

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I move an amendment—

Page 2—Substitute for the words deleted the following words:—

the sale, lease or disposal of the instrumentalities and trading concerns mentioned in the Schedule shall not be finalised unless and until the approval of Parliament to the sale, lease or disposal has been obtained.

Amendment (to substitute words) put and a division called for.

The CHAIRMAN (The Hon. W. R. Hall): Before the tellers tell, I give my vote with the ayes.

Division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—15.

Hon. N. E. Baxter	Hon. A. R. Jones
Hon. G. Bennetts	Hon. F. R. H. Lavery
Hon. E. M. Davies	Hon. A. L. Loton
Hon. J. J. Garrigan	Hon. H. C. Strickland
Hon. W. R. Hall	Hon. J. D. Teahan
Hon. E. M. Heenan	Hon. R. Thompson
Hon. R. F. Hutchison	Hon. W. F. Willsee
Hon. G. E. Jeffery	(Teller.)

Noes—12.

Hon. C. R. Abbey	Hon. C. H. Simpson
Hon. A. F. Griffith	Hon. S. T. Thompson
Hon. J. G. Hislop	Hon. J. M. Thomson
Hon. L. A. Logan	Hon. H. K. Watson
Hon. G. C. MacKinnon	Hon. F. D. Willmott
Hon. R. C. Mattiske	Hon. J. Murray

(Teller.)

Majority for—3.

Amendment (to substitute words) thus passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Schedule:

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER: I move an amendment—

Page 2—Add after clause 3 in lines 11 to 15 the following schedule:—

The Schedule.

State Building Supplies, established or carried on under the authority of the State Trading Concerns Act, 1916-1956.

State Implement and Engineering Works established or carried on under the authority of the State Trading Concerns Act, 1916-1956.

The West Australian Meat Export Works established or carried on under the authority of the West Australian Meat Export Works Act, 1942, and the Albany Freezing Works Agreement Act, 1945.

The Wyndham Freezing, Canning, and Meat Export Works established by the Wyndham Freezing, Canning and Meat Export Works Act 1918, and carried on under the authority of the State Trading Concerns Act, 1916-1956.

Schedule put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported with amendments.

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD BETTING BILL

Assembly's Message

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

House adjourned at 10.30 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 10th November, 1960

CONTENTS

	Page
TOTALISATOR LEGISLATION BRIBERY CLAIM—	
Crown Law Opinion : Tabling	2640
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—	
Albany Prison : Selection of site	2642
Albany Regional Hospital : Provision for maternity cases	2641
Car License Plates : Conditions of insurance	2642
Coal Prices : Comparison between Collie and New South Wales	2641
Fencing Wire : Reasons for shortage	2640
Ore Bodies : Diamond drilling	2641
Swan Cottage Homes : Business management	2642
Water from Henty Brook : Charge for pumping to farmers	2640
Wharf Aprons : Washing with salt water	2642
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE—	
Albany Maternity Hospital : Shortage of beds	2644
Coal Prices—	
Comparison between Collie and New South Wales	2645
Point of Order : Repetition of questions	2645
Totalisator Legislation Bribery Claim—	
Action by Premier	2643
Attorney-General's view on need for action	2644
Authenticity of newspaper report	2643
Crown Law Opinion : Attorney-General's agreement	2643
Government investigation	2643
Premier's knowledge of rumours	2644
Premier's view of alleged statement	2643

BILLS—

Companies Bill—	
2r.	2645
Message : Appropriation	2649
Education Act Amendment Bill—	
Message : Appropriation	2640
Licensing Act Amendment Bill (No. 3) :	
2r.	2649
Railways (Cue-Big Bell and Other Railways) Discontinuance Bill : 1r.	2645
Reserves Bill : 1r.	2645
Road Closure Bill : 1r.	2645

CONTENTS—continued

	Page
BILLS—continued	
Simultaneous Deaths Bill—	
2r.	2651
Com.	2652
Report	2652
Totalisator Agency Board Betting Bill :	
Council's amendments	2687
ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1960-1961—	
Committee of Supply—	
Votes and items discussed	2652

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

EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Message: Appropriation

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

TOTALISATOR LEGISLATION BRIBERY CLAIM

Crown Law Opinion: Tabling

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Attorney-General) [2.18]: Referring to a question asked me yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition, I have here the opinion of the Senior Assistant Crown Prosecutor. I move—

That this paper be laid upon the Table of the House.

MR. HAWKE (Northam) [2.19] Before the motion is put, Mr. Speaker, could the Attorney-General read the statement, as it appears to be quite brief?

Mr. Watts: It will be available for all to read if it is on the Table of the House.

MR. TONKIN (Melville) [2.20]: Mr. Speaker, would I be in order in moving an amendment to the motion that before the paper is tabled it be read?

The SPEAKER: Yes; the honourable member would be in order.

Mr. TONKIN: Then I move—

That the motion be amended by inserting after the word "be" the words "read and then".

Amendment put and passed.

Motion, as amended, put and passed.

The SPEAKER: The document reads as follows:—

Hon. Attorney General:

Following your discussion with me, I confirm the advice which I tendered to you as follows:—

- (1) Mr. O'Connor has committed no offence by not reporting to the Commissioner of Police the circumstances of the bribery.

- (2) There is no legal compulsion or obligation which requires him to report the offence described in the newspaper report.

- (3) In these circumstances, the Commissioner of Police could not commence investigations, and as is common practice in this State and in other places, an investigation is not commenced unless there is a willing complainant or informant who can put before him cogent evidence to enable an effective investigation. Likewise a prosecution would prove abortive.

2. Section 143 of the Criminal Code has no application in the present circumstances. The offence is to attempt to obstruct, prevent, pervert or defeat the course of justice. In this case there is no law in being so that no person could be guilty of an attempt to obstruct that law or the course of the law. The section requires a positive act rather than an omission on the part of the offender, hence, again, it has no application in these circumstances.

(Sgd.) Alan J. Dodd,

Senior Assistant Crown Prosecutor.

10th November, 1960.

Mr. HAWKE: Mr. Speaker, could we ask questions in regard to this document at this stage?

The SPEAKER: At question time.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

WATER FROM HENTY BROOK

Charge for Pumping to Farmers

1. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

Under what section of what Act are annual charges raised against farmers for pumping their domestic water supply from Henty Brook at Burekup?

Mr. WILD replied:

Charges are raised under By-law No. 35 of the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act, and are authorised by section 59 of that Act.

FENCING WIRE

Reasons for Shortage

2. Sir ROSS McLARTY asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is he able to give information as to why there is an acute shortage of fencing wire in Western Australia, such as No. 10 plain galvanised and barbed wire?

- (2) How long is the shortage likely to last?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) There is at present a general shortage of steel in Australia. This is due to an unprecedented increase in demand for all types of steel, which, since 1948, has roughly trebled.

Although Broken Hill Pty. Ltd. is continually increasing its production of steel, shortages of wire and sheet, as well as other types of steel, are Australia-wide and not peculiar to this State.

The position is aggravated by the reluctance of some users of steel to import stocks. This is understandable because of the higher price.

- (2) The Government is continually in touch with Broken Hill Pty. Ltd. to see whether there is any possibility of increasing supplies to Western Australia, but the indications are that the shortage will continue for a period and the company has advised users and distributors that they should arrange import quotas to supplement what is available from Australian production.

The demand for fencing materials is a seasonal one and could ease at the end of the present season.

COAL PRICES

Comparison Between Collie and New South Wales

3. Mr. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:
- (1) Is he aware that the last Joint Coal Board report disclosed that deep-mine coal was mined in Collie for an average price of 55s. per ton whilst the price of production per ton in New South Wales was 57s. 5d.?
- (2) In view of the greater difficulties associated with coalmining in the Collie field as compared with New South Wales, does he not agree that this is a creditable performance on the part of the Collie miners and administrators at Collie?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The latest annual report to hand of the Joint Coal Board (1958-59) discloses that the average price of New South Wales underground coal, f.o.r. colliery, was 55s. 6d. per ton. It also recorded a consistent annual price reduction since 1953.

The report states, *inter alia*, "In the view of the board there will be no producer in New South Wales in ten years' time—possibly

less—whose pit-top costs exceed the equivalent of 50s. per ton in terms of today's money values."

Further, "The outlook for the New South Wales coal industry in the sixties is for rising demand, reduced costs (some reductions will be dramatic), and the development of some new large-scale mines."

- (2) No greater difficulties are associated with coalmining at Collie than in New South Wales. Our mines are fully mechanised, comparatively shallow, and gas-free—conditions which many operators in other States would welcome.

ORE BODIES

Diamond Drilling

4. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:
- (1) What footage of diamond drilling of ore bodies has been carried out since April, 1959—
- (a) by the department; and
- (b) by private contractors?
- (2) What footage has been drilled—
- (a) in gold-bearing ore bodies; and
- (b) in other ore bodies?
- (3) What amount has been paid to private contractors for these services?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Footage of diamond-drilling of ore-bodies since April, 1959:—
- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| | Feet |
| (a) Drilled by department .. | 3,508 |
| (b) Drilled by contractors .. | 6,603 |
| Total .. | 10,111 |
- (2) Footage Drilled:—
- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| (a) Gold-bearing ore-bodies— | Feet |
| (i) Drilled by department | 3,508 |
| (ii) Drilled by contractors | 1,820 |
| Total .. | 5,328 |
- (b) Other ore-bodies—
- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| | Feet |
| (i) Drilled by department | Nil |
| (ii) Drilled by contractors | 4,783 |
- (3) Amount paid to contractors—
£19,487 9s. 2d.

ALBANY REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Provision for Maternity Cases

5. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Health:
- (1) What will be the bed capacity for maternity cases at the new regional hospital at Albany?

- (2) When is it expected that the new hospital will be ready to receive maternity cases?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Twenty-seven.
(2) Approximately December, 1961.

ALBANY PRISON

Selection of Site

6. Mr. HALL asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Has he received the report from his departmental officers and the Town Planning Department on proposed new prison sites, or a site, at Albany?
(2) If he has received the report, has a decision been reached as to the most suitable site for a new prison and where is the selected site situated?
(3) If no decision has been made, and no report received, can he advise the date when the last inquiry was made, and how many previous inspections were carried out?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) and (3) Two inspections have been made by departmental officers, the last of which was on the 19th August, 1960. A decision has been delayed pending further discussion and review with local authorities by the Town Planning Commissioner of town planning generally at Albany, which discussion will take place tomorrow.

SWAN COTTAGE HOMES

Business Management

7. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Premier:

With reference to Question No. 8 of Wednesday, the 9th November, referring to the directors of Perth Television Appliances Ltd.—

- (1) Is any director of that firm connected in any way with Swan Cottage Homes Foundation?
(2) If so, what steps has he taken to ensure that public or private money available to Swan Cottage Homes is not dissipated by poor business management similar to that of P.T.A.?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) The Registrar of Companies, who also deals with registration of associations, has no record of any such organisation.
(2) In the complete absence of any evidence that any such moneys will be dissipated in this case, any more than in the cases of scores

of charitable or benevolent institutions which confer great benefit on deserving sections of the public, any action on the lines suggested by the honourable member would be quite unjustified.

WHARF APRONS

Washing with Salt Water

8. Mr. CURRAN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Further to the extensive use of fresh water by the Fremantle Harbour Trust, is he aware that a drainage system exists on the wharf which diverts water away from all electric cables laid under the wharf apron?
(2) In view of the above question, why is salt water not suitable for washing the wharf apron?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) The drainage system of the wharves does not preclude some water used for washing down from contacting wharf electric and telephone services.
(2) Salt water is quite unsuitable for the purpose. It causes severe corrosion of steelwork, seriously affects mobile mechanical plant and vehicles, causes dry rot in wharf timbers, and seriously affects electrical power mains and equipment under the quays. Fresh water is used for the purpose with economy.

CAR LICENSE PLATES

Conditions of Insurance

9. Mr. O'CONNOR asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Following a report on page 3 of the *Daily News* on Tuesday, the 8th November, in which an alleged car thief relicensed the same vehicle in three districts, will he advise—
(a) did the local authorities concerned inspect the vehicle before issuing the licenses;
(b) why did not the local authorities concerned ask for return of the previous plates?
(2) Will he take some action to endeavour to prevent a recurrence of this position?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Local authorities are not under my control.
(2) Publicity will be given through the monthly bulletins to the need for all licensing authorities to carry out the provisions of the Traffic Act.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

TOTALISATOR LEGISLATION BRIBERY CLAIM

Crown Law Opinion: Attorney-General's Agreement

1. Mr. HAWKE asked the Attorney-General:

Does he agree with the views expressed by the Crown Law officer as set out in the document which was tabled a few moments ago?

Mr. WATTS replied:
Completely.

Premier's View of Alleged Statement

2. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

Does he regard a claim by a member of Parliament that he was offered a bribe to vote in a certain direction as a matter of serious concern?

Mr. BRAND replied:

The alleged statement made by the member for North Perth is such that it is of vital importance to the public. I understand, however, that the member for North Perth has not made a statement as such.

Authenticity of Newspaper Report

3. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

In view of what the Premier has just said, which suggests that the member for North Perth has repudiated what was published in the newspaper report about him, what action does the Government intend to take to establish as factual or otherwise the newspaper report?

Mr. BRAND replied:

The Government does not intend to take any action.

4. Mr. HAWKE:

I regret that part of one answer given to me by the Premier makes it necessary for me to put a question to the member for North Perth, although I did not desire to do that. Does the member for North Perth repudiate what was published in the newspaper report in regard to the claim he made that a bribe was offered to him?

The SPEAKER:

Order! I cannot allow that question as it is not a proceeding before this House.

Action by Premier

5. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Premier:

In view of the inference in his answer to an earlier question that the statement appearing in the

Press in connection with the alleged statement of the member for North Perth was not made by him, what action is the Premier prepared to take in order to protect the members of this House from such statements made by a newspaper?

Mr. BRAND replied:

In respect of the alleged statement, I said "a statement as such" in the course of my reply. As I understand the position, the member for North Perth did not make a statement to the Press of his own accord. As far as I know, the Press representative approached him, making suggestions as to certain rumours. As for any action the Government might take, we will deal with that situation as we come to it. I am not prepared to move on this one.

Government Investigation

6. Mr. TONKIN asked the Attorney-General:

My question relates to section 61 of the Criminal Code. With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, it will be necessary for me to read that section in order to frame my question. Section 61 states—

Any person who,—

- (1) In order to influence a member of either House of Parliament in his vote, opinion, judgment, or action, upon any question or matter arising in the House of which he is a member or in any Committee thereof, or in any joint Committee of both Houses, or in order to induce him to absent himself from the House or from any such Committee, gives, confers, or procures, or promises or offers to give or confer, or to procure or attempt to procure, any property or benefit of any kind to, upon, or for such member; or to, upon, or for, any other person; or

- (2) Attempts, directly or indirectly, by fraud, or by threats or intimidation of any kind, to influence a member of either House of Parliament in his vote, opinion, judgment, or action, upon any such question or matter, or to induce him to absent himself;

is guilty of a crime, and is liable to imprisonment with hard labour for seven years.

There appeared in *The West Australian* a statement which was purported to have come from the member for North Perth. There has not been, up to date, any retraction of that statement publicly. As far as I am aware no complaint has been lodged with the newspaper concerned that the statement was incorrect. On the contrary, I have evidence that the statement was made to the newspaper. In view of that, and in view of the fact that the honourable member concerned in the alleged offer is purported to have made this statement establishing that a crime has been committed, is any further action necessary before the Government investigates the crime?

Mr. WATTS replied:

I think that the best answer to this question asked by the honourable member is: First catch your hare; in other words, tell me where we are going to investigate in the absence of any further information which the member for North Perth is not obliged to give.

Authenticity of Newspaper Report

7. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

As one of the replies which he gave this afternoon places the newspaper reporter concerned in a very serious position in relation to his reliability as a journalist, does the Government intend to take any action to establish the factual character or otherwise of the newspaper report in question?

Mr. BRAND replied:

I did not reflect on the newspaper or its reporters. I said that the member for North Perth did not make a statement as such. In the second reply to the numerous questions that have been asked I suggested that the member for North Perth had been approached regarding a rumour. The result of that interview we have seen in the Press. I have said that I do not propose to take any more action.

Attorney-General's View on Need for Action

8. Mr. HAWKE asked the Attorney-General:

As the publication of this claim, real or otherwise, that the member for North Perth was offered a bribe to vote in a certain direction on legislation before Parliament is a matter of grave public concern, does the Attorney-General, as the

Minister in charge of the Department of Justice in Western Australia, think the matter should be allowed to rest where it is at the present moment?

Mr. WATTS replied:

I suggest that the honourable member, if he wishes information of any worthwhile value on this subject, should place his question on the notice paper.

Premier's Knowledge of Rumours

9. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

Did the Premier, several weeks ago, hear of a statement similar to that which is alleged to have been made by the member for North Perth?

Mr. BRAND replied:

There have been rumours of all kinds. Whether there was one similar to that made by the member for North Perth I cannot say. However, there has been nothing concrete.

Mr. Grayden: If members of the Opposition were sincere, one of them would move for an inquiry. The Opposition is frightened to have an inquiry.

Mr. Tonkin: Would you support it? Several Government members: Move for one!

ALBANY MATERNITY HOSPITAL

Shortage of Beds

10. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Health:

Appertaining to Question No. 5 on today's notice paper, is he aware of the overcrowding and heavy bookings at the Albany Maternity Hospital? Almost 80 bookings have been made for the months of November and December, and 39 births have been recorded in the last four weeks, which are half as many again as the average births in the month—

The SPEAKER: What is the honourable member's question?

Mr. HALL: I am coming to it.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member had better come to it straight away.

Mr. HALL: The bed capacity is insufficient to cope with the requirements in view of the growth of the town, which now has 14 such beds in the hospital. Will the Minister investigate the position so as to alleviate the trouble at the Albany Maternity Hospital, and check the statistics in view of the 27 new beds to be established at that hospital?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

I am happy indeed that the birth rate in Albany is rising. I shall have investigations made as to whether or not the number of beds will be sufficient to cope with the demand. I have no doubt that these beds will be made available. Throughout the State, on occasions, maternity hospitals are overcrowded. There is no season for these things.

COAL PRICES

Comparison Between Collie and New South Wales

11. Mr. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

Will he advise the House whose opinion he was quoting when he answered part (2) of my question appearing on today's notice paper?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

When questions are placed on the notice paper, they are submitted to the appropriate Minister, who secures the answers. The Minister for Mines is responsible for the question to which the honourable member is referring, and I merely gave his reply to this House. If there is any query as to the reasonableness of the answer, the honourable member has the right to place another question on the notice paper.

12. Mr. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

Will he give me an assurance that he will endeavour to obtain the information I have requested and supply it at the next sitting of the House?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

I will give the assurance that if the member for Collie asks another question, it will be forwarded to the appropriate Minister and the answer will be forthcoming.

Mr. MAY: I have already asked the question. I do not propose to ask another.

Mr. I. W. Manning: Well, sit down.

Mr. MAY: There is only one question involved.

The SPEAKER: What is the question the honourable member is asking now?

Mr. MAY: The same one I asked in the first place.

Point of Order: Repetition of Questions

Mr. HAWKE: Mr. Speaker, is a member entitled to place upon the notice paper subsequently a question he has already asked the day before or two days before?

The SPEAKER: The honourable member means a question he has asked without notice?

Mr. HAWKE: Is a member entitled to place on the notice paper tomorrow exactly the same question he has placed on the notice paper today?

The SPEAKER: No.

Mr. MAY: I desire your guidance, Mr. Speaker. The question I will ask the Minister tomorrow will not be the same as the question I asked today. It will follow the one I asked today.

The SPEAKER: That is what I understood. Therefore the honourable member may place it on the notice paper.

BILLS (3)—FIRST READING

1. Railways (Cue-Big Bell and other Railways) Discontinuance Bill.

On motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Railways), Bill introduced, and read a first time.

2. Road Closure Bill.

3. Reserves Bill.

On motions by Mr. Bovell (Minister for Lands), Bills introduced, and read a first time.

COMPANIES BILL

Second Reading

MR. WATTS (Stirling—Attorney-General) [2.48]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill for a new companies Act represents the early fruits of the recent and energetic move to secure uniformity of company law within the States of the Commonwealth. For 30 years the desirability of having uniformity in this field in Australia has been advocated by interested bodies. The benefits which would thereby accrue to the community are, of course, manifest.

Throughout that time the subject has been dealt with in a very desultory fashion. It is obviously desirable that there should be a much greater measure of uniformity in a law such as this than has hitherto existed, notwithstanding the fact that there may be some considerations which make it desirable that one or two specific matters should retain provisions to suit local conditions such, for example, as my subsequent references to co-operative companies.

Clearly, commerce and industry will be better served in a country where companies carry on so much business interstate, if there is a close approach to uniform legislation. Some 18 months ago the

Attorneys-General of the States of New South Wales and Victoria mutually decided that something should be done. As a result, a conference of State and Commonwealth Ministers was convened, and held in Melbourne. Since that meeting there have followed numerous conferences of Ministers and departmental officers.

From that conference a model draft Bill has emerged, and the Bill now before the House is based on that model draft. For convenience the Victorian Companies Act of 1958 was accepted as the original basis for this model draft. However, in what I might call the evolution of the model, all States and the Commonwealth have made some valuable contributions.

At the conferences the Commonwealth was represented, usually by the Solicitor-General (Sir Frederick Bailey), but on one occasion, I think, by the Attorney-General himself. In the result much redundant matter has been omitted. The Bill is in modern form, and some new matters have been included.

The Bill represents a real opportunity to obtain a measure of uniformity. The Parliaments of Queensland and New South Wales are currently considering similar Bills; and it is believed that all other States will follow early next year.

However, the model draft Bill does not represent the final views of the committee of Ministers responsible for its preparation. Copies of the model draft are being presently circulated to interested bodies throughout Australia, and those interested bodies have been invited to submit their comments and recommendations on the draft to the Ministers' committee. The Ministers propose to meet in Hobart next February to consider the representations made by the various organisations. If they find substance in the representations, the necessary alterations will be made by the Ministers; and so far as this Bill is concerned, those alterations could be made in the Committee stage. In this way uniformity will be maintained.

In view of what I have already said, I propose now to outline briefly only the principal proposed changes of law which are embodied in this measure. I say "outline only the principal proposed changes" because, as I have indicated before, it is not intended to proceed with the Bill this session. Ample opportunity will, therefore, be available to every member to give consideration to the measure, or any of its provisions which may be of special interest to him.

As a matter of fact, I have already discussed with the Leader of the Opposition the question of adjourning this debate; and the date of the 3rd January, I think, has met with our mutual approval.

Mr. Nulsen: Or the 27th February.

Mr. WATTS: The Leader of the Opposition did suggest the 30th February, but as that might not be in order, I suggested the 3rd January.

A board known as the companies auditors' board of three members is constituted by the Bill. It will replace the Registrar of Companies as the registering authority for company auditors and liquidators; and it will have wider powers than has the registrar to discipline and punish defaulting auditors and liquidators.

An important change in the law made by the Bill is the relaxation or abrogation of the *ultra vires* doctrine. This legal doctrine relates to the limits placed on the power of a company to carry on businesses not especially mentioned in the company's constitution. The action taken here is to widen the powers of companies in this regard.

It is intended also to simplify the procedure for the alteration of a company's objects. Whereas previously such alterations were possible only within certain prescribed limits, and needed to be confirmed by order of the Supreme Court, now a company may by special resolution change its objects and the change will be effective unless, within 21 days, objection to the court is made by a share or debenture holder, and the court upholds the objection.

The provisions relating to the names of companies have been modernised and are now comparable with those in the Companies Act in England. The registrar is given a discretion to refuse to register a company name which in his opinion is undesirable. In addition, the registrar is required to reject a name or a class of name which the Minister may direct him not to register. In order to secure uniformity of practice between States in this matter, all Ministers have agreed to circulate common administrative instructions and general directions to registrars.

The requirements for new proprietary companies are made standard with those in Victoria, but the existing proprietary companies are not affected by this change. The new Bill does not affect any old or new co-operative company. The co-operative companies will continue to be registered and regulated by the Companies Act, 1943, which at present is left unrepealed as regards this class of company. I think I am right in saying that in all the other States—at least in the majority of them—there is separate legislation in regard to co-operative companies. The effect of leaving the co-operative companies within the jurisdiction of the Companies Act of 1943 will be to make separate legislation for co-operative companies in Western Australia—

Mr. Nulsen: You mean, they will not be incorporated in this Bill?

Mr. WATTS: That is so. Where a company invites the public to deposit money with or to lend money to it, the invitation can, under the Bill, only be made through a prospectus; and the rules of law regarding prospectuses will apply.

Advertisements connected with such an invitation must contain no more than certain prescribed particulars. If the deposits or loans are not secured by any charge over the company's assets, it must be clearly proclaimed and included in the title of the acknowledgments of indebtedness issued by the company that they are unsecured. The acknowledgments must not in that case be referred to as or be entitled debentures.

Where a company issues shares at a premium, the amount of the premium is due to be paid by capital to the extent that it is not available for payment of a cash dividend to shareholders. The total of the share premiums has to be transferred to an account called the share premium account.

This account may be applied in paying up a balance due on issued shares; in paying up fully-paid bonus shares issued to members, or in writing off any preliminary or share or debenture issue expenses of the company.

Options to take shares in a public company, except where the option is conferred on a debenture holder and is by way of redemption of the debentures, must not be for a period greater than five years.

Every company which issues debentures, whether secured or not, must maintain a register of debenture holders; and where the debentures are offered to the public, the company must make provision for the appointment of independent trustees.

Members will notice I said earlier that where they are unsecured they must not be called debentures, and here I have referred to debentures whether secured or unsecured. It is rather difficult to find another word for the unsecured investment, and therefore, although it may sound a little paradoxical, I have used the word "debenture" in both cases to get over that difficulty.

The duty of the trustees is to protect and watch the interests of the debenture holders. The trustees are given powers of inspection of the books of the company and provision is made for the calling of meetings of debenture holders. The Bill also contains provision relating to unit trusts, vending machines, etc., which I will later describe. It is also proposed to facilitate the transfer and transmission of the shares of a deceased shareholder by making it unnecessary—on that count alone—for a grant of probate, etc., obtained outside the State to be resealed in this State.

As members know, that has, occasionally, been a very cumbersome and unwieldy business in connection with a small number

of shares in a company holding in another State. The provisions of the Bill are designed to overcome that difficulty as far as is practicable. Provision is also made for the certification of transfers, and this should assist in expediting transfers made to stock exchanges. Charges against the companies' assets are now to be registered or recorded by the Registrar of Companies. The obligation to register debentures under the Bills of Sale Act will later be removed by an amendment of that Act.

The changes in this regard will bring us into line with the present practice in the Eastern States. The provisions relating to the appointment, duties and responsibilities of directors are also brought up to date by the Bill. Directors attaining 72 years of age must resign but can hold office from year to year if reappointed yearly by a special resolution of the company. I understand the age of 72 years was accepted by the conference because that is the retirement age of judges in Victoria.

Mr. Nulsen: It is 70 years in this State.

Mr. WATTS: Yes. However, as a special resolution of the company was needed to enable a director to continue in office after that age no objection was offered to that provision. Directors convicted of substantial dishonesty or directors of insolvent companies which pay less than 10s. in the pound are disqualified from holding office as directors, or being concerned in the management of a company, unless the Supreme Court grants leave that they can so act.

A company is required to maintain a register of its directors' shareholdings, whether the shares are held directly or by a nominee. It is the duty of the director to supply the necessary information to the company to enable compilation of this register. The requirement that every company shall file an annual list of its members is relaxed in the case of a company which has more than 1,000 members, which maintains its register of members at a place within three miles of the office of the registrar, and which provides reasonable accommodation and facilities for persons to inspect the register of members. Such a company need not file any annual list of its shareholders.

The provisions relating to company accounts are widened and a much greater degree of disclosure is demanded. Appointments of inspectors are to be facilitated in proper cases. An inspector is to be given wide powers to cover companies related to the subject companies. He can, by virtue of reciprocal provisions in other State laws, receive recognition in those other States and pursue his inquiries there if necessary. If this Bill is passed, its provisions will enable the inspectors of other States to do likewise; otherwise, the provisions between the various States would not be reciprocal. In other words, a similar position will persist in this State. This will overcome the

disability of limitation of jurisdiction of the State appointing an inspector for a company operating in several States.

If good reason exists, the Minister may cause the ownership of shares or debentures to be investigated by an inspector. Where a member complains to the court of oppression by the company of himself and a minority of shareholders, the court may make such an order putting an end to the oppression as appears to the court to be just and equitable. In a case where a receiver of a company's assets is appointed, a statement as to the affairs of the company must forthwith be made by the company's officers and copies are to be given to the receiver and the registrar. This requirement will remove the curtain of darkness which hitherto used to descend over a company's affairs when a receiver had been appointed.

Provision is made for the appointment of a person who will have the title of "official manager". This appointment will be made by the creditors of a company where there are reasons for supposing that some restraint, short of winding up the company, should be placed on the management. The official manager will replace the board of directors of the company and will carry on its business until the court or the creditors remove him. All legal proceedings against the company will be stayed for the period during which it is under official management.

In relation to winding-up, the requirements have been streamlined. In the case of a winding-up by the court, an official liquidator must be appointed. But the term "official liquidator" has a meaning different to that under the 1943 Act. It is proposed to nominate only a limited number of practising accountants as official liquidators. They will control every winding-up ordered by the court and so will become specialists in this field.

As I said before, the Bill contains a new part to provide more effective means of controlling and regulating the affairs of those companies which are generally known as vending machine companies. This part will also affect and apply to unit trust companies. It will operate, in addition, in relation to any companies which, for example, may conduct a reafforestation scheme on the lines of those of the New Zealand forestry bonds concerns which were established many years ago and are still in existence; and this part will also operate in respect of any similar scheme.

In brief, therefore, it relates to all companies which invite members of the public to subscribe for or invest in "interests" in an enterprise when those "interests" are neither shares nor debentures. It is virtually identical with legislation passed recently in South Australia and Queensland

and is based on current legislation enacted in New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania.

Because this Bill cannot come into operation for a considerable time—probably late next year—the Government is considering, as has been done in the other States mentioned, an amendment to the existing Companies Act of this State to deal with these particular types of companies and to operate as part of the existing Companies Act pending the coming into operation of this uniform Bill. A decision on that matter will be reached in a day or two; and if the proposal is agreed to, a Bill will be introduced early next week.

Speaking generally, the Bill lays down the conditions which must prevail before and after "interests"—of which the Bill includes a very detailed, though wide definition—are offered for sale to the public. Only a public company may offer interests for subscription; and before they are offered, the company, for the protection of the interest holders, must have nominated a trustee who has been approved as such by the Minister, and who is required to be appointed in a deed of trust executed by the company concerned. The trust deed must contain certain covenants by the company and by the trustee. It must be approved by the Registrar of Companies.

The Bill contains reciprocal provisions which will permit of a deed of trust and a trustee approved in another Australian State having equivalent legislation being, *ipso facto*, approved in this State. Incidentally, I advise that it is proposed that all States adopt similar administrative practices in relation to the approval of deeds and trustees.

When a company offers interests for sale it may only do so through the medium of a published statement to which the rules of law relating to prospectuses are to apply. The principal contents of the statement are prescribed in the schedule to the Bill, but the Registrar of Companies may, in his discretion, call for additional matters to be included in the statement. This flexible arrangement is necessary in order that the requirements may be adapted to the particular scheme in respect of which interests are offered for sale.

The covenants required to be included in an approved trust deed by the company are firstly that it will conduct its business and the business of the scheme to which the deed relates in a proper and efficient manner; that it will make its books of account and any information he may desire available to the trustees; and that it will, on a requisition by a certain proportion of interest holders, call a meeting of all holders of interests in the scheme.

A meeting called under this latter covenant is to consider the last published accounts of the company, and it may

give the trustee directions. The trustee, under the deed, must covenant that he will be vigilant in his functions as trustee, and in watching the rights and interests of the holders of interest in the scheme; that he will keep proper accounts in relation to his trust; and that he will post an audited statement of accounts of the trust annually to the interest holders.

The company and the trustee must both covenant not to exercise the right to vote in respect of shares held subject to the trust unless so authorised by the majority of interest holders voting at a special meeting of holders called for that purpose in a particular case. Where, before the commencement of the Act, interests which would have been affected by the Act have been issued, the company is allowed three months for an approved deed to be executed. If at the end of that time there is not an approved deed in force the company must notify the registrar and all interest holders that the company cannot comply.

The company which has issued interests, the subject of an approved deed, must lodge an annual list of interest holders with the registrar. But this requirement does not apply if the company has its registered office within three miles of the office of the registrar and the company provides accommodation, facilities, and opportunity for all persons to inspect and copy the list of holders at its registered office. The company is also obliged, if so requested by any interest holder, to post to him a copy of its published accounts and details of land, marketable securities, and investments which are subject to the trust and held or have been bought or sold during the year by either the trustee or the company. The company is also obliged to disclose the brokerage paid in respect of these matters.

That concludes the reference to those portions of the Bill. I wish again, however, to make it quite clear that copies of this Bill will tomorrow be despatched to bodies and organisations which may be concerned in its provisions in order to give them an opportunity of considering them and making representations where practicable through their Federal organisations and otherwise to myself.

These representations, with the idea of maintaining uniform acceptance or rejection of their proposals, will be considered by another conference of Ministers in February of next year and such amendments as are agreed upon will, when the Bill is reinstated next session, be placed upon the notice paper with a view to having them considered in conjunction with the Bill now before the House. It is therefore necessary that the debate on this Bill be adjourned to a date beyond the currency of the present session. As I mentioned just now, I have suggested the 3rd January for that purpose.

Mr. Nulsen: It will not be a Sunday, will it?

Mr. WATTS: I do not think so. I might say in conclusion that I would be very glad if members would refrain for today from taking copies of this Bill from the House, because it is proposed to bind them over the week end.

On motion by Mr. Nulsen, debate adjourned until the 3rd January, 1961.

Message: Appropriation

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 3)

Second Reading

MR. OWEN (Darling Range) [3.17]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This small Bill has come from another place, and it seeks to amend section 122 of the Licensing Act. Section 122 deals with the boundary established around the metropolitan area, outside of which Sunday drinking can take place at limited hours prescribed under the Act. The amendment in the Bill seeks to alter that. Instead of making the boundary a radius of 20 miles from the Perth Town Hall, it seeks to make that boundary any place outside of 20 miles by the nearest road or sea route.

The present Act, with its 20-mile radius, looks all right on paper. It would appear to be very simple. One just draws the boundary from the centre, and that is all. But when one comes to view the practical effect of it one finds quite a few anomalies. In the hills section in particular, which is outside the 20-mile radius, there are three hotels. If it were the idea that one had to travel at least 20 miles before one could get a drink on Sundays, then it is very logical to suggest that one would travel by the nearest road or sea route instead of travelling by air.

We have come to accept the 20-mile radius as a reasonable one, so it is suggested that we make a boundary 20 miles by the nearest road or sea route. It seems to me that is a very practical solution to help overcome some of the anomalies which exist at present. That these anomalies do exist was recognised by the parliamentary committee which inquired into liquor licensing some two years ago. In paragraph 8 of that report, on page 12, we find the following:—

One of the problems relates to the conditions which exist on Sundays at certain hotels just outside the 20 miles radius—where "east meets west."

Further down, in paragraph 9, the report reads—

Your committee has found it difficult to make a recommendation for the solution of this problem.

The report then goes on to deal with the proposals made; and further down in the same paragraph it says—

Another proposal was to alter the term "20 mile radius" to "20 miles by the nearest road." If this alteration were made to the Act it would have the effect of bringing in four or five other hotels now just inside the limit and alleviating the position to some extent. It would seem that this proposal has some merit and deserves serious consideration.

Although the committee did not make any recommendations in this regard, it did recognise the anomalies that exist; and in its recommendations dealing with the same subject of a 20-mile limit, at the conclusion of paragraph 10—which deals with recommendations—the report had this to say—

In the meantime the position can be watched, especially by the police and later on if necessary some remedial action taken.

I think this is an excellent time for us to take heed of the statements of that committee. It is time we gave serious consideration to this problem. If this amending Bill is agreed to, it will iron out some of the anomalies that now exist; and, so far as I can see, the measure will not create any new anomalies. So at least we will be making progress.

The Bill affects only a few hotels on the fringe of the suburban areas. The hotels affected would be at Rottnest, at Naval Base, and three in the hills—at Mundaring Weir, Mundaring, and Parkerville. These hotels are in what are known as tourist areas; and they are away from the main arterial roads. There is ample space outside the buildings so there should not be any great parking problem—a problem which we all know does exist at some hotels outside the present radius. So I feel we would not be adding any great difficulties to those who have to watch over these matters.

In regard to the three hotels which I know best, there is a police station at Mundaring, and it is within range of those hotels in that area. So far as the hotel at Rottnest is concerned, I understand that Sunday trading is not altogether satisfactory; and if this Bill is agreed to, many of the difficulties and problems which exist there now will be overcome. I have mentioned that the hotels are in tourist areas.

I think all members in this House know my opinion of the tourist industry. I think it should be encouraged, because there is so much that this State has to offer; and a good tourist industry would

bring so much more revenue into the State, and would benefit the tourist attractions which have already been set up.

I would like to quote a short paragraph from an article in *News Review* under the heading of "Tourist Boom—Hotels Important Part." It shows that there has been a big increase in the tourist traffic so far as Australia is concerned. Portion of the article reads as follows:—

So far as Australia as a whole is concerned the tourist boom has begun—the first six months of this year saw the number of visitors to Australia increase by a record of 22 per cent.

More than 40,000 people visited our shores early this year compared with 32,658 early last year.

Therefore, 80,000 tourists are visiting Australia in a year. Quite a lot of foreign capital—if I may use that term—is being brought into Australia, and I think Western Australia is enjoying an increasing amount of overseas tourist trade. Of course, we also have what we call our local tourists—people from the metropolitan area who travel into the country. So we should give serious consideration to providing outside the metropolitan area some further amenities to attract the tourists.

Sunday trading does not interest me a great deal personally. I think I can claim I have never been inside a hotel to indulge in Sunday drinking. But I have quite a good idea of what goes on; and I have quite a good idea of the requests of these tourists. As an outsider, perhaps the suggestions I have to offer in regard to the hotels in my electorate are worthy of consideration. Thousands of tourists visit the hills area every week, particularly over the week end. On a Sunday that area receives possibly over 50 per cent. of those visitors. I think that is because people in the metropolitan area like to go to the hills area; and most visitors from overseas and Eastern States have friends in the metropolitan area who like to take them around the State, particularly on a journey which occupies only a day or half a day. They take their friends out on a Sunday, which day offers the best opportunity for their doing so.

I have travelled quite frequently on the roads around the hills, and it is not an uncommon sight to see hundreds of tourists along the roads, particularly around the Mundaring Weir area. I have spoken on many occasions on this matter because I think Mundaring Weir is a natural tourist resort—and it has been recognised as such for many years. The hotel there was built some 50 years ago; and, in its time, it has catered for many tourists, including many from overseas—as have also the hotels at Mundaring and Parkerville.

Around the weir itself there are attractions which include that beautiful sheet of water and the immediate surrounds which have been beautified by the Water Supply Department. Jacoby Park is situated in the area, which has been developed and where, before long, there will be a golf course. The area is also the centre of what is now an historical engineering event—the pumping of water from the weir to Kalgoorlie. It has a world-wide reputation and visitors from overseas are interested to see the source of that great water supply system. It is little wonder that it is the centre of a large number of tourists.

Although the proprietor of the hotel in the area provides a good service of meals and afternoon teas, and has developed his surroundings in order that tourists can enjoy walks about his premises—he is unable to supply liquor on Sundays. Tourists have to go to another centre before they can enjoy a drink. It seems rather hard on the hotel proprietor who can provide tourists with everything they require except a drink on a Sunday. This Bill would give quite a lot of relief to that particular problem.

In spite of the tourist attractions which exist around the weir at present, I feel that quite a lot more could be done. Unless something is done to alleviate the position I have mentioned, that hotel could be lost to that area which before many years, will become a much better tourist attraction than it is at the present time.

When speaking to the Address-in-Reply I suggested that a committee be set up representing those Government departments that are interested in Mundaring Weir, particularly the Water Supply, Forests, and Tourist Departments. The purpose of this committee would be to improve the conditions in the district. I have mentioned this matter to the two local government bodies in whose territory this land is. They, too, would be interested in improving and developing conditions there.

On a previous occasion I suggested that a wonderful tourist attraction could be developed by using the old No. 1 steam pumping station as an historical building to house the machinery which worked so well over nearly 60 years to pump water from the weir to Kalgoorlie. The building and machinery are still there. If steps were taken to develop the surroundings along the lines taken with the old South Perth Mill, as an historical museum, we would have a very great tourist attraction. Many people to whom I have spoken on this matter agree that something of that kind would be most beneficial to the district. We would then have side by side the old pumping plant and the modern electrical pumping plant.

I also suggest that steps should be taken to establish gardens that could be made unique in Western Australia and possibly in Australia. There could be developed there, at comparatively low cost, a rhododendron garden. Rhododendrons grow very well in the hills. I have mentioned this matter to several people, including an officer of a Government department who has taken an interest in landscape gardening. I refer to Mr. John Oldham. He has told me that he would do all he could to advise any committee or Government department on this matter.

The SPEAKER: I cannot see how this is related to the Bill.

Mr. OWEN: It is all related to the Bill, because I have been talking of the importance of the Bill to the tourist industry.

Mr. Bickerton: You cannot drink rhododendrons.

Mr. OWEN: Local gardeners with considerable experience also agree that a lot could be done in that direction. I am particularly interested that the area should be developed along the lines I have mentioned. Local businessmen—and I refer to the hotel proprietors, because there are no other businesses in Mundaring Weir except the Forests and Water Supply Departments—have shown considerable enterprise. A great amount of money has been spent on the hotels, and the proprietors would be happy to associate themselves with any committee and would pull their weight in developing the district. I have mentioned one hotel in particular because, of the three in the hills area, that is possibly the one I know best.

This Bill will give hotel proprietors in the district an opportunity to develop their hotels and to take part in Sunday trading. This would provide some recompense for their efforts in improving tourist facilities. The Bill is most worthy of consideration and I am sure that hundreds of tourists who visit the area on a Sunday would avail themselves of the facilities offered. It would at least relieve some of the strain placed on hotels further away, where there are parking difficulties at present.

Mr. Norton: Have they complained about that?

Mr. OWEN: I do not know; but there have been complaints in the past. I commend the Bill to the House.

On motion by Mr. Watts (Attorney-General), debate adjourned.

SIMULTANEOUS DEATHS BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 2nd November.

MR. NULSEN (Eyre) [3.39]: Although this is a small Bill, it is a very important one, and a rather technical one. I do not intend to speak at length, because in my opinion the Attorney-General gave a fair

outline of the Bill in his introductory speech. As I have said, it is highly technical and not easily understood. It refers to the simultaneous deaths of a husband or wife, or other multiple deaths caused by motor vehicles or aircraft, and so on. The danger is becoming very much greater than it was a few years ago, in the days of the horse and sulky.

In those days it was seldom that more than one person at a time was killed in an accident; but that is not the position today. There will always be accidents, no matter how hard we try to avoid them; and I think this Bill will overcome the question as to who dies first, which has been quite a problem in recent years.

It seems to me that the Bill is long overdue, and its foremost aim is equity and fairness. Also, it is not retrospective in its operations. The Bill itself contains only four clauses, the first three of which are easily understood, the fourth being really the crux of the Bill. The measure does not supersede the intentions of a will, which makes the position quite safe. It will resolve difficulties in the disposal of property in the case of near relatives who die at the one time, and where it cannot be proved that one died before the other.

In aircraft accidents and the like it is difficult to prove who died first, which is a vital point in respect of wills. By the Bill the position will be that where there is no certainty as to who died first, the testator will be considered as the person who passed on before the other party—it could be either the husband or the wife, depending on the terms of the will. Unless a contrary intention is shown by the will, the provisions of this Bill, when it becomes an Act, will prevail.

I have read the Bill carefully and I wish to thank the Attorney-General for allowing me the privilege of going down to the Crown Law Department to discuss the measure fully with the Chief Draftsman, Mr. Walsh, and the Senior Assistant Draftsman, Mr. Turnbull. They gave me a full description of the Bill. I have a good deal of material here and I know that the Minister is a full bottle on the legislation. I have no doubts about the effect of this measure; it will do nothing but good for the public because its provisions are fair, just, and impartial.

I shall leave it at that; and if members want any further explanation of the Bill's provisions I am sure the Attorney-General will be only too happy to oblige them. I am quite satisfied with the explanation he gave, and I had my opinions confirmed by the draftsmen. The measure has one purpose only—to help in cases where simultaneous deaths occur, such as in an aeroplane crash where 100 people might die at the one time.

The Bill will iron out such difficulties and will put the whole position on a better basis. It even makes reference to section

33 of the Wills Act, 1837, of the United Kingdom, which is a great help. I have much pleasure in supporting the Bill, and I hope it will soon become an Act.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.5 p.m.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair; Mr. Watts (Attorney-General) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 3 put and passed.

Clause 4—Devolution of property in cases of simultaneous deaths:

Mr. WATTS: I move an amendment—

Page 2, line 38—Add after the word “dying” the words “, other than property so owned by them as trustees.”

This amendment would avoid a difficult situation which could arise under the Bill as drafted, and incidentally under the Bill as enacted in New Zealand, because the particular paragraphs are precisely the same.

Where the persons dying at the same time are the last survivors of trustees, the right to appoint new trustees would devolve under paragraph (h) of this clause on the personal representative of the younger of them; but the legal estate in the property would not devolve as would otherwise be the case, by virtue of the certificate being under joint tenancy, as trustees always hold as joint tenants.

Because it is provided that a joint tenancy shall be converted into a tenancy in common, that would require a transfer of the joint tenancy to a tenancy in common involving the new trustees. To obviate that, it is desired to make an exception in regard to property which is so owned by them as trustees; hence the amendment.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported with an amendment, and the report adopted.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES, 1960-1961

In Committee of Supply

Resumed from the 8th November, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair.

Vote—Public Works and Buildings, £1,365,050 (partly considered):

MR. HALL (Albany) [4.11]: Recently I asked several questions in this House appertaining to harbour development in Albany. I asked whether plans were being

prepared for the construction of a third berth in Albany harbour. The reply I received was—

No; present berthage will satisfy port trade demands for the next five to 10 years.

I asked further in the same question—

If so, will finance be made available this financial year?

The Minister said that had been answered by the first part of his reply. That clearly defines the Minister's thoughts on this matter. He has no intention of making extra finance available for the construction of the extra berth in Albany this year.

That attitude rather surprises me, because the figures in respect of the Albany Harbour Board as to increased tonnages and number of ships entering the harbour show a great increase. I want to quote an article which was published in *The Albany Advertiser* in January of this year—

Albany Tops Million Tons of Shipping. Now State's Second Busiest Port

Port statistics for the year ended December 31, 1959, just released by the Albany Harbour Board show that Albany is now the State's second busiest port, inferior only to Fremantle in the number and tonnage of ships handled.

Last year a total of 142 ships entered the port, with an aggregate gross register tonnage of 1,007,955 tons. This is believed to be the first time any Western Australian output has exceeded a million tons of shipping in a year.

Last year Albany Harbour handled 143 ships aggregating 844,570 gross registered tons. Total port trade has also shown a substantial increase, despite a fairly considerable reduction in imports.

With our industrial expansion, imports will not be of advantage—financially or industrially—to the workers of this State. We need not worry about them. If our imports could be reduced and if we could step up the industrial output of this State, the State would benefit.

I refer to the figures relating to items of export and import. We find that rock phosphate amounted to 56,930 tons; crude sulphur, 8,032 tons; jute goods—a commodity linked with agricultural expansion—1,077 tons. Just looking at that alone one finds it indicates that the agricultural development in Albany's hinterland is so great that those tonnages will be exceeded time and time again. When it is realised the expansion which is taking place right throughout Jerramungup and Pallinup and other areas out that way and also to both the east and west sides of Hay River; and meeting up between Denmark and Mt. Barker where practically

all the land is taken up, it is obvious that the shipping must be expanded in the next few years.

There has also been an influx of petroleum goods, the total being 60,613 tons, as well as general cargo of 4,673 tons. As I have stated, there has been a falling-off in that figure but that is probably all to the good, because it would be much better if our imports from the Eastern States fell to a very low ebb.

Expansion has also taken place along the foreshore of Albany because of the erection of the third set of silos, which when completed will provide another six holding bins for the oats. Although you, Mr. Chairman, will not like to hear this, it is very pleasing to realise that Albany is reaping the benefits of increased exports, from its agricultural area, which up to date has been the privilege enjoyed by Bunbury.

Wheat exports through Albany totalled 155,754 tons; barley, 46,588 tons; and apples, 61,529 cases. I might add that this season was a very adverse one. I think that with the linking up of Manjimup, Pemberton, and Bridgetown, the export of apples from Albany will be greatly increased.

The number of bales of greasy wool exported from Albany was 34,507. No-one can doubt that by one means or another Albany is now receiving greater support for its wool sales, and this means that the export of greasy wool will also increase.

The export of frozen meat represents 2,102 tons. Recently Borthwicks spent £70,000 on an expansion floor which I maintain is one of the most hygienic in the world. The firm goes to great lengths to export its products in the best form possible, not even a hair, twig, or stick being included to act to the detriment of the export market.

Mr. Cornell: What do you think of the killing charges?

Mr. HALL: As I am not a farmer, I cannot answer that question. I have heard rumours that the charges are too high, but I would not like to be the adjudicator of that until I had gone into the fundamentals of the rights and wrongs of the situation.

Mr. Cornell: That is a damned good answer.

Mr. HALL: We must expect expansion in the field of frozen meats. During the season, 130 men are employed there; whereas previously only 30 were engaged.

Mr. Cornell: You would make a good Minister!

Mr. HALL: I do not know what sort of Minister the honourable member is alluding to.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order!

Mr. HALL: A definite potential for expansion exists there. Whale oil is something about which we should feel very

proud, and I would like to pay a compliment to the previous Minister for Works, because he made it possible for the electricity to be connected to the whaling station when it was having a bad run. Now, 3,206 tons are exported, and that will be considerably increased. Sperm whaling is superseding humpback whaling. While the efficiency of the firm is good, what we are thankful for is the road and the good supply of electricity, which makes it possible for the firm to operate economically.

Although Albany cannot compete with Bunbury in the export of timber, 1,695 loads were exported. However, when the roads are completed, perhaps the hauliers will use the down grades instead of the up grades and ship through Albany, which would be more economic. As well as the number of potatoes being consumed locally, 1,254 tons have been exported; and 3,364 tons of general cargo.

The figures which I have quoted are sufficient reason for the Minister to review his decision, and I do not base this statement entirely on my own supposition. My predecessor many times advocated the adoption of the Buchanan report. In that report was a plan showing the three-berth system for the Albany Harbour. The design of the plan was altered somewhat from the original, which the Labor Party thought quite acceptable at that time. However, it is a Government's prerogative to alter things, which is what it has done on this matter.

Nevertheless, although it can alter the plan, it cannot alter the actual principle which was that three berths should have been built at least two years ago on the potential of the hinterland. If the Minister made any research on this subject he would realise the absolute necessity for a third berth to be established.

One point about which I have spoken before, but which has been overlooked—and I had hoped that the Minister for the North-West might be present when I mentioned it again—is that regarding the necessity for Albany to be established as a terminal port. It has been estimated that it costs £500 a day to maintain a 20,000-ton vessel, whether it is tied up or at sea.

If Albany were a terminal port, a ship would not have to make the trip from Albany to Fremantle and return, thus saving an expenditure of something like £1,000. If the Cape route were used, 4,880 miles of travel would be avoided; and, at £500 a day, that would represent a terrific saving. Also, the chances of disputes at ports would be reduced, and thereby more money would be saved. This is another argument in favour of the establishment of a third berth at Albany.

If cargoes arrived from England at Albany, they could be transported by road. This is one time when I agree with the Premier. If Eyre Highway were established as a suitable highway and linked up

through Borden Pass, via Norseman, cargoes coming from England or other countries could go overland while the ships were loaded with the outward cargoes, thus reducing the sailing time. This would amount to a very large sum, and it is therefore a possibility which should be studied. The establishment of a dry dock in this State is very important.

Mr. Fletcher: I agree!

Mr. HALL: I know there is strong competition in regard to this matter; but we always have to fight centralised vested interests, because they are not in the best interests of the State. The fact is that alongside this third berth is an admirable site where ships could be repaired. This spot is very protected. The report made by S. P. Dale, which appeared in our local paper stated that Albany had one of the finest harbours in the world.

I do not want to elaborate on that point much more except to quote a few statistics. In 1954-55, some 41,275 dairy cattle were produced; and in 1958-59, the figure was 60,571. That is a big jump. In 1954-55, the number of pigs was 15,204.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order! Is this related to the Public Works Vote?

Mr. HALL: I am explaining that it is tied up with the whole of the development which requires the establishment of a further berth at Albany. I think it will be agreed that this expansion is certainly great. I am not going to give all the figures, but only a few. Wheat produced in 1954-55 amounted to 2,747,287 bushels; but the number in 1958-59 was 5,000,000. I believe these figures show that the Minister was wrong when he stated that the extra berth would not be required for another five to ten years. That gives him at least five years in which to make up his mind.

Dealing with the same subject I asked the Minister on Tuesday, the 8th November, the following question:—

- (1) Has finance been approved for foreshore road development, Albany Harbour, this financial year?
- (2) If so, where will the foreshore road link up with Hanrahan Road, and when will work on the foreshore road commence?

The answer to the first part of the question was "No." The answer to the second part was "Answered by No. (1)." A foreshore road at present would be a godsend to Albany, because all the big semi-trailers and road trains are utilising Hanrahan Road and Festing Street, which was made available by the Main Roads Department to alleviate the traffic coming through the main town.

However, there is still a big proportion of the trucks coming in from the Jerramungup area which use the main street; and I want to impress upon the Minister that as the town has increased in popula-

tion from 8,000 or 9,000 to 12,500 this street is becoming congested with the local people, without having these trucks added to the traffic. The road has been widened by the municipality in an endeavour to alleviate the pressure; but without a doubt the only possible way to really solve the problem is to establish a foreshore road, thus eliminating the congestion from the town and Festing Street. I might compliment the Main Roads Department for relieving the pressure. Where there was a multi-crossing, now the crossing is over a single line with flashing lights.

I ask the Minister for Works to deal with the strengthening and widening of the Kalgan River Bridge. Most of the bridges now are practically completed; and I compliment the previous Government on its efforts, and also the present Government for carrying on the work at the Lower King Bridge.

We have to realise that in opening up Pallinup and Jerramungup areas the pressure will not always be felt at Gordon Pass which links up with Borden. To relieve the pressure, the road should go through the South Stirlings. This means that we will have semi-trailers there. In the future, where there are no railheads, we can look forward to road trains to cart the produce as economically as possible. I hope the Minister will consider this matter before long, because I am sure he has not actually knocked it back at the moment. If he looks at it now, he may make some adjustments from time to time; and I am sure he will do that in conjunction with the Commissioner of Main Roads.

I stress the matter of urgency in this regard—the same as I stress it in connection with the third berth for shipping—in order to cope with the extra produce from these areas.

With the growth of population at Albany we have to be assured of a water supply. Just as there are troubles in the city because it is growing industrially and its population is increasing, so there are at Albany. The expansion may not be taking place so rapidly there, but it is taking place.

Our present supplies of water come mainly from Two People Bay, and the water comes through different-sized pipes—some old and some new. If a standard line were put in and the water supply schemes supplemented from White Chinikup, we would have the additional water to fill the large pipes.

We have sufficient reservoirs to cater for the necessary water storage. The water could be pumped into them at night-time in order to fill them to capacity, and to maintain the necessary pressure for the day-time. Perhaps industrial expansion is taking place over the whole of the State,

but we must prepare for such expansion and not think about it just when it is occurring.

An alternative scheme for water for Albany is to bring in the water from Denmark. This would supplement the Albany scheme and it would also open up an area of land in much the same way as the comprehensive water supply scheme has done.

A larger scheme, and one that I feel has some merit, although it would certainly require a lot of research, is one that could be established at Oyster Harbour by damming up that harbour with barrages similar to what has been done in South Australia. By doing that we could use the two rivers, the waters from which are being completely wasted as they flow into the sea at the moment. The salinity of the water at Oyster Harbour could be cured in a matter of months by the flow of fresh water, and there would be a suitable supply for industry at Albany. The Oyster Harbour scheme is a large one, and it would need a lot of research. But that scheme could probably bring Albany's water problems under control.

I hope I have made clear to the Minister for Works the necessity to look at the expansion of Albany and the establishment of a third berth; and I would say to the Premier that he should think about getting on with the Eyre Highway, because although he may not receive support from the north-west, I think he would from my area.

MR. BRADY (Guildford-Midland) [4.34]: To some extent I sympathise with the Minister because he has only the same money to spend during the current year as he had last year, despite the fact that there have been steep increases in certain costs to the Government—particularly wages. However, the fact remains that we are all jealous of our own electorates and their requirements.

I am concerned about sewerage and water. It is amazing that in my electorate some areas, after having been established for 70 or 80 years, are still without adequate water, whereas the new suburbs seem to have all the necessary water and sewerage facilities. This does not add up, to me. It appears that we are being deliberately neglected.

The Minister will recall that quite recently I introduced a deputation to him from the Midland Junction Council in regard to sewerage. There are at least five parts of the Midland Junction Municipality requiring sewerage urgently. I say urgently, because in those parts the pan system is operating; and everyone knows that system was outmoded 25 years ago. Yet the people in Midland Junction have to put up with it whilst modern suburbs have modern sewerage appliances. I ask the Minister to see his departmental

officers in order to ascertain whether something can be done towards providing Midland Junction with sewerage facilities.

Just prior to my introducing to the Minister the deputation which asked for four areas to be seweraged, the Minister had more or less ruled out a fifth area without even receiving a deputation, because he felt it was out of all bounds on account of the expense entailed.

That is what happened when I approached the Minister; and subsequently the council made an approach, but got no further. The Minister was sympathetic, but said it would all depend on finance; and he told the deputation that the department's finance appeared to be more than taken up with the projects already on hand.

I ask the Minister in all seriousness to request his departmental officers to go into the question of why an old-established municipality like Midland Junction—it has been established for 70 or 80 years—should be still wanting important water and sewerage requirements when modern suburbs are immediately provided with such facilities.

Some people in South Guildford have been waiting for water for the past nine or ten years. The people of Koongamia recently complained to me that they could not get any pressure through their showers during the day, and that some had to wait until 10 o'clock at night in order to have a shower.

The people concerned with the Middle Swan School recently wanted water for the recreation ground which they had put in, but they were told they could not use the scheme water unless they used it at the week ends.

I do not want to over-emphasise the position but simply to draw the Minister's attention to the fact that all round my electorate in parts such as Koongamia, Midvale, Middle Swan, and some portions of Bassendean, despite the fact that the rates have gone up by 80 per cent. or 90 per cent., there is a shortage of water.

The other day a man who lived at Cyril Street, Bassendean, told me he could not get any water at all. I drew the department's attention to this man's plight, and the department immediately sent a chap out to see what could be done, and I was subsequently told that the position was being rectified.

I mention water and sewerage because it looks to me as though the Minister is going to have a big problem on his hands from all over the Guildford-Midland electorate if he does not have a plan worked out whereby the people there will get proper water and sewerage facilities.

All parts of the electorate are developing; in Midland Junction itself there are very few vacant blocks left. This indicates that apart from the fact that people

want water for domestic purposes, the essential services, such as fire brigades and secondary industry, also require water.

I remember that two years ago the municipal council was arranging to get some officers of the sewerage department to go out to Midland Junction because a meatworks wanted a sewerage system. The departmental officers said that the pumping station could not cope with such a system. However, that industry subsequently had sewerage facilities made available to it.

I understand that what is required is a new pumping station, probably in the northern suburbs. If that is so, I urge the Minister to have a look at the prospects of making some early plans to have the pumping station established, because the eastern suburbs are growing rapidly.

Because we now have so many built-up areas in my electorate, I am concerned that there might not be sufficient water for adequate fire protection. Because in the area there are various dry-cleaning establishments and dozens of petrol stations; and because bulk supplies of fuel pass through the railway yards—diesel fuels, petrol, and kerosene are used to a large extent in the country—I hate to think what might happen if anything went amiss one night in the Midland Junction marshalling yards.

Recently I made some inquiries about water pressures. I mentioned to a senior official of the department that the water pressures at Midland were lower than they were ten years ago, and he told me we could never expect to have in the future the pressures we had in the past. That staggered me. If we cannot have better pressures than we had ten years ago, at least we should be able to have the pressures that we did have at that time.

The requirements for fire-fighting would be much more than they were ten years ago. Many industrial activities are taking place at Midland Junction, and they are using highly volatile materials. It seems to me that we want all the water we can get in the eastern suburbs.

Another matter is that of establishing Public Works Department buildings or offices at Midland Junction. Early in the year I asked the Minister about building some offices in the eastern suburbs—particularly Midland Junction—because I feel the people in those parts should not have to come into the city in order to get a building license or to get a license to do sewerage work or anything else.

A lot of the work that is now being brought into Perth and channelled through a central office there should be done in the suburbs—in places like Midland Junction—because those areas are growing; and because, if people have to come into the city, they only clutter up the streets un-

necessarily with their vehicles; and they are put to unnecessary travelling which involves them in unnecessary expense.

If the people of Midland Junction want to pay an electric light bill, they have to go to a certain corner on certain days. If there were public buildings in the town, an officer could be stationed there to receive this money. The people should be able to pay their accounts on any day, rather than have to pay them on certain days.

I am also concerned about drainage at Bassendean. Recently the Bassendean Road Board asked me, the member for Middle Swan, and the member for Maylands to meet its members in connection with draining an area which is immediately behind the superphosphate works, Westralian Farmers Ltd. and other industrial establishments at Bassendean because the board considered that the drainage of that area is well overdue. Apparently the matter has been discussed with the local governing body over the past 25 years, but up to date there has been no major plan to handle this drainage problem; and, whilst the department has been extremely co-operative, no final decision has been arrived at. The last information I got from the Chief Engineer was that he was going to get an officer to report on the matter with a view to seeing what could be done.

Right opposite the Ashfield railway station there is a block of land about three or four acres in area which would be an ideal place—once it is filled in and grassed—for a recreation ground. At the moment the land is more or less waste ground because of the huge drain running right through the centre of it. The local authority is hoping the department will agree to fill it in or channel it elsewhere so that the board can use it for recreational purposes.

My final comment on this vote is that I would like the Minister to investigate the possibility of building an overhead bridge at the Lloyd Street crossing, Midland Junction, which is near the marshalling yards. A large volume of country traffic travels over this crossing for the purpose of transporting stock to the abattoirs.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday, at least 1,000 or 1,500 vehicles go over this crossing to reach the Bushmead abattoirs. As a result, this crossing becomes heavily congested with traffic and the position is aggravated on occasions because the flashing signals at the crossing are hand-manipulated. If a shunter in the railway yard forgets to advise the signalman in the signal cabin, the flashing signals keep going backwards and forwards after the railway shunting has ceased. This holds up the activities at the crossing and also

delays motor vehicles that wish to pass over the crossing. If an overhead bridge were built there it would solve the problem completely.

I would also like to emphasise that the crossing is used by hundreds of men who work at the abattoirs, the Bushmead military stores, and other industrial establishments in the area. Those men, to say nothing of the hundreds of men who are travelling backwards and forwards to the Midland Junction Workshops, are often delayed at this crossing, which is something in the nature of a bottleneck. If the Minister cares to examine the Traffic Act he will discover it is provided in that legislation that certain moneys can be used to improve established crossings. When I asked how much had been accumulated under this provision, I was told that most of the money had been spent in the city of Perth. Whilst such expenditure is probably necessary, the suburbs are also entitled to receive the benefit of some of the expenditure of that money.

I believe the Lloyd Street crossing is an ideal spot at which some of this accumulated money could be spent. All sections of the community would benefit if an overhead bridge were constructed at that point. It would assist farmers and all the workers who are employed in that area. I therefore ask the Minister to confer with his colleague who administers the Traffic Act or who is in charge of the Transport Board to ascertain whether some money cannot be made available for the construction of an overhead bridge. If it could be built the people I have mentioned would not be delayed for long periods, and rail and road traffic would flow more freely.

If the Minister considers that he is not free to spend the money at the Lloyd Street crossing, I would point out that there is another crossing about half a mile further west; namely, the Helena Street crossing. If an overhead bridge were erected there it would probably relieve the congestion at the Lloyd Street crossing. My main purpose in drawing the Minister's attention to this need is that there is money accumulated under the provisions of the Traffic Act which could be used to erect an overhead bridge at either of those crossings.

I therefore hope the Minister will have a look at the problem to see whether it cannot be overcome. I appreciate that the Minister has to do a major job with the money that is available to him, but it is my duty to point out to him that there are a number of outstanding matters in my electorate which need urgent attention.

MR. SEWELL (Geraldton) [4.51]: Once again, I have to bring to the notice of the Minister who is in charge of this vote the serious lack of water supplies throughout the State. I do not intend to deal

with this subject as it affects the State as a whole at this stage, but to deal only with the problem as it affects Geraldton. As bad as the position is in many centres throughout Western Australia, I think Geraldton is in the worst position.

At the beginning of the year the Minister told us that an investigation would be made into the possibility of providing another storage tank for that centre. That would help to overcome the difficulties that are encountered because of the shortage of water in the hot summer months. Geraldton is dependent upon bore water, and a few years ago work was commenced to enlarge the rising main from the bores into the town itself; but in the last two or three years no money has been spent on that work.

It is necessary that the rising main from Wicherina Dam into Geraldton should be completed. It is also important that another holding tank should be provided either in close proximity to the town or right in the town to overcome the difficulty of water shortage during the hot summer months. We hear a great deal of what the Government is doing and what it intends to do in other fields, but I am afraid it is not paying enough attention to providing greater water supplies throughout the State. Only recently we had the spectacle of the Farmers' Union taking the Commonwealth Government to task for turning down this State's application for a grant to make available better water supplies to the people of Western Australia.

I appeal to the Minister to see whether something cannot be done practically straightaway to complete the work on the rising main at Geraldton, not only to meet the needs of the people at that centre during this summer, but also to ensure in the future that the water requirements will grow with the growth of the town.

Another problem which comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister is the question of the Geraldton Harbour. Usually at election time we have promises from various visitors who come to Geraldton from other parts of the State; but in most instances they do not know what they are talking about, and they are merely laughed at for their trouble. When they assume office they forget what they had promised to do for the Geraldton Harbour. The Minister knows that various organisations have written to him appealing for something to be done towards deepening the harbour. As usual, the replies that they received were to the effect that the work is not necessary at this stage.

The argument advanced against this request is that it is all nonsense to say that modern cargo boats are larger and draw a much greater depth of water than cargo boats a few years ago. I cannot appreciate the reasoning of the department in that regard, because it is well known that

the cargo boats that have entered Geraldton Harbour during the last season—which boats are of recent construction—have been larger than their counterparts of past years and draw a much greater depth of water. This necessitates their coming to Fremantle to top up their cargo. If they are carrying phosphate they have to take some of it off at Fremantle or Bunbury before travelling to Geraldton. This is done to enable them to get over the bar.

I appeal to the Minister to ascertain whether something cannot be done to remove the rock bar at the entrance to the Geraldton Harbour, because it is a great hindrance. In another section of the Loan Estimates it is found that £35,000 has been earmarked for the construction of a jetty for the fishing industry. I do not think there is a more worthy cause on which to spend public money at this time than that industry, because it will provide extra facilities which are badly needed by the fishermen.

The fishing industry has grown so rapidly and its production is worth so much to the economy of the State that any Government would be lacking in its duty if it did not provide decent facilities for the fishermen when they are loading up their boats with their gear to prepare to go out to sea; and, on their return, when they are unloading their catch.

The fishermen are most appreciative that the plans of this jetty have been on the drawing board for a number of years, but they will also be anxious to hear that the work for the deepening of the harbour will be commenced in the near future so that overseas shipping can enter it without any difficulty and without any argument with the owners of these vessels. I draw the Minister's attention to these vital matters at this stage and hope he will see his way clear to place before Cabinet and the Treasurer the urgency of these needs at Geraldton; that is, the need for an improved water supply and better harbour facilities.

MR. TONKIN (Melville) [4.57]: There are one or two matters which come under this vote upon which I would like to make some comment. As soon as the Government took office it commenced to put into operation its policy to destroy the Public Works Department day-labour force. It claimed that all sorts of benefits would accrue as a result of handing over the construction of public works to private enterprise. I was interested in some data provided for the member for Beeloo at a previous sitting when he sought information relating to certain contracts. From that data it was most remarkable to learn of the number of instances where serious delays have occurred in the construction of public buildings. There were only a few instances where the contracts were completed on time.

The majority of the contractors were well behind the dates which had been set in the contracts for the completion of the buildings. With schools particularly, that means that the use of these buildings is seriously delayed. Katanning school was a classic example. I have no doubt that the Attorney-General, who once represented the district of Katanning, and whose present electorate is served by the Katanning school, must have been deeply concerned about the slow progress of that construction. With the lack of speed in the construction of public buildings generally, it seems that the Government has lost considerably under the system of building public undertakings by private enterprise.

Further, we suffer added disability because of the increased costs which have resulted in those works being constructed by the Public Works Department's own work force. This continual sacking of men has meant taking the men off these jobs and putting new men on, with resultant considerable delay.

Right alongside us here we have had a classic example. I refer to the additions to Parliament House. To me it is pathetic to consider the rate of construction which has been achieved in connection with that building. The building is going to be completed more than 12 months beyond the date when it was anticipated it would be ready—more than 12 months. And that is with the building right alongside us here, where we can view it every day and see the amount of work that is going on.

It is inevitable, under circumstances like that, that the cost of this building is being loaded day by day. It will cost many hundreds of pounds more than it should have cost—possibly thousands of pounds more—for the simple reason that the work force has been reduced; and this continual removing of men, and changing of foremen, and so on, could have no other result.

What is the corresponding benefit? I fail to see it. What we have been able to observe here daily has occurred with regard to other public buildings which have been in the course of construction by the department's own work force; through no fault of the men, but because of this reduction, day after day, of the number of men engaged on the project, and the inevitable changing of manpower which must take place under this system. I do not know whether it will ever be possible to get the correct figures from the department. The Government smothers these things so often that it is next door to impossible to get the information.

But if it were possible to get that information I have no doubt the people of this State would be astounded at the increased cost that has resulted from this type of construction. I repeat it is pathetic; there is no more appropriate word than that. I have watched it day after day. When this

session commenced I asked some questions about it. It has gone from bad to worse. Accommodation that was supposed to be ready for us before the House opened this year is still not ready; and, by the look of the building it will not be ready for months. But it goes on, and the Government apparently is not at all worried about the situation.

Mr. Hawke: And the Minister for Works is located right next door to it all day long.

Mr. TONKIN: That is the direct result of the Government's policy: this destruction of the work force and the way it has been carried out. So I register my very strong protest against it. It is against the interests of the general community; it is unnecessarily wasteful; and it deprives those persons who are to get the advantage of that accommodation of any benefit from it for some considerable time. But there it is—almost an example of still life—a monument to the ineptitude of the Government that is now in office. It is surprising to me that the Press does not draw attention to it.

Mr. Hawke: Now you are talking!

Mr. TONKIN: I think it would be impossible to find anybody outside of the Government who would attempt to defend it. I come back to the complaint I made earlier when I spoke with regard to the inordinate delays which occur in those places let under contract, where the contractors work to please themselves, and decide for themselves how fast they get on with the job.

If the Katanning School were in my own electorate I would have had something to say about it long before this. The number of men employed on a project of that size was ridiculous; and the teachers and the children were considerably inconvenienced because of the failure of the contractor to get on with the job. I know he was called into the department and told his contract would be cancelled if he did not get a move on. But what I do not know is whether it was cancelled.

Mr. Watts: Was he not the same contractor who was employed on the Manjimup High School prior to the 3rd April, 1959?

Mr. TONKIN: I cannot truthfully answer that, because I do not know. But I do know that this contractor currently with this particular job had several others.

Mr. Watts: I understand he had the Manjimup High School prior to the date I mentioned; the school at Gnowangerup; and subsequently the one at Katanning. There were great delays at the Manjimup School also.

Mr. TONKIN: I will leave it to the member for the district to deal with that, because I have no knowledge of any shortcomings with regard to that school. I do know that this contractor was given other

contracts, and had his hands more than full; and nobody could be satisfied with his performance at Katanning.

Mr. Watts: That was the last contract he got.

Mr. TONKIN: That makes it worse.

Mr. Watts: No it doesn't. He was not given other contracts after his performance at Katanning.

Mr. TONKIN: If the Attorney-General was aware of the fact, or believed that the contractor's performance in connection with Manjimup was bad—and that is the point he is now taking—why was the contractor given the opportunity to take a school like Katanning?

Mr. Watts: Because I was not aware, till he was given the contract, that he had undertaken the work at Manjimup.

Mr. TONKIN: That is a fair enough answer. However, the member for the district is much more competent to deal with that than I am. But my attention was drawn to the school at Katanning; and what I do know for a certainty is that the department was not at all happy about the performance of the contractor at Katanning; he was threatened with the loss of his contract. I want to know whether he lost his contract.

If members will turn to the *Votes and Proceedings* of this week they will find in the answers given to the questions asked by the member for Beeloo a shocking record with regard to the completion of public buildings. There were inordinate delays. In very few instances have the contractors completed their building on time; and in very few instances have any penalties been imposed. So the Government did not gain very much, if anything, in switching over to private enterprise to carry out its building programme—it certainly lost plenty with regard to these buildings, but continued to have them constructed.

I am very disappointed, as I suppose members of the Government must be, at the decision of the Commonwealth not to finance an extension of an additional water scheme for country districts. If there is one public work which is entitled to very high priority in this State it is the provision of water supplies in country districts where our settlers have for too long been deprived of this amenity. I think it stands to the record of the Hawke Government that during its term of office more country water supplies were provided than during the term of any other Government that occupied the Treasury bench in Western Australia.

We speeded up work on the comprehensive water scheme; we took water to places where they never had it before; and we did it quickly. What is more—and I say it to the great credit of the departmental officers—we made a number of promises in districts as to when they would be supplied with water, and in not one single instance

were we behind time. On the contrary, in every instance we were there a considerable time before the target date—in some cases a very considerable time before.

I hope the Government will continue to press strongly for financial assistance from the Commonwealth so that this work can be kept up and proceeded with. Western Australia cannot adequately be developed without proper water supplies in country districts.

Mr. Andrew: Hear! hear! That is quite right.

Mr. TONKIN: We must continue to hammer away so that funds will be made available. It is rather remarkable that it was a Federal Labor Government which saw the wisdom of assisting the State Government in this matter. But a Government of the same complexion as the present State Government in office sees no wisdom in such a policy, and is not prepared to assist in it. Members on the Government side should be in a position to have the inside running with the Commonwealth Government—a Government of their own complexion. But they have been turned down. The scheme was proceeded with in previous years because funds were made available by a Federal Labor Government.

The State Government should not take "No" for an answer. It should continue to hammer with the strongest force at its command, using both Federal and State members to impress upon the Commonwealth Government the absolute necessity of funds being provided to allow this work to continue without a reduction in pace. It should not be left to the State to undertake, out of its own limited resources, this very essential work of developing. The productivity of the State could be so greatly increased if these water supplies were made available.

I am open to correction on this statement, but I think I am right when I say that the exports from Western Australia were sufficient to provide the total of Australia's overseas balance as against the expenditure on imported goods. To put it another way: Had it not been for the excess of Western Australia's exports over its imports, the Commonwealth would not have had the balance overseas which it did have, and the total of those balances equals the amount of the difference between the exports of Western Australia and its imports. So the funds overseas were virtually being supplied by this State. I repeat that I am not absolutely certain of that. I endeavoured to locate again the paper from which I had read that statement, but I was not able to do so. I feel that was the position I noticed. If it is a fact, it is a very strong argument which can be used with the Commonwealth for emphasising that we are entitled to this assistance in connection with water supplies so that we can further increase our productivity and have still larger quantities of produce available for sale overseas.

Point of Order

At this stage I shall content myself with those remarks in connection with the Public Works Department. I shall have an opportunity when we reach the division of Public Utilities for saying something in connection with water supplies.

Before I resume my seat, I want to make sure that that will be so; and I seek your guidance, Mr. Chairman. Division No. 63, on page 119, deals with the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Department. You will notice, Mr. Chairman, that before we get there we have to deal with the general estimates of other departments which intervene. I am asking you whether it will be competent for me, if I do not speak now on water supplies, to deal with the question of metropolitan water supplies when I come to Division No. 63.

• *Chairman's Ruling*

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): On Division No. 62, which is the first vote of that section, the honourable member will have the normal time.

Mr. TONKIN: That means, whether the Minister elects to speak at that stage or not I can, when we reach Division No. 62, speak generally on these estimates?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): That is right.

Mr. TONKIN: What I am trying to avoid, Mr. Chairman, is being caught in a position where it might be stated that the Minister has introduced his estimates generally; that his remarks covered all the departments under his control; and that therefore I should have exercised my right to speak at this stage. I would prefer to do it on the appropriate division when we reach it.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): The division covers water supplies.

Committee Resumed

Mr. TONKIN: I accept your ruling, Mr. Chairman; and I now conclude my remarks on the Public Works Vote.

MR. KELLY (Merredin-Yilgarn) [5.18]: I have a few matters which I desire to bring to the notice of the Minister for Works and Water Supplies. Recently I was at Marvel Loch, and the road between Southern Cross and Marvel Loch is being proceeded with according to the assurance the Minister gave some time ago. Sealing is being carried out, and generally the road is being made suitable for heavy traffic. However, rumours are circulating—and I would like the Minister to take notice of this, as it is quite important—that the gangs and equipment are likely to be withdrawn before the completion of this section of road.

From what can be gained—I think it is mainly perhaps from the foreman or some other authority on the job; I have

not spoken to them myself—it does appear that about three miles of the road will be left unfinished. That is rather a pity because that road is carrying very heavy traffic, and the unfinished portion will undoubtedly go to pieces very quickly.

When I travelled over the road a week ago it was showing a tendency to corrugate badly. That would be one of the straws on the back of the mining company which is using that road very consistently. It is something that could bring about a serious position for the Great Western Consolidated. In addition, we must consider the fact of shifting these gangs to another area. They will not be shifted to another part of the Yilgarn. The cost involved will be high; and apart from the monetary loss, there will be a direct loss in the departmental sense.

I would point out to the Minister that not only will there be the expense of shifting these gangs and their equipment away from the district, but very soon the uncompleted portion will go to pieces. I understand it is estimated that it will cost between £3,000 and £4,000 to shift these gangs from their present position and get them back on to the job at a later date.

Earlier in my remarks I mentioned to the Minister that if this road were not completed it would have a bad effect on Great Western Consolidated. As the Minister well knows, that company has been a heavy contributor to the progress of the Yilgarn for the past eight or nine years; and over the course of time its position has worsened, and will continue to do so as the months go by.

At the present time, this company needs every available pound it can get hold of in order to conserve the small amount of capital it has to enable it to carry on. At this stage, the company cannot afford to take the risk of having to find large sums of money to maintain and repair its trucks. Therefore I ask the Minister to have a look at the position; and if it is at all possible, for him to continue with the work on the road, even if it does mean the spending of a few more pounds over and above the amount that will be involved by shifting the gangs and the equipment.

Another matter I desire to deal with is essentially one concerning public works. I would also address these remarks to the Premier, to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines, to the Minister for Agriculture, to the Minister for Lands, and to the Minister for Industrial Development. I do this because the matter is tied up largely with each and every one of those Ministers to some degree. Naturally, on these estimates I have to address myself directly to the Minister for Works.

This particular matter was triggered off by the appointment of an industrial development committee appointed by the Minister for Industrial Development, who made it very evident that he was anxious

to commence this type of committee in different country areas. The Yilgarn Road Board and the Southern Cross Road Board were the early ones to respond to the Minister's request. During the period since the committees were formed they have been busy in an endeavour to bring forward some matter that would suggest itself to the Minister as being worthy of his support.

The members of these committees are very keenly interested in decentralisation. They have tried to attract decentralisation by the promotion of some advancement that would benefit the district and perhaps justify the existence of the committees. They undoubtedly face a very difficult task, as many of us who have supported the idea of decentralisation over a period of years will realise. It is not easy to establish any form of industry outside the areas where the population is greatest, and where the demand for the finished product actually exists to a far more concentrated degree than in an individual centre. We also realise there are decidedly few centres that are suitable for the establishment of decentralised industry.

It is difficult to establish any industry away from the metropolitan area, so these committees are facing a heavy task. When we realise the great difficulty of correlating our materials, and ascertaining the use of the finished products, we can fully comprehend the task that is facing these country committees. In all sincerity, they themselves are endeavouring to overcome what they know to be a high order of difficulty in trying to establish industry in their districts.

The committee at Southern Cross is endeavouring to make what might be termed an original approach to this matter. Although it does not concern the establishment of an industry, it is something which would be very desirable for the district. The committee has made exhaustive examinations as to the effect on the district of the building of a road in a particular direction. This road would undoubtedly lead to the opening up much of the unoccupied area between Southern Cross and Bremer Range.

When the committee had carried out its investigations to a degree of finality, it submitted a report to the Minister for Industrial Development, the Minister for Agriculture, and the Minister for Lands. All these Ministers would be tied up in some way or other with the opening up of the territory that committee has in mind.

I think the committee wrote to the Minister for Agriculture or the Minister for Lands—I am not sure which—seeking clarification and delineation of the area which it has in mind for development. I believe it is fairly authoritatively determined that the area involved would be somewhere in the order of 10,000 square

miles. It is situated roughly between Southern Cross, or Nevoria, and the Bremer Range. It would be roughly south-east from Nevoria and north-west from Bremer. The land would be that area almost south of Karalee. I understand that, from investigations regarding rainfall, it has been established that the area around Karalee and south-west has an average annual rainfall of something like 13½ inches, which is, surprisingly enough, slightly higher than that of Yilgarn generally. That has been established on good authority.

When it is realised that the sandplain area which is traversed in passing through Karalee extends only a very few miles before it gets into very heavy timber, it will be gathered that there must be a very good belt of land in the area of which I have spoken.

This committee is seeking a graded road that would cover the distance between Nevoria and the Bremer Range. I believe there is an existing road that goes from Hyden to Norseman; and the committee in Southern Cross considers that the intersection of this road by the one I have mentioned would come in about the vicinity of Mt. Day, and would undoubtedly open up a great deal of that territory which is now beyond the pale of investigation because there are fairly long distances, and because there are no facilities from either a water point of view or an access point of view.

I also understand that if it were constructed the road would shorten the distance from Southern Cross to Norseman by somewhere about 50 miles. There would be a considerable saving from an overland point of view if the areas were connected by this road. Again, it would give access to Norseman from Hyden by the formation of a very much better road over the area it would traverse.

If constructed, this road would create a great potential. Not only is there a pastoral outlook in this territory, but there is, also a very excellent agricultural outlook; and there is, finally, an auriferous area which covers the greenstone belt between Nevoria and 30 miles south; and a similar belt extending from Bremer to the north-west towards the Nevoria belt.

Even if this road was successful only in opening up new prospecting territory in the Yilgarn, it would serve an excellent purpose. I would refer the Minister to the fact that the Great Western Consolidated Mining Company is struggling very badly in the matter of sufficient ore to develop its mill to anything like a profitable operation. If this territory were opened up by means of a decent roadway, it would undoubtedly enhance the possibilities of getting ore of a suitable type which would enable this company to continue its operations.

I do not know whether many members realise it; but this is the position: All too often when we are likely—and very often it is only a maybe—to get some industry to become established in Western Australia which will invest anything from £100,000 to £250,000—or perhaps in a bigger category, and invest a great deal more capital, even up to £1,000,000 and £1,500,000—we come out in great headlines and laud the opportunities that such industries will bring to the State, and we do everything to make it possible for it to carry on.

I am asking members to realise that the Great Western Consolidated Mining Company has invested nearly £3,250,000 in its operations; and it is only natural that we are making every endeavour to see that it is given the fullest opportunity to continue its operations. It is not a company that is greedy for large profits, or anything of that kind. If it could get 1 dwt. or 1½ dwt., as long as the tonnage was available, that would be all it would ask. This opportunity of opening up a road from Nevoria to Bremer would supply the answer to the problem being faced by the company at present. I make a strong appeal to the Minister to have this matter fully examined.

As I said earlier, this matter comes within the orbit of a number of Ministers, including the Premier. I would say to the Premier that visits to the Bremer Range could become a real tourist possibility; and I feel that aspect would loom largely in his mind. Although this matter covers several departments to a degree, it particularly covers the department of the Minister for Works, and he is the Minister who would be obliged to have the position examined. I feel that with an inconsiderable outlay he would be able to put this road through and so make a great contribution to the development of that part of the State; and it would also be a very timely intervention in an endeavour to find more ore for this company which is so badly in need of it.

For a short time, I would like to touch on a matter mentioned by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I refer to the comprehensive water supply scheme. When the Minister first made known the fact that he was approaching the Commonwealth Government for an extension of the comprehensive water supply scheme, I was rather surprised that he mentioned only the areas extending mainly to the south, and some of the areas to the north and north-east. No mention was made of the eastern side of the existing comprehensive scheme.

I immediately wrote to the Minister asking if this area could be included, because it embraced a very large section of wool producers and wheat and grain producers—and, as a matter of fact, all sections of livestock are very strongly produced in this area, which has sat back over a period of years; and although it has not been

very happy about the situation, it was realised that the Government determined to bring to a conclusion the existing comprehensive scheme.

I think that the majority of people in those areas have been very patient in waiting for the completion of the comprehensive scheme in order that they would be embraced by the new scheme when it was developed. Members can imagine the disappointment that was felt on all sides when it was realised that the new proposals did not embrace, in any way at all, the boundaries of the existing scheme.

Soon after I had written to the Minister, I received a reply from him in which he stated that it was impossible for him to do anything in the matter; that he was adhering to the scheme that had originally been suggested during the period when the present Leader of the Opposition was the Minister for Works; and completion of that scheme was what he wanted. I would point out to the Minister that that was 14 or 15 years ago. A good deal of development has taken place since that time. Apart from the rights of people in the drier areas to have a water supply, there is a fundamental obligation on the Government to make sure that water is extended to those areas.

On my registering a protest to the Minister, he politely told me that he was having the matter investigated and he hoped to be able to announce some scheme by which these people would benefit. Although he could not give any direct indication, he hoped that they could be included in a scheme similar to the comprehensive scheme. Time has gone on; and during that period I have sent to the Minister a number of requests from people in those areas. The requests took the form of signed petitions in some cases, and in other cases followed up previous applications for assistance. It was made known to the Minister in this way that there were a vast number of people in those areas who were requiring services.

Up to the present the Minister has made no effort to do anything. Suggestions have been put to him that rock catchments could be harnessed, and these would not only relieve the main conduit, but would enable people in the vicinity to at least supplement their supplies by acquiring some of the closer water that would be available to them in this way.

I am disappointed that the Minister has apparently forgotten those people; because he has done nothing at all in the way of helping them, and has refused every application that has been put to him, through myself, for quite some considerable time.

Continuing the point made by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I am surprised that the comprehensive scheme does not appeal to the Commonwealth Government at the present time. Even at the expense of excluding some of the areas which are

entitled to an adequate water supply, I would be happy to know that the State was to receive such a scheme. It does seem to me that this is an opportunity where the Minister could make a name for himself by continually pressing on the Commonwealth Government Western Australia's claims for adequate assistance in expanding the scheme.

I say to the Minister that no approach can be too strong in an endeavour to bring about that to which we are entitled. It is not something in the way of charity. This State is entitled to receive the very best assistance it can from the Commonwealth Government, and no stone should be left unturned in an endeavour to bring about a position whereby an extended comprehensive scheme will be commenced very soon.

MR. FLETCHER (Fremantle) [5.45]: I shall not take long in discussing this vote; but firstly I wish to state that I deplore the dissipation of our Government work force—that is, the day-labour work force. Those men are now scattered among private firms and are working under inferior conditions. I mention in particular the matter of long-service leave. Because they are working for private firms they have to wait for 20 years instead of the customary seven or ten years that they have to wait when they are in Government employment.

Those who have joined private firms have naturally become dissatisfied, many have then been stood down, and many of them have gone East. That is what makes me use the word "dissipated"; I use it from the point of view of their disappearance from this State as a consequence of the policy of this Government. I am sure we will feel the repercussions of this policy for many years to come.

It has had its effect upon apprentice training, and the fact that the Government is alarmed about the position is demonstrated by its panic in attempting to recruit tradesmen who are passing through the Port of Fremantle on ships. An officer of the Government is sent down to visit these ships and, in effect, to hi-jack tradesmen who are on their way to the Eastern States.

I think I have said sufficient on that particular part of the Minister's portfolio; and now, in a more conciliatory vein I wish to mention some dissatisfaction that exists in my own district in relation to the discolouration of water. I am glad I have caught the Minister's attention at last. Many people in the Hilton Park area have complained about the discolouration of the water. On occasions there is quite a bad odour associated with the water; immediately it runs into the sink the smell is apparent. It has a greenish tinge on occasions and many neighbours of mine in that area have complained about it. The colour is apparent even in tea; the tea has a murky colour and it is difficult to distinguish it from coffee.

It is strange that although we are living on high ground there is this sediment in the water. One would assume that the sediment would precipitate to the lower sections of the district. As it is so bad in the higher parts of the district members can imagine how badly affected are those who live in the lower lying areas.

I had the water pipes in my own home cleaned, and my neighbours had theirs cleaned also, in the belief that those pipes could have been the source of the discolouration. Ultimately, I had new pipes installed in the hope that it would rectify the position; but unfortunately it did not. The bore at Attadale has been blamed as the possible source of the discolouration, and I ask the Minister or his officers to investigate the position to determine whether that is so or not.

Recently I found it necessary to replace the copper coil in an Everdure hot-water system that I have installed. The repairs cost me £11. The sediment had built up in the copper coil to such an extent that it was difficult for the water to pass through the pipes in the heater; and, as a consequence, it was not functioning properly. When the firm which makes the Everdure systems sent a man out to do the job, and I explained the position to him, he said that mine was only one of many so affected.

I think the matter is worthy of mention to the Minister and his departmental officers; because, although I may be able to afford £11 for repairs, there are many others who would be unable to do so. I ask the Minister and/or his officers to investigate the complaints made about the contamination and discolouration of drinking water in the Hilton Park-Fremantle area.

MR. WILD (Dale—Minister for Works—in reply) [5.51]: I listened with interest to the many comments and complaints made by various members. I do not intend to reply to them all, but I will have the matters investigated and the various members concerned will be advised individually. However, I do want to mention one or two items which have been raised, and one was the question of the Geraldton Harbour and the Geraldton water supply. I am sorry the member for Geraldton is not in his seat, but he will probably read in *Hansard* my reply to his comments. I can assure him that we are far from asleep in respect of both these problems.

Dealing with the Geraldton Harbour first of all, I would like to tell members that investigations have disclosed that there is a sedimentary bar across the harbour and this has to be removed. I understand that it will entail an expenditure of something in the vicinity of £300,000. Information was given to the honourable member, and also to the Geraldton Municipal Council, to the effect

that at the moment boats coming into the Geraldton Harbour are not badly affected by the height of the bar. Speaking from memory, because I do not have the figures with me, I understand that last year only four ships required topping up, which in view of the number of ships that come into Geraldton each year, is not a great number. That information was obtained from the general manager of Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd.

I am not going to say that the pattern for ships will not alter in the future, but my advice is that there will be a tendency to have a wider berth as against a deeper draught. However, I can assure the honourable member that we are continually examining the position, and only last week the Premier asked me again to look at the question. The file was before me and I had some discussions with the director and the deputy director in respect of what we could do.

As far as the water supply position is concerned this matter, too, has been exercising my mind. Only as recently as yesterday I had a discussion with Mr. Parker. I wanted to talk to him because, as members know, he is one who, beneath the director, has taken a very great interest in the supply of water throughout Western Australia. It is not an easy problem to overcome in Geraldton and he indicated to me that the late Mr. Crump—I hope I am right in saying the “late” Mr. Crump—some years ago had told him that the biggest water problem in Western Australia was the position at Geraldton. He indicated that the day could come, unless something could be done by desalting the sea or brackish water, when it might be necessary to take water from the south-west up to Geraldton. We know that this town is increasing in population and in size. Some industries, such as the fishing industry and Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd., have been established there, and naturally that means a greater population.

I can assure the honourable member that I am very concerned about the position. Only as recently as yesterday, as I said, I had a talk with Mr. Parker and I have asked him personally for a special report on the matter to see what can be done. I recognise all the problems involved, but he told me—and I have no doubt that his information is correct—that from the known sources of supply below the surface the quantity of water is limited. Other holes can be bored, but as each bore is put down it affects the salinity and lessens the amount of potable water available. However, the honourable member can rest assured that I have the problem in front of me and we are doing all we can to overcome it.

I briefly wanted to mention the comments made on the comprehensive water scheme, and the statement of the Deputy

Leader of the Opposition that his Government did more in regard to country water supplies than any other Government. I would say at this stage, without having any notes on the matter, and without checking with the amount in the Loan Estimates for 1957-58, 1958-59, and 1959-60, to see whether his figures are correct—

Mr. Tonkin: Yes; they were absolutely correct.

Mr. WILD: This financial year we will spend £300,000 more on country water supplies in Western Australia than in any other previous year—

Mr. Tonkin: Your term of office has not yet been completed, so you cannot make a comparison.

Mr. WILD: —to which will be added, for the first time in Western Australia—by the good graces of the Treasurer—a further £150,000 which local authorities will be able to borrow for water and sewerage works. The idea is that we take over the difference in the rate at which those authorities can borrow the money and that at which we can borrow it. At the moment there are four country local authorities who are interested in this proposition for water schemes; those local authorities are Augusta, Calingiri, Darkan, and Miling.

Naturally the schemes will not be completed this year, but it means that up to that sum of money will be spent in addition to the sum set aside in the Loan Estimates for water supplies. I am hoping that the scheme will be a success—I am sure it will be—and then I will be able to approach the Treasurer to give me a little more money to extend the scheme still further.

Finally, I want to comment on the remarks made about the day-labour organisation, and contracts that have not been completed on time. As regards the day-labour organisation, I would say it appears that the job at Parliament House is going along slowly; and it is. There were 1,674 men in the Public Works Department in April, 1959; and I think members will find in four weeks time there will be 300. There are 100 odd at Albany, 100 odd at the King Edward Memorial Hospital, and we have six jobs in hand. Therefore, with six jobs in hand, and the men scattered like that, it is only natural that the rate of progress must slow down.

Mr. Tonkin: That is the point.

Mr. WILD: What difference does it make?

Mr. Tonkin: It makes a lot of difference in the cost.

Mr. WILD: How can the honourable member say that when in the first year we changed over from the day-labour organisation to contract—I cannot give the exact figures—there was a saving to the State of approximately 10 per cent. on the money spent by the Architectural Division of the Public Works Department.

Mr. Hawke: Piffle!

Mr. Tonkin: You are paying more than that for architects' fees.

Mr. WILD: I am telling the honourable member that on the total spent last year by that department there was a saving of 10 per cent.; in other words, 10 per cent. more work was done under that system for the same amount of money than was done under the previous system.

Mr. Hawke: Wild and woolly!

Mr. WILD: Mention was made of the slowing down of the building programme. In this regard I would remind the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who was Minister for Works 18 months ago, that in the last financial year 238 classrooms were completed; the year before 234 were completed; in 1957-58 there were 210, and in 1956-57 just under 200. Even though we know some of the contractors have fallen down on the job, all I can say in that regard is that in the main it is because some of them bit off more than they could chew.

I refer particularly to the gentleman whom the Deputy Leader of the Opposition mentioned. As the Attorney-General—who is the Deputy Leader of the Government—indicated, that same gentleman was given a contract before the change of Government; and our mistake—and it was a mistake—was that he was given two more contracts on top of the first one which had not been even half completed. But those contractors are being closely watched to make sure that they do their job. They are not going to get a second chance. They have to stand up to their obligations; and, in the main, they are doing so.

As regards the rest of the comments made by members, I will see that each member's problems are given whatever attention is possible.

Vote put and passed.

Vote—Mines, £508,931:

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Chief Secretary [6.0]): I have much pleasure on behalf of the Minister for Mines and Housing in presenting these votes and passing some general comments for the edification of members. In regard to the Mines Department, the State's gold and mineral production for the calendar year 1959 was—

Gold 866,609 fine ounces valued at £13,541,922.

Minerals valued at £8,254,676.

Production for the nine months ended the 30th September, 1960, for gold was 604,366 fine ounces valued at £9,443,643.

The gold industry in regard to the larger mines is in a reasonably healthy condition in that ore-bodies continue strongly, and marginal mines have continued with the assistance of the Commonwealth subsidy. There has been some renewed interest in

prospecting, particularly week-end prospecting, but the Murchison Goldfields, with the exception of Mt. Magnet, need new finds.

The Government provides prospecting sustenance of £5 per week in the eastern fields and £6 in the northern fields. Modern compressors have been provided to assist prospectors in the Murchison and Northampton fields. The drilling results at Paddy's Flat at Meekatharra and at Coolgardie were disappointing and consideration is being given to the choice of new sites for drilling.

Drilling has been started on the iron ore deposit at Mt. Goldsworthy about 80 miles north-east of Port Hedland and results so far indicate that this is a deposit of very good quality ore. The iron ore deposits at Koolyanobbing and Bungabbin have also been tested by drilling.

Water drilling at Badgingarra has been completed and the plant is now at Tenindewa. Drilling is also being carried out in connection with the Ord River dam site for the Public Works Department.

In regard to mineral production generally, the value of minerals other than gold amounted to £8,254,676, an increase of £1,238,909 on the previous year's value. The major production of mineral was as follows:—

	£
Asbestos	1,528,542
Beryl	48,058
Clays	61,951
Coal	2,356,534
Copper	230,780
Cupreous ore (for fertilizer)	184,006
Gypsum	54,207
Iron ore (Yampi)	666,601
Mineral beach sands	413,768
Pyrites (for sulphur)	371,989
Silver	79,913

Minerals in the State are attracting the interest of large companies and several of them are actively prospecting their reservations for deposits of asbestos, nickel, bauxite, and other economic minerals.

Some new companies have joined the search for oil in this State and are carrying out examinations of their areas by geological, geophysical, and drilling operations. The Wapet company will be recommencing drilling very shortly and has been continuing the examination of its areas with vigour.

In regard to geological surveys, the attention being paid to the mineral resources of the State and the vastness of the area to be covered necessitates a reorganisation of the Geological Survey Branch. Already a new position of Deputy Government Geologist has been created and an appointment made. When this officer takes up his duties it is proposed to continue the reorganisation and double the staff of geologists.

A new division of the Government Chemical Laboratories to be known as the Engineering Chemistry Division has been taken over from the Department of industrial Development at Bentley. At this division investigations are carried out in the pilot plant on the production of char from Collie coal. Other work being carried out in the division includes that on the beneficiation of ilmenite and the production of sponge iron.

The schools of mines at Kalgoorlie, Norseman, and Bullfinch have had good enrolments this year and are proceeding satisfactorily. The metallurgical laboratory at the Kalgoorlie school continues to carry out research work for the mining industry and its work has increased as a result of there being no private assayers now at Kalgoorlie.

Vote—Housing, £5:

The State Housing Commission estimates are herewith presented in a general form. It will be noted that the item for salaries for the previous financial year amounted to £386,470, whilst the item for 1960-61 is £411,300. Contingencies for the same period showed an increase from £114,220 to £117,500. Thus there is an increase in salaries between the two years of £24,830; and in contingencies, £3,280.

The increase in salaries is due to the marginal adjustments, and basic wage and grade increments to staff officers. The increase in contingencies is due to additional charges for commission on collections, survey supervision, services rendered by other departments, increased pay roll tax, and postal charges.

Building operations generally may be divided into two broad sections as follows:—

- (a) Completions: By the close of the financial year 1959-60, 1,439 units of accommodation were completed as compared with 1,731 in the previous year. These results were obtained under these housing schemes—

	Units
War Service Homes	354
Commonwealth-State	657
State Housing	362
Others	66

- (b) Under construction: The incomplete housing units at the 30th June, 1960, totalled 837 units against 707 as at June, 1959.

Regarding progressive total, the post-war completions now amount to 30,616 home units, which have been erected under the following scheme:—

War Service	10,209
State Housing	4,011
Commonwealth-State	15,561
Government employees	30
McNess Trust	152
Kwinana	653

Under the heading of financial aid, funds provided since 1944 have resulted in these additional homes being provided as follows:—

	Homes
War Service: Purchase of completed dwellings	6,081
State Housing second mortgages enabled occupancy of a further	595
Advances to Building Societies under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement Act, 1956, helped private citizens to erect	1,258

This gives a total of 7,934 homes.

In the building programme for the current financial year, the funds allocated for 1960-61 will enable the State Housing Commission to complete the erection of the 837 homes under construction as at the 30th June, 1960, and commence the erection of a further 1,352 new dwelling units.

The distribution of the building effort has been planned according to the following table which will be of interest for subsequent perusal:—

	To be Completed.	New Con- tracts.	Total.
Commonwealth - State	370	723	1,093
State Housing	321	359	680
War Service Homes	134	250	384
McNess Trust	2	Nil	2
Government Employees	10	20	30
	837	1,352	2,189

War service homes' figures are subject to confirmation of loan moneys.

The demand for State Housing Commission assistance by way of purchase and rental homes continued at the rate of 630 applications per month similar to that of the previous year. Vacancies and reversions enabled the commission to assist 1,844 families annually. Last year 3,283 families were aided with 1,439 new dwellings and 1,844 vacated rental homes. It is notable that offers of reasonable accommodation were declined by 1,287 families.

Capital expenditure for 1959-60 totalled £7,302,000 against £6,630,000 for the previous 12 months. The main avenues of expenditure were—

	£
(a) Provisions for building activities under the—	
(i) State Housing Act	1,450,000
(ii) Government employees scheme	61,000
(iii) McNess Trust	15,000
(b) Provision of loan funds under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement Act, 1956	2,891,000
(c) Commonwealth funds under the War Service Homes Act	2,885,000

The allocations for 1960-61 are to be utilised as follows:—

(a) State Treasury advances for home building and second mortgages under—	£
(i) The State Housing Act	1,031,000
(ii) The Government employees scheme	60,000
(iii) Housing of industrial personnel	20,000
	<hr/>
	1,111,000
	£
(b) Commonwealth - State funds for purchase and rental houses, housing for personnel of armed forces, additions, sewerage, etc., and advances to building societies	3,055,000
(c) War service homes for new house building and purchase, discharge of prearranged mortgages, etc. This figure is an estimate and is awaiting the approval from the Director of War Service Homes	2,755,000
	<hr/>
	£6,921,000

In regard to revenue for 1959-60, receipts amounted to £6,487,000. Of this amount £2,958,100 represented repayments by home purchasers, and £1,604,627 as deposits, fees, interest and remuneration for services rendered. Rents totalled £1,924,273.

Administration costs for the year rose by £27,651 mainly due to marginal adjustments, basic-wage rises and salary increments together with increased charges associated with contingencies items.

Touching on policies to be adopted, the Government will continue with its policy of encouragement of home-ownership and at the same time, where required, assisting those applicants on low incomes by way of erection of rental homes.

Assistance will be provided under the State Housing Act and the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement to purchase homes already erected as a group contract, in one of its estates, or to build to the applicant's own design on his own or commission land.

The State Housing Act funds will allow for the completion of 321 homes and the letting of a further 359 contracts. The scheme for housing of Government employees will be continued in the interests of decentralisation. Under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement of 1956, building societies continued to be assisted with £930,000. To date, 1,258 homes have been erected under this scheme, of which 375 were erected in the past year.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Before the dinner suspension I was about to say that at the end of June, 1960, 189 houses had been completed for personnel of the armed forces. A further 39 will be erected in 1960-61.

A total of 1,108 ex-servicemen were assisted under war service homes conditions by the completion of 354 houses, the purchase of 629 houses, and the discharge of 125 prearranged mortgages.

Construction and maintenance prices continued to be satisfactory. Maintenance operations covered the renovation and repainting of 1,352 home units, the reconditioning of a further 1,877 units, plus attention to over 29,000 minor items. Maintenance expenditure on Commonwealth-State rental homes amounted to £281,878.

At the 30th June, 1960, a total of 782 country rental applicants had been accommodated in new and vacated country homes, thus leaving 1,051 applicants outstanding at that date.

The total of country commission houses is now 6,241, spread over 153 rural centres from the Kimberleys to the Bight—from Kalgoorlie to the coast. During this present financial year, 290 group homes will be erected in country centres; and of this figure, 50 will be erected in north-west coastal centres, and five at Wittenoom Gorge.

MR. BURT (Murchison) [7.33]: I would like to avail myself of this opportunity of speaking on the mining estimates, concentrating my remarks on the decision to increase the number of geologists in the geological survey department from 10 to 21. This is very welcome news indeed. For many years now the work of the geological survey department has been handicapped because of the small number of geologists employed. It is very difficult to obtain the services of these technical men, and even private enterprise has this problem. Any move by the department to increase the number employed must eventually meet with success.

Last May I had the good fortune to accompany the Minister for Mines to South Australia; and while we were there, officers from the Department of Mines went to a great deal of trouble to show us the department's projects and to explain its techniques. I think that in South Australia the department employs about 38 geologists—38 men in a State which has a very much lower mineral potential than has our own State. Quite a number of those 38 were engaged on hydrological work; and it is to be hoped that when the extra personnel is added to our department, a section will be allocated to the further discovery of water, which plays such an important part in the development of the State.

I desire, however, to talk about mineral prospecting. If we look at a map of Western Australia we will see that the coastline from Esperance, practically all the way to the Kimberleys, is populated and is the scene of more or less stable industries of one kind or another. However, seven-eighths of this State—the whole of the interior—is, by comparison with the coastline, virtually a desert. I represent quite a large slice of this area, and having lived there for the last 25 years, can speak with some authority on the matter.

Although we hear of the great yield of wool and the high prices obtained in certain of the pastoral districts, I feel that any area which can carry only one sheep to 30 or 40 acres, must be classed as virtually a desert. I know that certain parts of the district of which I speak could, by closer and more careful study of irrigation practice, be made to carry more sheep; but by and large we have to look to minerals to make the future of Western Australia more stable.

By looking at this map we will see there are about a dozen inland towns in this State of ours, every one of which owes its origin to the mining industry. In fact, it was the discovery of gold in most cases—sometimes other minerals—which was responsible for opening up the whole of the interior of this State, and also for the prosperity which was enjoyed at the beginning of this century.

All the towns from Ravensthorpe and Norseman in the south right through—including Kalgoorlie—to the Murchison district, and finally up to Marble Bar and Halls Creek in the Kimberleys, are in a relatively populous state. One new mining town has sprung up in the post-war period. I refer to Wittenoom in the Hamersley Ranges. This as we all know, has been due to the development of the asbestos industry.

The theme of my remarks is that with extra geologists pursuing a vigorous and progressive policy of prospecting, eventually more ore bodies must be found. Up to a point, companies are taking an interest in certain districts, but these are more or less concentrating on base metals and other minerals, forgetting for the time being the search for gold, because of the economic conditions associated with it.

However, I feel that the geologists should leave no stone unturned to prospect in all the areas where gold has been found, because it is a known fact that there are parallel and repetitive ore bodies where mines have been established. Other bodies must exist beneath the surface. I think that most ore bodies near the surface have been found by now, but if we were able to cast our thoughts to the future, 10,000 years—

Mr. May: How long?

Mr. BURT: In about 10,000 years—provided, of course, the earth is allowed by scientists and politicians to remain in its present state—another couple of thousand feet of this earth's diameter will have blown away, and there will be just as many ore bodies exposed, or within easy reach of mankind, as there were when the white people first came to this continent. Now, naturally, we must find those ore bodies by technical methods; and that is where the geologist will play his part.

To assist in prospecting these outback areas, good roads are essential. Remarks have already been made by several members covering the same areas I have mentioned, and I heartily agree with their opinion that good roads are necessary to assist in opening up and prospecting the back country. Very heavy machinery is now needed to assist the technical prospectors, as I shall call them, to locate these hidden ore bodies. It is not a coincidence that Mt. Isa and Mary Kathleen—two of the greatest mines in Queensland—were found close to roads.

Mr. Jamieson: It was a pretty rough old road when they found Mt. Isa.

Mr. BURT: It was a rough road; but it was, nevertheless, a road which I understand was used over a great number of years. The roads which traverse the northern parts—in fact, the whole of the outback of this State—are pretty rough; but now prospectors and technical men have modern ideas, and will need smoother surfaces to encourage them to go to those areas.

As soon as worth-while ore bodies are found, it is remarkable how quickly a centre—no matter how remote it may be—springs into being. As soon as mining activity is apparent, houses are quickly erected, followed by hospitals and schools; and an established settlement follows. That was the pattern of the discovery of this State, and it will be very much the same when future ore bodies and other minerals are located.

That will also assist the pastoral industry; because people have to be provided with food, and so someone starts opening up a pastoral property nearby to supply meat, and a general pattern of population increase automatically follows any mining discovery.

Therefore I feel it is the duty of everyone in Western Australia to think along these lines of further development of the mineral resources which are undoubtedly available. Let us continue to push forward with the development of the Kimberleys and Esperance and press for more industries around the coast; but do not let us forget the huge centre of the State which I feel sure covers a tremendous hidden treasure chest of minerals at depth.

MR. MAY (Collie) [7.45]: In view of the fact that the Minister, when introducing the Mines estimates, failed even to mention coal, one would get the idea that there was no coalmining industry in the State.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I did mention coal; I mentioned the value of coal production.

Mr. MAY: If the Minister did, he must have been very brief, because I failed to hear what he said.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I mentioned that the value was something over £2,500,000.

Mr. MAY: It does not make much difference, because the Minister did not say much about coal. I would think it is of more consequence—

Mr. Brand: Did you say "consequence" or "controversy"?

Mr. Rowberry: He said "consequence."

Mr. MAY: There is no need for the Premier to get on the controversial side of the question. I do not want that as an excuse; although, before I finish, I might be on the controversial side of it myself.

Of late, quite a lot has been written about the coalmining industry, and it is just as well that it has, because there has not been much reference to the industry in this Chamber on behalf of the Minister for Mines. It is just as well that somebody does tell the people of the State that there are coalmines and a coalmining industry in Western Australia.

Mr. Burt: I think they are aware of it.

Mr. O'Neil: Are they operating?

Mr. MAY: Yes; to some one's chagrin they are still operating, in spite of the efforts of some people to prevent them. I want to say quite dispassionately and very sincerely tonight a few words about the industry. In the Press all sorts of fancy stories have been published; but, summed up, they amount to nothing.

The Government has certain ideas on open-cut coal; and the Government is quite entitled to its ideas. What Government should not have ideas? I will admit that there are very few ideas coming from the present Government, but this is one. The McLarty-Watts Government introduced open-cut mining in 1943, entirely on account of the shortage of coal and oil. Had it not been for the coalmining industry, this State would then have been in bad shape with regard to fuel supplies. Should there be another war we would be just as badly off for fuel, unless we were careful.

When the McLarty-Watts Government first got the idea about open-cut coal, it very decently called the mining unions into conference. After a period of conferences between the Government, the unions, and the companies, it was agreed that there should be a certain amount of open-cut coal produced until the deep mines were

able to cope with the output required. There was nothing wrong with that. An assurance was given by the companies and by the Government of the day that when the deep-mine production could cope with requirements the open-cut mining would be damped down.

Mr. Brand: But how many men—

Mr. MAY: I know what the Premier said in the paper in regard to this point, but I remind him and his Government that a moral obligation was undertaken by the McLarty-Watts Government. The men honoured that obligation—the men comprising all the unions in the industry—and they have honoured it right the way through. The Premier calmly says he is not responsible for what was said in those days.

Mr. Brand: Neither I am.

Mr. MAY: He was a member of the Government at that time, and four of the present Ministers were members of that Government; and they gave an assurance that when the production of deep-mine coal caught up with requirements, the open-cut production would cease. The Ministers are entitled to change their minds, in regard to the assurances that were given at that time. I am talking about moral grounds now; and I think it would be well for this Government, or any other Government, to be aware of the moral obligations that it has when certain promises are made.

The Hawke Government followed the McLarty-Watts Government, and it honoured the arrangement; but what has the present Government done? It has put the arrangement absolutely to one side.

Mr. Brand: How many members of the industry were put off at the time of the Hawke Government?

Mr. MAY: Every man put off was given employment in the Forests Department; and the number was not very great. Before long those men were brought back from the Forests Department to fill vacancies in the mines which arose through natural wastage. The position ended with every man who was retrenched and placed in the Forests Department returning to his job in the mines. I think that completely answers the Premier's question.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: It could well be so again.

Mr. Brand: Yes, of course.

Mr. MAY: I am coming to that; and the Chief Secretary might change his opinion.

Mr. Norton: Impossible.

Mr. MAY: No; I give him more credit than that. As a matter of fact I have a lot of time for the Minister who represents the Minister for Mines in this Chamber; but possibly he would not recognise that.

Mr. Brand: Yes he does.

Mr. MAY: It is interesting to note that in 1956 when the present Attorney-General came to Collie to support a Country Party candidate against me—I thought he knew better—he stressed the need for rapid rural development as a businesslike reason for the retention of deep-mine production; and he was a member of the Government in 1943.

Mr. Tonkin: Did he not say more than that?

Mr. MAY: Yes; I am coming to that. Do not get anxious about it.

Mr. Brand: I wonder whether there is anything on record of what the ex-Minister for Works said when he was in Collie.

Mr. MAY: The Attorney-General also said that it would be an absolute crime to allow the population of Collie to diminish. Those were his very words. He went on to say that if deep mines were ignored in favour of open cuts, a smaller population would be inevitable at Collie.

Mr. Bickerton: He was right there.

Mr. MAY: The man who made that statement is a member of the present Government, and he has completely somersaulted from the time he went to Collie to try to woo the electors. I simply could not do that sort of thing. I can imagine how some of the supporters of the Government must feel having to sit here and say nothing in regard to what the Government is doing to the workers of the State.

It is quite interesting to compare the Attorney-General's attitude today with what it was in 1956 when he tried to convince the people of Collie that a Country Party candidate would meet their requirements. But he did not fool them! I am still here.

Mr. Rowberry: Hear, hear!

Mr. MAY: I think everybody knows now that the original reason for the production of open-cut coal was the shortage of oil during and just after the second world war when the oil supplies to the State were practically cut off.

Although the men in the industry were not in favour of the open-cut method, they agreed to it because the deep mines at Collie had been allowed to get into such a bad state of development; and it was also due to their loyalty to the cause at the time, and the assurance given by the Government of the day that they agreed. But that is all forgotten. History is not worth remembering with some people. But there are others who do not forget.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order! There is too much noise in the Chamber.

Mr. MAY: I do not recollect saying anything very funny. As a matter of fact what I am talking about is very serious.

Dr. Henn: You did not answer the question put by the member for Murchison.

Mr. MAY: I did not hear it.

Mr. Burt: Do the men who work in goldmines tell their companies how the mines should be worked?

Mr. MAY: What has that to do with Collie?

Mr. Burt: They do it at Collie, apparently.

Mr. MAY: There is the greatest co-operation between the men working in the coal-mining industry, and the companies.

Mr. Perkins: The coalminers are not working for the Griffin Company.

Mr. MAY: There is no dispute between the Griffin Coal Mining Company and the men.

Mr. Perkins: The men do not seem to be working too well for the company.

Mr. MAY: What has that to do with it?

Mr. Perkins: They work for other companies, but not the Griffin company.

Mr. MAY: The Griffin men are not; the Minister should take that statement back. There is not one man out of the 116 who were working for the Griffin Company who is working for any other company today. The Minister can swallow that one, because what he said is not true.

Mr. Perkins: The unions are giving them instructions as to whom they will work for.

Mr. MAY: The men who were working for the Griffin company are today going around town helping people—widows. These men will, tomorrow, be assisting a widow with five children; and they are all doing that sort of thing. The Minister is not going to put that across me in this Chamber; neither the Minister nor anybody else.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): I suggest the member for Collie speak through the Chair.

Mr. MAY: In all deference, Sir, may I ask that you prevent interjections—because I shall answer them the same as I have answered the Minister for Police. I am not going to have it said that the men who were working for the Griffin company are, while refusing to work for that company, working for another company.

As I said earlier, there was complete agreement with the Government of 1943—the McLarty-Watts Government—and the men and the companies in regard to open-cut coal. There are two sides of that triangle that have kept their word all the way since 1943, but the present Government is the one that has stepped aside and refused to recognise it, for the sake of a few paltry pounds.

Mr. O'Neil: Do you think the Government should not get cheaper coal?

Mr. MAY: If I understood you correctly, Mr. Chairman, you said that there were to be no more interjections.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): I suggest to the member for Collie that he speak to the Chair; I will look after the interjections.

Mr. MAY: I always do speak to the Chair, Mr. Chairman, and will continue to do so whilst you occupy it. I will make a further analysis of the position in regard to the production of open-cut coal. When the first open-cut coalmine was worked, a bulldozer was used to get the coal out. As a result, rocks, roots, dirt, and everything imaginable was shovelled into the trucks and loaded into the rail wagons to be sent to the consumers to be used as coal. I guarantee hardly 30 per cent. of that conglomeration was coal.

Mr. Norton: Which company was operating the open cut at that time?

Mr. MAY: There was only one company working an open cut in those days; that was the Amalgamated Collieries Ltd. As a result of the manner in which that open-cut coal was delivered, the consumers of coal as a fuel turned to oil. There is no doubt that that was due entirely to the quality of the coal supplied to them at that time. It was impossible to burn it. The trains could not run to schedules and the drivers of the locomotives were always in trouble for running late. On one occasion I visited Plaistowe and Co. Ltd. to ascertain what was wrong with the coal that was being supplied to that company. I was told to go and have a look at it for myself, and when I saw it I was disgusted with its quality.

No attempt was made by the Mines Department to control that state of affairs. I am quite certain that it took a ton of real coal to burn a hundredweight of the stuff that was being mined by the open-cut method, but still no action was taken by the Mines Department.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: How long ago was that?

Mr. MAY: During the term of the McLarty-Watts Government.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Some years ago.

Mr. MAY: The Minister for Mines at that time—I think it was The Hon. H. S. W. Parker—said to me, "We have the be-all and end-all for the coalmines. I asked: 'What is it?' and he replied, 'We are appointing a State Coal Mining Engineer.' That is the official title which I think is given to that officer. However, that did not make the slightest bit of difference. The Government paid him £3,000 a year for nothing.

Sir Ross McLarty: The coalminers' union strongly advocated his appointment.

Mr. MAY: Of course it did; but the miners' union and the other unions were sadly disappointed with his appointment.

On many occasions in this Chamber I asked whether some control could be exercised over the coalmining industry, and I was told that the matter rested with the Mines Department. However, that department has not done anything except to ensure that safety is observed in the mines. It has merely paid the State Coal Mining Engineer £3,000 per annum plus expenses; but that does not mean anything to the working of the mines.

Sir Ross McLarty: Surely safety in the coalmines is important.

Mr. MAY: Yes; but we already have an Inspector of Mines, an Assistant Inspector of Mines, and a Workmen's Inspector of Mines to supervise safety measures in the coalmines. In addition to those officers we have another man who does nothing else but run up and down from Perth to Collie.

Sir Ross McLarty: You asked for his appointment.

Mr. MAY: On many occasions I asked that some control should be exercised over the coalmining industry and that action should be taken as soon as possible, but nothing has ever been done. I am not blaming the State Coal Mining Engineer, but the Government for employing him in the first place, and the Mines Department for not taking any action to exercise control over the operations of the Collie coalmines.

When the Hawke Government took office I told the Minister for Mines that the company was mixing three feet of slate in with the coal. He would not believe me, so I offered to take him down and show him what was going on. He did so; and, to his credit, he immediately stopped that practice. In my opinion that was the ruination of the coalmining industry. Yes; I agree with the member for Avon Valley, Mr. Chairman, that the present Government is a b— Government.

Mr. Mann: I did not say that; I was merely conversing with my colleague sitting next to me.

Mr. MAY: The honourable member should not talk so loudly. That open-cut coal, containing rocks, roots, and mud was transported by the railway trucks to Perth and they said to the consumer, "There is your coal." Had it not been for the Labor Government, when it took office, the position might have remained the same. Complaints are being made that we are losing customers for coal. Of course we are! That is how we lost Plaistowe's order.

There is no control whatsoever over the mining operations to produce coal. The companies just rush to adopt the cheapest possible method of working in order to make as much profit as they can. No company can mine coal of poor quality for very long. I do not know why we have

a Mines Department. So far as the coal-mining industry is concerned it does not exercise a ha'p'orth of control over the working of the coalmines.

I can quite understand any company wishing to conduct its operations as cheaply as possible, but when it is dealing with the people's assets—and coal is an asset of the people—some control should be exercised by the Mines Department over the methods used to produce it. Year after year I have stood up in this Chamber and told members what has been going on. I have done that for the past 14 years. However, no effort has been made to control the working of the industry in any shape or form. When The Hon. C. H. Simpson was Minister for Mines in the McLarty-Watts Government he gave the coalmining companies the assurance that they could supply the Government with open-cut coal, but when they brought their deep mines up to date the production of open-cut coal would cease.

Amalgamated Collieries Ltd. will tell members even today that they can mine mechanised deep-mine coal as cheaply as open-cut coal. I say to the people of this State and those consumers who need coal for fuel that there was never any control over the open-cut method of mining coal during the McLarty-Watts reign.

Sir Ross McLarty: Yes; when you could not get coal, or very little of it.

Mr. MAY: And the honourable member still did not get coal in those days. He got about 30 per cent. coal and about 70 per cent. rubbish. But the McLarty-Watts Government at that time paid 72s. a ton for it.

Sir Ross McLarty: We had to get coal from somewhere. The power house had stopped and transport had stopped through shortage of coal.

Mr. MAY: I am not disagreeing with the member for Murray on that point. Of course he had to get coal! And did not the men rise to the occasion in those days? Of course they did! The member for Murray knows how the men worked to meet the Government's coal requirements and the requirements of private consumers. No-one knows that better than the member for Murray. However, the Government of the day says it is going to displace 200 men by using open-cut coal. I say to the Government that it is definitely misleading the people of this State in regard to the dismissal of 200 men. The Government knows that the facts which I am about to relate to the House are true.

The Co-operative Coal Mine produces 1,000 tons of coal a day. It supplies that coal to the State Electricity Commission and the W.A. Government Railways. This fact has never been made public by the Government; it has taken great care not to do so. The Co-operative Mine employs 296 men, but the Government says it is

not going to take any more Co-operative coal. In view of the fact that that mine has only two customers—the State Electricity Commission and the W.A.G.R.—it has no option but to close. Therefore, 296 men will be dismissed from that mine, apart altogether from the 200 men mentioned by the Government who will be thrown out of employment. That means that approximately 500 men will be unemployed. The Government has said that it will find alternative employment for those 200 men who will be thrown out of work. However, it has not made any mention of where it intends to employ those men.

Mr. Court: We will have to get the coal tonnage from somewhere else.

Mr. I. W. Manning: How do you arrive at your figure of approximately 500 men being out of employment?

Mr. MAY: The honourable member would not know; and it is no use his asking his Government; because it could not tell him. The Government of the day has said that it will displace 200 men. That may sound all right; but I inquired at the Mines Department yesterday to ascertain the exact number of men employed at present on the Co-operative Coal Mine, and I was told that it was 296. Therefore, adding the 200 men the Government says it is going to displace, to the 296 men of the Co-operative Mine who will become unemployed, there will be nearly 500 men put out of work. That is my arithmetic.

Mr. Brand: It sounds like it.

Mr. MAY: The Government has promised that it will provide work every day for those men who are displaced, and work within reach of their homes. The Government will never get me to swallow that. It will not get the people of Collie to swallow it; or, for that matter, the people of the State to swallow it. The Government is going to put off 200 men. In my opinion, it is completely misleading the people. The residents of Collie know what is going to happen.

Mr. Brand: Over the past five or six years 500 men have gone out of the industry.

Mr. MAY: There have been natural wastages, of course.

Mr. Brand: There are 500 fewer men employed in the industry now than there were five or six years ago.

Mr. MAY: That is true; and I will tell the Premier why.

Mr. Brand: On account of the lost tenders.

Mr. MAY: It was due to the continual threats made by both the Government and the company that unless the men did something which they wanted them to do, the mines would be closed. How many times have Amalgamated Collieries said

they were going to close down? They say it every year; and we have the same thing at the present time.

Mr. Brand: I suppose they are bluffing as they have always bluffed.

Mr. MAY: It is the Premier's baby this time. Those threats always seem to be made round about Christmastime; they say that they are going to put off 200 men. We have the same old threat every year, and this year is no exception. As far as I am concerned, it does not mean a thing.

Mr. O'Neil: Even when your Government was in office?

Mr. MAY: No; it did not happen when my Government was in office.

Mr. Court: What happened to the hundreds of men that went off when the Hawke Government was in power?

Mr. Tonkin: Would you like to know?

Mr. MAY: The Minister for Railways was not in his seat at the time, but the member for Canning was, and he heard me explain all that. Cannot the honourable member retain anything that is told him? He was a schoolteacher, however, so it is little wonder that he is not able to do so. On account of the ever-threatening upheaval of some kind or other, we are told the companies are going to close down.

We get this every year. As a result, we find that the men in the industry take alternative employment when they get a chance. They are not going to put up with this sort of thing. That is where these men, whom the Minister for Railways mentioned, come in. That is how they are accounted for; in addition, of course, to the natural decrease. But their places have not been filled. The Minister for Railways is doing the same thing at Midland Junction; he is putting men off there, in spite of the fact that he said the Government was not going to put men off at Midland Junction. That is another beauty he is trying to put across.

Mr. Brand: What happened?

Mr. MAY: The Minister is not replacing the men who leave the industry through natural wastage.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): That has nothing to do with this vote.

Mr. MAY: It is an analogy. Mr. Chairman, and a very good one.

Mr. Rowberry: Circumstantial evidence.

Mr. O'Neil: You just said that your Government did that to 500 miners.

Mr. MAY: It was members of the honourable member's Government who said that. I said that a certain number were put off by the Hawke Government; but they were fewer than 100, and work was provided for them in the Forests Department.

Mr. O'Neil: Why was the labour force reduced by 500?

Mr. MAY: Who is telling the story? As the men in the Forests Department attained their seniority they went back to the pits, and not one of them is employed in the Forests Department now.

Mr. Brand: Can they not do that now?

Mr. MAY: Wait a minute! If the Premier does not want to listen, let him go outside. I know what I am saying is not very palatable.

Mr. Brand: Give me an answer to the question I have asked.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order!

Mr. MAY: About time, too, Mr. Chairman! I do not know whether I can get it into the thick head of the member for Canning, that the Hawke Government did not put off 500 men.

Mr. O'Neil: But the labour force dropped by 500 men.

Mr. MAY: That is what the members of the honourable member's Government say, but it has no foundation in fact. The men displaced during the regime of the Hawke Government were found employment in the Forests Department, and went back to the mining industry as vacancies occurred.

Mr. Brand: You sound like a man who is sticking to his story.

Mr. O'Neil: You said the work force dropped by 500.

Mr. MAY: I am talking about 1943-49; that was before the honourable member's time.

Mr. Rowberry: He is having a nightmare.

Mr. MAY: The honourable member has a lot to learn yet.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order!

Mr. MAY: The best thing the member for Canning can do is to go to Collie and see what is going on. I do not know whether he has been there yet; but if he has, he has certainly not taken any interest in the coalmining industry. If anybody goes to Collie and says he supports the Brand Government he will never come out again.

Mr. Brand: Is that democracy at work?

Sir Ross McLarty: I do not think they would like you saying that.

Mr. MAY: The fact is that as a result of this Government's anticipated action 496 men will be put out of employment. I think we can say that 70 per cent of those men are married. A large percentage of them are paying off Commonwealth homes, and are buying their own homes under war service homes conditions; and yet this Government proposes to uproot those families and tell the men there is no more work for them, and that they must get out. Those people will, of course, as a result of that action, lose the equity they have built up in their homes over the years.

I do not know of any more inhuman act than this Government contemplates; particularly as it refers to men of the ages of those who work in the mines at Collie. They have given the State great service. The record of the Collie miners for continuity of work cannot be beaten the world over. I defy anybody to say anything different.

Mr. Brand: In the days that went to make up their good record they were well led.

Mr. MAY: Here we have the old smear campaign again.

Mr. Jamieson: He has his red sox on.

Mr. MAY: Does the Premier mean that 1,100 men are going to be controlled by the man to whom he is referring?

Mr. Brand: They appear to be.

Mr. Court: He was recently re-elected.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order!

Mr. MAY: He is a very capable fellow.

Mr. Court: He is not doing Collie any good.

Mr. Jamieson: You are not doing the State any good.

Mr. Court: I wish you would try to negotiate some industry for Collie, with him down there.

Mr. MAY: The Minister for Industrial Development opened my eyes the other night. I asked him a few questions as to what he anticipated would be the prospect of Collie having industries established there, and I find that he has not a single idea on the matter, in spite of the fact that this Government has been telling the people of Collie that it is going to establish industry there to re-employ the men who have been taken from the mines.

Mr. Court: You answered that yourself the other night when you said your Government had not been able to find industry for them.

Mr. MAY: This Government was going to re-employ the 496 men who had been displaced. My God, this Government has a lot to answer for!

Mr. Court: We do not accept the figure of 496.

Mr. MAY: It is disgraceful to think of what this Government is doing to Collie, a town which has given this State such tremendous support over the years. The Government is doing this to Collie for the sake of a few paltry pounds.

Mr. Brand: It is £400,000.

Mr. MAY: When it comes to Australian Paper Mills Ltd. the Government says, "Here is £3,500,000 for you." On the other hand, it is prepared to strangle industry at Collie for the sake of a few paltry pounds.

Mr. Court: Your figures are not right.

Mr. MAY: They never seem to be in the eyes of the Minister.

Mr. Court: The figure of £3,500,000 is wrong.

Mr. MAY: It is impossible to get an accountant to accept his own figures.

Mr. Court: Would you object if we offered inducements to industry to go to Collie?

Mr. MAY: The Minister said he was going to establish industry at Collie, and thus help replace the men who had been taken from the mines. But now he seems to think it is impossible, and that he will not be able to establish industry there.

Mr. Court: I did not say it was impossible; but would you object to financial assistance being given to establish industry at Collie?

Mr. MAY: Of course not! I believe the Minister is doing all he can to attract industry to Collie. But the Government should not lead these 496 men up the garden path and let them to believe there is alternative employment for them.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order! I suggest the member for Collie take no notice of interjections.

Mr. Court: I never said that.

Mr. MAY: The men in Collie were told that no man was going to be put out of employment as a result of this action; but the Minister for Industrial Development says he has no way to re-employ these men.

Mr. Brand: You were talking about the 496 men; you were looking for your notes on that subject.

Mr. MAY: I have already told the Premier the position about the 496 men.

Mr. Brand: That is not correct.

Mr. MAY: It is correct; and I challenge the Premier to refute it. First of all we had the figure of 200 men who will be out of employment as a result of open-cut operations, and then the figure from the Co-operative Mine is 296, which makes a total of 496.

Mr. Court: Who is going to produce the coal that is normally produced at the Co-operative?

Mr. MAY: I would not know.

Mr. Court: That is where your figures are screwy.

Mr. MAY: Even if the Government does get coal at 10s. a ton cheaper it will only mean in the long run a saving of .554d. per unit. The Premier has carefully avoided saying that the industry has saved the State £500,000 a year. He cannot deny that.

Mr. Rowberry: What shall it profit a man? Or a Government!

Mr. MAY: All because of a few paltry pounds the Premier proposes to strangle the coalmining industry in this State. The

Government is like *Oliver Twist*—always wanting more. It is not satisfied with £1,500,000 over three years; it wants more.

Mr. Brand: What about the efforts of the previous Government?

Mr. MAY: A great deal has been said about the Marshall report.

Mr. Brand: Do not go on to that before you answer my question. What did the last Government save?

Mr. MAY: It saved £500,000 a year.

Mr. Brand: Was it fair and reasonable, and worthwhile?

Mr. MAY: I think it was worthwhile, particularly when one considers the mess the McLarty-Watts Government left the industry in.

Mr. Brand: You go on and talk about your Marshall report.

Mr. MAY: I thought I would convince the Premier. This Marshall report to which I wish to refer was compiled by a man who has never reached the top in engineering in the Eastern States. He was never promoted to any vacancy that occurred. He was the man the Government got to compile this report at Collie.

Mr. Jamieson: What qualifications did he have?

Mr. MAY: He had no qualifications. In part 3 of the report he said, "It is considered . . ." I would like members to take notice of that. He said, "It is considered;" not, "It is." That is the non-committal way he wrote his entire report. It is like that right through. He says—

It is considered that 80,000,000 tons of coal are being and could be extracted by open-cut methods.

That may be so; but he only considers that. He does not say that there is 80,000,000 tons. He said that this requires special planning, as it necessitates excavating to 700 feet or more. If members saw some of the planning that has been done in the industry at Collie it would make their hair stand on end. There has never been any planning. Yet we find the Marshall report says it all depends upon the planning. He said it depends on careful planning. In part 5 he says that success in mining the bulk of this large coal deposit will depend to a large extent on the pre-planning of the whole operations. He proposes—he considers—he does not commit himself—because he knows he could not possibly arrive at any definite conclusion in the 2½ days he spent at Collie.

Mr. Fletcher: Did he go to Collie?

Mr. MAY: Yes. He was seen in Collie.

Mr. Rowberry: It was alleged he went.

Mr. Brand: When he wanted to see the miners' representative they would not see him.

Mr. MAY: The report goes on—

The existing owners and operators, with adequate planning and plant, should be able to produce increasing tonnages at a satisfactory price by stages.

This Government is going to do it in one fell swoop, without any planning—without any consideration—just because somebody got up on a soapbox at election time and said, "We will get cheaper coal—we will use open-cut coal." It was not said how that would be done. There was no method at all. That is how the Government made its election speeches. Let us look further through the report, because it is worth reading.

Mr. Brand: It is pretty clear up to date.

Mr. MAY: To continue—and this is funny—

There were no restrictions as to the manner in which the inquiry was to be conducted.

There are about four or five pages in this report; and I have been wondering what it cost the Government to get it.

Mr. Brand: It was not favourable to Mr. Latter. If it had been, it would have been considered a good report.

Mr. MAY: On page 3 the report says—

There is every indication that reserves of 80,000,000 tons stated in the *Geological Survey of Western Australia Bulletin No. 105—Part 2*, page 58, are available.

That is where he got his information from.

Mr. Toms: There is every reason to believe it.

Mr. MAY: Whether that is true or not I do not know. He does not know, but he had to knock out some kind of a report.

Mr. Andrew: How long was he in Collie?

Mr. MAY: From Thursday to Sunday, I understand. I caught up with him finally at Parliament House.

Mr. Andrew: He could not make much of a report in that time.

Mr. MAY: He had to justify his coming over here, as he was sent for. In the report he says—

The Muja Horizon and Muja Depression is founded on the east and west by probable fault lines.

Probable—maybe—may not be—all that sort of talk! It goes right through the report. And it is on this report that the Government is relying. The report goes on—

There is insufficient information at this stage to plan in detail the whole area of the Muja Horizon Muja Depression. However, we estimate—

That is another great saying in the report.

To continue—

We estimate—

He does not know. Yet the whole of the population of Collie is going to be turned upside down as a result of this report. To continue—

There is insufficient information at this stage to plan in detail the whole area of the Muja Horizon Muja Depression.

What sort of a report does the Government think this is? Is it to be relied upon? Of course it is not! Continuing—

However, we estimate that the geological ratio of 8:1 would give a mining ratio in this area of approximately 9½:1. Whether this is an economical ratio depends on whether the coherency of sediments between and above the coal increases so substantially in depth as to necessitate drilling and blasting, thus increasing the costs of the overburden removal.

The economic ratio depends on something else. We see that sort of talk right throughout the report. On page 6 he said—

A highly organised planned operation generally, with conventional methods, would enable open cut coal at this 8:1 vertical ratio to be won at prices within the range of that being quoted for underground coal in the Collie district at present.

He practically tells the Government in this report it can get deep-mine coal with mechanisation practically as cheap as open-cut coal.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Is that a good part of the report?

Mr. Jamieson: It is a reiteration of what is known.

Mr. MAY: It is a reiteration throughout the report. This report suggests that coal will be excavated at 700 feet. One has only to go to Stockton and Collie Burn to see what has happened there. The people at Collie Burn call it a blue lake. It is not possible to go to any depth without striking water. The same thing will happen at Muja. It is all very well for the Government to say that the water will be kept under control. Imagine getting coal at 700 feet by the open-cut method! It is too silly for words. Just imagine the economics of the thing! Imagine what the ratio of overburden to coal would be at a depth of 700 feet! I think the Government is mad to entertain the idea.

On page 7 of the report he says—

The mining ratios are also dependent on a number of factors.

Another non-committal statement. The factors are—

- (a) Planning of the open cut.
- (b) Surface areas available to mined depth of coal.
- (c) The methods to be adopted.

(d) The nature of the overburden.

(e) Incidence of underground waters.

That is what I have been talking about.

(f) The angle of rest of the overburden and coal.

It is only recently that the open cut at Muja fell in. There is nothing to hold the sides up and they cave in. What a picnic there will be if this Government reverts to open-cut coal to the extent it proposes. By that time most of the deep mines will be flooded. The Collie mines will have to close if they are not mined. They will immediately fill with water.

Mr. Rowberry: They will be finished in three months.

Mr. MAY: In three weeks. Members have no idea what it is like underground. I hope that at least some of the explanation I have given tonight will sink home before the Government takes serious steps to alter the conditions which are operating at Collie at present.

We hear a lot of fairy stories about sponge iron and char; but how far has the Government got with them? Nowhere. It is just a pipe dream. So is this open-cut racket. Cheaper coal! Human beings are concerned in this, but it does not mean a thing that they will be uprooted. How many men in this Chamber would like to be uprooted out of their homes tonight and be told there was work for them wherever they could get it? How would they like that to happen to them after screwing and scraping for years? These people have been loyal to the State in regard to its coal requirements; and this is how they are being paid for it—all because a hungry Government wants cheaper coal while that coal lasts. It makes me sick! To quote from *The West Australian*—

Mr. Brand said that the Government had plans for displaced miners. It also had plans, such as the erection of a new power station and the encouragement of secondary industry to the State, which would necessitate an increasing use of Collie coal.

This power station will not be completed until 1962—two years' time! What are the men going to do in the meantime?

Mr. Rowberry: They will not be there in 1962.

Mr. MAY: Does the honourable member mean the Government?

Mr. Rowberry: Yes.

Mr. MAY: I agree. The Minister for Industrial Development told us the other night, in reply to my inquiries, that he has nothing on the stocks—he is just hoping. Are we not all hoping, particularly the people of Collie? To continue with the newspaper article—

It was the Government's responsibility to obtain the cheapest good quality coal. While this would mean

displacement of employees, the Government had decided to enter into contracts for cheaper coal and to accept the responsibility of finding alternative employment for displaced people.

This Government and those supporting it have a job in front of them to find employment for 496 people near their homes so that they can go home each night. That is the promise the Government made. Now the job is in front of it. I tell the Government it will be sorry it got itself into this mess—and deliberately by its own actions.

The Liberal Party came into the picture and tried to make political capital out of the position at Collie with an advertisement in *The West Australian*. I do not know the date of this advertisement, but it is authorised by V. L. Ockerby, 1140 Hay Street, Perth. I understand he is the general secretary of the party in this State. Perhaps members opposite can tell me whether that is right.

Sir Ross McLarty: That is right.

Mr. MAY: There is one man who is not ashamed to own up. It is refreshing to hear it. This advertisement states—

Collie's coal crisis is the cruel old story of a Communist-led union recklessly creating industrial strife to score a political point.

Mr. Fletcher: The same old bogey.

Mr. MAY: How often have we heard that particular bogey?

Mr. Toms: They believe it now, because they have said it so often.

Mr. MAY: If a political party wants a peg on which to hang its hat, it should get a decent peg.

Mr. O'Neil: You do not like this one.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order!

Mr. O'Neil: Is Latter a Republican?

Mr. MAY: Sometimes, Mr. Chairman. I wonder who is making this speech. The advertisement continues—

We as a State, and Collie as a town, should long ago have been enjoying the benefits that only cheaper power can give.

Members of this Chamber might be surprised to know that the coalmining industry is the biggest user of power in this State.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Roberts): Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [8.44]: I would like to say a few words on these estimates. At the moment I will leave coal to simmer and I will deal with a few matters I feel the Government should press with the Commonwealth Government in regard to mining. I know the Government

has been doing that; and I understand it is the intention of the Premier and the Minister for Industrial Development to endeavour, in conference with the Prime Minister in Canberra in the next day or so, to get permission for a limited amount of iron ore to be exported.

I feel it is high time the Commonwealth Government relaxed completely its ban on the export of this State's mineral resources. I hope the Minister representing the Minister for Mines in this Chamber is in agreement with me when I point out that the development of areas like Pilbara—and to a lesser extent the outback areas that contain mineral wealth—are dependent entirely upon the attitude, the whims, and the desires of the Commonwealth Government. And surely it cannot be imagined that we can develop those areas without permission; in other words, that we can go ahead without permission, and mine the resources that are available in those areas, and return to the State some worthwhile royalty for their mineral wealth.

But if the Commonwealth Government places its embargo—as has been the case on manganese, etc., over the past number of years—we will find, as we have found time and time again, that those people in the world who require these rare minerals will find a suitable substitute and will no longer be interested in our minerals.

The deposits will then become, in 10 years' time, instead of a stockpile, just a heap of stone that is of no use at all, because they have been superseded in the world of mineral resources.

Instead of getting a decent equity on the part of the State, we finish up by getting nothing out of them. The resources are there; and if they ever become valuable at a later date, they may be of advantage. But with mineral development it is unlikely that we will return to the old methods. If manganese is used for making certain steel in this day and age; and then, in 10 years' time, better material is found to do the same job, it is most unlikely that we will ever return to using manganese.

It is true that some use may be found for that mineral at a later date, and supplies for it may be required in limited, or even in great, quantities. But to me it seems unrealistic that when a commodity is required on a world market it is not permissible for a State, which is wealthy in the commodity, to go ahead and supply it. It is the same as supplying food to a person who has died of starvation; it is not much good to him after he has gone.

I suggest that from time to time the Commonwealth Government, whatever its political flavour, has taken a very unrealistic view of this matter; and with the apparent relaxation it has now put forward, I foresee some possibility of development in those territories in this State that would not be developed were it not for the mineral resources.

After all, when the resources of an area have been tapped and used up—as we have seen in the case of the gold industry—it does leave at least the opening up of a country and a certain number of people in residence there; some form of pastoral pursuits that would not have gone there had not facilities been provided in the first place by the mining companies that brought the people into the district in vast numbers, together with their financial abundance.

That would appear to me to be a most necessary thing, particularly in this State, and more so than in any other State in the Commonwealth. Nothing will help the decentralisation of population more than the development of our mineral wealth, whether or not any secondary industries of any magnitude can be found.

We heard earlier tonight, in answer to a question, that B.H.P. was suggesting that because it could not supply the amount of barbed wire and other wire mentioned by the member for Murray, more firms should import their steel products into this country. That seems to be an unrealistic attitude for any company to adopt—especially a company that has the greater part of our iron ore deposits tied up under its various associated companies.

It appears to me that if B.H.P. were genuine about having these reserves tied up in its name, it would place the necessary integrated steelworks in various strategic centres. And surely one of those centres must be near to the source of the material, which would be somewhere in Western Australia. But, as yet, there have been no significant moves on the part of B.H.P. to use the iron ore that could be obtained, in Western Australia.

The company is more concerned about feeding its furnaces with this raw product in other States that are industrially mightier, and will become even mightier still by the continued use of our mineral worth for their secondary industries. Unless the Government is prepared to get really tough on this issue and demand that all royalties come back for the mined minerals, we will see our wealth continue to flow out of this State.

While I am pleased that the Commonwealth Government is subsidising to a large extent oil research in this country, I still feel that not enough is being done. It must appear unrealistic to many, as it does to me, that since the first occasion when a bore was put down in Rough Range, when oil was discovered, no significant traces of oil deposits have been found, although many bores have been sunk.

I suggest that it would possibly take a movement of a world political flavour to make the oil become more readily available to those firms in their surveyed districts. The firms must now have an abundance of knowledge of the strata, as a result of

the geological soundings that have been taken throughout the whole of this State, and as to whether there is any possibility of oil reserves existing.

I would say to the Government that it should, if necessary, offer some inducement to those companies to become the first to effectively produce oil in this State on a commercial basis. Once the first company has produced oil, others will follow suit, of course; and no doubt we will get our just equity from that commodity if the oil be present in the quantities I imagine it could be.

I would like to say a few words on the situation at Collie, and the associated problems. The matter revolves around a difference of opinion between one group of mining interests as opposed to others. They are quite happy to fulfil these orders that are vacated by the Griffin mining company; and this would indicate that there is no harmony among the mining managements in opposing the miners' action.

When one examines the position I think one can justify the possible reasons for that. I would like to dwell for a moment on the open-cut position itself. The Marshall report has been mentioned here tonight. As far as I know, Marshall is relatively poorly experienced in open-cut mining of any considerable depth. To my knowledge, the deepest open-cut coalmine in the world is somewhere around about 400 feet.

It may be of interest to the red-flag-flying members of the Government to know that the coalmine is in Red China. With their amount of labour they are able to do things on a much more economical basis than we could; but I doubt very much whether they could mine under the same machinery process that we anticipate will be used in the Muja open-cut mine in this State.

Going further than that, I understand there is an open-cut copper mine in Africa that goes down to a depth of approximately 800 feet. It has to be effectively controlled; otherwise there could be fall-ins and other problems associated with the workings of that mine.

For the Minister to say—as he did earlier tonight in reply to a question—that the problems associated with mining in this State were not as great as those associated with coalmines in New South Wales, is not a true statement of fact. It is, of course, quite apparent that we do not have the problem of gas in the mines of this State that they do in New South Wales. That problem is relatively easy to overcome with forced air ducts. Foul air of a gaseous nature occurs not only in coalmines but often in goldmines, and any other metal-producing mine that goes down to a depth where the air is not able to circulate freely. If forced draught is provided, the problem is overcome.

The terrain and the local strata under which mining takes place make it harder to mine coal at Collie, under deep-mining conditions, than in New South Wales. Many of the mines in Collie have had considerable fall-ins. The member for Collie indicated that to us. I would say that, by virtue of the type of ground there, we will always have that problem, since it is more likely to occur at Collie than in the Newcastle area of New South Wales, where the strata is more secure.

For instance, many mines in the district of Maitland, in New South Wales, have remained unworked for a number of years, and yet have given no indication of having subsided in any way. Coal in the Collie mines deteriorates immediately air comes into contact with the face; whereas, in New South Wales coalmines, if pillars are left to support the roof of the mine, or the workings, the coal remains there in a fairly reasonable state for a long time.

Thus the complex problem of making sure that a mine is a workable proposition is not one that can be said to be comparative, and the Collie position is much worse from the mine management point of view. Under those circumstances I feel that the Joint Coal Board's figures, as quoted in the question asked by the member for Collie—that the deep-mined coal in this State at that time was shown to be on an average of about 2s. a ton cheaper than that mined in New South Wales—is an indication of the ability and the work of the men at Collie, in bringing it to the surface at that price.

Of course we all know that the calorific value of the coal there is not nearly the same as that of the coal in New South Wales, but the only thing we can compare is the value at the pit top; because, after all, the men in Collie cannot be blamed for the lack of calorific value of the coal. The fact that they have lived there, and mined this coal for a number of years for this State under the conditions that exist, is an indication to me that they are loyal citizens of Western Australia.

Much has been said of one, Latter, the Premier's pet aversion; but, so far as I know, Mr. Latter has not been on the coal-fields for a great number of years, and he does not have as much standing in that area as a lot of members in the Government would like us to believe. He is respected in his own sphere, and he seems to be quite a fair advocate in court.

Mr. Fletcher: And he was elected.

Mr. JAMIESON: Yes; as the member for Fremantle says, he was elected; and that is where the position ends. The same thing would happen if there were a member of the Liberal Party who was an efficient advocate in the court, and efficient in his

knowledge of the affairs of the mining union, and who was elected to the same position. He would not agree with our line of political thought; but surely that would be no reason for us to attack him because of that particular feature.

The open-cut problem is not as easy to overcome as some members of the Government would have us believe. I mentioned earlier that the so-called expert who was brought over to report on this matter, and on the possibility of mining the coal down to 700 feet, said all sorts of things, such as that there was an unknown quantity in the water; some of the strata were doubtful; and that there were a lot of things he did not know much about. Under the circumstances I feel he left himself open in making a report at all at that juncture.

To think the company can go down to 700 feet without making provision for a suitable batter on the workings would appear to me to be an amazing proposition. Assuming a satisfactory batter were made, it would probably have to be a quarter of a mile ahead of the workings; and if anyone has been to Collie and seen some of the opencuts that have been left by similar workings, such as at Collie Burn, and at other places mentioned by the member for Collie, he would readily understand the desecration that could be caused in that area by this activity alone.

Sooner or later some Government will have to put the position right again. That must add finally to the cost of coal in this State. For the time being it may not be a part of the cost, but the fact is that something will have to be done eventually by way of back filling, or some similar effective method. Assuming that is done in an effective way, it will increase the price of open-cut coal production.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Do you not think that open-cut coal will have to be used?

Mr. JAMIESON: I will agree that if coal can be mined by the open-cut method it is, over all, a more satisfactory method because it enables the companies to get more coal from the area than they would otherwise be able to obtain by the deep-mining methods; because with deep-mining they have to leave pillars, and make certain provisions in the mines themselves; and some coal, of necessity, cannot be mined at all. But I would say that the Government should not go looking for cheap coal in this particular way. If the Government wants cheap coal I suggest that it does what the Premier of South Australia has done: take the mines under its own wing and produce its own coal.

The Premier of South Australia has no trouble at Leigh Creek. That Government has its own open cuts there, and the coal is not nearly as good as Collie coal. However, he has been able to make a go of it

to such an extent that when he opened the last big power house in South Australia he boasted that that State was completely supplied by fuel produced from State-owned mines.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Do you mean to say that if the Government nationalised these mines it would be all right to use the open-cut method?

Mr. JAMIESON: No; I am pointing out that if there is a profit margin in the open-cut method, as there must be, that would be eliminated and the Government, by that means, would get coal at a much cheaper rate. I understand that some years ago the S.E.C. was allocated the Black Diamond leases, which we have heard so much about, but subsequently the McLarty-Watts Government let them be transferred to Amalgamated Collieries Ltd.

The Premier interjected while the member for Collie was speaking and he mentioned one of the mining companies. I do not think his remarks reflected credit on the company concerned. Of course this company has had the bulk of the orders, I admit, but it has done much better than the other two companies for a number of years in repaying the loans advanced by the State—I refer to Amalgamated Collieries Ltd. The Premier said by way of interjection to the member for Collie that this company was bluffing, as it has done in the past—this was in respect to closing its mines down.

I do not see why a firm should be referred to as one which would be prepared to bluff its way through. But I do think that at present that firm is possibly using the men in the Griffin Mine to its advantage in trying to force the Government's hand. To that end I might agree with the company; because the other day I asked for the list of shareholders of Western Collieries Ltd., the Griffin Coal Mining Co., and Amalgamated Collieries Ltd. The Attorney-General said that the list would occupy about 55 foolscap pages, and suggested that I look at the register in the Companies Office.

Naturally, before I asked for the lists of shareholders, I had some knowledge of who the shareholders were; and it was not just for mere curiosity that I wanted the lists placed on the Table of the House. I was not surprised when the Attorney-General was not happy about making them available. I have lists of the shareholders of those companies, and the set-up is rather interesting. I think I should read some extracts from them.

Mr. Kelly: The whole 55 pages.

Mr. JAMIESON: No; but some of the extracts make quite interesting reading. As far as Western Collieries Ltd. is concerned that company does not seem to be buying into the argument at all; it seems

to be *persona grata* with the Government at present. The Brisbane family have quite large holdings in that company as does E. N. Butcher, South Perth; the Midland Railway Co.; J. S. Dowson, of the Midland Railway Co., who holds 1,000 shares; J. G. Money, who has 5,000 shares; North Kalgurli Ltd.; and a number of other Kalgoorlie interests, such as Lake View and Star Ltd.; and the Tuckey family also hold a considerable number of shares. Those are all £1 shares.

Mr. Burt: But they have not been very profitable.

Mr. JAMIESON: All in all the names of the shareholders in this one company would appear to be the names one would see on a nominal roll for the Liberal Party in a particular area. It is quite on the cards that they are not unhappy with the present Administration; and, of course, because of their support the Government would lean towards them. There has been no argument with the company, as I mentioned. However, we will now turn to Amalgamated Collieries Ltd.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You are not saying that because some of those people might happen to be Liberals we are favouring that company?

Mr. JAMIESON: Wait until I finish my story! Now we come to Amalgamated Collieries Ltd., in which company E. F. Downing is the principal shareholder, and practically owns the mine in his own right. Other Downings have a few shares, and there are a few investors who have a few thousand shares. But the Downing family have the control of the bulk of the shares.

The Government seems to be having a difference of opinion with this company, as is evident from the fact that several conferences have been held and one is to take place next week with Mr. Downing and his other director, Mr. Johnson, in respect of the possibility of a continued supply of coal to the Government from that colliery. Not many people are affected in that shareholders' list, but at different times they have been fairly closely associated with the Liberal Party.

I think Mr. Downing was the foundation president of the present Liberal and Country League, and up to this time he has been *persona grata* with the Government. However, the actions of the Government on this occasion may have driven him to a stage where he is a little bit hostile to it.

Up to now those two companies have been supplying the Government with coal. Now we come to the Griffin Coal Mining Company; and, of course, a lot of the Liberal Party's friends are listed in the shareholding of that company. The directors are W. L. Brine, N. Fernie, and B. Meechan.

But the interesting part about it is the actual list of shareholders. The list reads—

B. W. Aspley, Busselton	600
A. M. Amies, Victoria	2,400
A. T. Brine & Sons	600
Mrs. N. G. M. Brine	400
A. R. Blum, Busselton	6,000
Mrs. E. J. Clarke, Subiaco	3,360
Mrs. A. L. Cooper, Cottesloe	1,000
Mrs. C. Cockram, South Perth	9,580
N. K. Davies, Collie	1,000
N. Fernie, Collie	1,000
F. E. C. Klachn, Busselton	4,000
Ledger Investments Ltd.	2,400

That is a firm about which we have heard a good deal in this Chamber; and the address is c/o Hendry, Rae & Court. The other shareholders are—

J. S. Newman, Perth	800
W. F. Pearson, Mt. Claremont	1,300
G. J. & E. Padgett, North Perth	500
Ross Investments, c/o Hendry, Rae & Court	3,000
Mr. E. G. White, Walpole	800

[Mr. W. A. Manning took the Chair.]

It would appear to me that even if the Minister who is on the Coal Committee which negotiated with these companies has no direct interest in them, he certainly has some close interest in the industry, and this is just about the same as the railway contracts. The whole affair stinks!

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Rot!

Mr. Court: The No. 1 muckraker of this State!

MR. MOIR (Boulder) [9.14]: I, too, have a few words to say about the coal situation and the position with which we are confronted. It has been brought about solely by the inefficiency and bungling of this Government. We have the spectacle today of a dispute occurring not only between the workers and the Government but also between the suppliers of coal in this State and the Government.

Before the last elections the Government made no secret of its intentions to obtain cheaper coal. The way it sought to obtain the cheaper coal, when the existing contracts were terminated, was to use larger quantities of open-cut coal. The present Government has been in office since the 2nd April, 1959. It has had plenty of time to plan towards its objective of using greater quantities of open-cut coal.

What did we find the Government doing? Contracts were called for on a certain basis, as a result of which there was almost chaos in the coalmining industry. If someone in the Government does not do some clear thinking and use his intelligence a little, the Government will be confronted with a crisis. That is simply because this Government has done absolutely nothing to plan to overcome the position which has arisen today. In my

opinion the outcome is due to the callous disregard by the Government of the rights of the people.

It is quite obvious that no thought has been given to the position which would be created if larger quantities of open-cut coal were to be used; and that no thought has been given to alternative employment which would have to be provided to workers who were displaced as a result of the Government's action. It is true that since this dispute commenced, statements have been made by Ministers of the Government to the effect that alternative employment would be found—but only employment on roads, drainage, etc. We know these are only temporary jobs, because that type of work does not last very long. The provision of such employment as an alternative only takes care of the immediate need.

In view of the policy enunciated by the Premier, one would have thought it was the ultimate aim of the Government to use open-cut coal solely. Surely some planning was necessary on the part of the Government to bring about alternative employment to the workers who were to be displaced from the coalmining industry—I mean permanent employment, and not something that is temporary.

The people who are affected by the increased use of open-cut coal are fighting for their very existence. That is a natural reaction. People do not take setbacks such as this lying down. They will not allow the Government to throw them to the wolves, so they are taking whatever action is available to them, in order to combat the plans of the Government. I do not blame them a scrap for so doing. They have every right to take such action as they consider will be successful in combating the plans of the Government, because the Government has shown no concern or desire to ensure that the displaced workers will be provided with permanent alternative jobs; to ensure that their homes will not be broken up; and to ensure that they will not lose everything they own.

Let me refer to the position on the goldfields, which I know only too well. Many goldmines cease operations not because of the whim of the Government, but because there is no more gold to be mined in the respective sites. When there is no more gold at a mine, it goes out of existence, and the workers have to move elsewhere. There is a goldmine which is in that position at the present time. It is estimated there are a few more months of life left in it. That mine is situated at Mt. Ida, and it employs between 60 and 70 men. The families of those men live at the township.

The company which operates that mine considers it has a duty to its employees who have given honest and worthy service. There is a statement in today's

newspaper by one of the company's directors in London to the effect that everything possible will be done to ensure that those employees are absorbed in the other mines which the company operates on other parts of the goldfields.

That is in sharp contrast to the attitude adopted by the present Government which plans—and this was a last-minute decision—to provide only temporary employment to the displaced workers. At best, such alternative employment would last only a few months. Furthermore, the Government does not undertake to provide all displaced workers with alternative employment, but only those which the Government estimates will be displaced as a result of its policy.

The attitude which the present Government takes when workers object to the Government's policy is seldom creditable. In this case the Government's answer is to brand these men with the red smear. That was what the Premier tried to do in this Chamber tonight.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: He was not branding the men with a red smear; he just referred to a communist and to the fact that the union was communist-led.

Mr. MOIR: We all have our views on some of the leaders in this country. I would take very serious objection if somebody said I was led by the nose by the present Prime Minister. It is idle to say that because one man in the union happens to be a communist and in an official position, the union of 1,000 workers is dominated by him. That is too ridiculous for comment. It shows the lack of knowledge possessed by Ministers opposite when they make an assertion like that seriously.

Mr. Court: The man is elected as the head of the union.

Mr. MOIR: As is known to members here, I have had many years' experience as a union official. I was never able to lead the unionists into doing something which they did not want to do. I could not persuade them, nor did I ever try to persuade them, to do anything which was not right, and in which they did not believe. Union members have minds of their own; and they make up their minds themselves. They are quite capable of assessing the pros and cons of an argument; of making up their own minds; of arriving at their own decisions. That is what is happening in this instance.

The Government will be made aware of the feelings of indignation of the men when I point out that at the initial meeting of the union members, when the decision was arrived at, there were only four dissentient voices in a meeting of 1,000 men. What rubbish it is to say that one man influenced all those people! The average person standing apart from the whole picture would not blame those workers for the action they are taking.

There were interjections from the Ministers and the Premier when the member for Collie was speaking tonight. He related what the Labor Government did when it was in office. That is quite an interesting story. When the Labor Government took office it was left a legacy by the outgoing Liberal-Country Party Government, which had allowed coalmines to work on a cost-plus system. There was a surplus of men employed in the industry; and there was inefficiency because, under the cost-plus system, the higher the cost the more was the plus.

Certainly the owners of the mines were not concerned with keeping down costs, because the higher the cost, the greater was the profit they made. The action taken by the Hawke Government when it assumed office saved the State £500,000 a year. It obtained the coal requirements of this State at a saving of that amount. The policy which was followed as a result of the contracts entered into meant that the inflated labour force had to be reduced; and it was reduced.

But it was not reduced in the manner proposed by the present Government. Alternative permanent employment was provided for workers who were displaced. As time went on, with the natural wastage in the work force at times, the men who had been provided with alternative employment as a result of their displacement, were reabsorbed in the coalmining industry when vacancies became available. The result was that all those who wanted to return to the industry were able to return.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: That could happen again.

Mr. MOIR: The Minister said that could happen again. There is this difference: This Government does not propose to find permanent work for these people. I remind the Minister that this is only the commencement of the Government's policy. If we are to believe the statements made by the Premier, it is the ultimate aim of the Government to change over to the use of open-cut coal only. That policy will displace a considerable number of men. There will not be room in the industry for displaced workers to return.

I point out to the Minister that nothing concrete has been laid down about employing the workers who are displaced. It is just some nebulous scheme which has not even been propounded. It has just been lightly stated that work will be found in the Main Roads Department, or in connection with drainage, etc. Nothing concrete has been submitted to those concerned.

Mr. Perkins: If cheaper power were possible, there might be some chance of gaining industries; but unless we can obtain cheaper power, there is not much chance.

Mr. MOIR: I suggest that when this Government was previously in office it was not concerned about cheaper power, because it was paying an inflated price for coal at that time.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: That was years ago!

Mr. MOIR: And it was paying it to an industry which was carrying a large, inflated work force, and which was inefficient. It was so inefficient that the legacy was carried over for quite a while. During the short time I was Minister for Mines I was confronted with the ridiculous spectacle of being called to Collie to preside over a conference between the management and the employees, at which conference the employees were pointing out the inefficiency to the management and suggesting ways in which the mines could be worked more efficiently and whereby more coal would be obtained. Listening to all those facts, my hair nearly stood on end. Some of the matters brought to my attention were shocking, as were the inefficient methods which were being used at that time in the mines.

I came from an industry where it was essential that the work should be done efficiently in order that the industry might survive. It had to cut costs, and it has done a marvellous job. But at Collie at that time the most inefficient methods that one could think of were being used.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Should we not, in the coal industry, save costs as has been done in the goldmining industry?

Mr. MOIR: I do not know what the position at Collie is today so far as efficiency is concerned, as I have been away from it for over 18 months. I know that there was quite an improvement made during the time I was connected with the industry. I was told at one of those conferences by one of the employees that a 4-foot conveyor belt was being used in the mine to feed coal to another conveyor belt which was only 3 feet wide, with the result, of course, that there was a considerable amount of coal which could not be carried on the 3-foot belt. It was falling down and mounting up to such an extent that it eventually jammed on the belt and broke it.

I thought that was extraordinary; and some time after the conference I was talking to the managing director when I told him that I thought it must have been an eye-opener to him, particularly when the man stated that it had been going on for some months. He corrected me and said, "Oh, no, it was only three months, Mr. Moir." I did not say any more, because I realised that was the attitude.

I think the Government is like the babes in the wood in going into this matter of open cuts. The report of the coalmining engineer who was brought over was one of the most nebulous mining reports I have ever read. I have studied

quite a number of mining reports, and there has always been something positive about them; but there was nothing positive at all about this one.

The engineer stated that we may have to open-cut the coal down to 700 feet. That is absolutely astounding. There are open cuts on the goldfields, and I think the deepest one that I know of goes down to 400 feet. Open cuts are not operated when they become uneconomic; and if the value of the ore is such that the expense of getting it out is too great, it has to be left there.

But, of course, there is a different situation with coal because, although it becomes more expensive, while it is mechanically possible to continue working the mines that is done. The difference is that the coal then becomes dearer and is consequently sold at a higher price. It is only reasonable, therefore, that although one may start working an open-cut mine, and economically and profitably sell the coal at £1 a ton, as time goes on and more over-burden has to be removed, it becomes more expensive, and eventually the open-cut coal could cost much more than the deep-mine coal today.

All sorts of complications arise. An open-cut coalmine cannot be worked the same way as is done on the goldfields, because they start somewhere about the centre of an ore body; and as it falls down it finds its natural incline, and it goes down into the bottom of the open cut and is trucked away.

However, the position is different with coal; because what fell down would be over-burden and would get mixed up with the coal and make it dirty. It would then become an expensive matter to cart it away. Therefore, to open a coal open cut one would have to have a considerable incline so that no overburden would tumble down into the clean coal.

I do not know what the mechanics of it would be, but the top would be many times wider than the bottom. I think that is quite obvious to members. But I suggest that removing 100 feet of over burden from a coalmine would be a costly procedure, even taking into consideration the present-day methods of earth removing. Big strides have been made in the last few years, but it would still be a very costly business.

I am quite sure that the Government has not looked at this position. I know that the deeper one goes down a coalmine the greater is the problem of removal of water. It cannot be drained away but has to be pumped out. That also is another cost which would add to the expense of the coal. I feel sure that the Government has not considered all the problems which are entailed, or it would not have gone into the matter so lightheartedly.

A little stir was created a while ago when it was thought that the power house at Kalgoorlie would be short of coal, and

representations were made to the Government. I have since ascertained that the shortage of coal was caused largely because the mine supplying the coal originally was 1,400 tons in arrears with its supply at the time the mine closed because of lack of labour. I understand that steps have been taken by the coal companies in Colliery to remedy that position, and that overtime is being worked to produce coal to send to the goldfields.

The Government has also got itself into a serious position with Amalgamated Collieries which is the largest supplier in Colliery. This company has stated that it is uneconomical to carry on on the basis of the coal orders allocated.

Mr. W. Hegney drew attention to the state of the Committee.

Bells rung and a quorum formed.

Mr. MOIR: The company concerned has stated that it would be uneconomical for it to carry on, and at present conferences are being held between the company and the Government which might well mean that the Government will have to modify its proposals. Because the Government has reduced the large amount of the orders which were previously placed with Amalgamated Collieries, one wonders how much some other situation might bear on the whole matter.

I would draw attention to a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition in this House a few days ago. It appears on page 2346 of *Hansard* No. 15 and is as follows:—

What is the present total financial commitment of each coalmining company to the State as a result of—

- (a) Government loans;
- (b) Government guarantees;
- (c) other forms of Government help?

Mr. Brand replied:

- (a) Amalgamated Collieries of W.A. Ltd.—£8,319 (being the amount of principal involved in hire-purchase instalments yet to fall due).
- (b) Griffin Coal Mining Company Ltd.—£252,459.
Western Collieries Ltd.—£326,000.
- (c) Amalgamated Collieries of W.A. Ltd.—£3,965 (for hire of Mines Department's falling drill).

One wonders whether it is the desire of this Government to place more coal orders with the Griffin Coal Mining Co. Ltd. and Western Collieries Ltd. in order that they can liquidate some of their indebtedness to this Government. We have already been told tonight that Amalgamated Collieries received substantial assistance from the Government and that it had repaid practically all the amount. At the time

the question was asked, there was apparently only £8,329 owing. The other two companies owe substantial amounts: Griffin, £252,459; and Western Collieries Ltd., £326,000.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Your Government tried to keep all those companies going.

Mr. MOIR: That fact does not enter the dispute at all. What I am asking is whether the fact that those companies owe so much money is the reason that the Government wants to place such a large proportion of the coal orders with them in order that they might repay the Government the amounts of money they owe; and not to obtain slightly cheaper coal.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: The reason is to be as fair as possible to everyone; and for incidental reasons. That probably is an incidental reason.

Mr. MOIR: I would not consider it very fair to throw a considerable number of men on the industrial scrapheap in order that the Government might recover money lent to those companies. I would not consider that very fair at all.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: It is purely an incidental reason.

Mr. Perkins: I am sure that the miners will be required, no matter which companies get the orders.

Mr. MOIR: When one considers what the Government is doing with money in other directions, and how lavish it has been, and the charges which it has imposed, one wonders whether this is not another method of filling the coffers a little.

Mr. Rowberry: Why shouldn't the farmers pay their way in the matter of transport?

Mr. MOIR: I now want to have something to say about other types of mining. I am pleased to see that the Government has been able to obtain the services of 11 geologists who will be added to the geological staff. During our term of office, although we tried to obtain these qualified people, we found it impossible; but apparently this Government has been successful in getting these additional men.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Not as yet.

Mr. MOIR: Provision is just made for them?

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Yes.

Mr. MOIR: We found that the private companies searching for minerals and oil were attracting all the geologists as they became trained, and the department could not get them. It did not matter how we tried, and even though we advertised far and wide, we could not get any results.

Mr. Rowberry: The sum of £10,000 won't pay for 11 geologists.

Mr. MOIR: I wish to refer now to an answer I received to a question I asked today of the Minister representing the Minister for Mines. I do not want him to think that I am blaming him for the answer, because I know he only passes on the answers he gets from the Minister concerned. The answer I got was very confusing when I compared it with an answer the member for East Perth received to a similar type of question that he asked. My question today was—

- (1) What footage of diamond drilling of ore bodies has been carried out since April, 1959—
 - (a) by the department; and
 - (b) by private contractors?
- (2) What footage has been drilled—
 - (a) in gold-bearing ore bodies; and
 - (b) in other ore bodies?
- (3) What amount has been paid to private contractors for these services?

The answer I received was that the sum paid to private contractors was £19,487. Private contractors drilled in ore bodies other than gold 4,783 feet, and they drilled in goldbearing ore bodies 1,820 feet, making a total of 6,603 feet, for which they were paid, according to this answer today, a figure of £19,487.

I now want to draw the Minister's attention to a reply to a question asked by the member for East Perth of the Minister representing the Minister for Mines. It is reported in Vol. No. 3 of *Hansard* at page 227. The question reads as follows:—

- (1) Is any form of work, drilling or otherwise, being performed by the State on the iron ore leases of B.H.P. at Koolyanobbing?
- (2) If so—
 - (a) what is the nature of the work;
 - (b) when did work commence;
 - (c) what expenditure has been incurred to date;
 - (d) why is the State involved in this expenditure?

The part to which I take exception, and which I think demands some explanation, is the reply to that question to the effect that the total cost of drilling was £35,928. That was the cost of drilling done by private contractors in iron ore deposits. Yet I am told today that the sum paid to private contractors was £19,487. We must remember, too, that out of the total footage bored 1,820 feet was bored in gold-bearing ore bodies. Therefore there is a large discrepancy and I think it requires some explanation.

Even if it is the difference between what was paid to the private contractors and the total cost of the drilling, it makes the position even a more extraordinary one,

because we find that for the footage drilled, if the total cost, apart from what was paid to contractors, was £35,000, the cost was £7 6s. a foot, which is extremely high in anybody's language.

I would be glad if the Minister could tell me the position in regard to the survey south of Kalgoorlie which was started some 18 months or two years ago to explore all that auriferous area between Coolgardie and Norseman. At the time, it was estimated that the survey would take about two years to complete, and I was wondering whether the Government has pressed on with it.

It is pleasing to see that great interest is being taken in mining in this State by the different companies. In the Press today we saw a statement that the Union Carbide Company is prospecting for vanadium, and I was wondering whether the Minister could obtain some information in regard to Western Aluminium No Liability with respect to its bauxite project. That company has issued a report which states that drilling on its leases has progressed satisfactorily, and that drilling to date indicates reserves of 37,000,000 tons of bauxite of fairly high grade.

What I am concerned about is the fact that further on in the report the company has this to say—

In April, 1960, the Western Australian Government approved the mining and export to Japan of bauxite from the company's leases and initially authorised the export of up to 1,250,000 tons during the next five years. This enabled the company to conclude arrangements for three 10,000 ton trial shipments of bauxite, one to each Japanese producer, for plant scale tests. The shipments have been made during July and August. If these tests are satisfactory the producers have indicated that, subject to negotiations on price, they could take up to 300,000 tons per year.

When it is remembered that the area over which bauxite is obtained, or where it is believed to be available in Western Australia, stretches from New Norcia in the north almost to Bridgetown in the south, through the Darling Ranges where there are extensive deposits, it is heartwarming to know that the drilling programme carried out by this company has proved that at least 37,000,000 tons of bauxite, of fairly high grade, is available.

This reserve was granted during the term of the Labor Government, when I was Minister, and in the discussions we had with the company it was said that the ultimate aim of the company was to set up an aluminium industry in this State. I believe that at the time that was the company's aim; but I think there is cause for alarm if the company is concerned only with exporting the bauxite to countries

outside Australia particularly if it has no intention of going on with its original idea of setting up an aluminium industry in this State.

I do not take exception to the fact that the company proposes to export 1,250,000 tons of this ore; but the amount of money obtained from that should be used by the company to start an industry in this State. The part of the report which alarms me is where the company says that the Government has initially authorised the export. One could logically take that to mean that the company has hopes that the Government will authorise the export of larger quantities in the future; and with that I must disagree, because I believe that the minerals we have here, if it is at all possible, should be treated in the State. If it is possible to have metals fabricated here, that should be done.

We should not have a repetition of what has happened with our iron ore at Yampi Sound, when a previous Government handed over those deposits to a wealthy company, lock, stock, and barrel, for a very paltry mining royalty. With a little bit of foresight and bargaining, we could probably have had a substantial iron and steel industry established in the State, and the ore from those deposits could have been processed here.

There is one other matter I want to mention and it concerns the nickel deposits at Blackstone Range. A company known as International Nickel obtained a reservation, and when it carried out exploratory work it discovered nickel on that reserve; although it was said to be of low quality. The company obtained from the previous Government a reservation to protect its interests while it tried to discover ways and means to work the deposits economically.

Since that time we have heard very little, or practically nothing, of this company and I think the Government should keep a close watch on developments to see whether the company is prepared to go ahead and work the deposits. If it is not prepared to do that it should not be permitted to hold them for an unreasonable time. They should be thrown open, and if any company is prepared to go ahead and work the deposits it should be allowed to do so.

Mr. Perkins: I think that camp is deserted. We had trouble with natives breaking into it.

Mr. MOIR: I am not concerned about the fact that natives broke into the buildings that were left, but the fact that these people are doing nothing about those deposits. They have an obligation to carry out investigations and to endeavour to find ways and means of working the deposits. We do not want this company to do what it has done in other countries. It obtains nickel deposits, ties them up, and does nothing about them. This company has a

virtual monopoly of the world's nickel supplies, and I do not want to see our supplies added to the reserves which are tied up in other countries.

Mr. Perkins: How far are they inside our border? They are right over on the South Australian border.

Mr. MOIR: But they are inside our border; they belong to Western Australia. I noticed that, as a result of a very keen interest that was taken in the loaming methods of finding gold in Kalgoorlie, a series of lectures was given by Mr. Wall, a well-known prospector. These lectures were largely attended, and they helped stimulate considerable interest in prospecting.

I also noticed that the Government has seen fit to offer a reward of £250 to anybody who finds 50 ounces of gold by the loaming method. I wish to commend the Government for that action; but I am surprised that the Government did not extend its reward to people who found that quantity of gold other than by the loaming method. The reward should have been extended to those who happened to find gold in new ground; because it is most commendable for anyone to find that amount of gold by any method.

Accordingly, I cannot see why the Government should have confined the reward to people who happened to find 50 ounces of gold only by the loaming method. It could mean that a person might have done a considerable amount of work and have discovered an ore body; but if he had not found that gold by the loaming method he would get no reward at all, in spite of the fact that he might have put in quite as much work and used as much skill and knowledge as are required by the loaming method.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Obviously there must be some reason for it.

Mr. MOIR: The reason is to encourage people to use the loaming method. As I have said it is most commendable for a person to find gold by any method at all; particularly that quantity of gold. Various methods are used in the search for gold; and, in my opinion, a person who finds gold by one method deserves as much commendation as a person who finds it by another method.

Progress reported, and leave granted to sit again.

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD BETTING BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Council with a schedule of four amendments.

Council's Amendments

Schedule of four amendments made by the Council now considered.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. Roberts) in the Chair; Mr. Perkins (Minister for Police) in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: The Council's amendments are as follows:—

No. 1.

Clause 12, page 9, line 23—Delete the words "other member" and substitute the words "the person appointed his deputy when".

No. 2.

Clause 19, page 12—Insert after subclause (2) a new subclause to stand as subclause (3) as follows:—

(3) The liability of the Treasurer at any one time under any guarantee or guarantees given by him under this Act shall not exceed in the aggregate the sum of three hundred and fifty thousand pounds inclusive of interest and any other charges.

No. 3.

Clause 47, page 28—Delete all words from and including the word "No" in line 28 down to and including the word "loiter" in line 34 and substitute the following:—

If any member of the Police Force of the State has reasonable grounds for suspecting that any person is standing or loitering in any street or public place for the purpose of or with the intention of betting contrary to this Act, the person shall not refuse or neglect to move on when requested by that member of the Police Force so to do whether such standing or loitering causes or tends to cause any obstruction to traffic or not in any street or public place.

No. 4.

New clause—Insert after clause 55 a new clause to stand as clause 56 as follows:—

56. (1) The Board shall prepare and submit to the Minister, not later than the thirtieth day of September in each calendar year, a report on the exercise and performance by the Board of its powers, functions and duties under this Act during the twelve months ended on the preceding thirty-first day of July.

(2) The Minister shall lay the report of the Board before each House of Parliament within six sitting days of that House after the receipt of the report by the Minister.

Mr. PERKINS: I move—

That the amendments be agreed to. I do not think they are controversial. The amendments place in the Bill safeguards additional to those which it previously contained. One of the amendments clears up the point as to whether the chairman or the deputy chairman will preside at meetings. I think this point was raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. It was checked here and an amendment was incorporated in another place.

There is also provision for a limit of the guarantee of the Treasurer to £350,000; and the clause dealing with loitering has been reworded to relate it to betting. The last amendment provides for a report to be submitted to Parliament. This had been overlooked in the Bill as introduced here.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

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

House adjourned at 10.10 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 15th November, 1960

CONTENTS

	Page
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—	
Colliie Coalminers : Compulsory levy by unions	2689
Medina Housing : Availability of State Housing Commission homes	2689
Bentley Hospital : Provision of land	2689
MOTION—	
Fisheries Act : Inquiry by Select Committee	2689
BILLS—	
Betting Control Act Amendment Bill (No. 2)—	
1r.	2689
2r.	2693
Com.	2694
	2705
Country Areas Water Supply Act Amendment Bill : 2r.	2697
Married Persons (Summary Relief) Bill : 2r.	2716
Milk Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	2723
Optometrists Act Amendment Bill—	
Com.	2695
Recom.	2697
Simultaneous Deaths Bill—	
1r. ; 2r.	2691
State Concerns (Prevention of Disposal) Bill : Recom.	2705
Veterinary Surgeons Bill : Report ; 3r.	2692

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.