

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 23rd August, 1967

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

QUESTIONS (21): ON NOTICE

STATE SHIPS, RAILWAYS, AND M.T.T. BUSES

Fares and Freights Increases

1. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) On how many occasions since 1959, when the present Government took office, have fares and freights been increased on—

(a) State ships;

(b) railways;

(c) M.T.T. buses (fares only)?

(2) What was the amount of each increase?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

(1) (a) Three.

(b) Suburban fares—five.

Country fares—three.

Rail freights—twice.

(c) Four.

(2) (a) 1st November, 1962:

General cargo increased \$3 per ton.

North-West concessional fares increased 25 per cent.

General fares increased 50 per cent.

1st October, 1965:

General cargo increased \$3 per ton.

Clothing, groceries and other household goods increased \$2 per ton.

Fares increased 20 per cent.

1st October, 1966:

General cargo including clothing groceries and household goods increased \$1 per ton.

Fares increased 15 per cent.

On each occasion consequential adjustments were made to special cargo rates such as dangerous goods, freezer goods, etc.

(b) The amount of each increase was—

Rail Fares:

Suburban

	%
1st September, 1959	20
1st September, 1960	12½
1st November, 1963	20
1st October, 1965	5
1st October, 1966	21

Country

1st November, 1963	16½
1st October, 1965	5
1st October, 1966	11

Rail Freights: %

Goods

1st September, 1960 8

1st October, 1965 5

Parcels

1st September, 1960 5

1st October, 1965 5

(c) The increases were varied dependent on the sections of travel. I am having a chart prepared showing a comparison of the fares and increases over the different sections. This information will be made available to the honourable member as soon as I receive it.

SCHOOL CHILDREN

Fees at Boarding Schools

2. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for Education:

With reference to my question on the 3rd August, 1967, re away from home allowance above the 26th parallel, and his reply thereto—

(1) What was the cost per annum for boarders at colleges in the metropolitan area when the away-from-home allowance was granted in 1946?

(2) What was the cost in 1947, 1965, and 1967 when the respective allowance was:

1947—£50 (\$100);

1965—£80 (\$160);

1967—\$160?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) and (2) There are no Government residential schools in the metropolitan area.

The department has no information about boarding costs, etc. at independent schools.

Mr. Rhatigan: Is it not possible to obtain them?

ROAD WIDENING

Damage to Dwelling Houses

3. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

(1) When plans for road widening in built up areas involving the construction of roads within a few feet of existing dwellings are being drawn, is consideration given to the probable damage which will result from vibration caused by passing vehicles?

(2) Have any complaints of damage so caused been made to the Main Roads Department?

(3) Is the department aware of any such damage?

(4) Has the department concerned itself with the problem sufficiently

- to cause it to have likely trouble spots kept under observation?
- (5) If it can be established that vibration from vehicles using roads built too close to existing dwellings, has actually caused damage to the dwellings, what action is he prepared to take?
 - (6) If no steps have so far been taken to keep likely places of resultant damage under observation, will he see that action is taken forthwith, particularly along High Road, Melville?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) As a result of scientific investigations carried out in the past, the Main Roads Department is not convinced that the vibrations from heavy traffic cause damage to nearby buildings. In the latest series of extensive tests carried out in the Mt. Pleasant area when sand for the Mitchell Freeway was being carted, in every case it was found that the vibrations caused by heavy truck traffic were of such low order that there was no possibility of any damage to houses.
- (2) The department has on occasions, where a road reserve has been widened, received letters alleging that traffic is damaging houses. However, it has not been established that this damage was brought about by vibrations from passing traffic.
- (3) No.
- (4) In view of the knowledge gained from its investigations, the department does not consider it necessary to keep any particular locality under observation.
- (5) The Main Roads Department does not believe that it can be established that vibrations from vehicles will damage houses.
- (6) In view of the answers given to (1) to (5), no purpose would be served in keeping houses under observation.
- (3) During the last financial year how many authorised persons carried out experiments on animals?
- (4) Were the records of every authorised person inspected during the year?
- (5) Will he supply a list of all persons authorised last financial year to conduct experiments on animals, and show the number of times the records of each were inspected?
- (6) How many experiments by authorised persons had relation to the effects of fluoride ingestion?
- (7) What records of experiments by authorised persons under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act are kept by the Police Department?
- (8) If experiments on animals in connection with the effects of fluoride ingestion were carried out, is it possible to ascertain the results of such experiments?
- (9) How many persons authorised to carry out experiments actually performed no experiments at all during the last financial year?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Regulation 8 was one of several regulations introduced to make section 6 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act operative.
- (2) Yes, as far as has been ascertained.
- (3) Thirty persons renewed their authority to conduct experiments.
- (4) The majority have been inspected.
- (5) The full list is published in the *Government Gazette* on the 17th March, 1967. All except those in the University have so far been inspected.
- (6) None.
- (7) None.
- (8) Not applicable.
- (9) As far as ascertained all have carried out experiments.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT

Experiments by Authorised Persons

4. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) What were the reasons which prompted the promulgation of regulation 8, on the 16th October, 1959, under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1920-1959?
- (2) Are the records which are required to be kept in fact being kept complete, in accordance with the regulation?

DENTISTRY

Examination of School Children

5. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many children had their mouths inspected under the free school dental scheme during the year 1965-66?
- (2) How many of the children inspected and found to require attention did not have it because their parents ignored the notices sent out?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Mouths inspected in the 12 months ended December, 1966—14,095.
- (2) 553.

RENTAL AND PURCHASE HOMES *Processing of Applications*

6. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) On what date did the State Housing Commission commence processing applications for—
 - (a) rental homes;
 - (b) purchase homes;
 for specified districts lodged in May, 1965?
- (2) Are these applications still being processed?
- (3) If "Yes," how many applications for—
 - (a) rental homes;
 - (b) purchase homes;
 are at present awaiting turn?
- (4) If "No," on what dates, respectively, was processing for—
 - (a) rental homes;
 - (b) purchase homes;
 advanced to June, 1965?
- (5) During the time the processing of May, 1965, applications has been proceeding, how many—
 - (a) rental homes;
 - (b) purchase homes;
 have been allotted and how many new applications, respectively, have been received?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

7. *This question was postponed.*

WATER BORES AT CARNARVON

Number and Adequacy

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

- (1) How many bores are used to supply Carnarvon with domestic water?
- (2) At peak periods can these bores supply the full requirements of the town?
- (3) Is it considered that the present water supply will be adequate when the houses under construction by the State Housing Commission are completed and occupied?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Five bores and two wells.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.

Salt and Fluoride Content

9. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

What are the parts per million in each of the bores supplying Carnarvon with domestic water in respect of—

- (a) salt; and
- (b) fluoride?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Samples of water from Carnarvon analysed this year showed the

The answer refers to the metropolitan area only, which in turn is divided into Perth, Fremantle, Midland, and Kwinana. The answer is as follows:—

(1)	Perth	Fremantle	Midland	Kwinana
(a) Not yet commenced		November, 1965	January, 1967	August, 1965
(b) Not yet commenced		April, 1967	January, 1967	December, 1966
(2)	Perth	Fremantle	Midland	Kwinana
(a) Not applicable (see answer to (1))		Yes	Yes	No
(b) Not applicable (see answer to (1))		Yes	Yes	No
(3)	Perth	Fremantle	Midland	Kwinana
(a) Not applicable		31	8	Not applicable
(b) Not applicable		47	11	Not applicable (see answer to (2))
(4)	Perth	Fremantle	Midland	Kwinana
(a) Not applicable		Not applicable	Not applicable	August, 1965
(b) Not applicable		Not applicable	Not applicable	February, 1967
(5)	Perth	Fremantle	Midland	Kwinana
(a) Homes allotted	Not applicable	535	32
Applications received	Not applicable	1,402	72
(b) Homes allotted	Not applicable	1	17
Applications received	Not applicable	213	25

NOTE: Purchase homes allotted refers only to homes occupied, though others under construction have actually been allotted.

following results in parts per million:—

	Sodium Chloride (NaCl)	Fluoride
Pumphouse Well	1,240	0.3
Budgie Bore	274	1.8
C Bore	487	1.0
H Bore	340	0.4 to 1.4
A Bore	331	1.6

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

Block at Canning Bridge: Purchase

10. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) When did the Government purchase the block of land at Canning Bridge, situate on the Canning Highway at the intersection of Kishorn and Ogilvie Roads?
- (2) What is the area of this piece of land?
- (3) What was the purchase price?
- (4) What form of tenure does the Totalisator Agency Board hold?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) The Government did not purchase a block of land at Canning Bridge. However, the Totalisator Agency Board purchased the block on the 4th May, 1964.
- (2) 2 roods 3.5 perches.
- (3) \$21,000.
- (4) The land was subdivided and a portion sold. The other section is held by the board on a freehold basis.

LAND AT BALLADONIA

Agreement with Western Australia Development Corporation

11. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Can he give any indication of the exact boundary location of the 4.5 million acres of potential farming and grazing land in regard to which the Government entered into negotiations with the Western Australia Development Corporation?
- (2) What were the broad lines of the agreement entered into?
- (3) To what financial consideration was the company committed and over what period?
- (4) Up to the time the Government withdrew certain privileges from the company, what exploratory or investigational work had been completed and at what cost?
- (5) Is the Government in possession of a full report disclosing the extent and result of any research carried out?
- (6) Is it a fact that approximately one million acres in the western sector of the temporary land reserves granted to the Western Australia Development Corpora-

tion situate in the Balladonia region are capable of development under normal agricultural technique?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) The area concerned is shown bordered green on the plan which it is requested be tabled for one week.
- (2) No agreement with the corporation has been entered into and negotiations are still proceeding.
- (3) In the absence of any formal agreement between the State and the corporation, the financial commitments of the latter are not established.
- (4) The corporation has not been granted any privileges, only permission to carry out investigational work without obligation by the Government. The corporation's costs are not known to the Government so far.
- (5) The Government is being kept informed of the corporation's activities.
- (6) Soil classifications are proceeding in order to ascertain the agricultural potential of this area. No firm commitments have been made with the corporation concerning the grant of any land.

The plan was tabled for one week.

RENTAL HOMES

Broome, Derby, Wyndham, and Kununurra: Completions, and Outstanding Applications

12. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many State rental homes were built in the towns of Broome, Derby, Wyndham, and Kununurra during the last financial year?
- (2) What is the waiting list at each of these towns?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1)

Broome	....	....	....	Nil
Derby	....	....	....	7
Wyndham	....	....	....	5
Kununurra	....	....	....	Nil
- (2) As at the 23rd August, 1967, the following applications were outstanding:—

Broome	....	....	....	16
Derby	....	....	....	32
Wyndham	....	....	....	5
Kununurra	....	....	....	38

The waiting lists in each of the towns will be reduced when the following houses currently under construction are completed:—

Broome	....	....	....	17
Derby	....	....	....	12
Wyndham	....	....	....	4
Kununurra	....	....	....	8

SCHOOL ENROLMENTS

Primary Schools, Schools of the Air, and Correspondence Classes

13. Mr. BURT asked the Minister for Education:

As at the 30th June, 1967, how many pupils were enrolled in—
 (a) primary schools;
 (b) schools of the air;
 (c) correspondence classes;
 in Western Australia?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (a) February, 1967—109,292.
 (b) The 1st August, 1967—227.
 (c) The 1st August, 1967—1,130.
 Figures are not available for the 30th June.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

York Road-Northam Road Junction

14. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is he aware that recently there was a fatality at the junction of the York and Northam roads?
 (2) What is proposed to be done with this junction in order to prevent further accidents?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.
 (2) The Main Roads Department has done extensive scrub clearing recently and is investigating a scheme to remove a considerable area of the embankment on the northern side of the junction. This will improve visibility at the junction and will enable motorists to observe the movement of opposing traffic.

RAILWAYS

Closure of Toilets at Stations

15. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is it intended to close all toilets used by the public at—
 (a) unattended stations;
 (b) attended stations;
 in the metropolitan area?
 (2) How many toilets have been closed in the last six months?
 (3) At what stations were closures made?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Yes, with the exception of Perth, Fremantle, and Midland.
 (2) and (3) Mosman Park, Shenton Park, Mt. Lawley, Meltham, Maylands, Bayswater, Victoria Park: one gents' and one ladies' toilet at each station. East Perth: one gents' and two ladies' toilets.

New Terminal at Midland

16. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Have tenders for the new railway terminal at Midland been called?
 (2) When will tenders close?
 (3) When is it expected the non-stop service to Perth will be operating?
 (4) Are any additional buses to operate into hills and Swan areas when the railway non-stop service is operating?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) Tenders were previously called for the erection of the terminal. It had been hoped to avoid the necessity to call fresh tenders, but it has now been decided that this will be necessary. No date has yet been fixed but the 31st October, 1967, is anticipated.
 (3) Inauguration of the new service will be dependent on completion of the Midland terminal, and the delivery of new rail cars and trailers now under construction.
 (4) It is intended that the proposals for co-ordinated rail and bus services at Midland will be carefully studied with the object of providing the best possible service to these areas.

17. *This question was postponed.*

HOSPITALS

Policy of Appointment of Administrators

18. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Was the decision of the Board of Management of the Royal Perth Hospital to advertise overseas for an administrator based upon a preconceived idea that it would not be possible to obtain a satisfactory applicant in Western Australia or Australia?
 (2) If "No," what was the reason?
 (3) What is the policy of the other large metropolitan hospitals in connection with the appointment of administrators?
 (4) What is the position in regard to major hospitals in the Eastern States?
 (5) What is the view of the Government regarding the appointment of administrators?
 (6) Were applications for the vacant position at Royal Perth Hospital received from persons very well qualified and of long experience in hospital administration?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Not so far as I am aware.

- (2) This is frequently done in order to secure the best available applicant.
- (3) Not known. I refer the honourable member to section 19 of the Hospitals Act.
- (4) Not known.
- (5) To select the best applicant with a preference to those with local knowledge and experience.
- (6) Yes.

SCHOOLS

Firewood: Supplies by Ruttico Bros.

19. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Education:

Referring to question 15 of the 22nd August, 1967, what was the total quantity of firewood ordered from Ruttico Bros. by the various State Government schools for the period under review?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Approximately 950 tons.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Whipping of Aborigines: Premier's Opinion

20. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier: Does he consider that persons such as justices of the peace who publicly advocate whippings of aborigines are suited to the task of passing judgment and imposing penalties on offenders, particularly youths, at a time when emphasis is being placed on reform?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

The question asked seeks an expression of opinion from the Premier. The Premier is temporarily absent from the State and I am not aware of his views on the matter.

I point out, however, that a question seeking an expression of opinion is given in *Erskine May's Parliamentary Practice*, 17th (1964) edition, page 352, as the first example of an inadmissible question.

SWAN COTTAGE HOMES

Government Assistance

21. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) What assistance has been extended by the present or previous State Governments to Swan Cottage Homes Inc. of Bentley, in any way, including grants or sale of land, gifts, loans, donations, etc.?

- (2) On approximately what dates were the various grants, etc., made?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) A total amount of \$34,312 has been paid to the Swan Cottage Homes for—
 - (a) capital grant towards cost of construction of social centre;
 - (b) subsidies for purchase of furniture and reticulation of grounds;
 - (c) assistance towards net operating costs of running of social centre.

In addition, 18 acres 2 roods 35 perches of land as a Crown Grant in Trust for the purposes of aged people's homes has been made.

- (2) As to finance, over a period from the 3rd August, 1962, to the 9th September, 1966. As to land, portion in 1960 and portion in 1963-64.

QUESTIONS (2): WITHOUT NOTICE

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

York Road-Northam Road Junction

1. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Police:

This question follows on the answer given to question 14 on today's notice paper dealing with the junction of the Northam and York Roads and a recent fatality. On the 24th November, 1965, the same query was put forward. The Minister replied—

This has been considered, but I feel the solution at this particular junction is that some channeling of the traffic is required. This matter is being investigated, and when I receive a report I will inform the honourable member what is contained in it.

I wonder if that report has been compiled yet; and, if so, could I be shown the contents of it?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

I recall the occasion when the member for Avon asked this question. This really is a matter for my colleague, the Minister for Works. Nevertheless, I asked the Minister for Works if the Main Roads Department could undertake some survey of this particular section of road in order to include channelisation.

I also understand that it was undertaking the investigation referred to.

I cannot recall having received any comments from the Main Roads Department in this regard, but in view of the question now put to me I will undertake to make further inquiry.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Whipping of Aborigines: Deputy Premier's Attitude to Question

2. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Deputy Premier:

I refer to his statement in the answer to question 20 to the effect that it was contrary to parliamentary practice that I should ask a question of the Premier seeking an expression of his opinion on a particular matter. I draw his attention to the third part of question 8 on today's notice paper where the member for Gascoyne asked another Minister whether he considered a certain situation measured up to what the member for Gascoyne had in mind, and the Minister concerned had no difficulty whatsoever in giving his opinion.

I ask the Deputy Premier, therefore, if the reply, in quoting Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice*, was a desire on his part to avoid answering the question which obviously the Government finds somewhat embarrassing?

The SPEAKER: Order! I cannot allow that question. The original question was out of order, but I allowed it, although it was queried by the Clerk. I felt that the answer could be based on the lines of Government policy. The proper procedure for the member for Balcatta to follow is to frame his question on those lines.

Mr. GRAHAM: If you will permit my saying so, Sir, I would mention that yesterday evening the Clerk approached me in connection with the question and he suggested, no doubt instigated by yourself, that certain words at the end of the question should be deleted to make it acceptable and so that it should conform. I readily agreed to the deletion of the words, but you can imagine my astonishment this afternoon when the treatment accorded to it was as though I had made no deletion whatsoever.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member is quite correct; the Clerk did refer the question to me. I would like to make my position quite clear. It could be that the Government has considered this matter—I do not know

—in which case the question could have been answered. However it seems the Government has not done so, and it is merely a matter of expressing a personal opinion. If the question had been one concerning Government policy, or something of that nature, it could have been answered by the Government as to whether something had or had not been done.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: ELEVENTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 22nd August, on the following motion by Mr. Elliott:—

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

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

MR. O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Transport) [4.53 p.m.]: Firstly, I join with other members of this House in expressing my deep regret at the untimely death of our late parliamentary colleague and friend, Mr. George Cornell. I take this opportunity, too, to express my sympathy to his wife and family at his sad passing. I also offer my congratulations to the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition on their recent appointment to those offices. I now say to the member for Northam, who last session occupied the position of Leader of the Opposition, that when I first came into this House I obtained a great deal of pleasure from listening to his fine oratory. I found many of his speeches both interesting and enlightening, and I believe he is a tremendous loss to the front Opposition bench. No doubt, however, in his capacity as member for Northam we will still hear him battling for the requirements of his electorate.

I feel also I should offer my congratulations to *Hansard* on the remarkably fine effort it has made in the last 12 months, and in this year particularly, in having the proof number of *Hansard* distributed on Tuesday of each week. From the point of view of any member it makes a tremendous difference, when he takes his place in the House on a Tuesday, to be able to refer to the debates that were made during the previous week. Also documents which are quoted by members to the House, and which are borrowed by reporters for publication in *Hansard*, are always promptly returned.

The main reason for my speaking to this debate is to reply briefly to some comments made by members of the Opposition. I do not wish to delay the House for any length of time, and the extent of my remarks will not be great. When the member for Victoria Park was speaking to the debate on the Address-in-Reply he referred to the Railways Department and commented on the manner in which it handled the pay increases for the railway officers.

Mr. Davies: Those comments were made on the Supply Bill.

Mr. O'CONNOR: I am sorry; that is quite correct. At the time he was speaking I did make some comment to the honourable member by way of an interjection. I promised I would have the matter further investigated. From the way he spoke I was under the impression he was referring to a complaint made by the union concerned and that it was upset over the particular matter to which he referred. Following inquiries I made of the department, I was handed some papers, and the following are excerpts from the transcript of the hearing relating to the closing remarks of Mr. O. M. Devitt, general secretary of the union, when presenting the union's claims for these increases before Mr. Wallwork:—

Now before concluding, Sir, I would first like to say at this stage to thank you very much for bringing this hearing on so promptly, and also like to record our appreciation to the commissioner of his agreement to waive the six months limiting period and also to thank the industrial officers of the department for their co-operation with me in this regard.

This indicates quite clearly that the union appreciated the efforts the Railways Department made in regard to this particular claim, and from my own point of view I made it clear previously that the documents relating to this claim were placed on my table on either the 17th or the 18th July and were signed on the same day. The claim was placed before the court and was granted on the 21st July. So there was very little delay from the time I first saw the papers until the claim was granted.

Mr. Davies: The complaint at that time by the union was that there was a delay of three weeks.

Mr. O'CONNOR: From the way the member for Victoria Park spoke I thought the union was perturbed about the matter, and I would not, from what I had heard, have gained the impression it was. I will now quote the comments on Mr. Devitt's remarks to Mr. Wallwork. They are as follows:—

These expressions of appreciation of the department's co-operation were reiterated by the executive of the union at the meeting held on the 26th July, 1967. The following motions were

carried as are recorded in the published minutes:—

National Wage decision.

That the above increases for juniors be accepted, and we record our appreciation of the commissioner in waiving the six months limiting period and thank the officers of the industrial and staff section for their co-operation in having the board hear the claim.

That we record our appreciation to the general secretary for his efforts on our behalf in obtaining these increases.

As I have said, I gained the impression from the remarks made by the member for Victoria Park that the union was particularly perturbed, but from the information I have read to the House I do not think it is quite as perturbed as the honourable member led us to believe. In fact, I think the union sincerely appreciates the efforts of the department in trying to expedite these matters.

Last Wednesday evening, the 16th August, the member for Swan raised the matter of railways when speaking to the debate on the Address-in-Reply and his remarks appear on pages 442 and 443 of the No. 4 proof number of *Hansard* for this session. From the reading of those pages members will note that the member for Swan made some strange statements. I have become used to hearing him making strange statements in this House, and I am at a loss to understand from where he obtains his information. I quote some of the remarks made by the honourable member as follows:—

I would like to touch just briefly on the matter of the standard gauge railway. We have been led to believe for over five years now that this standard gauge railway will be operating within a very short time.

He went on to say that the people who are likely to be affected by the surveying of the line did not know where they stood.

Mr. Brady: The department has not called tenders yet, so how could the people know where they stand?

Mr. O'CONNOR: Some tenders were called five years ago, and if the honourable member had considered this matter closely he would have known about the calling of them. He would also have seen that the expected date of completion was December, 1968. Although no official time was set down for the completion of the standard gauge line, certain clauses in the agreement provide that particular parts of the line are to be completed in 1968. No indication that the standard gauge line would be finished in four, five, or six years has been given, as the member for Swan would have us believe. Should he have any doubt as to what he said I will repeat the statement he made—

We have been led to believe for over five years now that this standard gauge

railway will be operating within a very short time.

That is not a correct statement, and if the honourable member had taken time to consider it he would have realised it was incorrect.

According to the latest information we believe the standard gauge railway line will be completed by 1968, although there will be a necessity to establish temporary terminal facilities at East Perth. I can understand the concern of the member for Swan over the fact that the standard gauge railway terminal will not be established at Midland Junction, which is in his electorate. I can understand his desire to obtain the best for the area he represents. I believe that if the standard gauge line terminates at Midland it will be to the detriment of Western Australia generally.

Mr. Brady: It would save the taxpayers a great deal of money if the terminal was established at Midland.

Mr. O'CONNOR: In his speech the honourable member said—

Many millions of pounds could be saved to the taxpayers of Western Australia if it were built there.

That is a ridiculous statement.

Mr. Brady: It is correct.

Mr. O'CONNOR: If the honourable member were to examine the figures he would find that it will cost approximately \$1,000,000 to extend the line from Bassendean to East Perth. The rest of the costs of the project will be met by the project fund to which we pay 3/17ths, or approximately 15 per cent., of the total cost.

Mr. Jamieson: It would have saved a lot of money if the previous Minister for Railways had not made a hash of the negotiations.

Mr. O'CONNOR: I—and I am sure most members of the Opposition—agree that East Perth is the logical place for the terminal.

Mr. Jamieson: The previous Minister had the chance to get the standard gauge line extended to Fremantle.

Mr. Court: We have something much better in its place.

Mr. Jamieson: He gave it away.

Mr. O'CONNOR: If I might butt in to continue my speech, it will be to the detriment of Western Australia, generally, if the terminal is not established at East Perth.

Mr. Rowberry: Tell us why.

Mr. O'CONNOR: If the honourable member is capable of understanding, I shall give him the reason. Firstly large industries are established at Bassendean, among which are the superphosphate works. If the standard gauge line is not built through that district it will mean that much of the superphosphate—a tremendous amount of which is sent to coun-

try areas—will have to be placed in containers, taken to Kewdale and off-loaded from the narrow gauge trucks onto the standard gauge vans for dispatch to the country.

Mr. Brady: What is wrong with establishing superphosphate works in country areas?

Mr. O'CONNOR: Works have been established in several country areas. Surely the superphosphate works at Bassendean should be permitted to continue to operate without interruption, in view of the fact that a large sum of money has been expended to increase the output of superphosphate, to assist farmers to obtain superphosphate as they require it! I would have thought the member for Swan would be more interested to retain the superphosphate works in his electorate, because they provide employment for many people.

Mr. Brady: Factories have been erected in this built-up area, and that should not have been allowed.

Mr. O'CONNOR: Generally speaking, not only from the point of view of Western Australia, but of visitors from outside the State, it is more advantageous to extend the line to East Perth. I am not criticising the Opposition as a whole in respect of this matter, because some members opposite agree that East Perth is the place for the terminal. I have already said it might be necessary to provide temporary terminal facilities there. We expect the standard gauge railway line to be completed by 1968, and shortly after that the rail services should begin to operate.

The member for Swan said in his contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate that some 12 to 18 months ago he made representations on behalf of some people in Guildford in respect of house resumptions. He said he had not received any further advice. I did inquire into this matter, and I found that no representations had been made to me at any stage although the honourable member did make representations to the department. But he made no follow-up requests.

Mr. Brady: I made two follow-up requests.

Mr. O'CONNOR: Certainly not to me.

Mr. Brady: No; but I did make them to the department.

Mr. O'CONNOR: When the honourable member was speaking last week, I asked him to supply me with the names of the people involved.

Mr. Brady: They have been sent to you.

Mr. O'CONNOR: They have not yet been received.

Mr. Brady: You can check your mail in the morning.

Mr. O'CONNOR: I did today. If the honourable member was sufficiently interested, he could have supplied the names when he was speaking last Wednesday. I have made some inquiries, and I am advised that a final decision will be made within two weeks, after which the honourable member will be notified.

I must correct another statement made by the member for Swan. He said that a minimum amount of information came from the Railways Department and its officers in connection with the standard gauge railway. He went on to say—

All along the line there seems to be a secret society at work. Nobody wants to tell us what is happening.

This refers to a letter which he sent me on the 15th May, in which he sought the latest decision on the proposed establishment of the standard gauge railway terminal at Midland Junction. I think all members, with the exception of the member for Swan, knew at that stage that no definite decision had been made, although the Government was endeavouring to have the terminal established at East Perth because it considered East Perth to be the most suitable place. He asked whether certain facilities would be available.

I replied to that letter and advised the honourable member that if the interstate terminal was established at Midland, it was probable that this and the rapid transit terminal would combine to make a larger modern structure in the area. I also advised that should the interstate terminal be established at Midland, certain shops, toilet facilities, etc., would be included. This reply apparently did not satisfy the honourable member. He wanted me to advise him where the terminal was to be established. The honourable member was not justified in saying that a secret society was at work, because the State Government itself did not know where the terminal was to be located. It did not know until late in July.

The announcement of the location was made after a Cabinet decision on the 7th August, and on the following morning a statement appeared in the Press. The claim of the honourable member that we were not prepared to give him the information he required was completely untrue. I gave him all the information that was available at that time. I could not give him any information that I did not have.

Mr. Jamieson: More reappraisals within the ring road system!

Mr. O'CONNOR: I regret that the member for Kalgoorlie is not in his seat. He asked a question concerning warning signals and hooter devices on railway locomotives, and pointed out that the G.M. locomotives had better sounding devices than the ones used on the local loco-

motives. He requested that investigations be made into the fitting of those devices to local locomotives.

At present we have 23 G.M. mainline locomotives on order. I believe they will have devices, similar to those mentioned by the member for Kalgoorlie, fitted to them. I have passed his inquiries on to the Commissioner of Railways, and I will advise the honourable member of the result as soon as I possibly can.

The member for Kalgoorlie, the member for Murchison, and the Leader of the Opposition brought up the question of the proposed closure of the Kalgoorlie-Leonora railway line. Since then an announcement has been made by the Government that the service on that line will be continued until the 1st September, 1968. A further period has been granted because of the mineral potential of the area and the amount of prospecting that is going on. The Kalgoorlie-Leonora service costs the Government approximately \$160,000 a year. The suspension of services on the line—instead of closure of the line—will effect a saving of only \$61,000 a year. Deducting the amount of subsidy that would be paid, the saving will be less than \$50,000.

If the rail services are suspended on a line such as that, a considerable amount of deterioration to the sleepers would occur, because of white ants and the regrowth of vegetation. For that reason a suspension of the service was considered to be unwarranted. The Government has now decided to leave this line open until September of next year.

The member for Claremont made some comments in relation to river transport. A fair amount of research has been undertaken into this mode of transport. I believe the river is probably the greatest freeway we have, and it requires very little or no maintenance. A number of suitable landings exist, particularly towards Fremantle. Various spots could be developed to provide jetties and parking facilities to connect with fast moving water craft used to convey people to and from the metropolitan area.

The use of a hydrofoil on the Swan River would not be practicable, because the one being used in Sydney Harbour has a draft of about 11 feet. To operate successfully on the Swan River such a craft would have to be designed with a draft of four feet. For that reason the use of a hydrofoil has been ruled out. The hovercraft is a very costly type of vessel or ship.

Mr. Fletcher: I think it is an apparatus.

Mr. O'CONNOR: The cost of providing a hovercraft to accommodate 38 passengers is very high—something like \$250,000. The operational cost is 10c per head per mile, and that is too costly a form of transport for the people of the metropolitan area to use while travelling to and from work.

The operational cost of a hydrofoil is also very high. The one which operates in Sydney between Manly and Circular Quay makes a slight profit, but we should take into account the large population of that city and the fact that the hydrofoil is used almost continuously either for the transport of people to and from work, or of sightseers travelling around the Heads. I am given to understand that this service breaks even, or makes a small profit. A hydrofoil service on the Swan River would not manage to break even.

Mr. Graham: That also applies to metropolitan transport.

Mr. O'CONNOR: That is so. Such a craft requires a draft of 11 feet, and it could not be used on the Swan River. If the member for Claremont wishes to come to my office I can show him details and plans which have been drawn up in connection with river transport, along the lines he suggested.

MR. RHATIGAN (Kimberley) [5.14 p.m.]: I join with other members in expressing my sympathy to Mrs. Cornell and her family on the untimely death of the late George Cornell. In my view his quick wit and his ready help were his unique features.

I wish to bring before the House a couple of matters in connection with the important electorate of Kimberley. This year I took the opportunity of travelling by road, in my own car, to Wyndham and back. I would suggest that facilities be made available by the Government for a similar trip to be taken by members of Parliament. I am not detracting, in any shape or form, from the trip which the Government provided for members to visit the north-west by air last year, but I think it would be of advantage to members generally to view the area by travelling along the road.

It does not matter what method of transport is provided; whether it be in luxurious motorcars or, as it was in the old days, by truck.

A vast improvement has been made to the roads in the north between Perth and Wyndham. On certain sections, bituminising is carried out each year. I do not intend to condemn the Main Roads Department in any way, but certain sections of the road are no better now than they were when I did my first overland trip to Wyndham in 1936. I refer particularly to the section some 50 miles north and south of Anna Plains Station, between Port Hedland and Broome. The original road went across the plain, but some main roads engineer in his wisdom decided to go into the sandhills; and it is a very dangerous road at the moment, particularly for heavy transport.

I had the unfortunate experience of having to pull up because of a petrol stoppage when a cattle train was going past on its way to pick up cattle for the

Broome meatworks. It took the paint off my car. I could not get any further off the road because there was a three-foot cutting on both sides. This is something that will be rectified as the department is going back into the Pindam area where the original road was sited. Therefore, in a couple of years, or possibly 12 months, that difficulty, at least, will be overcome.

The other section of the road which leaves a lot to be desired is that between Fitzroy and Halls Creek. Heavy transport has found the weak spots in the road. The road has what are commonly called "bulldust holes," and one has to go through them as one cannot leave the road. Heavy transport finds the weak spots in the road and digs it up.

To call this road the Great Northern Highway is premature; it has been named as a highway long before its time. Despite the fact that many improvements have been carried out and a lot of bituminising has been done, it is misleading to tourists to call this road the Great Northern Highway. During the course of my trip, I met several tourists who were going both north and south and they were not too happy about this road being called the Great Northern Highway. In my opinion, the naming of this road is 10 years premature.

Another portion of the road which has not been improved in the last 30 years—I understand another road is being constructed at the back of it—is the section near the Minilya Bridge, which is reached after traversing approximately 700 miles of bitumen. Admittedly there had been five inches of rain the day before I got there; and I reached Onslow at 7 p.m. However, this road was closed the following morning. Over this section of 100 miles, my speedometer registered 20 miles more than the actual mileage. That was caused by my having to drive from one side of the road to the other. There again, that is another section of the so-called Great Northern Highway.

Another subject in which I am interested—as all members are well aware—is what is known in the Kimberley as the battle of the beef barons. Instead of using that term, I will refer to the Hooker group and the Clementson group. Last year, the Government, in its wisdom, decided to dispose of—or at least give away—the Wyndham Meat Works. The successful tenderer was the Clementson group which owns the Broome works. Cattle are now being trucked from stations within 50 miles of Wyndham, some 360 miles to the Katherine meatworks; are being slaughtered there; and the carcasses are taken by freezer truck to Darwin where they await the arrival of a vessel in which to ship them overseas. I cannot work out the economics of this. As a result, I hope that next year common sense will prevail among the beef barons.

The Clementson group owns Leopold Station, which is approximately 180 miles

from the group's abattoir in Broome. Yet to keep the Wyndham Meat Works going, it appears that it will be necessary for cattle to be trucked from Leopold Station, some 450 miles away. The whole thing does not make sense.

Mr. Davies: The Government is keeping Clementson going, is it not?

Mr. RHATIGAN: Possibly the Minister for the North-West could answer that.

Mr. Court: Certainly not.

Mr. RHATIGAN: The Hooker group did not get the Wyndham Meat Works, and the works get no advantage from some of the stations controlled by the Hooker group which are not a great distance from Wyndham. Carlton Station is about 44 miles away; Ivanhoe 50 miles; and Argyle 110 miles. Cattle bred in Western Australia are not getting the benefit of the Wyndham Meat Works. As a result of this, Wyndham will be struggling to obtain 17,000 head of cattle this year. I think the figure could be 15,000. To get that number of cattle, they will have to be sent from one of Clementson's stations some 450 miles away, whereas the nearest meatworks is 180 miles distance.

The purpose of the beef roads is being defeated; and cattle trains are finding the weak spots in these roads on account of having to cart cattle over great distances. The whole thing does not make any sense and I hope that common sense will eventually prevail among the so-called beef barons.

Katherine is booming at the expense of Wyndham and Broome, because both of these towns are going downwards as a result of the unfortunate sale of the meatworks. Perhaps I should not say the meatworks were sold; they were almost given away, particularly when one takes into account the money that was previously spent on them. It would appear that the same thing will happen to the Midland abattoir, because the Government has spent a certain amount of money there.

Mr. Court: Tell the House the other half of the story. Tell members what the producers are now getting and what they got before.

Mr. May: Let him make his own speech.

Mr. RHATIGAN: With your permission, Mr. Speaker, may I continue? On a brighter note, I would say that the pastures in the Kimberley have never looked better. This also applies to country which was considered to be soil eroded and where it was thought pastures would never grow again. One of the best seasons ever has been experienced this year, particularly at Fossil Downs, where, over successive years, the seasons were bad. Generally speaking, in all my experience, the Kimberley and the country in the north have never looked better. Three or four years ago, calves died as a result of a drought, but this season, that position will be rectified and numbers to abattoirs should now increase.

During the course of my travels I received information about a noxious weed called Noogoora burr. The other day I asked the Minister for Agriculture a question about this noxious weed, and the reply I received was quite satisfactory. The Minister said that inspection points will be established at appropriate places, probably Halls Creek and Kununurra. The sooner the Minister gets in touch with the Minister for Works, the less chance there will be of this dreaded burr entering Western Australia.

With due respect to the member for Northam—

Mr. Hawke: Thank you.

Mr. RHATIGAN:—I have a photograph which reveals that Noogoora burr was first recorded in Western Australia in 1949 following upon the discovery of another of the burrs in a used corn sack at Northam. I hope the member for Northam was not responsible for the corn sack. The resulting publicity led to the discovery of plants in several localities where burrs had been introduced in packing materials. In Queensland this weed is responsible for heavy losses in the wool industry. However no mention is made of cattle.

The information I have from those with experience of this particular noxious weed is that in Queensland it has not been possible to eradicate the weed, which is found in wool and also on cattle and horses. Stock is imported into Western Australia from Queensland. Some 192 heifers and bulls were brought from Queensland, and for watering and feeding purposes they were off-loaded at Nicholson Station, approximately 160 miles from Halls Creek. These cattle were brought into Halls Creek and off-loaded there. The stock department has yards at Halls Creek, which have been provided by the Public Works Department, but these yards have no watering facilities.

A young stock inspector at Halls Creek realised that the importation of these cattle could have serious results, because he thought they may have brought with them the Noogoora burr. He reported the matter to his senior in Derby with the result that the stock in question were brought down to Myalls Bore in Derby, where they were off-loaded.

The stock were inspected and approximately 10 burrs were found on each animal. This could have been very serious for Western Australia; and if it is permitted to continue the burr could even spread to the southern portion of our State. I am sure Country Party members will be very interested in this matter.

Prior to this a consignment of horses from Brunette Downs in the Northern Territory, walked from Halls Creek, via various stations to the Mt. House Station. I am sure the Minister for Agriculture will lose no time in dealing with this matter in

order to prevent an outbreak of this dreaded noxious weed.

I am not very happy with some of the replies I have received to questions. I hope the Minister for Health is sincere in this, but there appears to be some shadow of doubt in Wyndham. I asked, by way of question, whether tenders had been called for the new hospital at Wyndham, and that if the answer was "No," when would they be called. The Minister replied that it was expected that certain prefabricated items in connection with this project would be the subject of tendering in November, 1967, and that the main part of the project would be advertised in January, 1968.

The word "expected" seems to raise some doubt in the minds of the people at Wyndham. The rumour appears to be—and I hope there is no foundation to it—that the Government will not do anything about the Wyndham hospital until the Commonwealth Government grants the extra money for the greater Ord River Dam scheme, in which case the hospital will be built at Kununurra and not Wyndham. Some 12 months ago—it was probably longer than that—the Minister for the North-West took to Wyndham a model of the proposed hospital and displayed it at the office of the shire council. However, that did not convince the people in Wyndham that they would get the hospital which is so badly needed.

As a result of that question I was hoping to be able to say that these prefabricated buildings would definitely be available within a certain time. I asked another question relating to the services of a doctor at Kununurra. It was as follows:—

What action has been taken to secure the services of a doctor to be stationed at Kununurra?

The Minister replied—

A resident doctor will be established in Kununurra when medical work in the area warrants it.

The people of Kununurra will not be happy with that reply. I have also asked a few questions on the matter of education, and the replies have been far from satisfactory. However, I will leave that matter until the Estimates on education are discussed. In 1946 the away-from-home allowance granted to children in the north was £30. The Government, in its wisdom, increased that amount to £50 in 1947. Then in 1965, it was increased to £80. If the away-from-home allowance was worth \$160 in 1965, surely it should be worth more in 1967.

The Minister avoided giving me a direct answer to a question I asked, but the information was published in this morning's Press. The Minister knows perfectly well that boarding school fees have increased out of all proportion to the away-from-

home allowance. However, I will deal with that matter when speaking to the Estimates on education.

MR. LEWIS (Moore—Minister for Education) [5.33 p.m.]: As is usual the remarks of members on the Address-in-Reply debate have been noted and, where warranted, replies will be given by letters from the department. I rise this afternoon merely to reply to one or two criticisms concerning the Education Department which I feel have been made unjustly.

Firstly, I will refer to the criticism made by the member for Swan when he complained about long and undue delays experienced in receiving replies to letters he had written to the department. He referred to the demountable classroom which had been attached to the Cyril Jackson High School. The honourable member did, in fact, write to me on the 28th July and that letter was received at my office on the 31st July. It was referred to the department and, from there, further referred to the Public Works Department on the 8th August. The Public Works Department replied on the 15th August to my department. The matter then went from my department to me and I replied to the member for Swan on the 18th August, 1967. So a recital of those dates will convince any fair-minded member that there was no undue delay in replying.

The honourable member complained about the particular building being out of context with the rest of the school, and the reply which I ultimately gave to him showed that the demountable classroom was erected at the school early this year, being necessary to accommodate the considerable increase in numbers when the school opened. I said it was not envisaged that the room should be permanent and, in fact, immediate arrangements were made for the planning of permanent facilities. I also stated that next year the school is to be raised in status to a senior high school and in order that adequate accommodation might be available a commission has been placed with a private architect for the erection of additional rooms and a science laboratory under the Commonwealth scheme.

Mr. Brady: Will the shire have a chance to see that plan?

Mr. LEWIS: I doubt if it will see the plan; that is not usually done. The member for Beeloo made some harsh comparisons and offered some unjust criticism of the Education Department in regard to the supply of teachers. He made some comparisons but, unfortunately, he did not compare like with like; and he offered criticism without having a knowledge of the relative positions in the various States of the Commonwealth. The honourable member referred particularly to the position in Tasmania. The figures which he

gave of the intakes and retirements—resignations, etc.—dealt only with the permanent staff. He failed to appreciate that many of the resignations from the permanent staff are by women who have married and have been obliged, hitherto, to resign from the department. However, in most cases they are re-employed on a supply basis. So, in fact, this is not a loss to the teaching staff. It is merely a loss to the permanent staff.

Mr. Jamieson: You had better have a look at your answers to my questions because they relate to the loss of personnel.

Mr. LEWIS: It was not a loss of personnel. Instead of taking out figures to show the difference between intakes and resignations, the honourable member should have taken out the number of actual teachers employed. If we look at those figures we find that in the primary and secondary section of education, in 1963 the number employed was 4,471. That was an increase of 230. The following year the figure was 4,713 which was an increase of 242. In 1965 the figure was 4,934, showing an increase of 221. In 1966—the last figure I have available—it was 5,213, or an increase of 281.

The honourable member said the wastage at the University was 10 per cent. and we could assume this figure would apply to the teachers' colleges. That is quite wrong. Our experience, over the years, has been that the wastage has been 3 per cent., and not 10 per cent. Again, the honourable member referred to Tasmania, and here I emphasise the point that when we compare we should compare like with like; not oranges with mandarins.

We find that in Tasmania, kindergartens and other preschool organisations come within the jurisdiction and the ambit of the Education Department. Of course, we all know that in those spheres the teacher loading is quite small by comparison with formal classes. So that must be taken into consideration. I am informed that 6.5 per cent. of the total enrolments in Tasmania are for preschool education. Preschool education, of course, has no place in our own formal education system. I advised the honourable member the other evening, by way of interjection, to compare the ratio of teachers to children of five or six years ago with the ratio which exists today. If he did, he would get a more correct figure of class loading.

Even in this area in Western Australia we must remember that there is always a percentage of teachers on leave and away because of sickness. Not all the teachers employed by the department are actually employed in the classrooms.

Mr. Jamieson: That happens in every State.

Mr. LEWIS: Yes, but the point which the honourable member was making was that we were slipping back and not making progress. I have received the official

figures showing class loading and it will be found that for the teachers who are actually teaching in the primary and secondary field, the situation is as follows: in 1958, the loading was 31.8 pupils to a teacher, and in 1959 it was 32.1. Since then it has steadily improved. In 1961 it was 30.8; in 1962, 30.5; in 1963, 29.9; in 1964, 29.2; in 1965, 28.6; and in 1966—the last figure I have available—it was 28.2.

So we have made progress with respect to teachers who are actually employed in the classrooms. If a comparison is made of the number of teachers employed then, of course, consideration must be allowed for those on long service leave. We find that the figures have improved from 31.8 in 1958 to 27.1 in 1966.

In my experience as Minister for Education I have found it dangerous to compare expenditure on education in some of the other States with what we spend here. In some States education includes museums and other such mediums used to educate children.

Mr. Jamieson: Have you personally gone to the Grants Commission and put these views?

Mr. LEWIS: No, I have not put these views to the Grants Commission.

Mr. Jamieson: They would be rather good views.

Mr. LEWIS: We, in Western Australia, do very well out of the Grants Commission. As the honourable member probably knows we have a loading because of our special disabilities in regard to education.

Mr. Jamieson: You have got a loading all right.

Mr. LEWIS: The only other comment I wish to make this afternoon is on the remarks made on more than one occasion by the member for Subiaco. He has suggested that a white paper should be published which would inform people of the philosophy of education. We have given some thought to this and I can advise members that within a very few weeks—maybe three or four weeks—the first of several booklets will be published by the department. The first one will deal with junior primary education and will inform people of the purpose, or the philosophy, of education within that area.

That booklet will be followed by others dealing with primary education, secondary education, and so on. I will see to it that all members of Parliament receive a copy. It will also be distributed among parents and citizens' associations, and so on, so that everyone can be informed of improvements in education. Of course, nobody would be satisfied with improvements in education merely being confined to scholastic achievement. None of us want that. Therefore, we are giving further attention to teaching the other

aspects—such as living together harmoniously and so on. This is most important.

Those are the comments I wish to make at this stage, and I again assure members that the remarks they have made regarding my two portfolios will be dealt with by way of letters.

MR. MAY (Collie) [5.44 p.m.]: I desire to express my regret at the passing of the late member for Mt. Marshall, Mr. George Cornell. I feel this Chamber is the worse for his passing, as he was well liked. I do not know of any member in my party who has ever said a word against the late George Cornell.

The Governor's Speech contains mention of a number of matters, but not a word so far as the Collie electorate is concerned. However, it should not be thought that because there is no mention of Collie in the Governor's Speech everybody in the electorate is happy.

Judging by the lack of information about Collie in the Governor's Speech, that town is being left to its own devices, or its own extinction. Since 1960, no encouragement in any shape or form has been given to the people of the Collie electorate to make up the loss sustained in employment, population, and in many other ways.

I desire to refer two matters to the Minister for Industrial Development. He has been to Collie on several occasions, but so far he has produced nothing in the way of new industries for that town. He has virtually told the people of Collie that they will have to help themselves. I intend to cite two cases to show the Minister that with the assistance of his department it may be possible for something to be done in the way of establishing new industries at Collie. The first is the proposal to establish a chip industry.

Mr. Williams: Is this to do with fish and chips?

Mr. MAY: I know that this industry will be a private enterprise, and the Minister will probably tell me that his department has nothing to do with it.

Mr. Court: We have plenty to do with it.

Mr. Rowberry: What sort of chips are they?

Mr. MAY: The honourable member spits them occasionally.

Mr. Rowberry: Yes, I know.

Mr. MAY: The Minister will probably tell me that the proposal has nothing to do with his department.

Mr. Court: It has plenty to do with the department and we have been giving it every encouragement.

Mr. MAY: I understand representations have already been made to the Minister for Forests to ascertain what timber is available for this industry, if it ever sees

the light of day. I would like the Minister for Industrial Development to give the matter some consideration—and he is in a position to do that—and to see that his department investigates the proposition and, if possible, have it established at Collie. The establishment of such an industry at Collie would be a real shot in the arm for the district.

Mr. Rowberry: What about Manjimup?

Mr. MAY: I know Manjimup comes into the picture, but the honourable member, when speaking, should have taken the opportunity to mention Manjimup, the same as I am mentioning Collie now, in regard to this industry. If it is proved there is a sufficient quantity of the particular timber required—that is, marri, which is really red gum—in the Collie district, then I suggest the Minister could do something for us as regards establishing the industry at Collie. The people of the district are prepared to help themselves, but it is a matter of co-operation, particularly from the Department of Industrial Development.

In regard to the remarks the Minister made when he visited Collie, about the people of Collie helping themselves, I would refer to the supply of coal in paper bag lots, particularly for the metropolitan area. I have here a copy of the *Collie Mail*, and on the front page there is a photograph of a consignment of bagged coal for the metropolitan area. I think most members who live in the metropolitan area, and who still have the old-type fireplaces, realise and appreciate that today firewood as a fuel is much more costly than coal. In their efforts to find markets for the product, three organisations in Collie bagged coal in 14 lb. and 1 cwt. lots. If it is bagged in paper bags it is not dirty to handle, and in this connection the article in the paper to which I have just referred states—

Collie's campaign to make city people more coal conscious started last week when a big consignment was railed to Perth. Through the efforts of the Co-operative Society, Western Collieries Ltd., and the Industries Establishment Committee, about 2,000 bags containing 14 lb. of coal, and 100 one hundredweight bags are now being distributed to retail outlets by two wholesale firms.

The question I ask the Minister is this: Will his department co-operate and assist in the distribution of this bagged coal? If something can be done in this direction it will be a big help to the industry.

I understand the Minister's department sets aside a certain amount of money for propaganda purposes—and I use the word "propaganda" advisedly—and to disseminate information on various industries. In view of this, I appeal to the Minister to spend some of the money on advertising what the Collie people are trying to do in their efforts to help themselves.

Dr. Henn: May I ask a question about Collie coal? I used it in my drawing-room fire many years ago, but it was very dusty. Do you think that something could be done about getting rid of the dust before the coal is put into bags?

Mr. MAY: There is no dust in the bags.

Dr. Henn: There was when I got it.

Mr. MAY: It is the burning of the coal that produces the dust.

Dr. Henn: There was dust there when I took it out of the bag.

The SPEAKER: I do not think the honourable member can ask questions like he is. The member for Collie may proceed.

Mr. Graham: Put the question on the notice paper.

Mr. MAY: Yes, the honourable member can put the question on the notice paper. He might be able to get the Minister for Industrial Development to answer the question for him.

Mr. Court: You do not have to plead with the Minister, because the department has already co-operated with the committee down there, and the chairman has taken the trouble to thank me for the co-operation. We have offered to make some money available to assist it with its promotion.

Mr. MAY: The Minister did not advertise that fact.

Mr. Court: If we do advertise these things you complain we are always blowing our own trumpets, even though we are trying to do something for your town. You cannot win in this game. You talk to your local committee. It is very happy.

Mr. MAY: I know all about the local committee. I am asking the Minister to get his department to do everything possible to expand this promising industry which will be a means of extending the use of coal, particularly into private homes in the metropolitan area that have facilities for burning coal.

Mr. Brady: A lot more could be used in the schools.

Mr. Court: You talk to your committee down there.

Mr. MAY: I am talking to the Minister at the present time.

Mr. Court: The committee will tell you that the department is right up with the field.

Mr. MAY: The trouble is you wait too long.

Mr. Court: No; we have been right to the fore.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member should address his remarks to me.

Mr. MAY: I would probably get more sensible replies if I did, Mr. Speaker. I have mentioned the two propositions I wanted to bring to the notice of the Minister, and if already he has been in touch with the industries committee at Collie, I

am glad to hear it. As a matter of fact, I know he has been, but I wanted to remind him—and there is no harm in that—that if there is the closest co-operation between his department and the committee in Collie, the consumption of coal should be stepped up and this will enable more men to be employed in the mining industry. If the Minister is prepared to give me an assurance he will do that, I will take his word for it on this occasion.

Mr. Court: It has been done, and this idea has only just started. You are behind scratch with your own committee.

Mr. MAY: Who decided on this consignment of bagged coal?

Mr. Court: I think the chairman of your committee at Collie hit the nail on the head when he said there are two groups of people down there—head hunters and head-line hunters. He is about right. If the committee co-operated with us it would get further.

Mr. MAY: I know the Minister has never loved me! While I do not seek his affection, I do want his help in regard to all the troubles we are experiencing at Collie. This is no joke, as far as I am concerned.

Mr. Court: You talk to them down there.

Mr. MAY: The Minister has been down to Collie on several occasions, but he has never informed me of his visits or asked me to accompany him. In spite of all the troubles we have had, never have I received one letter from the Minister inviting me to accompany him while he was visiting Collie.

Mr. Court: That is not right.

Mr. MAY: The Minister can have his say later.

The SPEAKER: Order! I think the honourable member had better address the Chair, rather than the Minister.

Mr. Court: You do not do yourself any good.

Mr. MAY: I should have thought that when the Minister visited my electorate he would have the decency to let me know that he was doing so. I hasten to say however, that I do not particularly want to travel with the Minister.

Mr. Hawke: I should think not.

Mr. Court: Your allegation is not true, because every time I have been to Collie you have been consulted.

Mr. MAY: All I am asking is that the department co-operate in ensuring the use of Collie coal. Surely that is not asking too much.

Mr. Court: You are not being very fair. Every time I have been to Collie you have been consulted.

Mr. MAY: I would now like to say a few words in connection with a damages claim. I am sorry the Minister for Labour is not in his seat, because this concerns him. The case refers to a tally clerk who lives in Collie and who worked in Bunbury. While

at work he sustained an accident, and even though the accident took place in July, 1961, the case has only just come to court. Had it not been for my being able to get him the invalid pension, that man and his family would have starved. It is dreadful to think that it takes six years for such an accident case to come before the court. Surely there is a quicker method of dealing with these accident cases.

The case in question is a very simple one. The accident took place at 3 a.m. as a result of some irresponsible person leaving the cover off a manhole. It was quite dark, and while the man in question was going about his job he fell into the manhole and hurt himself to such an extent that he has been an invalid ever since. It is ridiculous to think that a man who is injured while doing his work should have to wait six years to bring a claim before the court. There is something very wrong with the set-up. As I have said, had it not been for the fact that I was able to obtain an invalid pension for the injured man, he and his family would probably have starved. He is still on the invalid pension, and is likely to be for the rest of his life.

As the case is before the court, I will not quote the name of the man in question, but I felt I ought to bring the matter to the notice of the Minister so that he could make inquiries as to why this injured man had to wait six years before he could get before the court. I might also add that he had to engage his own lawyer. I do think there is something very wrong with the whole set-up, and I was hoping the Minister for Labour would be in his seat.

Mr. Craig: He is on the sick list at the moment.

Mr. MAY: I am sure something must have happened to prevent his being here, because he is pretty good as a rule. I will see the Minister later and tell him all about the case, and find out whether something cannot be done to help this unfortunate man in his trouble.

The next case I have in mind concerns the Chief Secretary.

Mr. Craig: Hear, hear!

Mr. MAY: I do not want to alarm the Minister, but this is a most vital matter, as it concerns volunteers for the fire brigades of the State. All I have been able to discover from the Fire Brigades Act is that section 35 provides—

The Governor may make regulations for all or any of the following purposes:—

Several purposes are then listed among which is—

(g) for the payment of compensation in cases of accidents to officers and members of brigades and administrative employees of the Board or where death ensues therefrom to their dependants.

The instance I have in mind is a most glaring one, and it will have a tremendous effect on the men who willingly volunteer for service in the local fire brigades of the various towns. I wish to point out that I am not now talking about the Bush Fires Board. The particular case I have in mind concerns a man who, during the course of his training, was running with the hose on the reel. When the end of the hose was reached the coupling came away and struck him on the side of the head. As a result of this he received something like \$600 in weekly payments, and \$1473.33 by way of refund for maintenance and travelling expenses.

The man to whom I refer is a butcher. He is a young fellow with his own shop, and in order to keep his customers he decided to go back to work. But the moment he returned to work his compensation stopped. He came to see me about the matter and I got in touch with Mr. Irvine, who is the Chairman of the Fire Brigades Board. I explained the position to him and I wrote the following letter:—

Re. Ernest James Swallow, of
20 Carma Avenue, Collie

I have been requested to make some enquiries concerning the circumstances surrounding an accident sustained by the above-named whilst a member of the Collie Fire Brigade.

Having regard to the possibility of your not having had this particular case brought to your notice, I desire to acquaint you briefly with the facts.

Mr. Swallow was a volunteer member of the Collie Fire Brigade and, whilst training, met with an accident on the 17th January, 1965, in Collie. I understand all members of the Collie Fire Brigade are insured with your office.

Apparently, Mr. Swallow has been meeting with difficulties somewhere along the line, in connection with his application for compensation, under the arrangement of insurance with the S.G.I.O.

Would you please be kind enough to have this particular claim investigated with the idea of ascertaining where the delay has occurred, and the reason therefor.

This person had to receive plastic surgery, and he will have a facial disfigurement for the rest of his life. The Chief Executive Officer of the Fire Brigades Board replied to my letter on the 12th June, as follows:—

Re: Volunteer Fireman E. Swallow

I refer to your recent enquiry of the Board's President, Mr. H. R. Irvine, regarding payments made on behalf of Volunteer Fireman E. Swallow of Collie.

Subsequent to injury sustained by him as a Volunteer Fireman, Mr. Swallow was absent from his occupation for 19½ weeks, during which period he was paid benefits in line with the Act for the full period of absence. Further he received additional maximum benefits from the Board's Personal Accident Policy which were paid at the rate of \$12 per week for 10½ weeks and, following amendment to the regulations, \$20 per week for 9½ weeks.

Medical accounts over the period exceeded the Statutory limit and were apportioned at 88½ per cent., the balance of 11½ per cent. being payable by Mr. Swallow. Following apportionment, a further account for \$42 was submitted and this received the same treatment as previous accounts, and thereby, the actual amount paid was in excess of the Statutory limit.

There has been no medical evidence of a residual disability presented by Mr. Swallow, which would require investigation to establish rights to a lump sum compensation.

I should point out that Mr. Swallow has engaged a lawyer to take his case. The letter continues—

In September, 1965, Mr. Swallow's solicitors, Sharp and Rodgers directed that payments should cease as he was considering a claim under Common Law. After a full investigation, the Board's insurers denied liability at Common Law. There has been no further advice from Mr. Swallow or his solicitors.

Since the instructions from Sharp and Rodgers, our assistance has been sought by Mr. Swallow and the Hospital Benefits Fund, for information regarding medical accounts held by the Board's insurers. In these cases, the staff has made every effort to satisfy.

I trust the above information will meet your requirements, but should any further information be desired, we will be pleased to assist.

I conveyed that information to Mr. Swallow, and I received the following letter from him:—

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter and advice I have recently paid a visit to the Fire Brigades Office and Lawyer John Rogers.

I was interviewed by the officer in charge of accidents Mr. Charles Britten who advised me that under the Act, Volunteer Firemen are only covered by Workers' Compensation, therefore I would have no claim whatsoever for my disfigurement, head injuries or anything that could occur in the future. I may be able to claim a small percentage for loss of approximately 5 per cent. of my eyesight providing the board's specialist agreed

with mine. Then possibly I could be retired if it was considered I was a danger to other members.

The lawyer has agreed with this and advised me that the only thing is to find some evidence of negligence. This as you can imagine is very difficult, due to the nature of fire brigade running.

Naturally, this is all very disturbing to me, considering the seriousness of my accident and the fact that I and the other volunteers have always been under the impression that we are completely covered by insurance while undertaking any fire brigade work.

I have received my long service medal, having given 16 years voluntary service to the Collie Brigade, which includes attending fires at all hours of the day and night, plus inspections, attending to fire fighting equipment, general maintenance to station and track, burning off blocks for pensioners and anything else that may be required.

Probably nothing can be done in my case but I feel that something should be done to ensure the overall safety of other volunteers who give their time and a life times service towards public fire protection in this state.

I appreciate your interest and time spent on my behalf.

With grateful thanks,

Yours faithfully,

E. J. Swallow.

Something appears to be radically wrong, so I hope the Minister will cause inquiries to be made. If this man has been disfigured for the rest of his life he should receive compensation, and he should not have to engage lawyers to take his case. Surely no Government department should be as hard as that! This man pointed out that he has spent 16 years in the volunteer firefighting service and that he has been awarded a long service medal. All that he should have to do is to report the matter to the Fire Brigades Board to obtain satisfaction and compensation. He has received a terrible scar on the side of his head, and yet there is the need for him to engage solicitors to take his case. Not only has he given 16 years of service, but his father was also a volunteer firefighting officer.

Mr. Norton: Did he receive any pay?

Mr. MAY: There is no pay attached to this service. We find that immediately an accident occurs, he has to produce evidence to substantiate a case for compensation. I hope the Minister will inquire into this matter very fully. If this case becomes known, generally, and if people realise that volunteer firefighters experience difficulties in obtaining satisfaction, the Fire Brigades Board will not be able to obtain volunteers too readily.

I am prepared to give the Minister all the information I have on this case, and I consider it to be a very deserving one. Accidents occur in the training of volunteer firefighters, and most of them are very enthusiastic about their training. Each year volunteer firefighters from the country take part in a competition in the metropolitan area and other places. They do this to keep themselves fit for their work.

Despite the service which is given voluntarily, when a firefighter is injured in the head in the course of his work, he has to retain lawyers to act on his behalf. This particular person has given voluntary service for 16 years with no thought of payment.

For the reason I have mentioned, I hope the Minister will have this matter investigated fully. It concerns not only this person, but others who might be injured in the future. If the volunteer firefighters find that they will not be compensated for injuries they will not offer their services so readily, especially men with families. I leave the matter at that, and trust that the Minister will make investigations as to why this man has had to go to so much expense to try to obtain satisfaction.

Question put and passed; the Address—In-Reply thus adopted.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

BILLS (9): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Iron Ore (Nimigarra) Agreement Bill.
2. Evaporites (Lake MacLeod) Agreement Bill.
Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development), and read a first time.
3. Albany Harbour Board Act Amendment Bill.
4. Bunbury Harbour Board Act Amendment Bill.
5. Prevention of Pollution of Waters by Oil Act Amendment Bill.
6. Shipping and Pilotage Bill.
Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Works), and read a first time.
7. Indecent Publications Act Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Craig (Chief Secretary), and read a first time.
8. Police Act Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Craig (Minister for Police), and read a first time.
9. Bulk Handling Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.

PARLIAMENTARY PUBLIC WORKS STANDING COMMITTEE

Establishment: Motion

MR. BICKERTON (Pilbara) [7.40 p.m.]: I move—

That, in the opinion of this House, steps should be taken to set up a Parliamentary Public Works Standing Committee.

As the motion states, the request is that a public works standing committee be set up in this Parliament. Most other States, and of course the Commonwealth Government, have certain standing committees, and all of them have standing committees on public works.

I would think many members in this Chamber know quite a bit about the function of these standing committees, and some members have given them a lot of study. It is not my intention to go into any great detail in connection with either this motion or the next one on the notice paper, which is a somewhat similar motion, but rather to generalise and outline for the benefit of those who are not particularly well acquainted with these standing committees what their true purpose is.

Perhaps their greatest advantage is that they do enable the average what we call back bench member of Parliament to keep in touch more with the actual workings of Governments; and it keeps those who are on these committees in much closer touch with the various matters in connection with public works.

As I said, most of the States have these standing committees, and I have looked through their Standing Orders and methods of operation and there is, of course, a great deal of similarity. Therefore, rather than deal with a number of these particular committees, I have chosen the South Australian committee and its procedures on which to base my remarks tonight. I feel that South Australia is a State somewhat similar to our own in that it covers a fairly large area of land and its population, although a little bigger, is rather close to ours; and many of the problems faced there we face here in Western Australia.

This is, I would think, a non-party issue. It is as far as the Opposition is concerned, because any member on this side is entitled to vote as he sees fit. It would be a great pity if it were treated otherwise because the standing committees are, in effect, all-party committees. Therefore, if they are ever to be introduced and to operate, they must, of course, operate on non-party lines.

This is, I may point out, a motion, as is the next item on the notice paper, and it is in no way binding on the Government. It is purely an expression of opinion of this House. The other alternative would have been to introduce a private member's Bill, but, as members are aware, as these

committees are paid committees they would incur a cost on the Crown; and this prevents one from introducing a private member's Bill to have them established. I suppose it would have been possible to introduce a private member's Bill and leave out any reference to payment, and then, if by any fluke it were carried, the matter of payment could be introduced by the Government at some later stage. However, I feel that this way does give members a better opportunity of expressing their opinions because, as I have already said, a motion does not bind the Government to anything. It is merely a suggestion from this House as to what should take place.

Through the Rights and Privileges Committee, I contacted the Clerk of the Assembly in South Australia in connection with this matter. I did this again, because I thought that to obtain the information from the Clerk of the House was better than to obtain it from a member or members, who would naturally belong to some particular political party. Perhaps there is no better way to deal with this matter than to go progressively through the letter from Mr. Combe, whom many members know as the Clerk of the Assembly in South Australia, and deal with the individual points, as they come to light, which may interest members. To quote from the letter—

Public Works Standing Committee

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works in South Australia is set up in pursuance of the Public Works Standing Committee Act 1927-1955. It consists of 5 members appointed by the Governor. They are of the House of Assembly and 2 members of the Legislative Council, all appointed for a term of 5 years.

Then he goes on to give the membership of that committee, but as we are not particularly interested in that I will not weary the House with the details except to say that the total number is seven. It is interesting to note their political designations. Four members are from the L.C.L. and three from the A.L.P.

Mr. Gayfer: Where are the Country Party members?

Mr. BICKERTON: As we all know, there is no parliamentary Country Party in South Australia.

Mr. Craig: They would be better for it, wouldn't they?

Mr. BICKERTON: Probably they would be; and I can assure the member for Avon that I will do everything I can to do something about that if he does something about my motion.

The only comment I would like to offer on this first paragraph I have just read is that perhaps we could call it a really true parliamentary committee if it were elected by the Parliament and not appointed by the

Governor as is the case in other States and as is the case with some of the other committees in South Australia. They are elected by the Parliament, but in the case of the standing committee on public works the members are appointed by the Governor, and we all know that the Governor receives his recommendations from the Government. To continue the letter—

The Committee has power to sit and transact business during any adjournment or recess of Parliament and during the interval between two Parliaments, as well as during any session of Parliament, but shall not sit during any sitting of either House, except by leave of such House. On average, the Committee sits twice weekly, during session and recess, for about 10 months of the year.

Members will appreciate from that information that this committee is a pretty hard working committee and no doubt this is the reason its members are paid. It sits, as I just read, twice weekly for about 10 months of the year. From what I have read of the reports issued by this committee, I would say it would need to sit for that period of time. It does an extensive amount of work, as members will realise as I proceed with this motion. Mr. Combe's letter continues—

The Public Works Standing Committee Act defines a "public work" as "any work proposed to be constructed by the Government or any person or body on behalf of the Government out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, and includes any proposed continuation, completion, reconstruction or extension of any existing work or any addition to an existing work and the duplication, deviation, or alteration of any line of railway. The term does not include the repair or maintenance of any public work as defined in this definition, or the relaying of railway track without alteration of gauge."

It will be seen from the definition that the Standing Committee on Public Works has a very wide area in which it can operate. There are very few works of any particular moment that would not come before it prior to tenders being called. I shall give more detail on that particular point a little later. The letter continues—

The Committee shall consider and report upon all public works referred to it under their Act. The usual channel of reference is from the Governor, but either House, by resolution may refer a matter to the Committee for enquiry and report.

In considering and reporting on any such work, the Committee must have regard:—

And these are the points that the committee would take into consideration

when a matter was referred to it—

- (a) to the stated purpose of the public work;
- (b) to the necessity or advisability of constructing it;
- (c) where the work purports to be of a reproductive or revenue producing character, to the amount of revenue which such work may reasonably be expected to produce; and
- (d) to the present and prospective public value of such work.

It will be seen that a great deal of investigation is carried out by the committee before a matter is brought before Parliament. The headings which I have just read out will indicate, I think, that the committee is responsible to see that the taxpayers' money is utilised to the best possible advantage, and that works which are to be carried out are in the best interests of the State.

Naturally, as I have said, such a committee has considerable powers. It would be equivalent to a Select Committee and have the powers to call any witnesses and to call for documents which it may require to assist it in reaching a decision to place before the House. However, the committee would bear in mind that the House is still master of its own destiny, and the report of the standing committee is purely a recommendation. But that report would equip members of Parliament with material which they have no chance of getting under our present system.

I have some reports to which I shall refer briefly a little later. They are the types of reports which the standing committee in South Australia puts before Parliament and the detail which is contained therein is surprising. If any member of the South Australian Parliament considered that some public work had been carried out about which he was not happy, he would certainly have very little room for complaint. The information placed before him prior to a Bill being introduced in that Parliament is more than sufficient for him to make up his mind whether the measure is a worthy one or not.

That contrasts greatly with our system where we have to gather our information in a somewhat similar method to extracting a tooth. We have to use the system of question and answer to try to obtain some information from Governments—no matter which Government it might be. We have to go through the tedious procedure of writing letters and quite often we do not know what the answer means. The answer is very often what the Minister wants to give, and not the one required. This just cannot happen in South Australia because of the amount of investigation carried out by this all-party committee.

It is not a committee of Ministers investigating a matter; it is not a committee of public officials making the investigations. There are seven members of one's own Parliament, and this is the important point: it is a committee of those who were elected by the people of the State carrying out proper investigations for the benefit of members of Parliament generally. To continue the letter—

The Committee, after its investigations, hearing of evidence, inspections and deliberations, reports its findings to the Governor and to each House through its presiding officer. The reports are tabled in each House and ordered to be printed. However, no discussion follows immediately upon the tabling of a Public Works Committee Report, but they are of great assistance when the loan estimates are under consideration.

I think we will all agree with that, particularly when at a later stage I give some indication of just what these reports contain. They would be invaluable to all members of Parliament during Estimates discussions.

To continue the letter—

Prior enquiry and report by the Public Works Committee is an essential prerequisite to the introduction into Parliament of any Bill to authorise the construction of any public work estimated to cost, when complete, more than \$200,000.

The report on the particular subject is produced when a Bill is introduced, or beforehand. The matter is automatically investigated if the proposed work is to cost in excess of \$200,000. That does not mean works of an amount less than that figure are not investigated by the committee. To continue—

The Public Works Standing Committee is the highest paid Committee of the Parliament of South Australia. The Chairman receives \$1500 per annum (in addition, of course, to his salary as a member) and the members of the Committee each receive \$1000 per annum (in addition to their members' salaries) and, where appropriate, they are paid travelling allowances.

It is generally considered that this Committee performs a most valuable function in a very effective way. It will be understood, of course, that reports on any proposed works must be completed before any tenders are called and this has proved to be a most beneficial safeguard.

I think few members would disagree with that because, over the years, I know that many of us in this Parliament have had doubts about the value received for money spent on public works.

Mr. Nalder: Is there a limit to the time that a member can remain on the committee?

Mr. BICKERTON: The term is five years. I would say that had some of the bigger projects which are going on around us now been before a public works standing committee, it is conceivable there could have been many alterations, not only at this stage, but possibly at the time when the previous Government commenced the project concerning the river, freeways, inner and outer circles, and what-have-you.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Would you explain that a little more fully. How would you alter the project about which you are speaking? How would a public works standing committee have altered this project?

Mr. BICKERTON: I cannot say specifically how it would be altered. The Minister for Works is asking me a question which the Speaker disallowed.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I am asking in what ways the committee would have altered this project.

Mr. BICKERTON: The Minister for Works is asking me to presume. I am saying that, in this case, one has the experience of an investigation committee which is virtually a Select Committee. I feel sure that, having looked far enough forward, its investigations would show some of the problems we are finding now in connection with southern legs, and every other kind of leg. I think we might have had a different picture.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You mean that it formulates policy?

Mr. BICKERTON: No, it does not formulate anything of the sort. The entire proposed project is investigated by this committee which issues a report as to what its views on the proposals are, and then with all the information before it Parliament decides whether that project goes ahead or not. Let us face the facts; under our present system there are many projects which go ahead with a minimum amount of information placed before this House. The Minister for Works is well aware of this fact.

I have reports here which even show the size of a cleaners' room in the basement of a hospital. I do not remember anyone putting such detailed plans before the House prior to buildings being erected in Western Australia. If the Minister will bear with me, I will be able to convince him before I finish that the idea is not a bad one, and I think it would relieve Ministers and senior officials of a great deal of responsibility in many instances.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I was just searching for information from you.

Mr. BICKERTON: I will give the Minister all the information which is available to me.

Mr. Williams: At a later stage will you be able to show us in your references whether a committee of lay people can make recommendations along the lines of something which you have suggested is technical?

Mr. BICKERTON: It is up to the House to decide whether the recommendations are accepted or not. To my mind, most standing committees are composed of lay people. I mention the Standing Orders Committee, and the House Committee which does not do a bad job in running Parliament House.

Mr. Combe finishes on this question of public works with a remark which I have not had time to chase up. He says—

I am not able to give you chapter and verse, but it is commonly acknowledged that the Committee was instrumental in recommending the reconstruction of the Royal Adelaide Hospital at an estimated cost of some millions of dollars less than the figure at which it was originally referred to the Committee.

That is something of a general statement. I have not been able to obtain all the information on the Royal Adelaide Hospital. However, undoubtedly I would imagine he would not make that remark unless, in fact, it was accurate.

Having carried out its operations over the year, apart from submitting individual reports on various projects as they occur, this committee must table an annual report to Parliament pointing out all the projects which had been referred to it and what its recommendations on those particularly projects were. I think that this information would be very useful indeed to members of Parliament. I have here the thirty-ninth general report for 1966.

Mr. Gayfer: It is not much for \$20,000.

Mr. BICKERTON: No. This is the condensed version and purely refers to the items which have been placed before the Committee. The subheading is, "New Subjects Referred to the Committee During the Year." Some of these are—

Hillcrest Primary School.
Renmark Primary School.
Port Augusta Hospital.
Port Adelaide Girls' Technical High School Additions.

Swan Reach to Stockwell Pipeline.

I will not read all of them but somewhere in the vicinity of 40 or 50 different projects were referred to the committee. I just make the comment that there is one project which was referred to, first of all, under the heading "New Subjects Referred to the Committee During the Year." This was the Department of Chemistry and Medico-Legal Institute Building. Later it appears also in the annual report as follows:—

Recommendation—The Committee recommended constructing a new building for the Department of Chem-

istry and Medico-Legal Institute at an estimated cost of \$2,200,000.

I read that item from the annual report because I have the individual report on that particular project. This is a 12-page report of very close type as members will see from the size of the volume. It sets out, of course, details of the committee of inquiry. It states who the members of the committee are, and the background to the inquiry, and it indicates on the front page any witnesses who were called before the committee. The need for the new building is dealt with quite fully. It shows the predicted increase in work which will come about as a result of the new building, and it gives complete details of the safety measures that are to be involved, the suitability of analytical techniques, and through to the actual proposed work and the estimated cost.

I do not want to read too much, but the general description of the project is as follows:—

It is proposed to erect the new building consisting of basement, ground, first, second, third and part fourth floor on the location of the present Chemistry Department buildings in Kintore Avenue.

The site is bounded on the north by the Trade School lane, measuring approximately 139 ft. 8½ in.; on the south, by the new Public Library lane, measuring approximately 139 ft. 8½ in.; on the east by the Trade School, measuring approximately 144 ft. 10½ in.; on the west by Kintore Avenue measuring approximately 144 ft. 10½ in. To give the minimum of disruption to the Department of Chemistry during building operations, it is proposed that the existing buildings on the site be demolished in two stages and that the new building be erected in two stages.

It then goes on to give the details.

From our point of view, very rarely is it that we receive more information than the approximate area where a building is to be erected. However, under the policy which is adopted in South Australia if one has any objections whatsoever to the site which is proposed, there is nothing hidden in regard to the size of the area the building will take—the measurements are given, and the exact location is given. I consider a member would have little to complain about in connection with the information contained in the report. It then goes on to give the planning and the accommodation as follows:—

Department of Chemistry:

Administration.
Food and Drugs.
Agriculture.
Cereal.
Gas and explosives.
Etc.

Pathology:

Administration.
Laboratories.
Mortuary.
Etc.

The report then goes on to describe the actual floors of the building. It gives details of the basement floor and what it will contain, including details of the storage, workshop, and plant rooms for the mortuary section and the chemistry department, which are provided separately on this level. Accommodation is also provided for a future neutron activator. It then carries on further to the ground, first, second, third and fourth floors, and each floor is dealt with individually by setting out the actual measurements of the rooms contained on that particular level. For example the linen store in the basement of the Department of Chemistry is 9 ft. 9 in. by 6 ft. 9 in. It lists the measurements right through to the cleaners' room, which is 4 ft. 6 in. by 3 ft.

Information as to where all these things are placed is given to members, and this information is tabled before the Bill concerned is introduced. If members were not in a position to judge for themselves, if they were interested enough to see whether something of this nature was properly set out, and if they did not have the qualifications, they would have that report, which could be referred to anyone with the necessary qualifications.

It may, perhaps, be handed to a medical man who, after studying the report, might say that as he had worked on a hospital design, in his opinion such and such a proposal would not work. He then may be able to make a suggestion as to how it could work. However, if a hospital were being erected in Perth, the members of Parliament in this State would have to go to untold trouble to obtain any information they required concerning the erection of the building, and especially concerning any details such as those I have just mentioned.

Mr. Durack: Does that report have to be submitted to Parliament before the Bill is passed?

Mr. BICKERTON: It is submitted when the Bill is introduced.

Mr. Durack: We do not usually introduce two separate Bills.

Mr. BICKERTON: No, but as I mentioned earlier, it is a prerequisite in the South Australian Parliament that the report shall be tabled at the introduction of any legislation. So that information would be made available then.

Mr. Durack: On the debate on the Estimates?

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Not on the Bill?

Mr. BICKERTON: No. This report could be debated on the Estimates.

Mr. Durack: Yes; we would have to debate it on the Estimates under our rules.

Mr. BICKERTON: Yes; this could be debated on the Estimates, but on the introduction of a Bill—

Mr. Durack: I was merely raising the question as to how it would fit into our procedure. I received an answer.

Mr. Williams: From the report you were reading to the House could you refer to some of the evidence given by witnesses before the committee?

Mr. BICKERTON: Yes. This is a South Australian report and it is numbered P.P. 78. It is entitled, "Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on Department of Chemistry and Medico-Legal Institute Building." On the bottom of the face sheet are the words, "Ordered by House of Assembly to be printed, 4th August, 1966."

Mr. Williams: Could you give some of the names of the people who were interviewed by the committee before making the recommendations or findings?

Mr. BICKERTON: The following are a few:—

Town Clerk, City of Adelaide.
Supervising Design Architect, Public Buildings Department, Victoria Square, Adelaide.
City Coroner, Adelaide.
Consulting Pathologist, 157 East Terrace, Adelaide.
Deputy Government Analyst, Chemistry Department, Adelaide.
Chief Inspector of Explosives and Chief Gas Examiner.

Is that enough?

Mr. Williams: Yes.

Mr. BICKERTON: I think a report submitted by such a body would give members of Parliament some idea of the details discussed in connection with the construction of any building. The information given covers all floors of the entire building. It refers to structural details and the external finish. In referring to the internal finish it states—

Walling generally will be concrete block, exposed or faced as required.

In regard to floor finishes, the report states—

Generally soft vinyl tile throughout with terrazzo to entrance, toilets, etc. and certain areas of the mortuary section.

Then it goes on to describe the engineering services—the mechanical requirements for the building and the equipment that is involved; and then, most important of all, the estimated costs for both stages of the building. This part of the report reads—

Stage 1, South Wing— \$

Building work	520,000
Engineering services	228,000
Steel equipment	30,000
Design & supervision	52,000

If members of this House were discussing a particular project they would find it extremely difficult to obtain costs of that

nature. In my opinion, by the submission of such a report, Parliament is being conducted in a most democratic manner. The report goes on to describe the estimated time for preparation of working drawings, specifications, and bills of quantities. It also refers to the estimated time for the completion of the building.

Finally, the findings of the committee are published in the report. As there are only very few, Mr. Speaker, perhaps you will permit me to quote them. They are as follows:—

Findings of the Committee

The present facilities are antiquated and inadequate. Because of the cramped conditions it is not always possible to adopt suitable security precautions at the present city mortuary when conducting post-mortems, the results of which may have a vital bearing on future civil or criminal proceedings.

Normal population growth has resulted in heavier burdens being placed on the limited facilities and the need for a greater proportion of deaths to be conducted by the Coroner's Department, for example, the increased incidence of road accidents, has further increased the work of the associated departments.

Interpolating here, perhaps I could have found a more cheerful example, but as this report deals with the construction of a building relating to medical work it must have a mortuary. The findings continue—

No trouble with the disposal of obnoxious fumes was expected by the Public Buildings Department.

The Adelaide City Council opposed mortuary activities being included in this project but it was not in a position to suggest a suitable alternative site.

Whilst the plans submitted meet the anticipated requirements to the early 1980's, the Committee has some reservations as to future expansion after that time.

Proposals Adopted

The Committee is satisfied that the existing facilities provided are unsatisfactory and it adopts the department's proposal.

Recommendation

The Committee recommends the proposed public work of constructing a new building for the Department of Chemistry and Medico-Legal Institute, at an estimated cost of \$2,200,000.

That is a brief summation of the report from start to finish; and, as I said previously, on its being presented to the House members could obtain all the information they required on that particular project. It would certainly give them an indication whether the work should proceed.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: There is no indication given in the report as to how long the inquiry took?

Mr. BICKERTON: The only indication one can obtain is that the report was submitted on the 10th March, 1966, and was placed before Parliament on the 4th August, 1966. I should imagine that those dates would be correct, because the printing of the report and other considerations would delay its presentation to Parliament.

Generally, I think I have outlined the purpose of these committees and their value to a Parliament. In the House of Commons, the Commonwealth Parliament of Australia, the Canadian Parliament, and in most other democratic Parliaments of note, these standing committees are appointed for a purpose, and they serve a very useful purpose. They enable members of any Parliament to acquaint themselves more fully as to what is going on. If the investigation of these committees caused any delay in the completion of these projects, in the interests of democracy perhaps such a delay would be advantageous, instead of there being the possibility of legislation being passed by Parliament when it should not be passed.

I think I have explained sufficient of the general detail to enable members to understand how these standing committees work, but should any honourable member care to examine these reports he is at liberty to do so.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Naider (Deputy Premier).

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Establishment: Motion

MR. BICKERTON (Pilbara) [8.20 p.m.]: I move—

That, in the opinion of this House, steps should be taken to set up a Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on subordinate legislation.

This motion is not dissimilar from the one I have just moved; in fact, many of the reasons in favour of it are similar to those I have mentioned in connection with the standing committee on public works. The exception is that the committee referred to in the motion now before the House is one to deal with subordinate legislation.

A similar committee has been operating—and again I will use the South Australian case on which to base my remarks—in South Australia since about 1935. To my way of thinking it is a committee which does valuable work in keeping members of Parliament informed on subordinate legislation.

Subordinate legislation is probably a fairly broad term, but it refers to regulations, by-laws, etc. As the House is aware, our system is such that much of the legis-

lation we pass gives Ministers the right to make regulations within the scope of the actual Act of Parliament which has been passed by Parliament; sometimes I think, Ministers make these regulations a little outside the scope of the Act.

It is true that the regulations are published in the *Government Gazette* and, after a period of publication, they become law. It is also true that the regulations are tabled when the House sits, and a period of time is allowed for anyone who wishes to object and move a motion for their disallowance. I hope to prove, however, that this is a pretty unsatisfactory way of going about things.

Again I sought the assistance of Mr. Combe, and I will be glad if you will allow me, Sir, to read just how the South Australian committee came into operation in the first place. I quote from the letter as follows:—

In 1935 the Government of the day appointed a committee to consider the powers of subordinate legislation exercised by or under the direction of the Governor-in-Council, Ministers of the Crown, local governing bodies, and other public or local authorities, and to report what additional safeguards are desirable or necessary to secure the constitutional principle and the supremacy of Parliament.

Enclosed is a copy of the committee's report which sets out the system of subordinate legislation in operation in this State, and also the recommendations made in relation thereto.

I have a copy of that report which is dated the 27th August, 1935, to the South Australian Parliament—the subordinate legislation report of the honorary committee. While I do not like doing a great deal of reading, it is essential to give members a fairly complete picture in the shortest possible time, and it is, therefore, necessary for me to read extracts from this report of the honorary committee. In part it says—

Many of the statutes of South Australia delegate to various authorities the power to make subordinate legislation. In most instances this power is delegated to the Governor-in-Council, whilst in a minority of cases the power is given to the Ministers of the Crown, local government authorities, statutory boards, and some other organisations. The result has been that a large mass of subordinate legislation has been enacted which, in many cases, is largely concerned with the conduct of members of the public. (In this report the frequent use of the word "regulations" will be made, and for the sake of brevity, where this occurs, it is intended to include regulations, by-laws, rules, orders, and other forms of subordinate legislation.)

At this stage I would point out that where I refer to regulations during my speech I will also be referring to by-laws, rules, orders, and other forms of subordinate legislation. I continue to quote—

This system of subordinate legislation is not of late growth. In England it has been availed of for many centuries, whilst in South Australia regulation-enabling provisions have been included in statutes from the early days of the colony. The use of this system, however, is ever-increasing. Modern legislation tends more and more to the regulation of the economic life of the community, and to deal with matters which at one time would not have been considered proper subjects for parliamentary control. It is this type of legislation which is usually amplified by regulation. Parliament being content to lay down the guiding principles of the law, and to leave the details to be worked out by regulation, and to be varied in a similar manner as the need arises. At the outset it should be stressed that the system of subordinate legislation is entirely the creation of Parliament, and that no regulations can be made except under the authority of an enabling Act.

I will now jump to the findings of the committee in this matter, and will refer to one or two recommendations which the committee made after extensive investigations. The main recommendations are—

That the Standing Orders be amended to provide for the establishment of a joint committee to examine all regulations and to report to both Houses of Parliament when in session, or when Parliament is not in session to the authorities authorising such regulations.

I have here a copy of those Joint Standing Orders which I will refer to later.

In 1932—according to the information I have—there was a considerable amount of opposition in England both inside and outside Parliament to what was termed, "Government by regulation." Much heated debate took place on the fact that Parliament had been robbed of its real task by regulations which were governing the country, and it was felt that Parliament was not having a right and just say in the operation of those regulations.

A Lord Hewart wrote a publication on this matter, and for the information of members I will read the three main points that he made in connection with it. The main points made by Lord Hewart and the opponents of this system—namely, Government by regulation—were—

- (a) That the practice is growing up of giving power to make regulations without reference to Parliament.

- (b) That power is sometimes given to make regulations which have the effect of substantially altering the provisions of the enabling Act so that, in effect, the subordinate legislation can over-ride the superior Act.

- (c) That provision is sometimes made whereby regulations cannot be challenged in the courts.

The committee of inquiry in South Australia went on to say that the three points made by that gentleman did not necessarily apply in South Australia, but the main defects of the system as applied to that State were—

- (a) There is usually a lack of publicity associated with the framing of subordinate legislation.

- (b) Unless vigilance is exercised by Parliament, there may develop a tendency to frame legislation drafted merely from a departmental point of view.

- (c) In certain few instances—to be mentioned later—there is a lack of complete Parliamentary control over subordinate legislation.

- (d) There is no convenient method provided whereby the public at large may object to the policy of any regulations.

Those four points explain in the year 1967 just what that committee in South Australia thought in 1935; and we are now faced with an increasing amount of legislation, with an increasing amount of subordinate legislation, and with an increasing number of members of Parliament learning a progressively lesser amount of what they should know about subordinate legislation.

Finally, one more comment in this report is—

Whilst recognising its necessary limitations, it must be admitted that the system provides a convenient method of framing legislation on subordinate and relatively unimportant matters. The greater part of subordinate legislation consists of regulations dealing with administrative matters with which the Parliament should not be taken up. Therefore it must be accepted as inevitable that this method of legislation will be continued and, possibly, extended, but whilst accepting this fact, the Committee realises that all practicable precautions should be provided against any improper exercise or abuse of these powers.

We realise that subordinate legislation must play its part—and indeed a very important part—in modern Government. The main point is that we must control it, and not allow it to control us.

The purpose of the committee I have proposed is to have a body of members of Parliament appointed to study subordinate legislation and to bring down recommen-

dations to their fellow parliamentary colleagues. I admit that we cannot do away with subordinate legislation, and that it would be very cumbersome to bring every little matter before Parliament. Power should be retained by departments and by Ministers for the making of subordinate legislation, but we must have a method by which it can be controlled—and controlled by those who have been elected to Parliament.

Mr. Rushton: Have you any examples of the type of report that is made?

Mr. BICKERTON: Yes, I shall deal with that aspect later on. The report of the honorary committee in South Australia is available to any member who desires to see it, but it is far too voluminous for me to read in full. I now return to the details contained in the letter from Mr. Combe. I did read the first paragraph of the report which was instrumental in the setting up of the committee of inquiry in 1935. The letter continues—

As the result of the adoption of the Committee's recommendation No. 2 in 1937 by Act No. 2381 of 1937, the Constitution Act, s. 55 (1) (g) now provides:—

"55. (1) The Legislative Council and House of Assembly from time to time as there shall be occasion, shall prepare and adopt such Standing Rules and Orders as appear to the Council and Assembly respectively best adapted for—

(g) the establishment of a Joint Standing Committee of both Houses to examine and report to the Council and the Assembly upon all regulations, rules, by-laws and orders (not being orders made in judicial proceedings) made pursuant to any Act of Parliament."

I have a copy of those Joint Standing Orders which enable this committee to be set up and to carry out its duties. I will not read through them, but deal with the matter in a general way only. Joint Standing Order 29 provides that the under-secretary forwards, for the use of the committee, copies of all regulations, etc., as they are made, together with an appropriate explanation thereof by the regulation-making authority.

Let me deal with this matter briefly. Under this Standing Order it means that any regulation—using the word in the general sense—that is made is forwarded automatically to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation. There is no chance of it being hidden away in some file; and there is no chance of it getting into the *Government Gazette* in South Australia, without anyone noticing it.

It is a requirement of this Standing Order that all regulations be forwarded directly to the secretary of the parliamentary standing committee on subordinate legislation. To quote again from the letter—

The regulations and explanatory notes are carefully scrutinised by the Committee and where it is considered necessary, witnesses may be called. The regulations are considered by the Committee in the light of the criteria laid down in Joint Standing Order No. 26, i.e.—

That is what is laid down in Joint Standing Order 26; and the consideration that must be given by the joint standing committee is also set out. It is to consider—

- (a) whether the regulations are in accord with the general objects of the Act, pursuant to which they are made;
- (b) whether the regulations unduly trespass on rights previously established by law;
- (c) whether the regulations unduly make rights dependent upon administrative and not upon judicial decisions; and
- (d) whether the regulations contain matter which, in the opinion of the committee, should properly be dealt with in an Act of Parliament.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Is there any time limit on the committee in respect of looking into these regulations?

Mr. BICKERTON: I have not come across any time limit. I suppose the committee has to look at the regulations as quickly as possible. There is a safeguard placed on the regulations that are brought forward, because of the four points I have just read out.

The appointment of a similar standing committee in Western Australia will mean that in Parliament there will be at least six members available to study every regulation that is placed before Parliament. They will be in a position to report to Parliament, and to give their opinions. There is no chance of any regulations being overlooked, as some regulations might be overlooked when they are published in the *Government Gazette* and members do not have time to move for their disallowance. This committee will be able to pick up mistakes, if any, or irregularities in the regulations, and determine whether they come within the scope of the original Acts or whether they are *ultra vires* those Acts.

Only recently we had some examples where, perhaps, if we had had a standing committee on subordinate legislation a certain inquiry may not be taking place. However, before you say anything, Mr. Speaker, I realise that this matter is *sub judice*. To continue with the letter—

The committee reports upon each regulation to each House of Parlia-

ment, indicating whether it is of opinion that any regulation should be disallowed.

A notice of motion for its disallowance is then usually given by a member of the Committee in each House and, by Committee arrangement, the motion subsequently moved in one of the Houses. If it be resolved by either House that such regulations be disallowed, such regulations thereupon cease to have effect, the resolution is conveyed to the Honourable the Chief Secretary and promulgated in the *Government Gazette*.

Again, there is a safeguard of the rights of the people, because if this committee makes a decision that a regulation should be disallowed, or some amendment should be made to it, it is not a matter for someone else to move in the matter; it will be a member of the committee who will move for the disallowance and it is up to the House to decide whether or not it agrees that the regulation be disallowed.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Can you tell me whether or not in practice a committee might divide fairly equally or just have a majority feeling about a regulation that should be thrown out?

Mr. BICKERTON: I would say that if the opinions of the committee's members are divided they would probably have a majority and a minority report. They are in no way bound as they are only making a recommendation to Parliament. Even though the members of this committee were unanimous that a regulation should be allowed, there is scope under the Standing Orders to enable any individual member of the House to move a motion to disallow the regulation. The members of the committee would not necessarily be bound; they would just have different opinions.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: In practice would a small majority in the committee mean a decision was referred to the House?

Mr. BICKERTON: A decision always comes to the House. The report must come to the House whether the committee agrees to a regulation or decides it should be disallowed.

Mr. Rushton: In the Federal House I understand there are special provisions for a minority report in certain circumstances.

Mr. BICKERTON: I suppose we would have that provision in this case. To continue quoting—

In cases where the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation is of opinion that no action is necessary in connection with any particular regulation, it still remains competent for any Member of Parliament to move, after notice, for its disallowance. Information as to regulations, etc., which are currently subject to

motions for disallowance is given on the Notice Paper.

I have here an ordinary daily notice paper, similar to that which we receive. In this notice paper are stated the regulations which are before the House. At the top of the column on the righthand side is the final day for the notice for disallowance. So members are fully acquainted as to how long they have to move for a disallowance. There is an asterisk in front of certain regulations, and this indicates that disallowance is recommended by the standing committee on subordinate legislation.

Therefore, as this information appears on the notice paper, it is not necessary to see a notice in the *Government Gazette*, which is tabled but rarely seen by people. The decision of the committee is brought before the notice of members by its inclusion on the notice paper for both the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. This list is added to as regulations are laid on the Table of the House by the Ministers concerned; and on the expiry of the period for giving notice of motion for disallowance, the relevant regulation is removed from the list.

This is a paid committee with a membership of six. I notice there are three members from each House; that is, three members from the Legislative Assembly and three members from the Legislative Council. Three members are from the Labor Party and three are from the L.C.L. So it appears that membership is evenly divided both as far as Houses are concerned, and as far as political parties are concerned.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: How would you suggest the members would be divided in this Parliament if a committee were established?

Mr. BICKERTON: I do not think that would present a problem. I cannot see anything wrong in the case of the other committee where there were five and two. When the Government considered Standing Orders to cover this sort of thing, and prior to legislating for the amendment to the Constitution, I imagine it would give consideration to the form the membership of the committee should take. I do not think that is of great import now, but I cannot see anything wrong with the division of three Labor and three L.C.L. to which I previously referred. However, in this State the L.C.L. would have to share its representation with the Country Party.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: There are two parties in South Australia.

Mr. BICKERTON: According to the information I have here, it says that in the year 1965-66 the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation considered 247 papers which included regulations under Acts, 150; proclamations under Acts, 6; by-laws of corporations, 48; by-laws of district councils, 38; rules of local court,

three; and rules of Supreme Court two. The committee met on 27 occasions during the year, and evidence was taken from 79 witnesses. Two inspections of areas affected by by-laws were made.

This brings me to a rather important point as far as subordinate legislation is concerned. Members can see what is taking place in South Australia where the committee had to meet on 27 occasions to deal with 247 cases. It says here—

Sixteen reports were submitted to Parliament recommending disallowance of 5 regulations and 11 by-laws. On four occasions reports were tabled where no action for disallowance was recommended because written undertakings for amendment had been received.

If we allow for the four reports dealing with the amendments by consent, a total of 20 regulations were disallowed in that particular year. I asked one of our hard-working clerical staff to obtain for me the number of regulations over the last 10 years on which motions for disallowance were moved in this Parliament. In the Legislative Assembly over that period, there have been only 17 motions for disallowance, while in the Legislative Council there have been 10, making a total of 27. I take it the figure I have includes both Houses, which means that in a period of 10 years there have been only 27 motions for the disallowance of regulations; yet in one year in South Australia, after scrutiny by a standing committee, that committee moved for the disallowance of 20 regulations.

Two points arise out of this: Either those who make our regulations are so much more efficient than their counterparts in South Australia—which one is inclined to doubt; with all due respect, I do not think we can say we are that perfect—or our system is such that we are not picking out the obvious faults and discrepancies connected with our regulations. These would be the same as those in connection with the regulations, by-laws, etc., in South Australia. It is an interesting point to note because undoubtedly our regulations, etc., are getting through simply because we as members of Parliament either have not the time to go through them all or the facilities are not available to us to make a judgment on whether or not these regulations are, in fact, suitable. I believe the latter is the reason.

Mr. Dunn: Have you the number of regulations passed in that 10 years?

Mr. BICKERTON: No, I am afraid not.

Mr. Rowberry: Could it be that members do not hear the Ministers' intimation that certain regulations are laid upon the Table of the House?

Mr. BICKERTON: Even if members do hear the Ministers, I think our system

could be so much simplified if we adopted the South Australian system, because our regulations would then go before a committee. They must do so. When that situation is reached we are getting somewhere towards convincing ourselves that the time we are sitting here is not being wasted. At least our own parliamentary colleagues on the committee will bring before us matters which would otherwise slip by our notice under the present system. Mr. Combe finalises by saying this—

It is generally agreed that the Committee is doing true Parliamentary work of a valuable nature and has had a salutary effect on the standard of Subordinate legislation.

With that remark I would readily agree.

I will not deal further with any of the reports on this matter. The notice paper in South Australia has all the regulations, which are laid before the House, printed at the end. I will mention that matter again because it is an important one. We simply table a gazette here. In South Australia the regulations are all printed at the back of the notice paper and an indication is given in regard to those in connection with which a disallowance motion should be moved. The time in which it is possible to move such a motion is also indicated.

I would recommend that procedure to this Assembly and would say that committees on subordinate legislation operate very effectively in practically every democratic Parliament, and I feel we would be very wise indeed to have a similar committee operating here. In fact, if I had to choose between the standing committees which are operating in most democratic Parliaments, including the public works committee on which I am very keen, the public finance committee, which is an essential one, and the subordinate legislation committee, I think I would have to favour the one dealing with subordinate legislation. That would be the position if I were allowed to choose only one. I do think that this committee concerns so much the rights of the people. Officials are prone at times—perhaps accidentally so—when things are not working out too well to recommend to an overworked Minister that a situation can be got around by the promulgation of a regulation.

This Parliament is sometimes in recess for eight months, and even if all of us were 100 per cent. competent and efficient, a regulation made soon after the House rises could be in operation for some eight months before a disallowance motion could be moved. Perhaps more time could elapse, when we take into consideration the time we spend on the Address-in-Reply, before it would be possible to move a motion for the disallowance of a regulation in order to rectify any wrongs which the regulation was causing.

This cannot happen under the South Australian system because if the House is not sitting the authority responsible for formulating the regulation is advised immediately of the opinion of the standing committee on subordinate legislation. I would say it would be either a very courageous Government official or an absolute fool who would not take notice of the committee's recommendation, because those responsible for the regulation would realise that when the House sat, very much would be said in connection with the matter. Therefore there is a safeguard in regard to subordinate legislation when the House is not sitting.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: What are the salaries of those in this group?

Mr. BICKERTON: I am sorry. Did I miss the most important part? The chairman of the committee is paid \$600 per annum, and the members, \$500 per annum. If they are doing the job properly, and it looks as if they are from the reports issued, I would say they are possibly underpaid from the public's point of view, because they would do a great deal of good in connection with protecting the rights of the individual.

On both these matters I wish to make one final point: We know that these days Parliaments operate under the system of party politics. I do not know what other system we could use. I cannot imagine a House full of Independents. I do not know how we would get any law and order in that situation. However, this method of standing committees seems to me to be the only effective and democratic method of keeping party political Governments somewhere in hand. At least it keeps some form of control over them; that is, over the Executive.

As I said earlier, and I repeat, when such a committee is operating, all members of Parliament from both sides of the House, and particularly those we refer to as back-bench members, have an opportunity of placing recommendations before the House. I do not say that their recommendations are carried, but they at least have, under their Standing Orders, untrammelled in any shape or form by Governments—because Governments too are governed by Standing Orders—the right of investigation, the right to appoint a Select Committee into a particular matter, and then the right to place before the House what the committee has resolved at its meetings. The House itself then has the democratic right to make its decision; but at least the members of that House do have before them some information on which they can rely and which they know has been the subject of much investigation.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Deputy Premier).

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

Oil Purchases: Motion

MR. MAY (Collie) [8.59 p.m.]: I move—

Having regard to the wording of section 20 of the State Electricity Commission Act, No. 60 of 1945, wherein it is set out—

(1) The Commission shall furnish the Minister with—

(a) all such reports, documents, papers and information as are required by Parliament, pursuant to any Act or pursuant to any order or resolution of either House of Parliament, and

(b) full information on all business of the Commission to enable answers to be made to all questions asked in Parliament concerning the Commission or to enable the Minister to furnish any returns required by Parliament or which he himself requires.

It is the opinion of this House that the Minister should inform it of—

(a) the name of the company from which oil is being purchased for use in the State power stations, and

(b) the price per ton that is being paid for such oil, and

should lay whatever agreements have been made, as are in operation at the present, on the Table of the House for the information of Parliament.

May I say at the outset that I regret the necessity to bring this motion before Parliament. I would also like to say that if I become a little critical of the Minister responsible for the State Electricity Commission, he must understand that it is not personal, but purely political.

Mr. Nalder: Nothing different from other occasions.

Mr. MAY: I am sure the Minister will accept that assurance. Let us have a look at the wording of this motion standing in my name to see what it states. Paragraph (a) and part of paragraph (b) read as follows:—

(a) all such reports, documents, papers and information as are required by Parliament, pursuant to any Act or pursuant to any order or resolution of either House of Parliament, and

(b) full information on all business of the Commission to enable answers to be made to all questions asked in Parliament . . .

I know, and all the members of the House know, that all the questions that

have been asked regarding the price which the Government is paying for fuel oil have been ignored. The Minister has refused, on all occasions, to answer those particular questions. However, most of us are aware of the intention of the Act, and I would say that intention should be carried out by the Minister and by the Government.

The Minister is simply using his position for political purposes. He is avoiding the supply of information which is of public importance, and this is playing politics at its worst. I would like to ask the Minister a very fair question. Does he honestly believe that it is fair that in the case of two competing companies, one is to know the price of the other company's commodity, while the other company is kept in the dark as to its competitor's price? In my opinion that is a very fair question and should be answered by the Minister either "Yes" or "No."

This is not the first time the Government has used secret methods when dealing with the State Electricity Commission. We all remember the secrecy surrounding the Kwinana power house back in October, 1964. An article published in *The West Australian* on the 30th October, 1964, reads as follows:—

Kwinana Will Get Big New Power Station.

The intention to build the new station was not revealed till yesterday when Mr. May (Labor Collie) asked Electricity Minister Nalder in Legislative Assembly if the construction of another power station was being considered.

It became well known after that announcement—and the Minister for Electricity had to admit it—that the decision was made long before I asked a question relating to it in this House. Why then all the secrecy regarding the building of a power station at Kwinana? It seems to have been the policy of the Minister and the State Electricity Commission to be secretive about the operations of the State Electricity Commission.

On the 14th April, 1966, the following item was published in *The West Australian*:—

The letting of two contracts worth \$13,000,000 for generating plant for the Kwinana power station is an important step in the expansion programme of the State Electricity Commission. However, the government is still being unjustifiably secretive about the cost of running the station on fuel oil.

Since the decision to build the station was announced, the argument whether it should be fired by coal or oil has largely disappeared in the progress towards establishment of commercial oil and gas fields in W.A. It will probably not be long before coal will cease to be the only local energy

source, so that the government's choice of oil fuel for the Kwinana station cannot be contested on the ground of unfair discrimination.

Even so, the public is entitled to know the cost of oil to the S.E.C. The argument that the price cannot be disclosed because the commission is dealing with a private company (BP Australia Ltd.) is a specious evasion. The company has observed the principle that it is for the buyer of a product to disclose the price if he wishes and that is a proper attitude.

Apparently the government needs to be reminded that the S.E.C. is a public utility. What it pays for its supplies is of considerable public interest. The government has no right to keep such matters secret.

By the 2nd June, 1967, the price of oil had really become a hot potato so far as the general public was concerned; so much so as to cause the following article to appear in *The West Australian*, on the 2nd June, 1967:

Answers Are Needed to Power Questions

The Collie Miners' Union is understandably concerned about what appears to be a doubling of the planned capacity of the oil-fired power station at Kwinana.

When the decision to build the Kwinana station was announced late in 1964, it was said that Kwinana would be slightly bigger than the coal-burning Muja station at Collie. It has now emerged, in a roundabout way, that Kwinana will have four 120-megawatt units to Muja's four 60-megawatt units.

Without any public announcement, the government seems to have decided on a policy of oil-fired power generation based on Kwinana. There may be good reasons for this, especially in the light of the Kwinana area's increasing demand for power which the government is meeting adequately. But the public has no way of judging the wisdom of such a policy unless cabinet speaks freely about its economic options.

The key question is the price the State will pay for oil at Kwinana. The government's persistent refusal to disclose this on the ground that it is dealing with a private company (BP) is nonsense. Coal is supplied by private companies, but the government has no inhibitions about publishing what it pays them.

Besides its duty to inform the public fully about the spending of public money, the government has a responsibility to put its thinking to the test of public opinion.

There are a number of questions that require better answers than bland assurances that the government is doing the right thing.

What will be paid for oil at Kwinana, and if it is a give-away price how long will that utopia last? Has the economic outlook for Collie coal changed with further exploration and new techniques? What are the economic arguments for and against siting some of the Kwinana generating capacity near the Bayswater-Kewdale industrial area and what are the prospects for using natural gas?

The government owes it to the Collie miners and the public to discuss such questions frankly.

It now appears from information which was given in the newspaper that tenders were not called by the commission, or by the Government, when the Government arranged to buy fuel oil for the Kwinana oil-fired power station. Apparently the State Electricity Commission negotiated direct with BP Australia Ltd. for what it called a "special price". The Minister again refused to disclose the price the commission had to pay. In a further article published in *The West Australian* on the 16th June this year it is stated—

Inquiries have revealed that at least three of the ten members of the S.E.C. do not know the oil price.

Albany mayor S. H. Knight, who is a country consumers' representative on the commission, said he did not know the price or the period for which it would apply.

"All I know is that it is cheaper than coal," he said. He thought the price had been negotiated in the past 18 months.

Obviously Mr. Knight had been gagged, because in one breath he says he does not know the price or the period, and in the next breath he claims that oil is cheaper than coal. I suggest this is a rather clever thing to be able to do under the circumstances. Again I quote from the same article—

The metropolitan consumers' representative, Mr. G. Severn, said negotiations had been reported to the commission while they were under way. He did not know the price finally negotiated but had known the range of the negotiations.

Obviously Mr. Severn had been gagged, or he did not really know the price of the oil. A further quotation from the same article reveals—

Sir Frederick Samson, who is the Fremantle district representative, said he attended all commission meetings, but did not know the price to be paid for the oil.

He recalled that he had left one meeting at 4.15 p.m. and the price might have been discussed that day after he had gone.

Members must form their own conclusions regarding Sir Frederick Samson's statement. I now quote further from the same article—

S.E.C. chairman Sir Alex Reid gave the following replies to questions by *The West Australian*:

Do you know the price of oil to be supplied to the Kwinana power station?—Yes.

What is the period of the contract?—There is no period as far as I know.

Who negotiated the price?—The general manager of the commission and the manager of BP.

Whose decision was it to expand the capacity of the Kwinana station?—The commission's.

Why do all members of the commission not know the price of the oil?—They do.

These are questions which were put to Sir Alex Reid. The article continues—

When told that at least two commission members said they did not know the final price, Sir Alex said: "All members of the commission were present when the price was given, so far as I can remember."

"The meeting must have been two months ago. There might have been two absent."

Sir Alex said he could not give the price of the oil.

"I have not got the records here but the price varies with the quantity," he said.

"I can say that oil at Kwinana is cheaper than the average price of coal at Muja," he said.

I want to know how it is possible for the general public to make a comparison between the price of oil and the price of coal; because, on the one hand, both the Minister and the commission refuse to quote the price of oil and, on the other hand, everyone knows what the commission is paying for coal from Collie. It is completely unfair; and, as I have said, it seems obvious from the various statements that the people I have mentioned were all gagged and not allowed to reveal the price of oil.

I would remind the Minister that this is public money for which he is responsible, and the public has a right to know the price of the oil. The Minister is morally bound to reveal the price in the same way as the price of coal is revealed to the public. The price which is paid for oil should not be smothered up in this way, and there is something sinister about the whole matter. The Minister

should be honest with the public. As far as the general public is concerned, the whole question has become confused. This can easily be seen from the statements which have been quoted, and which are so contradictory. The final article I wish to quote appeared in *The West Australian* of the 6th July, under the heading, "Once More Round the Power House." It says—

The government has behaved badly over the proposed expansion of the oil-fired power station which is under construction at Kwinana.

The cabinet was quite clearly confronted with an S.E.C. decision about which it knew practically nothing. In its clumsy efforts to cover up, it has relied on refusal to disclose the price to be paid for oil, and how long that price will apply, and on tangential statements about capital costs and water supplies and, of all things, the security of supply offered by overseas oil.

In the circumstances, Industrial Development Minister Court could scarcely have expected to convince anybody when he told the Liberal Party conference that the matter was carefully studied before any decision was made.

Electricity Minister Nalder obviously did not think that he had studied the matter when he said on June 6 that he had called for a report on the relative economics of coal and oil fuel, or when he said on June 15 that details of the proposal might not go to cabinet before September. Yet the S.E.C. had already called tenders for equipment.

When Mr Nalder got his report, it was used by Premier Brand as a policy statement on power generation and the emphasis was on a claimed \$16.8 million difference in capital cost between a 480-megawatt coal station at Muja and a 480-megawatt oil station at Kwinana. However, the addition of 240 megawatts to one or the other station is the point at issue and it is now said that the actual difference in capital cost would be about \$9.5 million.

Mr. Court knew this when he released a statement in Collie last week. But at the Liberal conference he reverted to the figure of \$16.8 million. Why? And why was an unreal calculation made in the first place?

It is a great pity that Mr. Court did not get down to bedrock at Collie instead of giving the miners a pep-talk—

Mr. Court: I did not talk to the miners.

Mr. MAY: The article continues—

about a possible coal market in the North-West—which notion was significantly dampened by Hamersley

Iron. The public and the people of Collie cannot be expected to swallow bland assurances that the government is doing the right thing and has their interests at heart.

There may be a convincing case for expanding at Kwinana and for using oil as fuel, but the government has certainly not volunteered one. To do so, it would have to give full details of prices for fuel and security of supply at those figures. It would have to show that it has weighed the proposition that money spent on coal remains in W.A., while profits on oil sales go overseas, and that it has pondered the effects of its decision on an important town.

In other words, what price does the government of Western Australia put on decentralisation? That is the datum point against which all other considerations, including the shortage of loan funds, have to be measured.

Numerous Press articles, similar to the one I have just quoted, have been published in regard to the conduct of the Government on this matter. There is no doubt the Government has been placed in a nasty situation, and it is all very well for the Minister for Electricity, when asked a question as to what price the Government has paid for fuel oil, to decline to reveal the price. The Minister and the Government should bear in mind that they are spending public money and the public is entitled to know how its money is being spent.

The Press articles have made quite evident the protests that have been voiced against the action of the Government in not disclosing the price of fuel oil to be used in the power stations of this State. It should be kept in mind that in every State except Western Australia, coal is superseding oil as a fuel. Those in authority realise that before long supplies of fuel oil will diminish, because it is becoming more and more apparent that oil requires a great deal of treatment before it can be used as a fuel.

If the Government continues with its present policy it will find itself in a precarious position. We have millions of tons of coal still undeveloped in this State, yet the Government continues with its policy to import fuel oil from outside Australia and refuses to accept the fact that our own native coal should be used in the power stations. I can well recall, after the world war, that the State could not obtain sufficient supplies of fuel oil from overseas because of the war's aftermath. As a result, the Government of the day, with feverish haste, appealed to the Collie miners to produce more and more coal because sufficient supplies of fuel oil could not be obtained.

A similar situation could again arise at any moment. Members are fully aware of the developments to the north of Aus-

ustralia. Should a sudden outbreak of hostilities occur in those places, this State would be deprived of the supply of fuel oil. The Government is being very disloyal to this State by continuing to use foreign fuel oil instead of our own native coal, especially when coal can be produced much more cheaply than oil.

I know, and many other people know, the price the Government is paying for fuel oil, but, like the Minister, I intend to keep the information to myself. Sooner or later the use of foreign fuel oil, instead of coal which is mined in this State, will bring about the downfall of this Government. Any person who enters a shop to purchase goods knows full well the prices that will be paid for such goods. Yet this Government, although refusing to disclose the price it is paying for fuel oil, states quite openly the price it is paying for coal supplies.

Everyone knows the price paid by the State Shipping Service for its fuel oil, but that price would not compare with the price the Government would pay for Collie coal. Sooner or later the balloon will burst and, as far as I am concerned, the sooner the better. If I were a member sitting on the Government benches, I would not be a party to agree to the use of foreign fuel oil as against the use of Collie coal which can be produced much more cheaply than fuel oil.

I know that, when replying to the motion, the Minister will try to use all sorts of devices to smother up the Government's action, but there is no doubt the Government is being extremely disloyal to the State as a whole by using foreign fuel oil when it has readily available to it supplies of native coal. I repeat that all over the world various countries are returning to the use of coal as a fuel. Its advantages cannot be denied. Yet in this State the Government is doing all it can to promote the use of imported fuel oil. I cannot think of anything worse than being disloyal to one's own State, but the Government is certainly being disloyal by allowing the use of fuel oil in our power stations.

Large numbers of migrants are being brought to this State and employment will have to be found for them. Collie would provide an excellent source of employment for such people, but figures show that the number of workers at Collie is continually diminishing as a result of this Government's policy to use more and more foreign fuel oil. During both the Great War and the World War, the Collie coalminers were very loyal to the State, but this is the treatment this Government is now meting out to them. I hope the Government will reconsider its decision and make an endeavour to use our own coal as a fuel.

There is no necessity for fuel oil to be used in this State, and I hope the Government will show more wisdom and that the Minister in charge of the State Electricity

Commission will act contrary to the policy that has been laid down by the general manager of the commission. No one man should dictate the policy of the Government in regard to the type of fuel that should be used in our power stations; but that is what the general manager of the commission is doing at the present time. Perhaps he is of the opinion it will enhance his prestige. He apparently thinks he is doing the right thing.

I wonder if he stopped to consider what will happen to the State if the supply of fuel oil is discontinued.

There would be a great deal of hurry and scurry to use any sort of coal, because it will not be possible to obtain overseas oil. The oil produced in this State will not be nearly sufficient or adequate for our needs. In any case it only needs a bomb or two to blow up all the industries in Kwinana in less than an hour.

The Government should be broad-minded, sensible, and a lot more conscious of what it is doing. The people of Collie have been very fair to this State. Because of the shortage of oil they were called upon to produce extra coal, and they did so in no uncertain manner. Now, however, because there is a certain amount of fuel oil available, the people of Collie are being disregarded entirely.

If the Government persists in carrying on as it is doing, it will mean that the coal industry in this State will cease to exist. There are certain things happening which are not to my liking, or to the liking of the people of the State, particularly in connection with the use of fuel oil for the power houses. The whole thing has been kept under a deep veil of secrecy. This applied particularly to the building of the Kwinana power station. I was, however, able to ask a question of the Minister and, having tied him down, he had to admit that the plans and specifications for the power station at Kwinana had been in existence for some time before I asked my question.

Why was it necessary for all this secrecy in regard to the use of fuel oil for the power houses? Surely it would be far wiser to use our own native fuel, and spend the money in this State, rather than send it overseas to foreign countries! I certainly would not like to be a member of a government which supports such a policy.

I can assure members that if ever we occupy the Government benches, I will do my utmost to ensure that millions of tons of native fuel from Collie are made available for use in this State. I will ensure that this is done, instead of using foreign fuel, which results in the money going out of the country.

I hope that saner counsels will prevail, and the Minister will take a stand on the attitude being adopted by the General Manager of the State Electricity Commission. After all is said and done, I under-

stand he is only likely to be in that position for another 18 months or two years. I hope the Government will take cognisance of the motion I have moved.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Electricity).

House adjourned at 9.35 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 24th August, 1967

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (27): ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

FISHING

Government Training Scheme

2. Mr. RUNCIMAN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) What training does the Government provide for those wishing to engage in the fishing industry?
- (2) What is the nature of this training?
- (3) Has the Government any plans to increase the purpose and scope of such training?
- (4) If so, can he give details of such a scheme?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The only training available is provided by the Technical Education Division of the Education Department at the technical schools of Geraldton and Fremantle.
- (2) Courses in navigation, signalling, ship handling, and Marine Act rules and regulations, to meet Harbour and Light Department requirements.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) A combined departmental and industry committee is at present being convened to consider the form and scope of future training plans. Depending on the requirements of industry, it is believed that these courses should concentrate on such matters as fishing techniques, general fisheries administration, an understanding of conservation and control, and the like. It is hoped that a pilot course can be conducted in the early part of 1968.

Appointment of Extension Officer

3. Mr. RUNCIMAN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries:

(1) When was an extension officer appointed to the Fisheries Department?

(2) What are his duties?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) The 3rd July, 1967.

(2) (a) Prepare for publication and dissemination results of research officers' investigations, and fisheries promotion generally.

(b) Organise field days, lectures, and seminars.

(c) Prepare and/or edit films, brochures, pamphlets, bulletins and news-sheets designed to inform industry of developments within Australia or elsewhere.

(d) Organise training courses for fishermen.

(e) Collaborate with other departments and instrumentalities in educating fishermen, and industry generally, on the need for better hygiene in handling methods and the improved marketing of sea foods and fishery products generally.

SCHOOL HOSTEL AT CARNARVON Accommodation of Primary School Children

4. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Now that the Carnarvon Junior High School has been made a senior high school, does this mean that in the future primary school children from the stations will not be permitted accommodation in the school hostel at Carnarvon?

(2) If "Yes," does this mean that these children will not be able to attend the primary school at Carnarvon if they are unable to find private accommodation?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Lewis) replied:

(1) and (2) The Carnarvon hostel, in common with hostels in other parts of the State, is provided for high school children. Primary school children are accommodated if there is room to spare, and this policy will continue.

WUNDOWIE CHARCOAL IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY

Management Control, and Overseas Demand

5. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

(1) For what period of time was the company, Australian National In-