

5. **SALT**
Export

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Will the Minister advise if there are any clauses in the agreement between the State and Texada Mines Pty. Ltd. limiting the export of salt?
- (2) If so—
 - (a) what are the conditions to export;
 - (b) have Texada Mines Pty. Ltd. kept within their agreement in this regard?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) There are no such clauses as the Honourable Member would be able to check by a study of the Evaporites (Lake MacLeod) Agreement Act.
- (2) See answer to (1).

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MARINE
ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 11th April.

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (Lower West) [8.23 p.m.]: I am sure the Minister will be relieved to know the Opposition has every intention of supporting this Bill. A measure such as this which, in effect, protects people against their own foolhardiness, often incites a number of people to ask, "Should we really do it? If people are silly enough to go out in a boat without a radio, is that not their concern?" The problem inevitably is that if people do land themselves in trouble it becomes an expense upon the State to render assistance to them. It is necessary to send out boats and often aircraft to assist.

As the Minister explained, the crux of the whole matter is that some areas which are designated "harbour" are, in fact, terribly large. A person could go out into quite dangerous waters which happen to be designated a harbour. Under law he would not need to have radio-telephone equipment. On the other hand, the same boat could be taken out into relatively safe waters, which were not designated a harbour, and a person would find himself compelled by law to have this equipment.

I believe the measure is sensible and, as the Minister pointed out, section 69 provides the power to exempt people from this provision. This power I believe is perfectly adequate for the odd occasion when an exemption may be required. Therefore, I support the measure.

THE HON. J. DOLAN (South-East Metropolitan—Minister for Police) [8.25 p.m.]: I thank Mr. MacKinnon for his support of the Bill. As he has stated, it is a

simple measure but it will serve further to protect people who go out into these areas in boats. I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

House adjourned at 8.28 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 12th April, 1972

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

QUESTIONS (54): ON NOTICE

1. **BUS SERVICE**

Perth-Exmouth

Mr. **COURT**, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the license to operate a road passenger service from Perth to Exmouth about to be relinquished by the holder?
- (2) Is there dissatisfaction in the area about the standard of service?
- (3) Has this license been the subject of more than one transfer?
- (4) Is there more than one experienced and capable operator available and willing to replace the existing service?
- (5) Will he indicate on what basis the choice of the new license holder will be made?
- (6) Will the opinion of local residents at Exmouth on this matter be taken into account?

Mr. **JAMIESON** replied:

- (1) The standard of service deteriorated so badly that it has been decided to license another operator. It is anticipated that the previous licensee will not continue operating.
- (2) Extreme dissatisfaction has been expressed both on behalf of people in the area as well as by visitors.
- (3) The service was inaugurated on 16th May, 1967, by Mr. L. Dargie using the name "Exmouth Express". The license was transferred to Messrs. H. W. Denford and Son (trading as Western Coach Lines) on the 14th January, 1970.

- (4) Proposals to take over the service were received from two other experienced and capable operators. One proposed to operate three services per week in each direction between Perth and Exmouth using only air-conditioned vehicles. The other proposed one service per week, subject to increase of frequency if and when patronage warranted.
- (5) A license has been granted to Ansett Transport Industries (Operations) Pty. Ltd., to commence operating on 14th April. This is the applicant offering a service three times per week. The decision was made on the basis of providing the most frequent service in the interests of the Exmouth Area.
- (6) The decision was taken in the interests of both local residents and visitors to the Exmouth area. It was reached after discussion with the Commissioner of the Shire of Exmouth.

2. URBAN TRANSPORT

Electrification and Sinking of Railway Line

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

With reference to my question 27, Thursday, 30th March, 1972—

- (a) which part of the electrified rail plan has not been submitted to the Commonwealth within the details given in paragraph 2 of his answer;
- (b) do the details submitted to the Commonwealth and listed in his answer include items not in the plan announced on the 29th March and, if so, what are they;
- (c) why is it not proposed to submit the full plan?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (a) The underground rail section between West Leederville, East Perth and Victoria Park.
- (b) Yes. Fremantle to Perth railway electrification.
 Armadale to Perth busway.
 Midland to Perth busway.
 Central business district passenger distribution system.
 Central business district underground bus station north of Wellington Street.
 Central business district rail sink on existing alignment.
- (c) Once the Government has provided the Commonwealth with the data for the underground our full plan is in effect in Canberra but in the form of a set of components.

I endeavoured to describe the nature of the joint Commonwealth/State studies in answer to question 3 of the 29th March and 27 of the 30th March. The work deliberately does not embrace complete regional transport plans, rather it concentrates on evaluating the effectiveness of a variety of components of transport plans. To this end we have provided the Commonwealth with data on 12 possible components.

3. COCKBURN SOUND *Port Developments*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) What amount is allowed in the estimated cost of \$45 million for stage 2 and \$35 million for stage 3 of the Fremantle Port Authority development plan for Mangles Bay Cockburn Sound for the independent access to the wharves parallel to the Garden Island causeway?
- (2) What is the estimated total of public funds considered necessary to finance the Fremantle Port Authority 1972 development plan for Cockburn Sound?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) Stage 2—\$750,000.
 Stage 3—\$750,000.
- (2) Point Peron southern flats area stages 1-3—\$97,500,000.

4. ROCKINGHAM-KWINANA HOSPITAL

Naval Base Personnel: Admission

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Do the plans for the Rockingham-Kwinana hospital include provision for hospital treatment for personnel from H.M.A.S. Stirling?
- (2) If "Yes" will he please advise how?
- (3) Have negotiations been carried out with the Commonwealth Government or Departments in the last 12 months towards navy needs in this hospital and a financial contribution towards its cost?
- (4) If "Yes" what have been the results and progress and the dates on which the negotiations have been carried out?
- (5) Will he let me know the Government's decision on the Shire of Rockingham and Shire of Kwinana's offer to make available \$800,000 of their borrowing powers towards financing the hospital?

- (6) After advising of the Brand Government's initiatives towards high priority action for building the Rockingham-Kwinana hospital with ample time for calling tenders in April and May 1972, will he explain his answer on the 30th March that the Brand Government could not have called tenders in April or May of this year?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) and (2) Personnel from H.M.A.S. Stirling will be hospitalised, when required, in the hospital most appropriate for their condition. This would be decided by the navy medical officers concerned. Informal discussions indicate that the navy would use the Hollywood Repatriation Hospital.

I might add that I have since confirmed this. It appears that installations such as the Air Force base at Pearce and the Navy depot have their own sick bays, and any personnel requiring more intensive treatment than can be provided at the sick bays is taken to the Hollywood Repatriation Hospital.

- (3) No, except as indicated above.
 (4) Answered by (3).
 (5) This is still under consideration.
 (6) Planning was not and could not have been completed in time.

5. MUSEUM, LIBRARY, AND ART GALLERY

Current Planning

Mr. LEWIS, to the Minister for Cultural Affairs:

- (1) What is the current planning for the cultural centre with respect to—
 (a) the museum;
 (b) the library;
 (c) the art gallery?
 (2) What is the expected completion date of each?
 (3) What is the personnel of the planning committee?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) (a) Museum. First stage of the new museum has been completed and it is fully operational.
 Preliminary brief for the remaining stages obtained from the Director of the Museum. No planning work for stages 2 and 3 commenced.
 (b) Library. Detailed brief available and feasibility studies prepared and discussed with the Director of the W.A. Library.

- (c) Art Gallery. Detailed brief has been prepared. No planning commenced.

(2) Assuming—

- (1) that the sites for the Library and Art Gallery become available by the end of 1975 as a result of building—

(i) the new Technical College (1974-75);

(ii) the new Police Court at Adelaide Terrace (1974-75); and

- (2) that approximately \$2.5 million per annum is available for the Cultural Centre as from the beginning of 1976, the following completion dates can be achieved—

(a) Museum—

Stage 1—completed.

Stage 2—completion June, 1981.

Stage 3—completion December, 1984.

(b) Library—

Stage 1—completion December, 1978.

Stage 2—when required.

(c) Art Gallery—

Stage 1—completion December, 1979.

Stage 2—completion December, 1982.

- (3) The Planning Committee consists of—

Mr. S. B. Cann—Principal Architect, Public Works Department, Perth (Chairman).

Dr. D. Carr—Metropolitan Region Planning Authority.

Mr. K. N. Birks—Treasury Department.

Mr. H. Dettman or Mr. H. Barton—Education Department.

Mr. F. Norton—W.A. Art Gallery.

Mr. P. A. Sharr—W.A. Library.

Dr. W. D. L. Ride—W.A. Museum.

Mr. T. B. Fitzhardinge and Mr. G. E. Summerhayes—W.A. Chapter, R.A.I.A.

Also, the meetings of the committee are attended by—

Mr. T. Andrzejczek—Public Works Department Project Architect.

Mr. E. Sabin—City Planner, Perth City Council.

Mr. K. F. Haynes—Metropolitan Region Planning Authority.

6. ARMADALE HIGH SCHOOL

Traffic Safety Measures

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

As the safety committee of the Armadale Senior High School parents and citizens' association has not made satisfactory progress in obtaining improved safety measures following a student fatality at the school—

- (a) on the Bunbury Highway adjacent to the school; and
- (b) regarding a bus terminal within school grounds to adequately handle the large number of bussing and debussing students,

will he have a senior officer of his department investigate the safety traffic factor at this school and co-ordinate necessary remedies with respective other departments?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (a) Early this year an inter-departmental committee consisting of officers from the Police Department, Main Roads Department, Education Department, Parents and Citizens' Federation and Shire of Armadale, inspected the area on the Bunbury Highway adjacent to the Armadale Senior High School.

The committee considered the pedestrian crossing was correctly located and that the provision of warning signs and lighting was adequate.

- (b) The matter of a bus terminal within the school grounds is the subject of investigation by senior officers of the Public Works Department and a proposal is at present under consideration.

7. HEALTH

Bush Fly Control

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

Further to my question 21 of 17th November, 1971, can he now say whether the C.S.I.R.O. has been able to supply State Ministers for Health with any further information in regard to controlling the States' bush fly situation?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

The C.S.I.R.O. has provided information on the progress of the activities of the dung beetles introduced to Australia for the purpose of controlling bush and buffalo flies.

8. BURNBRAE INEBRIATES CENTRE

Union Coverage

Mr. FLETCHER, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Under what Act will the Byford "Burnbrae" inebriates centre be administered?
- (2) Will the Gaol Officers Union have any constitutional coverage over any of the employees?
- (3) If not, what union could reasonably be expected to have coverage over those who care for inmates or patients who have—
 - (a) transgressed the law when inebriated; and
 - (b) been recommended to "Burnbrae" as an alternative to prison?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

- (1) Prisons Act 1903-1971. Convicted Inebriates Act, 1963.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) See above.

9. STAMP DUTY ON RECEIPTS

Refunds

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Has there been a variation in the estimated total sum required to refund receipts tax in terms of the Government's promise?
- (2) If "Yes" what is the cause and extent of the changed estimate?
- (3) By February 1974 how much of the promised refund does the Government expect to have paid back?
- (4) What percentage will these repayments be of the estimated total refund of receipts tax?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) This figure will not be known until all applications are processed. Applications are still being received and receipt will continue until 31st May next.
- (4) Answered by (3).

10. EDUCATION

West Kelmscott School

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What provision is being made to accommodate the large number of students who will be attracted to the new housing development at West Kelmscott?

- (2) Will he advise the estimated numbers expected for this and next year?
- (3) When is a new primary school planned for this area?
- (4) Will he please describe for this new school—
 - (a) location;
 - (b) area;
 - (c) detail of building to be let in initial contract;
 - (d) cost?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) It is anticipated that pupils from the West Kelmscott area will attend Westfield Park Primary School where a six room cluster addition is expected to be completed for the opening of the 1973 school year.
- (2) and (3) It is not possible at this stage to estimate numbers of pupils from this development as the rate of completion and occupation of the dwellings has not been established. However, the situation will be kept under constant review with the possibility that a new school may be provided for 1974.
- (4) (a) There are two primary school sites in the area, the West Kelmscott site in First Road and the Grovelands site in Grovelands Way.
- (b) The site in First Road is a combined high and primary site of 25 acres and the Grovelands primary site is approximately 9 acres.
- (c) Details have not yet been determined.
- (d) No cost figures will be available until the extent of building required has been assessed.

11. WESTFIELD PARK SCHOOL

Fence

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

Have initiatives been taken to have a fence erected along the southern boundary of Westfield Park primary school for the safety of the students from the adjoining unfenced numerous deep water lagoons?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

A request from the Headmaster of Westfield Park primary school on 27th March for a fence has been passed to the District Superintendent for investigation.

12. ROLEYSTONE SCHOOL

Building Programme

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the immediate and next year's estimated building programme for Roleystone primary school?
- (2) What are the details of the development plans for extension of this school's grounds?
- (3) What is the area of the Roleystone school grounds?
- (4) Will he advise the details of the other primary school site in Roleystone, that is—
 - (a) the location;
 - (b) the area?
- (5) Has action been initiated to acquire a high school site in Roleystone?
- (6) If "Yes" where is the land selected?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) No permanent additions are planned for Roleystone for 1973. It is intended that temporary accommodation will be provided to meet enrolment increases until the provision of a half cluster is required.
- (2) There are no proposals to extend the site.
- (3) 8 acres 1 rood 17 perches.
- (4) (a) and (b) No other sites have been acquired in the area.
- (5) No.
- (6) Answered by (5).

13. WANNEROO ROAD

Widening and By-pass

Mr. LEWIS, to the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) Has any proposal been made to widen Wanneroo Road especially through the Wanneroo townsite?
- (2) If so, what authority made the proposal?
- (3) What decision has been made?
- (4) What progress has been made with the investigation into a suitable bypass road east of the townsite?
- (5) Has a decision been made to cancel the earlier proposal for a bypass road east of Lake Joondalup and west of the townsite?
- (6) If so, which authority made this decision?
- (7) If a suitable bypass cannot be found east of the townsite, where will the main through-road be sited?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) There is an existing gazetted new street alignment for Wanneroo Road which would widen it from 1 chain road to 2 chains road (G.G. 16-1-63 pp. 303-314). This has not, as far as can be ascertained, been rescinded although later development (Lake Joondalup subdivision) has not observed it.
- (2) Wanneroo Shire Council.
- (3) See above.
- (4) A preliminary study has been made on this and a tentative line for an eastern by-pass drawn. This will now be subject to detailed study.
- (5) Yes—the Minister for Town Planning has indicated to council his willingness to grant final approval to its district zoning scheme. In doing so, he has required that the by-pass between Lake Joondalup and townsite be deleted and the current route through the townsite be substituted as an interim measure pending investigation and determination of an eastern route which is to be included in the town planning scheme by an amendment.
- (6) Minister for Town Planning.
- (7) This situation has not yet arisen.

14. JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

Upgrading

Mr. LEWIS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) When will the proposed upgrading of junior high schools to district high schools be effected?
- (2) Provided that there are the requisite number of boarders will this qualify these schools for a hostel under the hostels authority?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) From the beginning of 1973.
- (2) No. It will still be necessary for the Minister to declare such schools to be high schools for the purpose of the Country High Schools Hostels Authority Act.

15. FERTILISERS

Bio-superphosphate

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Will he make available details of experimental work carried out by the division of plant industry, C.S.I.R.O. on the use of bio-superphosphate in Western Australia?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

Details of experimental work carried out by the Division of Plant Industry, C.S.I.R.O. on the use of bio-superphosphate in Western Australia are available from Mr. P. G. Ozanne, Principal Research Scientist, Division of Plant Industry, C.S.I.R.O. Regional Laboratory, Underwood Avenue, Floreat Park.

16. TOWN PLANNING

Armadale-Kelmscott Scheme

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Town Planning:

When is the Armadale-Kelmscott town planning scheme expected to be finalised?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

The Town Planning Board has examined the scheme and the 237 objections lodged and its report to me is expected within a few days. Following my consideration of the board's recommendations, the Armadale-Kelmscott Council may be requested to undertake various modifications. Final gazettal of the scheme may depend on how quickly the local authority can carry out these amendments.

17. KINDERGARTENS

Requests by Associations, and Financing

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) As his comment in *The West Australian* of 10th April headed "Inquiry sought on Pre-schools" indicates the kindergarten association and kindergarten teachers' association are to be placed in the position of not knowing their future, will he report to the House—
 - (a) does he intend to await the Federal elections before acting upon the associations' requests;
 - (b) does this mean our State education will lose its autonomy and be directed by a central commission based on Canberra or by a Commonwealth Department;
 - (c) if "No" to (b) will he explain how this will not be so;
 - (d) what is the estimated cost to the Government to take over and be responsible for pre-school education in this State?
- (2) What is the relationship between the kindergarten association finances and the kindergarten teaching association teaching hours?

- (3) Has the kindergarten association indicated it may have a deficit this year?
- (4) If "Yes" what is the amount?
- (5) Does the Government intend to meet the deficit or does it expect the parents to meet the difference?
- (6) Does the Government through its Treasury or departmental officers review the kindergarten association financing each year?
- (7) When the Government makes the grant to the kindergarten association does it negotiate and determine or influence the levy to be made upon parents?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) The view projected in the preamble to this question that the Kindergarten Association and Kindergarten Teachers' Association as a result of any comment made by me are to be placed in the position of not knowing their future is rejected.

The information sought by parts (a) to (d) is as follows:—

- (a) Not necessarily so. The request is now being examined.
- (b) No.
- (c) The effect of implementing the Federal Labor Party Policy in respect of pre-school education would be beneficial in so far as specific Commonwealth grants would be available for this type of education and that degree of autonomy enjoyed by pre-educational authorities would be effected to no greater extent than is the autonomy of universities or colleges of advanced education, which institutions benefit financially from specific grants recommended by the Australian Universities Commission and the Australian Commission on Advanced Education, which two bodies have been created by the present Commonwealth Government.
- (d) If the Government provided pre-school education for all five year olds the running costs would be about \$7,500,000. This sum would be almost doubled if all four year olds were included also. In addition there would be considerable capital costs which cannot be estimated at present.

- (2) The Government makes a per capita grant for every fifteen hours attendance per week by a child. If teaching hours were extended and the pupil hours in

attendance increased, the total grant under this item would be increased.

- (3) Yes.
- (4) \$11,772 if teaching hours are extended and \$79,372 if not extended.
- (5) As a result of the recent Teachers' (Kindergarten) Award the grant to the association will increase by \$203,452 and this is considered to be a generous contribution towards meeting the additional costs to be borne by the association.
- (6) The formula on which the Government grant is based was reviewed in 1970 and will apply until the end of 1973.
- (7) The amount paid by parents is taken into consideration when the formula is being reviewed.

18.

ANSETT AIRWAYS

T.N.T. Takeover

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

- (1) Are any representations likely to be made to the Commonwealth Government on the matter of proposed takeover or merger by T.N.T. with Ansett Airways?
- (2) If so, will he request that the Commonwealth Department of Civil Aviation ensure no reduction of staff efficiency or safety standards is allowed as a result of the merger?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) The question of the merger is beyond the jurisdiction of the State. As it is not expected that the merger would result in any deterioration of the service to the public in this State, no material purpose would be served by making representations to the Commonwealth Government.
- (2) Staff efficiency is basically a matter of management but there is no reason to suspect that a deterioration would result from a merger. The Department of Civil Aviation has always maintained a very strict check on all safety aspects of aircraft operation irrespective of who the operator may be.

19.

JAPANESE TECHNICIANS AND LABOUR

Entry Permits

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Premier:

- (1) On his recent visit to Japan, were questions asked of him regarding his Government's views on the entry of Japanese technicians

and labour for Japanese financial backed projects, and what was his reply?

- (2) What is the Government's policy on this matter?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) The same as that of the Government which this Government has succeeded.

20. *This question was postponed for one week.*

21. POLICE

Kimberley: Increase in Strength

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

- (1) Since the Police Department took over the duties of vehicle licensing and traffic control at Broome, Derby, Wyndham and Kununurra, has it been necessary to increase the size of the police force at any of these centres?
(2) If "Yes" where and by what number?
(3) Are any of the officers in the towns referred to employed specifically on traffic control duties?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) Derby—2 constables.
Broome—2 constables.
Wyndham—1 constable.
Kununurra—Increase of one constable has been approved.
(3) Traffic duties in these towns are executed by all police personnel as part of their normal task of law enforcement.

22. ROADS

Plant Hire

Mr. RIDGE, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) What plant hire rates does the Main Roads Department pay to—
(a) private contractors;
(b) shire councils,
for work in the Kimberley region with—
(i) heavy duty graders;
(ii) D7 bulldozers?
(2) When were the rates last reviewed?
(3) How do the rates compare with those paid by the Commonwealth Department of Works in the Northern Territory?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) (a) The Main Roads Department generally negotiates plant hire rates with private contractors. The rate arrived at varies ac-

cording to the conditions and duration of the work. The rates being paid to private contractors in the Kimberley region vary from \$10 per hour to \$12.40 per hour for heavy duty graders and from \$19 per hour to \$25 per hour for D7 dozers.

- (b) The hire rates for heavy duty graders and dozers from local authorities are respectively \$6.41 per hour and \$13 per hour, plus fuel and wages.

- (2) Since the rates being paid to private contractors are on a negotiated basis they are continually under review. Local authority rates were reviewed in June, 1970 and a further review is at present being undertaken.

- (3) The only figures available are in respect of heavy duty graders, and it is understood that the rates being paid by the Commonwealth Department of Works in the Northern Territory range from \$11.50 to \$12.50 per hour.

23. POLICE STATIONS

Kimberley: Air-conditioning

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

- (1) Is it proposed to air-condition the police stations at—
(a) Broome;
(b) Derby;
(c) Wyndham?
(2) If "Yes" when?
(3) If "No" why not?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

- (1) (a) Yes.
(b) Yes.
(c) Yes.
(2) Broome and Derby—Applications are to be submitted to the Public Works Department for consideration.
Wyndham—Designs have been prepared by the Public Works Department and this work will proceed when funds are available.
(3) Answered by (2).

24. PUBLIC WORKS AND MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENTS

Houses in the North: Air-conditioning

Mr. RIDGE, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) In view of the fact that married Government employees in the north qualify for the installation of an air-conditioning unit in homes they occupy, will he advise

if it is intended to install air conditioners in the single men's accommodation occupied by—

- (a) Public Works Department employees;
- (b) Main Roads Department employees?
- (2) If "Yes" when?
- (3) If "No" why not?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) (a) The matter is at present under consideration.
- (b) Yes.

- (2) and (3) Airconditioning has already been installed in single men's quarters in Derby which are occupied by Main Roads Department salaried employees.

Contracts for the provision of single men's quarters at Port Hedland and Kununurra for the Main Roads Department include the provision of airconditioning. The erection of these buildings is nearing completion, and they should be ready for occupation in the near future.

As advised in (1) (a) the Public Works Department is investigating the matter of airconditioning of its single men's accommodation.

25. STATE SHIPPING SERVICE

Pensioners in the North: Fare Concessions

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

- (1) What fare concessions are available to old age pensioners who reside in the north of the State and utilise the State Shipping Service passenger fleet for holiday travel?
- (2) In the event of the passenger fleet being phased out, will arrangements be made for pensioners to utilise their concession entitlement (if any) on other transport services?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) Old age pensioners are entitled to a free return trip every two years, provided they have been a permanent resident of the north west for five years.
- (2) The Minister for Transport will raise this matter with the Government for consideration at the appropriate time.

26. WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

Examining Committee

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

- (1) On how many occasions has the Minister for Labour advisory committee, referred to in question 6

on Tuesday, 28th March, 1972, met to consider proposals to amend the Workers' Compensation Act?

- (2) For what reasons have insurers and members of the Workers' Compensation Board not been included on this committee?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

- (1) The Minister for Labour Advisory Committee has had a number of meetings on various matters within its purview, particularly the Industrial Arbitration Act, but has not yet considered proposals to amend the Workers' Compensation Act.

At, I think, the November meeting of the advisory committee, both representative parties were advised that the Government would, when available, place before the committee for its consideration and comments, a draft of any changes contemplated in the Workers' Compensation Act.

The Government, at this time, has not reached the stage of being able to make its thoughts available to the committee for discussion.

- (2) Possible amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act have been the subject of a number of discussions between the Chairman of the Board and myself.

When these proposals are ready and are placed before the Minister for Labour Advisory Committee for consideration, the Chairman, Workers' Compensation Board will naturally be invited to participate. There are 117 incorporated insurance offices approved by me to insure employers against liability to pay compensation under the Act. One is the S.G.I.O. The other 116 are considered sufficient to provide competition and freedom of choice for any who want it.

Insurers have not been invited, at this stage, to consider any proposals, but in case they should feel their interests to be insufficiently protected by the advisory committee as now constituted, I will make a point of inviting independent submissions from a representative group.

27. STATE HOUSING COMMISSION APPLICANTS

Building Society Loans

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

- (1) How many "mutually acceptable" State Housing Commission applicants have resorted to building society loans (ex home builders account) since the introduction of the new policy?

- (2) Without disclosing any personal details, could he give say three examples of how these homes were financed, i.e., deposit, interest rate, term of loan, and compare these with the conditions under which these applicants might have financed their home purchases under the provisions of the State Housing Act?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

- (1) Fifteen State Housing applicants have received approval to approach building societies and/or the Rural and Industries Bank to acquire loans from the Home Builders Account to purchase dwellings erected by the State Housing Commission. So far three have been granted loans.
- (2) Financing arrangements for the loans together with conditions which would apply under the State Housing Act are as follows:—

	Present arrangement
Deposit (1)	\$870.
(2)	\$855.
(3)	\$805.
Interest rate—8.7% per annum.	
Term—30 years.	

	State Housing conditions
Deposit	As offered by the applicant.
Interest rate—5.375% per annum.	
Term—45 years.	

28. FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

Report on Investigations

Mr. O'NEIL, to the Premier:

- (1) Has his research officer completed his investigations into the fluoridation of water supplies?
- (2) If so, with what result?
- (3) If not, when can it be anticipated that his report will be to hand?
- (4) What other subjects are currently being investigated by that officer?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) The report is at present being printed and will be distributed.
- (4) None.

29. CRIMINAL CODE

Offences under Sections 317, 403, 404, and 407

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Attorney-General:

What was the number of offences in Western Australia violating sections 317, 403, 404 and 407 re-

spectively of the Criminal Code (shown separately)—

- (a) for which complaints have been made to the police;
- (b) with which persons were charged;
- (c) where convictions were recorded,

in the years 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1971?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

	1970	1971
Section 317:		
Complaints	95	156
Convictions	75	84
Sections 403-404:		
Complaints	8,042	7,634
Convictions	2,232	2,309

Section 407:

Information not readily available.

Statistical information for the years 1950 and 1960 was not separately recorded and is, therefore, not readily available.

30.

EDUCATION

Technical Scholarships

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that Commonwealth technical scholarships are awarded without regard to whether or not the student holds another award except if the other award involves a bond?
- (2) Is it a fact that the State Government school books assistance for technical (and other) school students whose parents are below a certain income bracket is not given if the student is in receipt of any Commonwealth scholarship?
- (3) If (2) is "Yes" would the Government revise this policy, or, if not, would the Government waive these conditions in certain meritorious needy cases?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) An allowance of \$50 per annum is already made to technical scholarship holders for textbooks and equipment under the terms of the Scholarship.

31.

CATTLE

Treatment and Shipments: North-West

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

- (1) How many cattle were killed at the meat export works at—
(a) Broome;

- (b) Derby;
(c) Wyndham,
during the years 1968, 1969, 1970
and 1971?
- (2) What number of cattle were ship-
ped to Robb Jetty from—
(a) Broome;
(b) Derby;
(c) Wyndham,
during the above years?
- (3) What number of cattle were
trucked to points south of the
Kimberley region during 1968,
1969, 1970 and 1971?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

(1)	Total kill per north-west cattle season			
	1968	1969	1970	1971
(a) Broome	26,061	23,518	17,168	25,308
(b) Derby	8,294	12,095	14,423	11,066
(c) Wyndham	25,132	30,539	32,736	31,382

(2)				
	1968	1969	1970	1971
(a) Broome	674	4,213	4,354	3,782
(b) Derby	2,800	320	320	Nil
(c) Wyndham	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(3)				
	1968	1969	1970	1971
	Nil	81	2,054	6,390

32. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

Grants

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

- (1) Is it intended to make grants of
money available to agricultural
societies this year?
- (2) If so, on what conditions?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) and (2) It is expected that funds
will be made available on the
same conditions as in previous
years. The amount provided will
be decided when the budget for
1972-73 is being considered.

33. ROCKINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Extensions

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for
Education:

- (1) Is the extension of the Rocking-
ham high school to accommodate
third year students being in-
cluded in the 1972-73 building
programme?
- (2) If so, what buildings are included
in this third stage of develop-
ment?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This has not been finally deter-
mined.

34. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS: INCREASED CHARGES

Premier

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Premier:

What increases in all charges have
been made by departments under
his control since 20th February,
1971 by—

- (a) regulation and/or adminis-
trative act;
(b) Statute?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (a) Nil.
- (b) (1) Stamp Act.
Stamp duty on bills of
exchange payable on de-
mand increased from 5
cents to 6 cents as from
1st January, 1972.
Stamp duty on market-
able securities transac-
tions increased from the
previous rate of 20 cents
per \$100 of consideration
payable by both buyer
and seller to a new rate
of 30 cents per \$100 pay-
able by both buyer and
seller as from 1st Janu-
ary, 1972.

- (2) Motor Vehicle (Third
Party Insurance Sur-
charge) Act.

The surcharge on third
party insurance premium
increased from \$2 to \$5
as from 1st January, 1972.

- (3) Pay-roll Tax Assessment
Act.

On transfer from the
Commonwealth on 1st
September, 1971, the rate
of tax was increased from
2½% to 3½%

35. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS: INCREASED CHARGES

Minister for Development and Decentralisation

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

What increases in all charges
have been made by departments
under his control since 20th Feb-
ruary, 1971 by—

- (a) regulation and/or adminis-
trative act;
(b) Statute?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

Department of Development and
Decentralisation:

- (a) Nil
(b) Nil

Town Planning Department:

- (a) Under Town Planning Board regulations 1962, the following Fee increases were made from 1st July 1971:

Application for approval of plan of subdivision—from \$2 to \$5.

Approval of every diagram—from \$4 to \$10.

Approval of every plan—from \$10 to \$20.

Approval of every lot shown on diagram or plan—from 50c to \$1.

Approval of every transfer conveyance lease or mortgage—from \$2 to \$5.

- (b) Nil.

36. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS: INCREASED CHARGES

Minister for Education

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Education:

What increases in all charges have been made by departments under his control since 20th February, 1971 by—

- (a) regulation and/or administrative act;
(b) Statute?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

I answer this question in respect of the portfolios relating to both Education and Crown Law, as I understand this was the intent of the question.

As autonomous bodies the university and the Western Australian Institute of Technology increased tuition fees in accordance with the respective Sections of their Acts. In regard to the increased tuition fees made by the University of Western Australia, such fees were offset by a Government subsidy. There were no increased charges as far as the Education Department is concerned.

Crown Law Department:

Companies Act

Bills of Sale Act

Business Names Act Regulations

The increases can be ascertained by reference to the appropriate Act or regulations.

37. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS: INCREASED CHARGES

Minister for Community Welfare

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

What increases in all charges have been made by departments

under his control since 20th February, 1971 by—

- (a) regulation and/or administrative act;
(b) Statute?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (a) Native Welfare Department—

Under the long standing provisions of Native Welfare Act regulation 53, board charges for residential hostel staff were increased by 50 cents per week from the 26th October, 1971, on which date the State female basic wage was increased by \$1.50 per week.

Child Welfare Department—

By administrative action, the fee for adoption was increased from \$16 to \$30 as from the 1st February, 1972.

- (b) Nil.

38. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS: INCREASED CHARGES

Minister for Police

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

What increases in all charges have been made by departments under his control since 20th February, 1971 by—

- (a) regulation and/or administrative act;
(b) Statute?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Type of Charge	Old rate \$	New rate \$	Increase \$
(a) Regulation—			
Plate fee	1.50	2.00	0.50
Overdue permit	1.00	2.00	1.00
Duplicate Motor driver's license	0.50	1.00	0.50
Administrative Act—			
Certificate of registration holders	0.30	0.50	0.20
Escort—			
for each police officer engaged	2.00	4.00	2.00
per mile for each vehicle engaged—			
motor cycle	0.05	0.08	0.03
motor car	0.13	0.15	0.02
(b) Statute—			
Firearm license	1.00	2.00	1.00
Firearm dealer	4.00	10.00	6.00
Short term fee	0.25	1.00	0.75
Insurance surcharge	2.00	5.00	3.00
(Although collected on a vehicle license (this is a Treasury charge))			
Transfer fee			per annum
Motor cycle/trailer	1.00	2.00	1.00
Cars and wagons	2.00	2.00	
Learners' permits	0.25	1.00	0.75

Department of Transport:

There have been no increases in any charges made by the Transport Commission since the 20th February, 1971.

On the contrary, reductions in the scale of permit fees took effect from 1st July, 1971, and further reductions were introduced on 1st January, 1972.

State Shipping Service:

- (a) (1) Freight rates to Darwin were increased from 1st July, 1971, by \$10.00 ton for general cargo with consequential increases for other classes of cargo.
- (2) Freight rates to north-west ports were increased from 1st October, 1971, by a flat rate of \$5.00 ton and concessional rates were applied to different classes of southwards cargo.
- (3) Cargo handling charges at Fremantle were increased from 5th March, 1971, by 65 cents per ton outwards and 50 cents per ton inwards.

(b) Nil.

Railways Department:

- (a) Interstate passenger fares were increased by approximately 20% as from 1st August, 1971, by agreement of all Railway systems.
Rentals applicable to certain leases of Railway land have been increased as they became due for review.

(b) Nil.

The freight rate on wool railed to Albany from a prescribed area south of Narrogin has been reduced by fifty per cent.

**39. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS:
INCREASED CHARGES**

Minister for Mines

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Mines:

What increases in all charges have been made by departments under his control since 20th February, 1971 by—

- (a) regulation and/or administrative act;
- (b) Statute?

Mr. MAY replied:

In view of the statistical nature of the electricity charges, I seek your permission, Mr. Speaker, to table the answer.

The answer was tabled.

**40. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS:
INCREASED CHARGES**

Minister for Works

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Works:

What increases in all charges have been made by departments under his control since 20th February, 1971 by—

- (a) regulation and/or administrative act;
- (b) Statute?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

The information is contained in the statement which, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I hereby table.

The answer was tabled.

**41. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS:
INCREASED CHARGES**

Minister for Lands

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Lands:

What increases in all charges have been made by departments under his control since 20th February, 1971 by—

- (a) regulation and/or administrative act;
- (b) Statute?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

There has been no increase in charges by Statute or regulation. Where charges for services are fixed at actual production cost, some commensurate increases have naturally been made.

42. *This question was postponed until Tuesday, the 18th April.*

**43. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS:
INCREASED CHARGES**

Minister for Labour

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Labour:

What increases in all charges have been made by departments under his control since 20th February, 1971 by—

- (a) regulation and/or administrative act;
- (b) Statute?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

The first part of the answer to question (a) is statistical in nature and I would like to table it.

- (a) (2) Fees payable to the Industrial Registrar on the filing of documents under the Industrial Arbitration Act and regulations made thereunder were increased approximately one hundred % by regulations published in the *Government Gazette* No. 47 of 11th June, 1971.

The fee for filing agreements, filing reference of dispute, and sealing order was raised from \$1.00 to \$2.00 and various other fees of 50 cents to \$1.00.

Note: Fees previously set in regulations effective from 3rd February, 1964 *Government Gazette* No. 7 of that date.

- (b) All fees were changed by regulation.

Workers' Compensation Board:

- (a) and (b) Nil—but the usual annual maximum premium rates to be charged for insurance in respect of all insurance risks under the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act, 1912-1970 by the State Government Insurance Office and private insurers was published in *Government Gazette* No. 56 of 1st July, 1971.

On a point of clarification: The State Government Insurance Office has adjusted a number of premiums—some up and some down. I wonder whether the honourable member required this information? If so, I would ask that it be deferred.

Mr. Williams: I can get those myself.
Part (a) (1) of the answer was tabled.

**44. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS:
INCREASED CHARGES**

Minister for Local Government

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

What increases in all charges have been made by departments under his control since 20th February, 1971 by—

- (a) regulation and/or administrative act;
(b) Statute?

Mr. TAYLOR replied:

- (a) Nil.
(b) Nil.

**45. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS:
INCREASED CHARGES**

Minister for Housing

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Housing:

What increases in all charges have been made by departments under his control since 20th February, 1971 by—

- (a) regulation and/or administrative act;
(b) Statute?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

There have been no increases in charges made by the State Housing Commission since 20th February, 1971, apart from the re-assessment of rents on vacated

dwellings. Following a long standing commission policy, the rents of relet dwellings are re-assessed prior to occupation by a new tenant to include the updated cost of rental outgoings. The Commission also acts as an agency for the Commonwealth in administering the War Service Homes Act, and the scale of War Service Homes fees and charges was revised by Commonwealth authorities in March, 1971.

**46. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
\$50,000,000 Plan**

Mr. COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) With reference to the report in *Weekend News*, 8th April, 1972, under the heading "Tonkin won't tell on \$50 million plan", will he please advise whether this refers to finance for an established operation (or its expansion) or is it for a new industry?
(2) Is Government guarantee involved?
(3) Is manufacture principally involved?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) The reference was to the expansion of an established operation.
(2) Yes.
(3) No.

**47. LAMB MARKETING
AUTHORITY**

Manager: Appointment

Mr. McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Will he advise on what date the position of manager of the lamb marketing authority was advertised?
(2) Was the publication Australia-wide?
(3) If so, how many applicants are from States other than Western Australia?
(4) When is it anticipated that the appointment will be made?
(5) How many applicants are from Western Australia?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) and (2) 25th March in five major mainland newspapers; 29th March in the *Financial Review*.
(3) and (5) This information has not yet been made available to the Lamb Marketing Board by the management consultants concerned (R. Frieze & Associates).
(4) As soon as practicable.

48.

RAILWAYS

Freights: Increase

Sir DAVID BRAND, to the Minister representing the Minister for Railways:

- (1) When was the last increase made in railway freights?
- (2) Does he intend to increase railway freights during the calendar year of 1972?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) 1st October, 1965.
- (2) A submission in this regard has recently been made by the commissioner, but it has not yet been considered by the Government.

49.

RAILWAYS

Country Services: Cancellation

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

- (1) What country railway passenger and freight services have been cancelled in the last 12 months?
- (2) What is the reason for cancellation in each case?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) Passenger: Perth-Kalgoorlie narrow gauge services.
Freight: Bowelling-Wagin services reduced from three to one in each direction.
- (2) Passenger: Perth-Kalgoorlie narrow gauge services, were replaced by "The Prospector".
Freight: Insufficient loading.
It is not clear whether information is required relating to railway road bus and motor truck services. However this information is being extracted and will be made available to the member as quickly as possible.

50.

GOATS

Survey

Mr. COYNE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is it a fact that seven men have recently been appointed to the Agriculture Protection Board to conduct a survey of the goat population on Murchison and eastern goldfields pastoral properties?
- (2) If so—

(a) does it not seem an expensive method of conducting this survey, as goat numbers could be readily obtained with reasonable accuracy by corresponding direct with pastoralists;

(b) is this survey being conducted to ascertain numbers with a view to implementing a large scale poisoning programme, and in this case, have the environmental protection authorities been consulted, and are they in accord with these measures?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Seven men have been employed for this purpose under the provisions of the Commonwealth emergency grant for the relief of unemployment in rural areas.
- (2) (a) and (b) Goats have recently assumed major proportions as a pest in the pastoral areas. The men will collect and collate information concerning pest control methods. These include shooting, commercial exploitation for export or local consumption, as well as poisoning.
As soon as the survey is completed, the board will consider future policy regarding control and the methods to be adopted by pastoralists.
The Department of Fisheries and Fauna has given its support to the proposal to reduce goat numbers in the pastoral areas.

51. *This question was postponed.*

52. AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES

Government Policy

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Did the Director of Agriculture appear recently on the country hour, Australian Broadcasting Commission?
- (2) Did he announce a change in the policy of the Government with reference to advisory services in country districts?
- (3) Will he lay on the table of the House the full text of the report given on that country hour session?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) to (3) The Director of Agriculture was interviewed in November, 1971. This broadcast was unscripted and no record exists. He discussed in general terms the role of the departmental advisory services in relation to the current economic climate in agriculture.

53. JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE

Publication

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) In what year did the Department of Agriculture commence publishing the Journal of Agriculture?
- (2) How many were produced during the first year?
- (3) How many times during the year were editions published?
- (4) In what years were there any variations to the number of publications produced in the one year?
- (5) What is the present position?
- (6) Is it intended to alter or vary the present position in the immediate future?
- (7) How many—
 - (a) are produced; and
 - (b) forwarded to people on the mailing list at present?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) 1899 (December).
- (2) There is no record of this.
- (3) There was one issue in 1899 and 12 issues during 1900.
- (4) 1909—publication was discontinued.
1924—publication was resumed with four issues per year.
1952—six issues per year.
1960—12 issues per year.
- (5) and (6) Starting from the 1972 volume, the journal will be published quarterly.
It is anticipated that approximately 9,000 copies will be produced with approximately 8,000 being forwarded on a revised mailing list based on actual farmers' requests.
- (7) (a) and (b) In 1971, 20,000 copies were produced and about 19,000 forwarded on the basis of the previous mailing list.

54. POULTRY FARMING

Eggs: Sales

Mr. McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What were the total egg sales for the period of four weeks ended 11th December, 1970 and the period of four weeks ended 10th December, 1971?
- (2) What were the total egg sales for the period of four weeks ended 27th March, 1971 and the period of four weeks ended 25th March, 1972?
- (3) How many 18 oz. and 21 oz. eggs were sold to cafes, hotels, and similar establishments for the week prior to and the week after Easter in 1971 and 1972?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

Figures are for total egg sales ex the board's floors.

- (1) 726,500 dozen and 763,394 dozen.
- (2) 757,714 dozen and 758,230 dozen.
- (3) These figures are not maintained by the board.

QUESTIONS (7): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. CLOSE OF SESSION: FIRST PART

Target Date

Sir DAVID BRAND, to the Premier:
Has the Government yet set a target date for the close of this part of the session?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

No definite date has yet been decided, but the Government is aiming to conclude this part of the session by the middle of May.

2. KWINANA-BALGA POWER LINE

Route: Deputation of Guildford Grammar School Boys

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Did the member for Swan request that the Minister receive a deputation consisting of five senior boys of the Guildford Grammar School to discuss proposals to construct a 330KV power line through their school?
- (2) Is it true that he informed the member for Swan that he would not receive the deputation?
- (3) Bearing in mind that it was a spontaneous decision of the boys to elect some from their number to voice their objection to the Minister, does he not think that his attitude in rejecting the deputation was high-handed and arrogant—

Mr. Graham: The member for Darling Range himself is! Get out of the gutter!

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Jamieson: You are as bad as the headmaster.

Mr. THOMPSON: Did I hear the Minister for Works say that I was as bad as the headmaster? Continuing with the question—

—and will do nothing to interest the school population in our democratic system?

Mr. Jamieson: Do you know they have plans to subdivide this land and to sell it?

Mr. THOMPSON: No, I know nothing about it. The question continues—

- (4) Will he reconsider his decision and now agree to receive a deputation?

Mr. Graham: You ought to be ashamed of yourself!

Mr. MAY replied:

I received this question without notice when I found it on my desk on entering the Chamber this evening, but to say that I took strong exception to it would be the understatement of the present session. The answer to the question is as follows:—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. He was advised that, in view of the number of requests received, he should contact the General Manager of the State Electricity Commission to obtain an examination of his submission.
- (3) Obviously the member for Darling Range has ignored the references that have already been made to this particular matter.
- (4) As the member for the district was the one responsible for the initial request, any further request from that member will receive consideration.

I might add that in view of the fact that the honourable member found sufficient time to arrange for the attendance of students at Parliament House this afternoon, I feel that sufficient time should have been available to him to place his question on the notice paper.

Mr. Thompson: I did not, in fact, arrange for the boys of the school to attend the House.

3. RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Applications: Approvals

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Further to the question without notice on Tuesday, the 11th April, 1972, on the number of successful applications for rural reconstruction, will the Minister advise the House—

- (1) The total number of applications for assistance up to the present time?
- (2) How many applications have been refused?
- (3) How many applications are still being considered?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

I thank the honourable member for the adequate notice he gave me of this question. The answer is as follows:—

- (1) 1,130.
- (2) 667.
- (3) 108.

I might add, if my mathematics are correct, that the number of applications approved would be 355. These figures would be those given at the last meeting of the authority held yesterday and so they are as up to date as they can be.

4. CRIMINAL CODE

Offences under Sections 317, 403, 404, and 407

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Attorney-General:

In his reply to my question 29 on today's notice paper, in which I was seeking statistical information regarding certain offences, complaints, and convictions, the Attorney-General said he could not supply figures for 1950 and 1960, because they were not separately recorded.

I now ask the Attorney-General: Will he co-operate with me, because I am not particularly interested in one year or another? I merely wish to establish the fact that I feel that in earlier years—during the past 10 years, or in any other period—the number of offences committed under these sections had a tendency to increase.

If the Attorney-General will advise me for which periods these figures are available I will be able to make a check in order to arrive at the information I seek.

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

I suggest that the honourable member place his question on the notice paper by asking in which particular years the incidence of this crime appeared to be the greater. That may bring forth the information he is seeking.

5. SOUTH-EASTERN ROAD

Meekatharra

Mr. COYNE, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has the Minister received an application from the Meekatharra Shire Council to assist in the upgrading and extension of the proposed south-eastern road to service the Yeelirrie uranium operation?

- (2) Would he, in the interests of the importance of this project to the area, do all in his power to accede to this request?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

I would like the honourable member to place his question on the notice paper for fairly obvious reasons.

6. ROCKINGHAM-KWINANA HOSPITAL

Naval Base Personnel: Admission

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Health:

I seek an explanation. In his reply to part (6) of my question 4 on today's notice paper the Minister said that the answer could not be completed in time. Will he please tell me how this bald statement stands up?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

It stands up because it is a statement of fact.

7. TOWN PLANNING

Housing Project: Kwinana Industrial Complex

Mr. GRAHAM (Minister for Development and Decentralisation):

Yesterday, owing to inadvertence, part (7) of question 28 was not properly answered. Accordingly, I now desire to supply the information then sought. The answer is as follows:—

It is not considered appropriate, in this situation, to refer proposed housing development to the authority for examination.

However, the Minister for Environmental Protection may, under section 57 (1), refer a proposed development project, which may have a detrimental effect on the environment, to the Environmental Protection Authority.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Warning by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Norton): I point out to members that if I receive any more questions like the one asked by the member for Darling Range a short time ago, I will have all questions without notice cut out.

Mr. Court: Fair go! Not from this side of the House!

Mr. Graham: It is time he went to a school!

KALAMUNDA HIGH SCHOOL

Upgrading: Grievance

MR. THOMPSON (Darling Range) [5.26 p.m.]: My grievance has nothing to do with the Guildford Grammar School; it has to do with the Kalamunda High School. On the 1st April last year I asked the Premier—who was then the Minister for Education—to upgrade the Kalamunda High School to a fourth year high school, with the ultimate aim of making it a fifth year high school, for the obvious reason that many children at the Kalamunda High School had a considerable distance to travel in order to attend the Governor Stirling High School.

The Premier deputised the Director-General of Education to deal with the matter and in his reply the Director-General said that although the Education Department accepted the fact that the school should be upgraded, because the Commonwealth Government had not indicated its intention to extend the Commonwealth science laboratory grants, it would not be in a position to upgrade the Kalamunda High School that year.

At the request of the parents and citizens' association I introduced a deputation to Mr. Dettman a few days after the Commonwealth Government announced that it would participate further in the grants to the science laboratories. As a result of that deputation it was agreed that the Kalamunda High School would be upgraded, but the Director-General of Education made the comment that it was possible the school buildings would not be completed before the commencement of the school year.

Mr. T. D. Evans: It was just not possible; that was a definite fact.

Mr. THOMPSON: Would the Minister like me to quote the letter?

Mr. T. D. Evans: Yes, because I have a copy of it.

Mr. THOMPSON: The following are the words used in the advice to me on this matter:—

Every endeavour will be made to complete the work at the proper time but should a delay occur I would not consider it to be of any serious duration.

Does the Minister accept that? That was what the deputation was told and I was most happy with the result of the deputation. We were told that demountable classrooms would be erected for the children; that was in answer to a question I asked in this House. In fact, some demountable classrooms have been built at the school, but they did not cater for all the children who require accommodation, and so the school has had to resort to the use of the shire hall which is some distance from the main school building.

The parents who had children attending this school were prepared to accept that, because they knew that the contract for

the job was to be completed by the 20th March, and that was not very far into the school year. However, it was evident to me, and to many other people, that right from the time the contract was let it would not be completed in time. I know these things happen, but my main concern is the Minister's interest and action in this regard.

He appeared to me to take little notice of the fact that I was telling him the school building would not be completed by the due date. The inference was that the job would be completed on time. That was so right up to less than a month before the completion date when the Minister said that some delay might occur and the job might not be completed on time.

A letter from the Minister dated the 4th February—I stress the date: the 4th February—reads—

With reference to your letter of 14th January, I wish to advise that work is proceeding on the science classrooms at Kalamunda and that the builder and the architect concerned are confident that the rooms will be completed by the contract date.

Yet I asked a question in the House on the 28th March—

Is it not a fact that the only advice given by the private architect on the question of completion was that the job would be late?

And the answer was—

The architect advised the Public Works Department by letter on the 7th January, 1972, that there could be some doubt that the contract completion date would be met.

On the 7th January the private architect advised the Minister for Works—and I assume the Minister for Works would have advised the Minister for Education—that the job would be late; yet on the 4th February, almost a month later, the Minister penned a letter to me in which he said the architect and builder were confident the job would be completed on time.

I believe the Minister has not paid due attention to the warnings I have given right throughout the course of this job—warnings that the job would not be completed on time.

Mr. T. D. Evans: Are you John the Baptist, sending out messages of wisdom?

Mr. THOMPSON: No I am not.

Mr. T. D. Evans: One would think so after listening to you.

Mr. THOMPSON: But I have been proved to be correct.

I now refer to the dates on which I have given some indication of my concern over the completion of the additions. On the 18th August last year I asked when tenders

would be called. On the 16th September I asked when the rooms would be ready. On the 24th November I was told the contract was proceeding on schedule but that we would have to resort to the use of temporary rooms which would be available. On the 25th November I asked the Minister to do something about speeding up the work; then on the 14th January this year I again asked for the job to be speeded up, not having had any reaction to my previous request.

I then received two letters almost at the same time. I believe this was because the Minister at the time was out of the State and I do not blame him for not being here to answer his correspondence.

On all those occasions I was trying to impress upon the Minister that those rooms would not be completed on time, but he failed to do anything of substance about it. On one occasion when I referred to the fact that three groups were being taught in the auditorium and the supper room of the high school, the Minister sent an officer of the department to the school; and what happened? The headmaster was told to reorganise the timetable in collaboration with the person responsible for programming so that only on limited occasions would two classes be in the one auditorium.

That is a most unsatisfactory situation when we were told demountable classrooms would be made available until such time as the new buildings were completed. It is unsatisfactory that the Minister ignored the indications from me that these rooms would not be completed and that the temporary accommodation provided is not satisfactory or acceptable at all, particularly with winter approaching. It is necessary for the children to go some considerable distance every time a period changes and they have no protection from the weather. They must on occasions shift furniture in and out of the shire hall because the hall is used for other purposes also. They must in addition suffer the inconvenience of there being at times two classes in the one area.

This is an unsatisfactory standard for children at a high school in this day and age.

THE SPEAKER: The honourable member has one more minute.

Mr. THOMPSON: I was rather interested to hear the member for Mirrabooka say that the Minister had provided rooms for a school in his area one year ahead of schedule so that children would not be inconvenienced. The Minister's lack of attention to the situation at the Kalamunda High School has been responsible for the staff and students suffering undue stress.

Mr. Graham: Stop bellyaching and you might do better.

Mr. Court: The past-master speaks!

MR. T. D. EVANS (Kalgoorlie—Minister for Education) [5.36 p.m.]: The member for Darling Range seems to speak as he thinks, only more often. It is true that the honourable member sought an interview early in 1971 with the Premier who was then the Minister for Education. The Premier suggested that the deputation the honourable member wished to present should appear before the Director-General of Education who obviously would have his fingertips on the situation, bearing in mind that at that time the present Government had been in office for only a brief period.

The crux of the whole situation is—and I defy the honourable member to determine or argue otherwise—that the Director-General of Education was most reluctant to alter any existing priorities and he informed the deputation that the work they requested, and it was obviously desirable, could not or should not properly be commenced until 12 months hence, but because the deputation was so insistent he finally conceded—and they agreed that they would put up with any inconvenience whatever—

Mr. Thompson: Not at all. We accepted demountable classrooms.

Mr. T. D. EVANS: It was finally conceded that the work would proceed, but only on the understanding that it was most likely the work to be completed would not make the accommodation available for the beginning of the school year.

Be that as it may, the contract was let and it was fully and confidently expected that the work would be completed in reasonable time. It is true that the honourable member asked questions and that as a result I sought the advice of the Education Department. In response to my questions I obtained information which was passed on to the honourable member both in the House and in written correspondence. I repeat that according to the Director-General of Education at the time the members of the deputation were more than satisfied and they were quite confident—

Mr. Thompson: We were prepared to accept—

Mr. T. D. EVANS: At least they were aware there could be a delay in the completion of the work by the beginning of the school year.

Mr. Thompson: We agreed to demountable classrooms until the completion of the contract.

Mr. T. D. EVANS: The honourable member's irresponsible manner in asking questions and his intemperate language do little justice to his cause and do not reflect the obvious appreciation of the members of the deputation who met the Director-General and who are thus aware of the situation.

Mr. Court: That is no answer at all.

M.T.T. AND RAILWAY BUS SERVICES

Comparison: Grievance

MR. W. A. MANNING (Narrogin) [5.39 p.m.]: I have before me the report of the Railways Department for the year ended the 30th June, 1971, and concerning country bus services it states that bus miles decreased by 63,965 or 3.31 per cent, following a reduction in services in June, 1970. I also have before me the report of the Metropolitan Transport Trust for the same year and regarding its metropolitan services it states that during the year numerous services were extended into developing areas and others were rearranged to meet changing patterns in other more established localities.

I ask members to note the difference between the two reports—a decrease in services in the country and an increase in the metropolitan area. I have, too, answers to questions I asked yesterday concerning the cost of the Metropolitan Transport Trust passenger services. I asked—

How many Metropolitan Transport Trust bus services are operating at a loss?

The answer was, "All." I then asked why the services running at a loss were continued. The answer was—

It has been the policy of successive Governments to provide services for people who are unable or do not wish to have their own transport. Among these are 64,000 school children carried each school day for which the Trust receives half fare whilst paying full costs for operation.

The loss of the trust for the year 1970-71 was \$1,791,653. I also asked how many metropolitan train services were being run at a loss and the answer was that these services were not costed separately, but overall they operate at a loss. I then asked why the services were continued in these circumstances. The answer was—

These services have operated at a loss over a number of years but have been continued as Government policy.

Members will note that, despite the losses on every service of the M.T.T., and the overall loss on the railways, the services are continued.

The **SPEAKER:** There is too much audible conversation.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I have a notice from the Railways Department, dated the 30th November, 1971, cancelling six bus services to and from Narrogin. I will not enumerate them, but four concerned the Perth-York-Narrogin service and return and another the Narrogin-Kulin service

and return. Early in the year the cancellation of the Perth-Narrogin service was taken up with the Minister and some words in his reply read—

The patronage which has been afforded has been insufficient to warrant the continuation of these services.

Members will notice that that was a reply concerning a country service. On the 15th March I brought to the notice of the Minister the cancellation of the two Friday bus services. As a consequence of this cancellation the Friday passengers had to utilise the Saturday service. This is not a half an hour later, as is the case in the metropolitan area if a service is cancelled, but a day later. At Narrogin recently 17 passengers boarded a bus from Albany and because it was a holiday the driver laboriously had to issue 17 tickets, one for each passenger, so his bus was late. In addition to this, eight passengers in the bus, which was overcrowded, had to stand from Narrogin to Beverley.

The Minister told us that the reason for the cancellation of the service was insufficient patronage. I ask him: Does he think that late buses and standing passengers will ever provide the goodwill necessary for a continuous patronage of the railway service?

Mr. Brown: Does that Kulin bus go on to Kondinin?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: The honourable member ought to know something about it.

Mr. Brown: I was asking you.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: One of the other services cancelled is the one from Narrogin to Kulin and return on a Friday. This matter has been taken up with the Minister and I must say he has agreed that if more detailed submissions can be made to him he will reconsider the matter. I must point out that no fewer than 67 students from east of Narrogin reside at the Narrogin hostel associated with the senior high school.

The SPEAKER: There is too much audible conversation.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: On a weekend when the hostel is closed these students are expected to go home, but now no bus service is available to them to enable them to do so and a reinstatement of the service has been refused. Is it not important that these students be allowed to return to their homes? No-one has any regard for this, only that there is insufficient patronage and thus the service is run at a loss.

Mr. Nalder: Who is interested in country people?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: No-one. We can see the difference. All the services of the Metropolitan Transport Trust can run at a loss. That does not matter.

Mr. Brown: What about—

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I am making this speech.

Mr. Brown: I was only trying to give you the facts.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: It is not important that the trust loses \$1,791,653.

If an isolated service in the country runs at a loss it must be cancelled because there is insufficient patronage. It is time country areas received better consideration.

The very best reply I received—the others are all quite negative—states that if more detailed submissions are made the Minister will reconsider the position. This does not happen in the metropolitan area. If a new suburb is established the bus services are extended to include that suburb. Whether or not buses in the metropolitan area run at a loss they still continue to give a service to the people.

Surely people who live in country districts should be given a service. Even if the children are given a bus service to Kulin many of them will have to travel 30, 40, or 50 miles after they leave the bus. It is not a question of walking half a mile home. The children are met at the buses and travel, as I have said, up to 50 miles. What kind of treatment is this? Surely it is high time these matters were dealt with on a reasonable basis; otherwise everyone will live in the city and no-one will be in the country to produce the wealth to maintain the city. I hope some notice will be taken of what I have said.

MR. MAY (Clontarf—Minister for Mines) [5.47 p.m.]: I would like to say on behalf of the Minister for Railways that I have taken note of the matters raised by the member for Narrogin. I will bring them to the Minister's attention and ask him to reply direct to the honourable member.

BILLS (2): RECEIPT AND FIRST READING

1. Guardianship of Children Bill.
Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr. J. T. Tonkin (Premier), read a first time.
2. Police Act Amendment Bill.
Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr. Bickerton (Minister for Housing), read a first time.

HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

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

CHILD WELFARE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Report

Report of Committee adopted.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE ECONOMY

Government Policy: Motion

MR. MENSAROS (Floreat) [5.50 p.m.]:
I move—

That in the opinion of this House the Government has neglected its duties and responsibilities because:

- (1) It has failed to recognise in advance the economic signs which were indicated and has failed to arrest the adverse forces which resulted in the weakening of the State's previous buoyant economy;
- (2) It has displayed complete ineptitude in halting and reversing the down turn of development and thus has allowed Western Australia to become the State with the highest unemployment rate;
- (3) Despite generous special grants from the Commonwealth, it still lacks the ability and initiative to institute and apply sound and practical measures to successfully combat and solve the grave unemployment situation, particularly in the building trade;
- (4) It does not show any signs of imaginative advance planning by incentives aimed to influence the growth of economy to eliminate or at least considerably cushion future temporary down turns in our State which under the previous Government achieved the highest rate of continuous development in Australia.

My motion shows the responsible attitude and grave concern of members of the Opposition to this subject. For this reason the subject was not brought up as a routine political exercise in the form of a no-confidence motion during the Address-in-Reply debate. Had we moved an amendment to the Address-in-Reply the subject would have been dealt with immediately, but the Opposition wanted to give the Government time to prepare itself, to study the problem, and to show the House—and indeed the public—its attitude and approach to this very serious matter. There was some speculation by members opposite during the Address-in-Reply debate as to when a no-confidence motion would be moved and, subsequently, why it was not moved. I also offer this in explanation to the member for Mt. Hawthorn who, in the course of his speech in the Address-in-Reply debate, commented that the subject was indeed important and serious, and wondered why it

had not been brought up by way of a no-confidence motion from this side of the House.

The fact that a humble Indian and not one of the Chiefs has moved the motion indicates the Opposition's wish to give the Government the time to study the problem. In his customary dignified way my leader dealt with this subject and I am sure his few words hurt more than a thunderous speech could have done. Several other members on this side of the House mentioned these problems, too, because of their importance.

Before going into the details, I wish to say the motion is inspired by one governing thought which follows right through. In case the people of Western Australia have forgotten—and the present Government has done everything it could to make them forget—Western Australia, as a Sovereign State, should have an independent and responsible Government. At times it seems the Government deliberately tries to create the impression that there is no representative Government in Western Australia; that there is only one Government in Canberra. Perhaps the Government does this in an effort to shed its responsibility; perhaps to cover up its impotence in many ways; or perhaps to conceal certain insecurities.

Subtle political observers may even suggest that the Government does it to demonstrate the traditional Labor Party policy of centralism. Whatever the reasons, every approach by the Government, every utterance it makes, every action it takes, and its whole behaviour both inside and outside this House highlights this attitude. It does not matter whether it is a Press report, a statement, or an answer to questions asked in the House, invariably the Government starts with the condition, "If sufficient funds are available from the Commonwealth" or something similar. I do not think I need give more examples because everybody knows that every pointer from the Government side shows this attitude, as if Western Australia did not have a responsible, independent Government.

We did not hear or see evidence of this during the 12 years of the Brand Government. Now, the people are nearly hypnotised. The followers of the Government are trained to this attitude of irresponsibility. This viewpoint has even been expressed in some of the speeches made by members opposite. When the member for Mt. Hawthorn spoke on unemployment, I think he used the words, "We as a Government are partly responsible for this; we have a limited responsibility." This is the kind of statement which is made by leaders in Government, and by followers of the Government, including the unions. Even the actions of the rank and file all pinpoint the one thought; the State Government is not responsible for anything. Of course it

is especially not responsible for anything which is wrong but it can take the credit for anything which is right—even rainfall in the country when it is needed.

To refresh our memories, a year or so ago, before the present Government assumed the Treasury bench, there was certainly a State Government in the eyes of Labor Party followers. The Brand Government was there to be blamed for everything, whether the trouble was real, imaginary, or fabricated. At that time there was no mention of Canberra.

We all recall the so-called crisis in education. Since the present Government assumed office this so-called crisis has disappeared and, should anyone wish to keep it alive, the only references are to Canberra and money.

We all remember the letters of complaint which could even have been organised in the electorate of the Minister for Labour. The complaints were to the effect that people were not receiving enough pay and could not live and raise a family on \$50 or \$70 per week. Of course those complaining conveniently forgot the overtime payments which were being made at that time.

Mr. Taylor: The member for Floreat should be careful how he develops this present theme. If our supporters were wrong then, he is wrong now. If they were right then, he is right now. He should be careful. He cannot have his cake and eat it too.

Mr. MENSAROS: It is difficult for me to say all I wish to say in my time of 45 minutes.

Mr. Jamieson: You are not on a time limit.

Mr. O'Connor: We were right then and you are wrong now.

Mr. MENSAROS: I am glad to listen and reply to any interjection now that my time is not limited unlike occasions when it is. I point out to the Minister for Labour, whom I respect, that my theme will not be that something is automatically good because it was done previously. Incidentally, it is flattering to know that the Minister for Labour uses as his yardstick what the previous Liberal Government did. If members look at the Minister's replies to questions, they will see he says, "Yes, but it was no better in your time." The Minister's measure of goodness is the previous Government's accomplishments. This is very flattering on the part of the Minister, but he has no other explanation; he always comes back to this point.

To continue with my line of thought, members will recall that when people complained about small pay packets—and their complaints almost looked as though they were directed—they forgot the fact that they sometimes received a half as much or twice as much as their basic rate through overtime. These people are not working overtime today.

Members will all recall complaints about shortages in respect of housing. Despite the fact that the Minister indicates that much less has been spent on housing by way of capital expenditure in the last year, there are now no complaints about a shortage.

Booming land prices also brought many complaints. The State Government was to blame for all these imagined and made-up troubles—and rightly so at times. Now suddenly everything is all right; or if it is considered it is not right, the Commonwealth Government is to blame. But in fact there are now troubles far more grave.

Mr. Taylor: Would you repeat that?

Mr. MENSAROS: There are now troubles far more grave than was the position before.

Mr. Taylor: Greater troubles than in the period of your party's Government?

Mr. Court: I'll say!

Mr. Graham: But we will get rid of those troubles about October or November.

Mr. Court: Hardly. Wishful thinking.

Mr. MENSAROS: I will say now that the gist of the motion, Mr. Speaker, is not necessarily a political exercise but to submit that the Government should consider the situation and rectify the grave implication.

For instance, the present unemployment situation is not blamed on the State Government. Demonstrators in a protest march do not aim their protest at the Premier's office or the office of the Minister for Housing. Demonstrators usually march to the office of the Commonwealth Minister for Works. I do not know the reason for this because I point out that much more work is given away by the Commonwealth Minister for Works than by any State authority or private enterprise.

Mr. Rushton: There is greater emphasis in demonstrating against the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. MENSAROS: This is exactly the point I am making.

If we consider education the State Government fails nowhere. If anyone complains the complaint is crushed. The State Government feels there is no reason for people to complain. However, if they do, the answer is always that it is the fault of the Commonwealth Government—it did not supply enough money. This again is an attitude of irresponsibility. As I look at the almost hypnotised or indoctrinated followers of the Government I am reminded of Orwell's *Animal Farm*, where the sheep monotonously chant: the pigs are good and the horses are bad.

Despite all these signs and the behaviour of the Government, this motion is based on the correct constitutional fact that at least we ought to have a responsible State

Government elected by the people of Western Australia and not nominated by the Commonwealth. The Government should be responsible in its own right to the same people and to its parliamentary representatives. By all means the Government should, within the constitutional arrangement, try to obtain from the Commonwealth Government as much money as it can. However, it should not stop there.

The Government should not relapse into apathy or fail to recognise that there are other avenues. It has its own scope as a Government and it should shoulder its responsibilities because nobody can deny—and if anyone does he is putting his head in the sand—that our economy in this State at the present moment is in a dire state of affairs, at least in comparison with the steadily improving years of the 1960s.

This dire state of affairs did not happen suddenly. It did not happen overnight—it developed slowly in front of our eyes. Everyone could see it coming and it is the Government's responsibility to observe and recognise the signs much earlier than anyone else. The Government has the devices, and the necessary assistance to do this.

Mr. Speaker, in an effort to explain this situation, my view is that this dire state of affairs in the economy is accompanied by two dangerous creatures; and they are indeed strange bedfellows. They have never raised their heads together previously. Of course, I am referring to inflation and unemployment. It is not only strange that these creatures appear together, but it is even stranger that one is caused by the other. Previously inflation was accompanied by a buoyant economy, boom activities, and full employment. However, this is the same inflation in its effects—we are suffering the same symptoms as we have on earlier occasions. The effects of inflation are: Money loses value; prices go up; earnings become worthless, and savings are eroded. Yet this inflation does not create more jobs—it causes unemployment.

To understand this, one has to realise the difference between this inflation and the inflation we have experienced on previous occasions. They are different animals altogether. The present inflation is not caused by an excessive demand for goods and services as happened in the past, but by the upward pressure of costs and prices. This is why it is often referred to as "Cost-Push-Inflation."

Contrary to wishful thinking or make-believe, which of course suits the Government's political interests, it is not the final consumer price which drags costs with it, but the increasing costs which push up the prices. The major and initial factors in costs are, of course, wages and salaries. Their rapid rise in recent years was not justified by increased productivity in the

same proportion. This is a very important point which people often do not understand. I can recall the occasion when I made these remarks during the previous Parliament and I invited interjections that this theory was wrong. However, it is most important that wages and salary rises are only justified if the productivity is increasing in the same proportion. The main cause of increasing prices is when the proportions are not balanced.

An additional factor which increases prices in the private sector is the huge increase in Government taxes and charges. Some ill-advised economic theory would suggest that these Government taxes and charges are the direct, almost inevitable result, of the increasing cost of labour. However, I submit that although they may be the result of increased labour costs, increases in taxes and charges do not necessarily have to follow the initial increase in the cost of labour. Indeed, by prudent economic evaluation—if inflation is not caused by excessive demand—a policy of not increasing charges might well result in arresting inflationary pressures.

It is a great temptation, of course, for every Government to attempt to cover additional costs which result from higher wages—of non-revenue earning Government expenditure. If the Government succumbs to this temptation and increases every possible charge, this to some extent burdens its own operation, but the burden falls heaviest on the private sector. As a consequence, the private sector's activity must slacken in times of non-excessive demand. This is exactly what has happened in the past year or so. I do not need to quote examples because no-one would deny the excessive increase in the minimum wage and in the various award rates.

Mr. Taylor: Are you criticising the Industrial Commission for that?

Mr. MENSAROS: I am stating the fact that—

Mr. Taylor: Or blaming the Government?

Mr. MENSAROS:—undoubtedly labour costs have gone up. So far I have not blamed anyone for this. I am simply saying that labour costs are higher. I said that no-one would deny that in the last year or two labour costs have increased in greater proportion than productivity. Added to this we have higher Government charges and taxation.

It is very tempting to give examples of these increased charges. The State Electricity Commission has increased its charges by 21 per cent. Stamp duty on shares has risen 50 per cent and on cheques up to 25 per cent. The Companies Act fees have risen by up to 150 per cent. State Shipping Service charges, on logs supplied by the Forests Department, have risen. Mineral claims—as the member for

South Perth pointed out—increased enormously by 300 per cent. The surcharge on car licenses increased by 150 per cent. On this Government's taking it over from the Commonwealth, payroll tax immediately rose from 2½ to 3½ per cent.

On today's notice paper the member for Bunbury asked every Minister what has been the increase in charges in the departments under his control. I made quick notes as the Ministers answered these questions and it was noticeable that with only three portfolios—Development and Decentralisation, Environmental Protection, and Local Government—had there been no increases in charges or taxes in the departments under their jurisdiction. Of course, it would be very hard to imagine how increases could have occurred in these particular departments. This emphasises my point that as well as labour costs, Government charges increased enormously.

I am saying this because these increased costs undoubtedly result in a slackening of the private sector's activities. A third factor emerges here with the private sector as a component of price increases; as a result of decreased activity the overhead remains the same. Consequently with the same overhead burdening a lower output, the price per unit becomes higher.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. MENSAROS: Before you left the Chair, Mr. Speaker, reluctantly no doubt, for the tea suspension, I was pointing out that the present inflation which in turn causes unemployment is caused by rapidly increasing labour costs and by even much more rapidly increasing Government charges and taxes.

The Government sector is not influenced at all by the higher charges and taxes by increased unit cost resulting from lesser production or turnover, but the private sector certainly is.

These three factors result in the private sector experiencing increased prices or bankruptcy, and in many cases both. They further result, of course, in a loss of confidence by both the individual and the public. This loss of confidence has caused all sorts of further economic deterioration.

It can be seen, therefore, that the whole impact of the increased cost of labour, of higher Government charges, and the consequently higher prices, falls heaviest on private business and on the private individual. There is nowhere else it can fall. This then slowly but ultimately causes unemployment.

It causes unemployment as a result of declining production and business and the loss of confidence which follows. This is not only so because employees are redundant; it is not only so because of the decreased production, but, as I have said, it is due also to the higher cost per unit of output or turnover.

The militant unions should realise and if they cannot then their members should realise that their achievement reflected in their thicker pay envelopes is a short-lived and passing glory only. The employers cannot afford these higher wages and of course the result is retrenchment and unemployment.

There are other reasons for the economic downturn in our State. Nobody would deny that there are world-wide as well as Australia-wide trends. No-one would deny the low world commodity prices and the low world demands, especially for rural products which have caused the plight of the rural industry. Neither would anyone deny the disturbance in the international currency markets; and, of course, many other causes contribute to this situation.

I only mention these few points because I do not want to be accused of bias. However, I do not want to elaborate on these because I am mainly concerned with the State scene and I do not suggest that the Government should be blamed for these external circumstances.

I do, and can suggest, however, that the Government should be blamed—and this matter is contained in the first part of my motion—for having failed to recognise in advance the economic signs which were indicated. The Government has not noticed and evaluated these trends which have developed slowly before its eyes. The local newspapers also pointed to them as did the specialist periodicals whose reports could have been obtained, studied, and evaluated by the experts of the Government.

If we accept my statement that the unemployment is caused by inflation and that the inflation is caused by increased labour and governmental charges, then the Government should be blamed for not doing everything in its power to prevent the labour costs and the governmental charges from going up.

If the unions could not see the position that was likely to develop the Government should have intervened. It could have intervened in a direct way. I will not accept the proposition that the Government does not have influence on the unions to which I referred, because with respect to the Government I cannot imagine that this influence and communication results only in a one-way influence from the unions to the Government. There must also be the reverse influence. But if the Government did not have this influence it should have intervened through the Industrial Commission.

The Government, however, did not do this and this was indicated by the reply I received from the Minister for Labour during the last session when I asked could he list the industrial award cases where

the Government has intervened against wage determination which, on account of considerable increases, is tending to have inflationary consequences on the State's economy.

The Minister replied that the Government did not intervene on the grounds of possible inflationary consequences in any of the instances listed. I also asked the question in connection with Commonwealth wage determinations and the answer given me was again "No."

The Minister did, of course, add that the previous Government had not intervened either. This, of course, was again one of the excuses by which the Government seeks to shed its responsibility, because the previous Government had no cause to intervene as there was no inflation at that time.

The same applies with governmental charges. Not only did the Government not prevent their increase, but it was instrumental in bringing them about.

Referring to the second part of my motion; I accuse the Government and say that it has displayed complete ineptitude and failed to halt and reverse the downturn of development. Indeed it is difficult to see what the Government has done and the results if any it has achieved. If we go through the items and see what the Government has done, or at least what it has promised to do, we will find that every one of its promises or actions could work in the reverse way.

For example, let us consider selective price control. This of course fulfils the ancient dogma of socialism and at the time the Government might have temporarily fooled the electors, and this could have been one of the reasons that the Government was elected to office. I do think, however, that the people have got over this by now. The delay in presenting this legislation perhaps is the result, and I wish it were, of the Government's recognising that there can be no such thing as price control without wage control. The Government is achieving exactly the opposite to what it desired to achieve.

Mr. Taylor: We have wage control but no price control.

Mr. MENSAROS: We have no wage control.

Mr. Jamieson: Rubbish and nonsense.

Mr. Taylor: We have no price control.

Mr. MENSAROS: I will not argue the interpretation of the words. The House very well knows the manner in which I am referring to price control and to wage control. I think price control without equal wage control will result in boom in the Government sector and slack in the private sector.

Something similar has been tried in the United States although this was slightly different. The result is as I have mentioned and I would point out that similar indications are coming from New Zealand.

Let us consider the example of the Upper Swan refinery. The Government knew before it took office where the area was. It should have found out earlier whether this area was satisfactory from an environmental point of view. Instead of inquiring earlier about an alternative site it decided to wait until late in the session of Parliament. The Government argued the matter and tried to use several bluffs. It said that unless we voted by such-and-such a date the whole enterprise would fall through. As a result of its inactivity the Government now might quite easily have been caught in its own poker game and lost the industry as a consequence.

We heard the Government refer to and attack the building society rates, but the member for Wembley showed without doubt what would result if the Government took the action it intended—he said there would be a lack of confidence by the small investor and, more importantly, it would cause unemployment.

The Government has apparently now received cooler advice unmixed with doctrinaire socialism and it has withdrawn its proposed legislation. I only hope it has been withdrawn for good.

Mr. Jamieson: The member for Wembley convinced only himself; he did not convince anybody else.

Mr. MENSAROS: The various signs I have mentioned can even be seen in the Government instrumentalities. For instance, the capital expenditure of the State Housing Commission which was \$46,813,000 in 1970-71 went down to \$39,430,000 in 1971-72. This was revealed in a reply given to question 5 asked on the 23rd March. We find that even in the Midland Workshops employment did not keep pace with the population increase. This information is also included in one of the replies given by the Minister.

There must be some political guilt for this unsatisfactory economic climate and this resulted in numerous political announcements. I do not want to weary the House by reading all of them, but we all remember the glorious steel industry which the Government first told us it would build in Bunbury, and then in Geraldton, and later it said it would be built in Albany.

It is quite interesting to review some of the Government's announcements retrospectively. On the 24th March, 1971, we find the heading in *The West Australian* newspaper, "Tonkin gives pledges on Robe River." On the 25th April, 1971, we find the announcement, "Huge Kwinana plan; Solar Salt project." On the 21st

May, 1971, the headline read, "Graham and May for trip to Japan," and on the 6th June, 1971, the papers stated, "\$20,000,000 steel plan for Western Australia." In the meantime, on the 13th June, 1971, we are told that "Labor shelves Singapore office scheme." On the 19th June, 1971, we find the headline, "Eight firms join \$327,000,000 project," and on the 10th July, 1971, the papers stated that, "Japanese bid on chemical plant in Western Australia." On the 14th August, 1971, we are told, "Tonkin to hear of nuclear blast plan" and on the 18th July, 1971, "Giant iron and steel venture is near."

We then find in the *Weekend News* of the 2nd October, 1971, the heading reads "Consortium to Mine Western Australian Bauxite"; on the 14th October *The West Australian* stated, "Cockburn Sound complex suggested." The crowning announcement was that of a few weeks ago when it was suggested that the Premier came back with a promise of jobs for 300,000 people.

These are the promises and announcements which were made. It is quite clear that they are nothing but promises. Members opposite might laugh about what I am saying, but these are the articles which were banded about from place to place, possibly with the good intention of trying to create some confidence. This, however, cannot be achieved if we are to get only promises all the time.

Mr. Jamieson: The previous Minister for Industrial Development used to sell everything four times before we got anything once!

Mr. MENSAROS: The previous Minister for Industrial Development showed some results, and this can be checked with history.

Mr. Jamieson: And he sold things pretty often. He sold in glowing terms the first agreement which did not even get off the ground.

Mr. MENSAROS: I refer to the results of the present Government after being in office for 13 months. The results, as I say and as I suggest in my motion, point to the highest rate of unemployment Western Australia has ever experienced since the term of the last Labor Government.

I do not think that statistics are necessarily the most important factors to be considered. I notice the Minister for Labour is prepared to argue on these statistical figures, but it is worth while mentioning what we all know: that according to the last count the unemployment situation in Western Australia represented 2.78 per cent. of the workforce, whereas the Commonwealth average was 2.31 per cent. We will see that during the sixties there were occasions when the figures which indicated that the Western Australian

average of unemployment was higher than the Commonwealth average, but these were exceptions. These statistics related to times when there was full employment. When the percentage of unemployment is 0.8 or 0.9 per cent. I would not consider it to be important.

However, when we turn back to 1958 or 1959 then, of course, it is quite evident that the same pattern is revealed as today. The pattern of the Commonwealth figure for July, 1958, was 1.6 per cent., whereas the Western Australian figure was 2.4 per cent. So it goes on, but I shall not weary the House with all the details. The statistics do show a trend, and undoubtedly the trend is that during the term of office of the previous Government Western Australia had the best figures of employment, compared with the other States and with the Commonwealth average; but now the figures for Western Australia are the worst.

Mr. Taylor: You said the best figures, yet the other day I pointed out that the figure of unemployment for Western Australia was higher than the Commonwealth average for half the time the previous Government was in office.

Mr. MENSAROS: I have the figures before me relating to every quarter from 1958 to January, 1972. As I pointed out, there were occasions in the term of office of the previous Government, such as in 1963, 1964, and 1965, when the Western Australian percentage of unemployment was higher than the Commonwealth average; but the difference was minimal, and the percentage very low, and that is the important point.

Mr. Taylor: There were seven years out of the 12 years that the previous Government was in office when Western Australia had a figure worse than the Australian average. You cannot say Western Australia had the best figures of employment in Australia.

Mr. MENSAROS: I repeat again that for much more than half the time when the previous Government was in office the figures of unemployment were lower than they are now. In fact, we are not talking about unemployment when the figure is below 1 per cent. In this situation we cannot regard it as unemployment. These figures, of course, do not really signify anything.

Mr. Jamieson: The figures are lower in Timbuktu, but we are not responsible for them.

Mr. MENSAROS: I do not think the interjection of the Minister for Works merits an answer, because it is not relevant.

Mr. Jamieson: Nor is your argument.

Mr. MENSAROS: When we consider statistics of unemployment we should bear in mind that they have two sides. If

we are referring to the time when there is full employment then the figure of unemployment is insignificant, whereas the figure for vacant jobs has great significance. The reverse happens when we are talking about unemployment; then the figure of vacant jobs is not significant, whereas the figure of unemployment is the important one, and the one which is constant.

Taking this into consideration one should look at the following comparisons. Unfortunately the Commonwealth Statistician could not supply these details for the previous years, but we have the figures for 1971. At the end of December the figure of unemployment for Western Australia was 9,951 as against job vacancies of 1,935. This is a tremendous contrast and it shows more than figures of 0.6 or 0.7 per cent. as representing the unemployed during most of the time of the Brand Government. Without using statistics I do not think anyone can deny the fact that for each job there is a large number of applicants. I would challenge any Minister who knows his department to deny this is not so in the Public Service where there are five, 10, and even up to 50 applicants for each vacancy. I know this is the proportion of applicants to job vacancies in private enterprise.

However, there is another significant fact which is not shown in the statistics, and that is the movement of the labour force from State to State. I can recall vividly the time when South Australia had had a Labor Government for about a year. Each week there were three or four knocks on my office door from building tradesmen seeking work; and they all came from South Australia. So, ultimately the present figures might even show a better picture, because we will have lost a tremendous number of tradesmen.

Without wearying the House with statistics I challenge anyone to deny that there is not an acute unemployment situation at the present time in Western Australia, and a similar situation has not arisen during at least the last 10 years. That is the pattern, except that the younger people do not remember it; but they should be told what the Liberal-Country Party secured for the people—52-weeks of work a year plus overtime. We know this fact without having to be convinced by statistics.

To refer to statistics again—and I only have them for the last year—I briefly mention that the Commonwealth Statistician pointed out that in November, 1971, overtime was worked by 55 per cent. of the employees, whereas a year ago the figure was 61 per cent.; and the average hours worked in 1971 was 4.7, whereas a year ago it was 6.7.

Without the use of statistics, it is quite evident that under the present Government Western Australia is going back to a

gloomy period when, although it has high wages and high awards, the take-home pay has gone down from 52 working weeks a year to 48, 46, or even 40 working weeks a year, as a result of strikes and unemployment.

In the third paragraph of my motion I stated that despite generous special grants from the Commonwealth, all the things I have enumerated have taken place. I do not think it can be denied that the Commonwealth has treated the present Government very generously and, indeed, more generously than it had treated any other State Government previously. In this regard I tried to ask some questions, but I could not get the answers I wanted. I received some qualified answers and fairly contradictory ones. When I asked what Commonwealth grants were provided to stimulate employment, the answer was a total of \$2,020,000 in 1971-72, as against \$3,900,000 during the three-year period from 1961 to 1964. Again the interpretation may be different, and one can always receive a qualified answer.

I asked another question relating to the total Commonwealth grants and loans during the term of office of this Government, and the answer was \$13,870,000-odd in grants, and none in loans.

Then on the 15th March the member for Dale asked the following question—

Since our last State budget, what sums of money have been received or promised to Western Australia by the Commonwealth Government in—

(a) grants;

The answer was—

(a) \$5,210,000.

Not being satisfied with that I asked for objective figures from the Federal Treasury which could be regarded as Commonwealth grants and loans for alleviating unemployment. The answer was that in 1971-72 the figures were \$2,990,000—representing \$2,120,000 in loans, \$870,000 in grants for works and housing—\$450,000 in semi-Government grants, and \$1,700,000 in revenue grants. That is a total of \$5,140,000. This rather tallies with the newspaper reports following the last Premier's Conference. It was stated that the total for Western Australia was even higher, because it took into consideration some special grants, and the figure was \$6,700,000.

I do not think the statistical figures matter as much as the fact that this Government has been treated more generously by the Commonwealth at the present time than any Government ever before. We should not forget the additional subsidies, such as the gold subsidy and the Commonwealth capital aid to the State Shipping Service. We should not forget the works which are undertaken by the Commonwealth Departments of Works and Supply; these are huge undertakings. Then we should not forget the Garden Island project, although this project has not

been started, but it is here as a fixed tangible asset for the future. It is not merely a promise. Projects like these are coming in large numbers to Western Australia, and should give a lift to the whole economy of the State.

Be that as it may, despite these grants and loans I do not suggest that an approach to the Commonwealth should not be made or that every legitimate avenue available under the Constitution should not be explored, until the Constitution is amended in such a way that there is more direct distribution of moneys by the Commonwealth.

On the contrary, I think a very serious approach should be made, and not an approach like that I see occasionally and what I would term "horse trading." I use this expression advisedly, because if we read *The West Australian* of the 14th February we see a report headed, "Tonkin Hopes for Extra \$15,000,000." Yet the next day in the same newspaper it was reported that having received \$6,700,000 the Premier, Mr. Tonkin, said that the Commonwealth had shown a realistic approach to the problems facing the State. He was happy with the result. This is what I term "horse trading." It is not a serious approach.

After I had studied for about two weeks the set-up of various departments in Manitoba, Winnipeg, I discovered that within the Public Service private consultants were employed in a department which is the equivalent to our Treasury, but having a separate section dealing with nothing else except the relationship between the Province and the Federal Government of Canada. Of course, it took very serious action to explore, legally and otherwise, every avenue which was open under their Constitution.

The Deputy Premier said—and he was right, of course—that all moneys come from Canberra. We know the workings of the Loan Council, but I suggest this is not the only source, nor is it the only avenue from which to remedy the present position. We already have the situation where there is a boom in the public sector and a depression in the private sector, and I have alluded to this previously. The Government attempts to transfer the burden of higher labour costs onto the public by way of increased charges. In most cases the increased charges do not affect the public sector—the Government—but the private sector suffers as does the individual.

The Government refuses to acknowledge this understanding. At present the unemployment situation is not the direct result of a depression or a recession, but the result of inflation caused by increased costs. We cannot use the old-fashioned weapons now. The Keynesian system—the construction of public works to overcome unemployment—might have worked in the past but the present unemployment posi-

tion is entirely different—or, at least, the causes are different. To use this system exclusively, as the present Government seems to do, does not improve the employment situation; in fact, ultimately it works to aggravate it.

The situation is aggravated because the public sector boom automatically slackens the private sector and disadvantages individuals. To construct only public works is an out-dated method under present circumstances. Hence, my advisedly chosen words in the third point of the motion, that the Government lacks the ability and initiative to institute and apply sound and practical measures. I repeat: the Government lacks initiative. The Government should have established an authority, at the highest Cabinet level with departmental and private experts, to evaluate and successfully combat the present situation for which it is grossly responsible.

In reply to a question I asked on the 23rd March, it was stated that a Cabinet committee had been appointed to look into unemployment, or the economic situation at Albany and Collie. Without making the accusation that those areas happen to be in Labor electorates, surely that was a parochial approach. The State should merit a much more comprehensive approach.

Even acquired and given opportunities, provided by the previous Liberal Government, are neglected, and not used. I refer to the veterinary school to be included in the Murdoch University. Instead of grasping the opportunity to use money supplied by the Commonwealth, the Government plays some sort of poker game. This became quite obvious when the Government said that unless the Commonwealth paid for the whole of the development it might not go ahead, and so it might meet the same fate as the Pacminex project.

The Government should realise that the only solution to the present problem is to boost the private sector in an attempt to restore confidence, instead of using the old Keynesian methods only, and crying for Commonwealth help. This is the attitude which created the unemployment—especially in the building industry—as pointed out in the third part of my motion. Because I have mentioned this subject I will have to weary the House with a few words in connection with the building industry.

In this industry it is not only the unemployed people who suffer. The quality of work also suffers because the lowest tenders are invariably accepted. This results in bankruptcy, shoddy work, and inconvenience to everybody. The hopes of the small man are lost; the building industry still employs quite a number of small builders. The situation becomes desperate and forces the small builder to wait and hope against hope for a contract.

Such a man is not expressed in statistics because he is not on the list of unemployed. The skilled men tend to go to the Eastern States because there is no hope of work here, or, alternatively, they try to find employment in a different field. If they are successful they are lost to the industry where they are so important.

In order to make my case clearer I will refer to a set of statistics which apply to approvals for buildings. This is important if we are to look to the future because the buildings approved will be constructed within the next six months. The statistics show that in March, 1972, the value of private houses commenced was \$7,300,000 as against the last period for which the value was \$9,900,000. That is a considerable decrease. The value of Government houses commenced or approved was \$1,300,000, as against \$1,700,000 for the previous period.

The decrease in the value of approvals for the construction of flats is even more dramatic; \$200,000 as against \$2,200,000 for the last period. Expressed in fractions, that means that it was one-eleventh of what it was during the last period.

There is no doubt about the situation in the building trade, but these circumstances did not arise overnight. It has been pointed out by a private research organisation that the larger projects would finish at a certain time, and that unless other projects were started there would be unemployment.

The last part of my motion deals with the future and maintains that the Government is not only responsible for the present situation, but also for the future. The Government not only has to try to survive, politically, at the present—which it will not—but it also has to look to the future and try to eliminate or cushion any future downturn.

I ask: What signs has the Government shown that it even thinks of the future? I cannot see any, apart from promises and announcements. The Premier belatedly went to Japan when he was told there would be a cut in the iron-ore output which would affect his Budget by way of lost royalties. To anticipate the problem of what should be done, and indeed, what should be considered when the future is also taken into consideration, is not for any humble back-bencher to say without advice from experts.

It is not our job to govern; that is the job of the Government which has the use and the advice of experts. Nevertheless, I point out a few obvious possibilities and facts which have to be borne in mind and seriously examined. Instead of the conservative method of public works only, projects should be created which generate further activity. I have already referred to the Murdoch University.

The private sector should be boosted. It might be asked, "How?" I know that the Government cannot borrow money directly, but at least it can help to promote borrowing by private enterprise by setting up the private enterprise. If one keeps up with overseas economic information one will know how much money is seeking accommodation from overseas. I am glad the Premier appears to have realised this, although belatedly, when he was in Japan. The Government could obviously do some brokerage between investors and companies seeking to establish industries. The Government could guarantee loans, which would be much better placed in these fields than in the Yunderup Canals project.

It can be pointed out that foreign investment in Australia accounts for one-quarter of the gross national product, and if we have a growth rate of only 5 per cent. the return on investment is better than that which the European Economic Community can offer.

Another factor is to examine productivity on all levels. It would be fair to say—without having any information available—that a large proportion of the Western Australian workforce is drawing full pay while being grossly underemployed in jobs which are really not necessary. This applies particularly to the public sector, but during full employment it was not rare in the private sector. At that time nobody cared about it. There were a few complaints, and even a few jokes when I talked about the work discipline, and that was all.

A survey was carried out in Great Britain many years ago which showed that the workforce which I referred to as being half employed, would represent 50 per cent of the workers. To my knowledge such a survey has not been undertaken by any firm in Australia. I would say, without hesitation, that one could easily guess the result if such a survey were carried out, and that it would not be much different from the British result.

The Government has also shown short-sightedness in its policy regarding immigration. My leader has already referred to this point. Answers I have received to questions show that the number of assisted settlers who arrived in Western Australia in 1970 was 17,685. The number for 1971 was 13,363, and it is anticipated that the number of assisted migrants for the year 1971-72 will be approximately 12,000. There has been a continuous decrease and to my mind this is a short-sighted policy. The decrease in the number of migrants might represent a temporary relief but it decreases our future strength, and our hopes for continuous development.

Even suggestions from this side of the House which would provide long-term benefits are brushed aside by the Government—perhaps on the advice of public servants. I point to one example when the Opposition suggested that some relief should be given to country areas by way of lower rates of payroll tax to further decentralisation. That suggestion was rejected without any argument being offered.

The last words of my motion mention, by contrast, that the previous Government achieved the highest rate of continuous development in Australia. This is so, and we all know it. To show it from one aspect only I would like to make a quick reference to our population figures.

These figures are staggering. In 1960 we had a population of 731,000. In 1971 the population was 1,045,764. This represents a growth of 43 per cent. The growth rate in the same period for the whole of the Commonwealth was 24 per cent. In other words, the growth rate in Western Australia was 181 per cent. of that of the Commonwealth. One could compare the figures for any given period of years. I compared 1960 with 1970, taking a period of 10 years. The growth rate in Western Australia was 38 per cent. as against the average Commonwealth growth rate of 21 per cent.

One could go further. One could suggest—as indeed it was suggested to me when I was in London, Tokyo, and New York—that the Australia-wide boom during the last decade was caused and initiated by Western Australia. Those petty personal enemies of our deputy leader who switch from the D.L.P. payroll to the Hanwright payroll do not even realise how deeply complimentary they are when they write—copying the style of light American magazines—about “Charles (The State on the Move) Court.” Under the Brand Liberal-Country Party Government the State was indeed on the move; now it moves backwards.

This is my concern and the concern of the Opposition, and this is the reason for this motion. I am not so naive as to hold out any hopes that the motion will be carried in this House. My concern is to warn the public and to try to shake up the Government.

At the conclusion of my speech I repeat what I said at the beginning of it: This is not a pure political exercise but an expression of grave and serious concern about the way things are going under the present Government. Of course, we want to see the Government defeated. Of course, we want to govern with sounder and more successful methods. But we do not want to achieve Government at the price of completely ruining this State. Hence this warning, which comes from a sincere and responsible Opposition. I commend the motion to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Harman.

MINING ACT

Disallowance of Regulations: Motion

MR. GRAYDEN (South Perth) [8.18 p.m.]: I move—

That regulations made under the Mining Act, published in the *Government Gazette* on the 3rd December, 1971, and laid on the Table of the House on the 8th December, 1971, be and are hereby disallowed.

The reason for my moving that these regulations be disallowed is that I think their introduction has dealt a crippling blow to the mining industry in Western Australia. In addition, in my opinion, the introduction of the regulations was a wound inflicted by the Government upon the Treasury of this State.

As a consequence of the annual rent for mineral claims being increased from 25c an acre each year to 50c an acre each year, company after company and prospector after prospector have shed leases. Thousands of leases have been shed largely because of this increase. We know the mining industry in Western Australia has suffered a downturn and that in any case many leases would have been shed for this reason, but the savage impost of a 100 per cent. increase has aggravated the situation and, to a large extent, has been responsible for what has happened.

We were given the first warning of this increase in the early part of last session when the present Attorney-General and Minister for Education, who was at that time the Treasurer, made some reference to it in the Budget speech. On that occasion he said—

Rents charged for mining tenements have, in most cases, not been increased for many years. The rent for mineral leases under the Mining Act has been 50c an acre since 1904 and the rent for mineral claims, 25c an acre since 1924.

The report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Mining Act recommended an increase in rentals and considered that “the degree of inflation since 1924 would justify at least a 100 per cent. increase.”

In line with that recommendation, and having in mind the need to adopt rates which will enable meaningful conversion to metric areas at some future times, it is proposed to increase rents on—

Mineral and dredging claims from 25c to 50c an acre;

Later on in the year when the Minister for Mines introduced a Bill to amend the Mining Act he made reference to the impending increase. The Bill to which I am referring was the one which increased the annual rent on mineral leases from 50c to \$2—a 300 per cent. increase.

Mr. T. D. Evans: The increases were not inconsistent with the recommendations of the mining committee.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I think the mining committee recommended a 100 per cent. increase in respect of mineral claims, but in the case of mineral leases the increase was 300 per cent. I will deal with that recommendation shortly. To my mind it was foolish in the extreme and certainly could not be justified.

At all events, when the Minister for Mines introduced the amendment to the Mining Act he made reference to the impending increase. He said—

Annual rentals on dredging claims and mineral claims are being increased from 25c to 50c, but these rates are provided by regulation so no amendment to the Act is necessary.

In his speech he also drew attention to the fact that there had been no increase in the rents payable on mineral claims since 1904. As a consequence of that amendment, regulations were introduced by the Government. The regulations were gazetted and then tabled in this House, in accordance with our Interpretation Act, on the 8th December, 1971, two sitting days before we rose for the year.

We now have the opportunity, within 14 sitting days, to disallow the regulations, and my motion is designed for that purpose. If we allowed it to go beyond the 14 days it would be necessary to obtain the consent of both Houses of Parliament, but as notice was given within 14 days it is possible for the regulations to be disallowed by one House of Parliament.

The regulations were promulgated with the intention of increasing the rent of mineral claims from 25c to 50c an acre each year—a 100 per cent. increase. At the time the Minister for Mines made reference to this increase, I drew attention to the disastrous effect it would have on the mining industry in Western Australia, and that situation has, of course, eventuated. As I said, we now have a situation where mining companies are shedding these leases right and left, and the result will be that the Treasury will end up with less money than it would have had had it not increased the rent of these claims.

It is rather difficult to find out how many mineral claims have been shed. I have asked several questions on this matter. On the 2nd December, 1971, I asked a question for the specific purpose of finding out how many leases had been shed by the mining companies as a consequence of what was about to happen in respect of mineral claims. The question was—

- (1) How many mineral claims are in existence in Western Australia and what is the total acreage involved?

- (2) How many mineral claims were in existence in Western Australia on 30th June, 1971, and what was the total acreage of same?

The reply was—

- (1) As at 31st December, 1970, there were 20,272 mineral claims in force in Western Australia and the total acreage involved was 5,344,357 acres.
- (2) The information sought by the Member is not readily available.

On the 28th March this year I asked virtually the same question, expecting that the Government would have had the figures by then. The question was—

How many mineral claims were in existence in Western Australia as at 31st December, 1971, and what was the total acreage involved?

That was a reasonable question because I had already been supplied with the figures as at the 31st December, 1970, and I naturally assumed we would be able to obtain similar information as at the 31st December, 1971. The reply to that question was—

The information requested is at present being compiled but will not be completed before 30th April, 1972. As soon as the figures are available the Member will be advised.

On the 29th March, 1972, I asked a further question—

What is the most recent date on which it was known how many mineral claims were in existence in Western Australia, and what was the total acreage involved at that time?

Back came the answer—

The 31st December, 1970.

It went on to state the number of mineral claims that were in existence.

The point that emerges from these questions and answers is that the most recent figures the Mines Department in this State has in respect of the number of mineral claims in Western Australia are the figures as at the 31st December, 1970. No questions from me or anyone else can elicit from the Mines Department any later information. Last year I complained about the wall of silence in respect of information regarding temporary reserves. The same situation exists in regard to mineral claims. The Mines Department must have some idea how many mineral claims have been shed, but answer after answer indicates that the latest information it has is as at the 31st December, 1970.

How can any department administer its affairs if that is the latest information it has? How can the Mines Department of Western Australia keep abreast of what is happening in respect of mining and

prospecting in Western Australia if the figures at the 31st December, 1970, are the most recent figures it has?

I mentioned that to indicate that it is rather difficult to find out just what the situation is in respect of the number of mineral claims that have been shed. If we look at this morning's newspaper we see that Conwest has shed 300 mineral claims. I imagine this would be typical of most companies. Not all companies would be in a position to shed 300 mineral claims; it would depend on the size of the companies. Many companies have probably shed considerably more than 300 mineral claims.

In any event, we now have the situation where people are simply shedding these leases in order to save the fees. As a consequence, the Treasury will be infinitely worse off than would have been the case had the annual rentals for mineral claims not been increased.

Mr. Brady: Wouldn't that give other people the right to take up the claims?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Unfortunately, in many cases—though not in all—Australian companies are shedding the leases and they are being taken up by overseas companies. Often the ground is desirable ground, but the company or the prospector concerned simply cannot afford to hold it.

We had an argument put forward in the first place by the committee established to inquire into the Mining Act, and now embraced by members of the Government, that mineral fees had not been increased since 1904; therefore, it was a logical proposition to increase them; and a 100 per cent. increase was quite justified in the circumstances. However, I cannot see any logic at all in that particular argument. Let us consider the position which obtains in the pastoral industry. The same could be said of that industry. The annual rentals of pastoral leases have not been increased since, I think, 1904. I might be a little out, but I think they have not been increased since the Land Act was introduced.

Let us consider for a moment what the pastoral industry returns to the coffers of this State. On the 16th September, 1970, I asked the following question of the Minister for Lands:—

- (1) What was the total area of Crown land leased for pastoral purposes during the years 1965-1970, inclusive?

The Minister replied that for each of the years in question the total area was in the vicinity of 235,000,000 acres. He gave the precise figures for each year, and that is approximately the average. I then asked—

- (2) What was the total amount of lease fees paid by pastoralists during each of the years referred to?

The Minister replied—

- (2) The lease rentals paid during this period were:—

1965—\$282,529.
1966—\$271,801.
1967—\$276,293.
1968—\$268,830.
1969—\$273,151.
1970—\$271,488.

Those are the total amounts of lease fees paid by the pastoralists for the years concerned. As I have said, we have over 230,000,000 acres of land under pastoral lease, and the total amount received from the pastoralists is to the order of \$282,000-odd per annum. Let us contrast that with the situation which applies in respect of minerals. Here would find a completely different story. On the 23rd April, 1970, when the previous Government was in office, only 12,000,000 acres of Crown land was held by way of mineral claims in Western Australia. Yet that amount of land returned \$3,000,000 to the Treasury each year. So we were extracting \$3,000,000 from 12,000,000 acres of mineral claims.

However, in the case of the pastoral industry we were extracting in the vicinity of \$282,000-odd for 230,000,000-odd acres of pastoral leases. Members will note the extraordinary difference. Obviously the Government looked at those figures supplied to me on the 23rd April, 1970—or perhaps some other figures—and saw that 12,000,000 acres of mineral claims were providing \$3,000,000 a year to the Treasury. Obviously the Government said, "If we double the cost per acre of the annual rental of a mineral claim, increasing it from 25c to 50c, we will double the annual revenue and make it \$6,000,000."

With that in mind the Government imposed the savage increase. What has been the result? The result has been that instead of raising \$3,000,000, the Government will raise considerably less because, as I have said, prospecting companies, prospectors, and others interested in mining have shed the leases right and left. Consequently the Treasury will be infinitely worse off than it was before, and it will be financially twice as difficult for people to take up mineral claims throughout Western Australia. This is a crippling blow to the mining industry of this State. As far as the Government is concerned it is a self-inflicted wound. The Government was warned that this situation would apply. It disregarded the advice and now it is in the position where it will not obtain anything like what it considers to be an adequate amount of revenue from mineral claims.

We had a comparable situation of which the Government should have taken heed. Had it done so it certainly would not have imposed the increase to which I refer. A comparable situation concerns the tax imposed on wine in 1970. Let me tell the House what happened in that instance.

During the years 1966 to 1970 the wine industry in Australia increased its annual sales from 15,300,000 gallons to 24,000,000 gallons. Over the five-year period that represents an annual increase of almost 12 per cent. Then along came the wine tax, which was introduced in 1970. Immediately a drop of 5,000,000 gallons occurred in the expected sales for 1971. In addition, the wine industry found that, because of a slackening of consumer demand, it was in the position of having 66,000,000 gallons in stock in Australia. The preliminary figures for 1971, obtained just prior to Christmas—and I am not certain what happened subsequently—show that for that year the excise duty was likely to fall short of the anticipated figure by more than \$3,000,000.

After the Federal Government introduced that wine tax, instead of receiving the money it expected from excise, it was anticipated that in 1971 the amount collected would be \$3,000,000 short of the expected figure.

Exactly the same situation has applied in respect of mineral claims. As I said, mineral claims have been dropped right and left. They have been dropped right and left throughout the Kimberley; they have been dropped right and left throughout the Pilbara; they have been dropped right and left throughout the Murchison; and they have been dropped right and left throughout the eastern goldfields. I would say that it would not be possible to find one person in any mining town in Western Australia, or even in any of the most remote areas where there is habitation, who would agree with this savage imposition.

We know the situation in these areas. This does not affect only those engaged in the mining industry. Virtually everyone in the outlying areas of Western Australia at the present time is a prospective prospector. The station owners, the station hands, and the townspeople in the towns which dot the mining fields and the pastoral areas are all potential prospectors. They have been pegging mineral claims since 1904. However, instead of paying \$75 a year for 300 acres, they now pay \$150. That is the extent of the increase.

The increase is completely illogical because we know, as does everyone connected with mining, that people pegging an outcrop—perhaps only five or six chains long—do not merely peg a five-acre claim to embrace that small outcrop. They go much further afield and take out say a 300-acre mineral claim along the strike of that five-chain outcrop so they can be sure of taking in any minerals extending on either side and at each end of the outcrop. When there is a savage increase of this kind—a 100 per cent. increase—what is the logical thing for these people to do? They simply take out say a five-acre claim and

shed the other 295 acres. This stands out as plain as a pikestaff and it should be apparent to anyone.

It is a reflection on the Mines Department if it was not pointed out to the Minister for Mines. It is a reflection on all the members representing the gold-mining, pastoral, and mining areas of Western Australia if it was not pointed out to the Government. It is a reflection on all concerned. This is a savage impost on the unfortunate people living in remote areas. For instance, I do not know how the member for Merredin-Yilgarn explains the increase to his constituents. He is constantly touring his electorate and he must be meeting these prospectors all the time.

Mr. Brown: That is right.

Mr. GRAYDEN: What does he say to them? How does he justify the increase? Many of these people have a number of 300 acre claims. They are now required to pay \$150 a year for a 300-acre claim, but a prospector with 10 claims of this size will have to pay \$1,500 whereas previously he paid \$750.

This concerns many other Government members. How does the member for Pilbara get on as he travels the length and breadth of his electorate? What does he say to prospectors in Nullagine, Marble Bar, Port Hedland, and Roebourne? People at every mining town will complain. How does he justify a 100 per cent. increase in the fee for a mining claim?

The prospectors will advise the honourable member that this is not the only cost involved in taking up a mining claim. In addition to the annual rent there is a survey fee which is another \$75, although this can vary slightly according to the location. However, initially a prospector must find the \$75 survey fee and the annual rental, which is now \$150 for a 300-acre claim.

The local authority also imposes rates which may be up to 15c an acre per annum, even though the mineral claim may be a few hundred miles from the local authority's office. The prospector may pay a sanitary rate although there is no sanitary service within 200 miles of his claim. This is a silly, iniquitous situation. Therefore I ask, how does the member for Pilbara justify the increase when he travels throughout his electorate?

We could ask the same thing of the member for Kalgoorlie who is constantly meeting mining people throughout Western Australia.

Mr. T. D. Evans: It might interest the member for South Perth to know that I cannot recall one complaint of this nature made personally to me.

Mr. Hartrey: I can say the same.

Mr. O'Neil: The Minister is so busy the prospectors would not be able to find him.

Mr. Graham: The member for Boulder-Dundas says the same thing.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The only reason these members have not received complaints is that the prospectors have not yet received the accounts showing the increase. I can assure the Minister he will get plenty of complaints later. At the moment the prospectors are blissfully unaware of the regulations.

Mr. T. D. Evans: They have a greater sense of responsibility.

Mr. GRAYDEN: It has not hit the prospectors yet that they will have to pay \$150 a year for a 300-acre claim instead of \$75. Obviously they are not budgeting for the increase. What will happen when this hits them? After the Mines Department sends out the accounts the member for Kalgoorlie will get complaint after complaint, as will the member for Boulder-Dundas.

Mr. T. D. Evans: I will refer mine to the member for South Perth.

Mr. GRAYDEN: How the members will get on in Kalgoorlie and Boulder-Dundas I just do not know. I can imagine all the prospectors coming in from the outlying areas on the goldfields after they have received their accounts. They will see Tom Hartrey and they will say, "That is the chap who imposed this savage increase. He put up the annual rents from \$75 on a 300-acre claim to \$150." This is precisely what they will say.

Mr. T. D. Evans: The member for South Perth did not object when reference was made to this in the Budget speech.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I did not get the opportunity to comment as I was not making the Budget speech.

Mr. T. D. Evans: You had a chance to reply.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The Minister has an important task when introducing the Budget. I am certainly not going to interject.

Mr. T. D. Evans: You had an opportunity when the Bill was introduced.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The Mining Act Amendment Bill (No. 2) was introduced later. I then pointed out what would be the result if the Government doubled the cost of the fee for mineral claims.

What will happen to the member for Gascoyne as he travels around his electorate? Again he is meeting mining people all the time. I imagine he will have the greatest difficulty explaining this increase.

These Government members will have to try to justify the increase. They will say, "We were opposed to the increase but the majority of our party was in favour of it." They will have to say this because the people in Pilbara, Merredin-Yilgarn, Kalgoorlie, Boulder-Dundas, and Gascoyne,

will know how absurd the increase is. The prospectors will not have to see the regulation in operation to know this. They know if they are holding a big acreage it will cost them a good deal of money. Probably the major part of a claim is useless but prospectors had been prepared to hold large claims at 25c an acre. If the rental is doubled they will shed much of their land because they can do so quite easily. This is the point which staggers me. The decision to increase these charges is so illogical that it is absurd in the extreme.

In these circumstances I hope the House will reject the regulations. I might add that the Government has now introduced a new Mining Bill and its members will have a free vote. I applaud this step. However, there is provision for regulations to be made under this legislation, and I take it the lease fees will be fixed by regulation. I sincerely hope the statements which have been made will be considered when fixing these fees. The Government must also consider the existing situation in the mining and pastoral areas of Western Australia. It must return to a practical rate, and a practical rate is 25c an acre.

If the Government insists on this increase it will be a shocking thing for the mining industry of Western Australia. The industry has already been dealt a crippling blow but the Government now has the opportunity to rectify this when the new regulations are promulgated. However, I cannot be optimistic about the Government's actions because just prior to Christmas the Government increased fees on mining leases from 50c to \$2—a 300 per cent. increase. If the Government was prepared to do that just before Christmas, is it logical to assume it will revert to a rate of 25c an acre for the new type of mining tenement now envisaged? More recently the Government promulgated the regulations to which I am now objecting to increase mineral claim fees from 25c to 50c.

Having done that just prior to Christmas, I ask again: Is it logical that we can expect the Government, when it promulgates the new regulations, to return to a fee of 25c? If it does not we will have a continuation of the sordid and sorry situation which obtains at present throughout Western Australia. It is a situation which is causing a great deal of concern, and I know many mining companies have expressed great concern. I am sure concern has been expressed to the Minister for Mines. I understand he has already circularised companies and asked them at this stage for their views on the situation. Very shortly he will receive their replies and the position will be made perfectly clear to him. He will then appreciate that what I am advocating is completely justified. However, that is by the way.

What I take exception to is that it was obvious from the start that this sort of situation would prevail. It would have been obvious to the member for Boulder-Dundas, the member for Pilbara, the member for Merredin-Yilgarn and the member for Gascoyne. Notwithstanding it was so obvious, the Government still went on and imposed this savage increase in fees.

Mr. Hartrey: I do not think you are right.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I am sure the honourable member will have cause to rejoice if the Government goes ahead to reduce the fee to what it was originally; that is, 25c.

Mr. Fletcher: Can't you see that the purpose of the increase in the fees is to make people shed those areas that are not being worked so that they may be made available to others who will work them?

Mr. GRAYDEN: That is not the true position. In some cases these claims are not being taken up, but in others they are being taken up by overseas companies with the necessary capital. Members should not forget that we have 1,000,000 square miles of country in Western Australia, which is approximately 640,000,000 acres. Of that area probably 1,000,000 acres or so are under mining tenements at present; that is about all. Compare that with the situation in 1970 when 12,000,000 acres were under mineral claims.

Mr. T. D. Evans: You have to consider the state of the stock market in that situation, too.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I agree with what the Attorney-General says; prospecting has virtually come to a standstill in comparison with what the position was in previous years. I agree that we cannot attribute the decline in prospecting operations entirely to this increase in fees. Of course there has been an end to the nickel boom and this plays a great part in the exercise, but we cannot get away from the fundamental fact that the main cause of companies and small prospectors shedding their claims was the increase in the fee from \$75 for 300 acres to \$150 per annum. As soon as they received that information they reviewed their claims and said, "What can we shed?"

In this morning's issue of *The West Australian* members will probably have noted that Conwest Exploration shed 300 mineral claims. The company would not be shedding them specifically because of the increase in fees but no doubt it has been greatly influenced by such increase. However, if it was not influenced by the proposed increase in fees, I am sure dozens of other companies have been influenced by it.

To increase the fees was a silly move on the part of the Government. It was obvious to all that it was a silly move and yet the

Government went ahead with its proposal in defiance of the views of its own members who represent the mining and pastoral areas of Western Australia. As I have pointed out, a similar situation arose as a result of the increase in the tax on wine. After that increase was made the Commonwealth Government collected \$3,000,000 less in excise duty than it anticipated. It was displayed in black and white for the Government to see.

Despite the drastic reaction to the Commonwealth Government's move, the State Government has gone ahead and imposed this increase in mining fees and, as I have already pointed out, it has had a crippling effect on the mining industry. In fact, it has virtually been brought to a standstill. I think the matter will be resolved when the new Mining Act is placed on the Statute book and after many amendments have been made to it. Very shortly the Government will promulgate the new regulations and it will have to take this matter into consideration.

In the meantime I think this House should agree to the motion I have moved, which reads—

That regulations made under the Mining Act, published in the *Government Gazette* on the 3rd December, 1971, and laid on the Table of the House on the 8th December, 1971, be and are hereby disallowed.

These regulations seek to increase the annual fee payable for all mineral claims from 25c to 50c. It is as simple as that. If the regulations are disallowed I can assure the House that many members on the Government side particularly will be spared a great deal of anxiety, because the people in their particular electorates to date have not received notices advising them of the increase in fees, but when they do and they find that they have to pay \$150 a year instead of \$75 a year—and some people have dozens of claims—those members will be severely criticised by their constituents.

In the circumstances I hope the House will agree to the disallowance of the regulations.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Harman.

KWINANA-BALGA POWER LINE

Dual Route: Motion

MR. THOMPSON (Darling Range) [8.59 p.m.]: I move—

That this House deplores the decision of the Government to adopt a dual route for the 330kV Kwinana-Balga power line resulting in environmental desecration and personal hardship to a greater number of people than would lines installed along one

route. We ask that the Government reconsider the decision after a report is made by Environmental Protection Authority and that, in any event, they adhere to the clear recommendation of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority not to construct the lines through, or near, the Guildford Grammar School.

Last year, when I moved a motion similar to this, the present Minister for Works, who was then the Minister for Electricity, said that I was premature in moving such a motion because no decision had been made. A decision has now been made, and I am on record as saying that I believe the decision is ridiculous. I now repeat that, in my opinion, it is a ridiculous decision.

I hope that in my contribution I will be able to outline to members my reason for feeling that way. The motion contains three principal elements. Firstly, it deplores the decision to split the route; secondly, it asks the Government to reconsider the decision after it has referred the matter to the Environmental Protection Authority; and, thirdly, it requests the Government to adhere to the recommendation of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority not to construct the line through Guildford Grammar School.

Obviously the splitting of the power line route will cause a greater impact on the terrain, and furthermore a greater number of people will suffer personal hardship, because instead of both lines traversing one route we will have the situation where there will be two separate routes. For that reason the splitting of the line will have a greater impact than if the two lines were located along one reserve.

It is necessary that I recount the history of this set of power lines. It goes back as far as 1968 when negotiations took place between the State Electricity Commission and a number of shires the areas of which the line was to traverse, in an attempt to find some way to find a route which would be acceptable to the S.E.C. and would not react too harshly on the people living in the shires affected. Agreement virtually was reached between the S.E.C. and those shires to construct the two lines behind the escarpment.

For some reason or other early in 1971 the matter was referred to the M.R.P.A., with a request for it to examine the proposals and to make a report to the S.E.C. One of the principal objections of the M.R.P.A. to the proposed route that had been agreed to in negotiations between the commission and the shires concerned was that the 140-foot pylons were to be taken over the escarpment, and they would be visible miles away. The M.R.P.A. said it did not think the commission should build the lines there, because they would be a complete eyesore.

The State Electricity Commission pointed out to the M.R.P.A. that it did not mind where the lines were to be located, provided the route was acceptable to it, and was within its financial reach. It asked the M.R.P.A. to look into the matter and to make recommendations.

Early in 1971 the M.R.P.A. suggested to the S.E.C. that the commission should construct both lines along a common reserve parallel to and across the face of the escarpment, at about the 200-foot to 300-foot contour level. That was not along the foothills, but on the breast of the hills. So far were the lines to be located into the hills that they were to run parallel and adjacent to an area of land which had been acquired at great cost to be set aside as the green belt.

The engineer of the Shire of Kalamunda made a quick calculation and pointed out that with the lines established in that location the head of the towers would coincide with the level of the scenic drive which is to be constructed along the face of the escarpment. That scenic road is part of the metropolitan region scheme, and it will provide an uninterrupted view of the city and the coast. I can think of no more attractive drive in this State than this will be ultimately, because the slope of the escarpment will be left in its natural state and the road will run along the escarpment, overlooking the green belt to the city and the coast beyond.

The recommendation announced by the M.R.P.A. certainly caused a stir. It had everyone living within cooee of the route of the lines up in arms. Protest meetings were held in Kalamunda on several occasions, and 200 to 300 people were present at each. They were most anxious that something be done to prevent the S.E.C. from constructing these power lines so close to the green belt, and in such a position that they would reduce the impact of the green belt. They were also concerned with the views from their own properties; there is no question about that.

I want members to be quite sure as to the reasons the M.R.P.A. did not want the lines to be built over the escarpment, because later on in my speech I will point out the relevance of that viewpoint. The major concern of the M.R.P.A. was that the pylons should not break the skyline over the escarpment.

Mr. Graham: When you refer to breaking the skyline, do you mean looking from the city towards the ranges, or from the ranges towards the city?

Mr. THOMPSON: From the city towards the ranges. If the pylons are built on top of the escarpment it must break the skyline.

Mr. Graham: What are you doing about the existing pylons, in the form of the television transmission towers?

Mr. THOMPSON: This is not my submission; this was the principal reason that the M.R.P.A. did not want the lines to be constructed there. I am not trying to justify what it said, or saying that what it recommended was wrong. The concern of the M.R.P.A. was that the lines would break the skyline. It was on that point, and on that point alone, that it recommended to the S.E.C. it should not build the lines over the skyline, but should decide on a route against the hills.

When that decision was made it was assumed that the escarpment was a perfectly straight line, and it ignored the fact that as a result of millions of years of erosion of the escarpment there were valleys. Whilst looking at the hills from a great distance they appear to be in one straight line, but in fact when one gets into the hills one finds valleys and ravines which cut into the face of the escarpment. For that reason it was obviously not possible to conceal the power lines completely when viewed from the hills, if they were built along the face of the escarpment. In fact, from some spots it would be possible to see five or six pylons spaced one-fifth of a mile apart.

That recommendation precipitated a great public outcry. At a public meeting held in January, 1971, I was virtually in the hot seat, because at that time the decision on the route of the line would have had to be made by a Government of the party to which I belonged and for which I was a candidate in the coming election.

I took a great deal of trouble to discuss this matter with the leader and the deputy leader of the Liberal Party who gave me a categorical assurance that no decision would be made on the route to be adopted until such time as there had been an examination of the proposals by the Environmental Protection Authority. I know this has been disputed by members opposite, and they say that our environmental protection legislation did not cover that matter. It was a fact that an undertaking was given to the people that the matter would be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority. Whether or not it was something which the authority could take up legally is another matter, but the fact remains that the leader and the deputy leader of the Liberal Party said the matter would be referred to that authority.

At that time the State Electricity Commission, because of the public outcry and for other reasons, indicated it would make a survey of the two routes; that is, the route through the valleys which was the one to which the shires had agreed, and the one through the foothills. The commission stated that it would cost both routes and take into consideration many other aspects and then make a decision. A long time elapsed before a decision was made.

Rumours circulated to the effect that the line would shift down the escarpment a little and then other rumours indicated the line would go up a little. No-one really knew where it was to go. I might add that while all this controversy was raging, many people did not know their position. One man wanted to subdivide a piece of land, but his surveyor told him that he would have to stop because the State Electricity Commission might construct its power lines across the land. Then it was believed the commission would not construct its power lines in this position and so he went ahead; but subsequently had to stop again because of rumours to the effect that his land would be involved.

But, to this day, no-one knows precisely where the lines will be constructed. No-one, as far as I can establish, has been told, and certainly those who will be affected have not been given any definite indication by the commission that the power lines will go across their properties. So those who reside along the route generally indicated by the Government on the plans accompanying its decision late last year are still very much concerned.

I might say that in reply to questions asked of the Minister for Works when he was in charge of the portfolio of Electricity, we were told that two lines properly installed along a common reserve would provide the necessary degree of security. The Minister stated that quite clearly in reply to a question on notice. It was not information given off the cuff, but was a considered reply to a question asked of him. Therefore it is too late for the State Electricity Commission and the Government now to say that for security of supply the lines must follow separate routes. It is too late because they have cast the mold. They have said that two lines along one route, if properly installed, would give the necessary degree of security.

I must say at this point that the commission is constructing the lines further away from the hills than originally intended. Despite the fact that the Minister for Electricity at that time said last year that the two routes being examined by the commission represented respectively the most easterly and the most westerly routes which could possibly be selected, we find now that the decision has been made and the lines have been taken further east and further west. If we must have the lines through the foothills, I am glad they are being taken a little further away from the face of the escarpment.

The Minister for Electricity indicated that the height of the pylons would be reduced across the foothills. He also said it would probably be necessary within 10 years to duplicate the row of 78-foot pylons through the foothills. I say that it is not only likely, but definite that a

second row of pylons through the foothills will have to be constructed in the years to come should the load dictate.

When initially constructed, the lines are to carry half their designed capacity by being equipped with conductors on one side of the towers only. When the load grows greater, the lines will be equipped with a second set of conductors.

The design of the higher towers—that is, the 140-foot towers which are to be used generally, but not in the section across the foothills—is such that two sets of conductors can be placed on them; but the design of the 78-foot towers which are to go through the foothills is such that the number of conductors cannot be increased. Therefore it is obvious that it will be necessary to erect another row of towers through the foothills, and that is not desirable.

When the Minister announced the Government's decision he said it was possible that in 10 years' time the cables could be placed underground. If the Minister does not know that statement is not supported by the engineering facts of today, the State Electricity Commission, which gave him the information, certainly should because nowhere in the world are there conductors carrying underground power at 330,000 volts over distances in excess of about one or two miles, and in those instances the cables are placed underground only in extreme situations; that is, to get power to the centres of cities.

One of the major problems of underground power lines is that a tremendous amount of heat must be dissipated and the cooling of the conductors is so complex that one of the most recent of these cables installed has been provided with a system of liquid nitrogen—super-cold, as it is called. This is being used in some of the hospitals and industrial plants here. It must be pumped along the conductors in order to get rid of the tremendous amount of heat dissipated when conductors of such voltage are so close together.

Therefore it will not be feasible, engineering-wise, within 10 years to provide conductors underground over such a great distance. However, even if we assume it would be feasible, it must be recognised that the cost of underground cables is astronomical and so the commission of the future will be faced with a decision as to whether to use underground cables at an astronomical cost or, alternatively, resort to an overhead line running parallel with the existing one.

I suggest that the Minister was not being entirely fair when he suggested that within 10 years the lines would be undergrounded because he cannot say with certainty they will be.

Mr. Hartrey: We might all be underground in 10 years.

Mr. THOMPSON: That is a possibility. However, while we are here and above the ground we have a responsibility to the people who will be above the ground in later years and we must ensure we do not make a botch of the place in which we now live.

The Shire of Kalamunda resolved, in accordance with section 38 of the State Electricity Commission Act, that it would lodge a formal appeal against the decision made by the Government, and it did so. It lodged the appeal with the Minister for Electricity who, under the Act, has the right to make a decision, which decision is final and binding on all. I was therefore rather perturbed a few days before the submission was made by the Kalamunda Shire to the Minister to read an article in the Press in which the Minister was quoted as having said he was aware an appeal was to be made by the Kalamunda Shire but he felt there was not much likelihood of any major changes.

What he was saying in effect was that he was prejudging the case and he would not take much notice of what the shire had to say. I believe that was an unfortunate statement for the Minister to make because it did not appear he had any genuine interest in trying to assess the matters submitted to him by the shire.

I know personally the members of the shire council and along with most shire councillors they have devoted a great deal of their lives for no recompense at all to administer local government. Four or five of those on the Kalamunda Shire Council undertook extra duties in order to compile a case to submit to the Minister for Electricity, but before they had an opportunity to submit it to him—in fact, while they were waiting for it to be printed—the Minister said he was not going to take much notice of it.

I do not think that is a very fair approach. Having said that about the Minister I must say that he did make some minor concession and in doing so he will find it difficult further along the line. I refer to the fact that he shifted the line a little further west, away from the Maida Vale School, which was one of the principal points of objection put forward by the Shire of Kalamunda. The school is attended by approximately 200 children. I applaud the Minister for shifting the line away from the school to an area where, for a long time, I have felt it should have gone. The route is adjacent to the Kalamunda Road and carries very little vegetation. It is back from the main road which runs parallel with the escarpment, and is well behind most of the homes which front that particular road.

I will now turn to the second element of my motion, and that is the one relating to the environment. The Liberal Party gave a clear indication to the people concerned that it would submit the matter to the

Environmental Protection Authority. No detailed study has been made by the director of the proposals put forward by the commission, as far as we have been able to establish. The only material which has been placed on the Table of the House indicated that Dr. O'Brien favoured the construction of a line behind the hills. He did not say he favoured the construction of a line through the foothills and I think it is quite obvious the Government does not want to submit the matter to the Environmental Protection Authority because it knows that at least the director is not happy about the line going through the foothills.

If the Minister has some information from the director, which is contrary to what I have said, I wish he would trot it out. Up to now we have had only a verbal report from the director when a brief statement appeared in a paper tabled in this House. It was to the effect that the Director of the Environmental Protection Authority favoured the construction of the line at the back of the hills, and that a second line would follow a similar route later. That should be borne in mind by members.

On a number of occasions the Government has said it did not have time to wait for the enactment of the Environmental Protection Bill. However, legislation was passed in this Parliament prior to the 1971 State elections under which the Government could have taken action had it not tried to make political capital out of the situation. The Government could have proclaimed that Bill, and if it wanted to give the legislation big teeth it could have introduced a Bill to amend it or re-enact it.

However, there was a hiatus because the new Government said it would not have a bar of what was passed in this House during the previous year. That is undemocratic. The Bill was passed by this Parliament but the new Government claimed that the Parliament did not know what it was doing. The Government should be condemned on that particular issue.

The Government has claimed that the time factor has been the reason for this matter not being presented to the Environmental Protection Authority. However, I would point out that this proposal has been under review for a long time and the Government has had ample time to have it examined by the Environmental Protection Authority. At least, Dr. O'Brien should have made a detailed and searching study of the proposals which the commission had in mind and the report should then have been tabled.

I hope members will accept that there is concern in the community for the protection of the environment during this generation so that we can hand on to the next generation, and future generations, something which will not cause people to ask,

in future years, what idiotic Government would take such action in 1972, 1973, or in whatever year the line is constructed.

Mr. Cook: Does the honourable member intend to recite a poem this time?

Mr. THOMPSON: No. Guildford Grammar School is one of the largest public schools in this State and I believe some of its buildings are historical. It caters for about 600 pupils and is situated in East Guildford in an area which is fairly restricted. The school itself is split by the Great Eastern Highway, and that has been a bone of contention with the management of the school for a number of years. They have asked for Great Eastern Highway to be rerouted. Indeed, only recently I nearly collided with a boy who was crossing Great Eastern Highway from one part of the school to another. Boys will be boys and I do not know how there has not been a serious accident.

Mr. Gayfer: Who is the member for the district?

Mr. THOMPSON: I believe it is the member for Swan.

Mr. Brady: One would not think so after listening to the member for Darling Range.

Mr. THOMPSON: I think the member for Swan has done quite a bit in this regard. From what I know of the member for Swan if he were requested to do something he would do his best.

Mr. Brady: The member for Swan has taken an interest. The member for Darling Range is making a political football of the issue and getting nowhere.

Mr. THOMPSON: I would submit that we have got somewhere because what we have achieved is a little better than what would have happened had the State Electricity Commission and the Government been allowed to bore ahead, as they appeared to do very early in the project.

I believe the chapel at the Guildford Grammar School is a magnificent example of architecture. Concern has been expressed by some people that the positioning of the pylons adjacent to the chapel will detract from its beauty. I do not know where the pylons will go in relation to the chapel.

Mr. Jamieson: The member for Darling Range has been shown often enough. Like the headmaster, you do not want to know.

Mr. THOMPSON: Would the Minister for Works tell me when a detailed plan has been tabled in this House to indicate where the pylons will go?

Mr. Jamieson: The member for Darling Range has been given this direct information; do not deny it.

Mr. THOMPSON: I will deny it, because I have not been given direct information.

Mr. Jamieson: You would say anything; that is about your style.

Mr. THOMPSON: I do not know where the pylons will go in relation to the Guildford Grammar School chapel but I certainly hope—

Mr. Jamieson: You know, and so do the Guildford Grammar School people.

Mr. THOMPSON: —they do not go so close that they detract from the beauty of the chapel.

Mr. Jamieson: They are a quarter of a mile away.

Mr. Brady: The member for Darling Range showed me the plan.

Mr. THOMPSON: That is right. I would also point out that the plan was of such a scale it was impossible to see how close the line would be.

Mr. Brady: You are trying to crawl out of it. You showed me the plan.

Mr. THOMPSON: It was of such a scale that it was impossible to say where the lines were in relation to the chapel. In fact, the scale was so small that the lines would probably measure up to several yards in width.

Mr. Cook: If the member for Darling Range does not know then he has not done his homework.

Mr. THOMPSON: I point out that it is not possible to extract from the commission, or from the Government, precise details of where the line will go.

I hope the Minister for Electricity will take the time to read my speech. May I say that I am disappointed the Minister is not in the House.

Mr. Jamieson: You always are.

Mr. THOMPSON: And I should imagine—

Mr. Hutchinson: Why shouldn't the member for Darling Range be disappointed?

Mr. Jamieson: He always is. It is always the same story and simply normal procedure.

Mr. THOMPSON: I also point out that the member for South Perth spoke earlier on about a matter which comes under the control of the same person in his capacity as Minister for Mines. The motion moved by the member for South Perth concerned the disallowance of regulations made under the Mining Act. I am, as I said, somewhat disappointed that the Minister is not present tonight.

Mr. Bickerton: You have a good substitute.

Mr. THOMPSON: Detailed drawings showing the precise positioning of the line have not been submitted and people who have endeavoured to find out where it will be placed in relation to their properties and homes have not been able to do so. In the interests of allaying the fears of very many people I ask the Minister to table the plans.

Mr. Jamieson: I should imagine at this stage you must know the position. The only precise position is where the line goes across at Guildford Grammar School. The rest would not be precise.

Mr. THOMPSON: Is the Minister telling me that I am to accept that the only precise position is where the line goes over Guildford Grammar School as indicated on plans supplied, and that I am to disregard everything else?

Mr. Jamieson: You are trying to have it altered to suit everybody's purpose.

Mr. THOMPSON: Representatives of the State Electricity Commission spoke to the management of Guildford Grammar School to ask what was proposed with regard to future development of the school. I understand the commission was shown certain plans that had been prepared by architects setting out what was proposed in the immediate future. I understand there are plans to develop the school further. Even if there were no immediate plans for this purpose, a power line of this magnitude constructed across the grounds immediately eliminates any possibility of development under the lines. It has been publicly stated by the General Manager of the State Electricity Commission that buildings will not be permitted to remain underneath the power lines. I think the reasons for this are quite obvious. Certainly the Guildford Grammar School people will not have access to the grounds.

Mr. Jamieson: Have you seen the development plans?

Mr. THOMPSON: No.

Mr. Jamieson: You should look at them and then come back and move a motion. I am sure you would change your mind.

Mr. Hutchinson: We might hear all this as a result of the motion, which the honourable member is quite entitled to move.

Mr. Jamieson: He is shutting his eyes to what the plans contain. They involve landfills and subdivisions.

Mr. THOMPSON: I come back to the point I was trying to make. It does not matter one iota what the present or future plans are. The point is: once lines are constructed across the school grounds, the school will not be able to use that area of land in any way—it will not be able to develop it and put buildings upon it.

Mr. Jamieson: The plans do not show buildings but an ornamental lake.

Mr. THOMPSON: Apparently immediate plans are known but future ones are not.

Mr. Jamieson: These are future plans. They have been drawn up by architects.

Mr. THOMPSON: It is unreasonable of any Government to expect a school to be able to say today precisely what its future plans will be. A few years ago we were told there would be five buildings on Observatory hill.

Mr. Taylor: Who told us that?

Mr. THOMPSON: I think it may have been the previous Government. It now appears that this will not happen. Of course they may be erected some time in the future and we cannot assume that we can make plans for the far-distant future. The power lines will not be erected for today and tomorrow, but for years to come.

Mr. Hutchinson: Why not adopt the M.R.P.A. route?

Mr. THOMPSON: I am coming to that. The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority made one clear recommendation not to take the line over the escarpment but through the foothills. This made the route shorter and the State Electricity Commission said that it would look into the matter, naturally, because money would be saved.

Mr. Jamieson: Don't forget that the M.R.P.A. proposed that both should be together.

Mr. THOMPSON: Yes, across the foothills. The fact that it would have been a shorter route would have resulted in less capital expenditure than that necessary for the longer route behind the hills. The M.R.P.A. made that recommendation but also said that, in the opinion of the authority, the power line should not go through Guildford Grammar School. I think the M.R.P.A. said it should go near Guildford Grammar School and that the commission should investigate the possibility of taking the line to the east of Midland together with the line already indicated on drawings supplied by the State Electricity Commission.

Mr. Jamieson: That would have involved the resumption of no fewer than 20 or 30 houses. Many of the residents are aged people who do not want to shift. This other route will not disturb anyone.

Mr. THOMPSON: I know quite a few people who are disturbed.

Mr. Jamieson: You are quite prepared to shift people out of the territory of the member for Swan, but will not go along with the suggestion whereby no-one will be disturbed.

Mr. THOMPSON: The proposed route of the line has been shifted backwards and forwards, and the Minister has said the route proposed by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority was impracticable because it involved the resumption of land and the demolition of houses. The Government made a decision to take the line close to the Maida Vale School, where it would have gone over the roofs of quite a few houses.

Mr. Jamieson: That was not a final route. The present one will dodge houses and buildings.

Mr. THOMPSON: The rail reserve from Bellevue to Swanview is, I feel, an avenue that could have been examined. I do not know whether or not it has been. Is that not wide enough?

Mr. Jamieson: It is not wide enough. The honourable member, who has toyed a little with electronics, should know the need for some degree of safety. It is not possible to have them both together.

Mr. THOMPSON: I understand the commission was looking for a five-chain reserve. I still feel that a five-chain reserve could have been obtained in an area where, after all, a strip of three chains had already been marked out.

Mr. Jamieson: This could not be done and the proposal was examined very thoroughly.

Mr. THOMPSON: I feel that with application it could have been done. The M.R.P.A. was not in favour of the line being sited near Guildford Grammar School.

Mr. Jamieson: I was not in favour of resuming land on which people had their houses and I would not do it.

Mr. THOMPSON: The Government now proposes to construct a power station north of the city and this is a factor which ought to be examined and taken into consideration. Whilst I know it is absolutely necessary to have lines inter-connecting the points of supply, I think there is scope for some design being adopted that would not make it necessary to construct lines of the capacity of these. The commission has admitted that 55 per cent., I think it is, of the load distributed in the metropolitan area is distributed through the northern terminal at Balga. It necessarily follows that if a power station is sited north of the city it will only be necessary to siphon off the surplus electricity over the demand of 55 per cent., which is over half the supply to the northern suburbs. I feel it should be possible to design lines of a smaller proportion if the Government were to get on with the business of building the power station north of Perth. I hope there will be some reaction from the Minister to that suggestion.

Suggestions have been made by qualified people that one line of towers should be constructed and that both sides of the cross-arms of the towers should be equipped with cables. In this way dual lines would be constructed with one row of towers. I know this suggestion has been challenged officially by the State Electricity Commission, but individual engineers of the commission have indicated that it is not all that impracticable.

Mr. Jamieson: If you have one line you will get it right back in the foothills because you will run into the problem again.

Mr. THOMPSON: No, because—

Mr. Jamieson: With the D.C.A. requirements.

Mr. THOMPSON: I accept—

Mr. Jamieson: You will run into problems and have to push it further back again. We tried to meet everything you suggested. We brought it further in, lowered it, and tried to keep it out of the way. You are still not satisfied.

Mr. THOMPSON: If the height of the line must be increased to accommodate the suggestion I make, the saving in cost would be such that the line could be taken behind the hills even further than through Greenmount, the area adjacent to Darlington, and so on. It could be taken a little further along behind the hills, then brought down across the coastal plain. By constructing both lines along a common row of towers, the saving in cost would be such that it would be economic for the commission. If the power station that is envisaged on the northern side of the city is constructed reasonably soon, that line will be adequate. In fact, I suggest it would probably never need to be upgraded or increased. That is a matter for the engineers to decide.

Mr. Jamieson: When they decide something you want to "undecide" it, so it does not matter what they do. You know better than they do.

Mr. THOMPSON: I do not. If the Minister can point to any statement I have made to that effect—

Mr. Jamieson: You have said all along, "Do it this way, do it that way; put it here, put it there."

Mr. Hutchinson: One would think he had no right to speak.

Mr. Jamieson: He is like a "commo" actionist. You never know where you are.

Mr. THOMPSON: I deplore the decision made by the Government to construct lines along two routes when one would have been adequate, for the reasons I have enunciated. I earnestly believe the matter should be submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority, if the Government were sincere about protecting the environment, but after its experience with Pacminex probably that is the last thing it would want to do.

Mr. Bickerton: Would you agree to the decision of the Environmental Protection Authority?

Mr. THOMPSON: If the Environmental Protection Authority made a report and recommendation which was adopted by the Government, I would be completely satisfied.

Mr. Bickerton: What are your views?

Mr. Jamieson: Your views cannot be very sincere, if that is the case. If the authority recommended putting both lines across Guildford Grammar, what then?

Mr. THOMPSON: Last year I asked that the matter be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority or some other competent body which was experienced in these matters. The Government rejected that request. It was not prepared to submit the proposal to the Environmental Protection Authority, and I suggest that in view of the Pacminex decision the last thing the Government would want to do is submit this proposal to the Environmental Protection Authority, particularly when Dr. O'Brien has—

Mr. Jamieson: We had full consultations with Dr. O'Brien in the course of determining this matter.

Mr. THOMPSON: Why did the Minister not table in this House the comprehensive report he made?

Mr. Jamieson: You had him reporting on Pacminex; you had him down at Fitzgerald River; you had him running around like a mad thing and getting nowhere.

Mr. Hutchinson: It is his job.

Mr. Jamieson: But he can only do a limited amount. He is only one man.

Mr. O'Neill: You reckon he is the fellow with big teeth.

Mr. Jamieson: You appointed him. He is doing a good job.

Mr. O'Neill: This is your perfect legislation.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr. THOMPSON: I say again that if the Government is sincere about protecting the environment, this matter should be referred to the Environmental Protection Authority.

I hope members on both sides of this House will have a good look at the third element of the motion I have moved—the matter of the lines going through Guildford Grammar School—and that they will support the motion and insist that the Government adhere to the recommendation made by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Harman.

LAND AGENTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. BLAIKIE (Vasse) [9.46 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

In 1964, Parliament passed legislation to tighten up the laws relating to land agents, generally, and in particular the degrees of qualification of land agents and land salesmen.

In 1966, amending legislation was passed to cover the difficulty experienced by the nominee license holders in certain companies in meeting the special qualifications laid down in the Act as a condition precedent to the granting of a license. The amendment which was subsequently agreed to inserted into the Act three subparagraphs which allowed for local statutory companies, stock and station agents, and other companies declared by the Minister on the recommendation of the Land Agents' Supervisory Committee, and has, generally, operated satisfactorily in the first two instances. However, while the third subparagraph allows for some form of appeal, it does not appear to give the necessary direction to the Land Agents' Supervisory Committee.

The amendment I am proposing will not in any way weaken the structure of the Land Agents Act, nor will it enable any persons to enter the industry indiscriminately. I believe there have been cases where a company, other than a company already designated in the Act, has been disadvantaged by the untimely death of a member of the company who held the license. It will be appreciated that in such a case as this a company could find itself in a serious situation and, in fact, its very existence could be in jeopardy.

I wish to remind the House I am referring only to an existing company that has been trading as an estate agent over a long period and whose reputation, standards, and code of ethics have been in accordance with the accepted principles of real estate business. This measure is not designed or intended to give new agents or companies easy access to the profession, which would be contrary to the intention of the Act.

I believe this amendment will enable the supervisory committee to use some degree of flexibility which is not available at present.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. T. D. Evans (Attorney-General).

ABATTOIRS

Comprehensive Statement by Government: Motion

Debate resumed, from the 29th March, on the following motion by Mr. I. W. Manning:—

That in the opinion of this House because of the importance of adequate abattoir and meat processing facilities both in the immediate and longer term future, a comprehensive statement should be prepared by the Government and tabled in Parliament setting out details of:—

- (1) (a) installed capacity in W.A.;
- (b) the current rate of usage in each case;

- (c) the livestock areas served by each facility;
 - (d) the main markets served by each facility;
 - (e) the status of each abattoir so far as exports or any other special markets are concerned (e.g. Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry licenses for export);
 - (f) the feasibility and intentions for expanding and/or upgrading in each case;
- (2) the Government expenditure on the establishment or expansion of abattoir and meat processing facilities with a summary of each case 1960/1972 including dates when decisions to undertake expansion were made;
 - (3) the private abattoir and meat processing plants that have been established or expanded in the same period including date when a decision was made to establish or expand in each case;
 - (4) Current Government and private enterprise projects for new and upgraded abattoir and meat processing capacity, including details of Government guarantees or other Government assistance involved in each case;
 - (5) the capital needs and the economic and other particulars of the U.F.G.A./T.L.C. project which awaits a decision on Government guarantees prior to consideration by Parliament; and
 - (6) the capacity—including location by areas—the Government considers desirable and necessary to be established and the desirable dates for installation of such capacity to fit in with future planned rates of livestock increases.

MR. H. D. EVANS (Warren—Minister for Agriculture) [9.50 p.m.]: The motion moved by the member for Wellington requests a statement on the present situation and prognostication of abattoir facilities in this State. I am quite prepared to table a statement indicating as far as possible the situation existing at present. It would have been enlightening had a similar statement been made during the 12 years the Opposition was in power.

Following the mover, the member for Mt. Marshall spoke on this subject. He made one relevant point regarding the danger of

the over-establishment of abattoirs at this stage which could ultimately prove an embarrassment. From my reading of his speech this is the only point of any real significance which he made. He did ask the rhetorical question, "What has the present Government accomplished?" He answered that himself by saying that the only achievements were the result of planning by the previous Government.

For the record I would like to establish very clearly here and now the situation which we inherited when the Labor Party came into office just over 12 months ago. The State's lack of sufficient abattoir facilities can only be described as a deplorable situation. The ineptitude of the previous Government was clearly apparent.

It is well realised that abattoir facilities greatly affect sheep prices. This is shown in tables of comparisons prepared by the Australian Meat Board. These tables show just how far Western Australia lags behind the other States. The Chairman of the Australian Meat Board made a very significant remark at the carcass judging competition last year. He said that Western Australian producers had lost many millions of dollars because of the lack of facilities. It has been estimated that this loss is approximately the total amount which will be available for rural reconstruction in this State.

The need for more abattoir facilities did not develop overnight. It first became evident in about 1968 that there were serious pressures on existing facilities. Indeed, I would like to refer to an interesting letter written by Mr. Richard Outhwaite of Kojonup which appeared in *The West Australian* dated the 8th November, 1971. Mr. Outhwaite pointed out that about four years ago a meeting had been held at Pastoral House and the urgent need for abattoir facilities was made known. The strongest pressure was then applied to the then Minister for Agriculture, but as it was apparent no action was being taken an approach was made to the Minister for Industrial Development. From what I can gather this was towards the end of 1967, and certainly during 1968. The letter also states that a further approach was made to the Premier with the same results. The Government was given a clear indication that problems were looming for the future, and did nothing.

The previous Government made a decision which committed us. As the member for Mt. Marshall points out, the previous Government, through its planning, compelled our Government to follow certain channels. After some procrastination, and against the advice of the Towns and Austen report, the decision was made to extend the facilities at Midland. In one way this decision was disastrous. Incidentally, Towns and Austen must have been highly regarded as abattoir consultants to have been appointed.

On pages 10 and 11, items 4 (a) and 5 (c) of the report contain two significant recommendations. One recommendation was that the capacity at Midland should not be extended beyond 8,000 sheep a day. The capacity was extended to 12,000 sheep a day.

Government funds are necessarily committed to abattoirs, particularly service abattoirs. This is unavoidable. However, if we look at expenditure over the years a pattern emerges. The mover of the motion specifically mentioned the years 1960-72, but I would like to include in my comments the proposed spending for the 1972-73 year. We must bear in mind that there is invariably a pressure on the available loan funds and if the spending is not sufficiently judicious and orderly to maintain a certain level over a particular period, periods will occur when we will have to make up the leeway.

At Midland in the past 14 years—and I am including here the Estimates for 1972-73—a total cost of \$10,440,000 was sustained. At the same time the total expenditure for those 14 years at Robb Jetty was \$3,700,000. The total expenditure for other abattoirs in the State amounted to \$13,800,000. However, I point out that in the first 10 of these years, the total spent at Midland was \$1,249,186. In the last four years—and this includes the proposed expenditure—the expenditure was \$8,470,000.

The expenditure at W.A. Meat Export Works in 10 years was \$799,000. The spending for each year is itemised and we can see in the years 1962-63 until 1966-67, no money was spent at Midland. There was no expenditure over five years at Robb Jetty, but in the 10 years \$799,000 was spent. A further \$2,900,000 was spent in the last three years, and it is proposed to spend \$1,000,000 in the current year.

We find that whereas in the first 10 years \$2,382,374 was expended, in the last four years, including an estimate for this year, \$11,495,622 has been spent.

Members will see that an unfortunate situation has arisen. A limitation has been placed on the present Government by the neglect of the previous Government. The magnitude of the discrepancy in these figures clearly indicates that we cannot expect the situation to be remedied overnight by the present Government.

We have met a major commitment as it stands now but, unfortunately, whereas it would have been our strong wish to enter into a more modern complex, that has not been possible. This is the sort of thing we must start thinking about—a complex whereby we can provide meat for the specialised markets of the world. The day when it was simply a matter of producing something and expecting to find a ready-made market is no longer with us. The initial starting point must be a market in

Asia or whatever other country we can find to buy our product. In this case the product happens to be meat and competition in the world markets is ferocious in the extreme. If we are not prepared to measure up and provide the type of cut in the particular wrapping, exactly as it is required, then we will not be able to compete successfully in the world markets.

Other countries have already realised this and are gearing their production towards it. It is regrettable that we cannot move into export marketing in the manner we would like as it has become an economic impossibility. The Government is most conscious of the need for marketing research, and I think it has demonstrated this to a creditable degree.

For the first time there has been an allocation of agricultural funds for marketing research. Further, an experienced officer has visited the Middle East. The director himself toured South-East Asia, and a visit to Indonesia is being planned. Other incidental inquiries are being made. The General Manager of the Midland Junction Abattoir presently will travel the world. I am sure this is the sort of approach we must adopt if we are to maintain our place in the world markets, or at least if we are to expect to retain our markets.

With the increase in beef production, in a relatively few years we will have sizeable amounts of beef coming onto the market and it will require a major effort on the part of Western Australian meat exporters to dispose of this meat on the world markets at the right price.

I must agree with the member for Mt. Marshall that the impact of the American D.P.I. regulations has been considerable; and at the same time the upgrading necessary to meet the exacting specifications was a most costly business. I have already pointed out that in respect of the W.A. Meat Export Works an amount of \$799,000 was expended in the years 1959-60 to 1968-69; and in the years 1969-70 to 1972-73 a further \$3,740,000 will be spent. This indicates just how far the Robb Jetty abattoir had deteriorated. This kind of situation should never have occurred. We should never have got to the stage where such drastic expenditure was required. A steady outlay on maintenance during that period would have maintained the works at a reasonable level to meet export standards.

I shudder to think what the result would have been had the American D.P.I. regulations not been introduced. I cannot help but feel that this spending was made necessary as a result of the stress and pressure brought about by the Americans, and our need to retain the export market. Had it not been for that I do not know how long it would have been before a start was made on the required upgrading. I am sure the pressure applied by the Americans was an important factor.

The member for Mt. Marshall asked what this Government had done. I feel perhaps I should start by pointing out that very early in the piece a departmental inquiry was instituted into the future abattoir needs of this State. Some months after taking office a study was instituted by a small, select group which came forward with a basis for consideration. It recognised very early that the expenditure on abattoirs generally had been so considerable that it would be unrealistic to expect the Government to be able to meet further abattoir expenditure. It appeared obvious that any further financing would have to come from the industry itself, and from the general producers in some way.

The possibility of obtaining Treasury funds on a repayment basis by way of a levy was considered closely. This method appeared to be outside of the existing legislation. If a levy were imposed on animals slaughtered it would be considered to be an excise and, as such, illegal. So that type of financing could not be contemplated. The other avenue examined was that of placing a tax on the total unimproved value of land in agricultural areas, or else on cleared land. Obviously some parts of the State will never have an abattoir requirement; so this tax would have been fairly contentious. There is no doubt about that.

However, at about the same time several other proposals were put forward, and my colleague, the Minister for Development and Decentralisation, has received I suspect not less than six or seven proposals of varying degrees of practicability. Then it appeared that finance might be injected into the meat industry by the building of another abattoir by some body or organisation.

I point out that research and study have been undertaken from the word "go." I also point out that a meat industry advisory committee was established for the specific purpose of examining abattoir needs, abattoir problems, and, in particular, the proper siting of abattoirs within the State. Various grants have been made available, and I mention Katanning in particular. The Minister for Development and Decentralisation probably will wish to make some reference to this.

We also saw the need to allow the Midland Junction Abattoir to trade in its own right. Indeed, this has started. The prospects here are considerable and the situation will be watched with great interest by members from both sides of the House. The possibility of a new site in the metropolitan area was considered, and only a few weeks ago the site was actually earmarked and vested for abattoir purposes.

I refer also to the subsidy by way of underwriting the loss for Midland Junction, which has amounted to \$721,000. This may be described as a subsidy because the money was injected into the industry to the benefit

of the producer. We all know full well what would have happened had that not been done.

If fees had been increased the producer would have suffered, and by underwriting the loss and thereby obviating the need for increased fees at this stage the producer was not loaded with additional costs. I have heard members on the other side say that it is upon the producer that these costs finally come to rest. So the contribution of the Government by way of a direct subsidy to the industry of the order I have mentioned is rather considerable and, I think, commendable.

Mr. McPharlin: Do you intend to continue with this particular subsidy in the case of any increased costs?

Mr. H. D. EVANS: In regard to the future, this matter has not been considered. I am saying it was made for that particular year. The tab was picked up by the Government. I am not in a position at the moment to hazard a statement as to whether the Government can be expected to finance the proposition at this level.

Mr. Gayfer: Was that the first time the Government offered to pick up the tab?

Mr. H. D. EVANS: I am not saying it was the first time, but it was picked up by the Government at that time. I also refer to the training of slaughtermen. This is an aspect that is likely to be overlooked when the position of the meat industry is considered, but such factors as ensuring that a comprehensive training programme for slaughtermen is maintained is essential not only for the service yards, but the industry in general. It is difficult to train slaughtermen because the chains are slowed down while the training is going on. However, somebody has to train them and, frequently, when they are trained they go to other works. This proves to be a great expense to the Government. Private abattoirs are saved this expense because they do not engage in such training programmes.

Mr. I. W. Manning: I think training does take place in private abattoirs as well.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: Yes, but to a lesser degree, when special training programmes are taken into consideration. I cannot think of any private abattoirs that do train slaughtermen, and certainly such training levels out where it has a great impact on the number of sales.

Sir David Brand: We had to bring slaughtermen from New Zealand simply because there was no-one available for training.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: The Leader of the Opposition will be happy to know that the training programme has been very successful this year.

Sir David Brand: That is so, but when slaughtermen were brought from New Zealand no men were available for training.

Mr. Williams: There are more people available for training now because there are more unemployed.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: Men have been trained in sufficient numbers to make it no longer necessary to import slaughtermen from New Zealand. The same situation also applies to health inspectors. Another course for the training of health inspectors is to start shortly—within the month—and in all probability two courses will operate, and this will meet the requirement for the coming year. These are the steps that have been taken in regard to abattoir facilities, and I think the problem has been approached in a realistic manner having full regard for the State and the industry.

The member for Mt. Marshall said that what has now been done is the result of planning by the previous Government. It was not planning; it was a salvage operation of the mess the previous Government had left.

I return now to what the member for Wellington said. In general, he asked a number of questions, each of which merits a fairly comprehensive answer. Speaking in a general way, the capacity of any slaughterhouse or abattoir depends on a combination of factors which vary considerably. The member for Wellington will be aware of such factors as the availability of stock; the actual slaughtering facilities; the amount of chiller-freezer space, and the ability to dispose of by-products and effluent. The availability of slaughtermen may be a further factor in deciding what the output will be, to say nothing of the availability of meat inspectors.

The current rate of usage of existing export abattoirs and country slaughterhouses is detailed in the report which I will ask permission to table at the conclusion of my speech. The rate of usage is believed to be close to capacity so far as sheep slaughtering facilities are concerned at the present moment, although at certain times of the year, other than the spring glut, the Midland abattoir could, of course, slaughter many more sheep than are offered.

Mr. Williams: Do you think that the increase in the price of wool will have an effect on the number of sheep coming forward?

Mr. H. D. EVANS: The increase in the price of wool could have such an effect; it could bring about a change in the total ewe numbers retained. However this is a matter of conjecture and one needs to call upon the crystal ball rather than a statistical analysis.

I point out that there is a surfeit of abattoir facilities in the State at the moment so far as cattle and pigs are concerned. The Midland abattoir and Robb Jetty have a capacity to handle 1,300 cattle each day, but they average only 500. As members are aware, the margin of profit really rests on the side of cattle slaughtering. This is one of the reasons the Midland abattoir has shown such a considerable loss this year; the slaughtering of cattle numbers has been down.

It has been estimated that, notwithstanding the marked increase in cattle numbers now taking place, current cattle slaughtering facilities should be adequate for the next five years. These are on the estimates and, on the figures that are available at the moment, Western Australian production of beef in 1975-76 is likely to be about 350,000,000 lb. Of this, domestic consumption will probably account for about 115,000,000 lb., leaving 235,000,000 lb. to be disposed of on the export market. This is one of the reasons that close attention is paid to export procedures and very studied market research may be undertaken.

It is clear, therefore, that if a severe glut on the beef market is to be avoided, due attention must be given to various selling efforts on the part of Western Australian beef exporters. They must make every endeavour to effect sales on world markets and maintain the export level. In certain areas of the State cattle numbers will continue to increase, probably at the expense of sheep, and no doubt the most significant example in that regard would be the Esperance district. However, it is expected that the numbers of sheep in Western Australia will level out at about 35,000,000 to 40,000,000.

As the member for Bunbury indicates, the number of sheep that are available for slaughter will depend, to some extent, on wool prices and the impact of any increase in these prices on the individual farmers so far as it affects the management of their farms.

Mr. Nalder: When do you expect there will be a surplus of cattle over and above the figure you are prepared to market?

Mr. H. D. EVANS: The figure I quoted was for 1975-76, and the total production is likely to be about 350,000,000 lb. This figure is as near as the research experts can estimate. Of course, it is one of those situations where it is difficult to forecast, with any degree of precision, what the production will be.

I will now reply specifically to the points that have been raised by the honourable member in his motion. He asks that a comprehensive statement should be prepared by the Government and tabled in Parliament setting out details of, firstly,

the installed capacity of abattoir and meat processing facilities in Western Australia. That is not difficult. This can be provided without any problem. He also asked for details of the livestock areas served by each facility and the main markets served by each facility. In the motion the honourable member went on to ask for details of the status of each abattoir so far as exports or any other special markets are concerned, and the feasibility and intentions for expanding and/or upgrading in each case.

I will not bother to read the list of abattoirs and slaughterhouses referred to in paragraph (1) of the motion. There are 12 export abattoirs and 57 country slaughterhouses listed. It would be rather pointless to go through those enumerated in the list.

In respect of paragraph (1) (a) of the motion, the capacity of an abattoir or slaughterhouse depends on a combination of factors including ready availability of livestock, slaughtering facilities, amount of chiller space and ability to dispose of by-products and effluent. The availability of slaughtermen may be a further factor in determining output.

The installed capacity of abattoirs and slaughterhouses is not known with certainty except in the case of Government abattoirs.

With regard to Midland Junction Abattoir the daily capacity is 950 cattle and calves, 12,000 sheep and lambs, and 900 pigs; and at Robb Jetty the daily capacity is 350 cattle and calves, 6,000 sheep and lambs, and 500 pigs. I would point out that last week Robb Jetty reached the 1,000,000 mark, and hopes to achieve the 1,250,000 mark for the first time by the end of the year.

In regard to paragraph (1) (b) of the motion, the current rate of usage at export abattoirs is believed to be close to actual capacity as far as sheep and lambs are concerned. A significant under-capacity exists at both Midland and Robb Jetty in terms of cattle and pigs.

The actual rate of usage for export abattoirs is listed in my statement which I will seek permission to table. The figures relate to the abattoirs at Robb Jetty, Coogee, Spearwood, Midland Junction, Waroona, Harvey, Bunbury, Albany, Geraldton, Broome, Derby, and Wyndham.

The current rate of usage at country slaughterhouses is generally thought to be close to actual capacity when consideration is given to the various factors listed under paragraph (1) (a) of the motion. The actual rate of usage for all country slaughterhouses for 1970-71 was as follows:—

Cattle/calves	Sheep/lambs	Pigs
75,179	1,194,294	56,360

The estimated figure for sheep and lambs killed for rations on farms and stations is included in the figure of 1,194,294. It will be agreed there is room for a certain margin of error in an estimate of that kind.

In regard to paragraph (1) (c) of the motion, in general the export abattoir draws upon livestock from a wider area than does the country slaughterhouse. The precise livestock areas, from which each abattoir or country slaughterhouse draws livestock, are not known but are likely to be as listed in the statement which I shall table. In this list the district, the works, and the shires are indicated. For example, in the Margaret River district there are six local works, and they are located in the shires of Augusta, Margaret River, and Busselton, and these areas would be involved as the sources of supply.

Mr. Gayfer: Will you be asking that these tables be incorporated in *Hansard*?

Mr. H. D. EVANS: I will simply ask permission to table my statement. The number of works in a district are shown, but I shall not weary members by going into them in detail.

In regard to paragraphs (1) (d) and (1) (e) of the motion, export abattoirs are licensed by the Department of Primary Industry. The status of individual export abattoirs in terms of overseas markets is a matter for decision by the Department of Primary Industry. However, the majority of export abattoirs also supply the domestic market of which the metropolitan area is the major outlet. Precise details in this respect are unknown and are regarded as confidential except in the case of Government abattoirs. Some 30 per cent. of the total kill at Midland Junction and 30 per cent. at Robb Jetty is intended for the domestic market.

Many of the country slaughterhouses are very small and may only operate in a specific town to serve that community. Other country slaughterhouses with a greater output supply both the immediate needs of the town in which they are located as well as the domestic market of which the metropolitan area provides their major outlet. Some of them also have an outlet in exports.

Regarding paragraph (1) (f) of the motion, except where Government abattoirs are concerned, no precise details are currently available of the intentions of abattoir and slaughterhouse management to expand or upgrade present facilities.

I refer to paragraph (2) of the motion which states—

the Government expenditure on the establishment or expansion of abattoir and meat processing facilities with a summary of each case 1960/1972 . . .

I have dealt with the major figures and the total expenditure. I have mentioned the expenditure for Midland Junction Abattoir and the Robb Jetty meatworks. Further

reference is made to expenditure of the meatworks at Broome and Wyndham, and of the project conducted by Air Beef Pty. Ltd. In the main these are the significant ones, although the amounts involved are not great. It would be pointless of me to go through the items appearing in my statement, year by year, in regard to expenditure.

Paragraph (3) of the motion deals with private abattoirs and meat processing plants that have been established or expanded in the same period. I would point out that precise details of private abattoir and processing plants that have been established or expanded in the same period are not known. However, an export works was established at Geraldton and extensions occurred in export facilities at Waroona and Harvey during this time. Several country slaughterhouses, such as Manjimup and Geraldton, were also established or upgraded during the same period but details cannot be provided at this point of time.

Mr. Williams: The abattoir at Bunbury was established at about that time.

Mr. H. D. EVANS: In regard to paragraph (4) of the motion, I have referred to the estimated Government expenditure in 1971-72 and the provisional estimates for 1972-73 for the Midland Junction Abattoir and saleyards, as well as for Robb Jetty.

The estimate for the Midland Junction Abattoir is \$1,600,000 with another possible \$800,000; and the estimate for Robb Jetty is \$1,000,000.

The following private projects have been commenced or are planned:

- (a) Katanning — This abattoir has been stated to be ready to commence operation in August 1972 with an initial capacity of 2,500 sheep and lambs per day, increasing subsequently to 5,000 per day. There would also be a cattle capacity of 100 per day.
- (b) Bunbury — A new sheep facility is expected to commence operation in July 1972. The capacity is 2,000 sheep and lambs per day from an initial daily kill of 600.
- (c) Wooroloo — Additional sheep facilities are expected to be available from August, 1972. The expected capacity is 2,500 sheep and lambs per day.

Mr. McPharlin: Is there any certainty about that date?

Mr. H. D. EVANS: I would not like to say there is any certainty, but there is a strong expectation that it will be the date. To continue with the comments on the private abattoirs—

- (d) Esperance — An export abattoir costing \$3,200,000 has been proposed. A Government guarantee

of \$1,300,000 will be provided conditional to the principals raising \$900,000 and if the site and supporting facilities are satisfactory. The likely capacity is 2,500 sheep and 250 cattle per day.

- (e) **Wesmeats** — Wesfarmers/Farmers' Union have a stated intention to construct an export abattoir either in the metropolitan area or in a country centre. If a decision is made for a metropolitan site, Baldivis will be available. The likely capacity would be 6,000 sheep and lambs and 250 cattle per day together with some capacity for pigs.

- (f) **Wanneroo** — Abattoir construction is under consideration as a private enterprise project but no finality has been reached although preliminary discussions have been held with the Department of Development and Decentralisation and the Meat Industry Advisory Committee. It would appear that no Government assistance is being sought for this project. It has a stated capacity of 5,000 sheep per day as well as cattle and pigs.

I turn now to paragraph (5) of the motion which I refrained from answering earlier. An U.F.G.A./T.L.C. project which provides for the establishment of three export abattoirs at Boyup Brook, Northam, and Geraldton has been submitted to the Department of Development and Decentralisation. The total capital cost is estimated at \$23,000,000. The capacity of each of the works is stated to be 6,000 sheep and lambs per day as well as 120 cattle (Boyup Brook) and 500 pigs (Northam).

A feasibility study is currently being examined by the Treasury and the Department of Development and Decentralisation. The study has not been assessed by the Meat Industry Advisory Committee.

Regarding paragraph (6) of the motion, present facilities together with additional facilities now under construction should be sufficient to meet the State's immediate sheep slaughtering requirements.

In particular it is believed that the next country abattoir in order of priority should be established at Esperance. If, additionally, a further abattoir were commenced within the next two years, the State's projected slaughtering needs would be met on a basis of a stabilisation of the State's sheep population.

I would like to table this report in compliance with the request of the member for Wellington. If he requires any further detail I will certainly be happy to endeavour to provide it for him. I trust that will satisfy his requirements under the motion.

The report was tabled

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Graham (Minister for Development and Decentralisation).

House adjourned at 10.34 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 13th April, 1972

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Postponement

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [2.34 p.m.]: Mr. President, I ask leave of the House to reply to questions on notice after the afternoon tea suspension.

The PRESIDENT: Permission granted.

DAYLIGHT SAVING

Investigation by Committee: Motion

Debate resumed, from the 30th March, on the following motion by The Hon. I. G. Medcalf:—

That in the light of recent experience of Daylight Saving in the Eastern States and bearing in mind the varied results and conclusions reached in those States this House is of the opinion that the Government should arrange for a properly qualified committee of persons to report on the likely effects of Daylight Saving on the Western Australian population having regard for health, sociological, climatic and meteorological considerations so that if some Eastern States propose to re-institute Daylight Saving next summer the Government may in the national interest of interstate trade, commerce and communications be in a position to produce some authoritative evidence to support a case for all States standardizing on a time adjustment which achieves an acceptable compromise in view of varying time factors and conditions in the several States.

THE HON. R. H. C. STUBBS (South-East—Chief Secretary) [2.35 p.m.]: I wish to inform the House that I agree to the motion moved by Mr. Medcalf. It is clear from the honourable member's speech that he has given much thought to the subject of daylight saving. I agree basically with his motion which is to the effect that the introduction of daylight saving in Western Australia should be investigated again this year.