

- (2) If the development is to take place in stages, what will be the first and subsequent stages?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) and (2) No land has yet been excised from the Shires of Wanneroo and Gingin. This will require legislation and I am therefore not in a position to make any statement at present on development plans.

11. EDUCATION

Sporting Facilities: Use by Public

The Hon. F. R. White for the Hon. J. M. THOMSON, to the Leader of the House:

With reference to the Albany High School playing fields—

- (1) Can the Minister advise when these areas will be available for full-time use for—
 (a) physical education activities;
 (b) sporting activities?
- (2) Is it the Government's desire that all such playing grounds financed from Treasury funds and established at senior high schools should be available to youth sporting associations over weekend periods?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) It is anticipated that the grounds will be available for full use at the beginning of next summer.
- (2) It is the Government's desire that school facilities should be made available to community groups through negotiation between the group concerned, the Education Department and the school authorities. Applications from youth sporting authorities would be considered on their merits within this policy.

12. BENBULLEN GRAZIER'S AND PRODUCERS PTY. LTD.

Investigation

The Hon. V. J. PERRY, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Has an investigation been carried out by officers of the Companies' Registration Office into a company known as Benbullen Graziers and Producers Pty. Ltd.?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "Yes"—
 (a) when was the report completed;
 (b) to whom was the report made;
 (c) was the report referred to the Crown Law Department;

- (d) if so, what is the present situation in the handling of the matter; and
 (e) when will the report be available to the public?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) Preliminary inquiries were carried out by officers of the Companies Registration Office.
 The company was declared under section 172 of the Companies Act and an inspector appointed to investigate the affairs of the company on 1st July, 1970.
- (2) (a) 8th October, 1971.
 (b) The Honourable the Attorney-General.
 (c) Yes.
 (d) Still under consideration by Crown Law officers who have been requested to expedite the matter.
 (e) Consideration will be given to this matter when Crown Law advice has been received.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. J. DOLAN (South-East Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [11.53 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 10th April.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is the best speech you have made tonight.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 11.54 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 4th April, 1973

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

QUESTIONS (64): ON NOTICE

1. SCHOOLS

Glen Forrest and Darlington

Mr. MOILER, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Are there any proposals to build a new school, half-cluster or otherwise, at Glen Forrest?
- (2) Is it proposed to make improvements and additions to the Darlington primary school, and if so, would he provide particulars?
- (3) What, in his department's view, is the optimum enrolment figure for primary schools?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) One classroom, toilets and administration conversion are proposed for 1973/74. These additions will not be of the cluster type.
- (2) It is proposed to complete the two undercroft rooms and provide additional girls' toilets during the current financial year.
- (3) Optimum enrolment is influenced by many factors such as number of students available, age groupings, location and distance to be travelled. There is thus no absolute figure which applies in all areas. In more densely populated centres it is approximately 600 but in outer areas it will be considerably less.

2.

HOSPITALS

Central Laundry: Finance

Dr. DADOUR, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What is the interest rate on moneys borrowed by each hospital contributing to the State laundry?
- (2) What interest rate is the Government paying to each hospital contributing to the State laundry?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) 6.4% per annum for all loans.
- (2) The hospitals are on-lending the money to the Minister in the terms of section 21 (g) of the Hospitals Act. The Government is paying the interest charged by the banks, i.e. 6.4%. The hospitals make no profit from the transaction.

3.

EXPORTS

Incentives

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Has his Government made any representations to the Commonwealth Government to ensure that there is no diminution in the export incentives?
- (2) Does the Government support the present scale of export incentives given by the Commonwealth, or have any modifications of the present incentives been suggested by the State Government to the Commonwealth?
- (3) Although the Commonwealth Government has announced the extension of the present export incentives until 30th June, 1974, does the State Government propose to ask the Commonwealth to expedite a decision about the final form of future export incentives, as the present uncertainty is too great to be a

real incentive for further export development because of the necessity for existing and potential exporters to take a long term view and know a lot further ahead than 30th June, 1974 what incentives will be available to them?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The question of export incentives is clearly a matter of policy for the Commonwealth to determine, and it is rather presumptuous to tell others how they should spend their money.
- (3) No. This is a matter for the Commonwealth Government to decide.

4.

DRUNKEN DRIVING

Blood Alcohol Content

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) Has the Government any plans for introducing legislation in the near future to reduce the blood alcohol content level from .08% to .05%?
- (2) Is the Government of the opinion that a reduction of the blood alcohol content level from .08% to .05% would make a contribution towards the reduction of accidents?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Although it is realised that alcohol plays an important role in accident causation, there is insufficient evidence at the present time to indicate that a reduction of the blood alcohol concentration level, from .08% to .05%, would make a worthwhile contribution towards the reduction of road accidents.

5.

PRISONS

Wooroloo Training Centre: Acquisition of Farm

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Treasurer:

- (1) What has been the expenditure to date—
 - (a) to purchase the farm close to Wooroloo training centre;
 - (b) to stock the farm;
 - (c) to maintain the farm?
- (2) Which metropolitan institutions are to be supplied from the farm?
- (3) What produce is expected to be supplied?
- (4) What is the value of the produce already supplied?
- (5) Will he please explain why this expense was incurred after the Government made the decision to move into commercial meat production having regard for the

capacity of the Government properties at the Karnet reception centre, Byford centre and Whitby Falls centre?

- (6) What is the acreage of Wooroloo training centre?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) (a) \$71,460.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) Nil. Department of Corrections took over the farm on 22nd February, 1973.
- (2) When the farm has been re-commissioned, it is hoped that, in the future meat will be supplied to Fremantle prison, Barton's Mill prison, Bandyup training centre, and Wooroloo training centre.
- (3) Beef cattle and stock feed.
- (4) Nil.
- (5) (i) The need to provide meaningful employment for in excess of 100 inmates at Wooroloo training centre.
- (ii) Karnet rehabilitation centre, using its own land, and approximately 10 acres at Byford (which is all that is available) could only accommodate a maximum of 50 head of beef breeders.
- (iii) There are at present approximately 80 head of cattle at Wooroloo, 41 head have been at the property (not on the farm) for approximately 12 months ex Karnet. The balance were recently transferred from Pardelup correction centre to endeavour to overcome the feed shortage at that centre.
- (6) About 2,426 acres (uncleared—not including farm).

6. LAND TAX

Exemptions: Valuation Ceiling

Mr. HUTCHINSON, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Is it a fact that a person who lives in his own home which is valued at a figure normally giving land tax exemption, and who also owns a small business property, has to pay tax on both?
- (2) If so, will he have the Act amended so that at least subject to the relevant valuation ceiling a person's home is exempted from tax?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes, but only if the combined unimproved values exceed \$10,000.
- (2) Currently the Act is being reviewed and this aspect, together with others, is under consideration.

7. BURSWOOD BRIDGE AND CAUSEWAY FLYOVER

Tenders

Mr. HUTCHINSON, to the Minister for Works:

Will he advise the approximate time when it is planned to call tenders for the construction of the proposed—

- (a) Burwood Island bridge;
- (b) flyover at eastern end of the Causeway?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (a) The financing and planning of this structure is not sufficiently advanced to indicate when it would be possible to call tenders for its construction.
- (b) The construction of the interchange at the eastern end of the Causeway is being carried out by day labour with some sub-contracts. A tender for the steel fabrication and erection has been let to Fullin Engineering, and tenders for pile driving were called on 3rd March but no award has yet been made. The remaining work will be carried out by a Main Roads Department day labour organisation.

8. KWINANA FREEWAY

Southward Extension: Route

Mr. HUTCHINSON, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Following the detailed examination undertaken of alternative routes for the extension of Kwinana Freeway southwards to Leach Highway, is he yet able to advise the route finally selected?
- (2) If so, is he in a position to advise when the programme of work is likely to commence?
- (3) If not, can he advise when any of the associated interchange is likely to commence?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) to (3) No.

9. EDUCATION

Deaf Children

Mr. HUTCHINSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has a new plan or policy yet been formulated to cater for the future of education for the deaf in Western Australia?
- (2) If so, will he give the necessary detail including the role to be played by the W.A. School for Deaf Children in Mosman Park?

- (3) If not, when does he expect the new policy to be announced?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) to (3) There is no intention to alter the present policy for the education of the deaf in Western Australia.

10. COMPANIES ACT

Commonwealth Legislation

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Attorney-General:

- (1) (a) Have there been discussions between the Commonwealth and States about a Commonwealth Companies Act to supersede State Companies Acts;
- (b) if not, are discussions planned, and when?
- (2) (a) Have there been discussions between all or any of the States of Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania on uniform company law and/or a Commonwealth Companies Act;
- (b) have there been discussions between all or any of these States and the Commonwealth on uniform company law and/or a Commonwealth Companies Act?
- (3) Does the Government favour State company law (uniform or otherwise) to a Commonwealth Companies Act which would supersede State Acts (uniform or otherwise)?
- (4) Is it correct that the Commonwealth proposals for a Commonwealth Companies Act which would supersede State Acts provide for compulsory appointments of an employee on boards of directors and division of all profits after tax between a welfare fund and shareholders?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) (a) At the meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General held in Sydney on 29th-30th March, 1973, the Australian Attorney-General referred to his Government's intention to introduce legislation for a national Companies Act.
- (b) No discussions have been planned but these will doubtless eventuate if the Australian Government proceeds with its plans.
- (2) (a) and (b) No discussions have been held by this State and I am unaware of any action by the States of South Australia and Tasmania.

- (3) The question has not been considered by the Government.
- (4) The Australian Government's proposals are not known by me apart from the statement made by Senator Murphy.

11. DEVELOPMENT

Steel Export Industry: Kwinana

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Premier:

As on 2nd April, 1971 he announced the possibility of a major steel export industry at Kwinana, will he advise—

- (a) progress to date;
- (b) the company involved?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (a) The proposals are still being considered.
- (b) B.H.P. and its partners in the Mount Newman enterprise.

12. PORT OF BUNBURY

Expenditure on Improvements

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

How much was spent on harbour development and wharf improvements in Bunbury to the 30th June in the following years:—

1966-67;
1967-68;
1968-69;
1969-70;
1970-71;
1971-72?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

	\$
1966-67	487,019.
1967-68	193,465.
1968-69	494,937.
1969-70	584,325.
1970-71	1,491,862.
1971-72	1,340,772.

13. RAILWAYS

Employees: Bunbury

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

How many railway employees were employed in Bunbury in each of the following years:—

1968, 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972?

Mr. MAY replied:

1968	429.
1969	437.
1970	419.
1971	425.
1972	386.

Reduction of staff between 1971 and 1972 is due to dieselisation becoming fully effective in the area.

14. DEVELOPMENT

Steel Industry: Mill in the North

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Premier:

As in *The Sunday Times* of 4th April, 1971 he announced Hanwright proposals in an article headed "Steel Mill Town for North", will he advise—

- (a) what progress has been made on this project;
- (b) the company involved?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (a) The proposals are still under active consideration but have been affected somewhat by the change in value of Australian currency.
- (b) The Hanwright Group.

15. DEVELOPMENT

Caustic Soda Industry: Bunbury

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

As in the *Daily News* of 10th May, 1971 he confirmed negotiations were taking place with a Japanese company to establish a multi-million dollar caustic soda industry in the Bunbury area which could lead to the eventual establishment of a petro-chemical complex, will he advise—

- (a) the current position;
- (b) the company involved?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (a) The proposed joint venturers were unable to proceed at that time with the caustic soda industry in Western Australia, and there are no current negotiations.
- (b) Answered by (a).

16. DEVELOPMENT

Steel Industry: \$20,000,000 Project

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

As on 6th June, 1971 *The Sunday Times* contained an article headed "20 Million Dollar Steel Plant for W.A. Planned", will he advise—

- (a) the current position of this proposal;
- (b) the company involved?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (a) The Company has announced its deferment of its major Jervis Bay steel project, but has confirmed its interest in a direct reduction steel plant based in Western Australia.
- (b) Australian Steel and Mining Corporation Pty Ltd.

17. DEVELOPMENT

Foreign Capital Inflow: Effect of Restrictions

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

- (1) What effect will Commonwealth action in restricting foreign capital to Australia have on major projects such as Pacminex, northern mining, etc.?
- (2) Does he consider a number of these projects will not be able to operate as a result of the Commonwealth action?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) The Commonwealth Government has not indicated its attitude to specific projects and planning for major projects such as Pacminex, Northern Mining, Alwest and Wittenoom is actively proceeding.
- (2) There is no indication at present that Commonwealth action will affect the future of these projects.

18. DEVELOPMENT

Trade Mission to Japan: Result

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

Following an article in *The Sunday Times* dated 11th July, 1971 headed "Labour Mission Finds Japan Keen to Invest", and quoting the Minister as saying: "The response of Japanese business and manufacturing companies to the W.A. Government mission had been overwhelming", will he advise—

- (a) the names of the organisations who eventually invested in Western Australia as a result of this mission;
- (b) the amount involved in each instance?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (a) There has been some increase in Japanese participation in certain industries in Western Australia but the downturn in the economy has frustrated major overseas participation in joint ventures in recent times.

Recent high level Japanese trade and banking missions indicate renewed interest in Western Australian development.

- (b) This information is not available.

19. DEVELOPMENT

Plant Announced in "The Sunday Times"

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

Further to the report in *The Sunday Times* on 6th February, 1972 under the heading "Plant Could be Biggest in World" (according to the Minister for Industrial Development Mr. Graham) will he advise the current position regarding—

- (a) progress to date;
- (b) finance required;
- (c) finance available?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

(a) The general manager of the company concerned, Graincol Pty. Ltd. is at present in the United States of America finalising arrangements so that production of grain products can be commenced in approximately October, 1973.

(b) and (c) The company is at present investigating sources of finance, and has had offers from a number of substantial organisations.

The company has not approached the State Government for financial assistance.

20. DEVELOPMENT

Trade Mission to Indonesia

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

Further to the article in the *Sunday Independent* of 5th March, 1972 under the heading "Graham Confident of Indonesia" advising the Minister was to visit Indonesia and where he is credited with saying "I am confident she will ultimately become one of our State's leading trading partners", will the Minister advise of any trade that took place as a result of that visit and the organisations involved?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

It is not possible to attribute specific orders to any single trade promotion visit. Firms represented on the visit referred to have obtained business in Indonesia, but the details are confidential to the particular firms. The development of trade relations with Indonesia is a continuing and long-term programme, and I am convinced that this area will eventually become one of Western Australia's important trading partners.

I might add that the Department of Development and Decentralisation will be participating in the Australian trade display in Djakarta at the end of this month. This emphasises the necessity for constant attention to be given to the place of Western Australia in Indonesia.

Sir Charles Court: Did you not say some rude things to us the other night, in relation to military dictatorships?

21. DEVELOPMENT

Power Offer: Job Opportunities

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Premier:

Further to the article in *The Sunday Times* of 26th March, 1973 headed "Big Power Offer to W.A. Could Mean 300,000 Jobs", which statement the Premier is credited with making, will he advise the current position to date and, if progress has been made, in particular—

- (a) numbers and names of companies involved;
- (b) how much has been expended;
- (c) how many have already been employed to date;
- (d) how long will it be before the 300,000 will be employed?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

As the 28th March, 1973 was a Monday, there was no issue of *The Sunday Times*. The question is, therefore, irrelevant.

Sir Charles Court: It might have been better had you answered it the first time. In my experience, it is always better to do so.

22. NATURAL GAS AND NICKEL MINING

Negotiations with Japanese Interests

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Premier:

Will he advise the current position regarding the statement credited to him in the *Sunday Independent* on 14th May, 1972 headed "W.A.—Japan Negotiate 50 Million Dollar Deal" and referring to natural gas and nickel supplies?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

This question relates to the same matter referred to by the Member in question 29, and I refer him to the answer to be given to that question.

23. DEVELOPMENT

Pilbara Plan: Restrictions on Foreign Capital

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Premier:

As in *The West Australian* of 3rd October, 1972 the Premier outlined a \$6,000 million plan for Pilbara

and in view of the Commonwealth action on foreign capital, is he still confident of the plan proceeding?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:
Yes.

24. DEVELOPMENT

Pilbara Plan: Faith of International Money Market

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

Further to the statement in *The Sunday Times* on 3th October, 1972 under the heading "Millions Voted for Pilbara" where he is quoted as saying "The offer was indicative of the faith and confidence the international money market had in the scheme"—

- (a) does he still agree with this statement;
- (b) what is the current position?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) A feasibility study which will include the financing of projected development is about to be launched by Commonwealth and State Governments.

25. DEVELOPMENT

Pacminex Alumina Refinery: Progress

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

- (1) Does he feel Pacminex will have difficulty in proceeding with their refinery?
- (2) If so, will he give details?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).

26. DEVELOPMENT

Steel Industry: Discussions with Thyssen Huette

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

Will he advise details of current discussions with the steel company August Thyssen Huette following his discussions as quoted in *The West Australian* on 23rd November, 1972 and headed "Giant Steel Firm Wants W.A. Plant"?

Mr. MAY replied:

August Thyssen Huette has advised the Government that investigation into the possibility of establishing a direct reduction of iron ore project in Western Australia will possibly be completed before the end of 1973.

27. DEVELOPMENT

Pilbara Plan: International Financiers

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) As on 16th March, 1973 in the *Daily News* headed "Financial Giants Ask About Pilbara" it is stated the Deputy Premier confirmed international financiers had offered \$2500 million, will he name the financiers and the amount involved with each?
- (2) Does he anticipate difficulty in getting this money into Australia?
- (3) If so, what difficulty?
- (4) If not, how will it be brought in?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The Commonwealth and State Governments will examine the financial needs of the projected Pilbara developments as part of the Pilbara feasibility study. It is anticipated that solutions for funding these needs will be found.
- (3) and (4) Answered by (2).

28. DEVELOPMENT

Shipyard: Work Force of 3,000

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

- (1) Further to the article in *The Sunday Times* of 25th March, 1973 under the heading "Giant W.A. Shipyard to Employ 3000 Men" stating it will be announced shortly and where he is credited with stating the shipyard would be established to build production platforms for the oil and gas deposits on the north-west shelf, is the Minister confident—
 - (a) this project will proceed;
 - (b) 3000 men will be employed;
 - (c) this will be successful bearing in mind the financial problems that have been encountered by similar companies?

- (2) At what stage are negotiations?
- (3) Who are the companies involved?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) (a) Whether the construction of fixed oil and gas platforms proceeds will depend on the outcome of feasibility studies currently being undertaken for Burmah Oil Co. of Aust.
- (b) I did not quote the figure of 3,000 but the numbers involved would depend on the time factor and extent of the operation. A similar operation in Scotland is currently employing in excess of 1,500.
- (c) Answered by (1) (a).

- (2) The studies appear to be at a fairly advanced stage.
- (3) Burmah Oil Co. of Australia and its consultants Brown and Root.

29.

DEVELOPMENT

\$50,000,000 Industry

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Premier:

- (1) Will he advise the current position regarding the article in *The Sunday Times* of 2nd April, 1972 headed "50 Million Dollar Mystery Industry" and quoting this following the Premier's visit to Japan?
- (2) Will he quote—
 - (a) the companies involved;
 - (b) the current position?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) and (2) The article referred to in the question concerns a "development" which had been discussed with the Japanese. Nowhere in the article did I refer to an industry, nor did *The Sunday Times* reporter use the word "industry" in the article.

The reference was to discussions which were held for the purpose of ascertaining whether funds which were being sought by Co-operative Bulk Handling for its bulk handling installation in Cockburn Sound, could be obtained in Japan. The money needed was ultimately obtained elsewhere, and the Member is aware of what has since transpired in connection with the Co-operative Bulk Handling proposal.

30.

WATER SUPPLIES

Dam at Kennedy Ranges

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

Following an article in *The Sunday Times*, 5th September, 1971, headed "N Blast for New Dam at Carnarvon", and quoting the Minister as saying the Government is examining proposals to build a large storage dam in the Kennedy Ranges, will he—

- (a) table progress reports;
- (b) advise the financial sum involved;
- (c) advise if or when the project is likely to commence;
- (d) advise what companies are involved?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (a) Studies for the construction of a large conventional dam at Kennedy Range showed that the salinity and erratic nature of the Gascoyne River flows were such that, when coupled

with the unfavourable shape of the storage basin, the reservoir would fail on an average of one year in ten from excessive salinity and depletion of storage.

The Public Works Department has been in contact with the Australian Atomic Energy Commission regarding the use of nuclear explosives to create water storages. Background information summarising the Carnarvon problem has been forwarded to the Atomic Energy Commission. A representative from the commission attended a conference in Vienna late in 1972 on the use of nuclear explosives for the creation of water conservation storages but was disappointed with the information released.

- (b) There is no proposal to construct a large dam.
- (c) Answered by (b).
- (d) Answered by (a).

31. DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Cost of Establishment

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Traffic Safety:

- (1) What is the estimated cost of establishing a new department of motor vehicles and a road traffic safety authority?
- (2) Will he indicate the split up of costs?
- (3) What numbers of additional staff will be required to set up these departments?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) \$200,000.
- (2) There will be no cost in connection with the establishment of a Road Traffic Safety Authority. The whole cost referred to in the answer to part (1) is in respect to the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- (3) Approximately 80.

32. MOTOR VEHICLES

Compulsory Inspection Centres

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Traffic Safety:

- (1) What is the estimated cost of setting up compulsory vehicle inspections in the metropolitan area?
- (2) How many depots would be established?
- (3) What number of staff would be employed?

- (4) Will country areas under police control have similar establishments?
- (5) If not, will he explain the differences?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) to (5) At this stage only preliminary investigations have been made into the matters raised in these questions.

The Traffic Safety Committee which reported to me regarding the setting up of a Road Traffic Safety Authority and a Department of Motor Vehicles recommended that the new department make a detailed study of a proposal for State-wide compulsory periodic vehicle inspections. This study cannot be put into effect until the Department of Motor Vehicles has been established.

33. STATE RIGHTS

Objections to Commonwealth

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he objected to the Commonwealth Government over its announced intentions of limiting the Western Australian Government's administrative freedom in areas of housing, education, urban and regional development, local government, environmental protection and offshore submerged land?
- (2) If "No" to (1), how does he substantiate his promise recently in Parliament to oppose the Commonwealth Government intruding into areas of State responsibilities?
- (3) If "Yes" to (1), will he please table copies of his objections?
- (4) Will he please table copies of the Commonwealth Government's recently announced plans for tertiary education?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) As I do not agree that the proposals of the Commonwealth Government, so far made, are directed towards "limiting the Western Australian Government's administrative freedom", there has been no reason for me to lodge an objection to the Commonwealth Government.

- (2) and (3) Answered by (1).

- (4) Yes.

The papers were tabled (see paper No. 91).

34. POWER LINES AT FORRESTDALE

Felix Roussat: Compensation

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Why has the undertaking last year to confer with Mr. Felix Roussat regarding the siting of the two

power lines through his Forrestdale property before proceeding with the 330kV power line not been honoured?

- (2) Due to the very severe loss of value to this property that will be experienced if dual towers are installed, will he consider changing the route a little or utilising the large towers for both lines?
- (3) Is it accepted that considerable compensation will be paid to owners of relatively small properties who have two major power lines routed through their properties?
- (4) When is compensation expected to be offered for the losses experienced by Mr. Roussat?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) The commission has complied with the requirements of the Act. Its courtesy note advising of entry to perform physical work on Mr. Roussat's property was inadvertently missed on this occasion.

I might add it is very difficult to give notice to people when they do not live on the properties concerned.

- (2) The first part of the question is not clear. The route cannot be changed, nor can the large towers be used for both lines as the initially vacant crossarms will be required for future conductors of this line.
- (3) In all cases compensation will be paid as agreed with the owners on the basis of the disability.
- (4) Immediately, if Mr. Roussat would agree to sell lot 32. If he wishes the commission to take an easement, negotiations could be protracted as they cannot commence effectively until Lands Department surveys of the way-leaves have been lodged with the Titles Office. This is likely to take some months.

35.

YUNDURUP CANALS DEVELOPMENT

Government Guarantee

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Premier:

- (1) Will he please clarify a number of points arising from question 11 on 28th March relating to the Government's guarantee in favour of the Yundurup canals project—

- (a) for what purpose was the additional \$60,000 contingent liability committed;
- (b) were firm arrangements made on the granting of the guarantee for its retirement;

- (c) if "Yes" to (b), what were they; 37.
- (d) is the Government liable under its guarantee for any unpaid interest due on 31st March and 30th September each year?

(2) What is the Government's present contingent liability under the Yundurup canals guarantee?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) (a) To meet additional costs associated with the project.
 (b) Yes.
 (c) This guarantee will be retired before the original guarantee from proceeds of sales.
 (d) Yes.
- (2) \$1,810,000.

36. MINERAL CLAIMS

Acreages

Mr. GRAYDEN, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What is the total acreage of mineral claims that were in force in Western Australia as at—
 (a) 31st December, 1969;
 (b) 31st December, 1970;
 (c) 31st December, 1971;
 (d) 31st December, 1972?
- (2) What is the estimated total acreage of mineral claim applications that were pending approval or otherwise as at the above dates?
- (3) What is the estimated total acreage of mineral claims and mineral claim applications which were either surrendered or withdrawn in—
 (a) 1969;
 (b) 1970;
 (c) 1971;
 (d) 1972?

Mr. MAY replied:

Acres

- (1) (a) 1,376,104
 (b) 5,344,357
 (c) 7,593,074
 (d) 4,032,159
- (2) (a) 5,668,050
 (b) 14,477,960
 (c) 9,308,710
 (d) 2,995,460
- (3) (a) 248,820
 (b) 1,186,970
 (c) 5,213,910
 (d) 8,166,891

MINING

Temporary Reserves: Number and Acreage

Mr. GRAYDEN, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Since the 3½ year ban on temporary reserves for mineral exploration was lifted in November 1972, how many temporary reserves have been granted for—
 (a) iron ore;
 (b) gold;
 (c) other minerals?
- (2) What are the acreages involved in each category?
- (3) How many temporary reserves have been granted in each category in each of the main regions of the State?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) (a) 16.
 (b) 1.
 (c) 56.
- (2) (a) 994 square kilometres (383.68 square miles).
 (b) 112 hectares (276.64 acres).
 (c) 8635 square kilometres (3333.11 square miles).
- (3)

Temporary Reserves

Granted 6/11/1972 to 4/4/1973

Goldfield	No. of T.R.'s granted	Gold	Iron	Other minerals
Ashburton	10			10
Gascoyne	9			9
East Murchison	3			3
Murchison	4			4
Kimberley	6			6
West Kimberley	5			5
North Coolgardie	5			5
Peak Hill	1			1
Mt. Margaret	1			1
Pilbara	8			8
West Pilbara	17		16	1
Yalgoo	1	1		
Yilgarn	3			3
	73	1	16	56

38. JOHN FORREST NATIONAL PARK

Health Department Officers: Reports

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Health:

Will he table all reports made by officers of his department during the past 12 months with respect to the—

- (a) swimming pool;
 (b) tea rooms;
 (c) domestic water supply, at the John Forrest National Park?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

Yes.

The reports were tabled (see paper No. 92).

39. IRON ORE

Trade with Japan: Industrial Action

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

- (1) Has he read an article in *The West Australian* of 2nd April, 1973 where a mining executive is reported as having claimed that Australia's iron ore trade with Japan had been irretrievably damaged by industrial action?
- (2) To what extent is this claim relevant to Western Australia's trade with Japan?
- (3) Does the Government intend to take any action in order to prevent such damage occurring?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) Yes, but I understand from the company concerned that the comment was that trade with Japan may be irretrievably damaged.
- (2) There is no present indication that Western Australia's trade with Japan is affected.
- (3) The Government is perturbed at any interruptions to export but considers that normal arbitration procedures will resolve industrial problems.

40. EDUCATION

Boarding-away-from-home Allowance

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that the State Government scheme of living away and boarding allowance is no longer operating?
- (2) If so, what was the date of cessation of the operation?
- (3) Under what statutory or administrative action did this occur?
- (4) Is it a fact that a Commonwealth scheme of boarding allowances has superseded the State scheme?
- (5) If so, under what statutory or administrative action?
- (6) Would he table the conditions of this Commonwealth scheme?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 31st December, 1972.
- (3) The decision was made by the Western Australian Government after receipt of details of the Commonwealth policy. Education regulations are being amended to conform with the decision.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Answered by (3).

- (6) An information statement which is being issued by the State offices of the Commonwealth Department of Education is tabled.

The statement was tabled (see paper No. 93).

41. TOWN PLANNING
Subregional City

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) Was it properly reported that the Government is studying proposals for a new sub-regional city only 22 miles north of Perth?
- (2) If so, is such proposal in line with the Government's heralded policies of decentralisation?
- (3) Are there any proposals for similar development studied by the Government in the Bunbury area?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) Yes. Preliminary study is being given to broad outline proposals for development in this area.
- (2) Yes. Such development would form part of a more extensive urban system that will be developed within the north-west corridor.
- (3) Yes. The National Urban and Regional Development Authority is studying the regional centres of Bunbury, Geraldton and Albany as well as the Perth north-west corridor.

42. INTRASTATE AIR
TRANSPORT
T.A.A.

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

- (1) Is it factual that the Minister for Transport stated in connection with proposed legislation to enable the Commonwealth owned airline to operate in Western Australia: "The Commonwealth has established a guideline to what is needed"?
- (2) If so, does this mean that the Minister anticipates that the Parliament of Western Australia makes its decision according to the wishes of the Commonwealth Government?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) No. The statement referred to was not made by the Minister for Transport.
- (2) The Minister for Transport does not agree that the statement infers that Parliament's decision is being anticipated.

43. EDUCATION

*Sporting and Cultural Facilities:
Use by Public*

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Minister for Education:

In view of the report in *The Sunday Times* of 1st April "W.A. Schools to be Thrown Open for Sport and Culture"—

- (a) has any consideration been given or taken into account of the thousands of dollars spent by parents and citizens' associations to provide halls, recreation ovals, etc., in the State for facilities so recommended to be used;
- (b) if so, does the recommendation provide for some form of subsidy to the parents and citizens' associations to provide other facilities to upgrade their particular school in other directions?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (a) and (b) The Western Australian Government policy is to encourage a closer integration in the use of facilities by schools and the community. A committee has been formed to investigate possible areas of development but specific recommendations have not been submitted to the Government.

44. WATER SUPPLIES

*Canning Dam Tunnel: Pipeline
Route*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Why was it necessary to remove all the flora in the last few days to the banks of the Canning River, Roleystone, on the land under their jurisdiction near the route for the additional pipelines?
- (2) Is not this action contrary to the undertakings to the Roleystone Progress Association?
- (3) Will he please advise whether further similar clearing is contemplated?
- (4) How is the expected soil erosion to be controlled?
- (5) When will the swath cut for the pipeline between Roleystone and Gosnells, which is showing signs of erosion, be rehabilitated?
- (6) Is it intended that a route be cleared across the country above the route of the Canning tunnel between the Roleystone and Canning Dam portals?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) The flora removed was only that necessary for the pipeline construction.
- (2) No.
- (3) No further clearing is contemplated.
- (4) Erosion is not anticipated but should it occur it will be attended to by appropriate methods depending upon the circumstances.
- (5) Any erosion will be attended to if it becomes necessary.
- (6) No.

45.

RIVERS

Erosion: Clearing of Flora

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What powers has he to control clearing of flora which will cause extensive erosion along rivers?
- (2) What action has he taken to exercise these powers?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Under section 22 of the Soil Conservation Act an area may be proclaimed a soil conservation district. For such a district the Governor may make regulations to regulate or prohibit the destruction of flora.
- (2) No regulations have been made specific to clearing along rivers.

46.

EDUCATION

School Maintenance

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Further to question 17 on 20th March, 1973, how does he account for an approximate \$550,000 fall off in maintenance expenditure on school property in 1971-72 against the previous year when one has regard for the inflationary increase in costs?
- (2) Was the saving made to cover the cost of the so called free school text and materials scheme?
- (3) What sum has been expended on school maintenance this financial year?
- (4) When will the maintenance at Connell Avenue primary school, Kelmscott, be carried out?
- (5) Why has the inadequate drainage which last year flooded the school buildings surrounds been so delayed?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) The fall-off in maintenance expenditure on school property was part of an over-all restriction on revenue expenditure implemented in January-March 1971. (The comparison is therefore not based on normal conditions.)

- (2) No.
- (3) The latest figure to February 1973 is \$862,891.
- (4) Contract maintenance items for stage 2 have been served on the contractor and been completed subject to inspection by the department.
- (5) Design of an adequate drainage system is under consideration.

47. **EASTER WEEK**

Holidays: Bank Officers

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Will he reconsider his decision to refuse bank officers the 24th April holiday?
- (2) As the bank employees are prepared to give up a compensating holiday, why has he refused?
- (3) How many bank staff are involved?
- (4) Is he aware Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland have approved the holiday; New South Wales are reviewing the position and South Australia have refused because the bank officers in that State were not prepared to relinquish another holiday in lieu?
- (5) Which other industries have been refused the six-day holiday break?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

- (1) I have not refused bank officers a holiday on the 24th April, 1973. Neither have I been approached by either bank officers or banks on this matter.
- (2) to (5) The position in this State is that requests for the Tuesday, 24th April, 1973, as a holiday in substitution for the Foundation Day holiday of 4th June, 1973, are a matter for negotiation between the employer and the individual union or association concerned though in some instances such agreements may require formal approval in the form of Gazettal.

48. **WATER SUPPLIES**

Consumption and Storage in Metropolitan Area

Mr. McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What is the average daily consumption of water per head of population in the metropolitan area of Perth?
- (2) What was the total average water consumption per year for the years 1971 and 1972?
- (3) What is the average for 1973 to date?

- (4) What is the storage capacity per head of population for the metropolitan area of Perth?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) 137 gallons.
- (2) 1970-71—51,500 gallons per head. 1971-72—48,100 gallons per head.
- (3) From 1st July, 1972 to 31st March, 1973, 38,800 gallons per head.
- (4) 142,000 gallons.

49. **BROOME HIGH SCHOOL**

Completion

Mr. RIDGE, to the Minister for Works:

As I was advised last October that it was anticipated the extensions to the Broome Junior High School would be completed by the commencement of the current school year, will he advise—

- (a) what have been the reasons for the slow rate of progress;
- (b) when will the additions be ready for use;
- (c) if any, what penalties are being applied to the builder;
- (d) is the builder financially able to complete the contract;
- (e) including the cost of installing air conditioning and any extras which have been agreed upon, what is the present estimate of cost for the extensions;
- (f) what urgent action is being taken to expedite completion of the building?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (a) Some defective work by the building contractor which required rectification but principally due to the late letting of the air conditioning sub-contract.
- (b) Commencement of second term.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) \$99,528.
- (f) Departmental officers are pressing the contractor to achieve the earliest possible completion.

50. **CATTLE** *Kimberley*

Mr. RIDGE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) During 1972, how many cattle were killed at—
 - (a) Broome;
 - (b) Derby;
 - (c) Wyndham?

- (2) How many cattle were shipped to Robb Jetty from Kimberley ports?
- (3) What number were trucked to points south of the Kimberley region?
- (4) What number were transported to the Northern Territory and Eastern States for killing and/or breeding?
- (5) Of the cattle that were transported out of the region, what was the number of breeders?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Broome—29,781.
Derby—9,492.
Wyndham—37,452.
- (2) 4,495 cattle were moved by sea to Fremantle.
- (3) 14,703.
- (4) 26,101.
- (5) The exact number of breeders involved is not known but is believed to be in the order of 50% of cattle transported.

51.

HOSPITAL

Fitzroy Crossing

Mr. RIDGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) In view of the fact that a new hospital cannot be built at Fitzroy Crossing until the question of an adequate power supply has been settled, and considering that the State Electricity Commission has no plans for establishing a power house in the town, will he advise what action is being taken in relation to the provision of an electricity supply source?
- (2) As a planning inspector reported in November 1972: "that extensive deterioration had occurred in the main hospital building due to termite infestation" and that "the building has reached a point where replacement is imperative", does he consider the hospital to be structurally sound and habitable?
- (3) What action has been taken to prevent a repetition of the instance when the sister-in-charge fell through a termite infested section of the first floor of the hospital building?
- (4) Will he table a copy of the most recent report on the building by the Kimberley regional health inspector?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) An assessment of the likely power needs for the new buildings is being made. As soon as it is known the size of the plant that will be needed, efforts will be made to

provide that plant. The Community Health section of the Public Health Department has made a submission to the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs for funds for this purpose.

- (2) Some sections are not sound and habitable and have been closed off.
- (3) Answered by (2) above.
- (4) Yes. Tabled herewith.

The papers were tabled (see paper No. 94).

52.

TOWN PLANNING

Local Authorities: Submission of Plans

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) Have local government authorities been requested to submit to him proposals for development of their respective areas?
- (2) If so—
 - (a) when was this request made;
 - (b) how many local governing bodies have complied with the request?
- (3) (a) Has the City of Stirling complied with the request;
- (b) if not, has any date been fixed for it to do so and what is it?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) No, but if the question refers to the Perth Metropolitan Region, local authorities are required under the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act to submit to me local planning schemes which conform with the Metropolitan Region Scheme within three years of that scheme's promulgation.
- (2) (a) The statutory requirement on local authorities became effective on 30th October, 1963.
- (b) 25 on 31st March last.
- (3) (a) Yes.
- (b) Answered by (3) (a).

53.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Used Cars: Complaints

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Minister for Consumer Protection:

- (a) In the short space of time since commencing operations, how many complaints have been received by the Commissioner for Consumer Protection involving used car dealers;
- (b) how many of the complaints above referred to involved alleged—
 - (i) deceptive practices;

- (ii) misrepresentations as to the year model of the vehicle concerned;
- (iii) faulty vehicles;
- (iv) signing of purchasers of either blank or incompleated documents?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

- (a) As at 21st March, 1973, the Consumer Protection Bureau had received 257 complaints involving used cars or 31.5% of the total complaints received.
- (b) (i) 75
- (ii) 43
- (iii) 59
- (iv) exact figures are not immediately available, but direct complaints are included in (b) (i). Other cases of this practice occurring come to light as a result of other complaints and a figure will be supplied early next week.

54. CONSUMER PROTECTION

Used Cars: Guarantees

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Minister for Consumer Protection:

Is there evidence to show that agreements for sale used by some used car dealers render warranties inoperative if the purchaser has had the vehicle examined when buying it?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

The Consumer Protection Bureau has evidence that some firms will not give or will not honour warranties if the customer has an independent check on the vehicle prior to purchase.

55. EDUCATION

Stern Report

Mr. E. H. M. LEWIS, to the Minister for Education:

Can he indicate which of the recommendations of the Stern report he proposes to implement and the programming of them?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

A specialist in agricultural education has been appointed to co-ordinate developments.

A committee consisting of officers from the Departments of Education and Agriculture is to be formed to discuss the recommendations of the Stern Report and the methods of implementation.

56. WELFARE PAYMENTS *Commonwealth Control*

Mr. R. L. YOUNG, to the Premier:

Further to the claim by the Commonwealth Minister for Social Security, Mr. Hayden, (*The West Australian* 3rd April, 1973) that "He had held talks with some States about simplifying welfare payments by placing them under Commonwealth control. The reaction had been mainly favourable." can he say—

- (a) whether the Western Australian Government has entered into the talks;
- (b) if so, is the Western Australian Government's reaction to the plan favourable?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (a) Yes. Preliminary talks have been held between the Minister for Community Welfare and the Federal Minister for Social Security. Detail talks will take place at a meeting of Federal and State Ministers concerned with social welfare to be held in Adelaide in June. The Government expects to be in a position to make a full statement following this meeting. However, it needs to be pointed out that the Federal Government's proposals would affect only some categories of cases receiving benefits from the State for a period of more than six months.
- (b) Yes.

57. DEVELOPMENT

Alwest Project: Commencement

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

Has he any idea whether the Alwest project will proceed?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

The State and Alwest have almost finalised a variation agreement.

After negotiations extending over a protracted period, and following talks held with representatives of the Australian and overseas partners held in my office as recently as last month, I am pleased to state that, within the next few weeks, I expect the joint venturers will submit to the Government the timetable and details of their scheme of construction and associated development in connection with the establishment of their \$200 million bauxite/alumina complex in the south-west of the State.

No announcements concerning particulars will be made until the company concurs.

58.

WATER SUPPLIES*Canning Dam Tunnel: Pipeline Route*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Environmental Protection:

- (1) Will he table the report upon the Metropolitan Water Board's recent clearing of flora to the banks of the Canning River at Roleystone as part of the Canning tunnel project?
- (2) Is this total clearing to the water contrary to arrangements?
- (3) What steps are to be taken to control the river bank erosion expected from this unnecessary total clearing?
- (4) Is it intended that a route be cleared across the hilly country above the route of the Canning tunnel between the Roleystone and Canning Dam portals?
- (5) (a) Has the Environmental Protection Authority considered and approved this plan;
(b) if so, what is the justification for it?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) Clearing is neither unnecessary nor total. Necessary clearing of sparse vegetation on one side of the river bank on private property is taking place. The top soil is being moved to one side and will subsequently be replaced to bury the pipe. The top soil can subsequently be re-vegetated if necessary.
- (4) It is not intended that a route be cleared in the referenced area, but control will be retained over access above the area. The E.P.A. considered the general proposal of the water board and approved it. The justification for the plan is to provide necessary water in the summer.

The report was tabled (see paper No. 95).

59.

SCHOOLS AT ALBANY*Amalgamation and Classrooms*

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the anticipated date for the amalgamation of the Albany senior primary school and the Albany junior primary school?

- (2) When is it anticipated tenders will be called for the construction of cluster units at the junior primary?
- (3) What is the anticipated date of completion and cost?
- (4) How many rooms will be built?
- (5) Will all existing classroom buildings apart from and adjacent to the main block be demolished?
- (6) If not, what are the reasons?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Every endeavour will be made to effect the amalgamation by 30th June, 1974.
- (2) It is anticipated that a commission will be issued to a private architect at an early date.
- (3) The brief will request the completion of the school for early 1974. Cost indication not available until design completed.
- (4) Four rooms together with withdrawal space, practical areas and toilets.
- (5) and (6) This matter will be reviewed when the new building is complete.

60.

TERTIARY EDUCATION*Commonwealth Proposal*

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Will he please table full details of the Commonwealth proposal in respect of tertiary education and which he is reported in *The West Australian* of 31st March, 1973 to have commended?
- (2) To what extent will these proposals impinge on normal State rights and responsibilities?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Details have already been tabled in response to an earlier question.
- (2) Not at all, so far as I can see, as the proposals are complementary to State activities.

61.

LAPORTE TITANIUM*Effluent Disposal*

Mr. I. W. MANNING, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is the ponding method of handling Laporte effluent working effectively?
- (2) (a) can he estimate when available land suitable for ponding will be used to its limit;
(b) does this include re-use of some of the pond areas (if they are re-usable after remaining unused for a period)?

- (3) (a) what effluent treatment and disposal studies are being undertaken and how are they progressing;
- (b) when is finality expected on current studies;
- (c) are these studies being undertaken jointly by the company and Government, or are there separate Government and company studies and/or studies by additional parties;
- (d) is there any market prospects for substances in the effluent if they can be extracted in a practical way and, if so, what are the products, the likely markets and economics?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) The ponding of Laporte effluent is not a satisfactory disposal method.
- (2) (a) There are features which make it desirable to space the disposal ponds at wide intervals along the narrow strip of sand dune land. This requirement makes it difficult to predict how long it will take to use all of the usable area. If circumstances demand it may be necessary to shorten the spacing of the ponds and thus extend the time during which the general area will be useful.
- (b) There is virtually no scope for re-using pond areas.
- (3) (a) For some time a committee with representation from the Departments of Development and Decentralisation, Public Works, Government Chemical Laboratories and Laporte Titanium (Australia) Ltd. has been investigating alternative methods of effluent treatment and disposal.

Further work is currently in progress on these matters.

- (b) It is not possible to estimate when finality will be reached in these studies.
- (c) Joint studies by the State Government and the Company are in course. There have been independent studies on particular lines by each organisation. The services of chemical consultants Messrs. Valentine, Laurie and Davies have also been used.

In addition a consultant in the private sector has undertaken considerable research in the treatment of the effluent for the recovery of marketable products.

- (d) The Premier has had a proposal submitted to him which appears to have potential. A Press statement giving details is in course of preparation and will be released later today.

62.

TJURUNGA

Parliament House Grounds

Mr. GRAYDEN, to the Premier:

Is the report in 3rd April issue of *The West Australian* to the effect that he "will try to have the marker stone replaced on the site where a sacred tjurunga board is buried in the grounds of Parliament House", a correct one?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

Yes.

63.

TRANSPORT WORKERS' UNION

Export Apples: Threat to Owner Drivers

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Since receiving a report from myself that standover tactics are being employed at the overseas container terminal, North Fremantle, to force Mr. Dela of Pickering Brook to join the Transport Workers Union, what action has he taken?
- (2) Is he aware that nearly all owner-drivers engaged in the transport of the export apple crop have been told that no more fruit will be handled until these self-employed persons join the union?
- (3) Will he take urgent action to ensure that the financial return to growers and the State is not terminated by this action now threatened?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

- (1) to (3) The only notice of this situation which either I or my officers have is that contained in the personal phone calls to me by the Member on Monday, 2nd April, 1973, and his comments in the Address-in-Reply of yesterday. Preliminary inquiries indicate that such a person apparently receiving cargo would be either an employee of the Fremantle Port Authority or of a private employer and that this man could be a member of a maritime union and not of the Transport Workers' Union. I have, therefore, asked the Minister for Works to advise me of any knowledge the Fremantle Port Authority may have of this allegation. My office will also contact Mr. Dela.

64. MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENT

Expenditure

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister for Works:

How much money has been spent by the Main Roads Department in the metropolitan area on—

- (a) road building and/or road extensions;
 - (b) bridge building;
 - (c) any other work,
- during the years 1970-71 and 1971-72, and showing separately—
- (i) the proportion carried out by contractors; and
 - (ii) the proportion undertaken within the department?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

The information requested is contained in a statement hereunder.

With regard to the statement, the Member should note that Main Roads Department records are now kept under the Perth statistical division in lieu of the metropolitan area in order to conform with the definition of "urban area" under the Commonwealth Aid Roads Act, 1969.

The Perth statistical division consists of the metropolitan area plus the Shires of Wanneroo and Kalamunda and the portions of the Shires of Swan and Mundaring outside the metropolitan area.

Expenditure by the Main Roads Department in the Perth Statistical Division for the Years 1970/71 and 1971/72

	Expendi- ture by Contractors	Expendi- ture by Day Labour	Total
	\$	\$	\$
(a) Road building (incl. road maintenance)	6,876,840	5,009,489	11,886,329
(b) Bridge building (incl. bridge maintenance)	4,677,730	583,669	5,261,449
	11,554,620	5,593,158	17,147,778
(c) Other works*	1,492,824	722,048	2,214,872
	13,047,444	6,315,206	19,362,650
1971/72			
(a) Road building (incl. road maintenance)	7,209,906	5,025,000	12,234,996
(b) Bridge building (incl. bridge maintenance)	7,481,800	620,026	8,101,826
	14,691,706	5,645,026	20,336,822
(c) Other works*	1,991,804	766,929	2,758,733
	16,683,500	6,411,955	23,095,555

* Includes administration, miscellaneous expenses, proportion new head office building, plant accounts, proportion road debt repayments.

QUESTIONS (10): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. LAPORTE TITANIUM

Effluent Disposal

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Will he advise the House the details of the Laporte effluent studies undertaken, and the conclusions reached to date, by the Laporte Effluent Disposal Committee, established in 1970?
- (2) Is its work continuing, and in what fields of study and research?
- (3) When does the committee expect to finish its current phase of studies and research?
- (4) (a) Has the committee—including Laporte's representatives—been working in conjunction with the company which is about to be announced by the Government as having a possible effluent treatment process?
- (b) If not, what has been the basis of the company's research work, and is the committee satisfied the company's proposal is proven as a firm and practical solution to the effluent problem?
- (c) If the Government has been satisfied in this regard from a source other than the committee, what is that source?
- (d) If the proposal is not regarded as proven, either by the committee or the Government, what further work is needed?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) The Laporte Effluent Disposal Committee has examined a number of systems for the disposal of the effluent, including—
 - (a) Chemical processing for recovery of acid and other by-products.
 - (b) Disposal into deep bores.
 - (c) Disposal by marine pipeline.
 - (d) Disposal by barging to sea.All of these systems are very expensive in capital required and running costs, and more costly than the present methods of disposal by spray irrigation of coastal sand dunes. Barging to sea (d) appears to be the cheapest of the four methods above, and offers a permanent solution. However, the committee is still examining chemical recovery of byproducts (a) in partnership with Laporte Australia Limited.
- (2) Joint research with Laporte is continuing as indicated in (1).

(3) No date can be set for the final report, as the committee is continuing investigations into chemical treatment to establish economics of the processes and markets for byproducts.

(4) (a) No.

(b) Mining and Agricultural Laboratories Pty. Ltd. has been carrying out the research, and the company's patent attorney prepared the specifications for the provisional patent application, and they were forwarded to the Patent Office in Canberra. The proposal in question has not been referred to the disposal committee for the obvious reason that it was only in the last few days that acknowledgment and registration of the patent applied for has been received from Canberra.

(c) See answer to 4 (b).

(d) A complete theoretical balance of reaction has been established and the patent applied for. Further exploratory work is proceeding to establish the most economical method to achieve purification.

2. CONSUMER PROTECTION

Pyramid Selling

Mr. A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Consumer Protection:

- (1) Has the Consumer Protection Bureau received any approaches with regard to the alleged pyramid selling organisation, Dare to be Great?
- (2) If the answer is "Yes", will he table any material that is pertinent?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

I thank the member for Mirrabooka for some notice of the question, the answer to which is as follows—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I seek your permission, Mr. Speaker, to table for 24 hours a tape recorder and tapes which are, I am advised, allegedly valued for purchase at \$3,000.

The tape recorder and tapes were tabled for 24 hours.

3. TJURUNGA

Parliament House Grounds

Mr. GRAYDEN, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he taken into consideration the fact that white ants could have disposed of the bogus

tjurunga board which is alleged to have been buried in the grounds of Parliament House?

- (2) Has he any information which would indicate that the board is in fact still *in situ*?
- (3) Does he contemplate any action to ensure protection of the bogus tjurunga board against the depredations of white ants?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) to (3) The question is obviously one which requires the most careful consideration, so I ask that it be placed on the notice paper.

4. ECONOMY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Signs of Improvement

Mr. BRYCE, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Premier seen in today's issue of the *Daily News* a survey entitled, "Signs Point to W.A.'s Return to Prosperity"?
- (2) Does he view these signs as a vindication of his Government's policies?
- (3) Does he agree with the views of the economists quoted in the survey that Western Australia is now on the verge of a new period of great prosperity and economic progress?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

May I preface my reply by saying I am pleased that there is such an excellent response from the ranks of the Opposition.

Sir Charles Court: We have been nudging you for long enough.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Obviously without justification.

Sir Charles Court: The satisfaction or the nudging?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: The reply to the question is as follows—

- (1) Yes, I most certainly have and I wish to take full advantage of this opportunity to express to the editor of the *Daily News* my appreciation for his action in publishing these predictions at such a well-timed period.

Sir Charles Court: I hope you will send this to Mr. Chamberlain.

Mr. Thompson: Is that a biased Press?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: My reply continues—

- (2) Most decidedly, and they are in accordance with the prediction that all we needed to

set the economy in motion was to be given a reasonable time in which to do so.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: To continue—

- (3) Without the slightest doubt. We have very good reason to believe that the Japanese will respond favourably to representations which have been made to them by the iron ore companies to meet the situation which has resulted from a variation in the value of the Australian currency; and there are unmistakable signs that there will be substantial increases in the quantity of iron ore exported overseas this year.

Sir Charles Court: If you can stop the strikes.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: In addition to these excellent prospects the Government has before it at the present time certain exciting proposals which will materialise in the next few months. I know the Opposition does not like this—

Mr. Hutchinson: We hope it is true.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: —but it is not possible to dispose of facts with laughter.

Mr. Hartrey: You cannot stop progress.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: It is a reasonable assumption that the *Daily News* would not have printed what it has if there were not complete justification for what has been said.

Sir Charles Court: Now we have heard everything.

5.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. K. Mercer: Deportation

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Immigration:

- (1) Will he confirm the imminent deportation of Mr. Kenneth Mercer, who, I am given to understand, was arrested by the Commonwealth Police at his place of employment in the electorate of Cockburn on the 27th March, 1973, is at present at Fremantle Prison, and is to be deported on the 8th April, 1973?
- (2) Has Mr. Mercer committed any offence since coming to Australia?
- (3) Are his children to be deported with Mr. Mercer?
- (4) As this action appears to conflict with the Commonwealth Government's stated policy of "giving a

man a go", will he urgently investigate Mr. Kenneth Mercer's position to ensure that this is not a case of making "fish of one and fowl of another" and that the children's interests are protected?

Mr. Graham: What a foul mind!

Mr. RUSHTON: To continue—

- (5) If he considers the circumstances of this case worthy of compassion, will he make quick representations to the Commonwealth Government and advise the House of his decision?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

- (1) I have been informed by the Chief Secretary's Department that a Mr. Mercer is in custody awaiting deportation. The case is known to me personally and some investigations have been made. Mr. Mercer's case was raised with me through an intermediary allegedly at the request of Mr. Mercer's brother-in-law. After preliminary inquiries I requested, through the intermediary, that further information on which to base a possible case be supplied to me. I am advised that the brother-in-law was so requested, but that as late at 3.30 p.m. today no further information had been forthcoming.
- (2) Not to my knowledge.
- (3) I understand that two of his children, who entered Australia with him, will be repatriated to join his wife and other children who reside in the United Kingdom.
- (4) and (5) Subject to receiving permission I am prepared to make available to the honourable member such knowledge as I have received on this case and I will take cognisance of his opinion as to whether or not this case should be followed further after he has been made aware of the reasons for the Commonwealth, on several occasions, refusing Mr. Mercer entry to Australia, and of his subsequent alleged illegal entry into Australia.

6.

JOHN FORREST NATIONAL PARK

Tearooms: Reports

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Labour:

Will he table all reports made by factories and shops inspectors during the last 12 months pertaining to the John Forrest National Park tearooms?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

Yes, for one week.

The reports were tabled for one week (see paper No. 97).

7. DEVELOPMENT
\$50,000,000 Industry

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Premier:

In question 22 on today's notice paper I referred to an article in the *Sunday Independent* and the Premier's reply was—

This question relates to the same matter referred to by the honourable member in question 29, and I refer him to the answer to be given to that question.

In answer to question 22 and 29 on today's notice paper the Premier said that nowhere in the article did he refer to an industry, nor did *The Sunday Times* reporter use the word "industry" in the article. The Premier went on to relate that the money involved was for C.B.H. In view of what appears in the *Sunday Independent* article to which I have referred, and the fact that *The Sunday Times* article is headed "50 Million Dollar Mystery Industry", does the Premier still claim the money is for C.B.H. and is this a further instance of misrepresentation by the newspapers?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

I am very glad of the opportunity to clarify this matter. I want to say most deliberately that never at any time did I use the word "industry" with regard to this proposal.

Mr. O'Connor: Nor did I say you did, did I?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: No; but the honourable member is now trying to establish that I was trying to refer to an industry.

Mr. O'Connor: No.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: So long as we are clear on that point. My reference all along was to discussions I had in Japan because at that time considerable difficulty was being experienced in raising the necessary finance for the C.B.H. project. Negotiations had been in progress over a period of more than six months and we were getting absolutely nowhere.

Mr. Hutchinson: Why the secrecy on this?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I suggest the honourable member address that question to the member for Avon because he knows the answer.

Sir Charles Court: Why mention it at all?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: The Leader of the Opposition ought to talk! He asks: Why mention it? Yet he never stops talking.

Sir Charles Court: Why mention it at all?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: The answer to that question is that the news media were waiting on me immediately I got off the plane, and I had no option but to tell the reporters something.

Mr. Hutchinson: It was just misleading to us all, that is the point.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I am not responsible for the conclusions to which members of the Opposition come.

Mr. Hutchinson: I am talking about the public.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Or members of the public, either, because as long as I state the truth—and I do my best to ensure I do that—I cannot be held responsible for the various conclusions to which people may come. The point is I have never at any time referred to an industry. I referred to developments, and if the C.B.H. proposal was not a development, I would like to know what it was.

Obviously I could not give details at the time or disclose anything about what we had in mind. Because of the difficulty experienced in obtaining finance from the source being tried out initially, it was decided that when I went to Japan we should inquire of the Japanese whether they were prepared to make the money available; and after my initial approaches to certain banking companies, the Under-Treasurer carried out negotiations in detail which were continued upon his return with me to Perth. Subsequently it transpired that it was better to obtain the money in the way it was finally obtained, and so the negotiations with the Japanese were not continued. The reference to nickel and the other matter—

Mr. O'Connor: Natural gas.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: —was also in connection with discussions we had in Japan, but was in no way connected with the \$50,000,000 development. It was simply a factual statement by me that the Japanese—and if necessary I could

name the companies on reference to my notes—inquired very closely—and the Minister for Mines can bear me out in this because it occurred in his presence on more than one occasion—as to the possibility of being able to participate in the development of the offshore gas.

One company went so far as to say that if we desired the money to construct a pipeline to bring the gas to Perth, it would provide the funds.

The SPEAKER: I think the Premier has answered the question.

Sir Charles Court: There is considerable doubt about that.

8.

TJURUNGA

Parliament House Grounds

Mr. GRAYDEN, to the Premier:

Does he realise that any support of a bogus tjurunga stone in the grounds of Parliament House must inevitably mean that if the object is accepted as a tjurunga, Aboriginal women and children and all uninitiated Aboriginal men will be excluded forever from the precincts of Parliament House?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

Yesterday as I was just entering the Chamber I was handed two questions which the honourable member proposed to ask me without notice. One of them was a question very similar to the one he has now asked. I declined to answer the question yesterday and asked him to place it on the notice paper. I was therefore surprised this morning to find that the honourable member had not placed that question on the notice paper but had placed a different one which he had not asked yesterday. So, in anticipation that he might raise the matter again today without notice I asked my secretary to get in touch with Mr. Jack Davis to whom I intended to refer the question asked by the member for South Perth in order to find out just what he thought about the assertions being made.

My secretary tried several times during the day but, unfortunately, I was informed that Mr. Davis was at a conference and would not be available.

I must ask that this question be placed on the notice paper in order to give me the opportunity to verify or disprove what the member for South Perth has now asserted.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The Premier is misrepresenting me. I handed in two questions but one is not on the notice paper; it has been lost in transit.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

9. DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND DECENTRALISATION

Foreshadowed Location of Office

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Minister for Development and Decentralisation:

Is the Minister yet in a position to make an announcement about the foreshadowed location of an office of his department, or something related thereto, in connection with decentralisation, outside the metropolitan area?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

Unfortunately, not at the moment, because the Chairman of the Public Service Board is going into the matter of the degree of staffing. In addition to that, it is necessary to have some residential accommodation for the person concerned.

I would prefer that no announcement be made until all these matters are finalised. I hope that this will be in the course of the next week or so.

10.

TJURUNGA

Parliament House Grounds

Mr. GRAYDEN, to the Premier:

Yesterday the Premier said he had no notice of my intention to ask a question notwithstanding that I had handed it to him.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: No you did not.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The question was handed to the Premier prior to his coming into the House.

I ask the Premier whether he recalls writing to me on the 13th October, 1972, a letter which reads, in part, as follows—

I am informed that the stone referred to in your questions was not buried in the ground, but a piece of wood was buried. It was made by an old man (now deceased) in the Western Desert many years ago. This piece of wood was in the possession of Mr. Davis prior to the ceremony at which it was buried.

The stone was just a piece of plain flat stone with no aboriginal significance attached to it.

The **SPEAKER**: Order! The honourable member cannot read a letter in asking a question without notice.

Mr. **GRAYDEN**: Does the Premier not recall having written to me along those lines? In these circumstances, how can he claim that he had no notice of the question?

Mr. J. T. **TONKIN** replied:

The member for South Perth seems determined to endeavour to show that I am not dealing with the situation precisely as it is. Firstly, the honourable member did not hand me any questions at all.

Mr. **Grayden**: But a member of the staff of this House did because I asked him to.

The **SPEAKER**: Order!

Mr. J. T. **TONKIN**: A servant of the House, standing at the Bar of the House—

Mr. **Grayden**: Waiting for you!

The **SPEAKER**: Order!

Mr. J. T. **TONKIN**: —handed me the questions when the second bell was about to stop ringing and I was coming to my seat.

Mr. **Grayden**: You had half an hour to read it.

Mr. J. T. **TONKIN**: That is why I said I virtually—"virtually" was the word I used—had no notice of the question. I repeat that this was the situation.

The next step is that the honourable member asked only one of the two questions.

Mr. **Grayden**: I gave two to the Clerk.

The **SPEAKER**: Order!

Mr. J. T. **TONKIN**: It is not the practice in this House for Ministers to get up of their own volition and answer questions without notice which are not put to them by the honourable member who wants them answered.

Mr. **Thompson**: We had trouble getting the ones we asked answered.

Mr. J. T. **TONKIN**: I repeat that, although the honourable member handed two questions to a servant of the House, he asked only one of them. In reply to the question he asked I said that he should place it on the notice paper. However, that question does not appear on the notice paper.

Mr. **Grayden**: Because someone has lost it.

The **SPEAKER**: Order! The Premier will be seated. The member for South Perth will keep order. The Premier is answering his question. The Premier!

Mr. J. T. **TONKIN**: I repeat that the question which I suggested the member for South Perth should place on the notice paper did not appear on the notice paper.

Mr. **Grayden**: Check your own department and find out what happened.

The **SPEAKER**: Order!

Mr. J. T. **TONKIN**: Nor was it sent to my department for me to answer. However, the question which the honourable member did not ask yesterday was put on the notice paper and this is the one which I answered this afternoon.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Thursday Evenings: Ministerial Statement

MR. J. T. **TONKIN** (Melville—Premier) [5.38 p.m.]: I would like to make a statement about the sittings of Parliament tomorrow evening and on subsequent Thursdays.

The **SPEAKER**: The Premier seeks permission to make a statement regarding the times of sitting for tomorrow and subsequent Thursdays. If there is a dissentient voice, leave will not be granted. As there is no dissentient voice, leave is granted.

Mr. J. T. **TONKIN**: I wish to deal with the next three Thursdays. We do not propose to sit after tea tomorrow. The following Thursday will be Easter eve.

Sir Charles Court: No.

Mr. J. T. **TONKIN**: It is appreciated that members would not want to sit on Easter eve. In addition, we will not be sitting during Easter week. Consequently, we will not be sitting after tea on three Thursdays; namely, tomorrow, Easter eve, and the Thursday which falls in Easter week. Of course, we will not be sitting at all during Easter week.

Sir Charles Court: There is the 5th, the 12th, and the 19th. The 19th is Easter eve.

Mr. **Hutchinson**: What about the 12th?

Sir Charles Court: We are not sitting on any Thursday before Easter?

Mr. J. T. **TONKIN**: I have mentioned the three Thursdays; namely, tomorrow, Easter eve, and the Thursday which falls in Easter week.

Sir Charles Court: Do we sit after tea on the 12th?

Mr. **Nalder**: Tomorrow week we will sit after tea?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Yes, unless it is decided otherwise in the meantime. I would not want to take members by surprise, but I will let them know if there is any change in the Government's plans. We will not sit after tea tomorrow, on Easter eve, or the Thursday which falls in Easter week.

BILLS (5): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Distressed Persons Relief Trust Bill.
2. Government Employees' Housing Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. J. T. Tonkin (Premier), and read a first time.

3. Town Planning and Development Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Davies (Minister for Town Planning), and read a first time.

4. Hospitals Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Davies (Minister for Health), and read a first time.

5. Sick Leave Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Taylor (Minister for Labour), and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: NINTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 3rd April, on the following motion by Mr. Bateman—

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

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

MR. HARMAN (Maylands) [5.43 p.m.]: Along with other members, I wish to congratulate the member for Blackwood upon his election to Parliament. I hope his sojourn here is a happy, fruitful, and rewarding one for him.

With the change in the State Government in 1971 and in the Federal Government in December, 1972, both Governments are of a Labor complexion. We now have the opportunity to compare and contrast policies and the manner in which the two Governments went about deciding various issues.

One of the issues, which is fundamental to Australians, is that of land and housing.

The previous Liberal-Country Party Governments adopted a policy of not taking a great deal of action in respect of land prices. They also restricted Government expenditure in home building.

Mr. O'Neill: We had the highest home building rate in the world.

Mr. HARMAN: The Government's inaction forced a great many people to borrow finance for home building at very high rates.

Mr. O'Neill: The building rate was 17 units per 1,000 of population.

Mr. HARMAN: By contrast both the State Labor Government and the present Australian Labor Government have moved to restrict the land price spiral in this State.

Mr. Rushton: What have they done?

Mr. HARMAN: I will tell the honourable member what has been done in this State. The amount of land coming onto the market has been increased.

Mr. Rushton: The State Government has not done that.

Mr. HARMAN: The Government has ensured that the areas are serviced so that subdivided land may be brought onto the market.

Mr. Rushton: That was happening before the Government ever came to office.

Mr. HARMAN: Members will have seen that the State Government took action last year to change the method of selling land. A ballot system was introduced in an endeavour to curb land prices.

Mr. O'Neill: Ballots were tried in our time and they were not very successful.

Mr. Rushton: Tell us about the State Government.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HARMAN: The Federal Government has formed an Urban Land Commission so that in each State the Commonwealth can set the machinery into motion to purchase land, subdivide it, service it, and sell it at a reasonable price.

Mr. O'Neill: They are going to give it away!

Mr. HARMAN: The State Labor Government has increased the income eligibility level for people wishing to buy or rent commission houses.

Mr. O'Neill: The Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement reduces it.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. HARMAN: A person who may not have qualified for State housing assistance previously because of his income, can now qualify if his income is below the top salary paid to a tradesman.

Mr. O'Neill: The Federal Minister for Housing wants to evict people when their income rises above so much per week. That is in the proposals.

Mr. HARMAN: A greater number of people will now have access to State Housing Commission assistance at a much lower rate of interest than is available privately.

Mr. O'Neill: The Federal Minister for Housing wants to evict them.

Mr. HARMAN: This applies to people wishing to purchase or rent homes. The Australian Government proposes to provide housing finance for needy people at 4 per cent. to the States. The machinery and the manner by which this process will be carried out is already under discussion with the State Ministers. Another conference will be held in Adelaide tomorrow to discuss the machinery necessary to implement the scheme.

Mr. O'Neill: They tossed the proposals out two weeks ago.

Mr. HARMAN: This is part of an overall plan to provide cheaper land and better homes at lower interest rates. The Australian Government has already hinted—

Mr. Rushton: It has done plenty of that.

Mr. HARMAN: —at a possible increase in bank loans and a reduction in bank interest rates. What a contrast between the last two years under a Labor Government in this State and the 12 years prior to 1971! What a contrast between the last few months and the 23 years before that in the Federal sphere!

Mr. Rushton: We never before enjoyed such stability.

Mr. HARMAN: Look at what happened in the 1960s. I am always amazed that the Liberal Party continues to claim that it is the people's party and its job is to help the people. Look at what the Liberal Party did in the 1960s.

At that time the Commonwealth Bank imposed a limit of \$9,000 on money to be made available to home builders at the lowest housing interest rate. We must remember that this restriction was imposed against a background of rising land and building costs. People who had saved a little money for a deposit were unable to obtain a loan from the bank.

Mr. Rushton: That was not the only institution lending money for houses.

Mr. HARMAN: The Commonwealth Government did not take any action and a vacuum was created. This vacuum was filled by the permanent building societies which were able to attract investment moneys by providing an attractive interest rate. The building societies used a percentage of the interest to cover administrative costs.

My own views on this matter are supported by the Federal Secretary of the Commonwealth Bank Officers' Association

in a document entitled, "Housing Finance and Urban Development". This document was circulated to all members of Parliament in November of last year. Mr. Jones says—

During the many months that our research has taken we found it necessary to include a study of urban development because here again—but more particularly in some States—the little man has been forced to pay a price far beyond his capacity. Our close and detailed study has satisfied us that the Australian public pays today an unnecessarily high price for both land and housing finance, a sad reflection of the inaction of our Governments in various States, and particularly the Commonwealth.

When we read of the large amounts which the building societies have been able to lend for housing in Australia we can appreciate the great contribution they have made to home building. We cannot be too critical of the building societies because they have operated in a field which was created by the inaction of the Commonwealth Government—the Liberal Government. I might add that I did not see any strong approaches being made by the State Liberal Government to the Federal Liberal Government to do something to increase the maximum loan available through the Commonwealth Bank or to attempt to reduce the interest rate.

Members must also be aware of the contrast between the administrative charges of the banks and the building societies on home finance. A bank arranges its own mortgage, valuation, and documents. The interest is calculated on what are termed monthly rests. The bank does not charge interest until the money has actually been lent. Of course, the building societies charge an application fee, a valuation fee, and a fee for insuring the mortgage with the Housing Loans Insurance Corporation. The building societies commence charging interest from the date of the approval of the loan even when the money remains with the society for two, three, or four months while the house is being completed. The mortgagor must pay interest on the loan even though the money has not been used. As well as this the building societies calculate interest on a three-monthly-rest system. This means that the mortgagor is paying interest on money which he has paid to the society but which is credited to his account only four times a year.

The Government of Western Australia is anxious to provide housing finance as cheaply as possible. In the Labor Party's policy speech we made certain statements which set out our views about building societies. On becoming the Government we asked the Building Societies Advisory Committee to examine a number of aspects

including interest rates and other charges. The committee considered the matter and subsequently a report was tabled in this House by the Minister for Housing on the 10th August, 1972. Quite recently the Premier gave notice of his intention this session to introduce amending legislation in regard to building societies. That is our record on housing and land since we became the Government. If members compare our record with the record of the previous Liberal Government—

Mr. Rushton: You have absolutely nothing to speak about on those two items.

Mr. HARMAN: —they will agree we have something to be proud of.

I wish to dwell for a moment on the matter raised by the member for Kimberley. Unfortunately I believe he did not do his case a great deal of good by attempting to introduce an element of politics into the situation in the Kimberley. I regard the situation there as being quite serious.

When we look at the history of the Aborigines in the Kimberley during recent years, I believe it is not a question of placing the blame upon this Government or the previous Government. What happened, of course, was that in 1968 the Federal pastoral award was introduced into the Kimberley. Immediately a retrenchment of Aborigines from the stations occurred, and the only places these men could go were the nearby towns. Of course, there was insufficient work available in those towns.

If I wished to play politics I could refer the honourable member to a speech I made in 1968 predicting that this drift into the towns would occur. On that particular occasion I invited the then Government to set up a committee composed of representatives of the Department of Labour, the Commonwealth Department of Labour and National Service, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association, and the unions. I suggested that the committee could investigate the unemployment situation which I felt may occur in the Kimberley as a result of the introduction of the Federal pastoral award. However, I do not wish to play politics on this occasion—we all know what happened. The Aborigines are being attracted to the towns in the Kimberley and there is insufficient work available.

As the member for Kimberley said, we know that a great number of the Aborigines are overindulging in alcohol. Obviously they have too much time on their hands and they have money available through social services.

I am assured by the new Minister for Community Welfare that he is very concerned about the problem raised by the member for Kimberley, and that he is endeavouring to do something constructive about it. I believe we should get behind the Minister and try to do something

worth while. Rather than our criticising the Government and the Aborigines, we should try to be constructive and solve the problem. I fully agree with the member for Kimberley when he stressed the seriousness of the problem.

The next matter I wish to raise is that during the debate on the Estimates in November, 1972, I outlined to the members of this Chamber some reasons why we ought to be thinking about peace and what action we should be taking to demonstrate we are not just dreaming of peace. At that time I indicated my support for several organisations which were endeavouring to promote the establishment of a chair of peace studies at the new Murdoch University. At the time I requested the Government and the Murdoch University Planning Board to consider this proposal.

The academic approach to peace studies and peace research is relatively new. In recent years nations have been loath to provide funds for peace research and peace studies, but have been able to provide extraordinary amounts of finance to produce weapons and arms. However, there now seems to be a glimmer of hope. Support for peace research and peace studies is becoming fashionable. The first peace research laboratory of which I have knowledge was commenced by Professor Letts in St. Louis, Missouri, in the United States of America in the early 1950s. Throughout the world there are now some 80 peace research centres and over 200 peace courses are being conducted in the U.S.A.; there are chairs of peace studies also in that country, and in the Netherlands, France, Norway, Sweden, Japan, and just recently the latest chair of peace studies was established at the Bradford University in England.

In some countries peace learning forms part of the curricula for children attending primary and secondary schools. When we turn to Australia our record in this field is not one of which we can be proud. However, as I have said, there is a glimmer of hope. When speaking at the annual mass for peace at St. Mary's Cathedral in Perth on the 12th January this year, Archbishop Goody had this to say—

The establishment of a chair of peace at the Murdoch University would be an intellectual step forward of the greatest importance.

Mr. Gayfer: It could help in this House at times, too.

Mr. HARMAN: Yes, no doubt. Similar comments were voiced by the W.A. Council of Churches, the Anglican Synod, the Rabbi of the Temple David, and the conference of the Church of Christ; they have all supported the proposal for establishing a chair of peace studies at the Murdoch University.

Mr. Hartrey: Hear, hear!

Mr. HARMAN: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, of the University of Melbourne, has just completed a study of more than 100 wars fought over the past 2000 years. Recently he spoke on the A.B.C. programme, "Guest of Honour", during which he made one or two comments which I think I should draw to the attention of members. He commenced by saying—

A few years ago I started looking for explanations of peace. They are not all that easy to find. The last seven volumes of the New Cambridge Modern History, fat volumes covering history since 1700, have not one reference in their index under the entry PEACE.

At the conclusion of his address he made the following statement—

I think it's fair to say that throughout the world the serious research into the causes of war and of peace is on a disappointingly small scale. The research is even on a humble scale compared to many relatively trivial fields of medicine and health. And yet war is a much more formidable research task than, say, cancer or ocean pollution.

Later on he said—

This is 1973 but the telstar passes unnoticed; we are still in the groove of the gramophone.

On the same A.B.C. "Guest of Honour" programme, on the 4th March, 1973, a person known as Monsignor Kent, who is the Chaplain of London University and a noted peacemaker of the present day, made the point that nations talked of peace and practised war.

He instanced the lack of comment from highly placed world Christians when President Nixon ordered the bombing of North Vietnam at the end of 1972. At the end of his address Monsignor Kent made this comment, and I would mention that at this time he was attending the 40th Eucharistic Congress held in Melbourne—

For instance, how about a really imaginative leap forward. At Melbourne I suggested that there might be a real memorial of the Congress—an ecumenically founded, substantially funded, International Centre devoted to World Peace, and open to all men of good will. I don't just mean a centre of academic research. I mean something action orientated, training peace teams, mediators, conflict experts. A centre to which at popular level we could turn for impartial information about the dangers of war, the risks of the ever madder armament race, a place which could give early warning to men of good will about explosive situations of injustice which could lead to war. We have enough cathedrals and churches and

altars. Let those of us who say we love one another prove it with our cash. The Australian International Peace Centre. Mad? I don't think so. Take your opportunity. Your moment is now.

I could go on quoting statements made by a number of eminent persons throughout the world who, at every opportunity, are pressing the need for peace studies and peace research.

I am now pleased to inform the Chamber that the State Parliamentary Labor Party has agreed to ask the Government to make urgent and early representations to the Commonwealth Government for a grant to be made available to enable the Murdoch University to establish a department of peace studies.

Mr. A. R. Tonkin: Hear, hear!

Mr. HARMAN: In addition, the Minister for Education has been requested to consult with the Murdoch University Planning Board with a view to including peace studies and research at the earliest possible moment. I understand that the full details of this decision will be made available by the Premier at a later stage. However, I am sure all members of Parliament will welcome the decision we have made, and indeed, the public of Western Australia will also welcome this action.

The successful conclusion of our approaches will be a magnificent achievement for Perth and Western Australia as a whole. It would be a mecca for students and peace researchers all over the world. In turn, we will be starting to practice peace and I hope beginning to see—

Mr. Rushton: Are you going to send trade unionists over there?

Mr. HARMAN: What a pathetic interjection that is! I hope we will begin to see the fulfilment of a wish of George Washington when he said, "My first wish is to see this plague of mankind—war—banished from this earth."

MR. SEWELL (Geraldton) [6.10 p.m.]: The subject matter before the House at present is, of course, the Address-in-Reply to the Speech made by His Excellency the Governor. During all the years I have been a member of this House—which is over 20—I have never before heard such a lot of tripe and rubbish from members of the Opposition. It must be very pleasing to our Premier and our Ministers to know that the least the Opposition could bring forward this session was all the tripe and rubbish to which I have just referred. In addition, in tonight's issue of the *Daily News* can be seen a report by an economics advisory body which has been referred to by some speakers, and we know that these men do not idly express their views in the Press and that a newspaper such as the *Daily News* does not publish such statements unless there is truth in them.

It is for that reason that I say the Premier should be able to congratulate himself on the progress that has been made by his Government in the past two years. We know that in the first 12 months of the Government assuming office Western Australia was in a state of recession; there is no question about that. I will not blame the previous Brand-Nalder Government for that state of recession, although it may have contributed to it a little. The recession was, of course, mainly due to the falling prices of primary products and to unemployment which occurred mainly in the Eastern States and over which this State had no control. It is pleasing to see that we have apparently turned the corner and are now on the way to becoming the progressive State that we should be.

Turning to matters that interest the people in my electorate, I have to mention some of the questions I have raised in this Chamber over the years. The first is the deepening of Geraldton Harbour and improving the harbour facilities for the export of products from that very rich district. We know now that the Geraldton Harbour Board is pursuing a policy of deepening the harbour with the intention of making it possible for much larger ships to load to the maximum and so obviate their having to come to Fremantle to top up their cargo with other products.

When we come to consider the export of iron ore and other minerals from the Port of Geraldton we know that the existing harbour would never be satisfactory for this purpose because of the large amount of money that would be required to deepen the harbour to such an extent that it could accommodate the large ships which sought to enter it to take away the iron ore. At present there is a plan at the Public Works Department for the establishment of another port further along the coast, about 10 or 12 miles from Geraldton, at what is known as Point Moore at the mouth of the Buller River. It is often referred to as Drummond's Cove, but Drummond's Cove is a small settlement which is frequented by holiday makers. It is purely a camping resort and the deep water necessary for the establishment of a suitable port is a little further along the coast at Point Moore.

The Government has taken action to throw a blanket over a large area of land in that vicinity which takes in a great deal of the old market gardens which were used for the growing of tomatoes, which area used to be in my electorate. It is planned that this land will be used for the establishment of future harbour facilities, and there are other tracts which can be used by those who wish to establish factories.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. SEWELL: Before the tea suspension I had mentioned the intended water facilities in the vicinity of the Buller River. I also referred to the blanket that had been thrown over the land in that area which comprises about 2,000 acres. This has been reserved for the use of industry later. I think the Government should be congratulated on the fact that it has thrown this blanket over the area mentioned for the future use of industry.

A great deal of attention to the Geraldton area has been paid by outside interests. This relates not only to rural land but also to land in the town itself. We have some of the bigger firms in the metropolitan area interesting themselves in this land. There is of course, also a shopping complex, etc., and this all helps to put up the price of land to the ordinary individual. To date, however, we have not been too badly treated by speculators, nor do we want to be.

The main reason for the new harbour would be for the purpose of exporting minerals which are now being found in the areas serviced by the Port of Geraldton. I refer firstly to the mineral sands at Eneabba. We understand from the statement made by the Minister that from Jurien Bay to Geraldton on the coast we have mineral sands that can be treated and exported.

I would like to quote from *The Geraldton Guardian* of Saturday, the 17th March. I might add that *The Geraldton Guardian* itself is a good indication of the progress that is being made in the district generally because the paper in gathering its news and reporting it generally is certainly very unbiased. With your permission, Sir, I would like to quote what the Minister for Decentralisation had to say on the 16th March, 1973. This was reported in the paper of Saturday, the 17th March. The Minister was referring to the Eneabba complex and the pilot plant costing \$3,800,000 which is to be built at Barrambie. The mineral sands at Jurien Bay will be treated in the first instance on the site at Eneabba, and I understand the plant will be opened on Friday by the Premier and the Minister.

After treatment the mineral sands will be transported by road train to the Port of Geraldton and this is all to the good. As I have said a pilot plant costing \$3,800,000 is to be built at Barrambie, 280 miles east of Geraldton and some 30 miles north of Sandstone. The report in the Press reads—

A throughput of 500,000 tons of mineral concentrates a year is planned from the complex.

Mr. Graham advised that officials of Ferrovanadium Corporation had talked to the State Government about setting up a full-scale mining and processing operation at Barrambie and Geraldton.

The initial feasibility study had been completed and the pilot plant will test the treatment process on an industrial basis following laboratory and small-scale testing.

Mr. Graham said that, if the major plant was built later, a wet processing plant would be built at Barrambie, together with a pipeline and electric furnace and chemical treatment plant near Geraldton.

The mineral concentrates would be piped from Barrambie to Geraldton through a slurry pipe of 5 in. diameter, thus overcoming handling problems and any dust nuisance.

As many as 500 people could be employed in this complex, which could have a metal production of up to \$32 million a year.

Now we can understand why the outside financial institutions are taking such an interest in Geraldton itself. We have to depend mainly on primary production which we hope will continue, but it is interesting to note, however, that the minerals concerned will be shipped through the Port of Geraldton. Apart from this, of course, we have the Weld Range iron ore. We hope that the day is not far distant when finance will be made available by the people interested and concerned for the purpose of setting up an integrated iron ore plant in that area with a view to exporting our iron ore to the northern countries of Europe.

I am glad to be able to report that a deposit of talc has been found at Mt. Seabrook. We understand that the talc in this area will be treated in the metropolitan area and exported from Fremantle. There is a considerable amount of talc in this deposit but it is disappointing to the people in the Geraldton area to know that the talc from Seabrook will be exported.

Much has been said in the last couple of years about the new high school at Geraldton. We now have the assurance of the Minister and the Government that another high school will be built in the town in 1975. For the information of members, and having discussed this matter with the member for Greenough, I would point out that the new high school will actually be built in the Greenough electorate. The growth of the population in the Greenough electorate has meant that it has gradually cut right into the town of Geraldton. I mention this aspect because it might seem strange to those who do not know any different that a high school for Geraldton should be built in the Greenough electorate.

I can assure members that the school is badly needed and we hope it will be completed in 1975. A good site has been set aside for the school and we trust that everything will go along well so far as finance is concerned.

From my observation of all the State schools and private schools in Geraldton I would say that they are being conducted very well indeed. The grounds of both the State and private schools are kept in good order, and the education facilities in Geraldton itself are second to none in the State. I only hope this will continue, because there are those among us who would like to see Geraldton become a centre of education and one of the focal points in this regard.

Over the last three or four years the new regional gaol has been a hardy annual so far as I am concerned. The previous Minister (Mr. Craig) promised that we would have a new regional gaol, yet now we understand that Geraldton is to be excluded from the plans for new gaols.

From the information given us it would appear that the old Victoria District Hospital which may have been used as a regional hospital was more or less upgraded and has continued to be used as a regional prison. I am one of those who do not agree with this. I think the regional gaol should be built on the site that was originally chosen for this purpose on the Chapman River. I feel that the old Victoria District Hospital which is now used as a regional prison could be converted into what we always intended that it should be when we get our new regional hospital—that is, a home for our aged people.

I would like the Government to take note that the people of Geraldton are not very happy about the fact that we will not get a regional gaol, but that the old hospital will be updated for this purpose.

We all know that we depend very heavily on primary production. It is all very well to talk about iron ore and other minerals but primary production is a very important part of our economy.

Anyone who lives in a country town—particularly a town like Geraldton, Northam, Bunbury, or Albany—would have noticed the vast improvement since the increase in the price of wool. I refer, of course, to the improvement in the spending power of the people.

The people must have money to spend; to buy things made by other people to enable them to make a living. So even though we urge that advantage be taken of our mineral deposits we must not forget primary production and its importance to this State.

Fortunately for Geraldton and also for Western Australia we are favoured with very good climatic conditions so far as cereals, wool, and wheat are concerned. Last year we had a very good season and we trust this will be repeated in the coming year.

Each year, and perhaps two or three times a year, I have directed the Government's attention to the water supplies of the State generally. I cannot see why

those who are responsible for this aspect do not pay more attention to the conservation of the water supplies of this State; because it has been said over and over again that the population both of humans and animals will be governed by the extent to which we conserve water to enable it to be utilised for the benefit of stock and people.

Some time ago—I think it was last year—I can recall reading in the Press that the Minister for Development and Decentralisation had written to a local authority in this State and pointed out that its attitude was rather parochial. I know that the Geraldton Town Council agreed with the Minister on that occasion, and I understand the council congratulated him on what he said. The Geraldton Town Council always considers the interests of the State in general and I am pleased to be able to place on record that it has done a very good job for the town and the district of Geraldton.

We are aware that there has been much criticism of local authorities but, as I have said, the Geraldton Town Council is worthy of praise because of the work it has done towards the advancement of Geraldton. The same applies, to a lesser degree, to the Greenough Shire Council and to our local tourist bureau, both of which have done a very good job. Last, but not least, I refer to our Sunshine Festival Committee and other similar organisations in the town of Geraldton which all work for the betterment of the town and the district.

MR. LAPHAM (Karrinyup) [7.47 p.m.]: I will not keep the House for any great length of time but I feel I should refer to a matter which concerns us all. I feel also that each of us, in turn, considers that he is an expert on traffic and traffic safety. Over the years my experience has been that as soon as a person learns how to handle a gear lever and is able to change gears, and perhaps steer a vehicle—rather than drive it—he considers he is a driving expert. This seems to apply whether the person concerned merely travels from his home to his place of employment each day, or whether he drives continuously on country or metropolitan roads or both.

My remarks are not intended to be critical of the present Government, or of any previous Government; nor are they intended to be critical of any act of omission or commission. However, I feel we should have a general rethinking in relation to traffic. In my opinion traffic has grown like Topsy in a higgledy-piggledy fashion.

Not many years ago there was little traffic on our roadways and, as a consequence, traffic control was considered to be of minor importance only. The police were the controlling authority, and the

traffic authority usually had, as the person in charge, a policeman who had served the major portion of his life in law enforcement in the Police Force. Because of impending retirement, and perhaps to help him to secure a few additional superannuation units, he was usually appointed to the back-water, which was traffic control.

To some extent, this attitude is reflected in the Traffic Act. It is a major Act but it is almost impossible for any average person to understand it. As a matter of fact, I doubt whether there are many people in the legal profession who fully understand the Traffic Act.

Mr. Hartrey: Oh, it is not so incomprehensible as that.

Mr. LAPHAM: Well, it is difficult to understand. I think the honourable member will admit to that.

Mr. Hartrey: Yes, I will admit to that.

Mr. LAPHAM: The Traffic Act is one which has grown up gradually. It seems that each year we introduce another aspect of traffic control, but we never seem to take anything away from the Act. We usually add to the Act or introduce new regulations.

Mr. Nalder: The Minister for Local Government intends to do that this year.

Mr. LAPHAM: I feel it is necessary to do what one can as far as the Act is concerned, because traffic and its control is a serious problem. We are killing too many people on our roads; I think everyone would admit that.

Mr. Nalder: I do not think you should say we are killing them: they are killing themselves.

Mr. LAPHAM: Yes, to some extent they are killing themselves.

Our present legislation does not help the uninitiated to understand what he should do. All a person has to do to obtain a driver's license is to learn how to handle a gear lever and how to steer a vehicle. In many cases a person does not learn how to handle a gear lever because of automatic transmissions.

Mr. Nalder: Do you not think that many cars are too powerful?

Mr. LAPHAM: Yes, but I will deal with that aspect a little later. When a person passes an examination he receives a probationary license, and a "P" plate. The "P" plate should indicate to other drivers on the roads that the driver of the car displaying that plate is not an experienced driver, but is, in fact, a learner-driver. If there were any courtesy on the road a person displaying a "P" plate would receive some assistance. Competent drivers would attempt to assist such a driver with courteous gestures. A learner-driver should be given some degree of help by other average drivers.

Mr. Nalder: It seems that some people who display the "P" plate consider they have some advantage because it means "Please pass"!

Mr. LAPHAM: I think the bulk of the learner-drivers who display "P" plates are trying to do their best in accordance with what they have been taught. However, in many cases a person with a probationary license considers that he has a right to the road, the same as any other person. It seems that the younger drivers want to show the older drivers what they can do.

This brings me to the question of whether a driver's license should be considered to be the right of any individual or whether it should be considered a privilege. I feel it is a matter of privilege. A person should not hold a driver's license if he is not psychologically fitted to have it. This is one aspect which we, in our legislative efforts, have not as yet considered. However, it is overdue for consideration. It will be found that on many occasions the swivel chair experts deal with the question of those people in the 60 to 70-year-old bracket. Those experts claim that elderly people should go before medical practitioners before their driver's licenses are renewed. The idea is that the people concerned should be tested for sight, hearing, signs of epilepsy, and for various other disabilities. However, as yet no method has been designed to establish whether or not a person is psychologically fitted to receive a driver's license whether young or old.

Mr. Hartrey: That applies to marriage licenses also.

Mr. LAPHAM: I do not think there is any psychological test for marriage; that is purely a matter of hit or miss.

Mr. Graham: Hit, or misses!

Mr. LAPHAM: We find that a high percentage of drivers involved in accidents are in the 17 to 25-year-old group. That seems to be the dangerous period of life for a person driving a vehicle. Those people are generally fit and usually they have a good reflex action, but very few of them understand even how to place a car on the road to avoid an accident.

Quite often I drive on the Freeway and I notice young people driving a couple of car lengths behind the vehicle in front of them, frequently at a speed above the maximum. In those circumstances, if one car happens to stop quickly there is usually a collision. Such accidents demonstrate a sheer lack of ability to drive correctly.

An inexperienced driver can feel quite safe while travelling at a high speed on a country road. However, the moment he moves too close to the edge of the road and gets into some gravel he is in trouble.

Another traffic hazard occurs when the first rains fall after the summer period. There is usually a spate of accidents because vehicles do not stop as quickly as

they normally do on the dry roads. We will always have slippery roads to some degree and perhaps the authorities are at fault in this regard.

In the early days of the Freeway it had a rough surface. Subsequently, through resurfacing it became much smoother and also it became much more dangerous. I have driven for long enough to know a slippery surface from a good road surface. When the Freeway surface was changed to a hotmix surface one could feel a loss of adhesion between the tyres and the road. I feel we should look to the question of having roughened surfaces on our roadways.

Mr. Gayfer: You don't think the oil from the exhausts has something to do with that?

Mr. LAPHAM: Yes, as a matter of fact it does have an effect. It will be found though, that some of the road surfaces have an oil base and this, perhaps, is where the failure occurs.

Mr. Gayfer: That is recognised practice.

Mr. LAPHAM: Only recently we introduced the compulsory use of seat belts. Candidly, I did not think much of the idea and I said so at the time, although I do not mind the compulsory fitting of seat belts to motor vehicles. As a matter of fact, I consider I do not need a seat belt around the metropolitan and city areas. If I felt I did need a seat belt in those areas I would not drive a car. However, I think it is a different matter entirely when one is driving on a country road because to keep up with the normal traffic flow I have found that I have to increase the speed of my car considerably.

I think it is advisable to wear a seat belt when travelling in the vicinity of 60 or 70 miles an hour—not because of any doubt about one's own ability to drive safely but because of the inexperienced "cranks" on the roads. Although no statistical information is available, I think the compulsory wearing of seat belts has had some bearing, not on the accident ratio but on—

Mr. Nalder: Fatalities?

Mr. LAPHAM: Not so much on fatalities as on the injury ratio. I think the ratio of frontal injuries sustained by drivers and passengers has been lessened, but the compulsory wearing of seat belts has had some disadvantages. The disadvantage I am thinking of particularly is that the young person who gets into a car and wraps himself up in a seat belt immediately feels that he is on a racing track and he uses normal roadways as racing tracks.

Mr. O'Neil: Do you know of a racing driver named Syd Schlam?

Mr. LAPHAM: Yes. He was killed at the speedway.

Also we recently introduced into this House legislation which widened the use of alcohol. From memory, the consumption of alcohol in hotels was previously restricted to those aged 21 and over but we extended that right to those of 18 years of age and over. I said at the time this provision would be reflected in the number of traffic accidents, and I think that has occurred, although once again there is no statistical information on which one can rely to prove this point.

Mr. Nalder: You are putting up a strong case for further research.

Mr. LAPHAM: Yes. Research has been neglected for years. Research should not be carried out by swivel chair experts. Let us put it in the hands of the ordinary people who have been driving all their lives, such as the commercial traveller, the farmer who travels a great deal, and the people who are commercially engaged in driving, almost full time. Those people naturally gather relevant information by experience and they can give us the answers—not the person who has been a good president or secretary, or a good secondhand car salesman, or one following a pursuit not directly related to almost continual driving. We want the practical people.

Mr. A. R. Tonkin: To whom would you go for advice about your kidneys?

Mr. LAPHAM: I would go to a medical practitioner.

Mr. A. R. Tonkin: You would go to an expert.

Mr. LAPHAM: That is right.

Mr. O'Neill: One does not become an expert merely through practice.

Mr. LAPHAM: As far as traffic is concerned, let us bypass the swivel chair experts and find some practical people.

Mr. Thompson: Is it not a fact that the death toll, expressed as a percentage of vehicles on the road, is falling?

Mr. LAPHAM: I do not think it is falling, although perhaps it has not increased alarmingly. There are two schools of thought in this matter. Let us assume the accident ratio has remained stagnant. It is still a high ratio and I think we can do a lot better than we have done.

Mr. Thompson: It is still too high but it is in fact falling.

Mr. LAPHAM: I would not say it is falling.

Mr. Gayfer: Half of those cars are second cars which are parked in garages.

Mr. Rushton: New Zealand and Sweden have good systems which are different from ours.

Mr. LAPHAM: I do not think there are any good systems in the world. We send experts to different countries—

Mr. W. G. Young: And they come back confused.

Mr. LAPHAM: That is right. Under those circumstances, I do not think we can look to other countries for solutions. We should look to ourselves and find out where the problem is. Candidly, I have often thought one of our greatest problems is that we have not a simplified traffic code. It is difficult to say what is a simplified traffic code but, offhand, I would say one of the rules should be, "Thou shalt not have an accident."

How can we attack this problem? In the main, by prudent driving. One should not have accidents. I remember giving in this House in 1957 a lecture about driving and I had a prang the next day—the first ever. I hope that will not happen to me again tomorrow.

Mr. Nalder: Did someone run into you?

Mr. LAPHAM: Perhaps it was a dead heat. I must admit that had I been concentrating on the job I was doing there would not have been an accident.

Mr. Nalder: I thought you were going to say, "Had I been travelling a bit faster".

Mr. LAPHAM: The other individual was in the wrong and I was in the right according to the law, but not according to my conscience. Daily one sees instances of a driver turning his head around to talk to his passenger. If such a person realised the distance he travelled during this action he would not do it, but one cannot seem to convince people of these things.

Mr. E. H. M. Lewis: I bet it is a long time since you had your arm around a girl in a car.

Mr. LAPHAM: That is another matter entirely. One's mind is not on driving in those circumstances.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much talking in the Chamber.

Mr. LAPHAM: Mr. Speaker, I have driven with you in city and country areas, and I respect you as being a very good driver. It is not difficult to know who is a good driver. When one is a passenger in a car one knows within half a mile or a mile whether one is safe.

Mr. W. G. Young: If you have not had an accident by then you are all right?

Mr. LAPHAM: I have travelled many miles with you, Mr. Speaker, and I know how safe I was on those occasions.

Mr. O'Neill: You reckon if you get over the first half-mile you have a rough chance?

Mr. LAPHAM: Another matter I want to deal with is avoiding apprehension by failing to stop. We should treat the granting of a driving license as a privilege, not a right, and people should have their licenses taken away not for three months or six months but until such time as they can prove they are psychologically fit to have the licenses returned to them. I am referring to those types of individuals who, in endeavouring to avoid apprehension, accelerate when they hear the police siren, which results in a 90 or 100-miles-an-hour chase, endangering countless lives. Such people are eventually fined \$100 or \$200 and their licenses are suspended for six months. If it were left to me, they would lose their licenses until they were proved to be psychologically fit to drive a vehicle.

Mr. Hutchinson: Do you view their behaviour with apprehension?

Mr. LAPHAM: I certainly do. At times I am surprised at the leniency exercised by magistrates in dealing with some of these cases. I would not like to be driving on the roadway and having to take evasive action to avoid one of those 90-miles-an-hour chases. It is ridiculous that we should tolerate such a situation. If a person who behaves like that is caught, he should have to prove that he is psychologically fit to have a license before it is returned to him.

Mr. W. A. Manning: Hear, hear!

Mr. LAPHAM: Recently there was an accident involving a motorcycle which was doing an estimated speed of about 80 miles an hour. He ran into a bus and both he and the bus driver were killed, as could be expected. As a consequence, there was quite a lot of comment about what we should do in regard to motorcyclists. It was suggested there should be separate licenses for motorcycles equipped with small engines and those equipped with large engines. Then followed discussion about whether all motorcycles should be fitted with crash bars.

Recently a firm advertised mini bikes and classes at which children of tender years could learn to drive them. Since that time mini bikes have begun to appear on our nature strips. With such young children riding them, I am sure it will not be long before fatalities occur. We should consider whether an individual should have the right, for personal gain, to introduce mini bikes to children of, say, 10 years of age, even though the parents are agreeable to it.

Generally, in all our thinking in relation to motor vehicles our minds have been conditioned by Press advertising and even by Press reviews on motor vehicles. Repeatedly, the tendency has been for the manufacturer to play up the speed his vehicles will do, and perhaps the braking capacity of the vehicles. Emphasis is not

placed on durability, how far the vehicle will go without a major overhaul, or what one could expect it to do if it got into sand.

I mention sand because I recently drove down to Mandurah in a new car—I will not mention the make of it; I did not think much of it, anyway. I pulled up on the side of the road, where there happened to be a bit of sand. The car could not pull away from it and became horribly bogged. Its gear ratio was designed for speed and did not have the flexibility of the older vehicle to cope with general situations.

Manufacturers put the entire emphasis on speed, and I do not think we, as legislators, should allow this to continue. It is about time the legislative Houses of Australia told the motorcar manufacturers to place the emphasis on the reasonable speeds of vehicles plus safety. In my opinion, some of the Australian-made vehicles on sale today are dangerous.

I had occasion recently to get into one of the cars of the State Government fleet and, quite candidly, I think the steering wheel was far too close to me for comfort. I would not recommend that make of car, although it is supposed to be a particularly high-class vehicle. I think it is about time we stopped the dictation by motor manufacturers of what they are going to give us, and dictated to them what we feel is suitable for the community.

The question regarding whether the medical profession should have the right to notify traffic authorities that a patient has an impairment in his health has been considered by some authorities. There is some thought that a medical practitioner should indicate to the traffic authorities, if in his opinion a person is suffering from an illness which could make him a danger when in control of a motor vehicle, that the person should not be issued with a driver's license, or that his license should not be renewed. Before the Government considers that matter I would like it to know that I do not favour such a proposal. I do not think a medical man should make the decision as to whether a person is fit or unfit to drive. Simply because a person reaches the age of 65 years does not mean that he is any more dangerous on the road as a result of the natural deterioration of his body than a person who is aged between 40 and 60 years. People die at all ages throughout life.

Mr. O'Neill: More people die in bed than in motorcars.

Mr. LAPHAM: Yes, that is a statistical fact.

Another aspect in the matter of road safety is that there appears to be no degree of control over the tyres which may be fitted to a motor vehicle. A car which is capable of 120 miles per hour may be fitted with tyres that are dangerous at 70 miles per hour. As a matter of fact, one can even get two-ply tyres. Many of these

tyres are good if they are manufactured to certain specifications, but if not they can be extremely dangerous at high speeds. However, as far as I am aware no control is exercised over the type of tyre which should be fitted to a vehicle. It is all right as long as the tyre has a little rubber on the tread.

Mr. Gayfer: High speed cars use two-ply tyres for cooling purposes.

Mr. LAPHAM: I know, but they are not ordinary tyres; they are specially designed.

Mr. Gayfer: Two-ply racing tyres are standard.

Mr. LAPHAM: That is right, but a two-ply tyre not designed for high speed use would be dangerous at high speed.

Mr. Gayfer: I do not know of any two-ply tyre not designed for racing.

Mr. LAPHAM: Every time we have a spate of accidents we see panic measures introduced. I do not like panic measures at any time. Recently an article appeared in the *Daily News* because 13 pedestrians had been killed in the metropolitan area since January. The article stated—

Police are getting tough because pedestrians are ignoring warnings and the pedestrian death toll is soaring.

One day last week police issued 77 caution notices to pedestrians.

The article goes on to indicate that pedestrians may be fined between \$2 and \$5 for certain offences. The offences include jaywalking, failing to keep to the left of a footpath, and obstructing. I thought the last offence went out with S. P. book-making! Another offence is that of boarding or alighting from a moving vehicle; I thought that went out with the trams. Other offences include not clearing a crosswalk, and walking on the wrong side of a carriageway. Candidly, I do not know what that means; but if the carriageway is a roadway I would like to see people walking on the right-hand side and not on the left-hand side.

Mr. O'Neil: That is only if there are no footpaths.

Mr. LAPHAM: That is right. Now we come to the question: How many footpaths are there in the metropolitan area?

Mr. W. G. Young: Not many.

Mr. LAPHAM: Let us consider where deaths involving pedestrians have occurred. One occurred in Pascoe Street, Karringup, and involved a 13-year-old lad who alighted from a bus, ran around in front of it, and was struck by a passing car. That was a pure accident. Another occurred in Oats Street, Carlisle, but I do not know the particulars. Another occurred in a parking area in a Morley shopping centre, where a child was killed by a delivery truck in a laneway. Others

occurred in minor streets and on highways; but almost all have no relation to the areas which are the subject of the purge.

How many times when one is driving at night does one see a pedestrian in the centre of the road waiting for one to drive past him so that he may finish crossing the road? This happens repeatedly. I see it constantly on Canning Highway and even on Scarborough Beach Road. It makes me shudder because it is most difficult to see a person dressed in dark clothing and standing in the centre of the roadway when one is driving at night. The lighting of motor vehicles is not good enough in this respect as a driver cannot lift his lights to high beam in order to see because if he did so he would dazzle oncoming traffic. So we must have a degree of compromise; and it is not a very good compromise because drivers are disadvantaged at night. Their vision is impaired and they cannot see pedestrians who stand in the middle of the road. But those pedestrians are not the people who are being fined \$2; the ones who are being fined are the unfortunate people in the city who in the main have not contributed to the pedestrian fatality rate. I think this is silly.

We should not get panicky as a result of the road fatalities in the country, and even those in the metropolitan area. I think it is necessary to examine the question thoroughly and find out just where the fault lies. Of course, the correction of the fault does not lie in the fitting of seat belts or anything of that nature; seat belts only help to overcome the incidence of frontal damage to people involved in collisions.

Mr. E. H. M. Lewis: Do you think we are always pressing the panic button?

Mr. LAPHAM: Yes, I think we are. I think we pushed it fairly hard the other day when people were asked to report others on the road. I have to admit I do not mind such action when a crank is driving dangerously up and down the street. In that case it is fair enough to let the police know. But I do not think we should encourage one driver to report another because he steps up his speed a little. Who in this House can say that he does not speed on occasions?

Mr. O'Neil: One member who is not here!

Mr. Graham: Modesty overcomes me!

Mr. LAPHAM: There is not a member here who does not exceed the speed limit on occasions. Let us assume one is driving in a 35 m.p.h. zone and the needle creeps up to 41 or 42 m.p.h.

Mr. O'Neil: Or 48.

Sir Charles Court: Alexandra the Great!

Mr. LAPHAM: So the speedo needle creeps up a little, and others are encouraged to report the driver. This is another panic measure. A speed cop—and I want to help them as much as I can to catch the drivers who really offend—has only to follow a driver for one-eighth of a mile in order to book him for speeding. The driver might have increased his speed to pass other vehicles or to get out of a dangerous situation. Many times I have increased speed to get out of a dangerous situation, especially when I have been in a line of traffic where the drivers are playing follow-the-leader. In that case I try to get out in front in order to drive safely; and by doing so I might have to speed beyond the legal limit.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has five more minutes.

Mr. O'Neil: Five minutes at 35!

Mr. LAPHAM: I could be caught for doing that and subsequently fined for exceeding the limit; but am I a dangerous person simply because I realised through experience that I was in a dangerous situation and I wished to convert it to a safe situation?

Mr. Thompson: Have you ever considered stopping as a means of correcting that situation?

Mr. LAPHAM: I think we must consider the question of whether speed limits are so vitally necessary. I am not advocating the complete elimination of speed limits without a substitute. Candidly, I do not know what the substitute would be, but I would like the matter to be examined because one can drive most imprudently even at 35 m.p.h. I think that is a word we should take more cognisance of. One can drive a vehicle carefully at well in excess of the speed limit, and yet one can also drive dangerously by adhering to the speed limit.

Mr. O'Neil: One can also drive dangerously at five miles an hour.

Mr. E. H. M. Lewis: Do you ever "lap 'em"?

Mr. LAPHAM: Yes, in my early days I sometimes did. In conclusion, I would like to remind members that we will find a solution to the problem as long as we tackle it in the right fashion.

Mr. McPharlin: To what do you attribute accidents on straight stretches of country roads?

Mr. LAPHAM: There could be many reasons. In many instances they could be due to fatigue. I find it very easy to drop off to sleep after midday, especially on a hot day.

Mr. W. G. Young: You mean after midnight.

Mr. LAPHAM: Not only after midnight; I find after a meal on a hot day it is very easy to go to sleep. The same applies to many people in the evenings after they have consumed a little alcohol. Remember it is not always the legally drunken driver we must be concerned about. I know of instances where people who were only sitting in their vehicles were apprehended because they were legally drunk and were considered to be in control of the vehicle.

Mr. Hartrey: They must be in control of a vehicle which is in motion.

Mr. LAPHAM: Some of those people have pleaded guilty to the charge. I find that young people in particular who do not normally drink alcohol but who may have a few drinks of say, wine, are very dangerous to others. One may see evidence of this almost every night if one lives anywhere near a tavern or a place where alcohol is sold. One can hear the tyres squealing, and one knows the reason for it.

I do feel that a complete inquiry into the matter is necessary. I say again, the inquiry should be conducted not by the so-called traffic experts, but by people with common sense and a knowledge of what we require in the community.

MR. GRAHAM (Balcatta—Minister for Development and Decentralisation) (8.30 p.m.): The subject of decentralisation is one that is frequently mentioned and discussed. Because so many persons appear to be misinformed or ill-informed on this subject it occurred to me that it might be a worth-while exercise to outline some features in connection with this objective.

Perhaps, first of all, I should say that today some attention is being given to a form of development known as regional growth centres: that is to say, emphasis is given to certain selected centres, rather than spreading thinly over the whole community and over the whole State, industry and development which would have very little impact in themselves.

Perth, the capital city of Western Australia, apart from being a beautiful and attractive city, has, of course, very many inbuilt advantages such as the number of people residing here, the availability of a work force, and the existence of various types of industries which could supply services to any who are seeking to become established. In many cases there is a substantial market at the front door. Perth is the point of arrival and departure for people, whether it is by air, by sea, or by rail; it is a place where the headquarters of government is established. It is where business firms, in the main, have established their chief offices; where some facilities, such as a university, a public library, an art gallery, and a museum are located; and where visiting artists and sporting teams stop over, because by and large they cannot go to other centres.

I am pointing out, on top of the fact that by nature we have a very beautiful city, this makes it desirable from many aspects. Notwithstanding all that has taken place, particularly in the north of the State in the 1960s, it is noteworthy that the population of the metropolitan region grew more rapidly than ever before in its history. In a short period of some 10 years—I am now using even figures—the proportion of the population of our State which lived in the Perth metropolitan region rose from 60 per cent., at a rapid rate to almost 70 per cent. at the present time.

Sir Charles Court: Unfortunately that is the world experience.

Mr. GRAHAM: This problem is not confined to Western Australia. So we have a mammoth task to tackle this problem, to determine whether something can be done at least to slacken the pace; but for preference to have the movement in the opposite direction. It is felt that, because of the factors I have mentioned confronting the metropolitan area, in very many cases those seeking to invest or to establish an industry have no alternative locality to Perth; therefore modern thinking is along the lines of establishing, perhaps initially, an alternative, but preferably several alternatives, and concentrating upon them so that anyone seeking to become established here will have somewhere else to look at with some possibility of making the decision that we would like him to make.

There are signs of hope as the Commonwealth Government has indicated its interest. We hope this will be followed when the selection of a centre or centres is made in each of the States, and that this will be accompanied by financial resources to enable capital works or infrastructure of meaningful proportions which would have the desired effect, to be provided, so that they can become catalysts in association with what State Governments and local governments are able to do.

I repeat this is a gigantic task. Very largely a Government—and I am thinking of the State Government together with the Department of Development and Decentralisation—is able to do little more than to give argument and reason and to provide facts, figures, and other detail in order to persuade venturers to go elsewhere to be established than in the metropolitan region. In addition, the department is able to offer inducement, encouragement, and financial considerations which it is hoped will have some influence.

Mr. Hutchinson: May I ask what distance you have in mind, in order to provide this catalyst to build a new centre?

Mr. GRAHAM: It is very difficult to answer that question. The distance could be 50, 100, or 700 miles. A great deal would depend on the ingredient already existing there. Notwithstanding what the Government does, the final decision rests with the

venturer; and he has to make up his mind whether he wants to become established at Geraldton, Merredin, Albany, Bunbury, or elsewhere.

I think that should be appreciated because a great deal of work and effort goes into very many of these cases of projected industries, but finally it is the board of directors which makes the decision; and the industry is then established in a particular place. One industry which is of some concern to me is the giant, jumbo steel industry estimated to cost approximately \$1,600,000,000, to employ a work force of about 20,000 persons, and to sustain a population of about 100,000; that is to say including the families of the employees and those engaged in the service industries associated with that activity. If it can be persuaded to become established in a country centre then members will readily appreciate the tremendous impact that such an industry will have.

It is stated that when the population of a town or city reaches a figure variously estimated at 100,000 up to 250,000 people—depending on who has made the survey—then it becomes self-generating to a certain extent; and other industries enjoy this extended sphere and extended area.

The company with which I have had discussions, and which I sought to persuade to become established elsewhere than in the metropolitan area, pointed out to me that it would cost an additional \$400,000,000 to do so. In addition to the capital cost I was told that some millions of dollars per annum additionally would be involved in the processing of its activities throughout the year, and that this would be a constant factor. This is in addition to any provision having to be made which from the company's point of view would be an unnecessary capital cost.

If a steel mill is projected to become established in Western Australia, and according to the party concerned it is to be at Perth or nowhere else, then I think Western Australia would prefer it to be in the Perth metropolitan region rather than for it not to be established in the State at all. Very often that is the alternative—the place where the company wishes to become established, or the whole deal is off.

We are aware that some attention was given in the Premier's policy speech to the question of decentralisation. Accordingly, following the election I was delegated the task and the responsibility of being the Minister for Development and Decentralisation. This is the first time in Western Australia that a Ministry of Decentralisation has been created. As I told people from country areas who from time to time have become upset, I have not set out to become the first failure in this capacity, and for that reason my thoughts go along with theirs. My view is the same as their view; that a policy of decentralisation should be

implemented, and everything humanly possible should be done in order to achieve that worth-while objective.

So it becomes necessary for the department to be restructured and for certain changes to be made. Whereas previously the planning and co-ordinating authority was housed in a separate office about a mile away and was under the direction of the Premier of the day, that co-ordinating authority was merged with the Department of Industrial Development as it was previously known. The new set-up is working exceedingly well.

Zone development committees which were established in various parts of the State continue to exist. Some of these are not working particularly well, but they were also under the administration of the Premier of the day. It seemed rather ludicrous that the department, the authority, and the committees which were dealing largely with the same matter should be fragmented. Therefore they have now been housed under the one roof. Recently the zone development committees were altered in their structure, and as a result I believe they will function effectively in every respect.

I must point out that right from the outset we established a permanent inter-departmental decentralisation review committee. Its task is to go into anything and everything relating to decentralisation, to investigate ways and means by which that aim can be achieved, and to make a genuine effort to attain that objective. Simultaneously with the functions of this committee, which I repeat is a permanent committee, comprehensive studies have been undertaken in country centres and regions.

These studies apply to many aspects such as analysing the types of industries that already exist; inquiring into the establishment of industries which should be in country centres, but which are not; investigating the labour situation and potential, having regard for the resources that are in the general locality; inquiring into factors relating to manufacturing, actual and potential; inquiring into construction facilities, labour in all its aspects, and transport facilities; and investigating aspects such as tourism and housing.

As a consequence, a most comprehensive compendium is being compiled, area of the State by area of the State. Shortly it will be possible for officers of the department to give information—which will be kept up to date—relating to the type of industry that is sought to be established by persons with that intention, but of course with the bias in the direction of the industry becoming established in country centres.

Certain formulae were in operation when we became the Government. I have already indicated we made a change in the

organisation with, I think, tremendous advantage. A policy was in force under which any guarantee of funds was not to be in excess of the finance which was provided by the venturer himself. In other words, if a \$200,000 project was involved, the venturer would have to find \$100,000 and then the Government would guarantee him the additional \$100,000 to enable him to get the project off the ground. That policy does not now apply; but more of that later.

Sir Charles Court: It was not enforced as such.

Mr. GRAHAM: But that was the general formula which was varied from time to time.

Sir Charles Court: I'll say!

Mr. GRAHAM: The formula applied equally in the country districts and in the metropolitan area. It was accepted as being governmental and departmental policy that agricultural industries should not be assisted. In the matter of the provision of tourist facilities it was stipulated that this should not apply south of the 26th parallel; and here let me say that the present policy is that tourism will be assisted anywhere in Western Australia except the metropolitan area.

Mr. Taylor: Hear, hear!

Mr. GRAHAM: Another policy existed under which the local authorities were not financially assisted. Why they should be excluded I know not, because if the Government ventured forth it could subsidise itself by meeting losses. Private concerns, whether of local, overseas, or Eastern States origin, could be assisted because they were private enterprise, but the local authorities were the exception and were barred from all forms of assistance. There is no such ban in force at the present time.

Mr. Gayfer: My York sounds good, doesn't it?

Mr. Thompson: And my national park.

Mr. GRAHAM: Many venturers previously rejected will find there is some promise and hope that something will be done for them; but I do not desire to be unduly provocative.

Sir Charles Court: I have in mind Coolgardie.

Mr. GRAHAM: I have certain information to impart in the interest of members who should know the steps which are being taken and the kind of assistance which is available, because apart from all other factors, they can render valuable service to the State by conveying this information to people who may be considering setting themselves up in business.

One day a couple of months ago at the invitation of some people I had lunch in the city, and I was able to point out to

them the advantages of their going to a country centre. For certain reasons they talked of Northam and Merredin. I was delighted to learn only today that members of the company concerned have called into the department with a view to going into details in respect of the establishment of a company in one of those country centres instead of in the metropolitan area.

Mr. Hartrey: Hear, hear!

Mr. GRAHAM: Just as, fortuitously. I was able to do that, so, in the same way, if members become apprised of what is on offer, perhaps they can strike a blow for decentralisation with people they meet from time to time.

I wish to outline some of the ways in which assistance is given. One of these is by way of guarantee. The guarantee given in country areas is far more generous than that which applies in the metropolitan area. Instead of a 50 per cent. requirement—in other words, a 50-50 arrangement—we are now prepared to guarantee 60 per cent., 70 per cent., 80 per cent., or, indeed, to go as high as 100 per cent. if there is a type of industry which is vital to Western Australia and which we dearly want established in a country district. The State is prepared to take an element of risk side by side with investors who are prepared to take a risk. The 100 per cent. applies in respect of land and buildings. A lesser percentage would apply in respect of working capital, the installation of machinery, and so on. Nevertheless, these are guarantees of a magnitude and proportion never previously contemplated in Western Australia.

We are prepared to—and indeed do—grant rail freight concessions of up to 30 per cent. of the rate book freights and these are tapered off after a period, but can be reviewed within five years, the thought being that the settling-in period is probably the most difficult of all and therefore that is the time when assistance is most needed.

An interest subsidy of up to 5 per cent. is available, and I want to explain this. If a company is borrowing money which is costing it 8 per cent. in interest, the department will pay 5 per cent., leaving the company only 3 per cent. to pay for the first year, and again it tapers off, but is subject to review from time to time depending upon the circumstances.

Mr. Gayfer: Does that apply to C.B.H. with the construction of bins in the country? That is helping decentralisation and C.B.H. is borrowing money.

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not know that an interjection such as that is very meaningful in the course of the debate.

Mr. Gayfer: You would not know. It is the only company which practises decentralisation to the fullest extent.

Mr. GRAHAM: I did not think we were having a tug of war. If an application is made by anyone at all it will be investigated in the customary manner and inducements and the formula generally will be applied in the usual way.

Mr. Gayfer: That is the answer I wanted. If you do not like interjections, I am sorry.

Mr. GRAHAM: It has been announced that in respect of building contracts—that is to say, for public buildings up to \$20,000 in cost—a 5 per cent. preference will be given to the builders who are established in the regional areas where the buildings are to be constructed.

Mr. Thompson: That is a pittance, really, when you look at the size of the buildings.

Mr. GRAHAM: This is on top of all the other considerations, or must I elaborate on every minute detail? I mentioned rail freight subsidies of up to 30 per cent., and that would apply in respect of any raw materials or ingredients which may go from Perth to the country factory, and it would also apply in respect of the freighted articles which have been manufactured or completed in the country centre. Time is moving on and I have quite a deal more to say.

Sir Charles Court: What about established industries?

Mr. GRAHAM: Any established industry which is seeking to expand its operations will receive sympathetic consideration in exactly the same way as proposed new industries.

Sir Charles Court: Including freight?

Mr. GRAHAM: If I have time I might give an example or two of how that has occurred.

The Government has decided that in respect of goods and services for its own use it will give a 10 per cent. preference to those who produce the goods or render services in country districts, and so the country manufacturers have a 10 per cent. preference over metropolitan business people who, in turn, have a 10 per cent. preference over those from outside Western Australia. Consequently in sum total the country people have a 20 per cent. advantage. These are gestures which are costing money, but they indicate the earnestness of the Government in its endeavours to do something about the situation.

Mr. Blaikie: How much does it cost you?

Mr. GRAHAM: Wait a minute. Do not be so rude.

Sir Charles Court: Fair go! You talk about people being rude after what we have to tolerate from you.

Mr. GRAHAM: I imagined that as the subject had been mentioned so often members wanted to know something about it and therefore I am explaining what is

done. If members will allow me, and if time permits, I will do my best to answer any questions or any matters raised by way of interjection.

Sir Charles Court: Next time when we are making comments we will ask the same of you.

Mr. GRAHAM: We are looking into the matter of reduced or subsidised port charges to encourage people to export, where possible, through Geraldton, Bunbury, Albany, or Esperance, rather than through Fremantle and Kwinana.

Overall, when the viability of any producer is investigated we now give the benefit of the doubt to the applicant. It may be a little risky but, as I stated earlier, we are prepared to take that risk. I think it is a little like the fellow with half a glass of water. It depends on the way one looks at the glass whether it is considered to be half full or half empty. I prefer to be optimistic. If we back 20 different ventures and 15 succeed and five fail, our concentration will be on the 15 which have succeeded which would otherwise not have been in existence rather than on the five which fell down in one way or another.

I mentioned that centralisation is something which appears to be with us. Only today I had an instance of it when I was in Pinjarra. I heard groans and complaints from people from Mt. Barker that all sorts of things were going to Albany to the detriment of Mt. Barker. This was with reference to medical practitioners, chemists, and facilities of that nature so the people of Mt. Barker suffer some disability. Some people are complaining that there is too much concentration on Bunbury to the detriment of the Collie people. Perhaps that has been corrected to some extent in the last several weeks, or accentuated as the case may be! It is well known that Pinjarra had such high hopes following the establishment of Alcoa in that town. It was believed that the population of Pinjarra would increase by leaps and bounds, but the people have chosen to live in Mandurah in great numbers and so Pinjarra feels to some extent that it has been left out in the cold.

So there is a tendency for people to go to certain places, and as with industry, so with individuals; they make their own choice.

I want to indicate some of the action which has been taken to provide some financial inducement. First of all let me say that the first Budget introduced by this Government provided, for the first time in the history of the State, a sum of money to assist country local authorities—and I underline the word "country". A sum of \$500,000 was provided and that figure is repeated in the current budget.

Sir Charles Court: The Brand Government policy speech provided for \$1,000,000 for local authorities.

Mr. GRAHAM: Members would be aware of the fact that progress has been rapid in the Port Hedland and Roebourne locality. The local authorities did not have the capacity to meet the debt charges so we indicated that if they cared to borrow their \$300,000 annually for three consecutive years which would total almost \$2,000,000 between the two, we, the Government, would meet the debt charges for the first three years. We promised to do that and then review the situation to see how things were going and decide whether further aid was required. The necessity for this arose because things happened so quickly that people were without facilities and amenities to which we felt they were entitled now if they were to remain in the area and not buy a ticket to return to Perth.

Because there was some controversy about the matter members would be aware that in its first year the Government decided to do something to stop all the wool from the great southern coming to Fremantle, so it halved the freight rates from Narrogin south provided the wool went in the direction of Albany. This resulted in a substantial increase in the number of bales of wool which went to that outport instead of to Fremantle, the centralised spot.

Mr. Stephens: How much was railed back from Fremantle?

Mr. GRAHAM: Some of it is railed back, of course, but this is still a free country, notwithstanding what the member for Stirling might like it to be. These people please themselves.

I would like to comment now on the State Electricity Commission and the grid system. It will be seen from figures, which I have checked this evening, that the charges, although on a different basis, are, as nearly as possible, the same in the country districts as in the metropolitan area. However, the Government has gone further than that. In some of the most isolated places people were paying up to 18c a unit but these places have been tucked under the wing of the State Electricity Commission and the people are now paying 5½c per unit.

Sir Charles Court: That is not new.

Mr. GRAHAM: Of course it has made a tremendous difference to them.

Sir Charles Court: This applied to dozens before the election.

Mr. GRAHAM: I am saying it is entirely new, notwithstanding the protest from the Leader of the Opposition. I am accustomed to hearing one or two members on the other side of the House say almost

anything, however palpably wrong it is. Without batting an eyelid, out it comes. I am stating the situation and I would like any member on the other side to endeavour to controvert the facts by bringing forward some evidence to support what he is saying.

Mr. O'Neill: Ask the question of the Minister for Electricity.

Mr. GRAHAM: So far as children living in remote areas are concerned, we have increased the allowances for both board and supervision. We have also changed the situation involving air fares for school children. Previously a child was entitled to a return fare per annum or two single fares. We immediately altered that to make it a return fare per annum plus two free single air fares per annum. Once again, this indicates our desire to do something to assist those who live away from the metropolis.

I do not have much more than 10 minutes left and I have a long way to go. I shall mention briefly some of the other ways in which the present Government has assisted people in country areas. Doubtless members would be aware that a tremendous railway loss is anticipated. Notwithstanding recommendations from the Treasury the present Government has not increased fares or freight rates by 1 per cent. We are bearing in mind the interests of country people—whom the railways were very largely designed to serve. Nonetheless we will be confronted with a deficit which could reach in the vicinity of \$19,000,000 this year.

It is anticipated that the loss to the State Shipping Service this financial year will be approximately \$5,000,000. The service operates for the purpose of assisting people who live far away from Perth. Again there is no suggestion of the Government doing anything other than to bear the financial impost. The anticipated loss in the country water supply, sewerage, drainage and irrigation schemes this year will be approximately \$17,000,000. The profit in the metropolitan area is anticipated to be \$750,000. In point of fact there is no attempt made to make profits but the metropolitan area should pay for itself. However, somebody will be paying the \$17,000,000 loss anticipated in the country districts. Nobody begrudges this. What I am doing is recording the fact that this is surely a form of assistance to those who live outside the metropolitan area.

Mr. W. G. Young: This has gone on for years.

Mr. GRAHAM: The State Electricity Commission anticipates a loss of \$2,500,000 in country areas this financial year but it also anticipates a profit of approximately \$9,000,000 in the metropolitan area. The profit, which comes about through charges in excess of cost in the metropolitan

area, is being met by somebody. The surplus moneys are being used as capital to provide for extensions of the electrical grid system and all the other paraphernalia necessary for the generation and distribution of electricity.

I am not pretending for one moment that this state of affairs came about yesterday. What I am doing is pointing out that the Government acknowledges the situation and will continue to do so, notwithstanding the fact that some of these figures are reaching colossal proportions and there is an almost frantic desire on the part of the Under-Treasurer that something should be done to stem these losses. We believe that decentralisation is something more than a catch-cry.

Mr. R. L. Young: Why do you not read the debate on the pay-roll tax Bill and see what your comments were in regard to decentralisation?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. GRAHAM: I hope some time will be added on to compensate for these interruptions.

Mr. R. L. Young: Just answer! What were your comments on the pay-roll tax Bill?

The SPEAKER: Order! Members will keep order. The Minister has the right to speak. All other members have had that right. I expect some order to be kept.

Mr. GRAHAM: As a matter of interest, members may be somewhat surprised to learn there are more than 10,000 salaried State Government officers whose work places and homes are in country districts. I would guess—and it is only a guess—that there would be an equal number of—or perhaps even more—wages employees of the State in country areas, making a grand total of approximately 20,000. Having regard for single persons, if we take the average family as three for each one of these 20,000, this means 60,000 people are supported from the State pay-roll in country districts. To this we must add Commonwealth employees to gain some idea of the attention which is rightly given to people in country districts.

Mr. Gayfer: Does that include school teachers?

Mr. GRAHAM: We are not speaking cheap political clap-trap. I am giving facts and information.

Mr. R. L. Young: I want to hear your attitude to the pay-roll tax Bill. You would not build in any incentives for decentralisation.

Mr. GRAHAM: Apparently my remarks are hurting a particular member. All I can say is that this Government has done, is doing, and will do far more than the previous Government ever did. Already in two years we have done more than the previous Government did in 12 years.

Mr. R. L. Young: You could not have cared less 12 months ago. You go back to the debate on that Bill.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Wembley will keep order.

Mr. GRAHAM: Here and now I desire to compliment the State Housing Commission which has decided to establish country centres at Port Hedland, Geraldton, Merredin, Bunbury, and Albany—five in all. These offices will eventually have their own staffs.

Mr. O'Neill: Merredin, Port Hedland, and Bunbury were established while I was Minister for Housing. Do not take credit for that.

Mr. GRAHAM: They will have staffs of 15 to 20 persons each. A far greater degree of autonomy and authority will be given to them than was ever dreamed of previously.

Mr. O'Neill: Another question on notice will nail that lie.

Mr. GRAHAM: Here and now I express the hope that other departments of the State Government will follow a similar line and establish branch offices in country centres.

In connection with decentralisation, a great deal will depend on the attitude of the Commonwealth Government. However, I have no doubts as to the Commonwealth's attitude. The Prime Minister, when in Opposition, gave a great deal of emphasis to the necessity for Commonwealth participation and assistance if there is to be meaningful decentralisation. I have no doubts whatsoever that now he is in Government we will soon see the concrete evidence of decisions taken by the Federal Government. Indeed, I venture to say that financial provision will be made in the first Budget which the new Government brings down.

In common with other States, Western Australia has been asked to treat as a matter of urgency—and we have obliged—the task of supplying the Commonwealth with data and information in respect of a number of important centres in Western Australia so that the Commonwealth Government can decide which of these it will assist and the amount of money it will make available. The Commonwealth is considering this at the present time.

Mr. McPharlin: Will the Commonwealth Government do more for the comprehensive water scheme?

Mr. GRAHAM: I was talking about decentralisation and the endeavour which is being made to establish growth centres. One can say with a little poetic license that we have not built a community in excess of 15,000 outside the metropolis during the last 150 years. If we are to reach the stage of having 100,000 people or more

in a centre which would provide an alternative to Perth, an effort of some magnitude is required—an effort which only the Commonwealth can undertake. Of course, the State Government will do what it can within its limited financial resources. That is the spirit of the matter and I say the Commonwealth is boxing on with the job.

I now want to list some of the industries which have been assisted under this policy I have outlined. I want to indicate where they are. Assistance of \$78,000 was given to a joinery works in Pemberton. An amount of \$50,000 was provided to assist the abattoir at Carnarvon. At Witte-noom, \$25,000 went towards a tourist resort and \$12,500 towards a caravan park.

In Derby, an amount of \$100,000 went to the abattoir, which is a \$400,000 venture. In addition, an amount of \$23,000 was given to assist an orchard and market garden. An amount of \$18,000 was provided for a pasture seeds venture.

At Kalannie, an amount of \$30,000 was advanced to assist an emu skin tannery. In Manjimup, an aspect of the timber industry received assistance of \$115,000 to establish a \$350,000 industry. At Jurien Bay \$15,000 went towards a caravan park which was established at a cost of \$40,000. In Northam, an amount of \$1,360,000 is to go towards the establishment of an abattoir costing \$2,500,000. An amount of \$57,000 also went towards the establishment of an extruded plastic works, the first under our new decentralisation policy and system of inducements. This was provided to assist the establishment of the industry which, within a period of 12 months, is already expanding. It is increasing its number of employees. An amount of \$105,000 was given to assist a sheepskin tannery in Northam.

At Wyndham, an amount of \$430,000 went towards the establishment of an export abattoir. At Manjimup, assistance of \$1,130,000 was given to the fruit can-nery. At Katanning, assistance of \$38,000 was given to a flour and oat milling works as well as \$1,500,000 towards the establishment of an abattoir. At Kununurra \$500,000 went to assist the cotton industry. At Pinjarra, \$110,000 was provided for the brickworks. At Moora, an amount of \$67,000 was given to assist an oats dehulling works. In Albany \$7,000 went towards the engineering works. Through definite freight inducements we have also assisted the meatworks in Albany. This matter was mentioned by the member for Stirling.

I only wish I had more time, because everything he said in connection with that was completely and utterly wrong. Never, at any time, did the company ask for \$100,000—neither from the previous Government nor from this Government. That figure was completely wrong. The

new inducements offered by this Government in the way of freight and interest subsidy turned the scales. The board of directors in London had set their hearts on expanding, renovating and bringing up to date the works in Victoria. The inducements offered by our Government, as well as our attitude, swayed the day and a \$1,300,000 industrial expansion programme is in progress in Albany at the present moment. That is far better than all the words we heard from the member for Stirling.

Sir Charles Court: This is only peanuts compared with what your predecessors did in the country.

Mr. GRAHAM: This is the kind of generosity we expect, but it cannot hold water when we consider all the many instances wherein the State Government has assisted decentralisation. In Port Hedland, assistance of \$128,000 went towards the establishment of the abattoir. In Exmouth, \$75,000 went to the tourist industry. In Broome, \$120,000 went to the export meat-works. At Karratha, \$20,000 went towards the establishment of a concrete block manufacturing industry. At Geraldton, \$108,000 went to the fishing industry.

There are more and more instances which I could mention. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be able to see this decentralisation taking place.

I have not mentioned the superphosphate works at Merredin. However, I am as certain as I stand here that the farmers in the general area will rally to the cause and provide the \$2,000,000 which is required as a condition of the Government's examining their proposition in fine detail. This is an industry which will be employing very many people at a corporate cost of some \$9,000,000. These are the things that count. These things have been done.

Mr. Hartrey: Hear, hear!

Mr. GRAHAM: These industries have been established as a consequence of the generosity and the benevolent outlook of the Government, because as I mentioned earlier—

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. GRAHAM: Finally I would like to say that we would have had an abattoir at Katanning at a cost of nearly \$5,000,000. This proposal was rejected out of hand by my predecessor. It is there now and it will be increasing the population of Katanning by about 1,000. This was rejected by our predecessors. All this is shown in the files which are now available to this Government. It could be hidden by the previous Government.

Mr. Jones: That's giving it to them!

Sir Charles Court: Just hollow talk. Why do you not give credit to those who did things before you?

MR. RUSHTON (Dale) [9.16 p.m.]: If one had listened intently to the speech made by the Deputy Premier, one would feel this was all something new; something which had never been done before. He implies that the previous Government provided none of the framework. I will show how inaccurate he has been in making the claims he has tonight. It is not very difficult to show these inaccuracies.

Mr. Moiler: You are not capable of doing it.

Mr. O'Neil: A few questions on the notice paper for Tuesday will nail some lies.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. RUSHTON: Regional development was taking place effectively for many years during the previous Government's administration. It is obvious that this development will be updated when there is a change of Government next year. We have not been standing still. We have a blueprint for regional development.

Mr. Graham: Like the Pilbara plan!

Sir Charles Court: We did have a plan and we did get results.

Mr. Graham: We could not find it.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Sir Charles Court: You have yet to produce a railway and a town. You could not produce anything.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. RUSHTON: It is so easy to throw out all the claims made by the Deputy Premier. All I need do is to refer very briefly to comments made by the Premier and every Minister and back-bencher about the State of the Treasury when the Labor Government took office. We have been told frequently about the bankrupt state of the Treasury. How could the Government do all these things if the State were bankrupt?

Mr. Graham: Good housekeeping.

Mr. O'Neil: Wait until we see the Budget, then we will know how good the house-keeping has been.

Mr. RUSHTON: While the present Government has been in office it has not generated one iota of wealth to the State. It has made all sorts of extravagant claims about doing this and doing that. Anything the Government has done has been accomplished with the reserves built up by the previous Government. The reserves have enabled it to do as much as it has.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: My word you are a funny man!

Mr. RUSHTON: That cannot be denied, because members of the Government contradict themselves from time to time on statements about the financial position. On the one hand the Government talks of things it has done, and on the other hand it talks about the bankruptcy it inherited.

No reasonable man would find one atom of credibility in the statements made by the Deputy Premier.

Let me just briefly touch on a few of the items mentioned by the Deputy Premier. He spoke of the contributions to local government being meaningful. I would like to say that these contributions were about half as much as the previous Government had said it would grant to the shires. I might add that the \$500,000 had to be extracted through great effort and pressure by local authorities, who were most disappointed with the change of Government and the resultant halving of the amount they expected.

One does not need to touch on many of the items raised by the Deputy Premier to realise what a fragmentation of the truth he presented to the House tonight. He talked of the great gifts to outback education. The Commonwealth Government has made these grants, and he is claiming credit.

Sir Charles Court: The living-away-from-home allowance has been suspended.

Mr. RUSHTON: In one statement he destroyed his credibility.

Mr. Graham: You love that word "credibility".

Mr. RUSHTON: The Deputy Premier spoke about the railways. One has only to compare the achievements of the previous Government in regard to our railway system with those of the present Government.

The Deputy Premier speaks about assistance to State shipping. The Government is killing the north with the high freight charges. I wish I had the figures here tonight to inform members of the increase in the price of food and everything else in the north.

Mr. Graham: The tonnage is going up every month. Does that shock you?

Mr. O'Connor: It was at rock bottom.

Mr. RUSHTON: The way the Government is going we will have no-one left in the north.

Mr. Graham: We got the ships.

Mr. O'Connor: We arranged for that before you took office.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. RUSHTON: It has touched the Deputy Premier to the quick to know that his comments were completely inaccurate. He has done nothing for the north with the State Shipping Service except to increase prices. The way he spoke tonight, one would think he was giving these people a great gift. I would like to ask the people of the north what they think of his great gift.

The Deputy Premier then spoke about State Electricity Commission charges. I did not think he would have the temerity even to suggest the Government has done

a great thing with electricity charges. The Premier, in his policy speech, stated that S.E.C. charges in the country were to come back to city charges.

Mr. Gayfer: They were to be equalised.

Mr. RUSHTON: The honourable member need not worry about that—he should look at the Premier's policy speech. The country electricity charges were to be reduced. They were to come back to the city charges. There was nothing about equalisation. Look at what has happened. In some places electricity charges have risen by 100 per cent., and yet the Deputy Premier claims that every person in the outback is being assisted at a rate of \$15 per year.

Mr. Bryce: You left not only the State bankrupt, but also the S.E.C.

Mr. RUSHTON: What about the increased charges in many areas? I know in my own electorate many people are paying as much as \$100 per year more. The Deputy Premier claims that he is saving people in the outback \$15 a year and yet he is extracting \$100 a year from agriculturists, small industrialists, and small businessmen to do it. Consumers in my electorate alone would have paid out more than the money distributed in the outback areas. This is hypocrisy at its very worst.

I now turn to the matter raised by my colleague—pay-roll tax. The Deputy Premier would not have a bar of the suggestion that concessions in pay-roll tax would assist decentralisation. How sincere is he in his talk about developing the outback areas? The very basis of the philosophy of the party he follows is centralist, and therefore he can never be really effective in instituting decentralisation. He talks about this as a gimmick, but where is the performance of this Government?

Mr. Graham: Read tonight's issue of the *Daily News*.

Mr. RUSHTON: Look at facts; look at reality.

Sir Charles Court: The so-called biased Press.

Mr. Nalder: You cannot accept the blame for that.

Mr. RUSHTON: The Deputy Premier speaks of his great hope for the future of this State. He says that the Commonwealth will select certain centres and make great contributions. How acceptable is this to the people of our State? Why is it we are not making a selection and being the catalysts, the enthusiasts, as we were before there was a change of Government? Why is it that we are not giving the lead? There is no better example than the Pilbara.

Mr. Graham: Which centres did you choose?

Mr. RUSHTON: Here we are abdicating to the Commonwealth, throwing away our rights and responsibilities because apparently we do not have the initiative or the

courage to have a go. This is worrying the people of Western Australia and it will continue to worry them for as long as the Government continues in this way.

We listened to a list of town after town and the money which has been expended to help them. I will refer to just one region which was helped by the previous Government and I will show members what took place at that time.

Mr. Bertram: Can't we have an instalment of fear?

Mr. RUSHTON: I simply wished to show what was done. These facts will prove without any doubt that the claims put forward tonight by the Deputy Premier are a lot of tripe.

If we look at the region around Bunbury and the events that have taken place there, we must realise that a balanced development of this State must be based on regional development. This concept has been accepted throughout the State and it has been implemented for a long while. I believe it can fairly be said that the great breakthrough in regional development in Bunbury and the south-west began with the Laporte development which took place in 1963. This was very shortly after the Brand Government took over. Development had been stagnant until that time. The Brand Government attracted this type of industry to the region based on Bunbury. It is good to reflect about this for a moment.

The extravagant claims made by the Deputy Premier are not based on fact. He has not shown where he or his Government has been the promoter of one really basic industry generating further development. What he has been using, and in some cases misusing, is the very structure which he inherited—a viable and buoyant structure with big reserves which he has exploited. He now puts forward projects commenced by the previous Government as his own projects.

As I said before, the Laporte project in 1963 was a very significant regional development. Other developments have progressed from this first one, including the Pinjarra alumina project. The people in the south-west were very happy with the activities down there. The establishment of an alumina refinery away from Kwinana was true decentralisation. The concept of Pinjarra was quite unique in its form and in the co-operation between local and State Governments. It brought out the best in many people. If the Brand Government had not achieved anything else, I feel it could be well proud of this. Of course, we know there were many other achievements as well. However, this combined project was established for something like \$20,000,000.

Do we need to say any more? Developments such as this took place in varying degrees throughout the State. It is sheer

hypocrisy for the Deputy Premier to come forward now and say that the Government was the catalyst and the generator of so many things.

The Brand Government established basic developments in regional centres. From these came the supplementary and complementary developments, as we all know. Without the bases we would not have got very far.

I would like to refer to the commencement of the Kwinana development. At that time the then member for Balcatta and his associates made all sorts of prophecies. We did not have adequate cement works or adequate staff to do anything at that time. The whole of the criticism of the Government was based on the question, "Where will you get the people, the commodities, and this and that?"

Members will recollect what the Brand Government inherited. In the last session of Parliament we heard many false claims regarding that. As I said, the present Government has worked on the structure established by the previous Government.

Then we have the Amax bauxite project which had intended to commence operations on the Mitchell plateau in the north of this State, but which eventually had to postpone development and conduct its operations in conjunction with the Alcoa project at Pinjarra. Then there are the Alcoa and Alwest projects. Surely this Government cannot claim credit for them. We also have the Cleveland Cliffs, Robe River, Hamersley Iron, and Goldsworthy projects which are all major ones. Mention can also be made of the previous Government's record in establishing over 1,000 small industries. Perhaps I can turn to my leader to ascertain whether that statement is correct.

Sir Charles Court: We established a new industry every working day in the year.

Mr. RUSHTON: That is the record that was built up by the previous Government. Yet the Deputy Premier has the temerity to imply—

Mr. Jones: The wood chip industry did not get very far.

Sir Charles Court: It will if we get back into office next year; that is, if the Commonwealth Government does not block it for environmental reasons.

Mr. RUSHTON: It is interesting to note that in this booklet there appears the following heading—

Some of the Major Industrial, Mining and Development Agreements and various other measures finalised and approved during the State Labor Government's First 18 Months in Office.

That is laughable. This would make an excellent Gilbert and Sullivan opera, but I do not know what kind of music it would

be set to. This is one of the claims made by the present Government under this heading—

Finalised plan to proceed with construction of standard-gauge railway between Kalgoorlie and Esperance.

We know the fiasco that was created in regard to that.

Mr. Brown: What was the fiasco?

Mr. RUSHTON: The Premier backed and filled and fiddled around, and eventually the Government nearly lost its opportunity to continue with that project.

Mr. Brown: What was the fiasco in regard to the construction of a standard gauge line between Kalgoorlie and Esperance? You do not know what you are talking about! You should not talk about the railways, because your Government did a great job with the standard gauge, didn't it?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Sir Charles Court: We told the Premier where the money was to be found.

Mr. Brown: We had to have participation by the Western Mining Corporation.

Mr. RUSHTON: We had to hold the hand of the Government while it started negotiations. The next project which the Government claimed it commenced was—

Plan approved for \$7,700,000 extension of S.E.C. transmission line from Kwinana to Balga and Jandakot.

I only have to look at the member for Darling Range to realise what a botch the Government made of that.

Mr. May: You were one of those who were lauding the Government last week.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. RUSHTON: The Minister for Mines is implying that I am criticising the construction company.

Mr. May: You are not doing a bad job.

Mr. RUSHTON: It is not the construction company I am criticising. That interjection shows the degree of the Minister's thinking. It was not the S.E.C. that created the problem; it was the Government. It did not have the nous to sort out the basic problems.

Mr. May: We have one of the best industries in Western Australia down there at the moment. Ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition what he thinks about it.

Mr. RUSHTON: This is a very touchy subject for the Government, because it has failed dismally in endeavouring to administer and manage the project. It is no use blaming the construction company. As I said the other day, everyone recognises that company as being a sound one.

Mr. May: I hope your censure motion is going to be on this.

Mr. RUSHTON: Also, the State Electricity Commission is an efficient organisation.

Mr. May: You always save the worst until the last.

Mr. RUSHTON: The unhappy feature about all this is that the commission has suffered as a result of the Government's ineptitude, muddling, and its lack of administrative skill. It has let the team down, and yet this is something the Government is claiming as one of its success stories.

Then we have the Government's claim to the construction of a \$20,000,000 semi-submersible oil rig to operate at Woodman Point. I understand that, basically, this is a Commonwealth project.

Mr. May: You do not understand; that is the trouble.

Mr. RUSHTON: Then we have listed the Amax bauxite project, the Alcoa project, and the extensions made to the alumina refinery at Pinjarra at a cost of \$25,000,000. What a dampening effect that had on our great hopes for the future! The previous Government had made great advances in regard to the establishment of an alumina refinery at Mitchell plateau by the Amax company.

Mr. May: I wish you would return to Bunbury and help us win the by-election.

Mr. RUSHTON: Another one of the Government's success stories is the approval given to the dredging of a second channel in Cockburn Sound. Had it not been for the previous Government there would not have been a second channel to dredge. It is not hard to sign a piece of paper to put into effect the dredging of a channel when all the preliminary arrangements have been made. The references the Government has made to the Pilbara development at a cost of \$6,000,000 can almost be described as criminal.

Mr. May: You mean \$6,000,000,000.

Mr. RUSHTON: Yes, \$6,000,000,000. I was happy to be a member of the last parliamentary party that toured the Pilbara, and I am pleased to say that we will be returning there some time in the future.

Mr. May: I hope you are not on my plane.

Mr. RUSHTON: At Tom Price, the then Minister for Industrial Development, who was in charge of our section of the parliamentary party, described the concept which this Government is now putting forward as its proposal. If one were to show the little booklet describing this project to a person with elementary knowledge of it, I am sure he would say, "If you put that forward as a back-up to that project you would have to be examined if you tried to establish the authenticity of this Government's initiation of it."

The Government then states that it was involved with the McCamey's Monster project. I do not know how far this has progressed. Then we have the Government's claim to the establishment of a \$200,000,000 alumina refinery at Muchea. Surely to goodness, in view of the traumatic experience this has proved to be, no Government can be proud of it.

Sir Charles Court: Has the Government listed the Naval Base township there?

Mr. RUSHTON: Yes, that is a good one, about which I know a great deal. The next entry in this booklet reads—

Following representations by the State Government, the Commonwealth reversed an earlier decision to exclude the public from Garden Island when Stirling Naval Base becomes operative. The Commonwealth subsequently approved daytime access for persons on small craft to about 14 miles of beach-front, and to about 1,800 acres of inland areas of Garden Island.

I am one who was present during the review made by the Commonwealth committee. I took a great interest in its deliberations, and I can only say that the State's performance in regard to this is deplorable.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: I am glad you are reading from that booklet as I suggested you should.

Mr. RUSHTON: The only reason the Premier has not distributed this booklet to all members on this side of the House is that they would have too much ammunition to fire back at the Government. This is one of the best funnies one could read. One should leave it beside one's bed so that it could be referred to at will, because it would produce plenty of laughs.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: I will give you a copy of *Progress* shortly.

Mr. RUSHTON: Unfortunately I cannot follow this booklet along the lines I would hope to this evening, but if I did the Premier would have something to answer for so far as it is concerned. I hope the opportunity comes later in the year to enable us to bring it home to him. It shows the small-mindedness of the Government when it refers to such an item as a booklet that was written by our leader and criticises it because it cost \$1,400. That booklet contained facts about Western Australia and was circulated among 3,000 people in the U.S.A. who had world-wide mining interests. But that was not the end of it. Copies of it were distributed further afield, because of the wide interest taken in its contents. To compare it with this booklet and to say it has a parallel with the one I have just mentioned means that the Premier is not prepared to back up what he does and he has to fall back on other

actions to support his own. This is what happens in regard to everything we come up against.

The next item—and I am sure the member for Mt. Lawley will be interested in this—reads as follows—

Complementary to the proposed construction of about four miles of underground railway in the Perth Central Business District, the Government has also approved the eventual electrification of the whole of the Perth suburban rail passenger system.

We know what the back-up was for that project. It was basically nil. From sound advice given to us it is believed that the concept put forward by the Government is not practicable. We have now proceeded further along the road and we are talking about exhibition halls in such a way that we are not sure where the railway will be constructed, because a feasibility study has not been undertaken. In effect, the will of Parliament has been denied; because Parliament decided that a feasibility study would be conducted before final approval would be given to perform certain works to bring this project to fruition.

From my understanding of the position we have gone past that point if approval has been given for the construction of this proposed exhibition hall which will certainly prejudice what we had planned for the future.

Another item mentioned in this booklet is—

Government guarantees \$420,000 and other financial backing to ensure continuation of fruit-canning industry at Manjimup.

Then follows this item—

Negotiations proceeding with Alwest for development of bauxite refinery in the South-West.

Surely the Government cannot claim that it initiated the Alwest project. In fact, so much was done in regard to the fruit-canning project at Manjimup that the claim by the Government that it initiated this project cannot be substantiated.

The next item reads—

Government guarantees that construction of Veterinary School will be included in first stage of construction of new Murdoch University.

We know what was experienced in regard to that, and the country people were extremely worried about it. The member for Avon will, I am sure, be pleased to hear this one—

The Government's financial guarantees make it possible for Co-operative Bulk Handling to proceed with construction of \$42,000,000 grain terminal at Kwinana.

Not one item in this booklet mentioned by me has been engineered or initiated by the present Government. There is, of course, one project it did not include in its list; that is, the Yundurup Canals project. That was its greatest claim to fame, and shows the extent to which the Government is prepared to go with its decentralisation policy. In my opinion this Government is one of the most centralist Governments that one could envisage. It has had to form a Department of Decentralisation to convince the people that that is the way the Government thinks.

To show the extremes to which the Government is prepared to go in order to bend the facts, I would point out that in my electorate a small industry which could employ 40 or 50 people required a few thousand dollars to enable it to get on its feet. At the time it was employing 20 people, but it was struggling because, being situated on leased land, it was short of collateral. Yet the present Minister for Development and Decentralisation was not prepared to grant assistance to that business, despite the fact that an advance of \$2,000 to \$4,000 would have meant that 40 people could have been kept in full-time employment.

He was not prepared to help them, so how credible are his words tonight when he states that, "We help everyone. We take risks. We help them here; we help them there!"?

Mr. May: Watch out!

Mr. RUSHTON: I am not allowed to use any unparliamentary language, but what he said is a complete contradiction of the truth. We all know that the Deputy Premier has a flair for oratory. Of course this is his strength. He is a strong speaker and debater; but we want action, performance, and results.

Mr. May: No wonder the member for Cottesloe left his seat!

Mr. Bertram: He is not the only one. Everyone has gone.

Mr. May: The member for Cottesloe was in the danger zone.

Mr. Jones: The Country Party members have all gone.

Mr. RUSHTON: It is interesting to hear the pinpricks.

Sir Charles Court: We are interested to see how many Government members remain.

Mr. RUSHTON: It just shows that the performance of the Deputy Speaker—

Mr. May: The deputy who?

Mr. RUSHTON: I mean the Deputy Premier. I have every respect for you, Mr. Speaker, and do not wish to imply that the Deputy Premier is your deputy.

Tonight we listened to a performance similar to ones we have heard on many occasions before from the Deputy Premier

—one without substance, and one which has bent the facts and presented other issues in an effort to try to make people believe that his Government has taken the initiative.

Mr. Graham: Hear, hear!

Mr. RUSHTON: We have documentary proof that what he has said is totally untrue. What the Deputy Premier has attempted to present as fact is not true. As I mentioned previously, one of the very early break-throughs by the previous Government was in the Bunbury region and we all know of the tremendous progress in the provision of port facilities and other amenities there.

Mr. Hartrey: Tell us about the community success in Bunbury next Monday.

Mr. RUSHTON: I am looking forward to welcoming our candidate as the new member for Bunbury.

Mr. Jones: This is too late for the Bunbury paper you know. It will not get in now.

Mr. RUSHTON: I am not interested in politicking.

Mr. Brown: Not much!

Mr. Jones: You could have fooled me.

Mr. RUSHTON: It would not take much to fool the member for Collie.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. RUSHTON: I am interested in results and I want the Government to present this State with some results which will guarantee the future well-being of the people.

On the one hand, the Premier indicated—and it is all in the Labor Party's little bible—that we were a bankrupt State when the Labor Government took office; and, on the other hand, the Deputy Premier talked tonight about the great hand-outs he has made and all the grand things he is doing—and this is supposed to be a bankrupt State!

Sir Charles Court: He has been taking a course which was tabled tonight; that is, "Dare to be Great".

Mr. RUSHTON: If he has been reading that publication perhaps we can excuse him for the extremes he has gone to tonight in an attempt to hoodwink the people of the State and of Bunbury.

Mr. Graham: You have Bunbury on the brain.

Mr. RUSHTON: It is a region of which the previous Government can be very proud. Because of the action of the previous Government the people of the area have gained real benefits and they have a quality of living they did not enjoy before. I might say that when one goes to Bunbury—

Mr. May: We are off again.

Mr. Graham: More Bunbury.

Mr. RUSHTON: —one realises what the previous Government achieved in the region. Because of the developments from Pinjarra south real decentralisation has been achieved. We on this side of the House are looking forward to the time when we will be back in office and can continue—

Mr. Graham: You will be a pensioner by then.

Mr. RUSHTON: —with the good work we commenced. We want an opportunity to further this regional development.

Mr. Graham: You had 12 long years.

Mr. RUSHTON: Look at the progress made in those 12 years.

Sir Charles Court: Twelve rewarding years.

Mr. Graham: What progress?

Mr. RUSHTON: The Minister was not in his place when I spoke earlier. He did not have the courtesy to stay.

Mr. Bertram: You don't blame him do you?

Mr. Graham: Someone wanted to discuss something important with me.

Mr. RUSHTON: Let me remind the Deputy Premier of some of the achievements of the previous Government because he cannot deny that they are what generated the progress in the area. The previous Government was responsible for the commencement of the Kwinana complex. This was achieved after the Brand Government had changed the situation from one of stagnation as it was again in 1959. If members will reflect back they will recall that school teachers could not be paid in those days and that the the railway losses had reached about £17,000,000. Under the Brand Government, the operations of the railways were greatly improved. One has only to consider the position of the railways to appreciate the success story of the previous Government. However, under the present Government the situation is deteriorating once again because the interest and expertise which were applied at that time are not being applied today.

Mr. Graham: You are reflecting on the railways administration.

Mr. RUSHTON: No I am not. Does not the Deputy Premier give credit to the Minister involved?

Mr. Graham: I do not give much credit to you for the Katanning abattoir or the Manjimup fruit cannery.

Mr. RUSHTON: I recognise the fruit cannery.

Mr. Graham: Or the Albany abattoir.

Mr. RUSHTON: I recognise these achievements, but they have been possible only because the present Government had something with which to work.

Mr. Graham: Of course we had something with which to work—and we work.

Mr. RUSHTON: Before all the interjections I was referring to the achievements of the previous Government about which the present Government says nothing. Members opposite cannot discount projects like Alcoa, Amax, Cleveland-Cliffs, Hamersley, and Goldsworthy. Such projects cannot be wiped off as being incidental, because they were responsible for the progress in the south-west; for the upsurge in timber milling and sleeper cutting.

Mr. Graham: The timber industry deteriorated during every year of the 12 years your crowd was in Government.

Mr. Jones: It was sick.

Sir Charles Court: We saved the timber industry with sleepers for the north.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Graham: You have a look at the figures of the Associated Sawmillers and Timber Merchants.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. RUSHTON: One has only to look back to realise the importance of the development to the timber industry in the south-west.

Mr. May: What did you do to Collie?

Mr. RUSHTON: One has only to reflect on the progress made on decentralisation or, as I prefer to call it, regional development, to realise what the previous Government achieved. Industries must be based on sound principles and they must be properly oriented. I agree with the Minister that the Commonwealth must help with the infrastructure, but a close watch must be kept to ensure that the responsibility is left with the State.

Mr. Graham: We had 23 years of Federal Liberal Governments and what did they do? Nothing.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Sir Charles Court: They finished up stronger than ever before in our history.

Mr. Graham: Generalities.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. RUSHTON: Australia's economy was the soundest it had ever been, but now the advantages gained are being whittled away at such a pace that people wonder where we are heading. I can well remember the past experiences of balance of payments, but now we are treating that as a dirty expression, and if we continue on in the way we are heading it will not be long before we will have to cut back here and cut back there because of an inadequate balance of payments. This highlights the lack of understanding by those on the other side of the source of the real economic strength of the State. Documentary proof is available concerning the

fact that regional development was practised and was successful well before the Deputy Premier moved into his office.

I wish to emphasise that the Deputy Premier's claim that what he is doing is new and that he has taken the initiative, is a lot of poppycock and hot air. His proposals are similar to those the previous Government had already introduced all over the State. The Deputy Premier went to Albany and talked of a steel mill, as he did at other places. Such talk is quite upsetting to people in the areas concerned because they do not know what to believe. It frightens those industrialists who want to get on with the job, and it breaks their confidence in the State.

Mr. Graham: It breaks your heart because there are new industries popping up all over the country.

Mr. Thompson: Where are they?

Mr. Graham: There are some glowing tributes here by the Leader of the Opposition in respect of the cannery at Manjinup, something he could not start.

Sir Charles Court: Yes we did. If it had not been for what we did—

Mr. Graham: You did nothing but leave a flat piece of land.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Sir Charles Court: That is not correct.

Mr. Graham: It is correct.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Sir Charles Court: We kept the industry alive for years, but what a mess you made of it.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Sir Charles Court: You made a mess of it in the first year.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Dale has five minutes.

Sir Charles Court: You cost the taxpayers \$250,000.

Mr. RUSHTON: The Minister is not concerned with the facts, but only with attracting votes. However, the people judge what is real and realistic and they know that what we did was based on sound principles and that our actions have stood the test of time. Therefore, what we listened to tonight was a most unfortunate presentation.

In the last few moments available to me I would like to mention a couple of points raised earlier. Yesterday a number of questions were asked concerning the problems being experienced in the industrial world. I have not received a satisfactory answer from the Minister for Labour as yet, despite the fact that people in the community are fearful of coming forward to present evidence of intimidation they have suffered. I have received direct communication from a businessman of repute who, because of his vulnerability, was not prepared to come forward and indicate

what has happened to him. How many more like him are there in the State? I want the Minister to reconsider the matter. He said that the present legislation, both civil and industrial, is adequate; but it has been proved inadequate on a number of occasions.

Mr. Taylor: What was the Bunbury decision published in the paper yesterday concerning a matter of intimidation?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. O'Connor: That is *sub judice*.

Mr. RUSHTON: It is finished is it not?

Mr. O'Connor: No.

Mr. May: It is just as well somebody is making your speech for you.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. RUSHTON: I am not talking about anything *sub judice*. I am talking about what is taking place up here in the metropolitan area and in other parts of the State; and about the apples which could be lost; to say nothing of the business people being pressurised, intimidated, and blackmailed. I want the Minister to make the inquiry meaningful, and to get on with the job in order to weed out the cancer in our midst.

One last quick point I wish to make. We listened to a lot of rot from the member for Ascot last night about political extremists, but he had his answer this morning. How seriously can we take this Federal Attorney-General? Surely he is discredited in the statements which have been made. All credit is due to Senator Greenwood, but the Attorney-General himself is discredited in the actions he has taken. Many people in my area are fearful of communism. They have experienced it and they do not want—

Mr. Graham: Ustasha! Bombs, guns, knives.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. RUSHTON: I am talking about the people in my area who are fearful of communism.

Mr. Bertram: Are you not, too?

Mr. RUSHTON: This is not a joke. This is a serious matter and if the member for Mt. Hawthorn does not believe it to be he does not deserve to sit on that side of the House. People in my area are fearful of a recurrence of what occurred in Poland, the Ukraine, and other countries.

Mr. O'Connor: It is real all right.

Mr. RUSHTON: It is something which is disturbing them at the present time. It is all right to talk about extremists—

Mr. Bertram: Ustasha!

Mr. RUSHTON: —and the extremist action of Senator Murphy is resulting in reactions of extremism.

Mr. Graham: What extremist action of his? Going into his own department?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Graham: Your leader kicked down a door to get into his department—kicked a hole in the glass door.

Mr. RUSHTON: Things have been carried a bit too far for political advantage by placing the lives of people at risk. The danger causes great concern.

The SPEAKER: The member's time has expired.

MR. H. D. EVANS (Warren—Minister for Lands) (10.01 p.m.): It was not my intention to speak at this stage but there are a few misunderstandings and mis-statements which I would like to clarify.

I will, first of all, take the opportunity to congratulate the member for Blackwood on the way in which he survived what is an ordeal for everybody—his maiden speech—and the way he earned the respect of this House.

I want to take issue with some of the points raised by the member for Kataning—the Leader of the Country Party. When speaking to the Address-in-Reply he remembered that the member for Warren and the member for Collie moved to criticise the previous Government for not dealing with the problems confronting the rural industry. The member for Kataning claimed that the adverse situation was attributable to—and I think I have the words he used—a wide recession derived from international trade and currency troubles. He suggested that was the full story and he hoped it could be underlined in *Hansard*. However, just how misleading is that statement? He implied that extraneous causes were responsible for the total difficulty in the rural industry. He conveniently omitted a number of other reasons and I refer, firstly, to the land policy embarked on by the previous Government against the advice of those who were much closer to the difficulties than the persons making the decisions.

When the dangers inherent in expansion were pointed out they were disregarded. I will draw attention to the concern expressed in 1963 by the Light Lands Development Committee. At that time the committee pointed out that there should be close examination of the situation, and concern was expressed that land which was not suitable for agriculture was being developed.

After a second prompting the Minister replied to the committee and indicated that, perhaps, he would use the terms of reference when specific points could be shown. However, no particular instance was so referred and the land alienation went on. In 1968 a final letter was sent

to the Minister which indicated increasing alarm because the alienation of land appeared to be passing beyond the areas of reliable rainfall. It was pointed out that future subdivisions should be approached with the utmost caution.

That occurred in February, 1968, but in that year 530,536 acres of conditional purchase land were alienated. In the following year a further area in excess of 300,000 acres was alienated. So, many of the people who fell into grave difficulties did so on the uncalculated risk taken by the previous Government. Settlement was carried out against the advice of those who were in a position to give what could be taken as an authoritative statement. Many of those people who were at risk paid rather dearly during the last few years.

Mr. Nalder: Did you show any alarm about that? You never said a word about it.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: We were not aware of the advice given by the committee. It was purely because of the utter grandiosement of the previous Government in wanting to be able to say that it did certain things. However, those things were done at the risk of the people who paid dearly.

Mr. Graham: Quite right.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: Another point which was disregarded was the introduction of wheat quotas, and which compounded the difficulties of those involved. There was also a fall in the price of wool.

Mr. Nalder: Did this apply only to Western Australia?

Mr. H. D. EVANS: It applied generally.

Mr. Nalder: That is right, and that is what I said. The Minister is trying to suggest that I did not include that situation.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: I am not saying that at all. I am saying that the Leader of the Country Party tried to attribute the total situation to extraneous factors. Another factor was the alienation of land, and a third point to which I must refer was the fall in meat prices. That fall was aggravated by a shortage of abattoir facilities.

Mr. Nalder: What about the drought?

Mr. H. D. EVANS: I include the drought, and the fall in wool prices and meat prices. I also include the alienation of land and the inadequacy of abattoir facilities. The shortage of those facilities cost the farmers millions of dollars, as Colonel McArthur stated publicly. Not only did the shortage of facilities cost the farmers in this State millions of dollars but it had a psychological impact on them because they were not able to dispose of their animals and obtain the ready cash to which they were accustomed.

Mr. I. W. Manning: The abattoirs went on strike at the vital time.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: The abattoir facilities were not available, as the member opposite well knows. The loss to the farmers in terms of finance was great. Let me remind members opposite that the Towns and Austen report urged the industry to update and increase abattoir facilities. However, the matter was deferred and the impact of the drought was disastrous as far as the farmers of this State were concerned, financially and psychologically.

Mr. McPharlin: If a decision had been made to build an abattoir it would have taken a period of two years.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: The previous Government did get around to increasing the capacity of the Midland Junction Abattoir but it was done in such a way it was of limited use. We are still paying for that mistake today in terms of what could possibly have been done.

Mr. Blaikie: The Minister has not recognised the drought conditions, the fall in the price of wool, the abattoir situation, and the strike action. What about those factors?

Mr. H. D. EVANS: I made reference to all the factors, including the fall in the price of wool. It was the action of the previous Government which compounded the difficulty to such an extent that it was not only the financial aspect but the psychological and moral result which affected rural districts.

Mr. Nalder: The Minister has claimed credit for the increase in the price of wool. What about the previous drop in the price of wool?

Mr. O'Connor: What about the lamb board?

Mr. H. D. EVANS: I will come back to that matter with a certain amount of happiness.

Mr. O'Connor: I am glad that someone seems to be happy about it.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: The Leader of the Country Party had the temerity to level criticism at the member for Collie and myself when he was in the position to do something for the dairying industry, the fruit industry, and meat marketing. I am afraid the humbug revealed by those comments needs no emphasis.

The fault of the previous Government was the lack of planning. I have found no sign at all of what might be termed a long-term approach to facing up to the problem over a period of time. I have found no sign of what might even be considered a policy.

I took the trouble to check on the number of Bills which affected primary industries passed during the last three years of the previous Government. The number is

lamentable. There is not even a suggestion of a basis for groundwork for a long-range agricultural policy.

Mr. Nalder: What did the Minister do about the advisory service? That was a long-term project. You did not carry on with that project at all. The projects which had been started were reduced. It is all very well for you to talk.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: That is utter rubbish. Let us now look at some of the projects undertaken by the present Government. I will deal firstly with one of the most important factors, and one on which the whole of the rural industry must be based. I refer to marketing methods.

An analysis of this aspect shows that savings can be made on the production side. The opportunity does exist for rural producers to make a worth-while saving but this will, of course, require a totally new approach. It must not be forgotten that the rate of inflation last year was somewhere in the vicinity of 8 per cent. per annum. This was due largely to the influx of capital moneys which were virtually dumped into Australia. It was against that background of increasing costs which confronted all sections of the community that the rural community, probably more than any other section, had to contend. If the inflationary tendency cannot be controlled it will not be very many years before the total input cost of farming faces something like a 100 per cent. increase.

For that reason reforms by the Federal Government are necessary to offset the difficulty of inflation which we have observed for so many years. If the rate of 8 per cent. can be dropped to more like 2 per cent., that reduction would be of inestimable value to the farming community.

Mr. Hutchinson: If the Minister were to move an amendment we could carry on the debate a little longer.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: If time permitted, it is possible I would like to join in that debate. However, to get back to the question of marketing, and the problem facing the industry, there has been no definite planning. I draw attention to the fact that during the first two years of this Government funds have been made available through the Department of Agriculture for a marketing research programme. Considerable progress has been achieved in this direction and I would like to record in *Hansard* the effort which has been made in this regard, and what is anticipated in the future.

As a result of the availability of funds, a series of visits have been made. It is difficult for a Government to undertake total marketing of rural products, but at least it can provide direction and initiative—which has been sadly lacking.

First and foremost, a visit was made to Japan—one of our largest wheat importers. We had little idea of what happened to our product on arrival in Japan, and the visit by the chief of the Wheat and Sheep Division of the Department of Agriculture was most rewarding. The visit indicated that it was possible to sell wheat to Japan in three categories. I pay tribute to C.B.H. for the efforts it has made. As a consequence of its action the consumers in Japan now have a choice of three separate qualities of wheat. This quality control will be vital when it comes to competing on world markets. If we cannot ensure continuity of supply, both in quantity and quality, we will not be able to participate in the markets which will ensure the survival of the rural industries.

I now refer to the visit of the chief of the Wheat and Sheep Division to the Middle East, which has been a very useful market for live animals. It is necessary to understand fully just what is entailed in this market and the type of animal that is being sought. One of the most disturbing features mentioned by the chief of the Wheat and Sheep Division was that although the animals going to the Middle East were large they were also fat and not desired. It is now proposed to indicate to farmers the type of animal that is required. At the same time, it is necessary to educate all those involved in every aspect of the trade to ensure that quality control is maintained. If that is not done, we will lose the market. This programme is being followed up by endeavours to conduct trials on board ship to ensure that quality is maintained during the journey.

Mr. Nalder: What about the recommendation to send ram lambs to the Middle East? What happened to that?

Mr. H. D. EVANS: What happened to it?

Mr. Nalder: I am asking you.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: There are aspects of the trade over which the Government has no direct control. The Government can give advice and provide extension services in an endeavour to get through to the trade but it cannot ensure that its advice is carried out. That is the situation in which the Government finds itself from time to time.

Mr. Nalder: It fizzled out.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: The Director of Agriculture made a very valuable trip in conjunction with the tour undertaken by the Farmers' Union. He was able to examine a large number of markets for various commodities in several countries. He was able to demonstrate that when it comes to the grass roots of marketing, we in Western Australia are bordering on amateurism in some cases. In order to

penetrate these markets and establish ourselves, it is essential to have a full knowledge of what is required and of local idiosyncracies when we do not understand the customs or even the language.

The apple industry received a very close examination and it was shown that valuable savings could be made. The examination involved not only an orchard study in the south-west but it also covered a survey of fruit handling and transport to the ship's side. A firm of consultants and a senior officer of the horticultural division spent some months making an evaluation and appraisal in England in order to find out what stages were involved, what stages could be deleted, and what savings could be made. The use of bulk bins indicated a saving of something in the order of \$1 a bushel.

At this stage perhaps I could make reference to a comparable situation in New Zealand, where an apple marketing board has been established. In New Zealand one exporter is able to charter his own vessels, palletise, and load in his own way in accordance with quality and size. He is then able to rope off various sections of the ship. When the ship reaches the United Kingdom a plan of the stowage has already been there for a fortnight, and it is then a matter of being able to drive straight onto the wharf, load from various sections of the ship, and deliver to the customer in accordance with his quality requirements. The saving resulting from this operation in a year was \$1,500,000. This is the sort of involvement that rural industries in this country must undertake in order to survive in the face of such competition.

Mr. Thompson: What was the size of the crop?

Mr. H. D. EVANS: The size of the crop was 3,500,000 bushels. Our rural industries must take this sort of action in order to maintain their place. They must penetrate further down the chain between the producer and the consumer in order to obtain a greater part of the consumer's requirements. The rural producers must examine all phases of their industries and reorganise where required.

One of the most important aspects in the development of a marketing policy has been the establishment of much closer liaison with the Department of Trade and Primary Industry in Canberra. A surprising amount of information from all over the world is received by the various departments in Canberra but a great deal of it, valuable though it may be, never reaches the States, or if it does such a long time has elapsed that its value has diminished. The stationing of an officer in Canberra to collate these intelligence reports, as they might be termed, has already proved to be a very valuable move.

Examinations have been made in connection with the export of rapeseed to Canada and the marketing of pork. This is the sort of work which the Government has a responsibility to do, and the Government of Western Australia is doing it.

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

Mr. H. D. EVANS: I think it is appropriate not only to make reference to the marketing programme that is envisaged but also to indicate that the abattoir facilities have been brought up to the required level. Criticism was levelled at the Government by Country Party members when abattoir charges were raised last year, but I point out that in two years a total loss of \$1,000,000 was carried by this Government in connection with the operation of the Midland Junction Abattoir, which could be regarded as a subsidy of \$1,000,000 to the meat industry.

I continue my marketing review by referring to the establishment and operation of the Lamb Marketing Board. A member opposite interjected a moment ago, and I will see whether I can elicit a further interjection from him when I point out that in Western Australia, between the 2nd January and the 13th March, the price of lamb rose from an average of 18c—that is, from 17c or 19c—to 26c a pound. In Victoria in the same period, the price of lamb increased by a far greater amount. In fact, the increase in Victoria in that period was 120 per cent. I do not know whether the honourable member wants me to comment further on that matter.

Mr. W. G. Young: What was the price range in Victoria?

Mr. H. D. EVANS: From something like 16c to between 39c and 41c—40c in round figures. A comparable situation existed in Victoria, and the season there was not incomparable with the season here. I do not know whether the member for Mt. Lawley wishes me to comment further on that matter.

Mr. O'Connor: I am interested in the local situation, where the price has gone up in certain cases.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: I gave the figures for that. By contrast, the price of ordinary lightweight wethers of fair trade value increased by a far greater percentage in the same period. Therefore, the operations of the Lamb Marketing Board suggest to me that the consumer and the producer may have been given a much fairer deal than would otherwise have been possible, in the face of the difficulties that have been experienced since the board commenced operation.

Mr. W. G. Young: Would this not have reduced the producer's return?

Mr. H. D. EVANS: That may well be so, but I was speaking about a fairer deal to both the consumer and the producer.

Mr. Blaikie: What was the purpose in the establishment of the board? Was it for consumer protection?

Mr. H. D. EVANS: To ensure a fair return to the producer and, at the same time, continuity of supply and quality to the consumer and an acceptable—

Mr. O'Connor: They did not get that.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: That is the fault of the farmers. Only half the number of lambs nominated were received by the board. The lambs were not sent in because of the season, the high price of wool, and other factors. That is the situation.

Mr. W. G. Young: If they were taken through to hoggets, the farmers would get the top price for them.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: That is correct.

I made reference to the apple industry, and I do not want to weary the House by recounting the fiasco that occurred last year when an effort was made to assist that industry. Suffice it to say the apple producers in this State were sold out.

It is a fairly bold step to embark on the amalgamation of the dairying industry but, looking to the future and all it implies, this course must be considered and at least attempted in order to give the industry the opportunity to attain an economic level which will ensure its survival.

Mr. Blaikie: Who sold out the apple industry?

Mr. Hartrey: It sold itself out.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: The Opposition sold out the apple industry. The Liberal Party sold it out and the Country Party chickened out. It is as simple as that.

Mr. Blaikie: And you did not proceed with the Bill in Committee.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: Perhaps I should state the facts. When it left here, the Bill contained what the industry required. It went to the other place, where it was amended in such a way that it became totally unacceptable, having regard to the urgency of the matter and the proposed proviso that a referendum be held prior to proclamation. Members know that would have completely excluded the Bill even from consideration in the year in which it was required.

That amendment was rejected by this House. A Bill which was in accordance with the requirements of the industry was amended to an unacceptable form. The Government had treated the industry consistently right throughout. It had agreed to a substantial amendment which was not acceptable to the industry. Members who do not think that insistence on a Bill

which is amended to an unacceptable form is not tantamount to rejection are stupid in the extreme.

Mr. Thompson: The industry did not support it.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: The industry had certain difficulties with the vested interests, and I suggest the vested interests and the contribution to party funds may have had some bearing on the matter.

Mr. Rushton: I thought you were above that level.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: In case the honourable member suggests there was no political motivation, I remind him that one meeting at Donnybrook was attended by five Liberal members. It was held under the chairmanship of a Liberal member of this House. If that is not introducing politics into the industry, I do not know what is. It was one of the most disgraceful episodes that have occurred in this House.

For them to sell the industry down the drain—and so cheaply, too—indicates their principles would not measure up even to the standard of Judas.

Sir Charles Court: Where did you learn that? You have been copying the notes of the Deputy Premier. You can do better than that.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: There are a number of other points to which I could make reference—

Mr. Hutchinson: Just imagine if we were sitting on your side and said that. Wouldn't you think it was funny?

Mr. H. D. EVANS: If that were the case probably the honourable member would have no occasion to say it.

Mr. Hutchinson: Mystic! Wonderful!

Mr. H. D. EVANS: A number of other actions have been taken by the Government, including the establishment of the Meat Industry Advisory Committee, and the setting up of a checkpoint on the Eyre Highway following investigations carried out in previous years. The checkpoint is now firmly established and is achieving considerable results.

During the few days after the Government came into office an undertaking was given that farmers who were unable to obtain carry-on finance would be assisted. It was indeed refreshing to hear the commendatory remarks made about that undertaking at the opening of the Farmers' Union conference. It meant in effect that some hundreds of farmers were able to carry on to a stage where other forms of finance became available to them.

I could list a number of other achievements, but I will satisfy myself by concluding with this comment for the benefit of the member for Dale: Rather than try

to dissect his diatribe, I refer him to page 3 of this afternoon's issue of the *Daily News*. I support the motion.

Question put and passed; the Address-in-Reply thus adopted.

House adjourned at 10.33 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 5th April, 1973

The SPEAKER (Mr. Norton) took the Chair at 11.00 a.m., and read prayers.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by Mr. I. W. Manning, leave of absence for 14 days granted to Sir David Brand (Greenough) on the ground of ill-health.

LAPSED BILLS

Restoration to Notice Paper: Motion

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier) [11.03 a.m.]: There are two Bills mentioned in the list appearing on the notice paper which I do not seek to restore. Would I be in order when reading out the list to omit those two?

The SPEAKER: That will be in order.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I move—

That under the provisions of Standing Order No. 407 the undermentioned Bills be restored to the Notice Paper at the stages which they had reached in the previous session of Parliament, namely:—

Scientology Act Repeal Bill.

Second reading. Adjourned debate.

Parliamentary Committees Bill.

Second reading. Adjourned debate.

Dairy Industry Bill.

Second reading. Adjourned debate.

Door to Door (Sales) Act Amendment Bill.

Second reading. Adjourned debate.

Companies Act Amendment Bill.

Second reading. Adjourned debate. (Mr. R. L. Young, continuation of remarks.)

City of Perth Endowment Lands Bill.

Second reading. Adjourned debate.

Education Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).

Second reading. Adjourned debate.