

I would now like to have something to say about stale bread on long weekends. I hope something will be done to ensure that fresh bread will be made available on long weekends. It seems inconceivable in this day and age that bread which is baked on Thursday for delivery on Friday should have to be used by people who take sandwiches to work on Tuesday—in other words, people who take sandwiches to work on the Tuesday after a long weekend are being forced to eat bread which was baked on the Thursday. I know some people say that bread will remain fresh if it is stored in the refrigerator, but I do not believe it. On long weekends I think some provision should be made for delivering fresh bread on Mondays. Some years ago fresh bread was delivered to shops on the Monday of a long weekend and it could be purchased from them.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: It is easy enough to keep it fresh if you store it in a deep freezer.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: I have stored it in the deep freezer, but that is not the answer to the problem. People who take sandwiches to work on the Tuesday after a long weekend have to eat bread baked on the Thursday. Other facilities are provided over long weekends. The petrol stations are open for service to the community, as are the hotels, and the clubs on Sundays.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: It is better for your figure and your digestion to eat stale bread.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: We legislated for this, you know.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: I know; but people should not be forced to eat stale bread on a Monday or a Tuesday, particularly on a Tuesday after a long weekend.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: I agree with you.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: There is always that famous answer of Marie Antoinette's.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: What did she say?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: She said they could eat cake, didn't she?

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: Anyway, that is my opinion. I am one who likes fresh bread. I do not like to eat stale bread, and I think the majority of the community would rather have fresh bread. That is my opinion and I stick to it.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I think you would get a lot of support.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: With those few remarks, I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. J. Dolan.

House adjourned at 3.20 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 5th August, 1965

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

QUESTIONS (31) : ON NOTICE**AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT OFFICERS***Number Stationed in North-West*

1. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) How many—

- (a) agricultural advisers;
 - (b) tropical advisers;
 - (c) agricultural technicians; and
 - (d) soil conservation officers
- are stationed in the north-west and at which centres?

Availability

- (2) Is his department having any difficulty in obtaining and/or keeping the officers mentioned in (1)?

Mr. LEWIS (for Mr. Nalder) replied:

(1) (a) 8.

Geraldton (for north-west)	1
Derby	1
Port Hedland	1
Ord River Catchment Area	1
Kimberley Research Station	1
Kununurra	2
Head Office part-time Kimberleys	1

In addition, an Agricultural Adviser is due to commence duty at Carnarvon in September, 1965.

(b) One. Stationed at Carnarvon.

(c) 24.	
Geraldton (for north-west)	1
Carnarvon	4
Wiluna	2
Port Hedland	1
Derby	3
Broome	1
Kununurra	1
Kimberley Research Station	5
Ord River Catchment Area	6
(d) Nil.	

- (2) There is some difficulty in this respect, both in the northern and southern portions of the State, due to the limited availability of qualified applicants, but the overall position is steadily improving.

COURTHOUSE AT CARNARVON*Unsuitability of Accommodation and Building of New Structure*

2. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Chief Justice will not visit Carnarvon because the courthouse is considered totally unsuitable for holding a court of sessions?
- (2) If the answer is "Yes," when will a new courthouse be built?
- (3) Is he aware that a trial by jury could not be held in Carnarvon because there is no room in which a jury could retire?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) I have no information which would so suggest.
- (2) See answer to (1). This will be listed for consideration in the 1966-67 loan programme.
- (3) Jury trials are held in the existing courthouse as required.

POLICE STATION AT CARNARVON*Inadequate Conditions and Building of New Structure*

3. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is he aware of the very cramped and unsuitable conditions of the Carnarvon Police Station?
- (2) What is the total area of the main office in which seven police are expected to work?
- (3) When will a new police station be built at Carnarvon?
- (4) Is he aware that the office used by the sergeant will shortly be required by the Crown Law Department as a storeroom?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 24 ft. by 14 ft.
- (3) This will be listed for the 1966-67 programme.
- (4) Yes.

EDUCATION FACILITIES AT CARNARVON

Primary School: Extra Classrooms and Quarters

4. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many extra classrooms is it intended to build at the Carnarvon Primary School this year?
- (2) Is any provision being made for housing for the headmaster of the Carnarvon Primary School this year?

Plans for Future Needs

- (3) What plans, if any, have been made for acquiring extra land for future educational needs at Carnarvon?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Three additional classrooms are being provided at Carnarvon Primary School.
- (2) An approach has been made to the Government Employees Housing Authority for additional housing at Carnarvon for departmental needs including a house for the primary school headmaster.
- (3) The Town Planning Board has been asked to provide an additional school site in an overall plan that is being prepared for the Carnarvon area.

PASTORAL AREAS IN UPPER GASCOYNE AND CARNARVON SHIRES

Visit by Agricultural Adviser

5. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Did an agricultural adviser visit the pastoral areas in the Upper Gascoyne and Carnarvon Shires during the past twelve months to give advice on erosion and other pastoral problems?
- (2) If so, who was the adviser?
- (3) What stations did he visit and when?

Mr. LEWIS (for Mr. Nalder) replied:

- (1) The planned visit of agricultural adviser Wilcox to the Upper Gascoyne area scheduled for April

had to be cancelled due to heavy rain, but will be rearranged as soon as practicable.

- (2) Adviser Wilcox visited Carnarvon and addressed the North-West Consultative Council in May, 1965, on problems associated with the pastoral industry. Advice was also given on irrigated fodder crops.

- (3) A visit was made to Pimbie Station in May together with Dr. Somers of the W.A. Institute of Agriculture to advise on the use of urea in the dry period.

An agricultural adviser has been appointed for the Carnarvon area to work in the pastoral areas. He will train with Mr. Wilcox and the two officers are expected to spend considerable time together in the Gascoyne area later this year.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Air Travel Concessions: Position in N.S.W. and W.A.

6. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware that New South Wales private members of Parliament are allowed three return air fares to any destination and return in New South Wales each year?
- (2) Has he given any further thought to transport concessions being made to private members of this Parliament for travel to remote areas within the State?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This matter, along with other requests for transport concessions, is still under consideration.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS

Enrolment Figures

7. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) What were the enrolment figures for each of the Legislative Assembly districts as at the 31st July, 1965?
- (2) What were the aggregate enrolment figures for the three areas as at the 31st July, 1965?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) The undermentioned are the enrolment figures for each of the Legislative Assembly Districts as at the 31st July, 1965.

Metropolitan Area	
Balcatta	14,603
Bayswater	14,728
Beeloo	12,367
Belmont	12,919
Canning	12,159
Claremont	10,447
Cockburn	12,658
Cottesloe	10,856
East Melville	13,362
Fremantle	11,644
Karrinyup	13,913
Maylands	11,021
Melville	12,392
Mount Hawthorn	11,164
Mount Lawley	11,328
Nedlands	11,018
Perth	11,222
South Perth	12,196
Subiaco	11,351
Swan	12,033
Victoria Park	10,988
Wembley	13,943

North-West Area	
Gascoyne	2,135
Kimberley	3,075
Pilbara	2,057

Agricultural, Mining, and Pastoral Area	
Albany	6,695
Avon	4,947
Blackwood	5,077
Boulder-Eyre	5,975
Bunbury	6,197
Collie	5,380
Dale	6,741
Darling Range	7,274
Geraldton	6,076
Greenough	5,144
Kalgoorlie	5,508
Katanning	5,219
Merredin-Yilgarn	4,744
Moore	5,659
Mount Marshall	5,178
Murchison	5,396
Murray	5,569
Narrogin	5,493
Northam	5,815
Roe	6,171
Stirling	5,484
Toodyay	5,854
Vasse	5,561
Warren	5,241
Wellington	6,460

- (2) The aggregate enrolments for the three areas as at the 31st July, 1965, were:—

Metropolitan area	268,312
North-West area	7,267
Agricultural, mining and pastoral area	142,858
Total	418,437

The figures for the majority of the districts outside the metropolitan area are extracted from "copy rolls" kept in Perth and are therefore subject to some variations.

8. *This question was postponed.*

ALBANY CENTRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Resiting

9. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Education Department made a final determination on the resiting of Albany Central Primary School?
- (2) If so, what is the determination as to location?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) and (2) No. This matter is still under consideration.

MARRON

Export from Pemberton

10. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Fisheries:

Can he advise if marron bred artificially at Pemberton Hatchery Board ponds and exported to Ermington, N.S.W., were as exchange between States or paid for in any way?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

The marron sent to Ermington were not bred in the Pemberton Hatchery Board's ponds but were caught in nearby streams. The marron were paid for by the recipient.

11. *This question was postponed.*

DRAINAGE AT EDEN HILL

Plans to Prevent Flooding

12. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has a plan for draining flood water from Eden Hill been finalised?
- (2) Is he aware flood waters in the above area are causing concern?
- (3) As a major housing project is contemplated at Eden Hill will he see proper drainage is arranged to stop residents from being flooded out?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

- (1) Plans have been prepared.
- (2) Yes.

- (3) The Water Board has maintained liaison with the State Housing Commission with regard to proposals in Eden Hill to ensure that adequate drainage for the housing project will be provided.

SWAN RIVER

Flooding at Bassendean: Avoidance by Dredging

13. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has the Swan River Conservation Committee any plans for dredging the Swan River in the vicinity of Bassendean?
- (2) Is he aware that for many years the river has caused flooding in winter months in the Bassendean area adjacent to the river?
- (3) Is it not possible to avoid this flooding by dredging the river and using silt, etc., to reclaim low-lying areas near the river?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) It is considered that this is not economically feasible.

WATER RATES

Assessment on Consumption

14. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has any consideration been given to a system of allowing residents to pay for water actually used?

Concession to Pensioners

- (2) Is he aware many pensioners are only using a fraction of the water allowed but are required to pay for 100 per cent consumption?
- (3) Could pensioners be given a reduced water rate to compensate for water not used?

Payment by Instalments

- (4) Can householders pay instalments off steadily mounting water rates, e.g., similar to the stamp scheme used by the Hospital Benefit Fund?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It is known that some pensioners do not use the amount of water allowed for rates.
- (3) No.
- (4) The Water Board will always accept payment by instalments, but not by means of purchase of stamps.

HOUSING COMMISSION HOMES

Swan Electorate: Additional Provision

- 15A. Mr BRADY asked the Minister for Housing:

As there has been a steep falling off in the building of houses in the Swan electorate by the State Housing Commission, can he state when further houses will be built to meet the demand in the electorate?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

There has been no falling off in building houses in the Swan Electorate, which is evident from the houses built in each of these years:—

1956-57	....	....	30
1957-58	....	....	43
1958-59	....	....	40
1959-60	....	....	43
1960-61	....	....	29
1961-62	....	....	28
1962-63	....	....	74
1963-64	....	....	96
1964-65	....	....	35

As advised on the 3rd August, there are currently 26 houses under construction and the commission plans to erect a further 81 during 1965-66. As vacancies average 100 houses annually in this electorate, it will be appreciated that the current construction and the new housing will be adequate to meet the 55 outstanding applications, which are made up as follows:—

Pensioners	....	....	Nil
Young couples	....	....	10
Families	....	....	45

Inadequacy of Supply

- 15B. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Housing:

Is it a fact many people are requiring rental homes, purchase homes, McNess homes, and single flats and cannot be supplied with same by the State Housing Commission?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

The generality of this question is answered by the fact that on an Australia-wide basis approximately 17 per cent. of all housing is financed by Governments. Comparatively, Western Australia, in each of the past four years, has financed in excess of 25 per cent. of all housing. The expenditure in each of those years was—

		£
1961-62	....	8,595,000
1962-63	....	9,716,000
1963-64	....	10,783,000
1964-65	....	10,256,000

The building programmes financed by these funds were based on analyses of outstanding applications, wastage rates, vacancies among existing housing stock, availability of other low-cost housing, as well as land and services, together with consideration of both developmental and social problems in both metropolitan and rural centres. The programming also takes into account the fact that the commission's franchise is to provide housing for the low and moderate-income groups.

WATER SUPPLIES FOR SWAN ELECTORATE

Extensions

16. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Are any extensions to water supplies to be made in the South Guildford, Hazelmere, Greenmount, or Caversham areas in the current year?
- (2) Is he aware much building is anticipated in the above areas currently?
- (3) What water extensions are being made north of Ashfield (if any) in the current year?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

- (1) Extensions in accordance with the Water Board's policy will be made as required.
- (2) I am unaware of any exceptional building activity.
- (3) Extensions in accordance with the Water Board's policy will be made as required.

SEWERAGE IN SWAN ELECTORATE

Extensions

17. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Are any plans being made for extension of sewerage in eastern districts north of Bayswater in the current year?
- (2) When is it anticipated the area of Midland and South Guildford will be fully sewered?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

- (1) Extensions, of a minor nature only, will be considered on their merits during the financial year.
- (2) This will depend upon availability of finance and future development.

HAMPTON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

New Classrooms: Tenders

18. Mr. TOMS asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Have tenders been called for the erection of two new classrooms at the Hampton Park Primary School?
- (2) If not, when is it anticipated this will be done?
- (3) What is the date set for these rooms to be ready for occupation?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) In the next few weeks.
- (3) By the reopening of schools in February, 1966.

SAFETY BELTS IN CARS

Desirability and Most Effective Type

19. Mr. MOIR asked the Premier:

- (1) Is it considered that the fitting of safety belts in cars is a desirable measure that results in the lessening of injuries in the case of accidents?
- (2) If so, what is considered the most effective type of belt?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Combination lap/sash type.

DRIVERS' LICENSES

Inclusion of Age

20. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is he aware that although he made a definite statement in the Press last year that it is not compulsory for all applicants to furnish their ages to the issuing officer when applying for renewal of or initial motor driver's licence this is being insisted on by some issuing officers who assert that recent amendments to the Act make this obligatory?
- (2) Is he aware that many people, particularly women, object to having their ages shown conspicuously on their driver's licence?
- (3) Will he take action to see that this is discontinued?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) The Traffic Act requires all drivers over 75 years of age to undergo a driving test. It also specifies that a person must be of a certain age before a license can be issued. If the Commissioner of Police is expected to effectively police these requirements, it is desirable that he should have knowledge of a person's age although it is not

compulsory for a person to supply this information. The Act has not been amended to make this obligatory.

- (2) Not since the position of the date of birth on the license has been relocated.
- (3) Not now necessary.

SHIPPING FOR THE NORTH-WEST

Vessels: Type

21. Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) With the establishment of deep water ports at Broome and Port Hedland and consequent population increase and consumer goods demand along the whole coast:
 - (a) would two cargo-carrying-only ships of five-six thousand tons each be an advantage over the present dual purpose ships;
 - (b) is the cargo-carrying demand such that ships of this size could also be used to advantage around Australia?
- (2) Is passenger accommodation taxed to its limit at present, and does he think that the time is near when a passenger-only carrying vessel will be warranted for tourists to the north and round Australia voyages?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) (a) Two such ships would be an advantage as replacement for the present 2,000-ton cargo ships with one of the former replacing two of the latter. It is not considered desirable to replace dual purpose passenger-cargo ships at this stage.
- (b) The round-Australia service has only been in operation for about eighteen months and is still at a trial stage.
There is evidence of a build-up in the two-way traffic between Eastern States ports and Western Australian outports to indicate that larger type ships might be necessary in the future.

- (2) Passenger accommodation is at present fully taxed with the possible exception of some one-way berths in the summer months during the travel season of north-west residents. This is gradually being rectified by the development of reverse one-way tourist bookings by co-ordinated sea and air travel.

A passenger-only carrying vessel would attract heavy tourist traffic to the north and around Australia but the economics of the use of such a ship has not as yet been fully investigated. Current indications are not favourable.

The above answers are based on the two questions asked but it should be noted that the whole question of the type of ships for the State Shipping Service and the methods of operation is undergoing a complete review, as advised in the presentation of the State's evidence to the Commonwealth Grants Commission at its last hearing in Perth.

WATER SUPPLIES

Plan of Metropolitan Area Defined in Act

22. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

Will he supply a plan showing the metropolitan area as defined in the second schedule of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

The metropolitan area as defined in the second schedule has been amended from time to time. A plan of the existing area will be supplied next week.

VIETNAMESE STUDENTS

Number in Western Australia

23. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier:

How many students, male and female respectively, from Vietnam are in Western Australia attending—

- (a) University;
- (b) technical schools;
- (c) other schools?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (a) Eight males, seven females.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) Other Government Schools—nil.
Independent schools—unknown.

PRESTON RIVER BRIDGE AT BOYANUP

Adequacy during Flood Periods

24. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Works:

With reference to the new bridge nearing completion over the Preston River at Boyanup—

- (a) Can he explain why the new structure is both substantially lower and shorter than the existing bridge?

- (b) Is he aware that an abutment of the existing bridge on the bank where the new bridge has been shortened, was almost washed away last winter?
- (c) Is he satisfied that the new structure can cope satisfactorily with the future flood levels such as were experienced last year?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

- (a) The deck level of the new bridge is five feet above any previously recorded flood level. The record flood of 1964, which was unprecedented, was itself five feet higher than any previously recorded flood. The new bridge has adequate length to cope with floodwaters and has been designed so that there will be little build-up of water on the upstream side of the structure.
- (b) Yes. The abutment on the old structure had failed prior to the 1964 flood and this was one of the reasons for building a new bridge. When the old abutment failed water was allowed in behind the timbers, resulting in the filling being washed away and consequent subsidence of the roadway. The abutment on the new structure has been designed to prevent any possibility of a failure of this nature.
- (c) Yes.

TOWN PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Staff: Number and Classifications

25. Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) What is the total number of staff employed by the Town Planning Department?
- (2) Of these, what number are in the following classification:—
 - (a) Planning officers or assistants;
 - (b) administrative;
 - (c) clerical;
 - (d) general?
- (3) What number of the above classifications are directly employed by the country section of the Town Planning Department?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) 55.
- (2) (a) 24.
- (b) and (c) 16.
- (d) 15 (draftsmen and technical assistants).

- (3) Employed full time on country work—
Planning officers—2.
Planning assistants—1.
Draftsmen—2.

The clerical and administrative functions relative to the country form an integral part of the departmental function. Staff in these categories are not allocated on a country or metropolitan basis.

26. *This question was postponed.*

HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDS

Improvements Subsidy

27. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Education:

Under what conditions will the Education Department subsidise improvements to senior and junior high school grounds?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Ground improvements to senior high schools are the responsibility of the department.

Ground improvements in junior high schools are subsidised in accordance with the following conditions:—

- (1) Plans must be approved by the Public Works Department.
- (2) Bringing water to the surface on a £ for £ basis where, in the opinion of the Public Works Department, the proposal is economically sound.
- (3) Reticulation of grounds on a £ for £ basis to a maximum subsidy of £100.
- (4) Clearing, levelling, grassing and paving on a £ for £ basis to a maximum subsidy of £500.

Provided that the annual expenditure by the department on items (3) and (4) shall not exceed £5,000.

28 and 29. *These questions were postponed.*

EASTERN GOLDFIELDS HIGH SCHOOL

Sports Ground Improvements

30. Mr. BURT asked the Minister for Education:

Arising from discussions which took place on the 15th June last with a deputation from the Eastern Goldfields High School Parents and Citizens' Association, which I introduced to him, will he advise whether steps have been taken to—

- (a) provide paved basketball courts, and

- (b) provide materials for a cricket pitch and for fencing and for planting trees around the sports ground which he inspected at the school?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (a) Yes, with fencing of same.
- (b) Steps have been taken to provide two malthoid cricket pitches and to resurface and fence the tennis courts. The Public Works Department has been asked to tidy up and fence the area where drainage has been constructed. Arrangements for the digging of the necessary holes and the supply of trees will be made on information as to the number required and that the school will plant the trees.

NATIVE CHILDREN

Hostel at Leonora: Commencement and Accommodation

31. Mr. BURT asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) Has construction commenced on the proposed hostel for native children at Leonora?
- (2) How many children will be catered for at the hostel?
- (3) Is it intended that the hostel will accommodate children for the opening of the school year in 1966?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) No. Tenders close on the 23rd August, 1965.
- (2) 60.
- (3) It is intended that the hostel will accommodate children as early as possible in the 1966 school year. The contract will stipulate completion within six months.

QUESTIONS (5): WITHOUT NOTICE

COFFEE LOUNGES OF ILL REPUTE

Location and Names of Proprietors

1. Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Police:

In view of the publicity given in this morning's Press to certain types of restaurants and coffee bars being in existence, which appear to have a bad reputation, and in order that parents may be made aware of the situation of these places—

- (a) Will the Minister name these places, their addresses, and the names of proprietors?

Illegal Sale of Liquor

- (b) Will he also advise the House whether any of the proprietors of these places have been charged with illegally selling liquor, and will he also name them and their restaurants?

- (c) Are any further charges pending against the proprietors of these places, and will he also name them and the places concerned?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

I am not in a position, at this point of time anyway, to name the places referred to in the Press report this morning.

Mr. Tonkin: Ask him to be more specific.

Mr. CRAIG: Did the member for Melville ask the question or was it the member for Claremont?

Mr. Tonkin: Ask him to be more specific.

Mr. CRAIG: I will deal with you later if you like to ask a question. In reply to the member for Claremont, I am not in a position to answer his question at this point of time because the police investigations are still incomplete. However, I will undertake to supply the information to the House at the earliest possible opportunity. In reply to the second part of the honourable member's question, to my knowledge there have been seven prosecutions. I am sure there were seven. Here again I have not got the information in front of me, but I will make it available as soon as possible. As regards the third part of the question, I do know three further prosecutions are pending and information regarding the places and the names of the persons concerned will be made available to the House.

Mr. Hawke: Did all the prosecutions which were taken succeed?

Mr. CRAIG: Yes. I should have explained that seven people were charged and the prosecutions were successful. Therefore, since the report was supplied to me no fewer than 10 proprietors of these pseudo coffee lounges have been prosecuted or have prosecutions pending against them.

"TEACH IN" ON VIETNAM

Application for Holding: By Whom Made and Result

2. Mr. DAVIES asked the Premier:

- (1) Further to my question 26 of the 4th August, 1965, can he advise whether any body or bodies sought permission to conduct a "Teach In" on Vietnam at the University of W.A. at any time?
- (2) If so, what was the name or what were the names of the body or bodies concerned?
- (3) Which part or parts of the University did they seek permission to use?
- (4) What was the result of the application?
- (5) If permission was refused—
 - (a) who refused permission;
 - (b) what were the reasons for the refusal?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes, by the Church and Community Committee.
- (3) Winthrop Hall.
- (4) It was rejected.
- (5) (a) The Senate of the University of W.A.
- (b) Because it was not a recognised educational organisation.

ALBANY

Downgrading of Port

3. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

In view of the article which appeared in the country edition of *The West Australian* dated the 5th August, 1965, headed "Move on Trade on Albany," which, in effect, is contemplated action by the A.S.I.A. to downgrade the port of Albany from partial "A"-class registration from October to December each year to "B"-grade registration, will he in view of the large wheat tonnage fall of last season of 80,000 tons take the matter up with the Commonwealth Minister for Shipping so that the contemplated action by the A.S.I.A. can be thoroughly investigated and the matter be given earnest consideration before any action is taken by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

I rise to answer this question on behalf of the Minister for Works. In view of the short notice that has been available to him it has not been possible for him to indicate exactly what power he would

have in this matter. However, he asked me to assure the honourable member that he would have some inquiries made, and see what representations can be submitted.

POKER MACHINES

Attitude of Grants Commission to non-Operation by State

4. Mr. CORNELL asked the Treasurer:

Is this State penalised by the Grants Commission—and, if so, to what extent—because one of the standard States operates poker machines and derives revenue from them whereas this State does not?

Mr. BRAND replied:

It may be misleading to give a straight "Yes" or "No" to this question, but I will obtain the information and get a full answer for the honourable member.

HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDS

Improvements Subsidy

5. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Education:

Today the Minister told me that the maximum amount supplied by the Education Department for reticulation of grounds, clearing, grassing, etc., at junior high schools should not exceed £5,000. In the *Government Gazette* of the 18th March similar information is given in regard to primary schools. Can the Minister tell me if the maximum of £5,000 available from the department for ground work applies to junior schools and primary schools? Is this £5,000 for each of them?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

In the department's parlance junior high schools are primary schools, and £5,000 relates to all types of primary schools.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by Mr. I. W. Manning leave of absence for four weeks granted to Mr. Nalder (Katanning) on the ground of urgent public business.

CONSTITUTION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

Standing Orders Suspension

MR. BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [2.43 p.m.]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable a Bill for "An Act to amend the Constitution Acts Amendment

Act, 1899-1963," to be introduced and to be passed through all its stages in one day, and to enable the business aforesaid to be dealt with before the Address-in-Reply is adopted.

Question put and passed.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 4th August, on the following motion by Mr. Rushton:—

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

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

MR. W. A. MANNING (Narrogin) (3.44 p.m.): I would like to support the Address-in-Reply to the Speech given by His Excellency the Governor. I must state that the Speech was worthy of this State and of His Excellency. I would also like to congratulate you, Sir, on your reappointment to the high position you hold, and would like to welcome the new members whose faces might enhance the appearance of this Assembly as time goes on. I feel sure they will play their part in the affairs of this Parliament.

The first matter to which I wish to refer has already been the subject of a question. I refer to the matter reported on the first page of *The West Australian* this morning concerning the liquor orgies held in some coffee lounges in this city. This is truly a question of our now harvesting what we have sown. Members may recall that a parliamentary committee was appointed to inquire into the liquor problem about six or seven years ago. One of the recommendations brought in by that committee was that there should be a prohibition on the drinking and handling of liquor in some of the places that exist around the city, even though liquor was not being sold on those premises at the time.

Some of the charges in this morning's paper, however, refer to liquor being sold against the law. We paid a visit, as a parliamentary committee to many establishments of this type around the city, and we were guided by one of the police officers during our visit. No prior notice of our visit was given, and we saw exactly what was going on. A recommendation was accordingly made that the drinking of liquor should be prevented on those premises. We are now seeing the

result of the action taken by the Government at the time. Although the Government accepted our recommendation that there should be an amendment to the Act providing for licensed restaurants to replace these downgraded establishments where liquor was being consumed without license, without authority, and without police control, the Government at the time completely ignored the necessity to do what was recommended and decided to license restaurants without regard for the committee's findings that these places should be closed.

We now find that the chickens have come home to roost with the results that we see. I would like to refer the Government to the report of the committee in question—a report of which the Government took no notice whatever. The present happenings are the result of neglected action that should have been taken in the days when the recommendations were made by the committee. Now that these matters have been ventilated I hope something will be done about them.

I would now like to move on to the open spaces and refer to the question of land use. I have spoken on this before, and some reference has been made to flora and fauna reserves, and the necessity to preserve large areas of land where such fauna and flora can thrive. As a matter of fact one of the most advanced areas in this direction is Pingelly where a biological station has been established and where considerable research is being carried out. This has received the wholehearted support of the community, and it has been responsible for nurturing an interest which did not previously exist.

However, when we look around at some of the areas in the south where reserves have been established for flora and fauna, and where they have been established for this reason and that, we find that they are dotted around haphazardly; and this gives us good reason to raise objections. There seems to be no supervision or purpose in these reserves whatever. During the last session I urged that an inquiry be made into the use of these reserves; into their economic value if they are thrown open to the public. I urged that we look at their value as they stand in order to see whether they are serving a useful purpose. I suggested that one of the worst of such places was in the Shire of Cuballing.

I also suggested that a committee be set up which could investigate these areas shire by shire. Some of them are small areas and some of them are quite large; and though they serve no purpose, they seem to be maintained through sheer obstinacy. I asked a question on the matter last session and I received the reply that the Minister was considering the matter. I hope that he having considered it we will get some results.

Mr. Bovell: Our whole concentration is on making land available for agricultural development.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I am glad to hear that, but it does not answer the question raised in connection with some of these small reserves which harbour pests. Some of them are nothing but a nuisance. Although I wholeheartedly support the establishment of reserves, some of those already established are not necessary. Nobody knows they are there. There are no fences around them and there are no firebreaks.

Mr. J. Hegney: What about flora?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Flora can be found sometimes if one looks. I would like to mention another matter which I have previously brought up; and I refer to the Closer Settlement Act of 1927. This Act provides that land which has been unused for an unreasonable period should either be sold or used. Under this Act a special committee was set up. The purpose of the Act is very reasonable; but, since 1927, nothing whatever has been done to implement it, with the exception that on two occasions, the last in 1953, amendments were made to the Act, which indicates that someone was interested in those days. However, even after the amendments were agreed to by Parliament, nothing was done. I suggest that an inquiry should be made by the Government into this Act; and if it does not want the Act implemented, something should be done to repeal it. I hope something will be done about it as the demand throughout the country areas is growing more and more that private land held for long periods without any attempt at using it should be brought into production.

I would like to say a few words on natives. We have agreed in this Parliament that natives should have equal rights with white people, but it was emphasised at the time that the natives should have equal responsibility. We have given equal rights, but the natives have not accepted equal responsibility and we are not forcing them to shoulder it. We are treating them as children when they should be treated as grown-ups. We treat them on an entirely different basis from white people. They are hand-fed, and given everything. These people are prepared to take child endowment, unemployment relief, and rations—things which are handed out to them.

The unfortunate thing is they are prepared to accept these things and live on them. In the manner in which they live on the reserves, they can get along quite happily when they are receiving these benefits.

Mr. Lewis: Would you deny them child endowment?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: No; I would not.

Mr. Hawke: A split in the Country Party!

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Too many natives sit back and do nothing. Some do make their way and enjoy permanent jobs, and they are quite capable. There are also some in State Housing Commission homes of which they are taking good care; but how few is the number! The great majority are content to live in their present manner. They do not mind being brought before the court and given a prison sentence, because their wives still have their money coming in; and the Native Welfare Department provides them with rations as well. Under these circumstances they are happy to go to gaol; and they are no sooner out than they go back again after a few days.

Mr. Lewis: Doesn't this equally apply to whites?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: It does. I have a case at the present time of a white man who has been living on unemployment benefits for many years. He was offered a job which was quite suitable to him, but he refused it. His reason was that the chap who offered the work would not let him take his two dogs on the job. Because of this he turned the job down and lost his unemployment benefit. That is the case of a white man. But the natives do not have to work; and they are hardly ever offered work because it is usual for them to leave after two or three days.

Recently I was at the Narrogin brickworks and I was told that they cannot get labourers. I asked, "What about natives?" I was told that they have tried over and over again—and I know this to be a fact—but the natives will not stick at the job. However, these boys are receiving unemployment benefits all the time.

Mr. Lewis: They stand to lose their unemployment benefits the same as whites.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: They do not seem to lose them because they do not take the jobs; and people are loth to offer them jobs because they know the natives will not stay. It is unfortunate, because these people are capable of something better; we have proved it. Yet what I have said is what they are doing. They are being so well looked after according to their own standards that they are satisfied. The trouble is their self-satisfaction with their present position.

I asked, I think, last year for an analysis of unemployment figures showing the number of natives because I found that in Narrogin there was no unemployment with the exception of natives. However, the figures could not be given. I was told that the department concerned did not differentiate between whites and natives as regards unemployment figures, so it could not indicate what proportion of unemployment applied to natives. Despite this fact, the Police Department can advise the number of prosecutions of white people and of natives. I think it would be informative to know the proportion

of natives contained in the unemployment figure. If we knew the number of natives who would work, it could be made available to them; but there is plenty of evidence that the natives will not work.

I have been battling for housing for natives for long enough, and I think perhaps I have taken more action in this regard than most. However, I think we have to watch the fallacy of erecting sub-standard homes for natives in housing areas. Here is another example of where the native is to be given something that we will not allow the white to have. How do we reconcile these things? I believe natives should be given homes in housing areas, but these dwellings should be of the same standard as those of white people.

The first of the homes for natives in housing areas was built in Narrogin some years ago when the council erected six 79's. They have been there for a number of years. Last year one was removed because it was condemned. This house was falling to pieces and it has been replaced by a new house. However, the others are still there. A "transitional" home indicates that it is one for the time being; but who is willing to destroy these houses after a period of time? They just stay there.

That is the position with homes for natives. A transitional home should be one that will be replaced as soon as possible. As far as I am concerned the transitional homes should not be in housing areas; they should be set apart for the training of natives in hygiene, citizenship, and consideration for their neighbours. That is one of the main troubles with natives in housing areas. The natives should be encouraged to do something for themselves. I think we have done more for them than we should have been called upon to do; but they are not responding. Therefore some way must be found to make them respond to the opportunities which are available to them today.

I have spoken many times on the subject of housing. The problem is still with us, but I am not going to say much on this occasion as the new Minister for Housing seems to be fitting into the job. I congratulate him on his appointment and on the grip he has already acquired regarding the affairs of his department. I do not want to embarrass him by any criticism of his department, but I hope he will not embarrass me by too many people being without homes in my electorate.

Mr. Brady: Hear, hear!

Mr. W. A. MANNING: We often speak of decentralisation; and I think the best way to accomplish this is to provide houses in country areas where the work is. We will then decentralise without any great effort and in a natural way. The industries will grow because people will have the houses. No-one can work where he cannot live.

This has brought me to the subject of decentralisation and I have before me a copy of the remark made by Sir Walter Murdoch and reported in *The West Australian* on the 7th December, 1964. The article reads as follows:—

Big Swing Towards City Life Predicted

By the year 2000, 90 per cent. of Western Australia's population would be city dwellers, Sir Walter Murdoch predicted yesterday.

Save us from that! But that is what Sir Walter Murdoch said, and a lot of people think he is right. He also said:—

The movement of people into cities was a world-wide problem and the dangers to social health of noise, slums, air pollution, crime and delinquency were frightening.

The report in this morning's issue of *The West Australian* bears that out.

Mr. J. Hegney: When there is less work on the farms they move out of the country.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I agree that is one of the problems. Mechanisation has done that on the farms. However, there are still plenty of opportunities in the agricultural towns. Jobs are waiting but would-be applicants cannot get houses. That is the point I am raising.

The problem of decentralisation is not local. An article appeared in *The West Australian* on the 8th December, 1964, which contained the following:—

The population explosion threatens London with paralysis, and they warn that Parliament may have to be moved north.

Parliamentarians beware! If we make the cities too big we will have to move north to Broome, Onslow, or somewhere like that!

We all appear to be agreed upon the desirability of decentralisation, but the question is how to achieve it. We cannot wave a wand to do so. It is a very slow process and one in regard to which we have to watch every possibility.

The Department of Industrial Development deals with this matter to a large degree in this State, but I feel a lot of the problems concerning decentralisation are not associated with industrial development. Many of them are, but quite a number are not. A lot of the difficulty is associated with education, medical needs, libraries, and all these types of things which do not come under the Department of Industrial Development. It makes one wonder whether there should not be a separate department of decentralisation.

Mr. Brady: That is Labor's policy.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: It is a good policy, but it has not been implemented by anyone. That is the funny part of it.

As I have said, decentralisation is everyone's policy, but no-one has entirely achieved it. We are progressing to a degree, but I think a lot more work is required. I will give an example: There is definite necessity for someone in a department of decentralisation, or the Department of Industrial Development if preferred, to examine in detail Government contracts and specifications. I say this because, for instance, the Government contracts for buildings for which bricks were required always in the past specified that pressed bricks must be used. That meant that the bricks had to come from certain establishments. Then, a couple of years ago, the specifications were changed from pressed bricks to tunnel kiln bricks. The reason for this was that certain establishments changed their process and so the Government altered its specifications. This still means that only those establishments which have a tunnel kiln can supply these bricks for Government contracts. This is favouritism if ever it was shown!

There is no need for this type of favouritism because tunnel kiln bricks are merely processed in a different way. The quality is no better. In Narrogin there are bricks acceptable to the Public Works Department and they are the same quality as the tunnel kiln bricks. Some people say they are better, and they are in demand all over the State. However, when the Government prepared specifications for its contracts it specified tunnel kiln bricks, which ruled out the Narrogin bricks.

This is the type of thing I am concerned about. No-one in the P.W.D. takes any interest in it, and that is why I am suggesting that a department of decentralisation should study the specifications and ensure that if a local product is available, the manufacturers have an opportunity to tender. I do not expect that the local product should be specified any more than I consider an outside product should be specified; but I do expect that the local manufacturers should be able to tender if their product is of the required standard.

This is one way in which we could achieve decentralisation. I am certain that from a State point of view an analysis of contracts would reveal the fact that a lot of materials specified could be produced in this State, but at present they are being supplied from the Eastern States. It is for this reason I contend that someone should study the contracts. No-one does at the moment. It is anyone's or no-one's business, and consequently it is not done.

Perhaps the same principle could be applied to private contracts with a bit of co-operation from architects. Some of the materials involved may be small, but we must watch everything, including the small things.

I notice that recently there was a move in the Eastern States towards the establishment of new States. The following is from *The Brisbane Courier Mail* of the 2nd June:—

Case on New States Given

Canberra.—The movements for new states in North Queensland, Capricornia, New England and the Riverina yesterday presented their case to a Premiers' Conference for the first time.

The submission comprised a 10-point case, and urged that the Premiers' Conference support the holding of an Australian-wide referendum on formation of new states.

It said that "Australia's great calamity" was the fact that more than half the total population was crowded in the capital cities, together with the bulk of the strategic industries.

That emphasises the points I have been making. That article should make us realise that there could be an alteration in the States of the Commonwealth to our advantage. Not only could there be new States, but perhaps fewer States.

I feel that Canberra, with the domination of Sydney and Melbourne, will never understand our problems, despite the advent of fast transport and communications. Those States have the bulk of the votes for the Federal Parliament, and so we go on as we are.

Mr. Court, the Minister for Industrial Development stated in a brochure called *Northern Development*, "A reluctant partner is no partner at all." I believe that is right. If the Federal Government is a reluctant partner, it is no partner at all, and I am going to have a few comments to make on this, because it is very interesting.

We talk about secession. Some people say we should not think about it, but it is about time we did. Some of the things going on today reveal the fact that we will never get anywhere unless we get out on our own; and there is a lot to be said for this.

The following was said by the then Premier of the State, John Forrest, on the 17th May, 1900:—

We are going to bind ourselves to join and never separate again, unless of course we are separated by an Act of the Imperial Parliament. That would be the only thing. An Act of the Imperial Parliament could sever us as it unites us. The chief reason operating no doubt in our minds, is one that does us very great credit, because I do not believe that anyone in this colony, who has any knowledge of public

matters and takes the trouble to look into them thinks he is going to have any great material benefit at the present time.

It is not likely that such benefit will occur now. Of course I know in the other colonies they do expect material benefit. As I have told you before, South Australia expects to have her corn and wine admitted free, whilst Victoria wants her manufactures admitted free, and Tasmania, her fruit free. As to New South Wales, I think she has not so much to gain; but Queensland wants sugar to be sent in free all over Australia . . . We know that Victoria hopes to gain very much. Tasmania also hopes to gain very much, but whether she will or not, I am not so certain. New South Wales is in the position of the mother of the family, and I am of opinion she thinks that with her vast resources and her large population, with her coal and iron, and her position generally as the wealthiest of all the colonies, she will be able, at any rate, to hold her own. In fact, Mr. Reid aptly put it when he said that when you put a terrier in with a lot of kittens, you know which will get fattest first.

Those words ring out very truly today. I am quoting from "The Case of the People of Western Australia" at the time of the secession referendum.

Mr. J. Hegney: This Parliament in 1932 asked for it to be supported, and you know with what result, don't you?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Yes; but, if at first you don't succeed, try, try, try again. I am going to read from a motion moved on the 26th September, 1906. Only six years after the federation referendum, this motion was moved in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. F. C. Monger, the member for York at the time—

That the Union of Western Australia, with the other States in the Commonwealth of Australia, has proved detrimental to the best interests of this State, and that the time has arrived for placing before the people the question of withdrawing from such union.

That was six years later, and in five of those six years there was a customs holiday so that Western Australia could impose its own customs. Yet, within six years, Western Australia wanted to get out of federation; and a Bill, incidentally, was prepared for that purpose. It is interesting to note that the session was closed before the debate could be resumed. So they hurried up the close of the session, even in 1906.

Mr. Cornell: They used those tactics even in those days.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Yes; it goes back that far. A few words were spoken by Mr. Thomas Walker, Labor member for the Kanowna district. In fact, there are a lot of words of his that I could quote.

Mr. J. Hegney: He was pretty fluent.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Yes. This is what he said—

We are too much governed by sentiment; and a day will come, and is not far distant, when absolute stress of circumstances, suffering, and misfortune in the State will compel its inhabitants to do something more active than to pass a mere resolution.

He was referring to Mr. Monger's resolution.

Mr. J. Hegney: What year was that?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: That was 1906. I wish to quote one other item, and it comes under the heading, "The Only Remedy—Secession" as follows:—

A Monetary Grant.

A monetary grant cannot remove Western Australia's disabilities. This has been so conclusively proved in Chapters 5 and 12 of this case, that it would be superfluous to prolong any further examination in this direction. The suggestion of a monetary grant by the Commonwealth must be definitely rejected because it offers no effective means of removing Western Australia's disabilities under Federation.

That was the opinion expressed: a monetary grant was no good. I think there are two choices. We must have either a monetary grant or the right to provide our own moneys and become a separate State. In my opinion something has to be done at the present time because we have certain disabilities which have given rise to the Grants Commission. These disabilities are fairly easy to find. Our main one is the area of the State, which is the vastest in the Commonwealth; and the area we have has not been brought into production to any degree, as we all know. There are plenty of opportunities, but it will mean time and finance to take advantage of them; and where are they to come from?

The second main reason is that the Eastern States, as indicated in one of the articles which I read, established industries many years ago. They were depending on those industries to improve their position, because the industries were already established. We have no answer to their established industries because, as a result of free trade within the Commonwealth, we cannot impose any tariff on Eastern States products. So our industries suffer to a large extent, and the State suffers an unfavourable balance of imports over exports from the Eastern States to the tune of something more than £100,000,000 a year.

This cannot go on. But we cannot cure it under our present system; and the Grants Commission is certainly not helping the position at all. I feel there has to be a better basis than the present one. If we are to remain in the Commonwealth, the Grants Commission should look at this matter in an entirely different way. We have, session after session, introduced this question because New South Wales and Victoria have done this and that, and have raised taxes and charges, and we have had to raise ours or else lose an amount from the Grants Commission.

I suggest that position cannot continue. I cannot imagine that when the members of the New South Wales and the Victorian Parliaments rise to discuss a question like this they ask themselves, "How will this suit Western Australia, because it has to follow us?" That is absurd. They do not think of us one bit; but we have to follow them or lose an equivalent amount through the Grants Commission. Surely something could be done by the Grants Commission to assist in respect of our disabilities.

The commission could assess what it will cost us to bring the whole State into production, including the north-west of the State, and then say that it is worth so much a year. It could also say that our lack of industry, compared with the position in the Eastern States, is worth so much; and it could assess other disabilities and say how much is necessary to compensate Western Australia because of its arrears in respect of industry, and the size of the State. That would enable us to handle our own affairs.

Why should we have to do certain things because somebody else does them? I think we have to talk turkey about this business; and that is why, this session, I suggest we have to have one thing or the other. We must have a better basis of finance in regard to revenue, and we should be allowed better loan funds because of the size of the State we have to develop. If there is any thought of the States calling a conference—

Mr. Hall: What about the southern State?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: We can forget about that. I notice Narrogin was left out of that one, thank goodness!

Mr. Fletcher: What about the state of the economy?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I think the state of the economy is more of a proposition to be considered. I will deal with the State as a whole. We have to start thinking about this question, and I accept the position as it is at present. I, for one, am sick and tired of it, and I expect other members are, too. Yet, as we stand at present, we have no alternative. But I do feel that something has to be done in order to change what is at present a most obnoxious and disagreeable situation as far as we are concerned.

MR. BRADY (Swan) [3.19 p.m.]: I feel disposed to have something to say on the Address-in-Reply. I will have my say with some reluctance, because I often wonder whether the Address-in-Reply debate is really worth the time one gives to it in respect of the research one carries out in order to make one's speech. It would seem that, largely, a member speaks in this House on the Address-in-Reply and that is the finish of his speech. It is recorded in *Hansard*, but the newspapers take no notice of what has been said, the Minister takes no notice, and the various Government departments take no notice.

Mr. Bovell: Are you speaking from your own experience as Minister?

Mr. BRADY: Here we have the noisy scrub bird again!

Mr. Court: What a statesmanlike utterance!

Mr. Bovell: Yes; from a former Minister, too! You ought to be thoroughly ashamed of yourself!

Mr. BRADY: If the noisy scrub bird will keep quiet for a while I promise not to make such utterances. What I have said I mean; that is, a private member in speaking to the Address-in-Reply debate is just wasting his time.

Mr. Cornell: That is why I do not speak.

Mr. BRADY: I can appreciate the honourable member's attitude, and that is why I will make my speech as brief as possible. I do think, however, that there are some electors who occasionally read *Hansard* and who realise that their representative in Parliament is airing their problem and that if anybody is to blame for the problem not being solved it is the Government of the day. Therefore, for that reason, I am going to proceed.

Many of the matters that I am about to speak on I have raised in this House for the past eight or nine years. For the first two or three years this Government was in office one or two of the Ministers on the front bench would interject by saying, "Why did you not attend to the problem when you were Minister?"

Mr. Bovell: Well, that is so; why did you not do something then about these matters?

Mr. BRADY: Even if I may offend by repetition I must raise these matters again, and if Government members do not take any notice of them perhaps their departmental officers will.

Mr. Bovell: Perhaps you took no notice of them yourself nine years ago.

Mr. BRADY: The problems I am about to raise were not in existence nine years ago.

Mr. Bovell: You said they were.

Mr. BRADY: For instance, Allawah Grove did not present the problem that it presents today. The Labor Government

gave the people at Allawah Grove houses and everything they required. I will enlarge on that question later.

One of the great problems in my electorate is bad drainage, and this problem occurs every year. For many years now areas in Bassendean have been flooded each successive year, but the Government does not seem to be doing much about it. It seems to be tinkering with the problem, if I may use the word "tinkering". The Government does not seem to realise that the population of the State is growing tremendously and that the departments in charge of these matters must step up their activities and obtain modern equipment and facilities to cope with such problems as drainage existing in the outer metropolitan area.

I want the Government to make representations to the newly-formed Metropolitan Water Board to see if we cannot get a modern approach to an old problem; because if it does not, many of the houses built in recent years, not only in my electorate, but also in other electorates, will not be worth the money that has been spent on them. I raised this question with the Minister for Housing only recently by way of a question. I asked him whether proper drainage is being provided for the new Eden Hill housing settlement. Today I was assured that that problem is being looked at. I want to say, however, that there are other parts of my electorate where the problem is not being looked at. In making a canvass of my electors I have been shown where the water is coming up under the lino on the floors. That situation has arisen in the last three or four weeks in houses built by the Housing Commission and the war service homes authorities.

Therefore I would like the Government to do something about solving the drainage problem in the eastern suburbs, particularly in the vicinity of Walter Road, Eden Hill, Ashfield, and Bellevue, because the people in those districts are being flooded out. Whilst I was absent from the State in June I understand that people in Bellevue were flooded up to the level of their verandahs for a period of two or three weeks, and it was only towards the end of June or beginning of July that the water began to subside. This afternoon I asked the Minister whether the river could not be deepened or dredged in the vicinity of those districts, because I think that that would be part of the solution to the problem.

If the Minister for Works, or his department, or the Swan River Conservation Committee took steps to dredge the Swan River round about Ashfield or Bassendean and reclaimed the low-lying areas—which, incidentally, could be sold at a handsome profit—many of the drainage problems existing in the eastern suburbs and the upper reaches of the river would be solved.

I could continue to deal with similar problems in Bayswater and other areas, but I feel I should keep to the problems that exist in my own electorate. I will therefore say no more about flooding and drainage in the Swan electorate, because there are many other problems I want to ventilate today.

In regard to water rates, I have had pensioners approaching me in recent weeks because they are alarmed at the increased water rates which they have to pay, and which are considerably in excess of the rates they paid five or six years ago. They are not using a quarter of the gallonage that is allocated to them, but they are still required to pay the full charge. They say to me, "Mr. Brady, could not the rates be placed on a basis so that we pay only for the water we use? If we use only 15,000 gallons in a year on an allocation of 45,000 gallons a year, could we not get our rates reduced by one-third or one-half?" Those are the questions I put to the Minister this afternoon.

These pensioners find that as a result of this and other increased charges, their pensions are not going as far as they did before. Every member knows that there have been increases not only in water charges, but in drivers' licenses, vehicle registration fees, third-party insurance, the price of milk, the price of bread, and the prices of many other commodities. Naturally, the aged pensioners try to be conscientious over their responsibilities, but then find that they cannot meet the present-day demands made upon them and they are looking for some relief. I hope the Metropolitan Water Board can give them some relief in the way of reduced water rates by charging them on a pay-as-you-use basis, or permit them to pay their rates by way of stamps which they can purchase weekly in the same way as they purchase hospital benefit stamps. In this way the burden would not be so great upon them in trying to meet their responsibilities.

I now want to deal with housing, because this afternoon the Minister, when replying to two simple questions on housing, made what could be regarded as a second reading speech. I asked these questions because I know, from firsthand knowledge, that people are unable to obtain houses. Many have been trying to secure a house under the McNess Housing Trust scheme, but cannot get one. Others have been trying to get a single-unit flat, but have been unable to obtain one. I know that the Minister for Health, towards the end of this year, will probably open a new training school at Eden Hill, and it is conceivable that that school will employ between 70 and 100 personnel. This will prove to be a staggering strain on the accommodation around the Eden Hill and Bassendean areas. The houses are just not there.

I would like to see the housing problem met by the Government by the construction of 70 or 80 homes in the various parts of the Swan electorate. The Minister in reply to a question this afternoon gave the impression that because somebody has produced statistics applying to Australia, they apply to particular areas. I will have something to say about statistics in particular cases later on. In the meantime we find that young married couples are unable to obtain houses in my electorate. We also find that widows and pensioners are unable to secure McNess homes or single-unit flats. I am just as keen to see these people continue to live in the electorate as they are themselves. They do not want to go to Cottesloe or to Rivervale, or to the aged people's home when they have lived in the Swan electorate all their lives; when they have reared their families there.

Families should not have to travel 30 or 40 miles at weekends to see their aged relatives. I would like the Minister to give sympathetic consideration to the old people who are unable to obtain admission to the old men's homes or the old women's homes. There are certainly none of these homes in the Middle Swan area. Over the last five or six years I have advocated on behalf of these people who have made representations to me that instead of aged people's homes being built in the western suburbs, some of them should be built in the eastern suburbs, because people are getting old in those areas just as they are in other parts of the metropolitan area. I would like the Minister for Housing to have a look at that, and in due course I will give him a pretty watertight case as to why something should be done immediately.

While I am on the matter of homes and housing, perhaps I could request the Minister to ask his officers to consult with the appropriate Commonwealth department with a view to securing the necessary amenities in the housing areas I have mentioned. I have had people come to me and say that they are unable to get telephones, and that there are no post boxes or post offices available.

Members will not believe this, but the people in the Ashfield area have no post office at all. They are having the utmost difficulty in securing one; and yet we find that no fewer than 50 or 60 new homes have been built in that area in the past three years. I would like the officers of the Housing Commission and the Minister for Housing to have a look at the position, because there is nothing worse than for a young family to move into an area and find there is no telephone available when they want to make an urgent call. Quite apart from this they also find there is no established post office or post box available, and they have the greatest difficulty in posting their letters. It is most reasonable to expect the provision of the facilities I have mentioned, in this day and age.

The people in the area to which I have referred also lack other facilities, but I mention the main ones at the moment for the consideration of the Minister.

The question of hospitals is becoming increasingly important in my electorate. In recent years where there were three doctors in Three Springs, I believe there is now only one; where there were two or three doctors in Moora, again there is now only one. This means that people are looking more and more to the Midland district and to the Swan Districts Hospital for their hospital needs. I understand that the hospital is full to capacity from the beginning to the end of the year. Anybody who reads the statistics which the Minister handed to me two nights ago will see that there is a demand for more hospitalisation in the Swan district.

I would like to see special consideration given to the hospitalisation of children, because they seem to form a substantial part of the inmates of the Swan Districts Hospital. I believe that a children's hospital requires facilities outside those necessary for a general hospital. I understand there is quite a large proportion of the patients who are old people, and we should be doing all we can to cater for them in the geriatric section of the community. I understand that one or two doctors specialise in these types of cases and look after the elderly folk in the eastern suburbs.

Accordingly I would ask the Minister for Health to get his officers to have a look at the disabilities of carrying out extensions to the general section of the hospital in the Swan district, because of the huge demand made on accommodation, and also because of the fact that while many years ago there were three doctors available, to-day there are no fewer than 11 doctors operating around Midland and the hills district, around Guildford, Bayswater, and so on. Many of these doctors look to the Swan Districts Hospital to provide accommodation for their patients.

I feel I should now touch briefly on the question of water supplies. When replying to a question one of the Ministers said he did not know of any urgent reason why water supplies should be extended. There is quite a lot of progress being made in the Greenmount area, and the people there have already had difficulty in obtaining water. They will encounter greater difficulty with all the building that is going on in that area now. In addition we know that some people are also building in the South Guildford area, and in the Hazelmere area.

These districts are all going ahead, because most young people today cannot afford to go to the western suburbs where they have to pay £2,000 or £3,000 for a block of land. They may be lucky and get a block at Hazelmere for £300 or £400, or at Greenmount for £400 or £500, or at

Caversham for £500 or £600. After buying the land, however, they find they cannot build because there is no water supply provided. Since people are continuing to build in the areas I have mentioned, and since they are pushing out in the directions indicated, I would like to see some provision made for water supplies.

There are two matters affecting young people upon which I would like to touch. First of all I will have something to say about the protection of school children. I have endeavoured for quite a long time to have a crosswalk established at the corner of Ivanhoe Street, Bassendean, and Walter Road with a view to protecting the children approaching the Eden Hill School. I have been told, however, that there is no warranty for it. I believe that there is more warranty to provide a cross-over for school children than there is to provide one—as has been done in the last 12 months—near the Darling Range Hotel at Bellevue. It appears that this cross-over was built because a few elderly people wanted to post letters on the north side of the road. I doubt whether the people who cross that road have as much need for it as the children who attend the Eden Hill School.

Then there is the road near the convent at Bellevue, which the children have to cross every day. This is a very busy highway, and the spot I am referring to is in the vicinity of Beaconsfield Avenue. No pedestrian crossing has been provided although I have drawn the attention of the departmental officers to the need for one. I would like the Minister in charge of these matters to take notice of what the Leader of the Opposition had to say in this House the other evening about his experiences at Clackline. I am having similar experiences, but in a different way. A great risk is taken by the children in crossing these roads to go to school, but no-one in the department is facing up to his responsibilities in this matter.

I asked a question of the Minister for Railways or the Minister for Police regarding the provision of a crosswalk or overhead bridge at West Midland, where up to 1,000 children cross the road two or three times a day. These children attend the Governor Stirling High School. I have been told that the department is examining this question, but it has been doing that for the last five or six years. Now someone in the department has come up with the proposition for building an under-way. I say that an under-way at this spot is not practicable. In my view an overway is warranted and long overdue. I have referred to this matter on at least four or five occasions.

I have seen overways alongside schools in Hobart. I saw them eight or nine years ago, and to my amazement I discovered in the last six months that the Victorian Government is now building them also. I wrote to the Minister for Education

in Victoria and he assured me that was the case. Overways are now being built in that State near the schools, for the protection of the children. Strangely enough, he advised me that he got the idea of these overways on seeing them along the Kwinana Freeway in this State.

On one occasion a so-called traffic engineer—it seems to be a new profession which has arisen in our midst over the last 10 or 12 years—attended a public meeting at Bassendean when this question arose, because the parents of the children were alarmed at the risk they were taking in crossing the roads on their way to school. He said an overway could not be provided, because the people would still use the road instead of the overway. He even referred to one case which arose in Hobart where someone became maimed when he by-passed an overway, but since then the local governing authority has built another four or five of them. Does that show they have no confidence in overways in Tasmania? Even the newspapers have advocated the provision of overways in the last 18 months, as a result of the difficulties experienced by those employed in Newspaper Housing in getting to the car park.

How often have these matters to be raised before they are attended to? Are the so-called traffic engineers so sensitive that when someone else brings up a matter first they will not accept the idea? I can give examples from the U.S.A. where dozens of overways have been built near schools, railway stations, and so on. I would ask the Minister to see what can be done about the provision of overways in order to give some measure of protection to the school children, before some become permanently maimed or killed.

On my way to Brisbane recently I asked the officers in the various Parliaments to obtain some information for me relating to kindergartens, aged people's homes, and youth activities. I was amazed to find that practically every other State is miles ahead of Western Australia in its approach to youth problems. I wish to touch on the youth movement in this State, and use it as my main theme in the debate on the Address-in-Reply. I asked the Premier a question as to whether the Youth Council had asked for funds to carry out its duties under the Act, but he told me to put the question on the notice paper.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.5 p.m.

Mr. BRADY: At the tea suspension I was dealing with the financial assistance that youth clubs in Western Australia are receiving from the Government as compared with the other States in Australia; and I was about to use South Australia as an example. In the time at my disposal it would be impossible for me to make a comparison with all of the other States.

I would point out that in 1962 this Government appointed a committee to go into the matter of what could be done

for youth clubs. This was in May, 1962. In June, 1963, the committee reported; and then it was not until 1964 that the Government did anything about appointing a youth council. It is now August, 1965, and the youth clubs and organisations do not seem to have received any benefit as a result of the appointment of the committee in 1962—three years ago. I would remind the House that the committee in making its recommendations made this one—

That initial provision be made for the financial backing of the Council for Youth Service to the extent of £300,000 spread over a five-year period, this allocation, to be reviewed at the end of that period.

The committee went on to say how it thought the funds should be handled. I would like to mention that I have here in my hand the South Australian National Fitness Council's 25th Annual Report which shows that the South Australian Government gave to the National Fitness Council in one year—and may do this each year—£55,500. Our local committee suggested the council be given £300,000 over five years; but as far as I can see the State Government has not been assisting the youth council in this State with any finance of any size at all. In fact, I saw the balance sheet, which appears to show only what has been received from the Commonwealth Government—a mere £10,000. Even that figure from the Commonwealth Government is totally inadequate; and, in my opinion, that Government is not measuring up to the responsibility which it should have in regard to youth training generally.

We know that in regard to cricket balls, tennis balls, badminton sets, and other equipment, sales tax is received by the Commonwealth Government and yet it returns a mere trickle of finance to the youth clubs. So, if the Government wants to help the youth throughout the State, it looks as though it will have to be fairly generous because it will soon be cheaper to help the youth through their youth clubs than to pay for them to be in Fremantle Gaol.

Within the last 48 hours we have discovered through the *Daily News* what is being offered to the youth in the metropolitan area; and we know that the Children's Courts are frequently handing youth in the metropolitan area over to the care of the probation officer, who has to report on them. It is going to be far cheaper for the Government to pay substantial amounts to the youth council to enable it to do the job which the committee that was set up to investigate the youth problem recommended it should do.

I hope that the Government will be generous because in my own area I am associated with two youth organisations, one with about 15 clubs and the other

with about 12 clubs. If there is something they want more than anything else it is finance to buy equipment to do the job they should be doing. They have all the best intentioned people in the world, and young people themselves, but they are stymied for the want of equipment and suitable playgrounds, parks, and so on. This reminds me of a point I nearly overlooked.

The South Australian National Fitness Council does a marvellous job. It has a very comprehensive report on all its activities. Those concerned have a directory of all recreational areas in South Australia from one end of the State to the other. It is a most comprehensive document and contains details of the recreation facilities which should be provided for youth. In addition they have many brochures dealing with the competitions and activities youth can engage in.

They also have a directory on the various youth camps throughout South Australia, as well as a booklet which is on sale to the youth clubs. This is unique in Australia because it is the only youth council which has produced a document of that kind, which is called "Modern Athletic and Coach."

That is the type of assistance that is necessary. I have reams of it here which the South Australian National Fitness Council has available for youth clubs. I mention this to indicate to members what is being done by our sister State to help its youth. I cannot help but feel that it will pay dividends by keeping would-be delinquents out of the wrong atmosphere and out of the South Australian gaols.

Therefore, in addition to making a plea for protection for the school children, I also appeal to the Government to be generous with the youth council because it can be truly said that most youth organisations in Western Australia are looking to the youth council to achieve something really worth while in solving some of our youth problems.

The next matter with which I wish to deal is the levy which is to be imposed on poultry farmers who keep 20 hens over six months. In my electorate is an organisation which could be called the Fanciers Association. It deals mostly with fancy birds, such as bantams, and it has a fairly strong membership. Its members feel that they should not be levied the same as commercial poultry farmers. They feel they are doing a service to the community by keeping these unusual strains in existence in order that other fanciers throughout the State can obtain the crosses they require. Their activities are acknowledged throughout Australia as being desirable, and therefore it will be a pity if they are to be levied on the basis that they are running a commercial proposition.

It must be remembered that many of those who follow this type of hobby are continually out of pocket. They engage

in it for recreational purposes and some of them have their children interested also. They go to the various shows at their own expense and very often merely show the birds without receiving any prizes. If prizes are presented they are usually not very valuable trophies.

These people would like the Government to exclude them if it introduces legislation concerning the levy. They feel they are not in the same position as commercial poultry producers. They are not producing birds for the pot or eggs for sale through the board. If they did sell the eggs they would only get about 3d. or 6d. a dozen for them, which would not make it worth while.

However, they are concerned that soon the inspectors will be calling and demanding that they pay the levies on the birds and they would like some relief in regard to their fancy birds. Alternatively, if the Government insists that they pay the levy, they feel they should be subsidised to encourage them in their work of breeding the various strains which poultry breeders desire throughout Australia. They feel they should definitely not be out of pocket.

I now wish to refer to natives. As everyone knows, Allawah Grove is in my electorate and it appears to hit the headlines about every six months, particularly when the Press is short of an article on what it calls human interest. Someone goes out there and writes an article about the kids who have the measles or the bloke who hits his wife on the head with an axe, or the fact that some organisation is trying to do a humanitarian job for Allawah Grove. So it is continually in the news. But it is in my electorate and for that reason I feel it is my duty to make an appeal to the Minister to do something more than is being done at present by the department.

I want to say what I have said before—and I may not be thanked in certain circles for doing so—and that is that I believe the Minister is doing a very worth-while job. However, he has to be given more assistance by the Government in order that he might help these people to help themselves. As far as I can see, the Government has left the Allawah Grove area, involving 50 or 60 natives, to a small band of dedicated people to do the best they can.

As is evident from a picture which appeared in the *Daily News* on the 7th May, all the young kiddies play on the road because there is not a playground for them. The Government has not seen fit in the last five years to provide a playground for all these children at Allawah Grove. These dedicated people have set up a kindergarten and they are training the children along the right lines; and we will ultimately, as a community, benefit from that training. However, the Native Welfare Department does not seem to be accepting any responsibility at all.

The article accompanying the picture to which I have just referred is rather a voluminous one which I am reluctant to read, but I would like to emphasise one or two points. As I have already said, the children play on the road because there is no suitable recreation ground. There are no verandahs on either the backs or the fronts of some houses. As I have said on previous occasions in this Chamber, the houses are as cold as charity in the winter and as hot as Hades in the summer and yet these are the dwellings in which this Government expects those people to rear their families to become good citizens.

There is also a picture of the inside of a community wash-house which has no decent floor and no facilities apart from a wash trough. In my opinion that is not good enough. These houses were built as temporary accommodation when the white people were in a state of emergency. I think it was the McLarty-Watts Government which rushed through a tender and had these places built at a cost of about £850 as an emergency, and as soon as the Labor Party took over it evicted the white people because the houses were not fit for human beings to live in; but the fact remains that the natives are expected to live in them. Half of them are not lined and yet these natives are supposed to rear their families in them under such circumstances. I say that the Department of Native Welfare should accept more responsibility for the Allawah camp natives and do more for them.

Here are some of the comments made in the *Daily News* on Monday, the 17th May. I am quoting this so the Minister will be able to read it. It is as follows:—

Battling along, desperately in need of funds, the Grove's present urgent needs are:

Bathrooms and verandahs for 10 houses.

Laundries with coppers, troughs and concrete floors for 18 houses.

A community centre.

A playground for the children.

Lining for 11 houses—at £100 a house—to keep out the cold night air.

Paint for eight houses at £25 a house—this is bedrock level, two coats of standard blue or grey paint.

Septic systems for seven houses.

Fencing for all houses.

This is Allawah Grove, just eight or nine miles from the City of Perth. I say, and I have said this in the House before, that the Native Welfare Department should be accepting the responsibility for the training not only of the teenagers, but the adults also. The men should be taught how to handle farm machinery so that they can obtain work in that field, and the women

should be taught domestic jobs such as laundry work or how to use sewing machines. And yet, by and large, they are left to their own resources, depending on the committee to do the best it can for them. The members of the committee are doing a marvellous job with the limited funds at their disposal, and I appeal to the Minister and the Government to help the Allawah Grove people in order to lift their standards so that they can live in houses with the rest of the community.

I asked the Minister how many houses had been built for natives, and he replied that 400 had been built. I think the Minister will admit that none of these houses was built for natives in the metropolitan area. That was the reply the Minister for Housing gave to me last year. I would like to see something done about native housing in the metropolitan area so that the natives can be taken out of the more closely populated areas to where they will not get into difficulties with the police and other residents. I am speaking of areas like East Perth. I do not think that area is suitable for the natives to rear their families, and I hope that something will be done for them. Invariably, we find that landlords do not want to let houses to natives. As soon as a native applies for a house, even if the landlord has half a dozen vacant, he tells the native that he has none available. My thanks go to the Minister for getting me a house for the Quartermaine family last year. However, that was only one house.

The native children are now attending kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, and high schools, and they need to be helped over the stile. If we all accept some responsibility those people will be able to progress just as some of our prominent sportsmen have progressed. I do not want to mention names, but we have some laudable people playing football and other sports who are natives. As much as some people might like to forget that they are natives, they are able to get to the top in sport, and surely they can get to the top in our community if they get the right encouragement.

I attended the annual Sunday afternoon function in the Y.M.C.A. building in Perth only a month ago. I would say that half of the people present were natives, and their conduct and their dress and their general behaviour compared well with the other half of the people who were there—and they were a cross-section of the white community.

I express my thanks again to this dedicated committee which is doing such a marvellous job in the metropolitan area for natives. I hope the Minister and the Government will continue to take an interest in the natives in the metropolitan area as well as those in the country districts, in order that they might get somewhere in our community.

Another matter I wish to briefly touch on deals with a railway problem which is no doubt coming, and coming fast. I mention the problem this evening because I think that all sections of the community should be sitting up and taking notice of what is happening. On the one hand, we have the secretary of the Loco Drivers' Union, a very responsible man—I have met him many times—drawing the public's attention to the fact that railway men are leaving the railways faster than they can be recruited. He is fearful that the railways will not be able to handle the crops in the coming season. We know from various Press reports that this year there is likely to be a record harvest. Yet we have the railways in a position where they possibly will not be able to handle the harvest. On the other hand, the secretary of the railways said that the railways will be able to handle the harvest.

So we have two responsible officers, one saying there will be difficulties, and the other saying there will be no difficulties. However, we do know that in May the *Daily News* published a picture of approximately 150 or 200 men lined up in St. George's Terrace seeking work at Hamersley Range. They had been told that single men could save up to £1,500 a year with overtime and would be given fares and keep. Many of those men are leaving the railways and leaving good jobs to get this good money, because they want to pay for their houses and their motorcars and for their children's education.

I appeal to the Minister to give some thought to this problem which is raising its ugly head. One way to achieve this is to discourage the Premier from cutting out the quarterly basic wage adjustment which he has given an indication that he is likely to do. Why should the workers in the railways, or in any other industry, have to carry increases in prices for 12 months as against the quarter which applies at the moment? We know that the basic wage does not cover all commodities in normal circumstances and it is only for a man and his wife and two children. What does a man with more than two children have to do? He has to bear the brunt of extra prices; and now the Premier is talking about cutting out the quarterly basic wage adjustment. I appeal to the Minister: Do not bow to this.

Railway men are asking for service payment. In my opinion, they are entitled to service payment even if only for the loyalty they have given to the railways by sticking to their jobs while there is an inducement to go 200 or 300 miles and be able to save £1,500 over a year. If the other States can pay service payments the railways in Western Australia can pay them. We are not so poor that we cannot offer to make these payments.

Those are two matters I have mentioned and they more or less affect every railway employee. I could read to the House

dozens of cases where details are quibbled over in the railways. Those men are trying to do a major job for the economic benefit of the whole of the community. So I say to the Minister for Railways and Transport: Try to do something to get jobs stabilised so that the men will not leave at a faster rate than they are being engaged.

Last year I asked a question in connection with permanent way men and in the reply I was told that they were leaving at the rate of hundreds a year because conditions of the permanent way men are such that they are not fit for human beings to live in, in the year 1965. It was all right to expect men to live like dogs in the year 1910, and in the early pioneering days of the State, but to expect them to live like that in 1965 is expecting too much, and if they are forced to do so they are entitled to get out. They can be sent to isolated sidings with no stores, no equipment, and no money, and are expected to start the job and do a good fortnight's work before they get any assistance. The Railways Department will have to look at that aspect.

I want to point out, too, that in the Railways Department today there are more than 1,100 fewer men than there were in 1960; in other words, since this Government has been in office it has gradually reduced the staff by 1,186. There are 1,186 fewer men handling 500,000 more in tonnage. So, fewer men are handling a bigger tonnage and reducing the total loss on the railways. Therefore, are they not entitled to some consideration? Are they not entitled to some gesture on the part of the Government? I think at this stage of our progress the Government should, as a gesture, get in early and do something for the men and not force them to go to arbitration for every little thing they want. These men are earning consideration, but they are not getting it.

By and large they are responsible married men with families and they are living in various parts of the State. As the secretary of the Loco Drivers' Union said, when these men are living in towns in various parts of the State and they are given a transfer, they cannot afford to go because the money they are getting by way of a wage and allowances is not sufficient for them to transfer their families. Consequently they are resigning from the department and are taking up employment with local people. With the imminent opening of the standard gauge railway, and with the great increase in rural development and in mining activity, the Government should try to do something in the best interests of the economy of the State; otherwise we will be facing many serious difficulties.

As a resident of the State and a member of Parliament I do not want to see clashes

between master and servant—between the Government on the one hand and railway employees on the other. Surely the railway employees are entitled to some consideration by way of service payments and a stable basic wage, to say nothing of improved margins and the like. I could talk for the next hour on what I believe was a shocking decision handed down by the Federal Arbitration Court in regard to the basic wage. However, I do not intend to do that; I simply want to relate my remarks to the difficulties that are confronting railway employees.

Let me emphasise my points in regard to the railway men. As I said before, there are approximately 1,200 fewer men in the railways than there were five years ago; the railways are carrying 500,000 more in tonnage—to be precise 499,424—and there are 443 miles of railway less than was the position in 1960. The railways are earning £2,500,000 more than they were five years ago; and on that score alone, apart from the other factors I have mentioned, the men who are making those earnings possible should be given some consideration. Working expenses have dropped from 102 per cent. to 91 per cent.—a 10 per cent. drop, which is a phenomenal figure in anybody's language. This has been brought about by the railway men.

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

Mr. BRADY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final remark to the Minister for Railways and the Government is to try to stabilise railway activities in such a way that primary producers and the public generally, will not be placed in a difficult position because big inducements are being offered by contractors in the north. Unless the Government does something to improve the position for railway employees difficulties are likely to occur in that the men will be enticed away.

I have men in these jobs coming to me for references; they ask me to ring up various contracting firms on their behalf and they invariably say, "The railways have had it. There are no margins and they are talking about cutting out quarterly adjustments to the basic wage. There is no future and we might as well get out and take a risk outside." Some of them take the risk and do remarkably well. These men will wonder why they did not take the step years before. But there will be a percentage who will fall by the wayside, and in the meantime the Government has the responsibility of facing up to the position.

The only other matter I want to bring forward—and I am reluctant to do so but I feel that I must—is in regard to protocol. I refer particularly to Ministers

visiting electorates and receiving deputations without notifying the members concerned. As the member for Swan I have on several occasions had my attention drawn to the fact that Ministers have visited my electorate, and negotiated with the local governing body, or some other organisation; and I, as the member for the district, have not been advised. That has happened not once, not twice, but on a number of occasions. In my opinion the Government should lay down some policy to ensure that the local member is advised of any such visits. I can remember the member for Collie complaining about the same thing happening at Collie last year.

Also, on a number of occasions Ministers have received deputations and the local member has not been notified. In one sense I do not mind that because it means less work; but on the other hand I have some responsibility and I want to know what is going on. When people ask me questions about certain things I want to be able to give them the information. Under the present system I am not able to give them any information if I am not advised of deputations or ministerial visits. The position used to be that the member for the district arranged deputations to a Minister, and the Minister always advised the local member of any visits he intended to make to the district. It seems that that custom has disappeared and in my view it is completely wrong. As my time has expired, I shall resume my seat.

MR. ELLIOTT (Canning) [4.38 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, I rise not just because there has to be a first time but because I wish to discuss a matter which I consider is worthy of the attention of this House. Firstly, Sir, I would like to add my congratulations to those of other members on your re-election to the distinguished position you hold and to which, obviously, you have lent distinction in past years. Also, I should like to express my thanks to those honourable members who have extended their congratulations to the new members. I, of course, am one of them. Thirdly, I wish to extend my thanks to the people of the electorate of Canning for the trust they have bestowed upon me. I intend to do my utmost to be worthy of that trust.

I intend my remarks to be brief and to confine them to one subject because I believe it is one of imminent concern. However, let me hasten to add that it is not a parochial matter, or one confined only to the Canning electorate. My colleagues from Dale and Darling Range, and I have no doubt other areas to the north of the city, which are also rapidly expanding, are experiencing the same problem. It has to do with the many major land subdivisions for housing which have occurred, and which are certain to occur

in the future; and the problem will become greater with the extension of essential services to those subdivisions. In particular I refer to water supplies.

For the benefit of members, and particularly country members, who may not be aware of what is occurring, let us take a hypothetical subdivision which produces 150 quarter-acre housing blocks in the metropolitan area. This is what happens: Streets are made, and blocks are surveyed and pegged. Water mains are supplied and laid, often with the assistance of the subdivider, and sometimes at his cost. Then the sale of the blocks begins. Among the buyers of this hypothetical group of blocks I have referred to, there are, firstly, young couples who are anxious to buy land on which to build their homes and who are in a position to build immediately. They either put up the block as a deposit on their home, or they have sufficient money with which to pay for the cost of the building.

Secondly, there are buyers—many of them in the country—who intend to build at some time in the distant future. They may be working farming properties and be quite genuine in intending to build at some future date, and so they purchase a block of land in the city for their future residence.

Thirdly, there are parents who have decided to buy a block of land on behalf of their children so that they will be able to build a house on it at some future date. These are all genuine buyers when land is put up for purchase.

Then we have those who are regarded as "spec" buyers. On the knowledge I have of a recent subdivision I would say that "spec" buyers would represent half or even more of those seeking to buy a block of land. Most of those members who represent metropolitan electorates will know that the Metropolitan Water Board now works on the basis that it will agree to the extension of the water main to a single consumer for a distance of 264 feet.

If a young couple purchase a block and they genuinely intend to build upon it and are in the unfortunate position that their block is separated by five, six, seven, or more blocks from the water main—such blocks probably being owned by "spec" buyers who have no intention of building in the near future—that young couple must meet the cost of extending the main for the distance in excess of 264 feet.

To my knowledge the average cost of laying all types of piping in general soil conditions, is approximately 13s. per foot for every foot in excess of 264 feet. But if conditions warrant the laying of four-inch galvanised iron piping—and, in the main, galvanised iron piping is used—the cost could be 19s. per foot for every foot of piping in excess of 264 feet. Therefore, this could amount to an additional cost

of £200 or £300 on the cost of the home, merely to extend the water main to that block.

Members know that the Metropolitan Water Board will assist any consumer as far as it possibly can, especially genuine young couples who are anxious to build; but when it comes to an extension of a few hundred feet, the board does its best by pointing out to such a young couple that it is uneconomic to extend the main for such a distance for a single consumer. It would then probably quote to such a young couple what the actual cost would be; that is, that the additional cost would be £200 or £300.

The other proposal that is put up by the board to such a young couple, or other genuine buyer of a block, is that they can put down the extension at their own cost and negotiate with a private contractor to cut into the main with the use of a half-inch pipe. This would be put in, of course, at the expense of the would-be consumer. Such work could also cost approximately £100, or even more.

However, there is a third aspect to this situation. If and when the time comes that homes are erected on the blocks that lie in between the water main and the block that is far distant from it, the water board puts in a four-inch main because there are sufficient consumers to warrant such an installation and so the money expended by, say, the young couple to have the water connected to their block has gone down the drain, as it were.

I can quite imagine that many members would ask, "Why don't they ask what they are up for, or what expense may be involved?" I put it to any country member who may think along these lines that the young people who live in the city today have grown up in the knowledge and with the realisation that electric light can be turned on merely with the flick of a switch and that they can obtain water merely by turning on the tap in any part of the house. They do not give the slightest thought to how the water and the electricity have been supplied in the first place.

Many children today—mine among them—are growing up without any knowledge of a world without television. It is beyond their comprehension that at one time—and only a few years ago—there was no television. Further, people of my own age have not known a world without radio, but I am sure there are many members in this House who lived in such a world and who were acquainted with the original crystal sets and early models of radio receivers. Therefore, when a young couple is interested in a block of land in any subdivision that is made, they may inquire about essential services and could be told that water is available to the block they are interested in, but they would be completely unaware that they would be

responsible for the cost of laying any piping from the water main to that block in excess of 264 feet.

I have watched with great interest the proceedings in this House during the past week and my interpretation of the duty of any member in this House who considers he has unearthed some shortcoming in his electorate is that he should express it; but, going further, I consider that that is only half his task, because it is then more important that he should suggest some solution to the problem. I therefore suggest that in any future major housing subdivision each subdivider be held responsible for the cost of supplying water to his block.

I have been given to understand, on the best possible information, that where there is a subdivision the average cost of extending the water main to a quarter-acre block in a normal type of soil condition would be in the vicinity of £35 to £40. Some members may immediately say, "The subdivider would then add this cost to the price of the block". I agree that some of this expense could be added to the price of the block, but I feel that when a young couple, in particular, are buying a block of land on which to erect their future home, the added expense of £35 or £40 spread over many years at a time when finance is all-important to the erection of their home, would be vastly different to advancing a much greater sum at the one time.

This suggestion, in addition to assisting young people who are genuine home builders, would inflict some penalty on speculative buyers and force them to contribute something towards the cost of providing an essential service. When sufficient homes are erected in any particular subdivision to warrant the installation of a complete water service on an economic basis, I would suggest that the amount that is paid by each landholder could be returned to him. This may not be a complete remedy for the problem, but at least it is a suggestion. I therefore hope it will be given swift and sympathetic consideration; or, alternatively, if this suggestion is not practicable, that another remedy based on similar lines will be given every consideration.

MR. NORTON (Gascayne) [4.50 p.m.]: Like the previous speaker, I wish first of all to say a little bit in respect of water, not in the city area but in the country areas. My remarks will be related to the amendment which was brought before the House last year in respect of the country water supplies legislation. I understand this amendment to the Act came into being as a result of the recommendations of a committee of Country Party members which investigated the problem over a period of possibly 12 months.

I now wonder how these members are viewing their handiwork; I wonder whether they are getting the same reactions in their own electorates as I am in mine. If they are, I am sure they will not be very happy, and I feel certain they will not say much about it. I would like to hear of the reactions in the country areas to the new types of water charging adopted.

In an area like Carnarvon, and in the north-west areas generally, which are dry areas, water is one of the essential components, one might say, of everyday living. It is necessary that water be used practically the entire year on gardens, and so on, and accordingly it makes the consumption far higher than it is in such places as Albany, Collie, and parts of the Great Southern, which experience quite wet winters.

In order to see how these new water rates are affecting people in the country, particularly the tenants, owner-occupiers, landlords, and so on, I have taken out some comparative figures using the old rate and the new rate, and I have used the actual annual rental value figure from the Carnarvon area.

In doing this I have taken out the figures for two houses. The first has an annual rental value of £94. Under the old rate, which was 3s. in the pound, the water rates were £14 2s. a year. This entitled the householder to 94,000 gallons a year for the money he paid, and any water used in excess of the 94,000 gallons was naturally charged for at the excess water rate of 3s.

Although it would appear to be very nice that one has to pay only 1s. 6d. in the pound on one's rental value, which would mean that instead of paying £14 2s. on water rates one would have to pay only £7 1s., it must be remembered that there is no rebate for water for that rating. One must start paying immediately for every 1,000 gallons used quarterly. It would not be so bad if once the account was rendered one's price did not go up with the number of gallons used; but the gallonage rate, I understand, is set for the 12 months, and the present charge per 1,000 gallons is 2s. for the first 60,000; 2s. 6d. for the next 40,000; and 3s. thereafter.

These particular charges were not included in the Bill; they were brought about purely by regulation, and therefore they can be altered: they can be raised, and so on, merely by the stroke of a pen in Executive Council. There is nothing to say that the Minister cannot recommend to Executive Council overnight that the minimum rate and standard rate throughout for all water should be 3s. as it was in the past. That would mean a considerably larger bill to the householder.

Let us see what the new charges would mean to the householder, the landlord and the owner-occupier. In the case of the

owner-occupier who pays a water rate, plus the cost of water, it means that he now has to pay 3s. 8.16d. per 1,000 gallons; whereas under the old rating he only paid 3s. It must be remembered that the owner-occupier not only pays for the water he has used, but he also has to pay, on top of that, his annual rate of £7 1s. Accordingly this must be included in his water costs.

So members will see that to him it means an increase of 8.16d. per 1,000 gallons, if he uses the same amount of water per year. It would mean an increase in his rates of £4 3s. 6d. If we take a landlord, of which the State Housing Commission is one, it means that in the case of the house with an annual rental value of £94 there is a saving of £7 1s. per year. So these people are actually making a clear profit out of the water rating. The tenant, of course, has to pay the water rate in his rental; and, as I said before, he will pay it at the rate of 2s. for the first 60,000 gallons, 2s. 6d. for the next 40,000 gallons, and 3s. thereafter.

In the case of the tenant who lives in the house to which I have just referred, it will mean he will now have to pay at least £10 5s. a year for his water, whereas before he got that in his rental. This means his rental has been increased, without it actually being done, by an amount of £10 5s. for the payment of water he uses.

In the case of the house with an annual rental value of £109, the actual cost to the owner-occupier, is increased as it is when the annual rental value gradually gets higher. The owner-occupier of a house with an annual rental value of £109 will pay 3s. 9.2d. per 1,000 gallons against 3s. per 1,000 gallons a year. The State Housing Commission, or other landlord, will show a saving on that house of £8 3s. 6d. The tenant will have to pay approximately £12 10s., a year above his rent to enable him to secure the same water as he received prior to the 1st January, this year.

So, all in all, the only person who saves by it is the landlord who is letting a place. He does not have to supply the water. He saves half the rates he was paying in the past. Householders are not the only people affected under this new rating system, because it is starting to hit building contractors very hard. I say this because the building contractor will be made to pay a great deal more for his water than he has done in the past. Who is paying for all this? It is, of course, the person who is building a house in the country.

A builder must pay charges on the industrial water rating. Under the industrial water rating in the country areas the industrialist gets his water free from any

rates, but he is on the highest rate per 1,000 gallons; he pays 4s. per 1,000 gallons, whereas previously the rate was 3s. In the case of builders the position was that they originally paid a maximum of £1 when they were building a weather-board or asbestos house, and slightly more than that when they were building a brick house. Under the new rates a contractor has to pay 4s. per 1,000 gallons for the water used, plus a certain percentage of the contract price, which, I understand, in the case of a brick house, could amount to between £20 and £40, depending on the size and value of the house; because the charge is based on a percentage rate for installing the service and on 4s. per 1,000 gallons.

The new water rates applying in the country are hitting the people very severely. I have been taking this matter up constantly with the Ministers of this Government since the legislation was first announced in the newspapers. When the Bill first came before the House I asked the Minister for Housing a question relating to the effect of the new water rates on State Housing Commission homes. Although he said in his reply he could not say what effect they would have, there is every reason to believe he could have given some indication, because the essence of the Bill had already been published in the newspapers and everyone could work out exactly how the new rates would affect them.

On the 26th August I asked that question, and on the 24th March of this year I wrote to the Manager of the State Housing Commission in the following terms:—

I would be pleased if you would clarify the position of the water rates and water charges at Carnarvon in respect to Housing Commission tenants.

During the election Mr. Court, Minister for North-West advised that your Commission was looking into the water rates and charges in respect to the tenants being put in the same position as they were prior to January 1st of this year.

As you know, prior to the alteration of the Country Water Supplies Act being amended last year each tenant received about 100,000 gallons of water free but had to pay for excess. Under the new rating it will mean that each tenant will have to pay at least another 5s. per week over and above their rents for water, and on top of this pay for any water that would be in excess of the 100,000 gallons.

I received a reply dated the 7th April. It was purely an acknowledgment of my letter, and stated that the matter was receiving consideration.

I wrote again on the 12th June, 1965, drawing the attention of the Manager of the State Housing Commission to my previous letter, but back came a reply practically word for word the same as the first reply: that the matter was receiving consideration.

Mr. Tonkin: Like the redistribution of seats.

Mr. NORTON: Two days before the last elections the Minister for the North-West sent a direction to Carnarvon that a circular be sent to the occupants of all the commission houses stating that the review of water rates was receiving consideration. Nothing more has eventuated to date. This week I asked the Minister for Housing a question relating to these water charges. I am sorry he is not in the Chamber at the moment. I would put him in the position of a teacher addressing his class, and would ask him what he thought of a 10 or 12-year-old child who answered the question in the same way as the Minister answered my question. The question which I asked the Minister was this—

What is the total saving made by his department in country areas now that the water rate has been reduced from 3s. in the £ to 1s. 6d. in the £ A.R.V.?

The answer which he gave is classic. It states—

Because of the new system of country water rating and charges, the commission has undertaken a review of all country rentals on the basis of granting an appropriate reduction where the rent being currently paid is an economic one. In respect of the north-west, this review is continuing on the same basis, and appropriate adjustments will be notified on its completion in the near future.

This answer has nothing at all to do with the question I asked. The Minister was trying to get around the corner and avoid answering it. It is very obvious when one looks at the written answer, that the question had been answered before, because the bottom part of the answer had been cut off and a completely new answer inserted in its place.

Mr. O'Neil: That could be an incorrect assumption—that the answer was changed. It is not uncommon to make a typographical error and have the answer retyped.

Mr. NORTON: Does the Minister realise the manner in which he answered my question? Now that he is in the Chamber I draw his attention to the question and answer to which I am referring and which I read out.

Mr. O'Neil: It is a very full and clear answer.

Mr. NORTON: I do not know how the Minister comes to that conclusion. There was no saving whatsoever.

Mr. O'Neil: When the matter was under review it was difficult to determine whether there would be any saving.

Mr. NORTON: The residents of Shark Bay wrote to the Minister for Industrial Development in reference to their water rates. The rates for Shark Bay are based on the scale which is applicable to country areas, and which I have outlined.

When the Bill went through Parliament, every member was of the opinion that the charges were for the supply of potable water and not for water which is unfit for human consumption. Although the rates are the same as those applicable to other country centres, the water supply at Shark Bay contains 3,300 parts per million of sodium chloride. Just imagine what the people can do with water like that! It would be impossible to use it for drinking or culinary purposes, but admittedly it could be used for showers, septic systems, and ablution purposes.

Mr. Tonkin: The department is charging extra for the salt it supplies.

Mr. NORTON: The people in Shark Bay will not have to take salt tablets. I submitted the Shark Bay people's request that the Minister inquire into their water rates. A reply was received from the secretary to the Minister dated the 6th July. It states—

The Hon. Minister for the North-West, Mr. C. W. Court, has asked me to thank you for your letter of the 30th June, 1965, concerning the water supply at Shark Bay.

Enquiries are being made into the matter raised by you, and the Minister will write to you immediately the information is to hand.

That is as far as the matter has gone.

Every consideration should be given to people living in remote areas in respect of their water supplies. Water should be provided at a reasonable cost. With the saving which the State Housing Commission is effecting, and has effected over the last few years, at least the same allowance of water should be included in the rental, as applied in the past, in view of the fact that in the past two years the State Housing Commission made a profit of nearly £900,000.

Reverting to the Shark Bay water supply, I wonder what would be the position of a milk vendor if he sold skim milk at wholemilk prices? Do members think he would get very far? Do they think the Government should sell understandard water at standard prices?

Mr. Graham: It is selling hogget for lamb, anyway.

Mr. NORTON: It certainly does. There is something I wish to say in regard to subdivisions for home building in the Carnarvon area. There is an area of land in Carnarvon which is owned privately.

Admittedly it is not situated on hills, but it is not a severe flood area. It does get a certain amount of flood water over it. The land is quite suitable for housing. Several people have submitted plans to the Town Planning Authority, with the consent of the local shire, for subdivision into quarter-acre lots. As far as I know, the Town Planning Authority did not look at this area; I believe it has simply taken the advice of the Public Works Department that this land is totally unsuitable for use as building sites and rejected the application.

Other houses in that area have been there for upwards of 50 years. One of the blocks on which these houses are situated has never had water on it, and the others have had only about two or three inches of water on them. The area is not eroded and no claims have ever been sought in respect of flood damage. Therefore I can see no reason at all why the Town Planning Authority should stop these people from subdividing this land especially as people are quite willing to take the land up and build on it. In any case, the houses that are built these days are approximately 2 ft. 6 in. off the ground and they would be well and truly safe in case of floods, which only last about 24 hours.

Before rejecting the subdivisions out of hand, I am of the opinion that the Town Planning Authority should have had a look at the area and obtained opinions from those who have lived there for a long time. Had it done this, I believe the subdivisions would have been allowed to go through. Instead of doing this, it obtained its information from aerial photographs.

The areas to which I am referring are known as suburban-rural; they are four-acre lots, which were granted for the growing of vegetables and that kind of thing. However, now that the Public Works Department has shut down on the supply of water for that purpose, and the people cannot subdivide the land, it means that a useful area in Carnarvon, adjacent to the town, is useless and will become a scrub area.

I understand the Lands Department is moving some four miles out of the town to survey what is termed "purely a residential area". How a purely residential area can be built four miles away from the town is beyond my comprehension, because around that area there are quite a number of freehold blocks, where any number of shops can be built. There is nothing to stop the owners of that freehold land, if they are not allowed to subdivide, from leasing sections of it for 99 years to various storekeepers and businesses which will open up alongside the purely residential area.

I thought the Minister would have learnt sufficient from Wyndham, which has developed in the same manner. The

authorities should know what it is going to cost the Public Works Department for water, and the town council for electricity, and so on before this sort of development is approved. I do not know who had the brainwave, but there it is. We will find that in a short time the new town will be springing up in the area. I understand the Minister said today that it will only be a residential area.

There is another thing which is worrying not only the people at Carnarvon but people right throughout the State, and that is overload permits on vehicles. Since the Act was altered about two or three years ago, I understand a semitrailer has to be registered as an overweight vehicle. The only authority for registering an overweight vehicle is the Police Department; and if a person wishes to register an overweight vehicle, permission has to be obtained from the shire in which the vehicle is domiciled, and if that vehicle is to transport goods over a long distance through a number of shires, the Commissioner of Police has to obtain permission from each shire before he can issue a license for that vehicle to be licensed as an overload vehicle.

That means, that if the owner of a vehicle licensed in Geraldton—or south for that matter—wishes to cart up to Mt. Tom Price, Wyndham, or anywhere else up the coast, before he can do so the Commissioner of Police has to obtain permission from each of the shires. Therefore he would have to obtain permission from the shires of Gascoyne, Ashburton, Roebourne, and the others up the coast before the vehicle could be licensed to go in that area. Some of those shires hold their meetings only once every three months, so it could take three months before an answer was obtained.

In addition, in any one of these shires there might be another carrying contractor who was a bit sore that he did not get a contract, and he could influence his council by asking it to reject an application for a permit.

Mr. Rowberry: It could work the other way, too.

Mr. NORTON: Yes; it could work both ways. The council could reject the application so that the person concerned would not be able to get his license to cart in that particular area under the contract he had made.

When it comes to Mayne Nickless, Sadleir, Ansett, and other carriers from the Eastern States, we find they are traveling straight through from Adelaide up to the North West Cape, through Mt. Tom Price, right up to Port Hedland, and so on. I am wondering how they manage to get their overload permits without their loads being held up, since the police have to get the permission of all shires.

Surely it is time the interstate hauliers had to comply with our regulations. I believe overload permits should be issued through the Police Department and that the Police Department on the recommendation of the Main Roads Department, should be able to license any overload vehicle over those roads without having to wait a considerable time to get permission back from shire councils.

There has been a considerable amount of correspondence between myself, and the Minister for Police, and the Minister for Transport; and I am still awaiting a reply to my last letter of the 21st June from the Minister for Transport. To give some idea of the thinking of the Main Roads Department on the matter, I will quote from a letter I received from the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Railways (Mr. O'Connor), as follows:—

Further to our recent discussion regarding standardisation of road permits, the matter was referred to the Main Roads Department and included in their reply was the following:—

Because the Department has carried out extensive work on important secondary roads, a great deal of information concerning pavements and bridge structures is available in our records, and it is therefore appropriate that recommendations concerning permit loading should be made by this Department.

The department is in agreement that it should be consulted in respect of permits. The letter continues—

However, developmental roads are in a different category, and advice regarding permit loadings on this class of road should remain with the local authority.

I cannot see why it should, because the Main Roads Department, in the main, finances all these major secondary roads. It surveys them, recommends what work should be done, and then inspects that work; and it knows exactly the capabilities of each road, and whether it is capable of taking 16-ton or 20-ton loads. Therefore I do not see why it should be left to the local authorities to give permission, although they are responsible for policing the roads. The letter continues—

For many years this Department has been opposed to the issue of overload permits for general usage, and has consistently maintained that permits should be restricted to specified movements on defined routes.

It states that the department has been opposed to the issue of overload permits, but I think the department was overlooking the fact that the Act was recently amended to provide that a semitrailer was

an overload vehicle although it is within the axle load for permits recommended by the Main Roads Department. It seems to me that the department has overlooked that side of the Act and is sort of passing the buck, although the first paragraph states that it considers it should be the department's prerogative to issue the permits.

With regard to the Main Roads Department, as far as I know when the wet weather comes in the north-west the department every morning obtains the rainfall figures from the pedal wireless stations and on the phone from every district; and it is from the information received in this way that the various shires close and open the roads in the north-west. Therefore, by and large, the Main Roads Department has full control over the traffic which passes through a district.

I hope the Minister will have a look at this very soon to see what can be done to have the matter rectified so that transport will not be held up because someone has failed to give consent for the issue of an overload permit, which should not be necessary.

Earlier this year the Public Works Department issued an irrigation circular to all planters receiving water from the pilot scheme along the river, directing them to install within a certain time a 10,000 gallon tank so that the water could be delivered to them and make it far easier to regulate the water. I cannot see how the installation of a 10,000 gallon tank can do anything to ease the variations in the pressure of water in the pipeline. In fact I think it would actually slow the watering process down. Therefore I would ask the Minister, as he has promised, to look into this and see whether it is absolutely necessary that the planters should install these tanks. Quite an expense will be involved in the installation. The planters will have to put in an extra pump to pump the water to their plantations, whereas now the pipelines are fed from the pressure of the Government pipeline, and this has proved very satisfactory.

Why this request has been made I do not know. It was only made to those who went to the trouble of putting in cement conduit. The planters who have an open drain, a leaky drain, or a cement drain were not required to install any tank whatever.

It is very pleasing to learn from the Minister for Police that a new police station is to be built in Carnarvon during the next financial year. I still think it should be built this year, especially in view of the conditions which are experienced in the old quarters. The Minister, when he was through Carnarvon recently, did have a look at the police station for a few minutes and saw exactly the conditions that exist at the moment.

The station has a staff of seven constables and a sergeant; and, as stated by the Minister today in reply to a question, the area of the police station is 14 ft. by 24 ft. The area occupied by the public who use the police counter and the area taken up for the desk and the various cupboards including the safe, is 163½ ft. This leaves only 172½ square ft. in which seven men must carry out their duties.

There is no room available for interviewing a prisoner or that could be used for anyone seeking or giving confidential information. Yet these are the conditions those men must endure. The building has been up for 60 years, and perhaps longer, and it should have been pulled down long ago. The staff has now grown so much that the station is totally inadequate. A 20-hour patrol service is maintained. Those offices should be demolished immediately and a station erected appropriate to the requirements of the town.

I have not yet mentioned the sergeant's office. Actually there is not one provided in the police station. He is at the moment using a storeroom in the courthouse, and the Crown Law Department has given him notice that it requires the room for other purposes. Therefore he will have to move out. We are only hoping that the Crown Law Department will allow him to stay there until a new station is built, when he will have an office which is befitting his position.

It was also pleasing to note that the new courthouse will be erected in the next financial year. Here again the courthouse is a very old building and dates back to 1900, or before, and it is totally unsuitable for the hearing of anything other than ordinary petty charges. The Minister said there were still cases heard there by juries. It is true that the Chief Justice will not hear cases in Carnarvon because the courthouse is totally inadequate for the purpose. It consists of a magistrate's office. Then there is a room which used to be the jury room but which is now used as a storeroom and general workroom for the clerk of courts. It is completely occupied by cupboards and one table, so there is no room for a jury in it. Apart from that it has no exit at all to the outside—to the toilets, etc. There is also the room occupied by the clerk of courts, and this adjoins the storeroom. The clerk's room is barely big enough for all the work which is carried out in that office.

Of course, we have the courthouse proper which is only small and totally inadequate for any large case. So for the Minister to say that the Chief Justice has not refused to hear cases there, means that he is badly advised and is not up with the times. A township like Carnarvon, with the rapid growth which is taking place

and the increasing number of cases which have to be heard, warrants far better treatment.

Another matter I wish to speak on deals with a subject with which I have dealt before. I mention the matter because I have now received a letter from the Pastoralists Association Murchison District Committee. I feel it is a subject I should raise again, and it deals with itinerant teachers. I know that the department has been gradually edging out the itinerant teacher and replacing him with school of the air. This has been against the wishes of a large number of people. The ideal method of teaching is to have the itinerant teacher working in conjunction with school of the air. That would be an ideal set-up.

The itinerant teacher went through the area once each year—it used to be twice a year—and visited all students learning from correspondence. He acted, first of all, as superintendent—as a school superintendent does in inspecting children—and also as adviser and instructor to the mothers or governesses who were teaching the children. In many cases he was able to put the teachers on the right track, because mostly they had not been trained and had to follow the instructions given to them by the correspondence course. I might mention that the instructions were quite good.

With a system of an itinerant teacher working in conjunction with the school of the air, the education of children in outback areas would be comparatively easy and efficient. There is now one itinerant teacher left and he works mostly in my electorate. The people of the Murchison district have asked me to protest very strongly about the taking away of the itinerant teachers from their area. They consider those teachers are absolutely essential.

That has been my finding throughout the whole 67,000 square miles I cover. Practically every parent wants the itinerant teacher and, if possible, the school of the air also. I trust the department will not take off the last itinerant teacher but will leave that person continuing in his good work for the department.

MR. MARSHALL (Maylands) [5.33 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion and I take this opportunity to speak on some of the problems of the Maylands electorate. In close proximity to the city proper a large portion of the area that was established at the turn of the century—and I refer particularly to the western end of the district—is now fast becoming ready for redevelopment.

I believe that construction of the new standard gauge railway terminal station between Mt. Lawley subway and Tamar Street will have a considerable effect. One

can visualise new businesses and professional premises, multi-story flats, and a new look generally for a large portion of this very old established district. Guildford Road, today, carries a large volume of traffic and, as a four-laned highway, cannot be expected to cope with an increase. Therefore I hope consideration will be given to an early start on Swan River drive to relieve the congestion between Perth and Garrett Road.

I understand there have been several changes in the planning for Swan River drive in recent years. If the present siting is final, I hope some finance can be allotted to make an early start on this very important road.

The Maylands aerodrome is situated within two miles of the city proper, and now that the State Government has taken over the area from the Federal Government and is arranging for the vesting in the Shire of Perth, I suggest that the whole area be retained for sporting activities. With the expected increase in the population of Western Australia in the next few years, the Maylands aerodrome could provide an excellent opportunity for a wonderful sporting arena, not only for the Maylands area but also for the surrounding districts. As the north and south of the river will be linked eventually with a bridge crossing the river at the peninsula, I hope the Government will give every consideration to preserving this area for future generations.

For some years now the town of Maylands has had a very successful youth club conducted in the local school premises. While really not ideal for the purpose, this club has been sufficient to attract numbers of young people from Maylands and the surrounding districts. They are young adults between the age of 14 and 20 years for whom the community must provide facilities for leisure time. For those at school we can leave it to the Education Department to give training in interests, hobbies, and skills which will help them to remain active and help them to form and develop their characters as well as their bodies. However, the big gap between leaving school and being accepted into adult activities must be filled. In my electorate, I would judge that this group of 14s to 20s numbers some 2,000. That is nearly 2,000 future citizens who, looked after properly now, will return their advantages to the State within a very few years.

A recent English education report refers to this forgotten group as "half our future." Youth clubs run by the churches, the scouts, guides, rangers, police boys' clubs, yacht clubs, tennis and swimming groups must be encouraged and assisted. These, and other organisations, have each a special appeal to special groups of young people and should be helped to expand

and take in more and more of those growing citizens who can no longer be helped by our schools.

The Shire of Perth has been very generous in the past in supporting this work in many quarters. It sees the need now for some clear planning to ensure that money spent is spent fairly and to the best effect in the community.

The shire recently sponsored a meeting of representatives of nearby youth organisations in the Maylands Town Hall with the suggestion that a proper district youth committee, under the Youth Education Scheme of the Education Department, be formed. This has now been done following this public meeting. The groups decided it would be better to act together rather than for each organisation to keep trying alone. The clubs realise that co-ordination would not interfere with their own work. They keep their own identity and their autonomy, but as a single voice they can speak on behalf of all to the shire and to the Education Department.

We hope to persuade the Education Department to provide a full-time youth organiser to look after the special needs of these groups; to build up an equipment pool to be used by all; to help make their activities more interesting; and to help train their leaders. We are allowed to use any suitable school rooms and facilities for night and weekend use for the good of the young people.

We realise, of course, that even with this assistance and expansion, it is not likely that the existing youth organisations can attract all the 2,000 of the 14s to 20s in the district. However, with shire help we hope to establish youth centres where those who are unattached can have somewhere to go, someone to meet, and something worthwhile to do in a friendly atmosphere and decent surroundings.

Through this district youth committee the Education Department can provide lecturers for hobby classes—for those who want to take part in them—and for almost any type of leisure activity from ballroom dancing to motor maintenance, and from make up and deportment to simple dramatics as well as all types of physical activities and skills, perhaps even billiards.

Of course, this scheme for the left-school-young-adult is only following general educational planning which is already well established in other countries. In Maylands we hope at least to set a successful pattern for many other districts in Western Australia to follow. I hope the newly formed Youth Council of Western Australia, which has been this Government's practical recognition of the need to organise this work, will soon be in a position to stabilise our efforts in Maylands, Mt. Lawley, and Inglewood. In any case, we are going ahead on our own as far as we can.

The Maylands electorate is a growing one and big plans for future needs must be made. In the field of recreation it may not be too much to hope that the well placed and spacious area of the Maylands Aerodrome may one day become, for our community, a sports centre and leisure time area which could well be this State's show place.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Graham.

House adjourned at 5.42 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 10th August, 1965

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

QUESTIONS (6): ON NOTICE

OVERSEAS TRADE

Excess of Exports over Imports

- The Hon. H. K. WATSON asked the Minister for Mines:
In respect of Australia's overseas trade during the year ended the 30th June, 1965, what were:—
 - the amount of Western Australia's excess of exports over imports; and
 - the net collective result of all the Australian States and Territories, other than Western Australia?