

members, the better it will be for all of us here, and the better it will be for those people who have not applied for blocks at this stage but who will apply later.

I implore the Minister to discuss this matter and see that the settlers who are selected in the first place will not be short of cash if the crops do not come up to the expectations of the departmental officers, as mentioned in the brochure.

That is all I have to say at this stage, and I await with interest the reply of the Minister on this matter.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. G. Bennetts.

*House adjourned at 6.15 p.m.*

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

## PARLIAMENT HOUSE

### *Visits of Schoolchildren*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr. Hearman) [4.32 p.m.] : I wish to make an announcement on the visits of schoolchildren to the House. Last year there was some difficulty because quite a number of members wanted to bring the children of many schools to visit Parliament House, and it was not possible for all of them to be fitted in. I have told Mr. Lovell, the officer in charge of these visits, to afford every opportunity to any member who wants to bring to the House the pupils of more than one school, to arrange a visit of one school and have that finalised before the pupils of the next school are brought along.

# Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 7th August, 1962

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That is not an inviolable rule but is a general rule which will give all members an opportunity to show the school-children of their respective electorates over the building. However, during such periods as Show Week, additional opportunities will be extended to country members should they desire to show school-children over the House at that time, and every endeavour will be made to meet their requirements in this respect.

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### SUPERPHOSPHATE

#### *Freight Concession*

1. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Was the recent freight concession of 5s. per ton for superphosphate granted with a view to assisting the Railways Department with transport arrangements such as a more even spread of deliveries?
- (2) For what period has the concession been granted, and is it subject to a further review?
- (3) Does the granting of the concession indicate that the present railway transport facilities are not adequate to transport certain commodities during periods desired by the primary producers?
- (4) Does the concession apply to both bagged and bulk superphosphate?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes. It must be considered in conjunction with the additional concession offered by the superphosphate companies.
- (2) (a) From the 1st September, 1962, to the 31st January, 1963, inclusive.  
(b) Yes.
- (3) No. Less special working would be required and peak periods eased if a more even spread of deliveries was obtained. This is a desirable objective in transport economics.
- (4) Yes.

### RAILWAY JUNIOR CLERKS

#### *Appointments, Resignations, and Increase in Number*

2. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Will he kindly advise the number of junior clerks appointed by the W.A. Government Railways for the years 1958-1962?
- (2) Will he also indicate the number of resignations received from junior clerks and the corresponding years over the same period?

- (3) In view of the anticipated increase in administration and traffic duties resulting from the advent of the standard gauge, will he advise whether it is the intention of the W.A. Government Railways to increase junior clerk appointments in the near future?

Mr. COURT replied:

- |                |   |    |
|----------------|---|----|
| (1) 1958       | — | 5  |
| 1959           | — | 52 |
| 1960           | — | 57 |
| 1961           | — | 49 |
| 1962 (to date) |   | 52 |
| (2) 1958       | — | 13 |
| 1959           | — | 21 |
| 1960           | — | 11 |
| 1961           | — | 10 |
| 1962 (to date) |   | 6  |

- (3) Future recruitment of junior clerks will depend upon requirements as assessed from time to time. The impact of the standard gauge is being watched.

### PRESS COURT REPORTS

#### *Omission of Sordid Details*

3. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Has he perused the article which appeared on page 16 of *The West Australian* of Wednesday, the 1st August, 1962, headed "Crown Alleges Youths Raped Truant Girl (14)"?
- (2) In view of the very graphic details which were contained in the article, will he advise whether there is any way in which detailed information of this nature can be omitted from the daily Press?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Press is, of course, free to refrain from publishing any details of evidence given at a trial for a criminal offence. If publication of such evidence is not prohibited by law or by court order, the Press may publish such details as it thinks fit, so long as the protection afforded by law is not exceeded. However, unless the main details of the evidence given on a trial for an alleged offence are adequately published, there is no public check upon the accuracy of the evidence, and, in the event of a conviction, the public cannot form an informed opinion upon the suitability of the sentence imposed. Section 354 (3) of the Criminal Code makes lawful the publication in good faith for the information of the public of a fair report of the public proceedings of a court of justice.

**DARLINGTON RAILWAY LINE***Departmental Inquiry on Reopening*

4. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Does he anticipate any departmental inquiry regarding the opening-up of the Darlington line to enable residents of Greenmount, Boya, and Darlington to receive adequate railway services?
- (2) If not, will he call for a report regarding the over-all position of road and rail transport in the above area, and table same?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) As promised to a deputation and announced in the Press, the whole question of hills passenger transport is to be the subject of examination with a view to arriving at a better co-ordinated system of transport.

The review will involve both transport and railways departments.

The Commissioner of Railways' investigations abroad are expected to have a bearing on the final outcome.

**DIESEL RAILCARS***Bellevue-Helena Vale Service*

5. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Has any request been received in recent years for a rail service to Helena Vale siding via Bellevue?
- (2) What is the official view in regard to same?

*Swan View Service*

- (3) As there is an agitation for a railway service to Swan View, can the official approach to this matter be reviewed to cover stopping-places adjacent to Helena Vale, Blackboy, and Swan View, with diesel railcars several times a day similar to the Koongamia service?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes—in July, 1960.
- (2) A thorough survey of the area was made and it was considered that a rail service to Helena Vale is not warranted.

I invite the honourable member's attention to the answer given to his question on this matter on the 2nd November, 1960.

- (3) Swan View and Blackboy Hill are catered for by the existing Midland-Chidlow and Eastern services, and any additional services are not considered to be warranted at this juncture.

**TRADING AFTER HOURS***Complaints of Radio and TV Offers*

6. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Has he received any complaints regarding firms offering services and goods to the public over radio and TV stations for many hours into the night when their retail shops are closed?
- (2) Is it a fact that some services are being offered for 24 hours a day?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes; the department have received complaints.
- (2) Yes, as in the case of chemists offering 24 hours emergency service.

**JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS***Establishment in 1961-1962, and Number of Pupils*

7A. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many junior high schools were so constituted in the year 1961-62?
- (2) How many—  
(a) primary pupils;  
(b) post-primary pupils;  
attended each of these schools?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Two—Darkan and Lake Grace.
- (2) Darkan—  
(a) 151;  
(b) 44.  
Lake Grace—  
(a) 181;  
(b) 25.

**NORTHCLIFFE SCHOOL***Number of Pupils*

7B. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many—  
(a) primary pupils;  
(b) post-primary pupils;  
are in attendance at Northcliffe School at present?

*Upgrading to Junior High School*

- (2) Is it intended to up-grade Northcliffe School to the status of junior high in this financial year?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Northcliffe—  
(a) 197;  
(b) 27.
- (2) On present figures it appears likely that Northcliffe will be up-graded as from the beginning of 1963.
- (3) Answered by No. (4).

**HARVEY HIGH SCHOOL***Cost*

8. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What was the cost of levelling the site of the new high school at Harvey?
- (2) Was this site publicly or privately owned, before being acquired for the purpose of building the school?
- (3) What is the estimated total cost of the project, in detail, viz. levelling site, building costs, preparing recreational or sporting facilities, etc.?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) £5,324.
- (2) Approximately 17 acres were Crown land and approximately four acres were privately owned.
- (3) Estimated total cost:—

	£
Preparation of site, levelling etc. ....	5,324
Erection of buildings, etc. ....	137,091
Furniture, etc. ....	7,539
Recreation facilities, etc. ....	8,400
	<hr/>
	£158,354

**BEELOO ELECTORATE***Enrolment of Mr. W. E. How*

9. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is he aware that the Liberal candidate for Beeloo at the March general election, William Ernest How, wrongfully placed his name on the Beeloo roll?
- (2) Did this person, in so acting, make a false declaration?
- (3) If a false declaration was made, what action was taken against How?

Mr. COURT replied:

The Chief Electoral Officer has advised the Minister for Justice as follows:—

- (1) On the 18th December, 1961, William Ernest How signed a claim for enrolment for the Beeloo District and by letter on the 27th February, 1962, requested that his name be removed from the roll.
- (2) He was satisfied that this elector innocently made an incorrect declaration.
- (3) He considered no action was warranted, as the incorrect declaration was not wilfully made.

**COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR ALBANY***Site at Spencer Park*

10. Mr. HALL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has land been set aside in the Spencer Park area, Albany, for the purpose of erecting a community centre?
- (2) If so, where is the land, and what size are the blocks, or block of land?
- (3) If not, would he be prepared to have land set aside for such a purpose?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The land set aside is lot 70, Mokare Road, immediately to the north of the district centre along Hardie Road, and has an area of 1 acre 0 roods 36.9 perches.
- (3) Answered by No. (2).

**FISH***Canning in Western Australia*

11. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) What weight of fish caught in the Albany zone was canned by the Albany cannery for the years 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, and what were the species canned?
- (2) What was the weight of fish canned by other canneries in this State, where were the fish caught, and what were the varieties?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) As only two canneries are operating, it is not desirable to publish information concerning their activities. To do so would disclose to each important information concerning the business of the other. It can, however, be said that the principal species canned were Australian salmon and ruff (sea herring).

**RECREATION RESERVE FOR ALBANY***Site at Spencer Park*

12. Mr. HALL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has any provision been made for land to be set aside for recreational purposes in the Spencer Park area, Albany?
- (2) If not, is it the intention of the State Housing Commission to so set aside land for recreational purposes in this area?
- (3) If the answer to Nos. (1) and (2) is "No," is it not considered desirable that recreational facilities should be available in all State Housing Commission areas, so that young lives can be saved by getting them off the streets?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Subdivision of the whole Spencer Park area has not yet been finalised.
- (2) Tentative subdivisional plans of the land provide areas to be set aside for public open space. When the subdivision is finalised and a survey has been carried out, the land set aside for this purpose will be transferred to Her Majesty for vesting in the local authority and will then be available for recreation uses.
- (3) Answered by No. (2).

#### DOCTORS IN KIMBERLEY DISTRICT

##### *Appointments at Kununurra and Broome*

13. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Health Department to station two additional doctors in the Kimberley district—namely, at Kununurra and Broome—in order to relieve the pressure on the overworked doctors at Wyndham and Broome?
- (2) If so, when will the appointments be made?
- (3) If not, will he give the reasons why?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) to (3) The Public Health Department has been advertising for medical officers to serve in the north-west within the past two months and, so far, with little success.

There will shortly be vacancies in the service because the terms of some appointments will have expired. The matter of appointing an extra doctor at Wyndham because of the increased work resulting from the developments at Kununurra has received the earnest consideration of the department. However, in view of the shortage of doctors, the difficulty being experienced in filling impending vacancies in the existing establishment renders an increase in the establishment at the present impracticable. The matter is being kept under constant review.

#### REST POINT RESERVE No. 18723

##### *Excision and Lease: Tabling of Papers*

14. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Lands:

Will he lay on the Table of the House all papers dealing with the excision and lease of approximately 10 acres of Reserve No. 18723 situated at Rest Point, Walpole?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

Yes.

*The files were tabled for one week.*

#### NORSEMAN PYRITES

##### *Use at Esperance Superphosphate Works*

15. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Will Norseman pyrites be used in the manufacture of superphosphate at the Esperance works?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) A thorough investigation has shown use of Norsemen pyrites in the manufacture of superphosphate at Esperance to be uneconomic.

Further, it is unlikely the Esperance superphosphate works would qualify under the Sulphuric Acid Bounty Act 1954-1960 for payment of bounty on sulphuric acid produced from pyrites.

#### SILICOSIS COMPENSATION PAYMENTS

##### *Policy of State Insurance Office*

16. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Is he aware that the Minister for Mines was reported in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* of the 11th May last to have stated that "the State Insurance Office had been wrongly interpreting that section of the Workers' Compensation Act which defines the eligibility of workers affected by silicosis to benefits under the Act and that to qualify under the Act it was necessary only for a mine worker to establish that he had been disabled from earning full wages at his mining occupation"?
- (2) Is the State Insurance Office now adopting this policy in regard to claims for this disability?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes. However, the Minister's statement referred to miners whose disablement occurred after the coming into operation on the 24th December, 1960, of the 1960 amendment to section 8 of the Workers' Compensation Act which amendment is not retrospective.
- (2) The 1960 amendment does not apply to miners whose disablement first occurred prior to the 24th December, 1960. It does apply to miners whose disability first occurs on or after that date and the State Government Insurance Office is accepting claims accordingly.

**SUPERPHOSPHATE***Erection of Manufacturing Works at Esperance*

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

- (1) Has the Government entered into an agreement with a superphosphate firm to erect a superphosphate manufacturing works at Esperance?
- (2) If so, what is the name of this firm?
- (3) Will he indicate the completion date of the works and when the works will be in operation and able to supply users in the Esperance district with their requirements?
- (4) Has the company commenced work at the selected site?

*Financial Assistance from Government*

- (5) Is the Government committed to assist this firm financially? If so to what extent?
- (6) What are the terms and conditions of this assistance?
- (7) From what source will the funds be obtained?
- (8) What other considerations or assistance has the Government undertaken in connection with this project?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The final details of an agreement are under negotiation with Albany Superphosphate Company Proprietary Limited.
- (3) The completion and operating dates cannot be determined until the agreement is fully negotiated. The Government and the company are both anxious to make superphosphate deliveries ex Esperance work's site as soon as possible. The negotiations were delayed by local objections earlier this year and this has rendered the original target date very difficult of achievement. Both parties are examining the practicability of supplies being available ex Esperance worksite for at least part of the 1964-65 season.
- (4) The company has undertaken as much preliminary planning for the new works as the state of negotiations would permit. Work at the site cannot begin until an agreement is negotiated.
- (5) to (8) The main financial arrangement under discussion is a transference to the Esperance works of existing Government financial arrangements for the Albany works with no additional

advances or guarantees, thus avoiding the use of current loan funds. Final details are subject to current negotiations referred to in No. (1).

**ESPERANCE RAILWAY EXTENSIONS***Resumption of Properties*

18. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is he aware that great concern is felt by residents of Esperance who own property on the published route of the railway extensions to the harbour site owing to the lack of information regarding the date of the resumptions and the amounts of compensation which will be paid to owners?
- (2) Will he indicate the probable date of the resumptions?
- (3) When will these people be informed of the amounts to be offered by the Government for their properties?
- (4) In the case of residences, is the Government taking any steps to provide alternative accommodation for the people who will lose their homes?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Some inquiries have been made, but I know of no great concern.
- (2) This is dependent on the final location being agreed to by all parties.
- (3) All land resumption is executed by the Land Resumption Officer of the Public Works Department. The land owners affected will be informed when resumption plans have been made, based on location as indicated in the answer to question No. (2).
- (4) No; until the location as mentioned in No. (2) above has been determined it is not known whether any homes will be involved.

**ALCOHOLIC ADDICTS***Federal Grant for Establishment of Clinics*

19. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Health:

Will he request the Federal Government for allocation of a portion of the £30-million excise revenue raised from the sale of liquor in Western Australia, for the purpose of establishing in the metropolitan area clinics for the treatment of alcoholic addicts, thus relieving demand on beds in general and mental hospitals?

**Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON** replied:

In this State we are endeavouring to deal with the problem of alcoholism in various ways. It is considered that the matter raised by the honourable member is one which should be dealt with uniformly by all States, and I will arrange that it be included as an agenda item for the next Health Ministers' conference, at which the Commonwealth will be represented, early next year.

### SALT

#### *Encroachment in Rural Areas*

20. **Mr. KELLY** asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has he dealt with any authentic reports claiming considerable salt encroachment in rural areas in any parts of W.A.?
- (2) If so, in what areas?
- (3) What action has been taken by the Department of Agriculture to effectively deal with salt-affected areas when brought to its notice?

**Mr. NALDER** replied:

- (1) Yes. Reports have shown some extension of salt affected areas.
- (2) In practically every district in the twelve to thirty inch rainfall areas of the South West some further salt encroachment has been observed.
- (3) (a) The department's researches have shown how salt affected areas can be managed to give profitable grazing.  
(b) Some 53 experimental and demonstration plots throughout the agricultural areas are available for inspection by farmers.  
(c) Farmers who seek help with salt problems are advised by departmental officers.

### HOUSES AT CARNARVON

#### *Levelling and Claying of Sites*

21. **Mr. NORTON** asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

Has any action been taken, other than obtaining estimates, for the levelling and claying of sites at Carnarvon for new houses? If so, what action has been taken?

**Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON** replied:

The Main Roads Department has been authorised to proceed with levelling, loaming, and road construction on the remainder of the subdivision at Carnarvon, south of McNish Street.

### STATE SHIPPING SERVICE

#### *Ports Visited by Captain Williams*

22. **Mr. NORTON** asked the Minister for the North-West:

In reply to a question without notice, on the 26th July, he replied that he did not know precisely which ports Captain Williams visited in the north-west when he was making an investigation of the State Shipping Service. Can he now say definitely which ports he visited to make investigations?

**Mr. COURT** replied:

Captain Williams visited Port Hedland, Broome, Derby, Yampi, and Wyndham. He was supplied with all the information relating to State Shipping Service activities in all ports north of and including Carnarvon.

### MINERAL CLAIMS

#### *Powers of Minister and Warden*

23. **Mr. TONKIN** asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Under what section of the Mining Act or under what regulation did the Minister for Mines act as a Court of Appeal against the decision of the Warden's Court that the objection by Hancock Prospecting Pty. Ltd. against the granting of the application of Depuch Shipping and Mining Co. Pty. Ltd. was dismissed with costs to be taxed?
- (2) Is it not a fact that no instruction to survey a mineral claim can be given until after the Minister's approval in any case where an objection is lodged?
- (3) In cases where an objection is lodged, and a survey is ordered by the warden, must not such action be taken by the warden before reporting on the application to the Minister?
- (4) Did he order a survey of mineral claims No. 90 and No. 292?

**Mr. BOVELL** replied:

- (1) The Minister for Mines has not acted as a Court of Appeal against any decision of the Warden's Court. The objection was heard by the warden under regulation 55 made under the Mining Act. Regulation 55 (7) provides that "The application and objections (if any) shall be heard in open court by the Warden, who shall, as soon as convenient, submit the application and report, together with his recommendation thereon, for the consideration of the Minister, and the Minister may, notwithstanding anything contained

in this regulation, refuse the application or approve the application for the whole or any portion of the area applied for, and may impose such conditions as to him may think fit."

The warden, therefore, does not make any "decision" under the subregulation, but only a report and recommendation for the consideration of the Minister. The Minister has then the powers above-mentioned, and in the exercise of these powers he is entitled to make relevant inquiries.

- (2) The restrictions on the giving of instructions to survey a mineral claim as set out in regulation 55 (6) apply only to instructions under that subregulation, namely, instructions by the warden or instructing surveyor. They are not intended to interfere with the Minister's normal powers.
- (3) The warden has power under regulation 55 (6) to order a survey to be made before reporting on the application to the Minister.
- (4) Yes, for his information prior to making a decision under regulation 55 (7) quoted above.

24. *This question was postponed.*

### TALC

#### *Tonnage Mined and Exported from Three Springs Mine*

25. Mr. SEWELL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What was the tonnage of talc mined at the Three Springs Talc Mine for the years 1960, 1961, and 1962 to date?
- (2) How much of the talc was exported?
- (3) What tonnage was treated in Western Australia?
- (4) In what quantities is it exported?
- (5) What tonnage has been exported by bulk shipment and what is the largest consignment exported in bulk?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

Production reported to Mines Department—

	Tons	Value
(1) 1960	5,470.39	£69,113.85
1961	5,149.28	£64,581.00
1962		
to March	691.52	£9,912.00

#### Exports

- (2) April, 1960 to March, 1961—2,522 tons.
- April, 1961 to March, 1962—3,596 tons.
- April, 1962 to July, 1962—2,120 tons.

(3) All talc produced is treated in Western Australia. Talc is crushed at Three Springs and (a) sold or (b) forwarded to Welshpool for milling for sale as milled talc.

(4) Up to March, 1962, talc was exported in shipments of 200 to 450 tons. However, there was a shipment of 1,052 tons in April, 1962.

(5) Only one shipment of 1,052 tons in April, 1962, has been exported in bulk—all previous shipments have been in bags.

### WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

#### *Revenue and Source*

26. Mr. WILD (Minister for Water Supplies): I have here the answer to a question asked by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition a week ago. May I have your permission to read it please?

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Yes.

Mr. WILD: The questions and answers are as follows:—

#### Questions

- (1) What was the total amount of revenue income from rates, water sales and sundry income for the year ended the 30th June, 1962?
- (2) Of this total, how much was for water supply?
- (3) What amount of the revenue income related to water supply was obtained from—
  - (a) rates;
  - (b) charges in lieu of rates;
  - (c) domestic excess?
- (4) What was the over-all Revenue Account result for the year ended the 30th June, 1962, on water supply, sewerage and main drainage respectively?

#### Replies

	£
(1) Rates	1,960,699
Charges in lieu of rates	74,607
Water sales	710,706
Sundry income	115,853

£2,861,865

£

(2) £1,803,303.	
(3) (a) Rates	973,194
(b) Charges in lieu of rates	33,924
(c) Domestic excess	484,979
(4) Water Supply: Surplus	42,662
Sewerage: Deficit	33,482
Main Drainage: Deficit	33,136



**IRON ORE****Export Overseas: Tabling of Correspondence**

27. Mr. BRAND (Premier): Last week I promised the Leader of the Opposition I would lay upon the Table of the House certain papers in connection with the export of iron ore, and I now ask for leave to do so.

Leave granted.

The papers were tabled.

**METROPOLITAN URBAN LAND: MINIMUM AREA****Tabling of Papers on Investigation**

28. Mr. LEWIS (Minister for Education): In response to the questions asked by the member for Balcatta last week, I now ask leave to table certain papers relating to the Town Planning Act.

Leave granted.

The papers were tabled.

**QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE****TRADING AFTER HOURS****Position of Shops in Kalgoorlie and Boulder**

1. Mr. BURT asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Is he aware that residents of Kalgoorlie and Boulder have recently been caused much inconvenience because certain shops, normally trading after hours, have been forced to close at 6 p.m. and on Sundays through breaches of sections 111 and 112 of the Factories and Shops Act; namely, that they offered for sale uncooked meat in packages?
- (2) Has he received any complaints from shopkeepers, dealing in cooked meats, and delicatessens, who have been prevented from selling uncooked meats in packages, under the provisions of the Factories and Shops Act?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Complaints were received by the Department of Labour; and as a result, a conference was convened by the Secretary for Labour of interested parties — the Retail Grocers' Association, meat trade representatives, small goods manufacturers, and the W.A. Employers Federation. As a result of this conference the Chief Inspector of Factories has ruled—and the parties have expressed satisfaction with the ruling—as follows:—

Fourth Schedule and after-hour shops would retain the sale of pound packets of sausages and

to these would be added any other kind of sausage which consisted of manufactured fresh foods containing preservatives as defined by the Health Act (fresh uncooked meat is not permitted to have any preservatives under the Act) without prejudicing any extended hours of trading.

**NORSEMAN PYRITES****Use at Esperance Superphosphate Works**

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

If, as he says, it is uneconomical to use Norseman pyrites at Esperance, a distance of 100 miles, will he explain how it is economical to use it in the metropolitan area, a distance of 500 miles?

Mr. COURT replied:

I think the honourable member is well aware of the application of the Commonwealth assistance in respect of pyrites, an assistance which was given as a wartime emergency measure to encourage the processing of pyrites. If this bounty is not applied to Esperance—and so far as we can ascertain there is no possibility of the bounty being applied to a new plant in Western Australia—the whole process is uneconomical. It has been carefully considered by a committee of experts which has arrived at this unanimous decision.

**APPLE INDUSTRY ROYAL COMMISSION****Availability of Report**

3. Mr. DUNN asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) When will the report of the Royal Commissioner inquiring into the fruit industry be likely to be available to the Fruit Growers' Association and to the general public?
- (2) Are there any recommendations in this report which will require immediate action on the part of the industry generally or growers individually?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) and (2) As was stated in the Governor's Speech when Parliament was opened, the report had only just been received at that stage. The officers of the department are investigating the report and it will then be considered by Cabinet. I will do all I can to ensure that the report is made available as soon as possible to all interested people.

## STATE SHIPPING SERVICE

### *Availability of Captain Williams's Report*

#### 4. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

- (1) As the Government has had in its hands for approximately four months the report of the person appointed to investigate the State Shipping Service, will the Government expedite its decision in connection with the matter in order that the public might be fully informed as to what was recommended?
- (2) If a decision is to be delayed for some months, will the Premier lay the report on the Table of the House?

#### Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) I think all members on both sides of the House realise what a difficult problem faces any Government in the administration and economic running of the State Shipping Service. Essentially it provides a service to the north-west and to Darwin. As a result of sympathetic consideration by members of the Grants Commission, the deficit has been met from year to year. It was decided in view of the problems at the ports themselves that there was this need for more ships in the future. The construction of the ships is very costly because accommodation must be made for passengers as well as for the transport of live cattle, frozen meat, and miscellaneous goods. It was decided that we should obtain the services of Captain Williams, and this was done. He has presented a very good report—a simple, clear-cut report—making recommendations on each reference. As yet, Cabinet has not fully considered all the recommendations. I see no reason for hurrying these matters. The Government has obtained the report in order to be better informed of the over-all problems, and when we have reached our decisions we shall make the report available to the public.
- (2) I cannot see that anything can be achieved by laying the report on the Table of the House until such time as some of the difficult decisions have been made.

## BODDINGTON HOSPITAL

### *Commencement of Additions*

#### 5. Mr. HEAL asked the Minister for Health:

During the Murray by-election, he promised the people of Boddington that additions would be made

to the Boddington Hospital. Many Labor supporters in the area have written to me asking that I ascertain from him when the additions will be commenced.

Mr. Brand: Give us a peep at the letters.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

I am not in a position at this point of time to let the honourable member know when the additions might be commenced. If he puts his question on the notice paper I may be able to make further inquiries, and perhaps be more specific in replying to him. I would like to say to the honourable member, and to the House by and large, that I, as Minister for Health, am tempted by members and organisations to state when a hospital is to be commenced and I say, sometimes, that I hope it will start within such and such a time.

Mr. W. Hegney: Towards the end of the century.

Mr. Brand: No; that was in your time.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: But sometimes I am not able to fulfil that hope; and then, of course, re-criminations start. So I would, in answering the simple question of the member for Perth, give him the "plug," that it is not always easy to be specific about the commencement of a hospital.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FOURTH DAY

### *Motion*

Debate resumed from the 2nd August on the following motion by Mr. Runciman:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament:—

May it please your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Assembly 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. MITCHELL (Stirling) [5.1 p.m.]: I rise to make a few comments on the motion moved by the member for Murray for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. At the outset, I would like to express the pleasure of all of my electors at the reference made by His Excellency the Governor to the visit, next year, of Her Majesty the Queen. I express the hope that as many people as possible throughout the State be

given the opportunity to see and hear the Queen in order that they might reaffirm their loyalty to the throne and show their appreciation of the remarkable work she is doing in cementing the bonds of this great Commonwealth of ours.

Before I comment on matters of general interest, I would like to pay a tribute to the gentleman whose seat I now occupy here. I refer, of course, to The Hon. A. F. Watts who, as members know, was a member of this House for approximately 27 years. He first represented the Kataning electorate; and later, when there was a redistribution of seats, the new Stirling constituency. We were particularly pleased that he saw fit at that time to transfer his allegiance to the Stirling electorate, which meant, of course, that during the whole time he was a member of this House he represented the greater portion of the present Stirling electorate.

The electors of Stirling were very pleased indeed with the dignity and courtesy with which he represented them during the time he was here. I personally feel that he made a contribution to this State that has not been equalled by many if, indeed, any; and I do want on behalf of my electors to pay a particular tribute to him for the excellent work he did over the years that he represented them. I can never hope to make such a contribution to their well-being; I can only hope that I will be able to make some small contribution to it.

There are two other gentlemen who have endeared themselves to the electors of Stirling over the many years that those gentlemen sat in this House. I refer, of course, to The Hon. Sir Ross McLarty and to The Hon. E. Nulsen. Both of those gentlemen in the course of their ministerial duties made frequent visits to my district and they earned the respect and gratitude of the electors of that area, and I would like to pay a tribute to both of them for the work they did in connection with the Government of this State.

It is only natural, I presume, that I should be expected to make some short comment on war service land settlement, seeing that my electorate contains a greater number of war service land settlers than any other electorate in Western Australia. At the outset I want to say I am quite convinced that this scheme, if it is not already an unqualified success, will be so when it is finalised.

It is my one regret that when the Act first came into force it did not permit of a system whereby settlers would be given their valuation on the day they went on to the property, based on its carrying capacity. The Act did not permit that, and I think it is to be regretted. However, the Minister is to be congratulated on making these valuations available to the settlers at the earliest possible time.

I believe, as I have already said, that this particular scheme will finish up an unqualified success. The greatest asset it has been to the country has been the fact that, since its inception, it has drawn attention to the quantity and quality of the land available for private settlement.

When, on behalf of the Plantagenet Road Board, I presented to Sir Ross McLarty, during his term as leader of the House, a scheme whereby the Crown lands in the areas east and west of Mt. Barker might be made available for some such scheme as this, I could talk about the millions of acres of unclaimed and unoccupied land between the Frankland River and the Gardner River. That was about 15 years ago.

Due to the war service land settlement scheme and the attention it drew to the availability and the quality of these lands, today in that area between these two rivers—a distance of approximately 200 miles—it is almost impossible to secure a block of vacant Crown land; and sometimes, when a block is thrown open, we have up to 40 applications for it. That area of country is being farmed and has already reached a marvellous stage of production, carrying two to three sheep to the acre.

So, if we value the war service land settlement scheme on no other basis than that of the great good it has done to the State by drawing the attention of people to the quantity and quality of the land available, we must concede that its achievement has been remarkable.

I believe that the settlers, by and large, are quite satisfied with the conditions that obtain, and look forward to the day when the valuations and the work, generally, of the War Service Land Settlement Board are completed. We will then have a scheme that will be more than the equal of any other that we have seen in this State.

One of the things on which I think the war service land settlement scheme must be congratulated is the fact that when those in charge evolved this scheme they provided the settlers with housing and other amenities of a first-class standard.

That brings me to the point where I would like to discuss housing. The State Housing Commission must be congratulated on the work it has done over the years in housing the ever-increasing population of the State. It has been said—and I think quite truthfully—that sometimes the smaller country towns are somewhat neglected in the provision of houses. We often find that people go to a job in a country town but have no accommodation provided for them. Very often such people are inclined to drift back to the city where they can get a house, but where they are not assured of getting a job.

To my mind that is very regrettable, inasmuch as if we want true decentralisation we must endeavour to see that housing is available in the country where the jobs are available. It is not so much the matter of housing in country towns that I wish to comment on, but the housing position which, unfortunately, arises in many of the farming areas of the State. At present no finance is available through any Government authority, such as the State Housing Commission, to build houses for farmers, for farmers' sons, or for farm employees.

I believe that some effort should be made to set aside a certain amount for this purpose so that settlers, if they have spent all their money on clearing and so on in order to produce an income, and find their existing source of finance is restricted, should, in order to build a house, receive assistance from such a body as the State Housing Commission on the same repayment basis as the man in the town.

The other point is that very often a farm is established and reaches the stage where it requires the help of the son, but owing to the financial position of the farmer, the £3,000 or £4,000 necessary to build a house for the son is not available. Here again I believe that some assistance could be provided in the way of a long-term loan such as is available in the town areas. I know there would be a certain amount of risk in such a proposition, but there is a risk in other forms of Government assistance for housing schemes. I would suggest that here is a profitable field for the investment of Government moneys, and I ask that consideration be given to it to see what can be done.

It has been said that the problem can be solved quite simply, especially in the father-son case. It has been suggested that when the father gets too old and the son wants to take the property over, the father could go to the town to live. However, it is reasonable to assume that, in most cases, if the father goes to the town to live, the money—or a good deal of it—that would be required to build a house for him would have to be found by some such authority as the State Housing Commission. I therefore suggest that it is a much better economic proposition to keep the father, as well as the son, on the land.

It has been suggested, too, that in the near future most of the farm workers of this State will reside in the country towns and will go out 30 or 40 miles to perform their work on the farm. That may be all right in grain-growing areas; but if we ever reach that stage in stock-raising districts, then the farms will be in very poor condition. We should do everything we can to retain on the farms the people that know how to work them.

When I speak of housing, I think of the work that has been done by Governments over the years in the housing of our native

people. Great work has been done in this regard, but I believe there is much more to be done. In this matter, as in all others where the Government is concerned, shortage of finance is a serious problem. There are many other problems that want looking into. Unfortunately the native affairs question cannot be solved by ministerial direction, or by the very valuable work that is done by the all-too-few people who are engaged in that work.

It must be solved by the co-operation and wholehearted support of every person in this State. I have often considered that not sufficient attention is given to the problem that will arise when the native people of Western Australia are educated to a standard of living that will require better conditions than they receive now. As we all know, they are people of the soil; and despite the fact that the town attracts them for a year or two, I believe that eventually these people will return to the soil to work on it.

I believe it is the duty of this Government, and the departments concerned, to set aside in every area of the State where it is still available some parcels of land that can eventually be used for the settlement of those native people who reach the desired standard. I mentioned earlier that on the south coast practically all of the land is already occupied; and I know that if in 15 or 20 years' time these native people are educated, and reach the standard required, unless immediate steps are taken to set aside land that is so necessary for their establishment, that land will have gone and the finance will not be available to repurchase it. In that event we will forever see these people as hewers of wood and drawers of water for the white people.

I hope this fact will be taken into consideration so that some thought may be given to the problem of finding land that these natives can utilise, if perhaps not in the immediate future then at least at some reasonably distant date.

We in our area have been very well served with educational facilities, and in this regard I should like to pay a tribute to The Hon. A. F. Watts for the work that he did in country areas on behalf of the Education Department. Just recently I had the pleasure of attending in my own home town the opening of the new high school which we sincerely hope will eventually develop into a five-year agricultural high school. Over £100,000 has been spent on it in the last three years, and this speaks well for the development of the area.

The school bus services that operate throughout the State have made a remarkable contribution to the development of country education. However, there is one complaint that we have received on more than one occasion; and I refer to the fact that frequently children—that is, the junior children—have to leave home

too early in the morning and are forced to return home too late at night. Many of these children are travelling and attending school from 7.15 in the morning until 5.15 in the evening; and it is thought by many that some provision should be made for the establishment of more primary schools each with a fewer number of pupils than at present so that the travelling of the younger children might be kept to a minimum.

I should like to pay a tribute to the Main Roads Department for the excellent work its officers have done in the establishment of roads throughout the State. I respect and admire the co-operation of these officers with the people who are interested in these projects. The roads themselves, of course, are all that could be desired; but, unfortunately, in the early days of road construction there was just the idea that we had to get the road through, and very little thought was given to the preservation of our natural heritage: I refer to the trees along the sides of the roads.

However, the co-operation that has been received over the years by the local authorities has been all that could be desired; and today we have the spectacle of the Main Roads Department not only preserving the trees but also being prepared to plant young trees along the country roads so that the country districts do not lose the advantages of this heritage.

In my view agriculture is one of the most important industries in the State, and the Department of Agriculture is one to which we must give the greatest attention. In this respect I should like to pay tribute to the staff of the Department of Agriculture who, over the years, have battled to work out our problems, especially in the control of diseases in stock, the control of noxious weeds, and the control of all those pests that we have on the land.

I believe that the cost involved in the control of these various pests is one of the biggest items in our costs of production, and the success achieved on some of the items I have mentioned has meant much to the settlers of this State. I instance the practical eradication of footrot in the flocks of this State. When it was first suggested by some farmers that footrot could be eradicated it was thought to be an impossibility. Today we have the situation whereby, because of their energy and application to their duty, the officers of the department have almost eliminated footrot from the flocks of Western Australia. That in itself is an achievement which has meant many thousands of pounds to the producers, and I pay tribute to the departmental officers for it.

There has also been the almost total eradication of the Argentine ant; and many similar schemes have been just as successful. The last codlin moth outbreak in the orchards of this State was successfully

attacked and, we hope, eradicated. But there are some other problems that will be with us unless we take the same line that was taken in regard to the other two or three problems I previously mentioned.

Fruit fly is still a menace, and all along the roads we have the spectacle of control points trying to prevent the distribution of infected fruit into unaffected areas of the State. In my view we should embark immediately on a campaign of complete eradication. If we hope to solve this problem by just containing it in one particular area of the State, the cost will be forever with us and nothing worth while will be achieved.

Another problem that has been successfully tackled—we might say principally due to the introduction of myxomatosis—is the rabbit. In some areas of the State that matter is not given much consideration; but having had some experience as chairman of a group vermin scheme, whereby we initiated different—and, we hope, more successful—methods with the co-operation of the officers of the Department of Agriculture, I believe we should set our minds towards the idea of evolving in this State a killer scheme for rabbits which aims at the complete eradication of the pest.

We know quite well that when rabbits were introduced into Victoria some hundred years ago they spread rapidly all over this great Commonwealth. Today, in isolated areas of the State we have large colonies of rabbits; and in my view the only successful way to eliminate them is to conduct a killer scheme similar to that which operates in New Zealand. With such a scheme we would eliminate rabbits from the State and probably save the farmers many thousands of pounds and a great deal of the effort that is required annually to keep these pests under control.

It has been proved conclusively that if we wait for myxomatosis to keep rabbits in check there is no hope of success; because, as we all know, myxomatosis kills 90 per cent. of the rabbits and the other 10 per cent. become immune. As rabbits multiply ten times in one year, at the end of the year the number is back to 100 and it is necessary to start the job of control all over again.

Another matter concerning the agricultural industry is the control of the introduction of outside pests and weeds into this State. There is a system of control which operates to some extent on the Trans.-train, and if one happens to be a passenger one's luggage is inspected, or one is invited to destroy what fruit one may have in the carriage.

But hundreds of cars are being transported from the Eastern States by train and are being off-loaded at Kalgoorlie, and I am given to understand that these cars are not inspected in any way; and, if a person wanted to do so, he could bring

from the Eastern States in the car anything that he required. I have known people to leave the train without any inspection of their cars; and that, to my mind, is a weakness in our system. If we want to eliminate the importation of weeds and pests from the Eastern States we must develop some system of inspection of the various vehicles and the farm machinery that are brought from there.

It is a well-known and much-talked-of fact around the country that the codlin moth, which I spoke about earlier, came to this State in secondhand machinery which was bought by a man who purchased a property; and, after he had left it, codlin moth was discovered to be rife in the area. Because of this I believe that an inspection scheme must be established to try to keep these weeds and other pests from entering this State from the Eastern States or overseas.

I suppose water supply is one of the most vital matters that we as a Parliament must consider seriously. The conservation of water, whether by the Government or by private individuals, can mean the success or partial failure of our economy. It is my contention that wherever water is conserved by private individuals the Government should provide some assistance. There are serious problems connected with the conservation of water, and I should like to mention one of them.

On the south coast, the only fresh water that exists at present—and we hope it will continue—is the Denmark River; and an area of 90,000 acres has been set aside to preserve the freshness of that water. That in itself creates a problem for the shire council of Denmark, because it takes away from it the rating capacity of a great area of land. We have pressed, and I shall continue to press, for some consideration to be given to the establishment of pine plantations within that area so that the water will be preserved and the future citizens of that part of the State will receive some benefit from the plantations so grown.

Water must be conserved and we must also give serious consideration to the financing, on a long-term basis, of people who wish to construct their own irrigation schemes and thus conserve their own water. Where water flows through several properties serious consideration must be given to ensuring that each of the people on that stream receives the benefits from it. There is, I believe, another problem that might be investigated. No doubt much investigation has been done on the desalination of water; but, from information I have received, most of the consideration has been given to the desalination of sea water. It is a well-known fact that the cost of desalination of water depends on the amount of salt it contains.

There is running to waste in this State, annually, thousands of millions of gallons of water which are only slightly too brackish to be used for stock purposes or for irrigation; and if some consideration could be given to the clearing of that water I believe we could solve a problem which we must over the years find very serious, unless we take steps to conserve all the water we have.

The marketing of primary products is something that all Governments have given consideration to. It was suggested to me the other day that I make some comments on what I thought about the remarks Mr. Bury made in the Federal Parliament. I would not like to comment on that point, but I would say I believe we have a great future in the markets of the near East. The Government, and all those private firms that have sponsored trade delegations and missions to the near East are to be congratulated on their skill in this direction. It is quite easy to imagine what could happen if the peoples of the near East were to lift their living standard, however slightly, as far as the consumption of the products of this country is concerned. I hope we will continue to investigate and promote markets in those near-Eastern countries. This appears to me to be the solution of a problem that could become serious as the production of this country continues to rise.

In our own particular district we have one institution that I would like to mention. I refer to Pardelup Prison Farm. When that farm was established there was the usual outcry from many people, which we have on all such occasions. But, at the present time, the people of my district are proud of the fact that they are doing something to try to make the life of the unfortunate people who find themselves in the position of being sent there a little better than it would perhaps be in the institution in the city.

I believe that for many years this farm was not being used to its fullest extent. I am very pleased indeed to say that just recently a farm manager has been appointed to take charge of the farming operations. I have no complaint against the work that has been done over the years by the people in charge of this institution. I have the greatest respect and admiration for the work they have done in caring for the prisoners and doing the best they could with the farming operations. But it must be quite evident to everyone that if a man was appointed to take charge of a sizeable prison farm who had served a term for the department at Fremantle or some other similar sphere, it would be absolutely impossible for him to know anything about the farming side of the institution. The man appointed as manager of this farm is one with the highest reputation for developing farms of a similar nature, and I

trust he will be given the opportunity of developing this farm into what it might be; and that is, one of the best farms in Western Australia.

It contains over 10,000 acres of land and much of it has never been touched. I hope that it will now be developed to a stage where it can be used as an example of what a farm should be and can be, and also be used to give the unfortunate inmates of the institution at least some idea of the worth-while work that can be done on a farm. This could be of great benefit to them when they are released from that institution.

The last matter of importance that I would like to touch on is that of tourist development. We on the south coast believe—and I think rightly so—that we have as much to offer in the way of tourist attraction as any other part of Western Australia and perhaps as much as many other parts of Australia. The Tourist Development Authority has made a very substantial contribution to the development of the area, and the main roads authority has done a remarkable job in opening up areas to make them accessible to people who wish to spend their holidays at the various resorts. But it does entail quite serious problems for some of the local authorities, in that they cannot find sufficient finance to accept the offer of the Tourist Development Authority in regard to the development of their particular projects. We hope that measures will be taken to overcome that problem.

We have, of course, in the south coastal area which is contained in my electorate, from Frankland River to Bremer Bay—except the townsite of Albany—some of the best beach sites and holiday resorts in Western Australia. We also have what I believe will develop into one of the best winter resorts for the class of people who like to go mountaineering: the Stirling Ranges. I look forward to the day when somebody will build a chalet or motel, or something of that sort, in the Stirling Range so that people can climb and enjoy the winter season there as remote from the summer season at the beaches.

Unfortunately, regulations are—or appear to be—often ridiculous. In the Stirling Range National Park we have at present an area of 229,000 acres. There is a regulation in existence which prohibits camping in a national park. I hope that shortly we will be able to get a caravan park declared in that area so that people can camp there and explore the beauty of the place, given time to do so. Of course, if people go there just for one day they cannot see much of the beauty of the country.

Mr. Brand: Is there any danger from fires?

Mr. MITCHELL: No. There were one or two matters I wanted to touch on regarding the remarks made by the member

for Albany. I am very sorry he is not here tonight to accept my thanks for the great job that he did on behalf of my electorate the other day, in drawing the attention of the House to the very serious problems that exist in some of the areas in that electorate. One in particular that he mentioned, not so much in connection with my electorate, but with reference to matters as a whole, was the subject of electricity. I do commiserate with the Minister for Electricity that in the first week the new power line was put through to Albany it was struck by lightning.

I also believe that an effort should be made to link up a circuit route so that electricity can be supplied from two directions rather than a power plant kept at Albany. I understand this is common practice and I hope that that alternative will be looked into. I would also compliment the State Electricity Commission on the speed with which it has established, at Mt. Barker, one of its fault-finding stations to enable it to detect faults as they occur. The power line has been in existence for only a few weeks and the fault-finding station is now almost completed. I think that will prove that the commission itself has the interests of all people at heart. They have worked efficiently and quickly on the construction of the necessary station to locate faults.

At this stage I would like to say that most members know the name of Mitchell. It has been connected with this House over a long period of years. I am sorry I cannot claim any reflected glory for that, because I am not related to those people. Perhaps I should say "unfortunately," but the only claim that I can make to any fame, as far as this State is concerned, is that my great-grandfather built one of the first churches in Western Australia and my grandfather went to the south-west 108 years ago to commence farming operations.

I mentioned earlier the great work that was done by Mr. Watts in this House and the State in general. I cannot hope to make the same contribution that he made because he made his from a legal mind—a mind versed in all the legal technicalities that are known—and I can only make mine from practical experience learned the hard way. I trust, therefore, that if I am able to make some small contribution to this House, members will be good enough to view it in that light.

Coming to this place at an age when many people expressed the opinion that I was beyond the stage of making a useful contribution to its deliberations, I trust that, while we are working together, inspired by divine wisdom we may make decisions which will not only redound to our credit but which will promote the prosperity of every individual in this great State of ours.

**MR. W. HEGNEY** (Mt. Hawthorn) [5.44 p.m.]: First I would like to congratulate all new members on both sides of the House on their success in being elected to represent their various electorates. In accordance with the Electoral Districts Act—and this is generally referred to as the redistribution of seats—the Mt. Hawthorn electorate was changed considerably. I take this opportunity therefore of expressing my appreciation to those 6,000-odd electors who have been transferred to the electorate of Balcatta. At the same time I would like to assure the balance of the electors of Mt. Hawthorn, as well as the 3,000-odd electors from Leederville and North Perth, that I will do my best to look after their interests while I have the honour to represent them in this House.

Incidentally, the redistribution took place despite the determined efforts of the Government over a period of two years to sidestep the law; and it was only as a result of an appeal by Labor members—finally to the High Court of Australia—that the Government was forced to carry out the law. The law has been carried out and the 24th Parliament is duly assembled.

While the Minister for Health is present, I would like to mention a position brought to my notice recently which I think is rather unfair, even though that Minister has no control over it. I refer to an institution in my electorate known as Glendalough, which is conducted by the Little Sisters of the Poor. It is a home for the aged, with an average of 170 inmates. That institution has been in existence for approximately 40 years, yet it has no deep sewerage; a septic system is in operation.

Approaches have been made to the Public Works Department and other authorities for the extension of the sewerage but, at this stage, it does not appear as though the deep sewerage will be extended to the institution in the immediate future. I suggest that at the first possible opportunity the requisite extension should take place. As I just mentioned, that institution caters for aged people; and it is the intention of those in charge of it to extend the accommodation. In order to do this they are building rooms to accommodate four persons each; and because they are not building rooms which will accommodate only one person they cannot receive the Government subsidy.

The people who are conducting that institution know what is best for the aged people, who are looked after very well. However, I am advised that the only reason that institution cannot receive Commonwealth assistance is that single rooms are not being built. I suggest that the Minister for Health should have a look at this to see whether something can be done to alleviate the position.

**Mr. Ross Hutchinson**: I have had a look at it and I feel quite sympathetic towards it.

**Mr. W. HEGNEY**: I would like the Minister to continue looking at it if he does not mind. Of course, I know he will.

In regard to secondary school facilities I might say that the present Tuart Hill High School—of which I had the honour to lay the foundation stone six years ago—is situated on the boundary of the Balcatta and Mt. Hawthorn electorates. There has been an increase in population northwards of the Mt. Hawthorn electorate and the time has arrived when another high school should be built in the Nollamara district, because of the congestion which is taking place in the Tuart Hill High School. As a matter of fact, over 1,700 students are attending that high school.

I now propose to deal with a few items which appear in the Governor's speech. First of all, I shall refer to a paragraph which, to my mind, is very important; and it deals with a subject which the Government has brushed off lightly since it assumed office. I refer to unemployment. The appropriate paragraph reads as follows:—

The problem of unemployment is being vigorously tackled and the percentage of the work force unemployed in Western Australia is the second lowest of the Australian States.

Just under that paragraph is to be found the following:—

Revenue for 1961/62 totalled £74,925,785 and Expenditure £75,889,798 leaving a deficit of £964,013.

This result is considered very satisfactory in view of the down-turn in economic activity experienced during the last 18 months.

That is a very polite way of trying to explain the position; but through the policy adopted by the Federal Government—and backed up by the State Government—there were over 116,000 unemployed in Australia, and well over 6,000 in Western Australia. I am advised that the present figure is over 5,000; and to my mind the attitude of the Government towards unemployment is impersonal. That more than 5,000 persons are unemployed means nothing to the Government, despite the fact that there has been untold misery during the last 18 months or two years as a result of the policy of the Commonwealth Liberal Government—a policy adopted and followed by the State Liberal Government.

**Mr. Court**: What did you do about this problem when you were in office? Didn't it matter then?

**Mr. Brand**: Nothing at all.



Mr. W. HEGNEY: Another portion of the Governor's speech reads as follows:—

Consideration is being given to legislation to provide for the creation of a Board to control water supply, sewerage and drainage in the metropolitan area.

To my mind the engineers and the administrators of the Public Works Department are doing a good job, and I doubt the wisdom of the Government passing the control of such an instrumentality over to any board. It is also proposed to pass the administration of the north-west over to a board. I suggest there are certain things this Parliament should control.

Mr. Court: When was this?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Certain things should be carried out under the responsibility of the Minister.

Mr. Brand: When did you hear there was to be a board for the north-west?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I now wish to refer to another matter of very great importance, and one which was conspicuous by its absence in the Governor's speech. Reference was made in the speech to the intention of the Government to introduce legislation to give voting rights to natives—I will deal with that point later on—but there was nothing in the Speech to indicate that there is going to be any improvement in certain industrial conditions.

If one looks at what the Government proposes to do, one will find that the programme is about the same as it was last year. The Government proposes to introduce Bills to amend the Companies Act, the Licensing Act, the Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act, the Legal Practitioners' Act, and the Associations Incorporation Act, together with Bills to consolidate and amend the law relating to Business Names and Trustees. However, there is nothing in this document known as "The Governor's Speech" to indicate there will be any improvement in a very important Act which affects hundreds of workers in Western Australia. I refer to the Workers' Compensation Act.

This Government has been in office since 1959 and it has never attempted to make any substantial improvement in the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act although a number are quite overdue. Only the other day the High Court of Australia in a certain civil case—a traffic case—awarded the sum of £15,000 as damages to an individual who was injured in a traffic accident. It has been quite common for amounts of £6,000, £8,000, and £10,000 to be awarded in such cases. But what is the position under the provisions of the Act to which I have just referred? If a worker sustains an injury in the

course of his employment and is totally and permanently incapacitated, he receives approximately £3,200.

When the previous Labor Government was in office it introduced a Bill which provided for improvements, but that Bill was defeated by the Liberal Party members in another place. If a worker is injured whilst travelling to and from work, no compensation is payable. However, in Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania, if a worker is injured in similar circumstances he receives compensation. There is nothing in the Governor's speech about this; and the Government is silent as to whether it proposes to do anything. Whilst discussing this Act, I might also mention the matter of hospital and medical expenses. Both of these items are limited under the Act at the present time; and owing to the high cost of hospitalisation and medical fees it is very often incumbent on the workers to pay portion of these fees.

I am one of those who believe—and it is the policy of the Labor Party—that the Workers' Compensation Act should be amended to provide that an injured worker shall not be legally responsible for any part of hospital or medical expenses. The previous Labor Government even introduced a Bill on those lines, but it was defeated in the Legislative Council. Even in a small State like Tasmania the sum of £1,000 is payable for medical and hospital expenses; and in Victoria all reasonable expenses incurred by the injured worker are payable by the insurance company. However, in this State no such provision obtains. In a period of four years the Government has sat here and not raised a little finger in the direction of improving the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act.

I now wish to mention the Factories and Shops Act, about which the member for Murchison asked questions earlier in the sitting. That Act is out of date; many of its provisions are outmoded. We endeavoured, seven years ago, to bring down some desirable amendments, but we were defeated in our aim by the Liberals in another place.

Let us have a look at a few of the provisions of this Act. I shall not quote the full provisions, but give just a precis of some of them. There is still a reference—and it is hard to believe—to the fact that women and boys are to be paid a minimum of 9d. per hour or 10s. a week. That provision operated long before there was a basic wage set down by the Arbitration Court of this State. The Act states there shall be a maximum of 44 hours a week for women and boys, other than under special circumstances.

We know that as a result of Labor activities throughout Australia over the years workers are now enjoying a standard 40-hour week. There is still a provision in

the Factories and Shops Act that the Saturday closing time of a shop shall be 1 p.m. It is the same for factories; although we know that we have a five-day week under the awards which govern industrial conditions concerning factories. There is also a provision for a late shopping night. There is even reference to the old electorates of Brown Hill-Ivanhoe and Hannans in the section dealing with shop legislation. These provisions are outmoded, and the Government should have a close look at the Act. A comprehensive research should take place and legislation should be introduced to bring the Act up to date.

I now wish to make reference to the subject of three weeks' annual leave. That was our policy at the last election; and had we been elected we would have implemented it. Had we been unable to do this by legislation, we would have done it administratively and given a minimum of three weeks' annual leave to all workers in Government employment. The Commonwealth Arbitration Commission has adjourned a case dealing with an application by the Australian trade unions for a minimum of three weeks' annual leave. As far as I know this case has been adjourned until next March. However, in a State like Tasmania only recently the Wages Board heard voluminous evidence when dealing with the ironmongers' case; and the chairman of the board awarded to about 40,000 people in that State a minimum of three weeks' annual leave in lieu of two weeks. He pointed out that Tasmania was a State where industrial peace prevailed and he was going to help preserve that happy state of affairs.

There is another matter which must be dealt with sooner or later; and I refer, not to equal pay for the sexes, but to equal pay for the sexes for work of equal value. This particular subject reached the International Labor Organisation Conference in 1951; and, as a result of the deliberations of that conference—which I think was attended by representatives of approximately 68 nations—it was agreed that nations should adopt the principle of equal pay for men and women who do work of equal value. Efforts have since been made by interested persons and organisations to have such a policy implemented in Australia. However, we have not got very far along the road in that direction.

It should be mentioned that a female dentist receives the same professional fee as a male dentist. This also applies to the medical profession, to physiotherapists, and to persons in a number of other callings. I hope the time will not be far distant before the question of equal pay for men and women will be determined and a measure of justice achieved for female workers.

In my opinion the Industrial Arbitration Act needs amending. When Minister for Labour, I made an effort to do that.

I propose to refer to only one section of the Act; namely, the granting of power to the Industrial Arbitration Court to determine who are contractors, subcontractors, and employees.

As members are aware, there has arisen within the building industry over the past few years what is known as the subcontracting system. The courts cannot deal with the situation, and the matter is getting out of hand. Subcontractors are, to all intents and purposes, employees; but the courts will not regard them as such; and we, on this side of the House, endeavoured to have the Industrial Arbitration Act amended to enable the courts to determine the question. The Bill was thrown out by the Liberal Party in another place.

The present Government annihilated the Public Works organisation, which was a training ground for apprentices. As a result of its action, the number of apprentices in the building trade has been considerably reduced.

Mention is made in the Governor's Speech about the shortage of tradesmen. I submit that this shortage of good tradesmen has been due—deliberately or unconsciously—to the Government's policy. Had the Government carried on the Public Works organisation we would have had a larger number of competent tradesmen, and we would not have had the necessity to send a delegation overseas to obtain them.

I am aware that apprentices are being trained in the Midland Junction Workshops. I consider that to be a good training ground, as also are the State Engineering Works and the Architectural Division of the Public Works Department. In the past, apprentices from this State who went to other States were always sought by employers. Because of the Government's policy, the subcontracting system is detrimental to workers generally. It is driving good tradesmen out of the building industry; and to obtain tradesmen the Government was forced to send to Britain a delegation, consisting of three persons.

I should add that the Government did not consult the unions as to their requirements, or with respect to what attitude should be adopted. The Minister for Industrial Development, true to form, strongly castigated and criticised the unions because they tried to draw the attention of their members to the situation obtaining in Western Australia. I hope the Government will, at the first opportunity, have another look at the necessity of amending the Industrial Arbitration Act.

I turn now to the proposed legislation to give natives voting rights. A Bill will be introduced to give natives voting rights at State elections. I am pleased about

this; but I would like to know why the Government has turned a complete somersault since last session.

I recollect vividly that when I was Minister for Native Welfare—about seven years ago—the Government of which I was a member introduced a Bill to give natives equal voting rights. However, the Opposition at that time vehemently opposed the Bill, which was thrown out in another place.

Last session we had the spectacle of the Minister for Native Welfare introducing, on behalf of his Government, a Bill—to give natives full citizenship rights? No. To give natives voting rights? No. What did the Bill propose to do? Last session the Government stated that natives were not entitled to voting rights, nor was the time opportune for them to be given voting rights. However, those who were born after the 1st January, 1955, would have the privilege of voting in 1976; but those born before the 1st January, 1955, were not entitled to citizenship rights—and never would be so far as this Government was concerned.

We now have the Government inserting a paragraph in the Governor's speech to the effect that it is going to extend voting rights to natives.

Mr. Lewis: Are you complaining about that?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I am not complaining about natives having voting rights—and the Minister is not going to side-track me. I will deal with his statement a little later. The Minister for Native Welfare told the Country Party conference that legislation would be introduced during the present parliamentary session to confer voting rights on natives who wished to exercise them. The Minister for Native Welfare was a member of the Government last session, and he supported the view that no native born before the 1st January, 1955, would ever be entitled to citizenship rights.

Mr. Lewis: I was not a member of the Government last year.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The Minister was a member of the Government, and he supported the Bill. He was a Government supporter.

Mr. Lewis: That is not being a member of the Government.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The Minister was not a member of the Opposition; he was then a member of the Government, and a supporter of the Government. The Minister cannot wriggle out of that. He supported the Bill less than 12 months ago—a Bill which provided that no native born before the 1st January, 1955, would be entitled to voting rights. Yet the Minister told the Country Party conference that the Government would this session introduce a Bill to give voting rights to

those natives who wished to exercise them, whether they were born before or after the 1st January, 1955. Why has the Government turned a complete somersault?

Mr. Lewis: You sound very upset over it.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The Minister cannot get over it that way. The Government has some ulterior motive.

Mr. Brand: We made the announcement last year that we would give them voting rights, following the decision of the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The Minister was probably going to say "after the Commonwealth Government gave voting rights to natives."

Mr. Brand: He did say it; and it has been carried out.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Why did the Liberals reject the Bill seven years ago? Why did the Government introduce a Bill last session? I now come to a vital point. Had the Labor Government of 1955 been able to pass its Bill, it is most likely, I suggest, that the Federal Government would have been obliged to conduct a referendum throughout Australia on the question of providing natives with citizenship rights. This State would still have had nine representatives in the Federal Parliament, instead of the number being reduced to eight. That is what could have happened, and that is what would have happened.

At present the native population receives no consideration when determining the number of Federal parliamentary seats to be allocated to this State. Does any member of this House think that is right? Apparently, the Government, at this late hour, is going to retract and do something about the matter.

It would be amusing, were it not so amazing, that a member of the Country Party should have said what appears in this newspaper report. The item reads—

Mr. J. D. R. Robinson disagreed with extending the franchise to natives on the ground that they were not sufficiently advanced to appreciate the purpose behind voting.

If allowed to vote, he said, they would all undoubtedly vote Labor.

How does he know?

Mr. Lewis: Who said that?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Mr. J. D. R. Robinson of Roe.

Mr. Lewis: That shows how democratic we are.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Mr. Robinson says the main reason why he would refuse to grant voting rights to natives is that the natives would all vote Labor. I have always held the view that whether they vote Labor or any other way, natives should be treated as human beings.

Mr. Lewis: We propose to do that.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: They should have certain rights. I feel that they should be given the optional right to vote. We should unreservedly grant them full rights of citizenship, which is the birthright of every person in Western Australia.

Mr. Lewis: I take it then that we can get your support?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The legislation will receive my support. The proposed Bill will require a lot of explaining. There was a Bill introduced last session, endorsed by the Cabinet, and supported by members of the Government.

Mr. Brand: It was a very good piece of legislation; there was nothing wrong with it.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: What is the vital point?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The provisions of the Bill which came before Parliament last session must have been endorsed by both sections of the Government. They must have been placed, for instance, before the Country Party.

Mr. Lewis: It was a good step forward. Both parties, and the Cabinet, agreed. That is how we deal with legislation.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The Minister was spokesman, and both sections of the Government decided on that Bill and nothing but that Bill. The opposition to it was so strong, both inside and outside Parliament, that the Government had to back-pedal; and it decided not to go on with it.

Mr. Brand: It was a regrettable decision.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Which was?

Mr. Brand: The one we couldn't go on with because of not having a constitutional majority.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: There we have the attitude of the Premier. Had the Bill been proceeded with, I have no doubt the Government would not be introducing another one this session.

Mr. Brand: How do you know?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I know.

Mr. Brand: We would have introduced the same sort of legislation, and the natives would have been one stage further ahead. Citizenship rights would have been granted and established by law.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The Premier will have an opportunity later on of trying to explain away the inconsistency of the Government and the Government's attitude last year.

Mr. Brand: There is no inconsistency whatsoever.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I repeat, for the record, that had the Bill in question been passed last session, there would not have been any chance of any native of Western

Australia who was born before the last January, 1955, enjoying the rights of citizenship.

Mr. Brand: Nothing of the kind! The Government had quite an open mind on it.

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

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I propose now to deal briefly with the Constitution of Western Australia as it affects quite a number of people in this State. The Parliament of Western Australia consists of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. The members of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia are elected on an adult franchise basis, the same as for the Commonwealth Parliament; but for the Legislative Council, ever since the Council was established, there has been a restricted franchise. Even today it does not matter who a person is: if he does not own property to the value of £50, or pay rent to the value of £17 per annum, he cannot vote at Legislative Council elections; consequently there are thousands of people in Western Australia who are debarred from exercising their full rights as citizens.

As a matter of fact, I think one of the most disgraceful provisions in our Constitution today—and I have protested against this before; and, while I am able to do so, I will continue to protest—is the fact that no citizen of Western Australia can become a member of the Legislative Council unless he or she has attained the age of 30 years. For the Commonwealth, both for the Senate and for the House of Representatives, the adult franchise principle is followed; and for the Legislative Assembly in Western Australia, adult franchise is the basis. But for the Legislative Council, as I said, one cannot vote unless one has certain qualifications; and a person cannot take his seat in the Legislative Council unless he has attained the age of 30 years.

Just imagine how ridiculous that is in these days of compulsory education—in these days of secondary education, tertiary education, and university education. To illustrate the point, one could be a highly qualified legal practitioner, medical practitioner, or engage in any of the professions; but if one is 29 years of age one is not entitled to sit as a member of the Legislative Council. To me it is most inconsistent. Actually it is possible for a man or woman of 21 years of age to become Prime Minister of Australia. As a matter of fact there was one Prime Minister of Britain who was only 23 years of age when elected, and I refer to William Pitt the younger. It is possible, as I have just said, for a person to become Prime Minister of Australia at 21 years of age; and yet, under the Constitution of Western Australia, it is impossible for such a person to take a seat in the Legislative

Council. Nobody can become a member of that Chamber unless he or she has reached the age of 30 years.

The time has arrived when the Constitution should be radically altered and there should be adult franchise for both the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. In passing, let me give another illustration. I presume there are some new members who own farming properties and, by virtue of the fact that they own real estate, they are entitled to vote at Legislative Council elections. But if they decided tomorrow to realise on their assets and invest their money in Commonwealth bonds, and hold no real estate, they would not be entitled to vote for the Legislative Council. How inconsistent it all is! I pass that thought on to the Government, not expecting it to do anything; but I suggest that at the first opportunity the Labor Party will take steps to bring the Constitution of Western Australia more into line with present-day requirements.

I referred earlier to the Country Party conference, and I propose now to refer briefly to it once again. Firstly I desire to quote from the remarks made by the president during the course of his presidential address to the conference. Senator E. W. Prowse, as reported in *The West Australian* of the 2nd August this year, said that he believed the massive manning of polling booths was undesirable. I think quite a few people agree with him in that regard. He went on to say—

Many people took the card offered by one Party and refused those offered by others . . .

Then the article goes on in the next paragraph—

The conference decided that a more favourable economic climate was needed to encourage small individual enterprises.

Monopolies should be discouraged by appropriate restrictive measures.

Delegates deplored the present trend of big business takeovers and the steady elimination of genuine free enterprises formerly engaged in by private individuals and family groups.

Mr. Bickerton: One of our mob!

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The article continues—

Smaller individual enterprises could be encouraged by eased taxation, probate and other financial factors.

That is exactly the policy the Labor Party adopted when in Government. We introduced the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act for the express purpose of trying to protect the small traders and business people in the community. We were trying to protect them and give them some measure of justice in case

efforts were made to jeopardise their position. The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act was operating for a time, and then the Liberal Government, which apparently dominates the Country Party, had the Act repealed; and on the statute book today there is another measure, innocuous as it is, known as the Trade Associations Registration Act. That Act, which is under the administration of the Minister for Labour, is both innocuous and harmless.

Mention was made in a statement by the Premier, and also in a statement by another member of the Liberal Party, that that Party must team up with the Country Party as an anti-socialist party against socialism. The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act was a most desirable piece of legislation, yet the Country Party members of the Government helped the Liberal Party to put the skids under that Act, even though it was expressly designed for the purpose of protecting the small traders in the community. As a matter of fact I have no doubt that before long the Commonwealth Government will be obliged to introduce legislation on an Australia-wide basis to extend some measure of protection to the smaller traders in our community.

I propose now to touch on a subject which is entirely in the public interest and involves both the Liberal and Country parties. I have here a cutting from *The West Australian* of the 24th July last in which Mr. Ray Owen, the ex-member for Darling Range, at the declaration of the poll, was reported as having said—

. . . the worst feature was that during the campaign Liberal Works Minister Wild committed the Government to immediate extension of the water supply to Forrestfield and Wattle Grove at a cost of £30,000.

A member of his own party had been told ten days previously that there was no money available for the scheme at present.

Mr. Dunn had picked up 15 votes as a result of this promise, which might prove to be one of the costliest ever made.

"For the sake of peace and quiet in the Government it was a good thing I was not elected," Mr. Owen said.

"It would have been difficult for me to support a Minister who could play such a trick."

That is a statement from a highly respected member of the Country Party who represented the Darling Range electorate for many years. In that statement he has indicated that as a result of the attitude shown by a responsible Minister of the Government he would have found it difficult to support him if he had been re-elected.

I now turn to the *Daily News* of the 31st July in which the following article appeared:—

Relationships between the Liberal and the Country Party were jolted by criticism from two sources, at today's Country Party conference.

Western Australia's newest senator and immediate past-president of the party E. W. Prowse hit at the Liberals over the Darling Range by-election.

A report presented by Prowse said that the State Government had been weakened by the victory of Liberal Ken Dunn over the Country Party candidate Ray Owen.

He said that Owen's loyal and consistent support for the Coalition Government was little appreciated by the Liberals in Government.

I wonder what the Country Party members think about this part of the article—

"They saw fit to oppose him some 10 minutes before the close of nominations after publicly claiming that no Country Party member would be opposed," he said.

That is what has happened to Mr. Owen. The member for Toodyay is now the Minister for Transport. I suggest that if the Liberal Party has acted in this way on one occasion there is no guarantee that it will not do so again at some future date. I therefore suggest that the member for Toodyay arrange for safety belts for himself and other Country Party members.

Mr. Craig: It is a pity they could not put one round your neck.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: That is where the Minister has had one for quite a time, apparently. Then, in the *Weekend News* of the 4th August, the following paragraph appeared under the heading of "Pique in the Party":—

With Charlie Court at that time—and indeed since—grabbing more public limelight than any other four Ministers, the label was easily accepted.

That is referring to the Brand-Nalder Government. The Government objected to being referred to as the Brand-Court Government. I am beginning to think that the Country Party Ministers in the Liberal-Country Party Government are allowing the Liberals to use them against the interests of the Country Party.

Mr. I. W. Manning: I think you are getting mixed up.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: That not only applies to the Darling Range electorate, but also to the Roe and Stirling electorates; and it would be interesting to hear from the newly-elected member for Avon. I think there is something in the wind, because

the Liberals promised the Liberal candidate for Darling Range that the Government would expend £30,000 in that electorate; and this gesture was supposed to be at the expense of some project in the Avon electorate.

Now I come to the statement made by one of the Country Party delegates to the effect that his party was just as good as the Liberal Party except for its platform of anti-socialism. At a meeting held in the Darling Range electorate, the Premier said that the Country Party and the Liberal Party should merge for the purpose of forming a solid front against socialism. I am now going to take this opportunity of indicating to the House how fallacious this charge has been, is now, and always will be.

On the statute book there are a number of Acts containing provisions relating to several socialistic undertakings; and I invite, in particular, the members of the Country Party to indicate their strong opposition to the following socialistic undertakings:—

State Shipping Service.  
Wyndham Meat Works.  
Rural & Industries Bank.  
State Engineering Works.  
State Insurance Office.  
State Electricity Commission.  
State Housing Commission.

They are all socialistic undertakings, and I might add that there is also the Education Act which provides for free education in this State. The railways and main roads of Western Australia, referred to by the member for Stirling earlier this evening, together with water supply projects, are all socialistic undertakings, from a State point of view. Do the members of the Country Party suggest that they should all be handed over to private enterprise?

Let us now have a look at the position in the Commonwealth. There is the T.A.A., the Post Office, child endowment, social service benefits, invalid pensions, old age pensions, and returned soldier pensions. They all represent big doses of socialism. Those members who were farming in earlier years will recall the constitution of the Seed Wheat Board, and what the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act meant when farmers were receiving 1s. a bushel for their wheat.

Mr. Lewis: Who is complaining?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I am glad of that interjection because the member for Moore, having, for the time being, been elevated to the august position of Minister for Native Welfare and Education, would use that as an argument to try to divert some members of his electorate from voting for a Labor candidate knowing that the epithet—and I use it as an epithet—was false, misleading, and quite unjustified.

Further, the State Saw Mills and State Brick Works were established for the purpose of protecting the public against exploitation. Unfortunately, however, they were sold by this Government last year at bargain prices and there has been a strong political smell surrounding the agreement, which will continue for many years.

Mr. Lewis: There are the State fish shops, too.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Those are some of the State institutions that have been set up.

Mr. Lewis: What about the State fish shops?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I now wish to refer to the State Government Insurance Office. The Labor Government tried to extend the provisions of the State Government Insurance Office Act to enable that office to engage in all forms of insurance, but our efforts were thwarted on six occasions. To illustrate how the State Government Insurance Office is assisting industry, the following is an extract from the Governor's speech:—

The State Government Insurance Office is continuing to assist private concerns, local authorities and semi-government bodies with loans. Further moneys will be advanced to private persons seeking housing finance.

That shows how the State Government Insurance Office, which is a socialist undertaking, is performing a very fine service in the interests of the State. Just in passing, I have a recollection that when I was the Minister administering this office a well-known firm, which had been in operation for many years, which is still in operation, and which is less than a mile and a half distant from where I am speaking, tried every associated bank in Perth to raise a loan, without success. However, the manager of the State Insurance Office, upon application by the firm, agreed to extend a loan of £80,000 to enable that firm to carry on its operations.

In the public interest, I now propose to show how this present Government has been tottering for some time. In the Darling Range by-election—I would like the Deputy Premier to take note of this—the Premier, in *The West Australian* dated the 18th July, 1962, was reported as having said this—

Brand Urges Liberal, C.P. Merger

A merger between the Liberal and Country Parties in W.A. was urged by Premier Brand last night.

Speaking to about 50 people at a Darling Range by-election meeting at Darlington, he said there had been a great deal of publicity during the campaign about the differences between the parties.

The Liberal Party had always advocated that the anti-socialist parties should merge into one. In the previous six years of Liberal-Country Party Government in W.A. there was a coalition.

That is the reference I made a little while ago. He was then reported as having said—

There was no arrangement between the parties that they would not oppose each other in State elections.

Do the Country Party members say that is true or false?

Mr. Lewis: You are making the speech.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: But the Minister is not prepared to say whether it is true or false. That is what the Premier said only a few weeks ago. The following day, the Deputy Premier went to the Darling Range electorate; and, as usual, he made a brilliant speech. It was reported in *The West Australian* and the Deputy Premier never denied having made the speech. I hope he can hear me. When questioned about a certain rumour, the Deputy Premier said it was typical propaganda put out to belittle the Country Party. In this report dated the 20th July, 1962, we find the following:—

To a further question whether a Country Party member would be expelled if he accepted the Speakership under a Labour Government he said the situation would not arise. No member of the Party would accept such a position. He said it was regrettable that the Liberal Party should have opposed the Country Party candidate Ray Owen in Darling Range. Mr. Owen was the only sitting Government member opposed by a member of the coalition Parties at the March general election. At that time the Country Party had undertaken not to oppose sitting members of the Liberal Party.

The question is: Who is telling the truth? Is the Premier telling the truth, or is the Deputy Premier telling the truth? In the public interest I think we are entitled to know. To put it mildly one of them is handling the truth very carelessly. The report of the 20th July continues as follows:—

Mr. Nalder said Premier Brand's introduction of the possibility of a merger between the Liberal and Country Parties during the Darling Range campaign was unnecessary and uncalled for. The subject of a merger was as dead as a dodo. This matter was one for the rank and file, who would bring it up at the Party's annual conference. The Country Party was not a splinter group and was here to stay in State politics.

The definition of "dodo" in *Blackies' Dictionary* is—

Dodo—An extinct bird of Mauritius; having a massive, clumsy body covered with down; short and extremely strong legs and wings, and tail so short as to be useless for flight.

I do not know whether that was the subject with which the Country Party was going to deal, or whether it was going to deal with the subject of the merger. I presume it was the subject of the merger. I do not for one moment blame the Country Party for the sentiments it has expressed; and I am convinced the Country Party will not merge with the Liberal Party.

Do you know why it will not merge with the Liberal Party, Mr. Speaker? It will not merge with the Liberal Party because it does not trust the Liberal Party. You, Mr. Speaker, are an honourable member of the Liberal Party, and I am sure you will agree with me.

Let us see what has happened in Victoria. When there was a landslide against Labor in Victoria a few years ago—and incidentally there is a move in the other direction at the moment—the Liberals, of their own right, were able to go it alone. They threw the Country Party over entirely; they would not have a bar of the Country Party; and apparently that feeling is mutual. As a matter of fact, the Leader of the Country Party said it looked as if the Liberal Party had gone into a deep freeze. The same thing will happen here. If the Liberals were able to obtain a majority in their own right in this State they would go it alone; they would entirely ignore the Country Party members. That is the position as I see it.

My final remarks will be directed at the Minister for Industrial Development and the question of publicity. I know that publicity is necessary; and I know that the Minister for Industrial Development gets four times as much publicity as any other Minister.

Mr. Court: That is your calculation.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: All the people to whom I have spoken have indicated how fed up they are with the nauseating rehash of publicity day after day, and week after week. They are tired of being told time and again what the Minister is going to do, and what the Government is going to do either in 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, or 1968—it is always around the corner. The Premier meekly follows the Minister for Industrial Development, and the publicity is duplicated. The people are just about fed up with the Minister for Industrial Development and all that he is supposed to be going to do.

Mr. Court: I think it is sour grapes on your part.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: It is not sour grapes at all. I know that publicity is necessary and advisable, but all the publicity the

Minister seeks from time to time is merely a rehash of what is going to happen in the case of iron ore, the Kwinana railway, and so on. These matters are dealt with day after day; and, as I have said, the people are fed up.

Mr. H. May: Did you see the picture of the Chevron Hotel?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Recently I saw in the *Daily News* a cartoon item which I would like to quote.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): The honourable member has about five minutes left.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker; I certainly will not overstep the mark.

Mr. Court: Before you sit down tell us about the unity tickets in Victoria.

Mr. Jamieson: You tell us.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I will tell the Minister something more interesting; something that will strike home far more forcibly than unity tickets in Victoria. The cartoon to which I refer appeared in the *Daily News* of the 27th July, 1962, and was headed "Rigby and a Tourist Gim-mick." We find a little news item as follows:—

The yellow and brown label carries a sketch of a bull's head and the legend—"Genuine Central Australian Bulldust".

I could vouch for its veracity for I have just watched the bottle being filled.

I think what I have referred to is genuine Western Australian bulldust so far as the Premier and the Minister for Industrial Development are concerned—the only difference being that they do not bottle it in Western Australia.

MR. GRAYDEN (South Perth) 17.57 p.m.): There are a few matters on which I would like to touch. I will deal with the less controversial issues first. Firstly I would like to refer to the subject of the Key West scheme, because it is a matter which affects my electorate.

Mr. Jamieson: It is no longer Key West; it is gone west!

Mr. GRAYDEN: Members will know that some time ago the South Perth City Council, confronted with the task of having to improve the Swan River foreshore between Mends Street Jetty and the Causeway, considered it was beyond the capacity of the ratepayers of South Perth to make that sort of contribution by way of rates. Accordingly it decided to hand over to Key West Limited a large area of land adjacent to the foreshore in return for the development of the area to which I have referred.

Unfortunately, and for various reasons, the firm in question failed to raise the necessary finance; and a few weeks ago it set about the task of drawing up a new



agreement. From the publicity we have seen in the Press over the last few days it would appear that there is every likelihood that Key West Limited will not go on with the project; and as a result, the South Perth City Council received offers from other companies.

There was quite a division of opinion in South Perth on the advisability of constructing a project such as Key West in that locality. The people of this district realised that this was virtually a matter which had been forced upon the South Perth City Council, in that the council would have to develop the area, and this was a method of so doing without unnecessarily burdening the ratepayers. The councillors of South Perth, visualising the future, think in terms of vast buildings being constructed on the Key West site. They consider that this area of South Perth will be formed into a twin city of Perth; but of course that view is not shared by officers of the Town Planning Department and is in conflict with the regional plan which was drawn up by the Town Planning Authority some years ago.

Because the Town Planning Department reduced the plot ratio from 5 to 1 to a ratio of 1.33 to 1, the company does not feel it is an economical proposition to proceed with the Key West project. If these negotiations with the company fall through, I suggest the Government give serious consideration to assuming the responsibility for developing the area between Mends Street and the Causeway, for the purpose of transforming it into a great park in the heart of our city.

This area is adjacent to the Swan River and as such is an integral part of the City of Perth. This city gets its character principally from the Swan River and King's Park; therefore anything which can be done to enhance the river and King's Park, and so beautify the city, should be done. Today we are placed in a position very similar to that in which Lord Forrest found himself in the last century when he was confronted with the question of taking over King's Park and reserving it as a parkland. The Government of Western Australia should seriously consider taking over the land in South Perth to which I referred and developing it as a park.

Already there is a very small park, the Sir James Mitchell Park, in that area of South Perth. I learned recently that the Education Department has earmarked it as a possible high school site. That proposal would arouse a great deal of opposition in South Perth. The park is set alongside the banks of the Swan, and is comparatively small. The suggestion that a high school will be built on it in the future is ridiculous in the extreme.

In my view the Government should give serious consideration to reserving the Key West site for a future high school or

technical school. Such a project would not interfere with the residents or restrict their view of the river. Under the Key West project there was a proposal to build 30-storeyed multiple flats, but sites reserved for high schools require very large tracts of land for sporting facilities. The Education Department tries to ensure that each high school built has at least 20 acres of playing fields. If the Key West site were set aside for a high school this condition could be fulfilled, and the land around the high school would be reserved for sporting purposes.

If the land which the council was prepared to hand over to Key West to bring about development of this area is returned to the South Perth City Council and subsequently to the Government, the Government could assume responsibility for constructing a riverside drive and for converting the land into a park; I feel that the South Perth City Council would jump at such a proposition. The only reason it agreed to the Key West project was that it considered the company would develop this area of land at a minimum cost to the ratepayers. It has been suggested that the construction of the riverside drive would cost upwards of £50,000. In my view that is a comparatively small amount in return for setting aside this wonderful site for a high school or a technical college.

Another non-controversial matter I want to touch on is related to the improvement of the tourist potential of this State. The Premier has made repeated efforts to develop this potential, and he has advertised Western Australia extremely successfully in the other States and overseas. If we can arrive at any means for improving the tourist potential relatively cheaply we should take advantage of it.

In the United States at present—this has been a practice for many years—various types of edible fish are introduced for propagation in farm dams, in lakes, and in other waterways. Many types of fish not found in Australia are found in the U.S.A. It is possible at present to import into Australia all types of aquarium fish from all over the world, with the possibility of introducing diseases. However, we cannot import edible fish, because the various authorities in the Eastern States which control these matters consider that such imported fish might interfere with the propagation of the local fish.

The point is that many of the fish found overseas are far superior to those which inhabit the streams and rivers in Australia. In Western Australia no edible freshwater fish of any consequence can be found in the lakes and rivers. Some years ago trout were introduced into this State; but, of course, trout breed only in fast-running streams. They have been placed in dams, but they do not breed in dams; they require fast-running water.

The farmers in this State have introduced trout fry into their dams; and when the fish are caught for consumption, they have to be replaced. Other types of fish such as redbfin perch have been introduced into this State but they do not compare with the varieties that are introduced extensively in the U.S.A. and which are propagated by the agricultural departments there.

In the U.S.A. one fish in particular has virtually taken over from all other species from the point of view of propagation; that is the blue gill bream. Other types—the large-mouthed bass and others of the bass family—have been introduced in order to keep down the number of blue gill bream.

In Western Australia there are no edible fish of any consequence in the lakes, dams, or rivers. Of course, that does not apply in the Eastern States. In the Murray River and its tributaries, in the Darling River, and in the other large rivers of the Eastern States are to be found the Murray cod, which is regarded as the best freshwater fish in Australia. Varieties such as callop, silver perch, Macquarie perch, Australian bass, and others, are also found. Therefore, it is quite reasonable that in the Eastern States the authorities concerned should try to prevent the importation of these fish into Australia; because they would, without question to a large extent take over from the native fish in the rivers concerned.

However, the fact is that at present Western Australia is penalised by this ban on the import of fish because we are not in the fortunate position of people in the Eastern States. In our rivers and waterways we have not the fish I have referred to. If we were to introduce the American blue gill bream, it would not be a costly way of improving our tourist potential. This fish has been singled out as the most desirable fish from the point of view of propagation and human consumption, because it is an extremely hardy fish—proved throughout the United States—and is an extremely free breeder, inasmuch as each female lays upwards of 250,000 eggs each year, and the fish grows to maturity in a very short space of time: it develops at the rate of 1 lb. a year.

If these fish were imported, the Fisheries Department could make them available to farmers; and this would mean that every farmer with a dam in Western Australia would have on his property water producing fish to the extent of 1,000 lb. per acre of water each year. In addition, these fish could be introduced into such waterways as the Moore River, the upper reaches of the Swan River, the Blackwood River, and the rivers of the south. The fish would thrive in these waters; and instead of the people from the inland

travelling hundreds of miles to the sea-board in the hope of catching a few fish, they would simply go to the nearest waterway or the nearest dam and obtain an abundance.

It seems ridiculous that these fish should be denied to our farmers and anglers in the metropolitan area—particularly when in America people have experimented and found them to be what they regard as the ideal fish—simply and solely because the authorities in the Eastern States do not want these fish interfering with native fish. Western Australia is being penalised as a consequence of the attitude of the authorities in the Eastern States on this matter.

In the Eastern States there is apparently a subcommittee of a conference of fisheries officers which meets frequently to discuss matters of this kind. However, Western Australia has not a representative on that committee. In this State we have somebody appointed who maintains liaison with the committee by means of correspondence. It seems to me that we should send a representative to that committee in order to put Western Australia's case with a view to ensuring that we can import into Western Australia the American fish to which I have referred. The Fisheries Department of the United States has produced brochure after brochure giving details of how these fish should be introduced, the quantities that should be put into a dam, and that sort of thing.

I would point out that whilst water will produce these fish at the rate of 1,000 lb. per acre of water each year, no feeding is required, as the small fish live on microscopic growth and the larger fish eat the smaller fish. Therefore, edible food is being produced each year without any feeding being required. The popularity of this fish has so increased in the United States over the last 20 years that virtually every dam on a farmer's property is now stocked with blue gill bream, bass, and one or two of the other varieties. They not only stock their dams in the United States, but are spending up to 300,000 and 400,000 dollars on individual properties of farmers constructing fish ponds in order to propagate these fish.

When the Americans will go out of their way like that to propagate these fish, surely it is a great pity and a great waste that fish of this quality cannot be placed in our country dams. I could go further and say this: In the Eastern States every big dam which supplies the water consumed in the towns and cities is stocked with fish. Up to date they have stocked dams which would be the equivalent of Canning Dam, Mundaring Weir, and Serpentine. They have stocked them with trout, and in some cases with Murray cod, callop, Macquarie perch, and Australian bass.

If we want to develop our tourist potential we should introduce these fish into the Canning Dam, Mundaring Weir, and the Serpentine Dam. Those dams supply water for human consumption, but it has been found in the Eastern States that the dams stocked with fish are cleaner as a result.

I will now leave these two subjects—firstly, Key West; and, secondly, the question of the introduction of fish into Western Australia—and pass on to some other items, because I have already taken longer than I thought I would.

The other night the Deputy Leader of the Opposition quoted some statement he alleged I had made a few days previously during the debate on the Supply Bill. He said I made a statement that in South Perth the people did not consume as much water as they did in the previous year, or words to that effect. At that stage I came into the Chamber and I corrected the honourable member because that is not what I said at all. I do not know what the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was going to go on and say after having put these words into my mouth; but at all events, when I corrected the position, he apparently changed his mind and went on to something else.

Mr. Tonkin: What did you say?

Mr. GRAYDEN: What I said is in *Hansard*. It was this: During the election campaign we got out certain figures in respect of South Perth; and I said that, to my surprise, after comparing the revenue under the old system with the revenue which was to be derived from the pay-as-you-use scheme, the latter was down considerably.

Mr. Tonkin: How could you know that? The meters had not been read.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition now asks how I can know that; but they were not the words he put into my mouth the other night.

Mr. Tonkin: Oh yes it was!

Mr. GRAYDEN: No. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was talking about something completely different.

Mr. Tonkin: No I wasn't!

Mr. GRAYDEN: I ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to look up *Hansard* to see what he said, because it is a common trick of his to put up an Aunt Sally and then knock it down. He puts words into a member's mouth, as a reference to the notice paper will indicate. I do not suppose you will allow me to refer to that, Mr. Speaker; but he is alleging that a member in another place did a certain thing which in actual fact he did not. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has attributed something to me which I did not say.

Mr. Tonkin: It was quite impossible for you to compare the costs, because the meters had not been read at that time.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition says it would be impossible for me to get the figures at that particular time. I would like to give him the figures, which I undertook to do the other night. He was not prepared to listen then; but I now desire to have them recorded in *Hansard*, thus correcting his statement made the other day. He will not be very elated to hear these figures after the way he has criticised the Government on this pay-as-you-use system, and after having alleged all sorts of things, including a statement as to how the Government has fleeced the public. He will be very surprised to ascertain the actual position in South Perth. I have no doubt that the same applies in every other area, and that the figures given during the campaign will confirm this contention.

Mr. Tonkin: You could not get any figures because the meters had not been read.

Mr. GRAYDEN: After the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has heard these figures I will be interested in what he has to say about them. In 1960-61 the water rates in South Perth were £36,029, and the sewerage rates amounted to £41,495, making a total of £77,524.

Mr. Tonkin: Don't they use excess water in South Perth?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I will come to that in a moment. Do not be too hasty. We now come to the statement I made, which was that the figures were down this year.

Mr. Tonkin: Of course the basic rate would be down because the rate in the pound was reduced from 1s. 6d. to 1s.

Mr. GRAYDEN: In 1961-62 the water rates were £26,501 and the sewerage rates were £42,266, making a total of £68,767, compared with £77,524 raised under the old system. That is quite a substantial reduction, from £77,000 to £68,000; and that is what I was talking about when the Deputy Leader of the Opposition endeavoured to—

Mr. Tonkin: The figures are not worth anything because they completely disregard the excess water.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I now come to the excess water. In 1960-61 the excess in South Perth was £6,859; and in 1961-62, it was up to £15,482. Certainly it was up. But let us add those increases to the water rates, and what do we get? We find that in 1960-61 the total amount raised for South Perth from the water rates, sewerage rates, and excess water was £84,383. In 1961-62, under the pay-as-you-use scheme, so frequently criticised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and those who sit behind him, the figure was down to £84,249; in other words, it was £134 less under the new scheme, taking into consideration the excess water.

Now we can see the fallacy of some of the things the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and his supporters have said in respect of excess water and the new system of rating. We have in South Perth a drop of £134 over the two years. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is extremely quiet now. He finds it expedient to talk to his colleagues behind him while overlooking the facts I have given.

I would like now to compare the statements which he made with some of the statements made by him and the Leader of the Opposition during the last election campaign. I have here a scurrilous pamphlet issued by the Labor Party and authorised by Mr. Chamberlain of the Trades Hall. It is headed "The Million Pound Water Grab". As members can see, this pamphlet contains the drawing of a tap with a huge hand coming out of it a—hairy hand—clutching a bundle of £5 notes. The pamphlet informs the people of Western Australia, faced with a crucial election, that this Government by switching over to the pay-as-you-use water scheme, was fleecing them of £1,000,000. The Labor Party did not merely state this from the platform in Forrest Place and at other meetings; it had the information printed in black and white. We should photostat this pamphlet and hang it in the members' room as a constant reminder to members of the Opposition of the depth to which some people can sink in an attempt to buy votes during election campaigns.

This pamphlet states that the Government is engaged in a £1,000,000 water grab when, in actual fact, the amount to be raised under the new scheme was in all probability considerably less than under the old one. I have given the figures in respect of South Perth, taking into consideration the excess water so often quoted by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, and have proved that there is less revenue being derived from South Perth under the new scheme than under the old one. Yet the people of Western Australia were subjected to that sort of propaganda during the last State election. It is a deplorable state of affairs that any responsible party in Western Australia in the year 1962 should continue to get away with that kind of thing. It is also a great pity that we have not some sort of court—

Mr. Jamieson: I'll say it is!

Mr. GRAYDEN: —or some judicial body which could be set up in order that statements of this nature could be referred to it.

Mr. Tonkin: I agree; it is a great pity!

Mr. GRAYDEN: In that way we could ensure a little bit of honesty in political campaigning in Western Australia, and we would not have a repetition of this sort of conduct. It is a disgrace to the Labor Party in Western Australia.

The honourable member who has just resumed his seat stated prior to the tea suspension that members on this side of the House are not concerned with the unemployment position in Western Australia. We know, of course, that that statement is akin to the one made in the pamphlet to which I have just referred. There is no truth in it at all. He mentioned a figure of 5,000 being unemployed in Western Australia at the present time, but very conveniently forgot that there were considerably more unemployed in Western Australia when the Labor Government went out of office on the 21st March, 1959—not so very long ago. Under a Labor Government the unemployment figure was infinitely higher.

Mr. Jamieson: They were never so consistently unemployed, as is the situation under this present Government.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The member for Mt. Hawthorn made the statement that there were 5,000 unemployed at the present time; and that we, on this side of the House, are not concerned with the unemployment situation. He overlooked the fact that during the last term of the present Government, 6,000 new jobs were created and the unemployment figure at the time of the last election was below that when the Hawke Labor Government went out of office in 1959. He conveniently overlooked also—as members on the other side of the House always do, particularly during election campaigns—that this Government has attracted to Western Australia in the last two years £150,000,000 worth of capital investment.

Mr. Bickerton: Where is it?

Mr. GRAYDEN: All of which has been used precisely for the purpose of creating employment.

Mr. Kelly: You should talk about dishonest practices!

Mr. GRAYDEN: During the past three years 6,000 new jobs have been created. That is what the Government has achieved. It has attracted industry to Western Australia because it considers that to be the only way of ensuring full employment in this State. The Opposition is well aware of that, and yet members on the other side of the House make statements such as we have heard.

During his election campaign, the Leader of the Opposition asked, "Where are the industries in Western Australia?" Members of the Labor Party moved around the State making all kinds of absurd statements, overlooking the fact that during the past three years they had done all they could to hold up many of the agreements affecting huge new industries which were being introduced to the State. These industries are known to all. They represent a total investment of £150,000,000. Not one member on the other side of the House can dispute that.

Mr. Jamieson: We have time to listen to the list.

Mr. GRAYDEN: They now say that this Government is not concerned with unemployment. To illustrate how much members of the Labor Party are concerned with unemployment and those people whom they claim to represent, let us consider the statement made by the member for Maylands regarding apprentices. He said this Government was not interested in taking on apprentices; that there were fewer apprentices in Western Australia than there had ever been. Other members of the Labor Party supported him; and we now find that the members of the Labor Party—who claim to represent the industrial section of the community—do not have the vaguest idea of the situation concerning apprentices. Not one member on that side of the House was aware that in excess of 200 apprentices are taken on by the Railways Department each year.

One would have thought the member for Swan and other members would have known this. The President of the Western Australian branch of the Australian Labor Party, who is sitting on the Opposition benches, did not know. If I were a railway employee and a member of the Labor Party, and I knew that I had 24 Labor members representing me in the State Parliament, and I then found out that those 24 Labor members were unaware of the number of apprentices being taken on at the Midland Junction Workshops—

Mr. Tonkin: —and put off from the Public Works Department.

Mr. GRAYDEN: —I think I might decide to change my views and vote for the Liberal or Country Party. I should feel that the Labor members were not looking after my interests.

Mr. Tonkin: Weren't you the member whom the Premier tried to keep out of Parliament?

Mr. GRAYDEN: I do not think that at all.

Mr. Tonkin: I saw the letter he wrote.

Mr. GRAYDEN: But I was not the endorsed candidate—you cannot quarrel with that.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order!

Mr. Tonkin: I am referring to the election before last.

Mr. Brand: The Premier did not make any bargain with him regarding preselection. You get up and deny that.

Mr. Jamieson: That is all you know!

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order! I will have no more of this cross-talk. It should not be necessary for me to call order three or four times.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The member for Beeloo, instead of interjecting, should explain why the Labor Party did not have the vaguest

idea that the number of apprentices being taken on by the railways is in excess of 200 each year.

Mr. Jamieson: That is a lot lower than the maximum.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order!

Mr. GRAYDEN: The member who has just resumed his seat referred to voting rights for natives. He gave the impression that the Government, by introducing legislation during the present session, would be doing a somersault—

Mr. W. Hegney: A somersault, yes.

Mr. GRAYDEN: —because of previous legislation it introduced. However, we know what the situation was; and he knows. He knows the Government introduced legislation last session because it considered it to be a step in the right direction. The legislation would have benefited the natives. Had the legislation to which the member for Mount Hawthorn referred been proceeded with, it would, in all probability, have been defeated in another place. That would have suited the member for Mt. Hawthorn. He was not interested in seeing the legislation go through. He was not interested in granting voting rights to natives. He wanted to deny them full voting rights. For that reason—

Mr. W. Hegney: And that's a lie.

Mr. GRAYDEN: —he would like to see legislation introduced prematurely in order that it might be defeated. He did not want the legislation, which was a step in the right direction.

Mr. W. Hegney: That is not true. In other words, it is a lie.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Let us examine why he did not want that legislation. He knows perfectly well, having been in politics for a number of years, that the seats for the Kimberleys and the North-West are held by the Labor Party. He knows too that if full voting rights are given to natives the political picture will change overnight. At the present time there are approximately 400 or 500 white people on the electoral roll in the Kimberley area. However, if legislation giving full voting rights to aborigines is passed, there will be 2,000 natives eligible to vote. If that happens the member for Kimberley will have to learn to speak the local aboriginal dialect if he wishes to remain a parliamentary member.

The member for Kimberley knows that the native population are not concentrated in the towns but that the bulk of them are employed on station properties. Many of those natives are illiterate and depend for information on those people whom they have lived with all their lives and those whom they trust. He knows that in those circumstances the station-owners of the Kimberleys, if they have done the right thing by the natives throughout their

lives, as the great majority, of course, have done, will be the counsellors so far as the aborigines are concerned. It is for that reason the member for Kimberley does not want full voting rights for natives, no matter what he says; and the same applies to the member for Pilbara. There is only a handful of Europeans in the Pilbara electorate, when compared with the numbers in the electorates of the south, and when the natives are given full voting rights they will far outnumber the Europeans.

The same situation could apply in Carnarvon, and in those circumstances we can see why the Labor Party was so anxious to ensure that the legislation that has been referred to was defeated. It was because it was a step forward. They wanted to see it defeated; and to that end they wanted more sweeping legislation introduced at that stage, knowing full well that it would be defeated in the other Chamber; because public opinion, or not so much public opinion but the opinion of the majority of members, had not reached the stage where they could accept full voting rights for natives in Western Australia.

I think it will be a wonderful thing, and it will change overnight the position so far as aborigines in this State are concerned. Labor members for the north-west, who have spoken so much in this House but who in reality have done so little to assist the natives, will go out of their way to help, even to the extent, if necessary, of learning the local dialects.

Mr. Kelly: You don't even believe that yourself.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The natives in the north-west—and that is where they are concentrated—will get a new deal because the members who represent them, wanting their votes, will have to go out of their way to assist.

So much for that particular matter. I should now like to refer to something I mentioned earlier; and I am speaking of statements made during the last election campaign. I did refer to this during the debate on the Supply Bill; but at the time I did not have the actual quotation in front of me. So many of the statements made by the Opposition during the last election campaign were so patently false that it makes one wonder how a responsible organisation in a democracy, in the year 1962, can make them, particularly when those statements could have serious consequences.

One of the worst statements made was contained in the policy speech of the Leader of the Opposition. Subsequently this statement was enlarged upon by other speakers, and twisted and distorted to such an extent that it became even worse than the original statement. It reads—

Liberal Party Governments have given B.H.P. at least 300,000,000 tons of good quality iron ore worth at least

£600,000,000 for a paltry royalty payment of 1s. 6d. a ton, thus depriving the people of Western Australia of at least £550,000,000 for the State-owned assets given away for next to nothing. This, he said, was unparalleled generosity by the Government to a huge monopoly company.

That was the statement which appeared in *The West Australian*. It was taken from the policy speech of the Leader of the Opposition delivered prior to the general election in March last. The deposits he referred to were those at Yampi Sound and Koolyanobbing.

Mr. Tonkin: No; it wasn't Koolyanobbing at all.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I know that in the aggregate they would total 300,000,000 tons of iron ore; but to say that the ore was worth £600,000,000—in other words, £2 a ton *in situ*—was, of course, absolute nonsense. It was quite untrue. The true value was, in actual fact, in the vicinity of 6s. a ton. However, during the election campaign the Leader of the Opposition told the people of Western Australia that virtually £600,000,000 worth of iron ore was being given away for the paltry sum of 1s. 6d. a ton. I am sure that this unfortunately influenced a great number of people in Western Australia; and had it not been for that statement, the statement in respect of the State Building Supplies, and the statement concerning the so-called million-pound water grab, this Government would have been returned with a far greater majority than it was.

Mr. Jamieson: Where would you have won the seats?

Mr. GRAYDEN: We would have won Canning for a start, and also Maylands and Perth, had not the Leader of the Opposition made statements which were completely and utterly untrue. I have just read the statement in respect of iron ore. It is a great pity the Leader of the Opposition, at the time he made that statement, did not say what the Willcock Government, a Government of which he was a member, did in 1939 in respect of the very same deposits. Had the Leader of the Opposition done that he would have had to tell the people of Western Australia he was a member of the Willcock Labor Government which negotiated a deal with the Japanese Government in 1938 or 1939, on the eve of the outbreak of war. That Government wanted to sell the Yampi Sound iron ore deposits to Japan at 3d. a ton—the very same deposits which the Leader of the Opposition now says were sold by Liberal Governments for a paltry 1s. 6d. a ton.

The Willcock Government tried to sell the Yampi Sound iron ore deposits to Japan, for 3d. a ton, knowing full well that the world was on the eve of war.

How can a responsible man in our community go around this country and make statements of the kind to which I have referred when he knows what happened in 1938? I cannot understand why members of this House—I refer to those on the other side—are not more concerned as to just where we are going in our democracy when a responsible man—a Labor Leader—can make statements like that in the year 1962.

Let us look at the motion moved by the then Labor Government in 1938 when it tried to sell the deposits to Japan for 3d. a ton. The Commonwealth Liberal Government had stepped in and said that because of the world situation it would not allow the agreement to be ratified; and so Premier Willcock, in common with other Labor members of his Cabinet, of whom the present Leader of the Opposition was one, rose up in arms against the action taken by the Liberal Government in the Federal sphere, and the then Premier moved the following motion, which appears at page 447 of *Hansard* No. 1 of 1938, dated the 30th August, 1938:—

The Premier (Hon. J. C. Willcock—Geraldton) [4.40]: I move—

That this Parliament of Western Australia emphatically protests against the embargo placed by the Commonwealth Government on the export of iron ore from Australia, in view of its disastrous effects upon the development of the State. We consider that the information available does not warrant such drastic action, and we urge the Commonwealth Government to remove the embargo.

That is what the Labor Government of which the present Leader of the Opposition was a member, said then when it was trying to sell the Yampi Sound iron ore deposits. I would commend to the Labor members of this House the speech which follows, because from it they will see what the Labor Government of that day thought of the question of the embargo on the export of iron ore. Mr. Willcock, then Premier, continued his speech by saying—

The prohibition of the export of iron ore from Australia has struck a terrible blow at the welfare of this State.

He went on to make repeated statements along similar lines. Some of the reasons he advanced for the sale of that iron ore are very pertinent, because exactly the same reasons exist today. In some respects the arguments that were advanced in 1938 have been enhanced with the passing of time.

For instance, in trying to induce the Commonwealth Government to lift this embargo on the export of iron ore, Mr.

Willcock, the Labor Premier at that time, said in the speech which I have been quoting—

The action of the Commonwealth was a death blow to the immediate extension of the development of the north-west.

The same situation exists today in regard to the development of the north-west.

Mr. Willcock then went on to point out that there were only a small number of people in the north; but in actual fact there are far fewer people in the north today than there were at that time. He continued that there was need for closer development of the north; and I again repeat that there is greater need today for closer settlement in the north than there was then.

The then Premier also said that the export of iron ore was desirable because it was necessary to establish a large-scale industry in the north; and the same position, of course, exists today. Mr. Willcock also quoted figures showing what the State would have lost as a result of the embargo. He was trying to sell the iron ore deposits for a royalty of 3d. a ton and not 1s. 6d. a ton which the Leader of the Opposition said was the paltry royalty fixed by the present Government.

Mr. Tonkin: That is not true.

Mr. GRAYDEN: What is not true?

Mr. Tonkin: That a royalty of 1s. 6d. a ton was fixed by a Liberal Government, because the original agreement provided for a royalty of only 1s. a ton.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I did not make that statement. It was the Leader of the Opposition who said that. He said—

The Liberal Party Government have given B.H.P. at least 300,000,000 tons of good quality iron ore worth at least £600,000,000 for a paltry royalty payment of 1s. 6d. a ton . . .

If that statement is not true let the Deputy Leader of the Opposition blame his own Leader.

Mr. Tonkin: I am saying that the statement was not factual. The original agreement did not provide for a royalty of 1s. 6d. a ton, but only 1s. a ton. The company was so ashamed that it increased the royalty itself.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The Labor Premier in 1938 put forward arguments in support of iron ore being shipped overseas, and the arguments apply with equal force, or even more force, today. He went on to point out the advantages of the circulation of money which the sale of this iron ore at 3d. a ton would bring about.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman). The honourable member has another five minutes to go.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I will be very brief. Mr. Willcock went on to point out that if this State had a large-scale iron ore industry established in the north it would lead to the development of other industries in that area. He regarded that as being desirable. He went on further to say that a great number of cattle could be exported on these iron ore boats because such ore was very heavy and probably only one-third of the shipping space would be occupied, which would make a great deal of deck space available for the export of cattle. The same argument applies today. If a fleet of ships is used to export the iron ore to Japan they will be available for the transport of cattle from the north-west and thus provide for our cattle industry an outlet which has not existed in the past.

Mr. Willcock, in 1938, continuing his remarks, pointed out that the export of iron ore was an important factor in ensuring that the north was populated. He also stressed that it would widen our economy. With the European Common Market developments today there is even more reason to widen Australia's economy at the present time than there was in 1938. Mr. Willcock then made a statement which I would expect from the present Minister for Industrial Development. It is a statement which, if made by the Minister for Industrial Development, would draw all sorts of criticism from members on the other side of the House. Mr. Willcock said—

If the Federal Government stopped the export of iron ore it would lead overseas investors to believe that the Government would not go out of its way to encourage trade.

He thought it highly desirable that we should lead overseas investors to believe that we were going out of our way to encourage trade.

I will not continue to quote from Mr. Willcock's speech; but I would like to reiterate that it ill becomes the Leader of the Opposition to go around the country making statements during elections to the effect that this Government has given away the iron ore deposits of this State for a paltry 1s. 6d. per ton, when a Labor Government, of which he was a member, tried to give away the same iron ore deposits to Japan at 3d a ton royalty.

MR. HEAL (Perth) [8.58 p.m.]: I, with other members of the House, take much pleasure in congratulating you, Sir, on your re-election as Speaker of this House. I also congratulate and welcome the newly-elected members. While speaking in this vein I would like to express a few words of praise to all the other Labor members who were fortunate enough to be re-elected to this Chamber. If any body of men deserved praise thrust

upon them it is those Labor members who fought so hard to win seats in this Assembly.

I say that, firstly, because the daily newspapers of today—as everyone knows; I do not have to repeat it—stand steadfastly behind the present Government. If the Press stood behind the Labor Party as strongly as it does behind the present Government, the Labor Party would be assured of enjoying office for many years to come. However, members of the Labor Party have not only to fight the Press—which, in effect, means millions of pounds worth of propaganda—but also has to fight the Liberal Party candidates, the Country Party candidates and, further, the candidates of the D.L.P. When one realises that Labor members have been successful in meeting and overcoming all this opposition they deserve every credit for retaining their seats in Parliament and keeping to the forefront the interests of Labor for the public of Western Australia.

The honourable member who just resumed his seat made some outstanding statements regarding the Leader of the Opposition. He followed his usual custom of making a speech and then, like a kangaroo, hopping out of the Chamber so that one does not see him for another hour or so. On this occasion I would like him to remove his ear plugs and listen to the statements that were made during the general election by the Premier—in view of the fact that the honourable member said the Leader of the Opposition in trying to woo electors had sunk to election depths by making statements that were deplorable, and that a court should be set up to deal with people who made such statements.

There is one important question in my electorate which has always disturbed me, and that is the question of unemployment. I have asked the Premier questions on this important subject, not only during this session, but also last session. My electorate is close to the city and represents mainly the industrial areas and the large number of New Australians who have just entered our State. I am convinced that the number of unemployed in the electorate of Perth is greater than that which exists in any other electorate in Western Australia.

I would point out to the Premier, and those who sit behind him, that it is causing me a great deal of embarrassment to have so many people approach me both in Parliament House and outside; people who ring me up on the telephone and write letters to me seeking my help to find them employment. As members know, it is well-nigh impossible for members of the Opposition to find any sort of work for them.

Mr. Court: What sort of work do you have in mind?



Mr. HEAL: Any kind of work.

Mr. Court: What trades, and what experience?

Mr. HEAL: These people are mainly in the 40-50 year group. A number of them have been dismissed from the Public Works Department. Because of this they have to go out of their trade to find other avenues of employment.

Mr. Wild: That is not right. They were not dismissed; they were transferred.

Mr. Tonkin: They were tramped.

Mr. Wild: They were not.

Mr. HEAL: Let me remind the House of the statement made by the Premier before the election and before he took office. The Premier has not denied this, and it has been mentioned here before. He said that if his Government were returned to office not one person in Government service would be dismissed. Will the Premier deny having said that?

Mr. Brand: I do not recall having said it.

Mr. HEAL: The Premier has not denied it. When his Government came into office, however, the Minister for Industrial Development and the Minister for Works started to dismiss men from the Public Works maintenance force.

Mr. Wild: They were not dismissed from the maintenance force.

Mr. HEAL: They were from the Public Works.

Mr. Wild: There is a vast difference between the Public Works Department Architectural Division and the Public Works maintenance force.

Mr. Brand: Didn't we say we would introduce a tender and contract system?

Mr. Tonkin: You said you would fire nobody.

Mr. HEAL: The Premier may have said that in his policy speech; but the Premier also said he would fire nobody, and he has not denied that. He still does not deny it. The Minister for Works has fired over 1,100 men under his jurisdiction.

Mr. Wild: We found jobs for them.

Mr. HEAL: The Minister might have found jobs for some of them, but a lot of them had to go to the Eastern States; a lot had to find work outside their trades; and quite a number of them joined the Police Force. In fact, we find that in the Police Force today there are qualified electricians and qualified carpenters.

Mr. Wild: What have you got on the wharf? Would you have any tradesmen on the wharf at all?

Mr. HEAL: Certainly there are tradesmen on the wharf, because there is work for them there.

Mr. Wild: Just check what you have down there.

Mr. Curran: What do you know about waterside workers?

Mr. Court: What type of work do these fellows want? Only today the Employers Federation were asking me for men, saying that they had hundreds of vacancies and that they could not get the men.

Mr. HEAL: I will bring these people who approach me to the Minister for Industrial Development, and together we will go down to the Employers Federation. Most of the workmen who approach me are labourers. A gentleman rang me up last night. He is working with a plumber in Sussex Street, Victoria Park; and he was told last Friday to look for other work. He is a sheet metal worker and is likely to be retrenched shortly. Is not a sheet metal worker a tradesman? Will the Minister for Industrial Development accept my challenge, when I say that I will bring around to his office any person who approaches me and we can then take him down to the Employers Federation?

Mr. Court: What about going and having a talk with Mr. Cross or Mr. Darling?

Mr. HEAL: I thank the Minister, and I will. The Minister for Industrial Development and his Government are trying to induce people to come here from England.

Mr. Court: We are desperately short of skilled tradesmen and of unskilled men. There is a shortage in the whole of Australia.

Mr. Tonkin: Why don't you direct the Employers Federation to the Social Services Department?

Mr. Court: They are desperately in need of men.

Mr. Tonkin: They have several thousands on their books.

Mr. Court: They cannot supply men.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order!

Mr. HEAL: I have an extract here from the *Daily News* of the 23rd March dealing with the Premier's visit to Kalgoorlie prior to the elections. The article is headed, "Brand Beards Fields' Lions." After hearing what the member for South Perth had to say about the setting up of a special court to deal with statements made during elections, there is no doubt that the Premier should be suitably punished, because if I have ever seen an attempt to hoodwink people before an election this is it. The article reads as follows:—

KALGOORLIE, Fri: Within two months WA would have more than enough jobs for everyone, Premier Brand told miners at North Kalgoorlie last night.

The Premier was "bearding the lions in their den."

He chose to open the Liberal Party's Goldfields campaign on the footpath near the Tower Hotel—drinking place for miners and railway men and traditional Labour rallying point.

There were some interjections.

Answering one burst, Brand said: "I'll tell you this . . . within two months there will be a scarcity of labour in WA, both skilled and unskilled."

I asked the Premier a question the other day in relation to that statement, and I do not think the Premier will deny that he made it. I am sure the member for South Perth will place that one in the same category as the pamphlet he held up a few minutes ago. I asked the Premier the following question without notice in reference to the unemployment position in Western Australia:—

Is it a fact that during the election campaign he stated that within two months we would have more than enough jobs for everyone, including both skilled and unskilled labour?

The Premier replied—

The honourable member gave me some notice of the question and informed me that I was reported in the Kalgoorlie Press as having said something similar to this. I did say that we had hoped this would be the position, but it did not develop to that extent although the situation did improve.

If my memory serves me correctly the Premier also said during the election campaign that in the next two years he would create more than 9,000 new jobs. I sincerely hope this is correct; because if it is not we will find in the next two years, with the natural rise in our population, together with the Commonwealth immigration programme, that the number of unemployed will continue to rise.

Mr. Brand: Have you some sense of satisfaction about this?

Mr. HEAL: I mentioned that it was becoming embarrassing to members of Parliament on this side of the House to have people approach them seeking their assistance in finding employment. I for one hope there is full employment in Western Australia; because it will make my job, and the job of the Government, a lot easier. I am only asking the Premier to stand up to the statements he made before the election. I hope that he will be able to create those 9,000 new jobs in the next two years, and before he goes out of office.

Mr. Brand: Hear, hear! They will be there.

Mr. Bickerton: They will be there, but will you be there?

Mr. J. Hegney: You are an optimist.

Mr. HEAL: It is most discouraging to parents of schoolchildren who have passed their Junior and Leaving examinations—and I hope the Premier will listen to this—

Mr. Brand: Why should I be the only one to listen?

Mr. HEAL: Because the honourable member is the Premier of the State and should be doing something about it. Schoolchildren who passed their Junior and Leaving examinations at the end of the last session found, when they came to seek employment in the usual manner, that there was nothing for them. Usually the Public Service Commissioner's Office employs quite a number of boys and girls who have passed the Junior or Leaving examinations. This year the number taken on by that office was a lot less than the number in previous years. Some children could not find suitable employment and had to return to school for another year. That might be a good thing for them, because they will be able to learn more.

Once children have passed their Junior or Leaving examinations, the cost to the parents for education has been considerable. It would be quite a relief to the parents of these schoolchildren if they could be found employment, and so be able to bring more money into their homes.

In the newspapers, it was announced by the Minister for Town Planning in recent weeks that it had been decided to build a new inner-ring road, or western switch road, in the next 10 to 15 years, in and around Perth. A great portion of that inner-ring road will go through the centre of my electorate. I am not going to criticise the decision and say whether it is right or wrong, because no doubt the Town Planning Department has had experts, not only from Western Australia but from all over Australia, to advise it. I believe that some experts were even brought to this State from America at the cost of £80 a day to make an investigation to ascertain the most suitable position and the best method of implementing this scheme. Since this plan has been announced—especially in the area between Newcastle and Aberdeen Streets which is highly industrialised and has quite a few hotels and a large number of houses—a lot of homes have been sold at quite a reasonable price. No doubt this is because an industrial site was to be completed there.

This inner-ring road is not to be installed for 10 or 15 years, or maybe 20 years. People are inclined to panic a little because they realise that no-one will be interested in their properties if they believe that in another 10 or 15 years a road is to go through the area. The Government will, no doubt, resume properties from time to time with a view to implementing this inner-ring road. The road

will also prevent any extension of industries that are there now, and there are quite a few large industries. Take, for instance, a set-up like the firm of S. W. Hart and Co., which I suppose is one of the biggest plumbing concerns in Western Australia. If it has to spend some £5,000 to £7,000 to expand its premises and then finds that in 10 years' time the property will be resumed, it is not an economic proposition. So whether the Government was wise in announcing this scheme so early or not I do not know.

I asked a question in the House whether the Metropolitan Regional Town Planning Authority would be prepared to negotiate with people desirous of selling their properties. The answer I received advised me to check up on a certain *Gazette* and on the amendments made. I made a check and found they showed that the only amendments made were to change the letter "B" to "C", "C" to "D", "D" to "E", and so on.

I rang the secretary of the planning authority, and he said the department had negotiated with some of those people, and if any other person was suffering from extreme hardship it would be prepared to negotiate for the purchase of the property. Let us cast our memories back to when Professor Stephenson first came to Western Australia and drew up a plan for the future of the metropolitan area. He advocated that this inner-ring road should go down Roe Street and Railway Parade. That was approximately eight years ago.

We find that since then this authority has recommended to the Government—and no doubt the Government has accepted it—that the road be shifted to Newcastle and Aberdeen Streets. I think that within the next 10 years—especially if the new railway line is completed from Kalgoorlie to Kwinana, and the existing Perth railway station slowly disappears, and the single railway track is sunk 10 or 12 feet underground—the city will expand northwards. That is the only way it can expand, because it has the river on the southern side.

I suggest that in the next 10 years we will find that this inner-ring road, if it is developed in the area of Aberdeen and Newcastle Streets, will tend to create a stoppage of expansion of the city. I also suggest that in another 10 years the authority might think it advisable to extend this inner-ring to Bulwer Street, which is some half mile further north.

My criticism is that the Government has announced its plan too early. It has thrown all the business people and the residents of that area into confusion, and has more or less stymied the development of that area for the next 10 years, or until such time as a definite decision is reached as to whether the properties are to be

resumed, or whether a fair and reasonable price is to be paid for them. The industries could then move to another site.

I sincerely hope the Minister concerned, whoever he may be, will bear this in mind; and, when the time comes for a final decision, also bear in mind that over the past eight years the department has decided to shift the switch road from Roe Street further north to Newcastle Street. Perhaps later on it will decide to shift it still further north. I do not know whether it will come into being but it will be a step in the right direction. It will be a matter of deciding which would be the right route.

Recently, an organisation has been set up in my area which is a night shelter for women. Instead of criticising the Premier, I would like to say a word of praise and thank him for the assistance the Treasury has given to this body in helping it create this establishment. I happen to be a member of the committee, as is the member for Mt. Lawley and many other prominent people in Perth. We believe that it is the first establishment of its kind in Australia. It is a shelter for destitute women, and any woman or young girl who has arrived penniless in the city from the country and has nowhere to go. Unfortunately, also, many domestic arguments crop up in households in the metropolitan area, as a result of which many women and children are virtually thrown out into the street.

The establishment to which I am referring has been operating very satisfactorily since its inception. In the first instance we thought it would be necessary to accommodate only women, but we found subsequently that many women and children require assistance in this direction.

As a result of an approach to the Premier, the Government was good enough to make an allocation of £1,000 to help in establishing this institution. It is valued at least £20,000, but unfortunately it is located in the area where the proposed inner-ring road is to be built. At this stage we do not know whether we will continue with our plans and expend money on the establishment. We are awaiting information from the Perth City Council or the Town Planning Authority as to whether we can proceed.

In the past a burden had been thrown on to the Police Department in having to provide accommodation for these unfortunate people; and in many cases they have had to spend a night in gaol before other accommodation could be found for them. This institution provides accommodation for needy cases for two or three days. The Daughters of Charity are in charge, and the two Sisters are doing a remarkable job. They either find employment for them or obtain social services.

In addition, they find decent homes in which they can live in order to make their lives much happier. Again I would like to thank the Premier for his generosity in relation to this matter.

I do not intend to take up much more time of the House; but I would like to point out that, as the Minister for Transport is well aware, the expansion of business properties in the city is towards the east and west. We find that many doctors have left St. George's Terrace and have established themselves in King's Park Road.

I would like to confine my remarks mainly to Hay Street, where the density of traffic is increasing month by month. Some time ago, by way of a question, I asked the former Minister for Transport whether he intended to install traffic lights at the intersection of Hay Street and Colin Street. At that time it was not considered necessary, and "Stop" signs were erected. I also asked him whether lights were to be installed at the intersection of Milligan Street and Hay Street. Eventually those lights were installed, and they are now operating satisfactorily.

In the area of Hay Street between Outram Street and Colin Street there is quite a big shopping centre, a local post office, and the Graham Flats, which house many pensioners. In and around that area there is a large number of pensioners, including widow pensioners and invalid pensioners, and they find it is difficult for them to cross Hay Street. After representations were made, a crosswalk was placed on the corner of Colin Street and Hay Street mainly because there is a school in that area. But the pensioners find that on some occasions motorists do not pay strict attention to the crosswalk. Therefore, they have asked me if I could suggest any way in which the traffic could be re-routed around Hay Street, or taken out of Hay Street.

We have Wellington Street and King's Park Road, but Hay Street is a main street, and the only alternative I can suggest is that the Minister make investigations to see whether a set of traffic lights can be installed at the corner of Colin Street and Hay Street. That would tend to stop the flow of traffic for a few minutes and allow these people to cross the road in safety. No doubt in the months to come the next set of lights to be installed in that area will be in Thomas Street near the Princess Margaret Hospital.

Mr. Craig: It is under way.

Mr. HEAL: That is a dangerous corner; and when those lights are installed they may have the tendency of slowing down the Perth traffic and allowing the people further down to cross the road. If the Minister would have a look at the position it would be appreciated by the people in my electorate.

That is about all I have to say. It does not make me happy to speak of unemployment, because it is worrying to myself and also to the Government. Whether the Budget introduced tonight in the Federal Parliament will ease the position in any way, I am unable to say. However, there is no doubt that when the Kalgoorlie-Kwinana railway line commences a lot of unskilled labour will be absorbed.

I realise it is extremely difficult for people between the ages of 35 and 50 to obtain work. However, they have to live just the same as anybody else; and they have their families to look after and children to educate. I am of the opinion it is important for a Government to create employment for those who are unemployed; and I sincerely hope that what the Premier stated will come true and that in the next two years he will be able to create 9,000 new jobs in Western Australia, and that there will be work for everybody.

MR. NORTON (Gascoyne) [9.25 p.m.]: When the Deputy Leader of the Opposition spoke on the Address-in-Reply he brought to the notice of the House an incident in respect of the building of motels. It was not very satisfying to hear the report he gave, and the way in which apparently big interests are going to override smaller interests.

In this respect there was a case in my own electorate in which something similar occurred. So that members will have its history fairly clearly, I will mention that the first I heard of motels or service stations being erected on the North West Coastal Highway between Northampton and Carnarvon was when I was in Perth during last session. I made inquiries as to what was happening, but I was unable to obtain any reply. It seemed that nobody knew anything about it.

I went north in January of this year, and after I left Northampton I came across a survey party on the North-West Coastal Highway and made some inquiries as to what they were doing. At that time they were surveying Meadow Station, approximately 150 miles south of Carnarvon, and I found they were trying to pick up a datum peg to survey a 100-acre townsite. I also found out that some 60 or 70 miles further north they had surveyed another 100-acre townsite. One of these townsites had been surveyed and one was in the course of survey without a word having been mentioned to the lessees of the land, although their homesteads practically adjoin the road.

I would also mention that half way between Carnarvon and Northampton is a little service station, with rest rooms and a restaurant. This business has been in operation for seven or eight years and the people concerned have invested their life savings in the undertaking. They

have built it up to its present stage of development and are doing a very good job. When I passed beyond the half-way house to the station I was informed by the owner that he had just received notification from the Lands Department that he had 60 days within which to make a claim for compensation, should he wish to do so, for the loss of his 100 acres of land.

The other person at Meadow Station was a bit luckier because he saw the surveyors and ascertained they were locating this particular motel site—it was then called a townsite—within a few hundred yards of his main watering place on the station. In that particular area water is very hard to obtain—even in catchments—and one of the main dams on this property is situated in the corner of four paddocks. Those members who are used to running sheep will know it is not very nice to have a townsite situated right alongside one's watering place. This pastoralist took the matter up with the surveyors and was lucky enough to have the townsite shifted 10 or 15 chains away. But even that is not very satisfactory, because sheep on a station are considerably more timid than those in the agricultural areas.

The other townsite which was surveyed was again on a watering point and right in the main droving line—and in the mustering paddocks area—of the second station. Members can realise that this pastoralist was not satisfied with what was taking place. I contacted Mr. Wise when I arrived in Carnarvon and told him the position and he in turn contacted the under-secretary to the Premier's Department but all to no avail.

I had not been in Carnarvon very long when I said to a businessman there, "I see they are surveying a couple of the townsites down the road to put up service stations or motels." He said, "Are they?" I said, "Don't you know anything about it?" He said, "That is all hush-hush. No-one is supposed to know anything about it." Yet the areas had been surveyed and one person had been told to put in his claim for compensation. However, no consideration had been given to the small person who had established himself there and pioneered a service station. It may be admitted that one of those in the service station was not always civil to everyone. Nevertheless they did go there and render a service; and some consideration should be given to them and pastoralists who leased the land. I think you will agree, Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. Crommelin) that is only fair.

If we have a look at the distances between these sites we will see how unfairly treated has been the service station proprietor already established there. The distance from Northampton to Carnarvon is 265 miles; the service station already established is 127 miles from Carnarvon; yet of these two sites which were selected,

one is situated approximately 30 miles to the north of the service station; and the other, 30 miles to the south of it. Would you not have thought, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that they would have divided the distance more evenly if two other service stations were necessary? But not so.

Let us now look at how the service station sites were selected. I heard the story afterwards. An officer of the Government Tourist Bureau and a representative of a big oil company travelled together to Carnarvon for the purpose of selecting the sites. Although this was done in September or October of last year, it was kept quiet until a survey was made. It was unlike the one on the east-west highway, in respect of which considerable time was allowed for applications to be made. Two applications were received for the site, which was granted to the oil company. The second site has not been thrown open yet.

I do not think it is fair to the owners of the land or to those people who are in little businesses; and it appears to me, when I link it up with the one on the east-west highway, that the vested interests are trying to cripple the small person trading in the outback.

At the opening of Parliament this year I asked the Minister for the North-West a certain question regarding Captain Williams's report in respect of the State Shipping Service, and in his reply he stated that he was not just sure what had taken place or where Captain Williams had gone. I am afraid I cannot understand this; because, he being the Minister, would certainly give Captain Williams a briefing on where he was to go and what he was to do. I asked him a further question on notice as to what ports Captain Williams had called at to make his personal investigations, and I was informed that he had called at all the ports in the Kimberleys, one in the Pilbara electorate, and none in the Gascoyne electorate. Why this was so I do not know.

In answer to a further question the Minister stated that Captain Williams had obtained his information in Perth, or something to that effect. One would have thought that when any person went to an area to make an investigation, that person would want to go to every port to obtain all the information possible. If he had visited Carnarvon he would have found that there were a number of people ready, willing, and anxious to give him evidence of the necessity for retaining a shipping service for Carnarvon.

It may be thought generally that with the good roads and the good road transport provided nowadays shipping would not be favoured. However, with the difference in freight charges, particularly on refrigerated cargo, there are many people who wish to make use of the service. It

is far cheaper to transport refrigerated freight by ship, than by road to Carnarvon.

Mr. COURT: But they don't use it.

Mr. NORTON: Because it cannot be relied upon.

Mr. COURT: They have been getting further and further away from ships for years.

Mr. NORTON: If the Minister will only listen to me he will understand why; but apparently he does not want to understand why. The reason is that a ship will be scheduled to leave Fremantle on a certain date, but at the last minute Carnarvon is omitted from its schedule and the freight is left behind. Consequently it has to be sent by road.

Captain Williams could also probably have found out a lot more about exports which were likely to be sent from Carnarvon. He would have heard quite a bit—more than he has already heard—about the development in the area, and quite a number of other things which are likely to take place. As a matter of fact there are several pastoralists who desire to export wool direct from Carnarvon to London by ship. At the moment everything has to be sent to Fremantle before it can be exported. There is no reason why these ships should not, as in the past, go to Singapore to take our wool and sheep there. They did it in the past.

It is interesting to note that when I was in Carnarvon last, some officers of the Transport Board passed through there. Just what they came for I still do not know, although I had asked the reason of the Minister for Transport. Apparently they were travelling through Carnarvon on their way to Onslow, Port Hedland, and Marble Bar, making inquiries regarding transport. However, when they were in Carnarvon, the only person they saw was the wharfinger. If they had gone to some of the merchants in town and some of the private people, or even asked the council to make arrangements for them to meet various bodies, they would probably have obtained quite a lot of information which would have been helpful to them in their inquiries into transport in the north-west. Why, when inquiries are being made, the people of the districts concerned are not given an opportunity to submit their case, is beyond me.

As everyone knows now, what I have been advocating in the past has come to pass. I am talking, of course, of the very good industry which is being developed from fishing. Over the past two years the Australian Pearling Co. came to Carnarvon and started developing a prawn and scallop fishing industry. Unfortunately, however, it went out, and this fishing industry has now been taken over by the North-West Whaling Company, which is doing exceptionally well.

It is interesting to note how much fish is caught in the Shark Bay area—which is really the Carnarvon area—compared with other areas in the State. I obtained some figures from the Minister, in order to get an accurate picture, and because I thought they would interest the member for Murray. In recent years—from 1958-1959 to 1960-1961—the fishing industry in the Shark Bay area has doubled; it has increased from 1,687,300 lb. to 3,051,700 lb. It is anticipated that the figure will again increase this year.

The figure for 1960-1961 was lower than that for the preceding year when the figure was 3,290,500 lb. The Shark Bay figures are exceeded only by the Fremantle and Geraldton returns. The latter are cray-producing areas, and crayfishing is included in their figures. The total for Geraldton was 8,075,000 lb. The figure for Fremantle was 10,798,800 lb. Mandurah drops back quite a long way. Its figure for 1960-1961 was 1,170,700 lb. The figure for Busselton was under 1,000,000 lb. From those figures it will be seen that the fishing industry is developing rapidly. Shark Bay is developing its fishing industry very quickly using modern methods. The fish is not processed on the fishing boats. The trawlers do not rely on mother ships to process their fish. The method adopted employs shore labour and is of advantage to the district.

The prawn fishing industry at Carnarvon is also shore-based. Here again the trawlers do not rely on mother ships to process the prawns. Approximately 20 people are employed in the fish filleting factory at Shark Bay, and 61 persons are employed in the prawning industry at Carnarvon. The industry at Carnarvon embraces the catching of prawns, crabs, flounder, and flathead. Everything caught by the trawlers is processed at the factory. Mother ships usually process one particular commodity and regard the rest of the fish as offal, which is thrown overboard.

There is always greater population when industry is land-based; and population is needed in the north. As the industry developed at Carnarvon the news spread very quickly to Queensland. This was no surprise, because the captains of the three trawlers in the area are from Queensland. No doubt they told their friends and relatives about their good catches. It was therefore not surprising that one of the newspapers foresaw the likelihood of trawlers invading the Shark Bay area—I think the paper mentioned 60 trawlers.

It was interesting to note the change of attitude of the Minister for Fisheries since last year. He very quickly stated that he did not want to see Eastern States trawlers coming here and fishing out our grounds until the grounds had been proved; and that Eastern States trawlers would not be wanted here even then. The Minister for Fisheries last year did all he could to assist

the Liberty Fishing Company of America to establish itself here. The Minister has done quite a somersault. I congratulate him on ensuring that Western Australia will reap the profit from this harvest. Had an overseas fleet been established here we would have gained very little. The fish would have been sent to Fremantle, placed on the ships, and sent to America; and only a few seamen would have been employed. Carnarvon can now look forward to a large shore-based industry, which will do much to develop the town.

The prawning industry will prove to be a big dollar-earner, and samples are being sent this year to America and France to gauge the markets in those countries. I believe prawns will be as big a dollar-earner as our crayfishing industry and will provide much employment.

It is interesting to note that a tuna fishing boat has been built in Perth. This boat will be fishing in Shark Bay waters and waters further north, and will test tuna fishing possibilities in those areas. I have been advocating this for years. It is a pity that part of the money raised from the sale of the Carnarvon whaling station could not have been spent on a tuna survey in northern waters. Much money has been spent to no avail on a survey from Jurien Bay south. The Japanese have been fishing off Carnarvon, and reports indicate they have been receiving good hauls. I now look forward to a tuna industry being coupled with the prawning and crayfishing industries.

It is very necessary that we should take great care of our fishing grounds. An article appeared in the Press last year indicating that the snapper catch had dropped off in Shark Bay. The article pointed out that trawlers from Fremantle caught approximately 10,000 lb. more fish for the season, but that it took 10 extra trawlers to catch that extra quantity. On the 12th July this year an article appeared in *The West Australian* under the heading "Snapper Catches Drop 50 per cent."

The decline is due to the fact that the fish traps, anchor chains, and anchors of these trawlers are smashing the coral and thus driving the snapper away. The boats are unable to find the coral patches and the snapper are moving to different areas. It is the smashing up of the coral patches that will denude the Shark Bay waters, and the inlets in and around Shark Bay of snapper; and there are many fishermen in this thriving little industry, who are depending on snapper fishing for their livelihood. It is a pity that the boats are permitted to trap indiscriminately and break up these fishing grounds without any brake being put upon them.

During the second year when traps were used a survey was made, but I understand that no further surveys have been undertaken. It is a pity that the Commonwealth Government refused to allow the tuna

clipper when it was here, in conjunction with the aircraft, to go further north and investigate the tuna grounds; because I think the potentialities are there, and no time would have been lost on the survey, because at that time of the year the sea was calm, the weather was right, and a great deal of work could have been done.

It was interesting to note from a recent newspaper article that the Premier was negotiating with the Premier of South Australia to see whether it would be possible to get some experts in tuna in South Australia to come over here and give us some advice in respect of the catching of tuna, which has been carried out so successfully in South Australian waters.

I should now like to comment briefly on the water restrictions at Carnarvon, and the urgent need for extra supplies to be made available for plantations. The planters at Carnarvon are quite prepared to accept the restrictions and do the best they can while the restrictions are in operation; but it is most frustrating when a planter is unable to develop his property according to the water which is allocated. To give members some idea of how things have been going since water restrictions have been introduced, I would point out that a good economical family unit was assessed at four acres—in other words, that four acres of bananas, or bananas and vegetables combined would provide a good living for one person; but if there were a partner in the business the allocation was an extra 50 per cent., making a total of six acres.

That seemed quite reasonable, especially when the planters could pump as much water as they required from the river or from their own bores; but then it was decided to install meters on all pumps and to allocate the water on a gallonage basis, which I understand was set by the Department of Agriculture, and the position became harder.

At the outset I would point out that not all land requires the same quantity of water to bring it into maximum production. Some land takes more and some takes less; and so, if a planter is working on an acreage basis, he pumps the water according to the land requirements, but when a meter is installed, and he is given an allocation, he can pump only to that allocation. The first allocation was 1,440,000 gallons per single unit, and that was up to the 1st October, 1961. From the 1st October until the 30th April, 1962, the allocation was 1,080,000 gallons for the same area. At the beginning of March this was reduced to 720,000 gallons. So members can see that in a matter of 12 months the allocation had been cut in half, and a person who had planted up to the limit of the 1,440,000 gallons was really battling when he was forced to use only half of that quantity of water.

I understand the drought allocation is 360,000 gallons, but we have yet to find out the definition of "drought."

Early this session I asked the Premier the following question on notice:—

- (1) Was he correctly reported in *The West Australian* of the 16th June, as stating that the approximate cost of a dam across the Gascoyne River at the Kennedy Range was £750,000?

It is very interesting to find out how and why the Premier made that statement. The reason was that on the 8th June this year the Carnarvon Council asked for a Royal Commission to be appointed to inquire into the banana and vegetable growing industry in Carnarvon to see whether some stability could not be granted to the growers. It was then that the Premier made the statement that he would not agree to the appointment of a Royal Commission. He said that he and the Minister for Industrial Development had just been to Canberra; and his statement left the impression that while there they had put up a case for Carnarvon having a dam built in the Kennedy Range at a cost of £750,000.

As members can realise, as soon as the planters saw that statement they thought that at last something was being done for them in the way of water conservation. However, when we read through the Premier's replies to the questions I asked we find that he said he was correctly reported but there was some misunderstanding on his part regarding the cost of the dam and the cost of certain other aspects of the scheme. He went on to state that no estimate had been made of the cost of the dam. Yet people in the district were left with the impression that the dam was to be built, and no contradiction of the Premier's statement has been made up to date. Further on in the question I asked—

- (3) Has the Public Works Department carried out any work such as surveys and testing of water and materials since the Scott & Furphy report was received?

to which the Premier replied, "Yes." I then asked—

- (4) If the answer is "Yes" will he give full details of the work carried out?

and the Premier replied—

- (4) The following surveys and investigations have continued since the Scott and Furphy report was received and are proceeding at the present time:—
- (a) Boring on a close grid in the river sands upstream of the Gascoyne River bridge to locate subterranean water supplies.

As far as I know, that was completed well over 18 months ago. The reply continues—

- (b) A reconnaissance survey of three possible dam sites on the Gascoyne and Lyons Rivers was completed during 1961.
- (c) More detailed surveys of the Kennedy Range dam site have been undertaken and will be followed by similar investigations of the Chalby Chalby site during August, 1962.
- (d) A preliminary river gauging station has been established at the Gascoyne River bridge.
- (e) Salinity testing of the main river and tributaries has been carried out as conditions have been suitable.

If one examines the Scott and Furphy report it will be found that it deals with practically only one dam site—namely, the Kennedy Range site—and it reports on that site at some length. Let us have a look at these various dam sites.

The Kennedy Range dam site is only 90 miles from Carnarvon. It has a holding area of 70 square miles, or 44,800 acres. It requires a bank 860 ft. long and 50 ft. high, whereas the Chalby Chalby dam site, which is the one which should be investigated now, is approximately the same height, but is 100 ft. narrower in width and is 190 miles from Carnarvon. According to the report there is not a great deal of difference so far as the water storage capacity is concerned. Materials are available at both sites for the building of the dam, but the main advantage of the Kennedy Range dam site is that it is only 90 miles from Carnarvon and is on two rivers; the Chalby Chalby site being 190 miles distant and on one river.

The report also states that it can be reticulated either in conduit or in cement drains from the Kennedy Range dam site. The Lyons River site is considerably smaller, and also it is not a very suitable one because if a dam were put across the river it would simply divert the water around the hill and it would not be long before the water was dispersed on to the flats. Therefore, at that site, an extra dam would be required north of the hill in order to conserve the water within the river boundaries.

There is no doubt that the people of Carnarvon are entitled to some immediate assistance in the way of water conservation. A case should be presented straight-away to the Prime Minister and his Treasurer for financial assistance for this project. If the committee had been formed as directed by both Houses of Parliament, a case for this project could have been presented to the Commonwealth Government some time ago and probably some satisfaction would have been obtained by now. Apparently, however, the



motion passed by both Houses of Parliament has been ignored by the Premier and the Minister for Industrial Development, who consider that they can do a far better job themselves. However, in my opinion an all-party committee could have put up a proper case to the Commonwealth Government and shown that the project needed, by the time it was completed, financial assistance amounting to £2,500,000 or £3,000,000 instead of 750,000.

The planters of Carnarvon are disgusted at the lack of progress by this Government, and rightly so, because it is time something was done for them. They have developed an excellent industry completely from their own resources, and they are performing a worth-while job with the export of their produce as far afield as South Australia. However, if more water were available to them there would be nothing to stop them exporting their produce to Singapore and other Asiatic countries in the same way as Geraldton is exporting produce from that district. Carnarvon produces a better commodity than Geraldton and it could quite easily compete with that town on the Asiatic market.

I was extremely interested to read in *The West Australian* a month or two ago an article on the rehabilitation of the Ord River, but I was astounded to notice the small amount which the pastoralists in that area were being asked to contribute to effect the rehabilitation of the land which they have destroyed. I am wondering what steps are being taken on the catchment areas of the Gascoyne River to rehabilitate the land which has been badly eroded over many years, in the same way as the land has been badly eroded in the Kimberleys.

It will be interesting to see whether the pastoralists in that area are granted the same assistance, both financial and practical, as were Vesteys in the Kimberleys. They are doing quite a bit themselves in trying to rejuvenate the eroded land, but at the present time there is not an agricultural adviser available at the Carnarvon Research Station who can advise and assist the pastoralists. The only officer available is a technician, and he should not be going out into the field to give advice. Unfortunately, however, he is the only officer available for such work. Although he is only a technician a number of pastoralists have requested that he render them assistance with their contour and erosion ploughing in order that he may put them on the right track.

As I said before, it will be interesting to see what steps are taken in these catchment areas to conserve the soil, to bring back the vegetation, and to ensure that the salt does not creep up to increase the salinity and thus spoil the catchment areas altogether.

As I mentioned during the debate on the Supply Bill, I am extremely disappointed at the housing programme for Carnarvon last year. I do not know how the Minister arrived at the figures which he supplied to me in answer to a question on housing at Carnarvon. He said there was a vacancy rate of 14 houses per annum. I would agree that that is probably correct. It shows that the turnover of those houses already occupied is very slight over a period of 12 months; that is, considering the number of houses occupied.

However, the Minister also said that there were only 12 applications. I have not been fortunate enough yet to peruse the list which contains the names of only 12 applicants. In fact, every list I have received has contained over 30 applications. How the Minister arrived at this figure of 12 has me completely puzzled. I found it most extraordinary to be told by the Housing Commission that the reason for not building another four houses was that no land was ready to accommodate them, despite the fact that the commission had paid for the levelling and claying of four extra blocks, and had paid for the claying of the road. It also said that it knew nothing about them. The commission even sent an inspector to Carnarvon to ascertain whether what I had said was correct.

One can hardly understand that. When one pays for something, one usually knows something about it. But apparently there was a case where somebody had paid for something and did not know he had it. When one considers the growth of industry in Carnarvon, and the number of people likely to be employed there, there is no doubt that more houses are necessary. Houses must be made available in Carnarvon if we are to induce people to go there and stay there. We cannot expect people going there to work, to live in tents and to make shift under a wattle bush.

Carnarvon is not like Perth, where one can look around the suburbs and perhaps rent a private house. In Carnarvon there are very few houses which are rented privately; most of the houses there are privately owned, and privately occupied. I would ask the Minister to see that we get a fair share of our 12 houses allocated for this coming year; not one-third of them, as we did last year. I also hope that the promises made well over two years ago to the coloured people in Carnarvon about providing houses for them will be honoured before long.

**MR. GAYFER (Avon) [10.11 p.m.]:** I would first like to congratulate you, Sir, on being elected to the position you occupy. From all accounts you did an extremely good job in the past, and I feel sure you will continue the good work in the future.

As members know, I represent the electors of Avon, which is virtually a new seat. It comprises most of the old Avon Valley electorate and some of the Roe electorate.

I feel honoured indeed that the electors of Avon should have returned me at the last election to fill the position vacated by my predecessor, Mr. J. I. Mann. I have known Mr. Mann practically all my life, and I only hope that when my time comes to leave this House, I will be accorded the same respect that was given to Mr. Mann when he left; and I also hope that, as he did, I will earn the respect not merely of the electors of Avon but also of the entire State.

I would also like to pay my respect to the work done by the late Mr. Perkins, who served the electorate of Roe with ability similar to that with which Mr. Mann served the electorate of Avon. This seat of Avon comprises the whole of the shires of Brookton, York, Beverley, Quairading, and Corrigin, together with part of the shire of Wickepin, namely, the town of Yealering.

We have our troubles, like the districts of most other members who have already spoken. Our main trouble seems to be a lack of decentralisation. Decentralisation is something which we have heard banded about for many years, but we have never seen any practical results come from investigations that have been made into this question. I have heard it said that perhaps the best solution to the problem of decentralisation is to spend the money where it is earned. I would like to see this done in many parts of the agricultural areas. But the most immediate steps that should be made towards decentralisation are in regard to those matters mentioned by previous speakers over the last few nights.

I think our main concern would be water. We have all heard a lot of talk about water; and, as a matter of fact, I seem to have been implicated in this aspect a little myself. Water is the lifeblood of the country. I have also heard of the high cost of water in various parts of the State. I would like to mention one country town which recently had water laid on. The people there were paying £3 10s. a thousand gallons for drinking water. That applied to the members of the teaching staff, police officers and the other employees who lived in the town. The town in question had one well. Fortunately a pipeline has been laid to the town in the past 12 or 18 months. I dare say the same position obtains in other towns. For instance, at Greenhills water is at times being carted from York.

The next point on which I wish to touch is electricity. Things are reaching the point where electricity is as essential as water to the towns and industries. We know that the progress of electricity is

governed by its expansion in the city areas. I only hope that the State Electricity Commission will, in its wisdom, soon be able to construct a line from Narrogin through to Merredin, with spurs to provide light for those towns on the east side of the Great Southern line, at a cost which will induce people to move into the wheatbelt towns, and share the amenities enjoyed by the city people in relation to electricity.

It is also noticeable on the 66,000-volt lines which are perhaps envisaged to run throughout the State, that eventually there will have to be some sort of breakdown in the way of a transformer to enable current to be used by the farms on the way through. I do not know whether they have actually invented the arrangement they need, but I know it is an essential part of the service to break down the voltage sufficiently in order to enable it to be run into farms as it goes past.

Education is another very important matter. We all know that schools have improved, and are improving, a great deal; but in old areas like the one I represent not enough attention is being paid to education. This is particularly so in the country, where there is still room for a big improvement. I do not see why, because we live in the country, we should not enjoy the same educational benefits and chances for our children as those enjoyed by the people in the metropolis and some of the bigger towns.

I admit it would perhaps be impossible to build anything like a Scarborough High School in a place like Corrigin, for example; but I think that something on a smaller scale is certainly very necessary for our children. It is necessary to educate children up to a standard which will enable them to take over and handle a fairly large business in the country. It means that when a pupil is finally educated and wishes to live in the country he must be used to handling anything up to £20,000 worth of machinery at any one time on his own; or be used to looking after the equivalent of up to £20,000 worth of stock. As a matter of fact, there is a great deal of money invested in farming in these days. It is big business; and unless there is a suitable standard of education which will enable the youth of today to enjoy the life they wish, I am afraid our farming interests will suffer.

Perhaps the most important factor which would encourage people to live in the country would be availability of housing. But there are not enough houses available; and that is all there is to it. I could quote a little town I know of; namely, the town of Bullaring. The storekeeper there owns all the houses in the town—some £10,000 worth—and before

he can employ any more staff he must have a house ready for them. He cannot get any houses from the State Housing Commission until he obtains the name of the employee; and he cannot get that until he has a house. It would seem therefore that things are at a deadlock; and that is typical of all the shires in my electorate.

The Kulin shire council in Roe wants more men, but it cannot obtain them unless it can provide the houses; likewise it cannot obtain the houses until it is able to get the men to put in applications for houses. This applies to all country areas and towns. The employers are willing to guarantee the rentals and that jobs are available, but the men cannot be asked to live in tents for a period of, say, five months or more before housing accommodation is found for them. In my electorate housing is an important factor.

The hospitals in my district have in the main been improved, but there is still room for further extension and improvement. Some of them were built around 1915 and in the 1920's. They serve quite a big area and have to treat accident and other cases which were not contemplated at the time they were built. It is a fact that the furthest point in the Avon electorate from the city is only 150 miles, but in some cases that distance is too great to transport patients when their lives are in danger. I would ask the Minister for Health to again look at the hospital situation at Corrigin if he could possibly find the time. I understand that this matter is being attended to, but I ask the Minister to look into it and to give the people in that part of my electorate an assurance in the matter.

The provision of adequate transport is another question on which there has been a certain amount of discussion. The railway line between Brookton and Corrigin has been closed, and that move might have been for the best. In its place a bitumen sealed road between Corrigin and Brookton was laid, and for this we thank the Government very much. Another railway line ran parallel and north of the closed Brookton-Corrigin line, and it has since been lifted and the materials sold. Access to the sidings on the closed line is made via feeder roads from this new bitumen road. As each year passes those feeder roads crumble more and more under the big loads as heavy transport carts the wheat from the sidings to the bitumen roads.

I have brought this matter up in certain directions and have been told that the wheat is transported into the bins and out of the bins along the same roads. People making such statements should realise that a bin is usually located in the centre of a district, and the wheat is carted to that bin from all directions; but it goes out along one road. That seems

to be the point which has been missed in some of the correspondence I have received.

As we have a bitumen road connecting Corrigin and Brookton, the obvious outlet for the farmers is either Corrigin or Brookton. The little stores which are established along that line are closing down, because there is no reason for them to remain open especially if the storekeepers have to bring the goods themselves from the city. In turn, the telephone exchanges are going, so that the whole idea of decentralisation in that area will fall down. The farmers are told that if they want to get their mail and stores they can now go to Brookton or Corrigin; but the fact is that the nearest point in the centre is Quairading, and that route is at right angles to the railway line, and unsealed.

A further inquiry should be made in that area to ascertain whether an adequate road system has been established to compensate for the lifting of the railway line. That is an important aspect, and I feel I am justified in bringing it forward. For a nine-months' period ending at the close of last month the railway freights on wheat, oats, and barley amounted to £2,875,000. This sum was paid by the wheat farmers and the grain producers of this State to the railways in a nine-months' period. To that figure can be added the freight on 80,000 tons of wool which was consigned to the wool stores. In addition, the freight on superphosphate on the return journey has to be added.

We in this district still use the railway services, but we have to use other means of transport also. We do not use our trucks for bringing produce to and from the city. We have to cart our goods from various railheads, and we have to rely on a good road system. If the farmers and the people of the district have to pay the railways such high freights we ought to get back more in return, for the purpose of sealing the roads. There is not a large mileage of feeder road to be attended to; there might be between 20 to 25 miles to be sealed, to link up with the bitumen road provided.

I refer to another matter which I know to be a "hot potato." It concerns the subsidy on dams built in country centres for the purpose of irrigating playing fields. Some people have brought up the point that in many country towns there is no comprehensive water available, and want to obtain a subsidy for the establishment of such dams. Shire councils in country areas which are willing to go out of their way to build dams to irrigate playing fields—as three councils in the Avon area are doing or trying to do—should be assisted. They want a subsidy on the same basis as the subsidy is paid on the building of swimming pools in country centres. They want a subsidy on the building of

dams so that the people in country areas can enjoy the sporting facilities which are available in the city. The people living in the city are used to such amenities; they do not have to play sport on gravel pits as is done in the country in some cases. If a shire council is willing to move in this direction and build a dam on a self-help basis every assistance should be given to it, including a subsidy.

If a bomb should drop on the City of Perth, as was referred to by Mr. Hall, and the civil defence organisation went into action, the survivors of the catastrophe would be taken to the country. If the water pipeline were destroyed, what would we do with the survivors who were sent to the country? We would not have any water for them. If the dams to which I have referred were constructed—although they were primarily built to water sports fields—then in a national emergency they could be used to serve the people.

In all these matters which I have raised the main feature is that country centres should be provided with the amenities which are enjoyed by the people living in the cities. That is not asking for too much. We would be able to induce more people to work in the country if the proper amenities could be provided. The pay in the bush is pretty good, and the housing accommodation on the farms is not bad. But country centres lack the amenities which are provided in the cities.

If this State is to progress, as I expect it to progress, and if we are to play a big part in the development of this State, as we are entitled to, then we must have more men in the country, we must have better towns, and we must provide better housing accommodation. The best way to attract people to country centres is by providing amenities in those centres—amenities which are talked about but which, in some cases only, are seen. As far as I am concerned they cannot be provided quickly enough.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to make my contribution. I was a little diffident about doing so after having heard all the eloquence in this Chamber tonight. I was told by members this first speech is the worst part of a man's parliamentary career; but after sitting here and listening to the debates I find that I am thoroughly enjoying them. In conclusion, I specially want to thank those speakers who offered their congratulations to me and to my new colleagues.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Fletcher.

## SUPPLY BILL, £25,000,000

### *Returned*

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

*House adjourned at 10.31 p.m.*

# Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 8th August, 1962

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

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### LARGACTIL: REMOVAL FROM FREE LIST

#### *Effect on Psychiatric Patients*

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

As the reply to my question of the 2nd August, 1962, does not make the position clear, will the Minister advise whether, as a result of the decision of the Federal Government in relation to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, Government psychiatric out-patient services are now obliged to give private prescriptions of largactil which may cost the out-patient up to £1 per week for treatment?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

No. Psychiatric out-patients of our mental health services receive their largactil as a pharmaceutical benefit, which costs them no more than 5s. per prescription like other prescriptions under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.