,000. I shall treat that as a *bona fide* loss. However, the A.L.P. Government in that State was returned to office in the last week or so, with more members in the Parliament than it had before that election. The A.L.P. had four

members in the Upper House, which seats were granted to them by the Conservatives since 1901 or whenever it was that responsible Government was introduced in that State. The A.L.P. doubled the seats it held in the Upper House from four to eight. It was an increase of 100 per cent., and this was brought about as a result of disarray in the Conservative parties.

Mr. O'Neil: You do not believe in the franchise of that House. You believe it is unfair.

Mr. BERTRAM: I would say that the A.L.P., which is the most numerous party in Australia almost since federation, had only four seats out of the 20 in the Upper House in South Australia. If that is not a crooked situation I do not know what is.

Mr. O'Neil: Why take pleasure in this—that you have doubled the number of seats held by the A.L.P.—if you do not believe in the Upper House or the system of election?

Mr. BERTRAM: Even if a trotting horse comes up from behind scratch to defeat all-comers we are entitled to take some satisfaction. Whilst pride is not of much use by itself, we should take some pride in the performance of the Labor Government in South Australia. In that State the Conservatives are made up of the Country Party, the Liberal movement—

Mr. Hartrey: Don't forget the D.L.P.

Mr. BERTRAM: They are fragmented, and they have no cohesion. That is their trouble. Strangely enough the Country Party in that State won one seat in the last election.

Mr. O'Neil: The A.L.P. did not win on merit but on dissension in the other parties!

Mr. BERTRAM: During the last Federal election I was privileged to speak at a public meeting. On that occasion I said the A.L.P., as the then Opposition, was quite capable of winning the election on merit, and it did just that. There was the combination of fragmentation, disarray, and decay on the Conservative side; whilst there was leadership and preparedness to do something on the A.L.P. side.

I now want to quote something which the Young Liberal Movement said, and I refer to a report which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 14th February last. I have been pointing out that the Liberal Party is archaic and out of date. We cannot have a Conservative party that is up to date, because that would be a contradiction. In any event the Young Liberals take this view. In that newspaper report the following appears—

Young Libs. told policies  
out of date.

ADELAIDE, Tuesday.—The outgoing president of the Young Liberals, Mr. G. Vickery, said today that it was

no longer good enough for the Liberal Party to adhere to the issues and policy stances of the late 1940s.

I have mentioned the various matters about which the Governor-General spoke at the opening of the Federal Parliament. He indicated that many things would be done which had not been done in the last 25 years.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. A. R. Tonkin): The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. BERTRAM: According to the Young Liberals the Conservative parties in 1973 are adhering to issues and policy stances of the 1940s. Let us take that as 1949; they will still be 24 years old. This is how far the Conservatives are in arrears. To continue with the newspaper report—

He told the Young Liberals' annual convention that the Liberals in government had often appeared to be stubborn and unchanging.

Those who have been in Opposition up to 1971 can understand the sentiment expressed. This is not altogether new, for since when have the Conservative Governments not been stubborn and unchanging?

When would the Liberals have acknowledged the Chinese? They refer to them as Mainland Chinese or Red Chinese depending on the whim of the Conservatives and whether they wanted to feel nasty or otherwise. If they want us to trade with China they refer to those people as Mainland Chinese, and if they want to fight with those people they call them Red Chinese. The newspaper report continues—

"We should re-examine the application of the Liberal philosophy to events and issues of 1973 and beyond," he said.

That is a man-sized undertaking.

The Leader of the Opposition was in Adelaide at the time and he had a few words to say on the matter also. He wanted strict adherence to the party principles. How could he have strict adherence to Conservative principles and be geared to the year 1973?

It is interesting to see the possible disintegration of the Conservative parties in South Australia, and the moves of the Young Liberals in Western Australia and at the Federal level, because they are complaining bitterly. This is borne out by a report which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 11th March, under the heading of "Liberal Hits At Liberals". It states—

Mr. Ruddock told delegates to the convention it was time they asked themselves if they wanted to be Victorian children — "seen and not heard".

We can understand what he is saying. He does not like to be pushed into the background, to be heard, and to be given some nod of approval, but with nothing flowing from all this. The report continues—

He also hit out at traditional fixed attitudes — and said it was this kind of thing which enabled the Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, to outdo the Liberals in Government over recognition of China.

This is an example of disintegration and disarray. In Victoria the Liberal Party is to rewrite its platform also. Personally I look forward with interest to see the new platform when it comes out, so that I can compare it with the old one. It will be most interesting to see how it is to be reshaped.

I would encourage anybody who is at all interested in the important matter of politics in Australia to read the Governor-General's Speech at the opening of the Federal Parliament. It is to be found in the Federal *Hansard*. In it the Governor-General amongst other things said—

There are four principal grounds upon which they should base their programme for change.

First, the manifest desire of large sections of the Australian community, particularly the youthful majority, for a more tolerant, more open, more humane, more equal, yet more diverse society.

Second, the clear failure of existing social and economic structures to meet the needs of modern society, particularly in relation to education, social security, health, industrial relations and urban and regional development.

Third, the need for government, and principally the national Government, to have available machinery and advice to plan for the inevitable and accelerating change now occurring in all modern communities.

Fourth, recognition of new and momentous directions in the pattern of international relations, particularly in the region in which Australia's future lies.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. A. R. Tonkin): The honourable member's time has expired.

MR. HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe) [9.43 p.m.]: If time permits I would like to discuss five topics. The first relates to a subject that was discussed when the Leader of the Opposition moved an amendment to the Address-in-Reply yesterday evening. The second relates to matters concerning the conduct and the creation of subordinate legislation in Parliament. The third has to do with a matter I raised by way of question, and this subject is what I term an official looking coloured document

which virtually is an offbeat form of advertising. The fourth relates to some words which I want to say about the third phase of the comprehensive water supply scheme. Finally, the fifth relates to some comments about the problem of "latch-key" children.

The first point concerns the very important topic of what we regard as one of the great problems in Australia today; and that is the growth of centralism in our federation. This matter was aired last evening and last night, but I feel I cannot let the occasion go by without referring to the comments made by the Prime Minister of Australia, as reported on page 3 of *The Australian* of the 17th March.

When one reads the comments one would regard them, superficially, as being fairly reasonable. However, if one reads not between the lines but into the depth of the meaning of the words it will be seen that our fears have been borne out insofar as they were expressed during the debate on the amendment last night.

The headline above the column is, "Whitlam seeks closer ties with States". I will convey the meaning of, "closer ties" at a later stage. The context of the comment is as follows—

Australia cannot afford the problems caused by the present system of Federal-States financial relations, the Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, said yesterday.

He said urgent needs like rebuilding the cities—

I presume that he is referring to the proposed urban land commission. To continue—

—and improving public transport could not be handled by yearly or twice yearly meetings between the heads of Federal and State Governments.

The Federal Government wanted closer links with the States than those achieved through the meetings, which had "no real agenda and no real preparation or planning."

"With one exception we have achieved that," he said. "We believe a community service depending solely on State Government finance will be unfairly and inadequately financed. The standards of such a service are bound to decline."

With much of that one cannot quarrel a great deal if one looks at it without studying the next paragraph, which states—

"But when the national Government involves itself in financing of a function, it must have a share in the planning of that function."

It was fairly generally agreed last night that the trend of history and events—more particularly in recent years—do give a financial domination of the federation to the Commonwealth Government. This is not in the good interests of federation.

So it can be seen that the Prime Minister of Australia intends that there should be control. He has stated that he wants a share of the control or part control of State affairs. This is a real intrusion into State rights; the erosion of State rights. If we do not do something about it we will reach the stage where the States have no sovereignty whatever. The closer ties which are desired by the Prime Minister are the strings.

Sir Charles Court: The noose!

Mr. HUTCHINSON: The strings will pull the puppet-like States into order. I make the comment that this is proof of just what we are saying and indicates that we are completely justified in fearing that the future of the federation is really at stake.

I would like now to discuss the matter of subordinate legislation. It will be remembered by those members who were in this Chamber some years ago that the present Government—when in Opposition—through the member for Pilbara at the time was very vocal in endeavouring to have the Brand Government bring about three forms of control within the purview of parliamentary behaviour and experience. One concerned a standing committee to deal with subordinate legislation; the second concerned the appointment of a standing committee on public works; and the third concerned the appointment of a public accounts committee. My memory is not very clear but I think the general trend of the discussion raised by the present Minister for Housing—which was supported very strongly by the Opposition at the time—was for the appointment of these committees. I may be wrong but I do not think anything has been done by this Government to date.

Mr. T. D. Evans: The honourable member is wrong. The Parliamentary Committees Bill, which appears on the notice paper, is for that very purpose.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: That Bill does not introduce any new committees at all.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. A. R. Tonkin): Order! The member for Cottesloe.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! The member for Cottesloe has the floor. Order! I point out to the Attorney-General that the member for Cottesloe has the floor.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I am not completely familiar with the contents of the Bill but my scant knowledge of it would

seem to indicate—and my colleagues bear me out—that it would have nothing to do with subordinate legislation.

Mr. T. D. Evans: It will deal with any committee.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: It only refers to existing committees.

Mr. Jamieson: The member for Cottesloe is wrong again.

Mr. T. D. Evans: He was wrong last night and he is wrong again tonight.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! The member for Cottesloe.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: In any case, it seems to me that so far no action has been taken along the lines which the then Opposition desired.

Incidentally, the Brand Government did bring into being the Public Accounts Committee but did not take action on the other two. My query was in regard to the action to be taken for the setting up of a committee to deal with subordinate legislation and the setting up of a standing committee on public works.

Mr. T. D. Evans: The honourable member has his answer.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: May I take it from the interjection from the Attorney-General that besides the committee to be set up for subordinate legislation one is to be set up to deal with public works?

Mr. T. D. Evans: The Bill before Parliament will give statutory recognition to existing committees, and it will give the Legislative Assembly the power to set up any committee. Such a committee would draw its strength from this Statute.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: It seems passing strange to me that we need legislation to bring into being the two mentioned standing committees.

Mr. T. D. Evans: Standing Orders can be amended by one House; a Statute cannot at the present time.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I still make the point it is passing strange that it is necessary for legislation to go through the paraphernalia of a Bill which means it has to pass through both Houses when, by administrative action on the part of the Government, the committees can be set up.

Mr. Jamieson: The honourable member is wrong; it will not be administrative action.

Sir Charles Court: It can be done by an amendment to Standing Orders in one House.

Mr. Jamieson: Straighten him out properly.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: This is virtually by administrative action. There are rules and regulations applying to the way in which we conduct our business in this House.

Mr. T. D. Evans: Authorised only by Parliament, not by the Executive.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: There is a way in which these can be satisfactorily amended without going into the paraphernalia of a Bill.

Mr. Jamieson: If the honourable member reads the second reading speech he will understand.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I will be interested, and no doubt the Minister responsible for the Bill will be interested to hear our comments.

I would now like to mention a pink official-looking document which for all the world resembles an account. Copies of this document have been sent to many Western Australian businesses. It has been sent out by the Australian Classified Business Directory and one would imagine from looking at it that it is an account to be paid. It is possible that someone in the office of a small business might think it was an account and send off a cheque for \$42. It appears that the Australian Classified Business Directory includes the names of persons listed in the pink pages of the telephone directory. The official-looking documents, which look like accounts, are then sent out to the persons concerned.

It is true that on one of the inside pages of the document it is stated that it is a solicitation and not an assertion to the right to payment.

Mr. T. D. Evans: In other words, it becomes an application for subscription if the person concerned sends off the money.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: No, it is not even that. It looks like an account.

Mr. T. D. Evans: But if a cheque is sent it would become an order for the directory.

Mr. O'Neil: An order to have one's name put in the business directory.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: It does not say that at all. A careful investigation of the document reveals that it is not really an account. It is a bogus form of advertising.

Mr. O'Neil: It is pseudo invoicing.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: Some businessmen have approached me and have said that they take strong exception to these things being sent out because very frequently in the rush of business cheques are prepared and sometimes sent out. I would imagine that quite a percentage of these amounts have been paid.

I have questioned the Minister for Consumer Protection on this matter and I am very happy with the reply which he gave to me. He said that this is a matter which has been discussed Australia-wide. It would appear that the Community Affairs Council expects to make recommendations on some effective way of protecting people from this practice.

Although we believe in private enterprise this is not the type of enterprise of which we approve. I think this is a bogus form of advertising with a pseudo type of account. I am happy to know that it may be dealt with effectively in the future.

I would now like to discuss a very important matter in Western Australia's economic affairs. I refer to the introduction of phase 3 of the comprehensive water supply scheme. It will be readily appreciated that if we commence phase 3 then phases 1 and 2 have been completed. Certainly, phase 1 has been completed. It was alleged in the newspaper one or two months ago that phase 2 would be completed in May of this year, 1973. At this juncture it seems that we will not commence immediately on phase 3. The comprehensive water supply scheme in Western Australia is most important.

Its birth goes back to the days of Forrest and C. Y. O'Connor, through whose foresight and initiative the goldfields water supply pipe line was built, with the necessary reservoirs in Kalgoorlie. It was a mighty scheme in its day, and from it has evolved a comprehensive water supply scheme to many country towns and farmland areas. It has done a remarkably good job in making life livable in country areas and increasing the production of the farmlands. There is no doubt about its value to Western Australia and to Australia at large. Everyone would agree it is a very great scheme.

In the latter part of the regime of the Brand Government a case was submitted to the Commonwealth Government for it to interest itself in a new financial arrangement with Western Australia to carry out a new phase 3. Just before the election at which the Brand Government was unfortunately defeated, the Commonwealth Government decided not to proceed with the proposition. I think word was received about that in January or February, 1971—a month or so before the State general election.

In the two years that have elapsed since then, it seems very little has been done to push the Commonwealth Government into a new financial agreement for the commencement of phase 3. I might be wrong. I would like to learn more about it. On this very matter I asked a question of the Minister for Water Supplies. I asked what progress had been made in regard to—

- (a) the finalisation of State plans for the areas to be served under the next phase of the scheme;
- (b) the determination of the final estimate of cost for the next phase or if this is not possible an approximate estimate;



- (c) the achievement so far in securing the all-essential new financial agreement with the Commonwealth Government to help fund the scheme.

I then asked whether he would table a plan. The Minister replied that at the present time—and perhaps this could stem from the time I asked the question—the Department of Agriculture and the Public Works Department were seeking a joint view as to what should be done in respect of phase 3 of the comprehensive water supply scheme. The estimated cost was given as \$7,000,000. As regards the plan, reference was made to the fact that it was laid down in 1968.

Mr. Jamieson: It was the plan you signed.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: That is right.

Mr. Jamieson: Plenty of copies are available.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I am merely saying the only plan available is the one that was prepared in 1968.

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, because that one had been rejected, and now we are completely out of hand, aren't we?

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I have already said that two vital years have elapsed—

Mr. Jamieson: Do you know how long it took us to get an answer from the last Government? It took right up until about a month before the elections.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: That is exactly what I am saying. Two vital years have passed. May, 1973, is two months away, and that will be the end of phase 2. In his reply to my question the Minister also said—

This review is likely to take several months because of the numerous factors which have to be considered.

I cannot understand why more progress has not been made in this regard. I am absolutely amazed. When I asked the question I expected to be told everything had been arranged for the new phase 3. It is of extreme importance—

Mr. Jamieson: We have been told by the Federal Government that it is not on. As it is not on, we have to recast our plans to come up with something that is on.

Mr. Gayfer: The member for Merredin-Yilgarn was blaming the previous Federal Government for knocking out phase 3. You are telling us the new Federal Government has knocked it out.

Mr. Jamieson: It has not. I told you that last night.

Mr. Gayfer: Then it is still No. 1 priority in this State.

Mr. Jamieson: If we can get it up again. This is our main ambition.

Mr. Gayfer: You are in Government; it must come to pass.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I am indebted to the honourable member and the Minister for carrying on the debate in such an illuminating way.

Mr. T. D. Evans: They might have improved the speech.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I feel sure they have added to it. I always welcome helpful comments. I am not like some people I know. I believe two vital years have been lost, and it does not appear that broader representations have been made to the Whitlam Government.

In referring to years being lost, I would like to mention a relevant but quite different subject. The building of the Eyre Highway had to be tackled. No money was available for the highway during the Brand Government's administration but we believed a start should be made and that every month that went by meant the completion of the road would be so much farther in the distance. It was therefore resolved that we would put \$200,000 on the Estimates for the next year in order to make a start, and that was done. The project was completed in 10 years, and some years before the end of that period we approached the Commonwealth Government and the South Australian Government, in particular, in order to try to persuade the South Australian Government to make a start on its end of the road. We made the point that every moment lost was time wasted, and that when one makes a start things continue to happen.

That is what should have been done in regard to the comprehensive water supply scheme. With all the money that has been given to the Tonkin Government, surely it could have prevailed upon the Whitlam Government to make a grant so that immediately phase 2 is completed in May this year a start can be made on the next phase. But not even the plans are ready.

Mr. Jamieson: The plans are ready.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: The Minister said the Department of Agriculture and the Public Works Department will take some months to reach a joint view on this matter.

Mr. Jamieson: It will take some years to complete the Bullaring area before we get onto the third phase. All this has been prepared and designed. What more do you want?

Mr. HUTCHINSON: Even if the scheme for the Corrigin-York-Bullaring-Greenhills area is not accepted by the Commonwealth Government—and we believe it should be—

Mr. Gayfer: It will be.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: —a start must be made on the other sections.

Mr. Jamieson: Which other sections?

Mr. HUTCHINSON: The other sections of phase 3 in the 1968 plan, to which the Minister referred in his reply to my question.

Mr. Nalder: And which he said he would proceed with if he could get some help from the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: Yes. I am amazed that the Minister is looking so agast.

Mr. Jamieson: I am amazed that you have not a greater appreciation of the situation.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: That the Minister should waste two years before getting onto this matter—

Mr. Jamieson: I have not wasted two years. There was nothing about this matter on the files for ages, and you could see that if the file were tabled.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: The Minister must answer the question. Why must months elapse before even the Department of Agriculture and the Public Works Department reach a joint view on the whole subject?

Mr. Jamieson: This is for another section. We have already enough forward planning. The members of the Country Party for the area know all this and they are quite happy, I am sure.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: It is useless for the Minister to indicate that even the Country Party members know this is to be fixed up. They do not know.

Mr. McPharlin: We would like to know the area.

Mr. Jamieson: You know the first priority area? You are nodding—good. We will get that fixed up first.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: These matters should have been tidied up in discussions which should have occurred between the new Commonwealth Government and the State Government. This should have happened long ago. The months will go by and this will be projected even further into the future.

Mr. Jamieson: It was late in October that the Leader of the Country Party said they would have another look at it. The situation is that representation was made as soon as the new Government was elected. The previous Government took years to make up its mind that it was not on. We asked them to look at it again.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I feel this is in the nature of a dereliction of duty by the State Government.

Mr. Jamieson: No dereliction except on your part.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: A lack of appreciation of the responsibility.

Mr. Jamieson: You just did not appreciate what was going on. It is so obvious.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HUTCHINSON: What is obvious is that the Minister has not done his homework.

Mr. Jamieson: You are talking a lot of nonsense and rubbish as usual.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: How the Minister can say it is nonsense and rubbish beats me.

The SPEAKER: If the honourable member will address the Chair we will make progress.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: Those are my views, and I am sure the same views are held by many people throughout the State.

Another problem I wish to discuss is the vexed one of the latch-key children. I do not like this term, but it aptly describes the situation. I will comment later on the incorrect use of this term.

In cities all over the world, and increasingly in our own city, along with high-rise development we often find that the father and mother of a young family go out to work. Little Jack or Jill goes to primary school and has no-one to come home to after school. In order to cope with the situation, some parents—not all—tie the key to the door around the child's neck so that it is not lost and the child may open the door of the flat when he comes home. In these circumstances the child is without supervision, and I am sure members will agree it is desirable that children should have someone to come home to after school. The result of this practice is that some youngsters tend to get into mischief at an early age. It can lead to vandalism and it is certainly not good morally or spiritually for the child. The general upbringing of the child is affected and yet very frequently the economic situation of the family dictates that both mother and father must have an occupation. In these days one could not even contemplate compelling one of the parents to stay at home to look after a homecoming child.

A number of socially-minded groups in the community have given attention to this problem. In recent years we have seen the development of some high-rise buildings in my own electorate—in the hollow of Mosman Park. The Mosman Park Town Council is concerned about the problem and has approached the Minister for Community Welfare for financial assistance. The proposed scheme of the council, in very general terms, is to appoint play leaders at centres in the community for children to attend after school

when there is no-one at home. The idea is to fill in some of the unsupervised time in a useful way.

In his reply the Minister said that he was interested in the project and that he was prepared to give the council \$500 for the first year on the condition that suitable play leaders could be found. The Minister also said that one other centre is operating in such a manner and that the department is assisting with advice and finance for the employment of play leaders.

The Minister also said that his department is aware of and concerned about the problem. Presumably this means that the Government is also concerned. If we look beyond the mere granting of the \$500 for the first year for play leaders, the disappointing feature in the Minister's reply is that the problem is not being tackled *in toto*. This is an enormous problem and I feel that if it could be tackled properly at the primary school level we would not have as many troubles in the secondary schools.

Mr. T. D. Evans: What course of action do you advocate in the primary schools?

Mr. HUTCHINSON: Something along the lines of these first ventures. Perhaps a headquarters could be set up near a playground and play leaders appointed to care for the children. I feel it is important that attendance should not be compulsory. Another vital point which has not been mentioned yet is that the play centres should not be confined to the latch-key children because I feel this would tend to segregate one group of children from the others. I feel such a centre should be open to all children. It is important that the centre should not be open only to latch-key children; perhaps it could be named, "after-school care for children".

Mr. May: Is it not really "during-school care"?

Mr. HUTCHINSON: No; during school hours the children are under the supervision of the teachers. The problem arises after school hours when there is no-one at home. Children with no supervision get into mischief and this frequently develops into more serious anti-social activities as they grow older.

Mr. May: What I meant to say is that it is really when the parents are at work.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: That is right. Therefore, I believe the Minister should tackle this problem on a broad face.

Mr. T. D. Evans: Do you think parents should also make some provision to care for their children, in the knowledge that they have no care immediately after school finishes?

Mr. HUTCHINSON: Yes, I think it is highly desirable that parents look after their children.

Mr. T. D. Evans: Yes, but we must face the economic fact that they cannot always do so.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: Yes, as I have said, as a result of economic circumstances many mothers must work; but their children should have something to do to keep them out of mischief. I believe the Minister has a direct responsibility to endeavour to implement a comprehensive scheme which will begin—it will not be able to be implemented immediately—to provide more than what is provided at present; that is, merely a grant of \$500 a year for somebody to look after the problem. The matter must be taken in hand and the responsibility farmed out, probably to local government. It requires more than a piecemeal approach; and if the matter is tackled properly and a lead is given by the Government I believe we will begin to get somewhere.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has five minutes more.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: Thank you, sir. As I said a little earlier, some groups have carried out research into this matter. The Y.W.C.A. has prepared a great deal of background information and research in regard to the problem. I have no doubt that information is contained in the departmental files and is within the knowledge of the Minister. If one studies that information one finds it provides a good basis upon which to work towards reducing substantially the problems which occur amongst teenagers. These problems are very much more in evidence in larger, more sophisticated cities than they are in Perth. If we tackle the matter properly now I feel sure we will not be faced with the problems—sometimes leading to criminal activities—which occur in the bigger cities.

Mr. T. D. Evans: Are you aware of any place where this comprehensive approach has been adopted?

Mr. HUTCHINSON: No, I am not, but I know the problem has been often tackled, but too late. In cities such as New York it is often tackled at the teenage and young adult level, and not at the grass roots in the primary schools.

Mr. T. D. Evans: In other words, prevention is better than cure.

Mr. HUTCHINSON: I am sure that is so. I can see the Minister for Education is thinking along the right lines. I urge him to take action in this matter.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Harman.

House adjourned at 10.24 p.m.