

that there are a number of people who listen in to the national broadcasts of the debates in the Federal Parliament. There were also a great number who listened to the "Highlights of Parliament" that was broadcast by the A.B.C.; and it is a great shame that this right has been taken away from the Opposition.

I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply, but I cannot say that I do so with my usual enthusiasm. I support it because I wish to extend this courtesy to His Excellency the Governor for the Speech he delivered. But I do want his Excellency to know that, on behalf of my constituents, I am not at all happy about the way this Government is carrying on; or at its actions in giving to the Press only those stories which relate the activities of big business. It is not providing any information to the man in the street; he is not being considered at all; and I would like to record my dissatisfaction and disapproval of the Government's attitude.

On motion by the Hon. J. M. Thomson, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.27 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 24th August, 1960

CONTENTS

	Page
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—	
Bentley School : Accommodation for children from Wilson area	717
Blood Bank—	
Establishment at Albany	714
Supply of blood from Red Cross	714
Bolton's Motor Body Works : Acquisition of shares by Clyde or Commonwealth Engineers	717
Bus-drivers' Cabins : Access	715
C.M.F. Training : Paid leave for State public servants	718
Electoral Districts Act : Date and wording of proclamation	717
Esperance-Ravensthorpe Road : Bituminisation	715
Gascoyne River Bed : Testing by "Gemeo" drill	718
Guildford-Midland Electorate : Housing programme	718
Holiday Pay : Deduction of district allowance	716
Laverton Hospital Board : Membership	714
Ledger Investment Pty. Ltd. : Shareholders and shareholdings	717
Merredin High School Hostel : Adequacy of buildings for future development	719

CONTENTS—continued

	Page
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—continued	
Motor Vehicle Licenses : Inaccurate stickers	719
Norseman State School : Additional classrooms	715
Norseman Water Supply : Construction of reserve reservoir	715
Police Officers : Appointment to Koolan Island and Kununurra	716
Railway Freights—	
Effect of increases on sulphur pyrite	715
Effect of increases on wheat exports	718
Effect of increases on rural areas	718
State Building Supplies—	
Disposal of brickworks and clay deposits	717
Disposal of timber mills and reserves	717
Suburban Railway Services : Curtailment	714
Warren Area : Survey of water supplies	716
Wool Freights : Increases since 1932	718
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE—	
Appointment of Justices : Consideration of nominations	720
Broadcasts by Premier : Payments	720
Electoral Districts Act : Date and wording of proclamation	721
"Highlights of Parliament" : Discontinuance of broadcast	719
Members' Speeches : Time limit	720
Milk : Transport from Perth to Geraldton	720
Road Buses : Perth to Albany—	
Concessions for pensioners	720
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY : ELEVENTH DAY—	
Speakers on Address—	
Mr. Burt	722
Mr. Heal	724
Mr. I. W. Manning	729
Mr. Nimmo	732
Mr. Craig	734
Mr. W. Hegney	736
Dr. Henn	743
Mr. May	744
Mr. Grayden	752
Mr. Jamieson	755
Mr. Andrew	766
BILLS—	
Abandoning Debtors Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	772
Administration Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	773
Church of England in Australia Constitution Bill : 1r.	772
Coroners Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	772
Death Penalty Abolition Bill : 1r.	773
Evidence Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	773
Firearms and Guns Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	773
Fruit Growing Industry Trust Fund Committee (Validation) Bill : 1r.	772
Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	772
Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	772
Licensing Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	773
Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	772
Metropolitan Region Improvement Tax Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	773

CONTENTS—continued

	Page
BILLS—continued	
Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	773
Milk Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	773
Native Welfare Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	773
Police Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	772
Stock Diseases Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	772
Supreme Court Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	772
Vermin Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	772
War Services Land Settlement Scheme Act Amendment Bill : 1r.	772

The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

LAVERTON HOSPITAL BOARD

Membership

1. Mr. NULSEN asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has he extended the term of those members of the Laverton Hospital Board who were due to vacate office some time between the 31st July and the 30th September, 1960?
- (2) Has he yet gazetted as members of this hospital board those persons who were duly elected in accordance with the regulations of the Health Act on the 23rd July, 1960?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Has he any written statement either from the chairman of the retiring board or from any member of that board alleging irregularities in the conduct of the recent election of members to the board?
- (5) If he has not gazetted the names of the members referred to in question No. (2), when will the necessary gazettal notice be issued?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes; the term has been extended to the 30th September, 1960.
- (2) and (3) No; nominations were not received by the 31st July, when the previous board's term of office expired.
- (4) There has been correspondence from the chairman of the board and a visit to the department by the secretary; and as a result of this and other circumstances, a senior officer of the department is visiting Laverton tomorrow to discuss matters.
- (5) This will be dealt with after receipt of a report from the officer referred to in No. (4).

BLOOD BANK

Establishment at Albany

2. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will he give earnest consideration to establishing a blood bank at Albany on completion of the Albany Regional Hospital, bearing in mind the increase in Albany's population and its districts?

Supply of Blood from Red Cross

- (2) Can he advise whether any charge is made by the Red Cross blood bank when called on to supply blood to doctors and hospitals?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Facilities for blood bank purposes are being provided.
- (2) No charge is made.

3. *This question was postponed.*

SUBURBAN RAILWAY SERVICES

Curtailement

4. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Has a decision been made to reduce the number of suburban passenger trains in the evening?
- (2) If so, from what date is it proposed this shall operate?
- (3) At what hour will the reductions in services commence?
- (4) What is the frequency of services at the present time on the several lines?
- (5) What will be the interval between trains under the new proposals?
- (6) Will there be any reductions in crew or station personnel as a consequence?
- (7) What is the estimated saving in expense, and under what heading?
- (8) What has been the evening patronage during each of the last five years?
- (9) Will not a reduction in services tend to have a permanent effect upon patronage?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Proposals are being worked out along these lines.
- (2) to (7), and (9) I anticipate being in a position to give the information requested next week after a final decision is made.
- (8) There will be difficulty in supplying this information, but the commissioner is examining the extent to which information is available.

RAILWAY FREIGHTS*Effect of Increases on Sulphur Pyrite*

5. Mr. NULSEN asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is he aware that the people of Norseman are very worried, as, if railway freights are raised on sulphur pyrite, it will mean closing down the industry, and have the effect of creating unemployment for 110 employees, which would cause them great distress and hardship?
- (2) Will he consider exempting sulphur pyrite from increased freight rates?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) Representations were received from the mining industry, and the Government agreed that there would be no immediate increase on pyrite freight rates. The matter is to be reviewed when the Commonwealth Government's decision on a bounty for the industry is known. The future of the industry can then be examined in the light of the Commonwealth decision.

The State Government has also agreed to retain the 25 per cent. freight concession borne by the Treasury.

The industry's request, which was agreed to, was to preserve the *status quo* until the Commonwealth decision is known and can be examined.

NORSEMAN STATE SCHOOL*Additional Classrooms*

6. Mr. NULSEN asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware of the inconvenience, unsuitableness and discomfort that the schoolchildren suffer in a room with a concrete floor at the back of the R.S.L. Hall, because of the lack of a classroom at Norseman State School?
- (2) When will two more classrooms, which are urgently needed, be built?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) It is agreed that orthodox accommodation is much more desirable.
- (2) Norseman is listed for one classroom and a science room and alterations and additions to the manual training centre on the 1960-61 building programme, and the honourable member will be advised as soon as it is possible to do so.

NORSEMAN WATER SUPPLY
Construction of Reserve Reservoir

7. Mr. NULSEN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) When will the reserve reservoir at Norseman be commenced?
- (2) What will be its approximate completion date?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) The loan programme has not been finalised, but it is hoped that a commencement will be possible before the end of the financial year.
- (2) It is not possible to indicate an approximate date of completion of the proposed reservoir.

ESPERANCE-RAVENSTHORPE ROAD*Bituminisation*

8. Mr. NULSEN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) How many miles of the road from Esperance to Ravensthorpe will be bituminised by the 1st January, 1961?
- (2) Is he aware of the importance of the road because of the export of copper concentrates, magnesite and other minerals through the Esperance port?
- (3) Is he also aware that the school-bus is unable to negotiate the road at times in the winter?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Depending on weather conditions, it is reasonable to expect 21 miles of surfacing outwards from Esperance towards Ravensthorpe.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) No.

BUS-DRIVERS' CABINS*Access*

9. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) For what reasons was traffic regulation No. 126 (3) revoked?
- (2) In the absence of this regulation, is only one door to a bus-driver's cabin now legally necessary?
- (3) If so, does this mean that when entering or leaving his cabin a driver of such a bus is exposed to the danger of passing traffic?
- (4) Is not the danger of a driver being trapped in the cabin in the event of an accident, fire, or other mishap greatly increased as a result of only one point of egress?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) (a) Trends in modern construction, here and overseas, are to have only one access to the driver's seat, via the passengers' entrance.

- (b) Omnibuses have been licensed for years with only one access to the driver's seat.
 - (c) Omnibuses built in other States and brought here did not conform with the sub-regulation.
 - (d) No similar provision was known to exist in other States and countries; neither was it in accordance with Australian motor - vehicle standard recommendations.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) (a) Not necessarily on modern buses where the driver enters via the passenger egress.
- (b) Where the only egress is on the offside, the driver is in a similar position to drivers of ordinary vehicles, with the added benefit that such movements usually take place in a depot.

Mr. Graham: Except that a bus is much wider.

Mr. PERKINS: The answers continue—

- (4) (a) No more so than a passenger, on omnibuses with kerbside egress only.
- (b) No such event has been known to happen here. If the only door was jammed completely, sufficient glass area exists which could be broken to provide emergency egress.

POLICE OFFICERS

Appointment to Koolan Island and Kununurra

10. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for Police:

Is it intended to have a constable stationed at—

- (a) Koolan Island;
- (b) the new township of Kununurra at the Ord River dam site?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (a) Yes. Negotiations are proceeding with Broken Hill Proprietary Ltd. for accommodation.
- (b) Yes. An acre of land is being reserved in the new townsite for a police station and quarters.

WARREN AREA

Survey of Water Supplies

11. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has a comprehensive survey of the river and brook system been made with a view to future supplies for heavy industry in the

Warren area, in view of the possibility of establishing a paper-pulping industry requiring great quantities of water in the south-west corner of this State?

- (2) Will he proceed to have a survey completed, if this has not already been done?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) The Warren and Lefroy Rivers are gauged, and gauging sites have been selected on the Perrup, Tone, and Wilganup tributaries. A preliminary reconnaissance only has been made for possible dam sites on the Warren and tributaries.
- (2) Investigations for dam sites on Southern Ocean rivers are undertaken as staff and opportunity offer.

HOLIDAY PAY

Deduction of District Allowance

12. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Is it a fact that tradesmen employed as painters at the Kalgoorlie District Hospital, who leave the Kalgoorlie district during their annual holidays, have the district allowance rate eliminated from their holiday pay?
- (2) If this is so, what other classes of Government employees are so affected—
 - (a) in the Kalgoorlie district;
 - (b) in the State generally?
- (3) Did—
 - (a) the Hawke Labor Government;
 - (b) the McLarty-Watts Government;

adopt this practice of depriving such workers of their district allowance rate, whilst they were spending their holidays away from the districts of domicile?

- (4) If the answer to either No. (3) (a) or No. (3) (b) is "No," when did this present Government institute the practice?
- (5) Does the Government consider such action an honourable way of rewarding loyal employees?
- (6) Does he consider that a worker should be able to please himself as to where he should spend his holidays?
- (7) If the answer to No. (6) is "Yes," does he not agree that the reduction in amount of holiday pay, due to deduction of the district allowance rate, could influence a worker's choice as to where he will spend his holidays, by making it more attractive financially to remain in his district of domicile?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) Yes, provided the worker's family also leaves the district.
- (2) (a) All Government wages employees other than employees of the W.A. Government Railways.
(b) As for (a).
- (3) (a) and (b) Yes.
- (4) Answered by No. (3).
- (5) Yes. The district allowance is paid to compensate workers for disabilities existing in the district.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) No.

STATE BUILDING SUPPLIES

Disposal of Brickworks and Clay Deposits

13. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Will the private firms who acquire the State brickworks also acquire the clay deposits with the works?

Disposal of Timber Mills and Reserves

- (2) With intended private acquisition of State timber mills, will the timber reserves be acquired with the plant?
- (3) If not, what will become of present leases?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) If a sale is effected, yes, as applying to deposits owned by State Building Supplies.
- (2) If a sale is effected and subject to usual procedure on transfer of sawmilling permits and leases, yes.
- (3) Answered by No. (2).

BOLTON'S MOTOR BODY WORKS

Acquisition of Shares by Clyde or Commonwealth Engineers

14. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Have Clyde or Commonwealth Engineers recently acquired a share or shares in Bolton's Motor Body Works?
- (2) If not, has he knowledge of any such possible future acquisition?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No.

LEDGER INVESTMENT PTY. LTD.

Shareholders and Shareholdings

15. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Attorney-General:

- (1) Will he inform the House who are the shareholders in Ledger Investment Pty. Ltd.?

- (2) In what companies is Ledger Investment Pty. Ltd. a shareholder and what is the amount of each shareholding?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) The information requested will be tabled.
- (2) No information is available, nor is it possible to ascertain in what companies Ledger Investments Pty. Ltd. holds shares other than the 20,000 shares held by the company in J. & E. Ledger Pty. Ltd. which information has already been given this session in reply to a parliamentary question.

BENTLEY SCHOOL

Accommodation for Children from Wilson Area

16. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Education:

In view of the apparent uncertainty as to when the Wilson primary school will be built, would he indicate what additional accommodation will be provided at the Bentley School to accommodate the expected increase of pupils from the Wilson area at the beginning of the 1961 school year?

Mr. WATTS replied:

The Director of Education has advised that no additional accommodation is necessary at the Bentley School for the estimated intake for February, 1961, from the Wilson-Bentley area.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS ACT

Date and Wording of Proclamation

17. Mr. TONKIN asked the Attorney-General:

- (1) On what date did the Governor issue a proclamation directing a redivision of electoral districts in accordance with the provisions of section 12 of the Electoral Districts Act?
- (2) What was the precise wording of the provision directing a redivision, and for what period was it in operation?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) Presuming that the honourable member's question refers to the last proclamation issued, the date was the 1st April, 1959.
- (2) As set out in the proclamation which was published in a special issue of the *Government Gazette* (No. 24 of 1959) at page 847. The provisions of the proclamation were cancelled by the passing of Act No. 1 of 1959.

C.M.F. TRAINING*Paid Leave for State Public Servants*

18. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

- (1) Has a decision been reached regarding leave of absence on full pay for members of the Public Service who will be attending the annual C.M.F. camp due to commence early in September, 1960?
- (2) What are the details of the decision?
- (3) If a decision to grant leave with full pay is made after the camp has concluded, will the decision be made retrospective and take effect before the camp commences?
- (4) If no decision has been made, what are the reasons for the delay?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The necessity to obtain information from the Eastern States.

RAILWAY FREIGHTS*Effect of Increases on Wheat Exports*

19. Mr. HAWKE: asked the Attorney-General:

- (1) Is he aware that the president of the Wheat Section of the Farmers' Union, Mr. D. W. Maisey, who is also one of Western Australia's wheatgrowers' representatives on the Australian Wheat Board, in a statement published in *The Farmers' Weekly* on the 18th August, is reported to have said:
 . . . it can be confidently expected that the ability of the industry to produce wheat for the export market will be seriously prejudiced by these recent increases to a much greater extent than a simple analysis of the actual wheat freight charges indicated?
- (2) In view of Mr. Maisey's expressed opinion, does he still consider the proposed rail freight increases to be very moderate?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.

Effect of Increases on Rural Areas

20. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware that a cartoon published in *The Farmers' Weekly*, the official organ of the Farmers' Union of W.A. (Inc.), on Thursday, the 18th August, 1960, described the proposed increases in railway freights as a "terrific smack to the rural areas"?

- (2) In view of this, does he propose to allow to be forwarded to the Governor, in the Address-in-Reply, the information which describes the proposed railway freight increases as being very moderate?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) As the Leader of the Opposition ought to know, the form in which the Address-in-Reply is forwarded to the Governor is determined by the Legislative Assembly.

GASCOYNE RIVER BED*Testing by "Gemco" Drill*

21. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) On what date did the *Gemco* drill arrive in Carnarvon?
- (2) Has this drill been used since its arrival for further testing of the Gascoyne River bed upstream from the bridge?
- (3) If so, on how many days has it worked, and with what results?
- (4) Has any programme been drawn up for its immediate use?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) The 26th April, 1960.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The drill was operated continually until it was removed from the bed of the river prior to the river running on the 26th July. There was evidence that water was present in some areas, but an assessment of the quantity is not possible until all boring information has been plotted.
- (4) Yes. Further drilling investigations are proposed.

WOOL FREIGHTS*Increases Since 1932*

22. Mr. LEWIS asked the Minister for Railways:

In what years, since 1932 were wool freights increased and what was the percentage increase on each occasion?

Mr. COURT replied:

Year		Per Cent.
1948	increase	20
1949	"	7½
1951	"	33½
1953	"	30
1960	"	7½

GUILDFORD-MIDLAND ELECTORATE*Housing Programme*

23. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What number of houses are to be built in the following districts during the current financial year:

Koongamia, Midvale, Midland Junction, Guildford, Bassendean, Eden Hill?

- (2) Is it a fact that people requesting homes in the Midland Junction area are unable to obtain same?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Apart from tenders now being called for one cottage flat, it is not intended to build at present further homes in the nominated districts, as applications are being satisfied from vacancies of existing homes. Periodic reviews will be undertaken by the commission.
- (2) No. At present the commission is having difficulty in securing tenants for two vacant houses.

MERREDIN HIGH SCHOOL HOSTEL

Adequacy of Buildings for Future Development

24. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Education:

As the Answer to part (7) of question No. 21 of Tuesday, the 23rd August, 1960, indicates that close consideration has been given to ways and means of overcoming the difficulties in connection with the Merredin High School Hostel, will he advise the House what measures have been decided upon, and how soon action will be taken to rectify the existing conditions, and so relieve the minds of people vitally interested?

Mr. WATTS replied:

The honourable member will be advised as soon as possible.

MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES

Inaccurate Stickers

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

- (1) Is he aware that a number of motor-vehicle license stickers issued do not correspond with the actual license papers?
- (2) What is the position as far as third party insurance is concerned when an unsuspecting person purchasing a vehicle with a current license sticker issued by the police is involved in an accident, and the vehicle is actually out of license?
- (3) Will he take action to ensure that, in future, all necessary precautions are taken to prevent further recurrences of these errors?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) It is known that there have been isolated instances where the wind-screen certificates issued by the Police Traffic Office have not been

in accordance with the license document through typographical errors.

- (2) The license is the paramount document. Section 20 of the Traffic Act provides that a wind-screen certificate shall have effect only whilst the license in respect of which it is issued remains in operation. When a person buys a used car he should obtain the license from the previous owner. Normal prudence requires that he read it.

The receipt by the owner of a renewal form even though he thinks the vehicle is licensed, should at least be the subject of a reference to the Traffic Office. The license document is a combined license and insurance policy. That is the insurance policy; and naturally a vehicle is insured only within the terms of such policy.

- (3) Every care is taken to obviate errors of this nature. The Traffic Branch issues more than 200,000 vehicle licenses annually. The small number of incorrect wind-screen certificates issued does indicate a reasonably high standard of efficiency.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

"HIGHLIGHTS OF PARLIAMENT"

Discontinuance of Broadcast

1. Mr. EVANS asked the Premier:

I apologise for my late serving of this question on the Premier, but I trust he will be able to answer it. Further to his answers to the member for Warren re the Government's decision to discontinue contributing to the Australian Broadcasting Commission radio session, "Highlights of Parliament," will he please advise—

- (1) Before notifying the Australian Broadcasting Commission of its decision, did the Government ascertain the effect its decision would have on the Opposition's eligibility to continue using the above session to convey its views to the public?
- (2) Did the Government acquaint the Opposition with its intention?
- (3) Is he or his Government happy with the position that now prevails; that is, because of his Government's decision to cease such broadcasts, the Opposition has been deprived of the opportunity to express its views through this session?
- (4) In keeping with his much advertised opinion, prior to the last State elections, that "The public or people were most important,"

did the Government consider the desires of the people, in regard to this session, before withdrawing from such broadcasts?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) to (4) The notice given by the honourable member was brief. The Government, as per the reasons given in my previous reply, decided it would not take part in the session known as "High-lights of Parliament." Any further action in respect of this matter is the prerogative of the A.B.C. We know that the "High-lights of Parliament" session does not take place in South Australia or Tasmania.

Mr. Hawke: A very squibby action on the part of the Government.

ROAD BUSES: PERTH TO ALBANY

Concessions for Pensioners

2. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Railways:

The Minister promised that he would give me a reply as to whether he had made a decision in connection with pensioners travelling at concession fares on buses when certain diesel services had been discontinued.

Mr. COURT replied:

The member for Albany is referring to a question he asked on the 4th August, as follows:—

Will pensioners travelling to Perth from Albany and *vice versa*, receive concession rates when travelling by road bus as previously allowed when travelling by day diesel?

At that time I gave the answer that this would receive consideration before the new buses were introduced into service.

That answer still stands, because it is not necessary at this stage to make a decision on the matter. I promised the honourable member that the matter would receive full consideration before any new service was introduced, and that still stands.

MILK

Transport from Perth to Geraldton

3. Mr. NULSEN asked the Minister for Agriculture:

Is it true, as rumoured, that the Government intends to transport milk from the milk depots in Perth to Geraldton in its own vehicles?

Mr. NALDER replied:

The honourable member gave me some warning of this question, and the answer is "No."

APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICES

Consideration of Nominations

4. Mr. BRADY asked the Premier:

Will he endeavour to have some early decision made in regard to the nominations which have been submitted to his department in the last six months for appointment as justices? There may have been five such nominations, but no reply has been received.

Mr. BRAND replied:

I will look into the matter and advise the honourable member.

BROADCASTS BY PREMIER

Payments

5. Mr. ANDREW asked the Premier:

This question arises from the answers the Premier gave to the member for Kalgoorlie.

- (1) Has he broadcast over the air since discontinuing the A.B.C. broadcasts?
- (2) Did the Government pay for those broadcasts?
- (3) If so, why did he involve the Government in payment for broadcasts when they could have been made for nothing?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1), (2), and (3) The Government has paid for no broadcasts.

MEMBERS' SPEECHES

Time Limit

6. Mr. BRAND asked the Speaker:

I draw the attention of the House to a point of procedure, Sir, and I seek some advice. It seems now that, following the expiration of the time limit on a member's speech, it is common practice to move for an extension. I would like your advice as to whether the House should not recognise that in laying down the limitation, the Standing Orders Committee had regard for the fact that there was need to put a limitation on the time of speeches made by members and whether the House is really in order, time after time, in authorising an extension of that time limit, other than to people such as the Leader of the Opposition, and perhaps to those members who may want to round off their speeches in a few minutes.

The SPEAKER replied:

The Standing Order relating to this matter is quite clear. It lays down that members will be allowed to speak for an hour on the Address-in-Reply debate and

three-quarters of an hour on other debates. There is the exception, of course, that the Minister or person introducing a Bill is allowed unlimited time, as is the Leader of the Opposition or the person deputed by him to reply to the debate.

The relevant Standing Order is a longer one than usual; but for the guidance of the House, I will quote it. It reads as follows:—

170. No member shall speak for more than forty-five minutes in any debate in the House, except in the debate on the Address-in-Reply, or on a direct motion of want of confidence, when a member shall be at liberty to speak for one hour.

Provided that with the consent of a majority of the House on a motion to be moved and determined at once without amendment or debate, a member may be allowed to continue his speech for a further period not exceeding thirty minutes.

Provided also that this Standing Order shall not apply to a member moving the second reading of a Bill or a substantive and independent motion, or to the mover of a direct motion of want of confidence, or to the Leader of the Government, or to the Leader of the Opposition, or to any member deputed by either of such Leaders respectively to speak first for the Government or Opposition on any of such motions; but when the Leader of either side so deposes his right, such Leader shall then be limited to the same extent as other members.

It then goes on to explain the procedure in Committee.

As I understand it, the position is this: If a member's time expires and another member stands up and moves that his time shall be extended, that motion must be put forthwith without debate. It is purely a matter for the House to decide whether a member shall be granted an extension. It seems to me that the matter is in the hands of the House itself.

7. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Speaker:

As perhaps the inquiry addressed to you by the Premier arises from the fact that I spoke for a longer period than I intended after receiving an extension of time last night, I would now ask some guidance from you. Would it be possible for a member to move, after the stipulated period has expired,

for an extension of time of, say, 10 or 15 minutes in order to meet the position the Premier has in mind?

May I be permitted to say in one sentence that it may be the desire of the House that there should not be an extension granted, but that it would be prepared to be indulgent to the extent of allowing a particular matter that had been half dealt with to be finalised and no more, and therefore it would be prepared to give some limited extension, but not be happy with, say, about 30 minutes?

The SPEAKER replied:

In answer to the remarks made by the member for East Perth—which, I take it, were in the form of a personal explanation—such a motion would not be provided for in the Standing Orders; and if such a motion were moved, it would be the prerogative of the Speaker to extend the time or not, according to his discretion. If a member wanted only ten minutes, for example, I would be inclined to let him have ten minutes.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS ACT

Date and Wording of Proclamation

8. Mr. TONKIN asked the Attorney-General:

Question No. 17 on today's Notice Paper is in my name. It is a straight-out question. The Attorney-General makes a presumption which is entirely wrong and then answers the question on his own presumption.

In explanation, I would point out that I could not possibly have been referring to the proclamation which he presumed was the one I was referring to, because that proclamation had no provisions. The Electoral Districts (Cancellation of Proclamation) Act provided that the provisions of this proclamation were deemed never to have been in operation. So that was not the proclamation to which I referred. I having made that explanation to the Attorney-General, will he now please answer the question?

Mr. WATTS replied:

To the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, I have done my best to answer the question. If I, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, may refer to the question, the first part reads—

On what date did the Governor issue a proclamation directing a redivision of electoral districts?

The Governor has issued proclamations, directing redivision of electoral districts—not necessarily this Governor, but Governors in the past—on at least three occasions since 1947. I could, if the honourable member had so desired, have given the dates of those proclamations that had been issued in the intervening years from 1947 to 1959. However, I presumed, as the honourable member has shown such considerable interest over a period of weeks in the proclamation issued in 1959, that that was the one he referred to. Otherwise, the question is incomplete. It reads—

On what date did the Governor issue a proclamation—

Mr. Tonkin: Directing a redivision; not just a proclamation.

Mr. WATTS: All the proclamations that I know of have that effect, and those issued in the intervening years from 1947 to 1959 have that effect. Therefore, as I have said, I have done my best to answer the honourable member's question, and no further answer is available.

Mr. Tonkin: I am not surprised that no further answer is available.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Eleventh Day

Debate resumed from the 23rd August.

MR. BURT (Murchison) [4.57]: On this Address-in-Reply debate, I desire to deliver a few comments concerning my electorate. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, I will not be requiring any extension of time. I would first like to speak on the roads in my area. Several members who have spoken on the Address-in-Reply have given a good deal of time to the state of the roads in their electorates. That is only natural, especially with those members who represent outback areas, because the roads in the backblocks of Western Australia play a most important part in the lives of the citizens who reside in those places.

The condition of roads is always an everyday topic of people travelling around a district, or of those about to move in or out of it. It is very pleasing for me to be able to say that we have had, in the past twelve months or so, a number of important road works commenced in various parts of the Murchison electorate. During the summer months, the people of the Murchison were extremely appreciative to have the Minister for Transport visit their area, so that he could see for himself the condition of the main road arteries spreading throughout this tremendous district. No sooner had they recovered from

the shock of a visit by the Minister for Transport, than they were visited by the Minister for Works. He went to the electorate as soon as possible after the floods in February last. He saw for himself the condition of the roads, after many inches of rain had fallen.

I am pleased to say that, as a result of those two visits the two main highways in my electorate—the Great Northern Highway through Meekatharra to the Kimberleys, and the road stretching from Kalgoorlie to Leonora—are receiving considerable attention, and much money is being spent on their improvement. For the first time in about 24 years portions of the road between Broad Arrow and Leonora are being sealed. A bridge is to be constructed at Cane Grass. Although this road was opened up more than 60 years ago, it is extraordinary that even today the northern portion can be cut off completely from the southern portion after less than an inch of rain has fallen at Cane Grass. The people of that area have had to put up with this obstacle for a long period. I am pleased that a bridge is to be built; it should provide the necessary link for an all-weather road from Kalgoorlie to Leonora.

A lot of money is being spent on the section of the road between Wubin and Mt. Magnet to bring about an all-weather aspect to the Great Northern Highway. It is not generally known that the Great Northern Highway through Meekatharra is the shortest road to the North-West. Although most road transport uses the coastal road, because the larger portion of it has been sealed between Geraldton and Carnarvon, the road to Port Hedland via Meekatharra is 200 miles shorter. With further sealing and construction work now being undertaken, more traffic will use that road through the centre part of the State.

Mr. Bickerton: That road would be more important than the East-West Road.

Mr. BURT: I do not think so. I am very keen to see the East-West Road constructed and sealed, but that work should not lessen the improvement and construction of roads in my electorate. In the 12 years since the end of the war, £125,000 has been spent on the road to Meekatharra. The amount that is being spent in this financial year is £83,000. On the Leonora Road, £43,000 has been spent in the 12 years since the war; and this year, £58,000 will be spent on that section. Those figures show how well the present Government is looking after the road problems of the State, and how it is prepared to give a service to the people in the far-distant centres who have suffered for so long in respect of road transport.

I know the Main Roads Department has always adopted the policy of basing construction work on the number of vehicles which use a road. That policy seems to be

unfair to the people living in far-away centres, because the population is very sparse. In an extremely important highway in the North-West no more than 10 to 12 vehicles will pass a given point in one day; but on some branch road in the agricultural areas, 50 to 60 vehicles may pass along each day.

I consider the main arteries in this State deserve a priority of treatment in being sealed. Unless roads are sealed, travellers have no certainty of reaching their destinations during adverse weather. The pot-holes, the high depreciation on the vehicles, and the general hazards associated with non-sealed roads must be overcome and it is to be hoped that within 10 years all the main arteries in this State will be sealed.

In the far-distant centres the road boards carry out their own construction and maintenance work, almost exclusively with their own plant. They perform the work with assistance of grants from the Main Roads Department. The type of equipment being used by country road boards is becoming more and more complicated and difficult to operate. Practically all power units on valuable road machinery today are the diesel type. The general knowledge of an average man does not include an understanding of diesel engines.

Recently a road board in my electorate received a bill for nearly £4,000 for an overhaul to one of the main graders. Quite a large proportion of this huge bill was made up of travelling expenses for the mechanical expert who had to travel to and from the city to attend to the grader. I consider that a school of instruction for the men who operate country road board machinery should be established in the metropolitan area. Road board foremen and machinery operators could be sent to the school to undergo a course of training in the mechanics and the use of the equipment they operate.

I am sure the Main Roads Department would co-operate in this matter. The road boards in country districts would be only too happy to send their operators to such a school to enable them to learn the intricacies of the plant they handle. No doubt the representatives of firms which sell this type of equipment would also co-operate by giving lectures to the operators at the school.

I now want to refer to the work done in my electorate by the Department of Native Welfare. Generally, there has been a big improvement on the native reserves, and new buildings are being constructed. At Cue and Yalgoo the department is establishing native children's hostels, the idea of this scheme being to encourage the children of native couples who are employed on the stations in the surrounding districts to attend school and to intermingle with the white children. I understand the hostels will be managed by white

couples who will teach the native children hygiene and general cleanliness. The native children will go to school in the normal way with the white children and that will form a basis of integration which it is to be hoped will continue throughout their lives.

Mr. W. Hegney: Has it been established in Yalgoo?

Mr. BURT: It is just about to be established. I understand the buildings have been purchased, and the native families are keen for the children to attend the hostels. I understand, further, that more hostels are to be established in various towns in the North-West.

Several persons have approached me and expressed their desire to take up pastoral leases in that area of land which is still available. I am referring to the land east of Laverton and Wiluna, and west of Menzies. There are thousands of acres which are in open country. For various reasons, one of them probably being the lack of water, the dog menace is usually very bad in those areas. Men with the initiative and courage to open up pastoral properties in areas which have been neglected should be given some consideration by the Government and local authorities. No lease rentals should be charged while they are developing their properties, and local authorities should refrain from rating them.

Mr. May: Do you think some of the big leases should be cut up?

Mr. BURT: I would like to see some of the big leases cut up, but I am not optimistic that much can be done after they are cut up. Only certain sections of the leases have sufficient water for irrigation purposes, and without irrigation it is quite impossible to grow wool at a profit in a small area. There are stations in my electorate which endeavoured to irrigate and grow pastures—lucerne and similar fodder—but I cannot say they have been successful. Although we have all heard of the tremendous areas which are held by one person, I do not think any improvement will be shown by cutting up the big leases and bringing closer settlement to the areas. The average pastoral country in Western Australia carries about one sheep per 30 acres without irrigation. So we will not get very far trying to grow wool on small properties in the North-West.

I conclude with some remarks on the possibility of irrigation at Wiluna. It may not be generally known that a huge area around Wiluna contains a basin with an almost unending supply of water at shallow depth.

Mr. Hawke: The C.S.I.R.O. claimed the other day to have made that discovery recently.

Mr. BURT: It is coming to the spot a bit late. The Agricultural Department established a branch there some years ago.

Recently the Mines Department was approached and bore sites were located. A new area of land will be set up by the Agricultural Department as an experimental pasture site. I feel sure some good will result from that.

Cotton has been grown successfully in experiments in the Wiluna district. There could be quite a future for that plant there. Experiments have shown there is an absence of any infection or disease on the plants growing in that area. The only unhappy note was conveyed to me in a letter from the Department of Agriculture which stated that recently the cotton plants were just about right for picking, but some sheep from a neighbouring station broke in and devoured the lot. We are now very anxious to see what type of fleece those sheep will grow after that diet.

MR. HEAL (West Perth) [5.16]: I desire to address the House on a few problems affecting my electorate, and on one or two other matters. Yesterday, I asked the Minister for Police a question in relation to a private right-of-way situated in my electorate. The position affecting this right-of-way was brought to my notice by the people whose properties adjoin it; and in recent months the Police Department, for the first time, informed adjoining property-owners that they were not to park their vehicles in that right-of-way. Fortunately, no prosecutions were made against the offenders, but they were warned that next time they parked in that right-of-way some action would be taken. The answer which I received from the Minister was as follows:—

Yes. The right-of-way in question is 12 ft. wide, is opened to and used by the public, and is a road within the definition of section 4 of the Traffic Act. Because of the narrowness of such lane, vehicles parked therein cause an obstruction and action for obstruction is being taken.

I checked the definition contained in section 4 of the Traffic Act; and, as the Minister stated, under that definition the right-of-way could be defined as a road. Today I made a close investigation of the right-of-way in question and found it is approximately 200 yards long, 100 yards of which is barely 12ft. wide, the other 100 yards being bituminised to a width of 18 ft. I say to the Minister, in all sincerity, that the persons adjoining the section which is 18 ft. wide should be allowed to park their vehicles at the rear of the premises. In the main, the buildings consist of shops which have been erected by those people, and they are situated on a corner where there is a traffic light, which makes it impossible for the people to park directly outside their own shops.

It is most convenient for them if they can pull into the right-of-way and unload, and then leave their vehicle for a certain

period. I consider that a private right-of-way which is 18 ft. in width, is wide enough to allow a truck or car to park on one side, and at the same time let an oncoming vehicle pass by. I know that this is only a minor concern, and that the Minister does not desire to be troubled by such matters; but I intend to approach the inspector in charge of this section of the Act to see whether he can give these owners permission to park at the rear of their premises.

The right-of-way has been bituminised and drained. The local authority did not pay for the bituminisation or the drainage; the finance was provided by the owners of the adjoining properties. The Perth City Council has the authority to charge these people a certain amount of money, and it cost each adjoining owner £50 to £70 to have the area outside the premises paved. Therefore, the Police Department or the Traffic Department should give the owners or tenants the privilege of parking their vehicles at the rear of their premises.

If it were a narrow strip of land, I would agree that congestion would result; but as half of the lane is wide enough for one vehicle to pass a parked vehicle quite reasonably, I cannot see that any congestion would come about. Maybe one of the reasons why the Police Department has not allowed these people to park their vehicles in this right-of-way is that when people take a test for their driver's license this right-of-way is used by the Traffic Department—and quite rightly so. They use the lane to test the ability of people to reverse their cars.

It would be interesting to know whether the police have taken the same action in respect of other private right-of-ways in the city or in the metropolitan area. We find today that the town is expanding north, east, and west; and parking restrictions are being placed on people as far out as Newcastle Street—and rightly so. I believe that in the near future parking restrictions will extend from William Street as far out as Brisbane Street. When people go to their respective businesses each day, they are finding that it is necessary to park their cars further north, and it takes them some time to reach their place of employment. I sincerely hope and trust that when I approach the inspector at the Traffic Department he will give some thought to the matter which I have raised.

I would like the Minister for Transport to look into the possibility of having one of his departmental officers—if he has not already done so—check on the lighting system at the West Perth subway. I have had a close look at the subway myself and feel that a feeder light—if I may use that term—should be installed to allow traffic proceeding down Railway Parade—that is, traffic coming east into the subway—to turn left in the subway at the

same time as traffic is turning right into Railway Parade. The lights only operate one way. I feel that the congestion would be lessened if traffic were allowed to flow freely around Railway Parade into the West Perth subway and thereby proceed into the city.

Mr. Perkins: We have had a look at that; and I was impressed with it, too. I found, on measuring, that there was not sufficient room in that street for the two lanes of vehicles to swing. In the opinion of the traffic engineers, it is undesirable.

Mr. HEAL: That is a pity, because it would do away with much congestion. It would only be effective in regard to cars proceeding to the city, because there is a right-hand turn for cars coming out of the subway, and going east into Railway Parade. That applies to other street crossings, such as Beaufort Street, Milligan Street, and St. George's Terrace. They all operate very efficiently.

When walking through the city today, I noticed that on the corners where there is no "Walk—Don't Walk" sign the cars have to stop to allow people to walk across the intersection, with the result that there is rather a mix-up. I do not know whether it is the Minister's policy to install "Walk—Don't Walk" signs at these intersections.

Mr. Graham: Not a couple of years ago; but they will be acceptable in future.

Mr. Perkins: Either that, or put a phase in the traffic light to give a free period when left-hand traffic can turn without pedestrians being in the way.

Mr. HEAL: That is a good idea. I think the people in the city feel much safer when crossing intersections that are equipped with the "Walk-Don't Walk" signs. At the moment we have such a sign at Barrack Street, while at William Street there is a different set of lights. If we were consistent in this matter, people would behave themselves better when crossing city intersections.

There is another problem which has arisen in West Perth. As I have stated in this House, from time to time, the electorate which I represent is quickly becoming filled with our new Australian friends. Among these people I find many who are unskilled workers without a trade; and each week when I visit one of the new Australian clubs, I am approached by no fewer than half a dozen to a dozen people requesting that I assist them in the matter of employment. This is taking place despite the announcements made by the Minister for Industrial Development and the Premier in recent weeks, which have been published in the *Sunday Times* and *The West Australian*, to the effect that the State is bursting at the seams because of industrial development. I am sure all members of this House hope it is true that the economy of this State is quickly

becoming buoyant, particularly in view of the fact that the Minister for Immigration made a public statement requesting that more skilled immigrants should be admitted into Western Australia.

If the position is as stated by various Ministers, I should imagine employment would be obtainable around the metropolitan area and in our country districts. However, to my dismay, when I approached the Commonwealth unemployment office, I found that many new Australians had been in the receipt of unemployment benefit payments for periods up to 18 months and two years. I consider that this money is virtually being thrown down the drain by the Commonwealth Government—money which is provided by the taxpayers of Australia.

I am of the opinion that the Commonwealth Government should provide employment for those people, either in the country, or in the metropolitan area. If that is not done, there will be no return for the money which is being paid out; and it will virtually be thrown down the drain. I am unable, at the present time, to suggest what work these people could do, but I am sure some employment could be provided for them if the Commonwealth and State departments made some effort in that direction.

The people to whom I have referred are getting very impatient because they cannot find employment, with the result that many are desirous of returning to their native land. Once a person from say, Italy, Greece, or maybe England, is admitted to our country, we should make sure that employment is available for him. I am not blaming the State Government for the present position, as I realise it is a Commonwealth matter.

However, the Minister for Industrial Development, prior to the opening of this session of Parliament, made certain statements in the *Sunday Times*, as I said before, booming up this State. In one article, he criticised the previous Hawke Labor Government for doing certain things to the detriment of the State.

In order that it will be recorded in *Hansard*, I intend to quote a letter which was sent to the editor of the *Sunday Times* by the Leader of the Opposition in reply to statements made by the Minister for Industrial Development. It reads as follows:—

Labour Reply on W.A. Survey

To the Editor,

Sir, in the article from the Minister for Industrial Development, Mr. Court, which you published last Sunday, the following appeared:

"It is unfortunate that Western Australia went through a period of stagnation up to the change of Government last year.

"This was not because of anything lacking in W.A., but because the Government of the day upset the climate for investment and followed policies that made the State seem unattractive."

The other evening, when an amendment was moved to the Address-in-Reply, the Minister for Industrial Development accused the Opposition of a political sham. If what I have quoted is not a political sham, I do not know what is. Statements, as made by the Minister, do neither the Government nor himself any good. Continuing, I quote—

It is regrettable that Mr. Court did not resist the opportunity to indulge deliberately in misleading statements regarding the industrial development achieved in Western Australia during the period 1953-1959.

The truth is that a total of 575 new factory buildings, estimated to cost £6,000,000, were put in hand between July 1953 and June 1958.

There does not appear to be much stagnation there. I will continue—

During the same period 552 new factory buildings were completed at a total cost of over £8,000,000.

The net value of manufacturing production in W.A. in 1953 was £49,000,000 and this figure had risen to £75,000,000 by June 1958.

The total value as against the net value of factory output rose from £119,000,000 in 1953 to £196,000,000 by June 1958.

The number of people employed in factories rose from 28,000 to 38,000 in the same period.

Those facts and figures prove that Mr. Court's assertions are nothing but reckless political propaganda and their use by him weakens the worth-while factual case he could present to the public to show Western Australia's undoubted potential for further industrial development.

Mr. Court himself in his article completely exposes his political insincerity in this matter by stating: "The rate of industrial growth in W.A. has been nearly one-third faster than the average for the whole of Australia."

Under another heading, "Iron Ore" appears the following—and I quote—

As I have shown, much of this industrial progress took place between 1953 and 1959. Surely Mr. Court would not try to mislead people into believing it has all taken place in the past 12 months.

In connection with the question of an iron and steel industry for Western Australia, the McLarty-Watts Government, in 1952, unfortunately gave away to the Broken Hill Pty. Co. Ltd.,

for next to nothing and forever, the very large-scale and high-quality iron ore deposits on W.A.'s North-West coast.

Those deposits should have been used as a lever to persuade B.H.P. to establish a fully integrated iron and steel industry in W.A., on the basis that the ore could not be processed into iron and steel anywhere except in W.A.

Some two years ago the Premier of South Australia succeeded in prevailing upon B.H.P. to agree to establish an iron and steel industry in South Australia in return for obtaining control of an iron ore deposit much smaller than those in W.A., which were given away to B.H.P. in 1952.

Yours, etc.

A. R. G. Hawke,
Leader of the Opposition.

I am sure that statement will satisfy members in this House that during the period of the Hawke Labor Government great progress was made in Western Australia, not only in relation to what I have read, but also with regard to many public buildings erected under the day-labour system of our Public Works Department. I venture to say that, in quality and material, these buildings are on a par with any erected by private enterprise over the last decade. I hope that when the Minister endeavours to attract industry to Western Australia, he will do so on a fair basis and not try any political shams.

Not only do we find we have many people unemployed in Western Australia between the ages of 40 and 60, but we have what are deemed unemployable persons, and I am sure the latter are suffering severe hardships at the present time. Speaking to many union secretaries, I find that over the past two years union membership has considerably decreased. I am told that one of the main causes is, first and foremost, that work—especially in the timber industry of Western Australia—is no longer forthcoming; also, that union members are transferring in increasing numbers to the Eastern States where employers are crying out for tradesmen.

In recent months I spoke to an officer of the Civil Aviation Department who was in Western Australia on a publicity campaign to attract workers to that industry—an industry which operates in a big way in South Australia. Not only had this representative travelled all around Australia to attract skilled tradesmen, but he had also been to England on a similar mission. I do feel that if the Minister—and I know he is sincere—tackles the problem in a fair and sincere manner, he will get results; and I trust that many of our new Australians will not have to return home with their families, or transfer to the Eastern States, in order to find employment.

I have before me a letter I received from the motion picture industry, informing me of the disastrous position facing the industry at the present time. No doubt this has been brought about by certain factors which have crept into our State over the last few years. The first factor that has hit the industry very hard is the introduction of television into Western Australia. A second factor is that hotel hours have been increased to 10 o'clock closing time. In view of this, we find—especially during the summer months—hotelkeepers providing first-class entertainment with a view to attracting the public to their beer gardens and beer lounges. I am quite sure this has had an adverse effect on the motion-picture industry.

The industry has made approaches to the Treasury for some relief. It was announced recently that the Treasurer had given relief to the tune of £20 per week. However, I feel sure this assistance mainly affects the big concerns. If it affects also the small proprietors, then I am glad of that. Nevertheless, the motion picture industry feels that the Government has not gone far enough in this matter.

One of the arguments put forth—and the member for South Perth asked questions of the Premier on this matter the other evening—is that it seems rather one-sided when live shows coming into Australia are not subject to entertainments tax. I imagine that Pat Boone—who gave one or two performances at the Capitol Theatre recently to packed houses both at the 5 o'clock and 9 o'clock sessions—took many thousands of pounds out of the State. I feel the Premier should give further consideration to this matter with a view to giving the industry added relief. The industry employs a considerable number of people and has been in existence for many years. Throughout the world we find that because of the introduction of television many picture theatres have had to close down.

In recent months there has been a great deal of publicity throughout Australia in connection with the kidnapping episode which occurred in New South Wales. Earlier in this session I asked the Attorney-General whether it was the Government's intention to introduce legislation to bring in more severe penalties, or make the present legislation more clear-cut so far as our Supreme Court is concerned. In reply to my question, he stated that the Government intended to introduce legislation. If that is so, I hope it will be on the lines of that introduced in the State of Victoria where, I think, the Premier—Mr. Bolte—announced it was his Government's intention to provide a penalty of 20 years for the kidnapping of juveniles; and, I think, 15 years for the kidnapping of adults. Whether or not this has gone far enough, I do not know, but I feel it is a start in the right direction;

and I trust that when the Government introduces its legislation, the amendment will be very severe.

An article which was written by Kirwan Ward, and which appeared in the *Daily News* of Wednesday, the 17th August, brought widespread comment from the people of Western Australia; and, I believe, the people of the Eastern States. It is a sound article; and no doubt the Minister—as well as the members of this House—has read it. I feel, as the writer pointed out, that a good deal has been learned about the crime of kidnapping. The incident has caused great concern to the parents of the boy involved; and I sincerely hope that our Police Department has taken special note—as no doubt it has—of what was done by both the New South Wales Police Department and the New South Wales Press to try to capture the persons concerned. I am sure the police have learned a great deal; and that if a similar problem arises in the future, they will handle it in a different manner.

I have recently been approached by a mother of a person who was sentenced, in the last couple of years, to a term of eight years' imprisonment for a sex offence in Western Australia. She has asked me if I can assist her in any way to have her son released from gaol, or released on parole. As members are aware, this is a very serious crime, and the persons concerned should rightly be penalised and taught a lesson.

This particular case had some peculiar aspects, and the Attorney-General was good enough to allow me to study the file in his department. I found that the person concerned pleaded guilty, and endeavoured to hide nothing from the court; and, when the case was heard, the court brought in a verdict of guilty with a recommendation to mercy. No doubt that recommendation was submitted in view of the fact that the other party concerned in the case was of poor reputation.

Mr. Tonkin: Did the Attorney-General at any time convey to the honourable member that the information contained in the file was to be treated as confidential?

Mr. HEAL: I told the secretary that I would treat the information as confidential.

Mr. Tonkin: I asked the question because the Minister for Railways would have allowed the honourable member to study his files only on the understanding that he said nothing about the matters contained therein.

Mr. HEAL: I doubt whether I would ask the Minister for Railways, because I doubt whether he would allow me to study his files anyway. Although the girl concerned in this offence was, in a sense, an unwilling party, she had been connected

with various activities before; she was not completely lily-white, if I may put it that way.

Mr. Hawke: It looks as though the Minister understands.

Mr. HEAL: In this case, I think the verdict of guilty and the recommendation for mercy was just; but I feel that the sentence of eight years was very harsh. However, nothing can be done about that. I am sorry the Attorney-General is not in his seat; but I believe it is his policy—and it may have been the policy of the previous Attorney-General—in rape and sex cases, that after a term of good behaviour in the Fremantle prison, prisoners are not allowed to be transferred to Barton's Mill prison or the Pardalup prison.

I think the Attorney-General could have another look at that arrangement; because in my view, each case should be treated separately. If there is some blame attachable to both parties, the convicted person should be treated with some leniency. This boy has been placed in a gaol for eight years. No doubt his mother's heart has been almost broken, and the circumstances of the case have taken years from her life. As I said before, I sincerely believe that the fault was not entirely on the side of the boy concerned. Since he has been in gaol, he has been treated by a doctor, and he has been told that now he is quite normal; in any case, he was never much off the line. I am sure that if this boy were allowed to go to Barton's Mill after three years in Fremantle Gaol—provided his conduct was good—he would be the better for it, and would prove to be a good citizen on his release. I think leniency should be shown to him, and that he should be transferred to that better type of prison. In that way he would have a chance to do something for himself, and also it would be of assistance to the prison authorities.

Mr. Perkins: The police find that this type of offender is very liable to commit the same offence again.

Mr. HEAL: I agree with the Minister for Police on that point; but, as I said before, in this particular case I am of the opinion that blame is attachable to both parties. I agree with him that in many cases—probably about 90 per cent. of them—most of the blame could be placed on the guilty party; but not in this case. I should like the Minister to treat this as a test case; and, if it did not turn out a success, no doubt the Attorney-General, or the Minister, would be entitled to clamp down on the position once more.

I also understand that the Parole Board will do nothing about giving people connected with this type of crime a parole after having served at least half the sentence. Yet, on the other hand, we find that people such as accountants, who have

robbed their employers—banks, airway companies, and the like—of many thousands of pounds, and who have been sentenced to five years' imprisonment, are out on the street again after 2½ years. Those people could quite easily commit the same type of crime once again; although I admit that it is not as serious as a sex crime. However, as I said, I think all these cases should be treated on their merits.

In this instance, I think the Minister could take a chance and grant some leniency on a trial basis. It would go a long way towards rehabilitating the individual and could lighten the worries of his family. I would not have thought of approaching the Minister had the person concerned committed two or three other offences, or been in a lot of trouble prior to this. But this was his first offence of this nature; and I believe some consideration should be given to him because I feel sure that if he is granted some leniency he will, when he returns to normal life, become a first-class citizen.

However, if he has to spend eight years in the Fremantle Gaol—unfortunately the section in which he is now placed consists mainly of hardened criminals who have been in and out of gaol for the whole of their lives—eventually, when he is released, his mind will probably have become soured; and, before long, he will be back in gaol again.

It is my intention to approach the Minister concerned once more after this lad has served another year in gaol; and, so long as his behaviour at Fremantle has been satisfactory, I hope the Minister will give my plea some consideration.

In conclusion, I should like to say a few words regarding the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill relating to S.P. betting. I believe, from a question I asked the Premier without notice earlier in the session, that he will be introducing a Bill dealing with this aspect within a month or so. No doubt the Cabinet sub-committee which went into the matter has finished its inquiries, and I should imagine that by now Cabinet has finally decided what type of legislation shall be introduced.

I sincerely hope that Cabinet has gone fully into the matter, and that it will study every aspect before it makes a final decision. After reading between the lines, I am of the opinion that the present Government intends to introduce an off-course totalisator system. That system has been in operation in New Zealand for a number of years. Some people have told me it has operated successfully; while others have said it has not been a success at all, mainly because, even with the totes, a certain amount of illegal S.P. betting takes place over the telephone and in different parts of the country.

I believe that if the tote system is introduced in Western Australia we will have the position which obtains at many country meetings at the moment, where most people who place a bet on the totalisator bet on the one horse. Because of that, the people who have invested 5s. on a certain horse for a place find that their return is only 3s. 6d., if the horse runs a place; therefore they lose 1s. 6d. on their investment, even though they have virtually backed a winner.

If this off-course tote system is to be introduced, I think it would be fairer to the public if some section were placed in the Act to ensure that if a person cannot win when he places a bet, at least he should not be able to lose. We often find that the tote dividend is under 5s; and if what I have suggested is not done, when the totes are introduced in the closer metropolitan area and a glamour horse such as Aquinita, or Queen of the May—which is a very popular horse with Western Australian racing fans—is running, the bulk of the money will be invested on that horse; and, as the administrators must take out their 13 or 14 per cent., or whatever it is, we will find people getting a dividend of 3s. if the horse runs a place.

I am sure that the Treasury and the Premier will find that at least for the first two or three years after totalisators are introduced the revenue to the Government will not be as great as it is at present; and I am sure that the Treasury wants every pound that can be placed into its coffers, because that department has many calls upon it. Therefore I sincerely hope that the Premier has looked into all these aspects—no doubt he has done so—before making a final judgment on the matter.

The racing industry in Western Australia wants some assistance, and I hope it will get that assistance if the off-course totalisator system is introduced; so that, in time, people who used to attend our courses will go back there again. Personally, I do not think S.P. betting has been the principal cause of the falling attendances at the racecourses. I believe that the popularity of bowls has had a big effect; because, over the last 10 years, the number of people playing bowls has trebled, especially in the 40 to 60 age group. At one time many of those people would have attended the racecourses; and I believe that added interest in this sport has had a considerable effect on the patronage of the racecourses.

Also, I venture to suggest that four or five years ago many young people attended the racecourses; but the introduction of many new sports, and the fact that those sports are organised on a much better basis, has taken many young people away from the courses, and we find that they spend their weekends playing sport, which is a good thing. Therefore, whatever is done to try to help the racing

clubs to regain their lost revenue will meet with difficulty, because the sport of kings, as it is called throughout the world, is declining year by year—at least in Western Australia and Australia generally. However, I would not like to see it disappear altogether—even though that might save me a pound or two from time to time—because it employs thousands of people throughout Australia.

If those people were suddenly thrust upon Governments and the community, and had to be found employment, it would make things difficult. I have nothing more to say on this debate; no doubt I could have moved—and I gave it some thought—another amendment; but I am sure the Premier would not be very happy if I did.

MR. I. W. MANNING (Harvey) [5.55]: I desire to take this opportunity of making a few comments.

Mr. Brady: You are not going to move an amendment, are you?

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I have no intention of moving an amendment; but I am concerned at the need to keep a very close watch on the trends in the livestock industry. With that in view, I asked the Minister for Agriculture a question the other evening as to the slaughtering rate of livestock. The statistics he gave in reply to the question indicated that there is no need for immediate concern about the slaughtering rate. Therefore I feel that our concern should be directed to the production of livestock for slaughtering.

The statistics available to us indicate, too, that the consumption rate of meat per head of population is increasing, not only in Australia but also in those countries to which we are exporting meat and meat products; namely, America and those Asian countries near to us. Over the last two years in particular, the American market has been a wonderful boon to the livestock industry and the cattle industry in particular. To those markets has gone what we term the third-class meat—that is, the older type of animal, reject dairy cows, and the older type of beef cattle. The meat is boned and packaged and sold in America mainly as hamburger steaks and the like.

The export of that type of meat has to some extent been reflected in the price of meat on our local market, and has also had an effect on the quality of the meat coming on to the local market and into the local retail shops. Today, the Western Australian consumer has available to him mainly top-class meat—very choice meat—because the local wholesaler, in purchasing stock, has not been able to compete with the exporter for the third-class meat as used to be the case. In previous years the local wholesaler, in purchasing his requirements, bought some good quality and some poorer quality

meat, and a person could go into a butcher's shop and buy dear meat or cheap meat. Now, of course, largely only the dear meat is available; and I suppose that position has been reflected in the recent adjustment to the basic wage, the price of beef having been one of the factors which influenced an increase in the basic wage.

I do not know whether the court took into consideration the fact that consumers today, although they are paying more, are buying a much higher quality product for their money. On going into butchers' shops it seems to me that most of the basic wage earners are buying a choice cut of meat; they do not seem at all interested in the cheaper cuts.

Mr. Brady: Do you think the farmers would be better off if they sold their meat on a weight-and-grade basis?

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I do not think there would be a great deal of support for that; I think a farmer would have difficulty in determining what was a fair price on a weight-and-grade basis. The law of supply and demand today determines what is a fair price. If we were to attempt to fix a fair price on a weight-and-grade basis, unless we took into consideration the availability of the supply, or the demand for the product, I do not know how we would arrive at a fair price. There would be great difficulty. I would not offer any support for that.

Mr. Nalder: The farmers have that opportunity if they wish to avail themselves of it. Arrangements are made at one of the markets in Perth for them to do that.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I understood the member for Guildford-Midland to refer to the general open sale yards. But, as the Minister has pointed out, the opportunity to sell on the weight-and-grade basis is available.

I also wish to comment on the fluctuations in the price of stock, and relate them to the recent effect on the basic wage. On studying the statistics available over the last twelve months, I find there has not been a very great variation in the price, bearing in mind the annual fluctuations.

Mr. Graham called attention to the state of the House.

Bells rung and a quorum formed.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: The fluctuations apparent in the price of meat are occasioned by the periods of the year in which the supply is plentiful; and those periods when the stock are in short supply. The difficult months in which to fatten stock and have it ready for market are April, May, June, and July. Statistics indicate that in those months livestock is at a high price; and that in the other months—which are the flush months of the

season—namely, August, September, October, November, December, January, February, and March—the price of livestock falls on the market.

The only sharp increase in the price of livestock for the flush period last year, and the lean period of this year against that of last year, is shown in the price of baby beef. This, of course, is the very choicest of meat; and it is interesting to note that the only real increase over the period has been for this type of livestock. So I would say again that this ties up with the fact that the Western Australian consumer is able to buy, and is buying, a much higher quality of meat than in the past. In this context we must take into consideration the influence on the basic wage.

I think we should be very concerned about the production of livestock to meet the growing demand; because if this year is any indication, it shows that if stock are in short supply in future it must create an increase in the price. Accordingly, any encouragement in the production of livestock that can be given should be given very readily to that industry.

One of the big contributing factors, of course, is the availability of additional land for selection. In this respect, I am very pleased to note that the Government has made available, over the past 12 months, some 1,500,000 acres. There is also the decision to build another weir for the irrigation districts. This will also contribute greatly to the increase in the production of livestock for slaughter in particular.

It will also serve the milk-producing area, of course; and within that area is one of the most important of the beef-producing areas. So as I have said, this is a great help and encouragement in the production of meat. Another point that the Government should not overlook is that of drainage; because it has been pointed out to the Government that there are a number of areas which could be effectively drained, and which could also contribute towards the increase in production of beef cattle in particular. Another way to encourage beef production is to encourage country killing centres.

There are two such centres in my electorate, one of which is at Waroona; and the other, at Harvey. The former is run by the Waroona Abattoirs, and the latter by E. G. Green & Sons. These centres have played a very important part in the development of the district. Their ready availability in the areas of production has, in my view, encouraged the people to produce more. In establishing their works and stepping up their production, the Waroona Abattoirs came into being at a time when Nestle's were retracting their activities in the manufacture of milk products. The Waroona Abattoirs stepped into the breach and provided work for a

number of men who might otherwise have been out of employment. Had this eventuated, of course, it would have proved a definite setback to the district. The killing centre at Harvey employs about 35 men, and that is a great contribution to the district.

Mr. May: Do they cart their meat by road?

Mr. I. W. MANNING: Yes. They both have various points of distribution and their meat is taken away by road transport. Both of those firms deliver along the way to Perth, and both have receiving depots in the metropolitan area, from which the meat is distributed to their customers. The two firms in question are using Robb Jetty as one of their metropolitan centres. I would stress, however, that we should be concerned about the production of livestock for slaughter; and the Government should, at all times, keep a watchful eye on what can be done to encourage this production. If that is not done, in the very near future we will find that production is not keeping up with demand. I am sure that none of us would like to see the loss of overseas markets. We must do all in our power to hold those markets; and, indeed, extend them.

The export market is contributing in no small way to the livestock industry, but we must match our production with our rapidly increasing population, together with the expanding market we have in Western Australia itself. Accordingly, all encouragement that could be given to this industry would be well justified.

I will now turn to the subject of native welfare. I notice that the policy of the Minister and the department today is to encourage native parents to look after their children themselves, rather than place them in the care of mission stations, as has been the practice over recent years. This has been done over quite a period of years, but to a greater extent in more recent times. The departmental policy—no doubt inspired by the Minister—is to encourage family life among the natives; and I believe that is a very good thing. In doing that, however, I think the department should keep a very close eye on what is to be the future of the mission stations. I suggest we might use these mission stations in the same manner as the white population uses boarding schools.

Mr. May: We should have a few more like the one at Roelands.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I agree. In such an institution we could cater for the older child. The senior pupils from Roelands are attending the Harvey Agricultural Junior High School at present, and they are holding their own with the white children of Harvey in the classroom and, more particularly, in the field of sport.

Mr. May: Whoever runs that mission deserves all credit.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: That is also a fact. I hope the department, in its present policy, will not completely overlook the value of the mission stations. While the department is trying to foster family life among the natives it could, as the children grow up, place them in the mission stations and use the missions more or less as secondary schools. The missions would give them extra citizenship training; and when the children were ready to leave school—and this is particularly so with Roelands—they could act as an employment agency for them. At Roelands the children are raised to the highest standard that is possible, both from the point of view of citizenship, and educationally. In addition, that mission does all in its power to find those young people employment. I think it would be much easier for the missions to find employment for the children than it would for the parents of those children. I would therefore urge the Minister to have a closer look at that.

I now come to the question of the Tourist Development Authority. I am very pleased that the director has been so active in travelling throughout the length and breadth of the State, inspecting areas recommended by the local authorities, with a view to providing some assistance from the Tourist Development Authority. I would ask members to consider the tourist question from the point of view of themselves visiting other States.

On my visit to the Eastern States recently, I went to South Australia; and I put in a day motoring to Renmark and back. I went by one road and returned by another. We drew into Renmark, filled the car up with petrol, drove around, spent a pound or two, and returned again to Adelaide. That is the sort of thing we would like tourists to do in this State—to travel through the country visiting areas in which they are interested. We would like them to visit our beauty spots, and our towns, and spend some of their money on lunch, afternoon tea, and the like.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: Prior to the suspension I was pointing out how desirable it was to encourage tourists to come here to spend their money, thus boosting the progress of the State. I was also saying how important it was to provide attractive spots accessible by good roads, to encourage tourists.

Mr. Nulsen: The roads would help to reduce our own isolation as well.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: Yes. In comparing Western Australia with the Eastern States I found that tourists over there are encouraged to make long trips to various places. There are also shops at the beauty spots, in which the tourists are able to spend their money, thus assisting the development of the State and country in

general. If we adopted the same approach here, our tourist industry would be greatly benefited. I am pleased that the local director has been active, inasmuch as he has been getting around and having a look at the different spots and interviewing the local authorities to find out what places they think would be of interest to tourists.

I want to say how surprised I am at the attitude of the Opposition in regard to the question of parliamentary pairs. I view with concern the situation which could arise as a result of its attitude.

Mr. Tonkin: The remedy is simple.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: In the mind of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition it may be simple.

Mr. Tonkin: You have to carry out the law.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: But to me it is an indication of an attempt by the minority to rule the State.

Mr. Tonkin: Don't you want to carry out the law?

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I object; and this is the point I am trying to make.

Mr. Tonkin: You object to carrying out the law.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. I. W. MANNING: It is wrong for the minority group in a Parliament to try to force its will on the people by adopting the method of placing the Government in difficulties and endeavouring to restrict the activities of Cabinet members in particular.

Mr. Tonkin: Why not deal with the propriety of giving assurances and keeping them?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. Tonkin: Surely that amounts to something.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I do not want to enter into that kind of argument—

Mr. Tonkin: I should think not.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. I. W. MANNING: —because I see that nothing would be achieved by doing so. However, I want to make this point clear: The pairing of members over the years has become an accepted practice so that—

Mr. Tonkin: Who told you that fiction?

Mr. I. W. MANNING: —the majority party or parties elected by the people may be in a position to continue governing.

Mr. Tonkin: Have you ever heard of the Mitchell-Latham Government?

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I have heard of it all right; but I am going to say—

Mr. Tonkin: Do you know it denied pairs?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I am going to say that the action on this occasion must be unprecedented in the history of the Parliament. A complete blanket has been placed on the granting of pairs.

Mr. Tonkin: Until you carry out the law.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: That might be the excuse of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and of the Opposition.

Mr. Tonkin: Excuse!

Mr. I. W. MANNING: But the purpose behind it—

Mr. Tonkin: What are you talking about? You know nothing about it.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: The purpose behind it, as I see it, is an attempt on the part of the minority party to force its will on the Government, and an attempt to take the Government of the State out of the hands of the majority party.

Mr. Tonkin: Apparently it is a terrible crime to ask the Government to carry out the law!

MR. NIMMO (Wembley Beaches) [7.35]: There are one or two matters about which I would like to speak during this debate, the first being housing. I can see that the Government will have a problem on its hands in the very near future. At present there are quite a number of houses which sooner or later the Government will have to discount. I am not blaming any Government for that, because over the years it has been the policy of most Governments to try to have as many houses built as possible.

To make my point clear, I would say that in my district we had a number of brick homes built, the value of which has increased. We also have homes which have been built on stilts, being made of weatherboard and asbestos; and these are not valued correctly. Then we have the modern homes which are being built today, and these will retain their value. Later on I would like this House—no matter what political party be in power—to appoint a committee of members from all parties to go into this problem.

I can remember that in 1920, when in Tasmania, I was on a committee connected with housing. At that time the majority of homes being built were for war servicemen, and the committee recommended that the houses be discounted to bring them into line. I do hope that in the very near future something of the sort may be done here to rectify the situation. It is our policy to try to encourage everyone to own his home; but under the present set-up there are quite a number of houses today which I am afraid would not be purchased because of their high value.

The second matter with which I wish to deal is in connection with milk bottles. I think every member representing metropolitan electorates will agree with me when I say that there are too many broken milk bottles around the metropolitan area. I checked one part of my district three months ago. There was a great heap of bottles which were all in good order; but now they are all broken. This was done either by children or by irresponsible adults. This situation applies not only in my own district, but in all districts. There are too many milk bottles around.

Some time ago in this House I suggested that there should be a charge on the bottles similar to that on cordial bottles. I do not say that it should be as much as on the latter; but even if $\frac{1}{2}$ d. were charged per bottle, I am sure there would be very few bottles left to be broken. I would like to stress this point, and hope that the Minister can find some ways and means of rectifying the position.

A further subject with which I would like to deal briefly is that of the Perth Railway Station. In 1947, when I first came to this Parliament, I suggested the removal of that station. With the modern transport which we have at our disposal today, I believe that station could be placed in one of the suburbs. In no other State of Australia do we find that the station is in the centre of the city, and I think that the present position of the Perth Railway Station is hindering the growth of our city.

In 1947 I stated that in time to come our population would have increased to 1,000,000. At that time I received letters from people stating that they would regret the day when Perth had such a large population. However, the facts have to be faced. If we want to improve our city we will have to remove the Perth Railway Station. The thought may enter members' minds that the cost would be too large. We know that it will be a great expense; but the time is coming when we will have to do something about it. As I mentioned in 1947, the railway could go underground, especially if it were electrified. If this were done, we would find that our city would grow as it should do, instead of extending east and west as at present. A long, narrow city is no good to any State; and if the railway station were removed, expansion could take place to the north. It would also be possible for the flow of traffic to be easier and greater, which would be a further big improvement.

Another problem facing us in the city today is that of transport and parking. Imagine the situation in 10 or 15 years' time if some alteration is not made! It has been mentioned that streets like Hay Street should not be provided with parking bays at all. I found when travelling around the different States that all the

small streets had parking meters. I do not know whether that is done to try to derive more revenue; it is not done in Melbourne.

The member for Eyre has mentioned the subject of splitting the State of Western Australia in two. I think that in a short time we will have to consider some ways and means of doing that; because 1,000,000 square miles is far too big an area for one State to administer. If the State were split into three parts, we would then have competition the same as Victoria and New South Wales have. If we want to make progress, we will have to do something along those lines. Perhaps we do not like the idea of our State being split up, but I am afraid that sooner or later we will have to do that.

I noticed in *The West Australian* of Monday, the 2nd May, there was a plan of the East-West Road, and some comments by a Mr. Wicken. This gentleman happens to live in my district, and I made a point of having a talk with him. He believes that a new road should be built along the coast from Eucla. I can remember flying to the Eastern States and seeing a big area near Eucla where there were cliffs. The road could go from Eucla along the coast to Esperance.

I have never had the good fortune to visit Esperance, but I understand from people who have been there that for miles around Esperance there are marvellous beaches and good fishing. These features would be great attractions to tourists. From Esperance the road would go to Perth. Checking on the mileage, I find that a Eucla-Esperance road would be 480 miles; and a Eucla-Albany road would be 800 miles. A Eucla-Esperance-Northam road would be 580 miles. From Eucla to Perth, through Esperance, it would be 930 miles.

Mr. W. Hegney: You meant Norseman, not Northam, I think.

Mr. NIMMO: Yes, that is so. People travelling along such a road would be able to visit our southern ports between Eucla and Albany, and then they would be able to go to Bunbury and on to Perth. On the return trip they could go to Kalgoorlie, down through Norseman to Esperance, and then across to Eucla.

Mr. Brand: What does the member for Albany think of that?

Mr. Hall: A nice, coastal strip.

Mr. Bickerton: Has the member for Wembley Beaches any idea what the tourists would be worth to the State?

Mr. NIMMO: On my last trip to Tasmania, I toured the whole of the island; and I think we could learn something from Tasmania. A tourist to Tasmania can go to the Tourist Bureau and hire a car with a driver to take him around Tasmania for seven days, ten days, or whatever period he wishes. We found that the tourists to

Tasmania were keen on travelling three or four in a car rather than in the big buses. On our tour, with another Western Australian and his wife, we asked quite a number of people whether they would be prepared to come to Western Australia if there were a road from the East to the West. Most of them said that they would.

A steamer runs from Melbourne to one of the northern ports of Tasmania; and the tourist trade is getting so big that another ship has been ordered. At the present time if a person wanted to book a passage on the boat in January or February of next year, he would be lucky to get his car on board. If we had a road running along the edge of the Great Australian Bight to Esperance, and then along the southern coast of Western Australia, we would get a lot of tourists.

I have heard members on the other side ask: What value is this trade to us? Members have only to talk to the ex-Premier of Tasmania (Mr. Cosgrove), who was a Labor member, to know what the tourist trade means to that State. The tourist trade benefits Tasmania to a large extent.

Mr. Bickerton: How much is it worth?

Mr. NIMMO: In Tasmania, the tourist authority, in order to relieve the burden of expense on the tourists, registers a number of private houses to which tourists can go for board and lodging. A person who has a couple of spare bedrooms can register his home with the Tourist Bureau, and a tourist can stay at his place and be given bed and breakfast. As a result, people do not have to pay the high cost involved when staying at hotels. I am sure that in Western Australia we have just as good scenery as there is in any other part of the Commonwealth.

Mr. Rhatigan: Particularly in the North of Western Australia.

Mr. NIMMO: We have a climate equal to that in any other part of Australia; and our beaches are equal to those in any other part of the world. The climate in the northern part of Western Australia is similar to that in Queensland, and if we could attract people to the north of the State, we would be doing a good job for Western Australia.

Mr. Bickerton: You would want a bitumen highway for that.

Mr. NIMMO: There is nothing to stop us from battling for it.

Mr. Bickerton: It would cost about £5,500,000 to construct a highway to where I think it should go.

Mr. Brand: One step at a time.

Mr. NIMMO: I wish now to mention King's Park. Last year Parliament turned down a proposal for a pool in King's Park; but I am hopeful that something will be done with the park.

Mr. Brand: We have lost our opportunity to do something there.

Mr. NIMMO: We could fence in quite a few acres where we could have some animals—kangaroos, etc. Then I would like to see some acres of land cleared, and lawns and gardens planted there so as to make King's Park a place of which to be proud.

Mr. Brand: You cannot touch it.

Mr. Bickerton: You would be against touching King's Park.

Mr. NIMMO: Many of us voted against the pool in the park. In reference to our beaches, the other night a gentleman on TV spoke about them, but he did not pass very good remarks about them. Improvements to our beaches will take a lot of money. In Western Australia we have a population of about 700,000 people, and we cannot expect to get everything done at once. It will take a lot of time for us to bring our beaches up to the standard of the beaches in those parts where the population runs into several millions.

I have been trying to get the Minister to approve the idea of giving us a pool at Trigg Island. The president of the Surf Life Saving Club (Tony Martin) brought up the idea of establishing a pool. I checked with the children in my district, and I found that when the children in the Scarborough area were taken for a swim, it took roughly two hours, and they had actually only a quarter of an hour in the water. If a pool were built at Trigg Island, I am sure that all the schools in my area would use it; and it would save a lot of time in connection with transport. There are somewhere in the vicinity of 6,000 children attending schools in my electorate; and during the summer holidays, if anybody travels from Trigg Island to Marmion Beach he will find all the pools along the shore black with children.

From a health point of view, this part of the beach is excellent for spastic children because—so the authorities tell me—it is the light ripple on the water that is of great benefit to the children. I do not think there is anything else I wish to say at the moment.

MR. CRAIG (Toodyay) [7.53]: Even at this late stage of the debate I would like to take the opportunity of contributing a few remarks, particularly as they affect my electorate. I join with the previous speakers in extending congratulations to the new member for South Fremantle. I trust that his experiences in his first session will be as enjoyable as mine were. He might have felt nonplussed on occasions to hear the invective hurled across the Chamber, but he will realise in time, if he has not done so already, that each and every one of the members on this side of the House is only too willing to give him whatever assistance he may require in the

same manner as I and others on this side of the Chamber, when we were new members, received help from members opposite.

I congratulate the member for Canning on the manner in which he moved the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply; and I endorse the congratulations he extended to the Government. I feel that the members of the Government have done an excellent job during the comparatively short time that they have been in office; and I wish them well for the future. They are assured, of course, of having the support of all the members on this side of the House. Self-praise is no recommendation but I have yet to hear anybody on the opposite side express one word of thanks to the Government for any work carried out in their electorates during the last 12 months.

Nr. Nalder: They are screaming out for other things, though.

Mr. CRAIG: Perhaps I had better deal with something more palatable: the products of the vine, which interest me greatly. In fact, the whole of our vineyard products come from my electorate. We are indeed fortunate in the products of the vine, inasmuch as they are of such a standard that they can compare with anything else produced in Australia; or, for that matter, in the world. Also, our dried fruits command a premium overseas above the dried fruits produced in the Eastern States.

We have been fortunate in being able to build up quite a valuable market in Canada; and, even now, we are in the process of shipping 600 tons to that country. With the direct shipping line that now operates from Fremantle, the possibility of that trade being extended seems very favourable indeed. Singapore is the main consumer of our fresh export grapes, and the potentialities of that market are increasing because of the embargo—more or less—that has been placed on the South African fruit.

In regard to wines, we can produce a product in Western Australia that is equal to any wine produced anywhere else in the world. This applies particularly to light wines. This State produces about 700,000 gallons of wine, which is insufficient to meet our own requirements, with the result that we have to import a similar quantity from the Eastern States to meet the demand. The quality of those wines has been commented upon by the people in those countries who are anxious to obtain them. It is unfortunate that we are not in a position to avail ourselves of those markets, not only in regard to the production of wine and dried fruits, but also in regard to the export of fresh grapes.

It might be said that the answer is in the growers' own hands. The question can be asked: Why do they not produce more for export? That, of course, is their principal aim. Unfortunately, their efforts are

frustrated by the lack of water for irrigation purposes. In the Murray Valley area it has been proved that, with irrigation, the fruit crops can be more or less raised to a standard where they provide three or four times the tonnage per acre that is obtained in Western Australia at the moment. Representations were made to the Minister last year to put down a bore on the research station at Upper Swan.

Those engaged in the industry were so anxious to obtain an investigation into the prospects of finding greater supplies of water that they contributed £1,000 towards the cost of such a survey. The results of the bore have been highly successful, to the extent that good water is obtained at 250 ft. at a rate of 25,000 gallons per hour. Heartened by the success of the research station bore, many growers in the area have put down bores on their own properties at their own expense, with varying results.

To quote actual cases, it has been found that one vigneron has put down a bore not a mile distant from the research station; but only salt water was obtained, despite the fact that the bore went down to 600 feet. Another bore was put down on a property which was only three-quarters of a mile from the research station, and ample supplies of good water were obtained at 90 feet. Other bores, within a radius of three-quarters of a mile from the research station, have been put down at varying depths of 90 to 600 ft.; but each grower who puts down such a bore is more or less gambling on the result. He commits himself to quite considerable expense in trying to obtain this essential water. The prospect of success is a pure gamble; and if he is unsuccessful, he has to meet the cost of sinking the bore, which he can ill afford, particularly in view of the fact that most growers have suffered detrimental effects from bad weather conditions experienced during the past three seasons.

I am anxious to see the Government provide a boring plant similar to that which is in use for the discovery of water. I believe the Mines Department operates two boring plants at the moment. However, I am of the opinion that they are subject to too much political pull as to which districts they are sent to; and I am sure there are many members, apart from myself, who would like to see similar bores operating in their own electorates. I therefore suggest that the Government give serious consideration to acquiring one or more test-boring units capable of putting down a test bore to a depth of approximately 350 ft. One of these units could put down several bores in a matter of a few days.

If that were done, a grower, from the information collated from the results of such a test-boring unit, would have a fair idea of knowing whether he would be successful if he went to the expense and

trouble of putting down a bore on his own property. Therefore I hope the Government will give some serious consideration to my suggestion, because I know that a unit such as I have mentioned is manufactured in Western Australia, and the cost of it would not be more than £2,500. In fact, such units are being manufactured in this State for the Queensland Government for the very purpose for which I am asking the Government to make them available to growers in this State.

Only yesterday I noticed in the Press an article which stated that the Commonwealth Government is providing something like £300,000 for subsidies to the oil-drilling companies to assist them in their exploratory work. I quite agree that the drilling for oil is also a gamble; but I feel that the possibility of success in searching for water with the hope of good results and ultimate benefits to the growers would be greater if some effort could be made towards meeting the comparatively small cost that would be necessary to provide a test-boring unit. In my electorate there is practically no scheme water provided whatsoever.

Mr. Norton: Perhaps Mr. Furphy could assist you if he ever came to your district.

Mr. CRAIG: The remarks I have just expressed could be applied with equal force to the citrus-growing areas of Bindoon and Chittering Valley. The growers of citrus fruits in those parts are entirely at the mercy of the elements. The last season and the season before that, the provision of greater water supplies would have considerably enhanced their prospects of a successful and bountiful harvest.

Another matter I would like to refer to is the question of development of new areas by settlers. This has been referred to by the member for Narrogin, but I would like to develop that theme a little further. Many settlers have acquired land in new areas; and, through their initiative and confidence in their own ability, they have endeavoured to do something for themselves and their State. In doing that, they have had to borrow money from the bank; and they improve their properties to such a stage that further capital is required before the land can be brought to a state of production. However, their own banks are not in a position to advance them further money; and with the establishment of the Commonwealth Bank they felt, at the time, that there was an opportunity for them to obtain further money to improve their properties.

The policy of the Commonwealth Bank however, is against granting such assistance to a settler who already has a mortgage on his property; but if he has a clear title to his land, he is eligible to obtain such assistance. I consider that the bank should change its policy in that regard; and, as a result of a question I asked a week ago, the Minister for Lands

informed me that a case was being prepared by the State Government to place before the Commonwealth Bank requesting that it review its policy in regard to granting assistance to those settlers to whom I have referred. I trust the Government's efforts in this regard will be successful.

I am grateful to the Minister for Education for the sympathetic attitude he has shown towards the many requests I have submitted to him for the restoration of school-bus services, and also for the additional classrooms that have been added to some of the schools in my electorate. I also thank him for the satisfactory arrangements that have been made for the installation of septic tanks in certain schools. However, I would like to point out to the Minister that the Bullsbrook Junior High School, which is a very nice building, requires some attention. Unfortunately, it lacks any change-room facilities for the students.

It is not a very appealing sight to see all the children of that school on a sports day having to change out in the open, in the classrooms, or in the passage-ways. No doubt the Minister has it in mind to provide a change room for that school in the not very distant future. However, as such construction will be of brick, to conform with the existing building, the work will probably not be done for some time. In the meantime, the expenditure of £100 or £200 to provide a temporary galvanised iron building to serve as a suitable change room seems warranted.

In the whole of my electorate, the Parkerville School is definitely the one that is quite unsatisfactory. Admittedly, it is proposed to build a new school at Parkerville; and I appeal to the Minister, if it is at all possible, to provide an amount on the Estimates for the building of that new school this financial year. If that is not possible, I would like to see some improvements made to the existing building. The lighting in the school is very poor, and the building generally is in a bad state of repair.

That is all I wish to say for the moment; and I take the opportunity of thanking the Premier and his Ministers for the sympathetic consideration they have shown to me when I have referred to them various matters concerning my electorate since I have been the member for Toodyay.

MR. W. HEGNEY (Mt. Hawthorn) [8.11]: It was not my intention to speak on the Address-in-Reply until the member for Toodyay, in his opening remarks, made a definite statement about the work that has been done by his Government. He supported the remarks made, on opening day, by the member for Canning. Both members eulogised the performance and the efforts of the Government and indicated that no member of the Opposition had thanked the Government for what it

had done for members on this side of the House. I wish to tell the member for Toodyay and other members of the Government that when I find justification to thank the Government for what it has done for the people in my electorate I will be very enthusiastic when offering my thanks.

Mr. Mann: You will never do that!

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Until such time as that occurs, I propose to exercise my prerogative on behalf of a section of the people in the metropolitan area—and I speak for a large number of people in the metropolitan area of this State—to protest against what this Government has done since the ill-fated day of the 21st March, 1959.

Mr. Craig: It has done a good job.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I can quite understand the inexperienced member for Canning and the more inexperienced member for Toodyay thanking the Government for its little hand-outs here and there. I have said previously—and I repeat it again now—that the ministerial personnel representing the Country Party have sandbagged the private members of the Country Party. Also, the Liberal Ministers in this coalition Government have quietened the private members of the Liberal Party. That is the reason why any member on the other side of the House, offers only a word of thanks to the Government in a humble way and then resumes his seat.

With all due respect to you, Mr. Speaker, you have suggested that in regard to the three amendments which have been moved to the Address-in-Reply, and on which I have spoken, I was out of order on one or two occasions in making references to ministerial statements. However, I say that I am in order in making those references on this occasion; because I understand that, on the Address-in-Reply debate, one can speak on a variety of subjects.

I propose first of all to speak on a subject which is of far-reaching importance, and I consider that the opportunity on every occasion should be taken by members—at least by those on this side of the House, if not on the Government side—to let the people of Western Australia know that the Deputy Premier, on behalf of his Government, has broken a solemn promise in regard to a proclamation that was cancelled some time ago.

Mr. Norton: Hear, hear!

Mr. W. HEGNEY: This matter has been mentioned on a number of occasions during this session. I repeat that the Deputy Premier has broken a solemn promise he made in this House, in which he was supported by the Minister for Railways, to the effect that if the Bill for the adjustment of electoral boundaries was not passed, the law would necessarily take its course. Now we have the Deputy

Premier sidestepping the issue and coming out with the statement that the promise to carry out the law meant nothing. A promise made by a responsible Minister should be serious and should mean something.

Private members who support the Government should read the appropriate passages in the speech of the Deputy Premier and ask themselves whether the promise he made has been fulfilled. The question of redistribution of seats is beside the point. The promise of the Deputy Premier should mean something, and it is appropriate for me to draw attention to the matter on this occasion.

The Bill which was introduced was certainly loaded in favour of the Country Party. It is remarkable to me that men with the intelligence of the Minister for Railways, not to mention the Minister for Works, should allow such a Bill to be introduced into this Parliament. It has not been reintroduced since. The Liberal section of the Government would not countenance the reintroduction of it.

I now want to refer to the replies given by the Minister for Works last evening to a series of questions I asked relating to water rates. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who held the portfolio of the Minister for Works for some years, made reference to the altered method of rating and the additional revenue which would be received as a result of the action taken by the Government. The Minister sidestepped the issue and did not explain to the people of this State, as he was obliged to, the reasons which prompted the very steep increases in water rates and the valuations on which those rates were calculated.

The people of Mt. Hawthorn are being subjected to very steep increases in water rates. In the first instance their rates will be increased by 25 per cent. on last year's rate; furthermore, they will be obliged to pay those rates based on the progressive increased valuations of their properties. The Minister brushed aside that issue and said it was necessary for the Government to have increased revenue. He said the estimated additional revenue was £383,000. I suggest it is not extravagant to say the amount will be nearer £450,000.

The Minister made out that the department was operating under a substantial deficit, but it was shown that the department had a surplus in its operations. The department will not require the substantial increased water rates, so the Government must intend to do something else with the additional revenue. Will the Government apply part of that revenue to meet the losses for operating the reopened railway services? Will it use some of the money to subsidise Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd. to the extent of £300,000 over a number of years to the

maximum of £2,000,000; or will it use part of the money to pay private architects for preparing plans of Government buildings, when Government architects are available to do the job?

Yesterday I asked a question of the Minister in regard to the number of apprentices in the Public Works Department, and the figures were supplied by him. My question was—

What number of employees was engaged by the Architectural Division of the Public Works Department on—

- (a) the 2nd April, 1959;
- (b) the 15th August, 1960?

His reply was—

The number of employees engaged by the Architectural Division of the Public Works on—

- (a) 2nd April, 1959—1,906.
- (b) 15th August, 1960—836.

There is a decline of 1,100 in the number of employees during the short term of office of this Government. Yet the member for Toodyay, in conjunction with the member for Canning, said that members on this side of the House have to thank the Government for its action! These workers who have been sacked do not thank the Government. I have no doubt that if the Government is to continue with its present policy, then on the 15th August, 1961, there will be closer to 36 employees left, rather than the 836 now employed there.

I am also interested in the apprenticeship position. The policy of the Government will reduce the number of apprentices being trained in Western Australia, and a very important avenue for boys to learn trades after they leave school is being closed. The figures given in reply to a question I asked the Minister for Works will illustrate my point. I asked him—

What was the total number of apprentices in the State who commenced apprenticeships in 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960?

His answer was—

The total number of apprentices in the State who commenced apprenticeships was—

1957	....	....	....	1,195
1958	....	....	....	1,133
1959	....	....	....	1,257
1960 (to date)	....	....	....	987

There is a decline of nearly 300 in the total number of apprentices in this State. As time goes on, under the present policy of the Government there will be fewer apprentices being trained in this State.

I asked the Minister a further question as follows:—

What was the number of apprentices who commenced apprenticeships in each of above years in—

Architectural Division, Public Works Department;

His reply was—

New apprenticeships—

Architectural Division, P.W.D.:
1957, 5; 1958, 43; 1959, 22; 1960 (to date), nil.

It has been recognised that the Public Works Department is an important avenue for the training of apprentices. The figures which I have just read are self-explanatory.

In the State Engineering Works, according to the Minister's reply, there were 11 apprentices in 1958, eight apprentices in 1959, and five in 1960. One can justifiably assume that under the existing policy of the Government, which aims at ringbarking the State Engineering Works prior to its disposal, there will not be any apprentices engaged in these works.

Again, according to his reply, at the Midland Junction Workshops in 1958 there were 74 apprentices, in 1959 there were 85, and in 1960 there were 57. I chose these three main undertakings, because a large number of apprentices have been trained as highly skilled tradesmen in those establishments over many years. It is a matter of concern to me, and indeed to all who are interested with the welfare of the youth of this State, that the Government's policy will close up avenues which enabled boys to become trained as craftsmen. Yet the member for Toodyay and the member for Canning obsequiously thanked the Government for what it has done. I do not feel disposed to thank the Government for what it has done; on the contrary, I feel that vigorous opposition should be voiced on behalf of the people of this State against the attitude adopted by the Government.

Am I, as the parliamentary representative of Mt. Hawthorn, to thank this Government for what it did last year, when it used its numbers in this House to put through a Bill which levied a sectional tax on the people of the metropolis? I refer to the metropolitan region improvement tax. The Minister indicated that approximately £130,000 would be received from this tax. In actual fact, as illustrated in a reply to a question asked by a member on this side, the Premier said £210,000 has been received. That was the extent of the sectional tax levied by this Government on the people of the metropolis, and we are expected to thank the Government for it!

The Government has been the agency for increasing bus fares. Here we have the spectacle of an organisation running the bus service in Fremantle being taken over as from Wednesday next, and of the Government increasing fares as from Thursday next. Last year railway fares were increased, and the people of the metropolis are to pay further increases shortly. Am I to thank the Government for having

increased the railway fares? The Minister for Transport on more than one occasion said the increase was only slight and infinitesimal. It may be so to the Minister or to his colleagues on the front bench, but not to the common wage-earner of the metropolis who has to raise a family, pay rental, and meet his everyday commitments. Thank the Government! I could thank the Government if such impositions were justified, but I am certainly not thanking this Government for what it is doing. To my way of thinking its actions are detrimental to the people I represent.

I turn to another increase brought about by this Government. There has been a substantial increase in the tax on motor vehicle licenses. The Minister for Transport, in order to get the Bill through Parliament, said, "We must face up to this to obtain the matching money." On more than one occasion he said the Government had to do that.

Mr. Perkins: It was a legacy from your Government.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The Minister said that we will have to face up to this because of the matching money, but in the next stroke of the pen he increased motor drivers' licenses.

Mr. J. Hegney: By 100 per cent.

Mr. Roberts: Didn't your Government increase it by 100 per cent.?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I shall not refer to the other taxes except to say that stamp duty and some other forms of taxation were introduced by this Government.

Mr. Brand: We have a long way to go to compare with the list of taxes imposed by your Government.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The honourable member may make Brand statements from day to day, but there is nothing in them; they are just like those of the Minister on his left. From day to day we read statements emanating from the Premier, who seems to be obsessed with tourism and totalisators. He is the one who initiates the taxes. Beside him there is the Minister for Railways.

Mr. Brand: He is a fine fellow.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I agree that he is a fine fellow, affable, and a man of high intellect. That is why it is all the more surprising—I am not suggesting he is all ivory from the shoulders upwards—that he should indulge in the publicity in which he has been participating since he took office. There is always something that is going to happen in 1966, in 1970, or some other time. I will give an instance of the effect of this propaganda. Some say it is "impropaganda." The last Legislative Council elections were an indication of what the people think of this Government's publicity. I am referring to the people in the North-West and in other areas. That is the best indication of what people are thinking.

Mr. J. Hegney: In the Suburban Province, too.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Yes, and other provinces. I think the Government thought it would win the North-West Legislative Council seat.

The Minister for Labour, who holds a most important portfolio, would have us believe that he is acting in the interests of the people. However, there has been a continual increase in the price of essential commodities since this Government took office. There have been increases in the prices of sugar, meat, and bread. I reiterate that bread is the staple diet of the ordinary people. Whilst the Minister may, in a lighthearted way, say that the price of bread went up by only a halfpenny or a penny per loaf, that represents nothing to him—it is just crumbs. But a rise of that nature is of vital importance to the family man. Had he so desired, the Minister could have checked whether the master bakers were entitled to have the price of bread increased; but the Minister did not do that.

Mr. Perkins: I did.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: All he did was have figures presented to him by the accountant of the master bakers—figures which he accepted as being authentic. I am not challenging the figures submitted to the Minister, because I have not seen them; but the increase was not in the interests of the people of Mt. Hawthorn, Middle Swan, or the metropolis. The price of bread had previously been controlled by the Wheat Products Prices Fixation Committee; and details were submitted to that body for determination. The price of bread to the people of Mt. Hawthorn was raised without the Minister doing as much as lift his little finger to see whether the increase was justified or not.

Mr. Perkins: It is the cheapest bread in Australia.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I expect an answer from the responsible Minister sooner or later in connection with the next point I wish to raise.

Mr. Hawke: Which Minister is that?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I was going to say "irresponsible Minister," but somebody has to be responsible. I understand that the Government intends to make an endeavour to alter the Industrial Arbitration Act to provide for annual adjustments to the basic wage instead of quarterly adjustments.

Mr. Perkins: Where did you get that idea from?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: It ties up with the action of the Premier just prior to the last quarterly adjustment, when the President of the Arbitration Court had the responsibility of determining whether a variation of the basic wage should be declared or not. The Premier of this State did everything possible to influence the

President of the Arbitration Court by indirectly bringing pressure to bear upon him. The Premier also sent someone on his behalf to make representations in the Federal Arbitration Court in an endeavour to prevent a rise in the Federal basic wage. In view of what I have said, I believe the Government is contemplating amending the Industrial Arbitration Act to do away with quarterly basic wage adjustments.

I think you, Mr. Speaker, told me I was out of order when I mentioned this matter at the time I was speaking on an amendment to the Address-in-Reply. Therefore, I take this opportunity, in an unfettered manner, of saying that the present provision in the Industrial Arbitration Act was included in that legislation by a Liberal Government some 29 or 30 years ago. That was not done to give the basic wage worker a higher wage; it was done to reduce his wage. From memory, I think the Bill was passed in one session by the then Liberal Government; and in the first quarter of the next year, the basic wage was reduced from £4 6s. to £3 18s.

Mr. Fletcher: That is right.

Mr. Perkins: That was at a time of falling prices.

Mr. J. Hegney: I think it was 1932.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: It was in 1931; and the basic wage went down until it reached £3 8s.—an all-time low. Over a period of years, and due to certain influences with which I will not deal tonight, the trend has been an upward one—and it is still upward. Wages are now chasing prices; and I understand a move is to be made—I hope it will be thwarted—to alter the Industrial Arbitration Act in an endeavour to achieve a uniform basic wage throughout Australia. I would like to know more about this proposal. Perhaps it is only in the initial stage.

Mr. Perkins: You are right off beam.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: We would like to have some indication of the intention of the Government in this matter. At this stage I am not going into the question of controls and monopolies and restrictive trade practices, except to say that the Minister last year introduced a Bill with regard to the registration of trade associations. However, we all know that that legislation had no teeth and was quite innocuous. It does not matter what trade practices are engaged in by any organisation or combination of organisations, there is no provision in the Act which was passed last year to do anything about the matter. All they have to do is register any agreements that may be in operation. I will be interested to see the first report, which I hope will be tabled by the Minister during this session of Parliament. I am anxious to see what activities have taken place under that legislation.

Mr. Perkins: It has been most effective legislation.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I am not going to accept that statement coming from the Minister for Labour. He is supporting a Government which has made promises to the House—promises which the Government has broken. The policy of uniformity which was spoken about by Government members during the last election is one that could be questioned, and questioned with a fair amount of success. This is another matter which I raised in another debate; and you, Mr. Speaker, suggested I was out of order. Therefore I propose to deal with it now.

Mr. Mann: You are right now.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The member for Avon Valley will get his opportunity to speak.

Mr. Mann: I am trying to help you now.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I know the honourable member is trying to help me, but I will get on better without his help. It is my intention to quote from *The West Australian* of the 25th July, 1960, under the heading "Farmers' Rall Plea." The letter is written by a person called Arthur J. Addis, of Nyabing.

Mr. Brand: My word!

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I will read this letter, together with the reply by the Minister for Railways. I will not emulate the Minister for Works who, last night, quoted one letter and did not have the courage, when requested by the former Minister, to quote the previous Minister's letter.

Mr. Wild: Do you want to hear the other letter?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I will deal with this letter which refers to the Minister for Railways.

Mr. J. Hegney: He is a supporter of the Country Party, isn't he?

Mr. Perkins: He is in my electorate.

Mr. Watts: He was a D.L.P. candidate, wasn't he?

Mr. Hawke: Then he is just the same as a Liberal—one of your mob.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Perhaps he may have had us; but he may have had the Government before long. I quote—

The Nyabing branch of the Farmers' Union has agreed unanimously to request reopening of the Katanning-Pingrup railway line. Many public meetings have been held with an attendance of about 300 settlers. All voted 100 per cent. in favour of reopening the line.

We who live near the line know best what is required and we know that our line would show a profit if efficiently managed. The present Government—

He does not say the Country Party Ministers of the Government. To continue—

The present Government pledged that it would reopen lines where settlers demanded it.

Railways Minister Court said closed lines were being examined. A decision would be made soon.

Mr. Court: That is right.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: To continue—

There was no prospect of the Katanning - Pingrup line showing a profit. The Government did not pledge itself to reopen lines where settlers demanded. It promised proper examination and consultation. This was being done.

The Minister for Railways definitely said that it was not Government policy to reopen closed railway lines. He said the position would be examined in regard to this line from Nyabing to Pingrup. The indications are that this line will show a loss. Who is going to pay the loss? The people in Mt. Hawthorn are having to pay increased water rates. These have been put up by the Minister for Works on behalf of the Government. I will not refer to the Minister for Agriculture, because he did not make any definite promise at the meeting to which I will refer from *The Farmers' Weekly* of Thursday, the 21st July, under the heading "Views Differ at Spirited Railway Line Meeting."

Mr. Hawke: A good publication.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Yes. I receive *The Farmers' Weekly*, and I am not the only member who does.

Mr. Hawke: Do you pay for it?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I pay as much for *The Farmers' Weekly* as I do here for the *Daily News*.

Mr. Perkins: Do you always accept what it says?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Since the Minister has stuck his neck out, I am going to ask whether he followed it in this case.

Mr. Perkins: I probably follow it more closely than you do.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: On page 4 of *The Farmers' Weekly* dated the 21st July is an article from which I quote the following:—

Mr. A. Beeck criticised the Minister because he said a Country Party election promise that the line would be restored had not been fulfilled.

"The election promise was not for a part service as Mr. Perkins has outlined here today."

Mr. Beeck claimed that the promise had been for a full line and the meeting should not accept any half measures.

Mr. Roberts: On the other side of the paper it says "Gas."

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I thought the honourable member was going to move the gag.

Mr. Brand: He may still do that.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: To continue—

This view was supported by Mr. A. J. Addis who also suggested a guarantee be obtained for the figure of 4d. per ton mile.

Mr. Perkins: We will honour our promise if the people want us to. The promise was to open up the line for heavy traffic.

I understand that recently it was opened.

Mr. Court: From Katanning to Nyabing.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Not Nyabing to Pingrup?

Mr. Court: That is right.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Part has been opened up, then. I have just quoted a statement by a responsible Minister that the policy of the Government was to reopen lines at the request of the settlers; and the responsible Minister in the Government says, "Yes, that is right—that is the policy." Another responsible Minister says it was not the policy of the Government to do this. When I asked the Premier—the Leader of the Government in this State—which promise was right, he sought your protection, Mr. Speaker, and said, "Do I have to answer that one?" That is the sort of promise given to the people of the State. Therefore, is it any wonder that we refuse to accept the promises given by the present Government?

Mr. Perkins: Are you assuming that the people in that area are dissatisfied with what the Government is doing?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I am not assuming anything, and I do not want the honourable member to assume anything; I am making plain statements of fact. I asked the Minister previously, and he said his report is correct. I asked the Minister for Railways, and he said his report was correct. I then asked the Premier which policy was correct, and he asked the Speaker for protection. This statement appeared in *The Farmers' Weekly* of the 18th August, and apparently the Country Party paid for the advertisement. It reveals the sort of snide publicity that is going on. It is more than astute; it is snide. The statement is as follows:—

The Country Party Speaks.

That the arbitrary action, during the period of the last State Government, of closing many miles of country branch lines still rankles bitterly in the minds of country people was evidenced during discussions on railway and transport questions at the recent annual conference of the W.A. Country Party.

Appreciative references were made to the fact that through the determined stand taken by Country Party members certain of the closed lines have been reopened.

The importance which country people attach to this question of the reopening of closed lines was emphasised when, at the request of delegates at the conference, a resolution dealing with this subject was brought forward for consideration at an earlier stage than scheduled on the agenda in order to permit discussion and decision while there was a full attendance of delegates.

The resolution, submitted by the Katanning District Council, and moved by Mr. A. Beeck, read:

That this Conference reaffirm the Country Party policy of reopening closed railways where the people (served by that railway) so desire it.

The resolution was carried unanimously and this, with the discussion which took place, removes any doubts regarding Country Party policy and attitude to this vexatious matter.

The Labor Government did not close the lines, as is stated here. I will ask any member of the Liberal Party or Country Party, now in the Government, who closed the lines.

Mr. Court: You did.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Do not tell me that we did! I thought the Minister was going to apply the gag.

Mr. Brand: We may as well.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Parliament closed the lines, and both Houses of this Parliament voted in favour of the measure. This is the sort of publicity, the sort of half-truth, that is going to the people of the State. The Government has been putting it over the public for some time. The truth never hurts. Why was not the truth published? Because it might have had the effect of turning people in favour of the Country Party as against the Liberal or Labor Party.

I propose to show another trend—and I quote from the same paper—which is of vital importance to the people of the country—not only to primary producers but, I suggest, to the bulk of the people of Western Australia. I quote as follows from *The Farmers' Weekly* of the 18th August, on page 3:—

Inquiry Into Costs Urged.

A request will be made to the Federal Government by the Farmers and Settlers' Association to establish a fact-finding commission to examine and report on the spiral of costs in relation to its effect on primary producers.

This is not a Labor Party suggestion; this is a farmers and settlers' suggestion. The article continues—

This decision was made at the annual conference of the F.S.A.

Discussing hire purchase, conference decided to press for the implementation of the recommendation by the Joint Committee on Constitutional Reform to bring hire purchase and capital issues under Central Bank control.

It agreed that the F.S.A. investigate means of reducing hire purchase rates and repossession of primary producers' machinery, by approaching a Government bank for finance and means for primary producers purchasing machinery.

Here we have two aspects, the first being that here is a vital force in our community—namely, the Farmers and Settlers' Association—speaking for primary producers, which is so perturbed at the trend of events that it finds it necessary to make some move to invoke the aid of the Commonwealth Government to obtain some form of protection—not against wage-earners, but against rising costs.

Mr. Nalder: In what State does that organisation function?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I am glad the Minister is interested in this. The paragraph reads—

It agreed that the F.S.A. investigate means of reducing hire purchase rates and repossession of primary producers' machinery, by approaching a Government bank for finance.

We have had a lot of hypocrisy from time to time from members on the Government side, including the member for Narrogin who says we are going to get rid of socialistic institutions and so forth. Here is an organisation—the Farmers and Settlers' Association—asking for protection and aid from a Government bank. Not from a private bank, but a Government bank; and a Government bank is one which is representative of the people of the country as a whole; and the Rural and Industries Bank is such a bank. I do not hear the member for Narrogin advocate the repeal of the Rural and Industries Bank Act. On the contrary, he is one of those who would like to see it extended as much as possible.

I read that article to show how inconsistent some members of the Government can be when they set out to be. With those few remarks, I will close my speech on the Address-in-Reply as I opened it, by protesting vigorously against the Government's impost on the people; and I am not going to tender the Government my thanks.

DR. HENN (Leederville) [8.55]: Like the member for Mt. Hawthorn, I was not going to speak on the Address-in-Reply at this stage; but in view of certain remarks made in this House last night by the member for East Perth, I feel that a few words are necessary. At the outset, however, I would like to repeat what I said last year, when speaking on the Address-in-Reply, concerning Lake Monger in my electorate.

It may not appear to be a very important matter; but as each year passes, it becomes more important; and particularly because of the fact that the Empire Games will be held in this metropolis in the very near future, and time is passing quickly.

I am afraid that the activities of the velodrome, which is adjacent to the lake, will be seriously curtailed because of the midges which are a great pest there. I realise that the Perth City Council is doing what it considers is the best it can do to eradicate these midges. But the thinking of the Perth City Council and mine are not the same.

We have been advised by the Professor of Biology at the University to dredge the lake. That advice has not been taken by the Perth City Council for one reason or another. It may be because of expense, or because the council feels that insecticides will do the job. That was tried last summer, but the whole of the lake was not covered; therefore the test could not be said to be thorough. In any case, last summer was a peculiar one, in that it did not suit the midges, and there were only two full weeks in the whole of the summer that they came out; and when they did, they were just as numerous and as troublesome as during the previous year, which was considered a bad year.

I will not feel happy about the situation, particularly with regard to the Empire Games, unless the lake is dredged as advised by the experts. Time is passing, and I would bring the matter before the notice of those responsible. In this case, it is not the Government; because as far as I know, the Perth City Council has not approached the Government, at least not through me.

I now turn to my main point, which concerns some of the remarks made by the member for East Perth last night. I did not hear all of his speech, but I have no doubt he discussed matters of importance from his point of view. Towards the end of his speech, he addressed the House as follows:—

As I resume my seat, all I can say is that if this Government is going to continue to play party politics that is class warfare to the extent that it has, it can expect not only on the part of Labor parliamentarians, but also on the part of the workers of Western

Australia—the salt of the earth—a bitterness that has not been experienced as long as I can remember in the public affairs of this State.

The only part of that statement with which I agree is that the workers are the salt of the earth. Anyone would think, when he makes that statement, that he alone is aware of that section of the community which he is pleased to call the workers. I would say his remarks are out of date. They may have been suitable 80 or 100 years ago. In the course of his speech, the member for Middle Swan referred to my electorate and said I had a number of workers there. I interjected and said that, in Leederville, we all worked. However, that did not appear in *Hansard*. But it is quite true: in Leederville, we do all work, whether we work in the factory or in the office; or whether we have jobs in the Government service.

Mr. May: Don't think that you in Leederville are the only workers.

Dr. HENN: No; I think it applies to most electorates. Also, I dare say there is a small section of all electorates who cannot work or who do not want to work. But there are very few people in my electorate who are physically fit and who are out of work. I know there are a number who because of physical disability are compelled to confine themselves to certain types of work, and have difficulty in securing jobs because of that fact.

I wish to repeat that everybody in this country is a worker. I would say that the honourable member's remarks lost some of their point. He also said this—

Those from this side of the House can go into the homes of any of the people we represent, and we would be welcome.

I would like to say that applies not only to the member for East Perth. I had the opportunity, when working in my electorate as a doctor, of going into the homes of a great number of my electors; and I did not merely knock on the front door: I went into the drawing room, and sometimes into the bedroom. I would hasten to add, "as a doctor".

Mr. Rowberry: Not as a worker?

Dr. HENN: So I claim to have made a study, as far as I was able in a very simple way, of humanity.

Mr. Rowberry: Why don't you look up the definition of "worker" under the Act?

Dr. HENN: The member for East Perth seems to think that he is the only one who knows his people. Judging from the remarks he made last night, I would say he is right out of touch with his people.

Mr. May: He was right on the job in here.

Dr. HENN: I am sorry I am a little slow in reading what the honourable member had to say last night, but I am not used to reading typing such as this is. He went on to say—

I am speaking on behalf of my people and I am answerable to them.

Aren't we all? That is nothing extraordinary. Every one of us in this House is answerable to his electors; and it is the manner in which we attempt to carry out our duties, not only to our electors, but also to the community in general, on which we shall be judged.

In conclusion I should like to quote from a speech made by Sydney Webb, who was one of the greatest British socialists in this century. He was addressing an annual conference of the Labor Party in Great Britain in the early part of this century. He said—

Finally, let me remind you that there is a higher need even than Government, whether it be the Government of a city or the government of our tempers or the government of our tongues. It is not upon its plans or its programmes—not even upon its principles or its ideals—that a political Party is ultimately judged. It is not upon them or any of them that its measures of success in the continuous appeal to the judgment of the average citizen finally depends. The success of the Labor Party in this country depends, more than on anything else, upon the spirit in which we hold our faith, the spirit in which we present our proposals, the spirit in which we meet our opponents in debate, the spirit in which we fulfil our own obligations, the spirit in which, with inevitable backslidings, we live our own lives. We shall not achieve much, whatever changes we can bring about, unless what we do is done in the spirit of fellowship. For we must always remember that the founder of British socialism was not Karl Marx, but Robert Owen, and that Robert Owen preached not, "class war" but the ancient doctrine of human brotherhood—the hope, the faith, the living fact of human fellowship—a faith and a hope reaffirmed in the words of that other great British socialist—William Morris—in "The Dream of John Ball."

Mr. Roberts: That will give them something to think about.

Dr. HENN: Those words were said, to the best of my knowledge, by one of the greatest socialists of this century. I have read those remarks, and pondered over them, and also the speech of the member for East Perth; and I can only conclude that the member for East Perth was either preaching the doctrine of Karl Marx last evening, or else he was disregarding the very good advice given to the followers of one of the greatest British socialists in this century.

MR. MAY (Collie) [9.4]: Ever since I have been a member of this House I have been under the impression that, during the course of the debate on the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech, it is usual for members to tell the Chamber something of the activities of the electors they represent. I think they should do that. I have always maintained that each and every member in this Chamber should try to make himself acquainted with the problems of the State as a whole, whatever they may be. In making my contribution I do not intend, like the member for Leederville, to get a copy of somebody's speech, which constituted his remarks on the Address-in-Reply debate, and read from that. Anybody can do that. I will admit that he delivered a good speech, but there was nothing in it.

Mr. Hawke: He delivered it well.

Mr. MAY: If he had left the remarks of the member for East Perth out of his speech there would have been nothing in it.

Mr. Hawke: What about the midges?

Mr. MAY: I think the member for Leederville, with his knowledge of the district he represents—and according to his statement he went from house to house, from drawing room to drawing room, and from bedroom to bedroom—would be able to give us some idea of what is happening in the Leederville electorate, and what disabilities it is suffering; or whether it has any outstanding advantages which would be of use to the State. Taking everything into consideration, I suppose the honourable member has not been here long enough, and naturally has to be very careful about what he says.

I should like to refer to a short article which appeared in tonight's issue of the *Daily News* because it has a bearing on what I said previously in this House.

Mr. Roberts: It is not the first letter in the *Opinion* column, is it?

Mr. MAY: I have mentioned this matter before.

Mr. W. A. Manning: I thought you objected to reading anything and making a speech from that.

Mr. MAY: I am not reading another member's *Hansard* report.

Mr. Hawke: The member for Narrogin would not know anything.

Mr. MAY: I wish to quote from the issue of the *Daily News* dated Wednesday, the 24th August.

Mr. Roberts: It is not the first letter in the *Opinion* column, is it?

Mr. Hawke: Here is the gagster again.

Mr. MAY: I would like to warn the member for Bunbury that if he continues to interject—he makes a practice of it—when I am speaking, I shall have something to say as far as he is concerned before I finish.

Mr. Roberts: Let us have it now.

Mr. MAY: The article to which I wish to refer is on page 5 of the *Daily News*, and it reads—

Canberra, Wed.: Australia's contribution to the Colombo Plan reached almost £35,000,000 to the end of June.

It took the form of technical assistance and capital aid to 16 South-East Asian countries.

This is shown in a progress report tabled in Parliament by Prime Minister Menzies.

Some few days ago the members of the Australian Wheat Board arrived in this State to assess the possibilities of our being able to store the coming wheat harvest. Apparently they did not arrive at any definite conclusion, or at least those conclusions have not been published. It is obvious that if we do have the record harvest which we anticipate we will be in queer street in regard to the storage of that wheat.

I have repeatedly suggested in this Chamber—but not one word of it has been mentioned in the Press, and not one word about it has been said by the Premier or any of his Ministers—that part of our surplus wheat could be sent to the Asian countries and be paid for out of some of the Colombo Plan money. Neither the Minister for Agriculture, nor the Premier, nor the daily Press of this State has made any comments in connection with that proposal; even the Farmers' Union has not had anything to say about it.

Mr. Court: Do you want to give that extra or in lieu of what is being given now?

Mr. MAY: I made it perfectly clear, when speaking the other evening, that instead of sending machinery and so on to the Asian countries, as they are doing now under the Colombo Plan, the Government should purchase some of the farmers' wheat and send it to the Asian countries to feed some of the starving millions; to give them something to live on until the irrigation schemes in those countries are brought to fruition. It would be a means of keeping those people alive and, at the same time, relieve the storage position in Australia. The farmers in each State would be paid for their wheat which was sent to these Asian countries under the proposal I have suggested.

But can I get anybody to move? Not at all! Not even the Minister for Agriculture, who should be deeply interested in this matter; the Minister for Lands, who is not in his seat; the Premier; or the Deputy Premier are interested. I

want to know why. I do not mind whatever comment is made in regard to it, but surely the Government should make some comment on it. Apparently the starving millions in Asia are of no concern to the Government because it takes no notice of any suggestions which are made. Surely we should have some feeling in regard to this matter. As I explained the other evening, each night in Calcutta two million people just sit down, or lie on the footpath, or wherever they may be at that time, with nothing to eat and nowhere to go. But not one word do we hear from the Government when somebody makes a suggestion as to how the position might be alleviated. If anybody says that there is any humanity in this Government I would like to know where it is. I shall not say any more on that subject at the moment.

I have listened to the various speeches which have been made on the Address-in-Reply debate but so far I have not heard one metropolitan Minister express an opinion regarding the different parts of the State. Everything they have said has been parochial; and from what they have said one would assume that they have no thought for the people in the outback areas of this State who, after all, are keeping the people in the metropolitan area. If we took away the wheat and sheep farmers, and those who live in the mining constituencies, where would the metropolitan area be?

Yet this Government has the audacity to say to the people in the outback, "If you want to bring your children down here for medical or surgical treatment at the Perth hospital you will have to pay the increased fares and all the extra costs that this Government has levied." Is it any wonder that the people of the State are trying to crowd into the metropolitan area? It is no wonder at all because everything this Government is doing tends to bring more people into the metropolitan area. It is only natural that when people are in distressed circumstances they should look for the best possible treatment they can get; and by living in the country they victimise themselves in that regard.

Mr. Nalder: The facts don't support your argument. Western Australia is the only State in the Commonwealth where the population has increased more in the country over the last 12 months than it has in the city.

Mr. MAY: I am not arguing about that; but that increased population, together with those who were already living in the country, are going to suffer as a result of what this Government is doing to them. Make no mistake about that. Take the people in the North-West, in the electorate of Gascoyne, of whom the member for Gascoyne was speaking last night. They have to be brought to Perth by plane if something happens and they need treatment urgently. How can they stand the expense when the costs of everything are being increased by this Government every day of the week?

Now I intend to get down to something parochial myself; not that I have not the interests of the whole of the State at heart. I have, and I think every member in this Chamber should be of the same mind.

Mr. Nulsen: The primary producer is the most important.

Mr. MAY: Not according to the Minister for Agriculture. I want now to say something about the town of Collie and its origin; what it has gone through over the years; and what it is going through today. I do not intend to make any reference to the conferences that are at present taking place in connection with the price of coal. I realise that that is a matter of some concern, and I do not propose to make any remarks in connection with it.

It is many years since Collie was a very small village. It has risen from that state to a town of some 10,000 people. The people there, right down through the years, have sustained many a struggle, and many a hardship; and at the same time the industry associated with Collie has produced many fine citizens—great fellows who fought, under difficult conditions, to maintain the coal industry in this State. They were men of great foresight and great determination. I do not think it would be out of place if I mentioned a few names that readily come to mind, of people who undertook the work of establishing Collie as a fair-sized country town.

One of these names that comes to mind is that of John Ewing, M.L.C. It is a long time since Mr. Ewing was connected with the coalmining industry in this State. Eventually he rose to be a Minister in the Government of Western Australia. Another such man was my late father-in-law, Mr. Arthur Wilson. I do not know of any greater battler, or one who did more for Collie in its earlier stages than Mr. Wilson. I think his name will be connected with the Collie coal industry in this State for many years to come.

Mr. Nulsen: He was a great man.

Mr. MAY: Then there was a man named Tom Lowry, who was secretary of the Miners' Union. I think he was instrumental in prompting the thought which eventually crystallised into the South-West Power Scheme. Not only was he secretary to the men working in the industry, but he devoted his time to other things as well. They are the type of men of whom I am speaking; the type we have in the industry. Another great man was Jack Close, who was secretary and President of the Miners' Union; and yet another was Mr. Hirem Whittaker, a secretary of the Miners' Union, who was eventually killed at the Maddington crossing. Another such man was Frank Farrell, whose name will be familiar to some of the present members of the Government. He was a great president. Yet another name

that comes to mind is that of Jock Shannon, a secretary of the union. These men have now passed on, but they have left their names engraved on Collie for all time. They are the men who guided the industry and kept faith with this State in its coal requirements. We still have men of that calibre connected with the industry at Collie today.

I hope that for the sake of Western Australia the type of man about whom I am speaking at present will always be available to this State, particularly in relation to its fuel requirements. They have all done a great job, both for the State and for the industry in which they worked. Their knowledge of that industry was tremendous.

Sir Ross McLarty: What do you think of Mr. Fernie's proposal about Collie?

Mr. MAY: I might have something to say about that later. I would have preferred to wait for an answer to a question I propose to ask the Minister tomorrow. I think Mr. Fernie's ideas have some merit, but I do not wish to expand on that at the moment. The men of whom I have been speaking are those who kept Collie in existence in the early days when there was a tremendous struggle to obtain sufficient finance to develop the mines, and keep the State supplied with coal for its various needs.

In those days they suffered because of a lack of finance; they suffered from a lack of trade; and one of their biggest losses was that caused by the shipping trade—when all the ships that called at the ports of Western Australia turned to the use of oil as a fuel. This meant there was no longer an outlet for Collie coal in that direction. But through all those struggles the men in Collie kept faith with this State, and with Collie; and I hope that in the future nothing will be done by anybody to place a burden on those people—a burden which, to my mind, is unnecessary.

Collie, of course, has experienced other setbacks. I must first of all refer to the Forests Department. I suppose that department controls about 70 per cent. of the land in the electorate of Collie; and the department pays no rates whatsoever on that land. It can be appreciated, therefore, why the residents of the Collie electorate are called upon, by the local governing authority, to pay the highest rates possible, in order to make up for the shortage caused by the land that is held at present by the department.

I am not quibbling at the Forests Department holding certain land; because as I have said before, that particular department was brought into existence for the purpose of caring for and protecting all marketable timber in this State. I think that is its job. However, I do not believe it was ever intended it should take command of land that had no timber at all on

it. We find that huge areas have been closed because of the Wellington Weir. The water catchment area for the weir is tremendous. It extends almost to Darkan, Boyup Brook, and in a circle in that area. It contains some of the best land in Western Australia, with an assured rainfall.

Again I would point out that I am not quibbling about the necessity for the Wellington Weir; because I can remember having said to Mr. Doney—who was the Minister for Works during the McLarty-Watts Government—that the people of the south-west were glad to be associated with any scheme that would provide water for people in areas where water was really needed. I remember having said that when I was with Mr. Doney on the occasion of the laying of the pipes for the Wellington Weir.

This sentiment has been demonstrated amply by the success of the comprehensive water scheme. That has had a most deleterious effect on certain portions of the Collie electorate. We are not able to get any land for further settlement. We are restricted in many ways in regard to the use of the Collie River; because now the Wellington Weir, apart from providing irrigation water, also supplies domestic water for many towns along the Great Southern. As a consequence, the water purity committee has been compelled to try to take protective steps to ensure that the water will not be contaminated more than is necessary, in order that the people may get the best possible water to drink. But these features have created difficulties for the people in the Collie electorate.

Is it any wonder, therefore, that we are looking for something to take place in the coalmining industry whereby we may be compensated for the misfortunes which we have met because of progress that has been made in other directions? In the early days—and in days not so far distant—the coal seams at Collie were butchered to make a profit holiday for certain coal companies. There was no control over their activities. I do not know—and I have not yet been able to ascertain—the extent to which control could have been exercised by the Mines Department of this State in connection with the development of the coalmines at Collie. The system in those days, and up till quite recently, has been to get the nearest possible coal in the quickest possible time into the railway wagons, so that the greatest possible profits could be made.

Those mines should have been developed along the lines that any normal colliery would have followed. But no! When the time came for mechanisation, it was found that, because of the methods which the mining companies had been allowed to adopt, it was impossible to mechanise them. The machinery could not be got into the pits—only because the mines had not been

developed along the right mining lines. As a result of this, we have suffered in Collie.

In my opinion only one authority should be responsible for that; and that is the Mines Department. The companies must go to the Mines Department to get their leases. For one thing the Mines Department provides a State Coal Mining Engineer; and surely to goodness he is not appointed without some control being exercised over the mines and their development!

I realise and appreciate the fact that any company has the right to do certain things in connection with its own property; but after all is said and done, the coal belongs to this State, not to the companies. It belongs to the people of the State, and consequently should be safeguarded by the Mines Department. If that were done the millions of tons of coal which are at present being wasted would be saved. There is so much now being left in the pit after the companies have taken what they require. It is a shocking thing to go down the old pits and see the coal which is unrecoverable because the previous mining operations were not carried out in a proper manner. I am not blaming any Government for this; but I do think that an asset of the magnitude of the coalmines at Collie should have been under the control of the Mines Department to some extent.

The attitude of the companies has been a grasping one. They grasped the nearest and cheapest coal, irrespective of the results in the days, months, and years to come. There was no system adopted at all. They simply mined here and there, and could not care less for the consequences. Something must be done about the situation, and some closer inspection of the operations of these companies should be made. If the Mines Department has any control at all, I hope it will do something about the situation. If it has no control, it should be vested with some; and it is time that the Government—no matter what its political colour—did something about it.

In Collie there are huge areas under mining leases; and if someone wants to build a shed or do anything at all on the surface of the land so occupied, he is unable to do so because it is mining land. Not all the leases are being worked. They never have been, and probably never will be. They are simply leased to safeguard the companies. They have always had a big supply of surplus leases over which they have control. It is not possible to use this land for any other purpose, because of the control of the companies. This does not matter so much now because of the water restrictions which we have had to face.

As I have said before, some of the best land in the State is in that electorate; and it is going to be eventually covered

with water, because of the extension made to the wall of the weir. I must say that the Forests Department has taken care to clear the timber away and sell it before the land is submerged. This land which is to be submerged is beautiful. It has an assured rainfall, and it is possible to grow almost anything there. Now, however, it is to be sacrificed for the sake of progress. I cannot argue against that, but am merely raising the point to illustrate to this House the disadvantages which Collie has to face.

All these things have served to militate against the progress of Collie, and the only thing we have left to rely on is the production of coal in some form or other. Recently the Griffin Coal Mining Company—and possibly the member for Murray will be interested in this information—sent a delegation to Japan to ascertain the possibilities of acquiring the orders for the country's coal requirements. As far as I know, the prospects of sending char and coke to Japan are very bright. There is a distinct unsupplied market there of some size; and the object of the Griffin Company is to establish a plant which will produce the char and coke for various purposes. I think there is a market for it, possibly to the extent of 40,000 tons a year.

The Griffin Coal Mining Company is not a financial company by any means, because it came into the coalmining picture too late. Amalgamated Collieries held the monopoly for so many years. While on the subject, I might say that so far as that company is concerned, not one penny was ever spent in Collie; and it made plenty.

There was a huge pile of unused coal dust which was considered useless. There were thousands of tons of it at the Co-operative Mine, and no-one wanted it, as it was thought to be worth nothing. Eventually it was bought by the East Perth power house for 12s. 6d. a ton. Twelve shilling and sixpence a ton was paid for coal dust which did not cost the company anything except the cost of transport from the dump to the railway truck. That is the business of the company, I suppose. Nevertheless, I feel that the least that company could have done would be to put something into the town from which it obtained so much money. However, I did not intend to speak to this debate in order to preach a sermon in connection with the Amalgamated Collieries.

What I am trying to stress is the possibility of the production of char and coke from Collie coal and the possibility of sending it overseas to Japan, where, I have been informed, there is an ample market for it. I know that all these things take a certain time to develop, but I would like to know what this Government is going to do about it. We read in the paper of the amount of money that

is to be made available to the paper company, a company which has never been here and is not here.

Mr. Court: Yes it is.

Mr. MAY: I am not talking about the directors or anything like that. I am talking about the actual paper establishment. It is not here; and it would not come here unless this Government had promised to assist it financially. On the other hand, we have an industry which has been established for years in Collie, pining and dying for want of a shot in the arm. I desire to know what this Government is prepared to do in regard to the establishment of that char and coke industry. I know there are all sorts of things to be considered. I say to the member for Bunbury that it is no laughing matter.

Mr. Roberts: I am not laughing at you.

Mr. MAY: I am talking about something serious which affects this State and which eventually, if we are not careful, could even affect Bunbury.

Mr. Roberts: Something else happened over here about which I am laughing.

Mr. Hawke: What was it?

Mr. Roberts: I will not tell you.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MAY: If the member for Bunbury and the Minister for Industrial Development were interested in what I am saying they would find nothing to laugh about.

Mr. Roberts: We were listening carefully to everything you said.

Mr. MAY: I am talking about something which is seriously affecting this State but which is more seriously affecting the people of Collie—their homes, and all they possess. As I said, I want to know what this Government intends to do; whether it is prepared to help this char and coke industry, and to what extent.

I know it is all very fine for us to read the headlines in the paper stating that such and such a company is going to establish itself here; but it would be far better to have those headlines conveying the news that the Government is prepared to help this industry which is already established in this State and which is being killed by the use of foreign oil. It is no good holding a threat over the heads of the Collie people to the effect that if they do not produce coal at the price asked, oil will be used.

I want to read an article which appeared in the local Collie paper and which I think is very interesting, as it sets out the position of that town. It was in the paper of the 30th June and is as follows:—

What does the coal industry mean to the average person, the business man, the farmer, the shopkeeper, the worker—to you collectively; to you individually. At first glance you might

say nothing, but on further consideration it will be realised that it means everything.

The whole life of the State is bound up with and dependent on our main source of power, light and heat—the coal industry. For this reason the affairs of the coal industry are your affair. You are entitled to have a say in the policies that are pursued in relation to the coal industry. Your employment, your shop, or your industry may be affected by that policy.

The development of Western Australia is integrally connected with the future of the coal industry and the State's development is of interest to everybody.

There are two clear and divergent policies at present being propounded:

The Government's policy of expanding the production of open cut coal and decreasing deep mine coal until only open cut coal is being produced.

The mineworkers' policy, supported by the majority of the coal owners, that the bulk of coal production should come from deep mines and open cut production should be reserved for emergencies and to aid the development of new industries in the State.

Even the coalminers themselves are prepared to help all other industries in this State besides their own. The article continues—

The Government advances as a reason for its policy that open cut coal is cheaper; also that as it is the largest coal user, a reduction in price will enable it to offset possible power and rail freight increases. If the decrease in price is sufficient, the Government says, it will be able to reduce the lower power tariffs thus improving the possibility of attracting new industries to the State. It also argues that it should be free to obtain its fuel supplies from the cheapest source, and that the price of coal makes the price of power higher in Western Australia than in other States of the Commonwealth.

I ask this question: Is the coalmining industry expected to subsidise every other concern in the State? In the last three years we have subsidised other industries to the extent of £1,500,000, or £500,000 a year.

Mr. Court: How do you work it out as a subsidy?

Mr. MAY: The amount saved is used elsewhere.

Mr. Court: That is not a subsidy.

Mr. MAY: We are helping to subsidise some other industry or some Government department. If that money was paid for the coal, the Government would not have it to play with.

Mr. Court: But the coal was bought at a better price following negotiations.

Mr. MAY: Does the Minister still want a better price?

Mr. Court: No. I say the coal was bought at a better price following negotiations.

Mr. MAY: Exactly.

Mr. Court: And the saving naturally benefited the State. That is not a subsidy.

Mr. MAY: The State saved that amount of money. I know the Minister is an accountant; but to my mind, if the Government pays £500,000 a year less for some commodity, it must be saving that amount of money. I might be pretty thick in the head in regard to bookkeeping, but I can still see through that one.

Mr. Court: It is still not a subsidy.

Mr. MAY: I do not intend to get into an argument with the Minister for Industrial Development. He has been very good so far and has not interjected as he usually does when I speak. I hope he will not start interjecting at this stage.

Mr. Hawke: He does his block pretty easily.

Mr. MAY: To continue reading this report—

The mineworkers say that the Government policy is based on two assumptions:

That there is available huge quantities of open cut coal that would satisfy the State's coal requirements for many years.

That the price of open cut coal will be substantially lower than the price of deep mine coal.

They say that geological estimates of open cut coal are based on an uneconomic ratio of eight of overburden to one of coal and are calculated on extraction to a depth in excess of 700 ft., which is far greater than the depth of any open cut in the world, and exceeds by 550 ft., the greatest depth previously worked in the Collie coal field.

The mine workers argue that, at a limiting economic ratio of 6 to 1 and a liberal maximum depth of 350 ft., the total open cut deposits would not exceed 20 million tons, or 20 years supply.

They say that the price of open cut coal in Collie has been substantially lower than deep mine coal, and that after the easily won shallow coal has been taken, that the prices will increase to the extent that deep mine prices would be comparable with open cut prices.

It is further argued that at the end of a strictly limited period the State would have to return to deep mine production with a consequent heavy capital cost in re-training labour and re-equipping and developing deep mines.

That is perfectly true, because once we stop producing deep mine coal, the mines fill with water and become a total loss. To continue—

There is no doubt that the mine workers' arguments are well supported by technical men on the coalfield—men who have had practical experience in the operation and the economics of open cut coal production. It may well be that, if their arguments are sound, the Government should re-examine its policy. On the other hand it is presumed that the Government would have consulted with its advisers before embarking upon its policy.

To the layman the arguments are not easy to follow because of the technical questions involved. It would appear, however, that there should be an examination of the points raised by the mineworkers before the Government commits itself to a policy from which there is no return.

An inquiry committee comprising competent men could hear the arguments for and against. After investigation it could make a report to the Government. Meanwhile, maintain the status quo, rather than pursue a policy that may mean chaos and upheaval.

That is a leading article in the local paper dealing with the situation of the industry at Collie. Much can be said in connection with this industry. In almost every session I have voiced the difficulties associated with coalmining, but I have not yet been able to obtain the interest of many members in connection with the industry. Coalmining has been conducted in the State for over 50 years, and the industry has been through terrific struggles to maintain itself. It has had some good days; but I would say that if anything was ever done to crucify the industry in Collie it was done when the McLarty-Watts Government introduced the cost-plus system, and the system of open-cut mining.

Sir Ross McLarty: We would not have got any coal if we had not done something.

Mr. MAY: I am not arguing about that. I do not have to be told that. I want to tell the member for Murray that when it was necessary to produce coal at that time, in order to satisfy the great demand for coal which occurred after the cessation of hostilities at the conclusion of World War II, if some control had been exercised over the quality of the coal obtained from the open cuts, the industry

would not be in the mess in which it finds itself today. Had our private customers been supplied in those days with coal of a reasonable quality, they would still be using coal. But as a consequence of the terrific stuff that was sent away as coal—it could not possibly be burned—the consumers were forced to look elsewhere for their fuel. Eventually they took on oil; they altered their systems so that they could use oil instead of coal. That is one reason why, today, we are suffering. It was a mistake made during the time of the McLarty-Watts Government.

What a birthday the companies had that were working under the cost-plus system! They were able to charge so much for overhead, and then the Government would pay for any costs above that amount. But the companies used that system to buy machinery and equipment that was never used—some was never unpacked. When I made a complaint in this Chamber about what was happening, the equipment was taken down below so that nobody could see it. But it was still not unpacked, and the State paid for it. The cost of it was added on to the price of coal. The miners at Collie had nothing to do with it.

We did everything we could to improve the situation and to bring under notice what was going on. But did we get any help? Of course not! As a consequence the industry has been brought to the position in which it finds itself today. That has come about as a result of the terrific price paid—72s. and more per ton for coal.

Mr. Hawke: Wicked!

Mr. MAY: That was paid for stuff that was not coal at all. That is what the leaders of the unions, and the men, had to put up with. They knew full well that the stuff loaded into the railway trucks could never be burned as coal. Some day I might put together a history of what took place during those few years to show what happened to the coalmining industry of the State.

In regard to the present situation, I want to say that the Government should act very slowly. Any industry that has saved the State £500,000 a year—£1,500,000 in the three years of the contract—should receive some consideration. A helping hand should be given to the coal industry so that production can be extended in some way, and so that the people who have established their homes at Collie and have their all there may have security. If there is no help forthcoming and anything should happen to reduce the amount of work available, the people of Collie would lose everything. It has been suggested that work will be found elsewhere for them, if necessary; but once a married man with a family has established his home and is purchasing it by monthly or fortnightly instalments, he develops a big equity

in the home. These people buy other things, too, in connection with their homes. They will lose these things, and this will be a shocking thing for the State; and it will be no advertisement for the Government of the day if 300, 400, or 500 men have to be put out of employment as a result of what can take place through inexperience and lack of knowledge in connection with the industry.

I want to make this plea: The people who at present are considering ways and means of reducing the price of coal should ponder before they act. Let them give some thought to means whereby the industry at Collie, even if it does not produce coal in the way in which we have understood coal to be produced, could continue to produce in some other direction such as in the production of char or coke briquettes. If consideration were given to establishing such an industry, it could be the lifeblood of the town of Collie and of the people there; and it would be of benefit to the State.

I cannot understand why any Government should be prepared to spend or lend thousands of pounds to induce some industry to come here when we already have an industry which can be expanded—there is no doubt about that; I have been reading some reports in connection with the Lurgi carbonisation of coal—if it were given immediate financial assistance. I understand the Government has been approached to make financial assistance available for this proposed industry, but to what extent I do not know. I can only hope that if the Government has been approached, it will give serious consideration to the proposition. I know that many calls are made on the Government's finances, and there always will be. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk going on across the Chamber. I am not very keen about it.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. MAY: The members who are talking are not very interested in the coalmining industry of this State. I guarantee I have more interest in the industries in the electorate of the member for Toodyay than he has in the mining industry at Collie. It is a great shame that in this Chamber three or four members can get their heads together and talk about something completely different from what the member who is on his feet is talking about. As far as I am concerned, no interest appears to be taken in what is said, and it has always been the same here. Members are paid to make themselves acquainted with the needs of the State—and they are well paid. I myself—and I know you will agree with me, Mr. Speaker—would be ashamed to take my money if I could not show more interest in the needs of the State than is shown by some other members. I put forward the plea tonight—

Mr. I. W. MANNING: Where are all your colleagues?

Mr. MAY: They are not responsible to me. I have not got them on a string. The honourable member need have no fear; I have no intention of trying to tip the Government out. There is no doubt that one hears some silly interjections in this House, Mr. Speaker. The remarks that are made by interjection have no bearing whatsoever on what is being said by the member who is on his feet. A typical interjection is that which has just been made by the member for Harvey. He has just asked what my colleagues are doing out of the Chamber. I suppose they are doing the same thing as his own colleagues.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member has only another five minutes left.

Mr. MAY: I can say a lot in five minutes, Mr. Speaker. I have been putting forward a plea for something to be done by the Government for the Collie coal-mining industry. I hope that what I have said will at least bear some fruit. If the Government should want any advice or information at any time and it feels that I might have it in my possession, it is quite welcome to obtain it from me in the interests of the Collie district. People often say to me, "The present Government intends to provide, I understand, about £300,000 per annum to the Australian paper mills." I am not sure of the actual amount the Government does propose to advance to the paper pulping company every year, but it is quite considerable.

Mr. Hawke: It is £2,000,000.

Mr. MAY: In that case I am letting the Government off lightly. I am saying it proposes to advance to this company about £300,000 a year. The Government intends to subscribe that amount of money to a company which has no stake in the country. Despite this, we have an industry in this State that is dying for the want of a shot in the arm in the way of financial assistance. The only people we can look to for finance are those in the Government.

Mr. Court: You will convince yourself in a minute!

Mr. MAY: I am trying hard to convince the Minister.

Mr. Court: You would be amazed at the understanding this Government has shown in connection with the problems of Collie.

Mr. MAY: Let that understanding come to the surface then, and I will be the first one in this House to acknowledge it.

Mr. Court: No-one knows better than you.

Mr. MAY: Knows what?

Mr. Court: The understanding way the Government has approached the problem at Collie.

Mr. MAY: I know the need that there is for granting some financial assistance to the coalmining industry in this State. The Minister knows that, too, but he is

not prepared to tell me what his Government intends to do in connection with it. That is what I have been asking all evening.

Mr. COURT: You amaze me! Of all the people in this House, you know how tolerant and understanding the Government has been, and yet you are lecturing us.

Mr. MAY: The Minister should not tell this Chamber what my opinion is of the Government.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member must address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. MAY: In any case, my opinion may be entirely different from that of the Minister. I am asking the Government to consider some of the points I have raised to see whether it is possible to help the coalmining industry which, at the moment, needs so much assistance. It will be found that the men in the industry will respond to any gesture made by the Government whereby we can firmly re-establish the coalmining industry in this State. I think I have said enough for one evening, Mr. Speaker; and I hope that what I have said will bear some fruit, and that at least I will get some intimation from the Government in the near future of what it is able and prepared to do along the lines I have suggested in this Chamber tonight.

MR. GRAYDEN (South Perth) [10.5]: There are only a few points which I wish to mention during this debate. They arise principally as a result of the speech made by the member for Mt. Hawthorn earlier this evening. He said that the members of his party had nothing to thank the Government for. When he made that remark he was chiding the member for Toodyay for saying that never, during the past 12 months, had he heard any member of the Opposition express any gratitude for the small things—apart from the larger things—that had been done by this Government.

I think the member for Mt. Hawthorn, in making a remark such as that, must be either misinformed or extremely biased. Alternatively, I suggest he is not keeping abreast with what is happening in Western Australia. If he were, he would know that never before has the economic climate in this State been as healthy as it is at present. If this Government has done nothing else, it has at least created an atmosphere which has invited and encouraged investors to come to this State to establish new factories and industries, all of which is creating greater development and more employment in Western Australia.

Mr. W. Hegney: You will get on!

Mr. GRAYDEN: It is all very well for the member for Mt. Hawthorn to make remarks such as that, but what I have

just said is based on fact. However, the remarks that have been made by the honourable member are not based on fact. I have here before me one newspaper cutting taken from the *Daily News* of the 12th August and I would like to read it for the benefit of the member for Mt. Hawthorn. It is headed—

Building Boom But Not Enough Labour

and reads—

Perth is on the threshold of the greatest building boom in its history—but it has no available work force.

Union leaders today warned of a pending severe shortage of skilled labour for the multi-million building programme for the next two years.

They say there is no possible chance of finding, within Western Australia, anywhere near enough men for the work ahead.

Mr. W. Hegney: They must have all gone East.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The member for Mt. Hawthorn has just said that all the tradesmen must have gone to the Eastern States. However, a short time ago the honourable member said that there was not enough work in Western Australia for the men who were unemployed and that there would never be enough. Yet, now that there is too much work available, the argument he puts forward is that all the tradesmen have gone East. This emphasises clearly, I think, that at the present time Western Australia is enjoying a period of prosperity which it has not enjoyed for many years. I will continue to read the rest of this newspaper article because it is extremely revealing. It completely cuts across the arguments that have been advanced by Opposition members during the course of this debate. The article continues—

All but about 200 of the State's building work force of about 10,000 are already fully employed.

Thousands will be needed for such work as the Empire Games village, the Games stadium, the swimming pool, the luxury Chevron-Hilton hotel and the multi-storey T. and G. building, the 23-floor block of flats planned for Mounts Bay Road, the Ord River Dam construction and the new £3,500,000 Key West scheme for South Perth.

Already the industry is calling for skilled labour to meet the normal requirements of home and factory building.

It is already going through its most prosperous period since the home-building boom of 1954-1955.

That is the position in the building industry, and as a consequence of the buoyant position the number of unemployed in

Western Australia has dropped considerably. I would think that if there is one issue about which the members of the Opposition should be concerned, it is the question of unemployment. Also, I think that if there is now little unemployment in Western Australia, or if the unemployment position has improved, and if nothing else had been done by the Government, then, because of that fact alone, the members of the Opposition should be jubilant at the results of the effort of the present Government.

Yet, notwithstanding what this Government has done, we have the member for Mt. Hawthorn saying that he cannot find one achievement for which the Government can be thanked. All he can say is that the price of bread has risen by a $\frac{1}{4}$ d. or that the price of milk has risen by a $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

Mr. W. Hegney: The price of fares has risen considerably, together with the price of many other things, too.

Mr. GRAYDEN: In the honourable member's opinion, because the price of this or that has risen by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. or a 1d., in consequence the Government cannot be thanked for achieving worth-while developments, but it must be blamed because of these terrible price increases. Does the member for Mt. Hawthorn say the same thing about the New South Wales Government? In that State prices have increased not by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. or 1d. as they have in this State, but, in some cases, the prices of goods and services have been increased out of all proportion.

The member for Mt. Hawthorn, in talking about these increases in prices, conveniently overlooks the salient and worth-while achievements that have been made by this Government, one of which is to lower the number of unemployed in this State. I would suggest that the honourable member could well have looked at *The West Australian* dated the 10th August. That issue gives a concise statement of what was said over the radio by the Premier, Mr. Brand. In that statement, the Premier listed some of the achievements by the Government during its term of office. I think I should read this cutting also to the House, because again the statements contained in it are extremely revealing. It is headed "Employment Angle". It then goes on to mention other accomplishments by the Government. I have here another article which reads as follows:—

W.A. Has A Record Number In Jobs

A record 190,400 people were in jobs in W.A. at the end of May—an increase of nearly 3,000 in 12 months. Unemployment at the end of June fell to about 4,700—the lowest June figure for four years.

Premier Brand gave these figures in a radio talk last night.

He said that the 3,000 increase in the work force was after vacancies caused by retirement, sickness and death had been filled.

Ten thousand school children absorbed into jobs at the end of last year were only part of the annual employment intake.

Reviewing economic activity, the Premier said that June bank clearances totalled nearly £22,000,000, 50 per cent. up on last year.

In the last financial year nearly 350 local companies were registered—an increase of 26 per cent.

Their nominal capital totalled almost £20,000,000, or an increase of 38 per cent.

The number of foreign companies was 160, which was an increase of 30 per cent.

The value of real estate transactions increased by 15 per cent. and latest hire purchase figures were up 15 per cent.

"Retail sales for the year, when final figures come in, will almost certainly be a record," Mr. Brand said.

"They will probably be something like £180,000,000, or more than £1,000 for every minute of normal trading."

This would be an increase of 9 per cent. compared with less than 1 per cent. in the previous year.

Motor vehicle sales were likely to reach £65,000,000 for the year, or an increase of 18 per cent. as against a drop of nearly 2 per cent. in the preceding year.

"Imports and exports totalled nearly £300,000,000.

"We were only £4,000,000 on the wrong side of the ledger, compared with £15,000,000 at the same time in the previous year," Mr. Brand said.

"The export figure is very good. It is up by £26,000,000."

In that report the Premier mentioned some of the progress which has been made by this Government. Notwithstanding all these accomplishments, which have drastically affected the industrial and investment climate of Western Australia to the extent that industries are pouring into the State in comparison with what happened a few years ago, the member for Mt. Hawthorn said, "I can see nothing to thank the Government for. It has done nothing." He does not believe what he said, yet he made the statement. It is typical of the hypocritical attitude at times taken by the honourable member and others in the Opposition.

They take these inaccurate statements with a smile. We as members of Parliament appreciate what they are doing and we know what they say is untrue. We know they do not believe in what they say.

but we do not think any the less of them for taking that attitude. Unfortunately, when people visit Parliament to listen to the debates they hear Opposition members get up and make these untrue remarks. At the time they are not refuted, and those people believe the statements. They consider that we, on the Government side, on hearing any obvious exaggerations, should take offence. But Parliament does not operate in that way. We know that a member can say anything in Parliament whether it be true or false. If we do not feel inclined to accept the statement of a member, we do not think any the less of him, because we know that what he is saying is meant to gain a political advantage for his party. Unfortunately that is the way these things are done.

Mr. W. Hegney: You are only speaking for yourself.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I have listened to other members of the Opposition getting up to make statements which are contrary to the facts and figures I have just given. We get another tendency of hypocrisy, and the whole theme of the Address-in-Reply debate of members opposite has been in this direction, when they say that companies in Australia are making too excessive profits. They make this statement as though it was a terrible thing to make any profit. They are aware that some businesses in Australia are so precarious that unless a big profit is made in some years, they cannot hope to remain in business and meet competition later on. There are instances after instances of companies not being able to meet competition.

For every instance brought forward by the Opposition of a company making a great or excessive profit, one could mention 10 companies which struggled through in the last financial year. This applied not only in Western Australia but throughout Australia. We could readily name 100 or 1,000 companies in this country which struggled through. Similarly, we could name many companies which sustained a loss.

Unless some companies on some occasions make huge profits they cannot expect to remain in business later on when they meet greater competition. We cannot have continuity of employment and stability in industry otherwise.

I refer to the plight of the cinema operators. A few years ago the owner of the Broadway theatre or the Windsor theatre would have been considered to have a sound and secure investment. Then came the drive-in theatres, and they made a dent in the attendances. The people felt sorry for the plight of the owners. Then came the advent of television in this State. The picture theatres knew that television would present a great threat to the cinema industry. They hoped to weather the storm. They tried to build up reserves to

meet the threat of television, but unless they had a good period they could not do so.

When television was introduced in this State down came the attendances to such an extent that many theatres in the metropolitan area closed. This was not brought about by the action of any Government. It was brought about by circumstances outside the control of Government. In this case it was brought about by the introduction of television. It affected the picture industry just as it reduced the patronage of hotel bars.

I want to give an indication of what happened to the picture industry by quoting the remarks of a deputation which waited on the Premier of Victoria. The position which applied in that State will apply here; in fact, it has already started in this State. Among other things, the deputation said that over the past 12 months the position in Victoria had deteriorated alarmingly. From the inception of television in 1956 up till July, 1959, 28 picture theatres in the Melbourne metropolitan area closed their doors. In the past 12 months a further 27 have closed down, making a total of 55. That is the position of the theatres in Victoria as a result of the introduction of television. That is the type of hazard which confronts industry.

Let us take the position of the motor industry. A few years ago many distributors of vehicles in this State were in a very strong position. One which I can think of was in a better position than the Bank of New South Wales. Even in those days the members of the Opposition were saying, "Look at the excessive profits it is making", even though the profits were not excessive, compared with the profits which are being made at present.

What happened to the motor industry, and to those distributors? Along came the Holden car. It immediately cut the ground from under their feet. Firms which were in an extraordinarily good position and which provided secure employment found they had to retrench staff. The Holden car has since enjoyed a few years of supremacy of trade, and has captured a large portion of the market.

The Ford company is now coming out with the Ford Falcon, which is designed to do what the Holden car did to the Australian market. The Falcon has been in production in Canada, and in six months it took 40 per cent. of the car market. It is designed to compete with the Holden in Australia, and models of the Falcon are coming over by train from the Eastern States.

The £15,000,000 profit made by General Motors last year will not be repeated next year. It is possible that General Motors may have to put off staff in the following year, although that is unlikely. It ill behoves any member of the Opposition to

criticise General Motors for making the profits it is making, because those profits will be used to enable that firm to remain in business and meet competition later on.

We hear constant criticism from the Opposition of profits made by companies. We also hear criticism from it in other ways. Recently there was a stir in the Midland Junction Workshops, and in my view quite rightly at that stage. Once the position was explained and the employees knew there would be no retrenchments, although the size of the work force was certainly to be reduced, but only as the men retired or left the industry, the criticism should have stopped. The issue should then have been dropped, but we find that it has been continued by the Opposition.

That action illustrates the hypocrisy of many of the arguments put forward by the members opposite. Obviously, they look all over Western Australia to find one section of the community which is the most deserving of assistance, and they put up the claims of that section to obtain political capital—not to help the individuals. I realise that if those employees needed assistance they would get all the help they wanted from the Opposition. In this case they were used—as in the past they have been used, and in the future will be used again—for political advantage. The Opposition looked all over the State to single out one section and hold it up as having received a raw deal at the hands of the Government. They singled out the workers of the Midland Junction Workshops. This issue is still continuing, although there is no foundation for any of the criticism which the Opposition has levelled.

To indicate the extent of hypocrisy to which we are subjected by the Opposition, I draw a comparison between the position of the employees at Midland Junction, and the position of our natives. Let us take the position in Laverton where there are 400 natives. We know that a medical party which left Perth and examined every native in that area, found that 77 per cent. of them had an eye disease known as trachoma which, in the secondary stages, leads to blindness. We know of the plight of all the aborigines in the mining towns of this State eastwards from Laverton and Kalgoorlie, northwards from Wiluna to the Kimberleys. The incidence of this eye disease is very much the same among all the natives. It affects 77 per cent. of them.

We know further that 25 per cent., at the minimum—and more likely 35 per cent. of them—suffer from a disease known as yaws, which causes the flesh to rot away from the bones. What are the members opposite doing for them? The present Government is certainly taking very imaginative action on behalf of natives in

the more settled areas. I still contend that not enough has been done, certainly in respect of the ones to whom I have just referred as being in need of medical treatment.

We know that 77 per cent. of that section of our population has trachoma, which can be cured in 14 days by a course of tablets taken orally. The medicine is available. We should go out of our way to provide rations to retain the natives in a particular spot for 14 days to undergo the treatment. We know we can cure yaws by two injections of penicillin. If we can get them together long enough we can wipe out the incidence of trachoma and yaws, just as those diseases have been wiped out in other countries. We do not hear the Opposition saying anything about those people.

Those natives are about to lose their eyesight, because we are not prepared to arrange with the Commonwealth Government to distribute the tablets and cure them within 14 days. We do not have to pay for the tablets or the penicillin injections. Certainly the natives living at the missions and Government outposts receive the treatment, but when they leave those localities they become reinfected.

It seems so hypocritical for any one of us to worry about individuals who mostly drive up to Parliament House in cars when they have protests to make, and go away quite happy after about an hour, when there are other people who are in desperate need of our assistance. In the concentration of their endeavours on the employees of the Midland Junction Workshops, when there are other sections more deserving of attention, the hypocrisy in the arguments of the Opposition members is illustrated.

I did not intend to speak at all, but it was necessary for me to take exception to one or two of the points made by the member for Mt. Hawthorn. Therefore I took the opportunity of drawing his attention to those points.

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [10.31]: It is indeed hard to realise how the member for South Perth could live so long and know so little; because just a few hours ago, or less than that, mention was made by the member for Collie of some of the conditions that prevailed in India and other Asian countries. While we know that these conditions do prevail, there is very little we can do about them as individuals. We can only try to lift the standards of these people who require medical assistance and that sort of thing. However, we cannot force it upon them individually.

The member for South Perth has been fortunate in many ways because he has gained quite an experience of those people who live in our outback and who need the

treatment which he mentioned. Likewise, the member for Collie has seen the people of India and other countries where poverty and pestilence exist. I, too, am sorry for these people; but I am not going to be hypocritical about it and say, "Why is not something done?", and get up in my place and chastise the Government for not doing more.

I believe something should be done for these people, and we should work towards that goal. However, it is a subject about which no political capital should be made. These people are in an unfortunate position. It is not their fault and it is not the fault of the Government; and the member for South Perth knows that full well. It is rather remarkable to see the tears the member for South Perth sheds for the people who are making excess profits. Perhaps if he had spoken three weeks ago the Federal Treasurer would have changed the Budget, because the intention of the Budget is to curb inflation. The Federal Treasurer considers there is too much excess money in the community; and excess money means that there is, to some degree, excess profits. Therefore, it has become necessary to put the brake on some of these financial concerns and take some of their excess profits.

Tonight, during the broadcast of the Federal parliamentary debate, I heard about the removal of the shilling in the pound rebate on incomes in the higher bracket of £50,000 per year, of which there are not many. That would represent a difference of £40 per week, and I should imagine that those people would not be too keen on the idea of having to pay the extra money. However, that is an amount most members in this House would be only too pleased to pay if they were getting an income as high as that.

I would say this: In the main, the industries of Australia are genuine in their endeavours; and I do not think there has been too much activity in this State in regard to excess profits. However, in certain cases, there should be criticism of this sort of thing by Opposition members from time to time.

I will now deal with another matter aired by the member for Leederville. When he wishes to make nice quotations, I suggest he make them to people who cause disruptions in the community—to those who cause people like the member for East Perth to become more expressive than normally.

I will refer to some instances that have occurred during the political life of the member for East Perth. For the information of some members, and particularly the member for Leederville, I suggest that the latter make his fine quotations to the directorate of *The West Australian* newspaper. I would say that the member for East Perth is one of those most entitled to become embittered in his political life.

I ask members to think back to the week after the elections in 1953, when, in two specific editorials of *The West Australian*, the member for East Perth was attacked. One editorial said to the Government that had just been elected, "Graham must not be a member of the Ministry"; and when he was appointed a member of the Ministry, two days later an editorial appeared under the heading, "Graham must not be Minister for Housing." When a direct attack is made upon a person like that, he is entitled to become embittered in his political career. I do not say that the member for East Perth is embittered; but that sort of thing, to my mind, more than the theory of Karl Marx, leaves a mark on one's character.

I think the member for Leederville spoke in all sincerity, and I only bring this next matter up for the information of the House in general. I am referring to class consciousness, of which he spoke, causing class prejudice. I do not think anything causes class prejudice in the community more than the creation of titled people. If one looks at the Federal scene, where the Liberal Party has been in control with its Country Party confederates for some years now, one will find that almost every permanent head of a Government department is Sir Somebody. If that is not creating class consciousness, I do not know what is. Then we can go to South Australia. With the exception of about two of the Ministry, all are Knights—noble Knights.

Mr. Brand: What about going to Tasmania?

Mr. Roberts: What about the ex-Premier of New South Wales?

Mr. JAMIESON: I am not defending his being created a knight; nor am I defending the ex-Premier of Tasmania. However, that does not make the position any better. All I am pointing out is that the States with predominantly Liberal Governments have more class consciousness than the States with a Labor regime. No doubt if this Government remains in office for a few years there will be some Sir Harrys and Sir Charleses here, there and everywhere.

Mr. Roberts: That does not create class consciousness.

Mr. JAMIESON: Of course it does!

Mr. Roberts: What about my colleague on my left? You cannot say that about him.

Mr. JAMIESON: He is the exception that proves the rule.

Mr. Rowberry: He is in a class by himself.

Mr. JAMIESON: I seem to have enough material following on the remarks of a few of the members who have spoken tonight without having to speak on general lines, which is what I had intended doing.

The member for Harvey, during his speech, was very hurt about the majority party being refused the right to rule in this State. The honourable member used the term "majority party." Perhaps that is not what he meant to say; because if we consider which party has the majority of members in this House, we will realise that it is neither of the two parties which form the Government. If we examine the results of the last election, we will find that the combined Labor votes were more than the total of either of the Government parties. It must be borne in mind, too, although the Deputy Premier would not like to admit it, that it was the likes of one named Mr. Addis, and his party, who really returned the present Government to office. It is obvious that it was the preference votes which resulted in the election of the present Government, not the individual votes for the parties concerned. Therefore, the Government need not crow about something which is not a fact.

I would like to refer for a moment to the Legislative Council elections. In 1958 the member for Dale—now the Minister for Works—and all those on his side, crowed about the wonderful victory they had in the Suburban Province. Let us see what is really happening. I do not know why some of my colleagues have not broached this subject before, because the outstanding feature of the last Legislative Council elections was the fact that the Labor Party polled far more votes in that election than it had ever polled before in a Legislative Council election in this State. The combined total for the Labor Party was in the vicinity of 27,000 as compared with the 24,000 of other parties opposed to it. Therefore, it should be obvious that the writing is on the wall.

I think that the Legislative Council voting does reflect fairly truly the thoughts in the minds of the people. In 1954, at the first Legislative Council election following the Hawke Government's return to power, a total of 13,000-odd votes were recorded for Labor as against the 10,000-odd opposed to it. Then the party started to fall from favour and we find that at the more or less compulsory election it received only 23,000 votes as against 27,000 scored by the combined Liberal and Country Party teams in 1956. In 1958, as I have said, the situation was even worse. However, it is not surprising to note that under the circumstances the present Government required the assistance of the D.L.P. to gain the Treasury benches in 1959.

The 1960 figures, however, illustrate that the people are returning to Labor in no uncertain fashion. Therefore, I suggest that we need only wait for the time when the electors again express themselves to find that this Government will be on this, the Opposition, side of the House once more.

Dealing further with those elections, I would like to take to task the Minister in charge of the Electoral Department—the Attorney-General—for his efforts against the electors who did not appreciate having the voting facilities which were available in my electorate severely limited. On the 30th March I wrote to the Chief Electoral Officer drawing his attention to the fact that in the Beeloo district of the Suburban Province, the number of polling booths since the 1958 biennial elections had been reduced from 21 to 14—a reduction of one-third. That seemed very strange in view of the fact that the number on the roll for that particular part of the Suburban Province had increased by 1,200. However, it is not so strange when it is realised that there is a preponderance of Labor-minded people in the district. It would appear, consequently, to be an effort to prohibit people from voting, or at least making it very difficult for them to do so.

After due consideration was given to my letter, the Chief Electoral Officer replied to the effect that another polling booth would be made available for that area in one of the localities I had listed. However, I was not altogether satisfied with this action, so I wrote to the Attorney-General outlining the specific areas which had been provided with polling booths, although very few people were making use of them; while other centres were without booths, despite the large number of people who desired them. As a lot of land had been resumed for marshalling yards and people had shifted, some of those booths provided would receive even less patronage than before.

As an example, the booth at the Welshpool school was retained, entailing the employment of a presiding officer and a clerk who, between them, recorded something like 27 votes. In other places where a hundred votes were recorded on previous elections, the booths were removed. It is rather obvious what was done, because in the 1958 Legislative Council elections the Welshpool booth was one of the few which recorded a majority for the Liberal Party. To cut the long story a little shorter, I will inform members that the Attorney-General wrote to me on the 27th April and told me something which I do not believe is very truthful and which, in fact, he himself proved to be very unreliable. His letter is as follows:—

I refer to your letter of the 13th April regarding polling booths for the forthcoming Legislative Council election in the Beeloo district. Owing to the intervention of the Easter holidays your letter did not reach me until the morning of the 20th April. Therefore the time between then and polling day on the 30th April was not sufficient to allow any action to be taken.

However, I have had the matter investigated by the Chief Electoral Officer, as a result of which I am satisfied that the requirements of the

district referred to should be adequately met with the 14 polling places already gazetted.

From the information given me in that letter, I was led to believe that the Attorney-General had conferred with the Chief Electoral Officer; and yet, on the 14th April, almost a fortnight previously, the Chief Electoral Officer wrote me as follows:—

Referring to your memorandum of the 30th ultimo, the Honourable Attorney-General has approved of the appointment of a polling place at the doctor's consulting room, Hill View Place, Bentley, and a notice to this effect appears in the *Government Gazette* of even date.

The Attorney-General did not know what he was talking about, because the Chief Electoral Officer said that the Attorney-General had approved a further booth. Yet, according to the Attorney-General he had conferred with the Chief Electoral Officer and had decided that the 14 booths provided were enough.

His own letter has proved him to be false in regard to his information on this matter. I believe he gave scant consideration to the request for additional polling booths. In my opinion it does not matter how much an election costs really so long as people are given the opportunity to exercise their franchise. Of course a limit must be placed on the number. For instance, a booth could not be provided for one, two, or even three voters. But surely provision should be made when about 100 voters are involved!

However, we will have a look at the situation in connection with polling booths and see how the Government looked after itself in respect of polling places in areas in which it was affected. We may take, for example, the Central Province, where both Government parties were contesting the elections and would naturally be anxious to provide polling booths easily accessible to the members of their various political persuasions. At the previous election, the Avon Valley sub-district had 11 polling centres; on this occasion it had 16. The Dale section of the Central Province had 11 on this occasion, as compared with 8 on the previous occasion.

Mr. Lewis: How many on the occasion before that?

Mr. JAMIESON: And so it goes on—even in the Toodyay district, where the number was increased from 14 to 19.

Mr. Lewis: How many miles apart were they?

Mr. JAMIESON: I am not growling about the number put in, but about the number taken out. In the Beeloo district they were first cut down from 21 to 14, and then a further one was allowed for that district. In the Guildford-Midland

section, where on the previous occasion there were 19 polling booths, there was a reduction to 14. In the Maylands district, where there had previously been 11, they were cut down to 8. In the Middle Swan district, where there had previously been 12, they were cut down to 10. They must have had a bit of influence there. In the Mt. Lawley district, where there had previously been 16, they were cut down to 13. In the South Perth district, where there had previously been eight—and incidentally this is a very strong voting area for the Government forces—on this occasion they were only cut down to seven booths. In Victoria Park where, on the previous occasion they had seven, they were cut down to five.

The pruning was well aimed to cut out the party to which the Government of the time was opposed. However, despite all that, the people were incensed—and I say that because of the reflection of the percentage poll vote, which was not a good one on usual Labor voting, as an examination would indicate that Labor polls very badly as a rule unless it secures over 50 per cent of polling.

In some provinces it was fairly high, but in the case of the bigger provinces like Central and Metropolitan where polling was distinctly Labor-flavoured, although admittedly the Metropolitan Province remained a Liberal stronghold—it was the only province the Liberal Party won of the nine contested—the poll was very light. It would indicate to me that those who troubled to vote were determined, and clearly knew their own mind in the way they intended to vote. When the polling results were known, and there was an indication that it was light, I had little hope that the party I supported would do well at the election. I was surprised to see the reaction of the public against the power of the Government as a result of the voting of the 30th April.

Mr. Lewis: At the April elections, the Government merely opened some of the polling booths which your Government cut out.

Mr. JAMIESON: I am not in favour of any being cut out; I am saying there was no justification for a further cutting of polling booths. I believe they should not have been cut out before. I would say that an examination of polling booth figures, seeing that some only polled as low as 10 votes to a booth, would indicate that the expense of getting votes in the area was fantastically high as compared with Bentley and Cloverdale.

Mr. Lewis: What about the distances voters had to go to vote?

Mr. JAMIESON: In the metropolitan area voters had not got private cars to go from one place to another.

Mr. Lewis: You said expense should not be considered.

Mr. JAMIESON: I agree; I said within limits. I say that we should not in any way do anything that will impede the public in recording its just votes. I think we must be fair on that. The honourable member might have a growl against previous booths being cut out. I would prefer to examine that in the light of the official statistics when they come to hand. I feel that some of the booths, at least by comparison, were very much unjustified. However, I am not growling about them; I am growling about the ones that were cut down in the Labor areas. It appears, on this occasion, that the money spent on those booths in the country was taken from the booths which would normally have been in the Suburban or Metropolitan Provinces. Much the same thing occurred in the Metropolitan Province, and the only electorate that had an increase in the number of booths was the sub-district of Nedlands.

Earlier in the session I asked questions with regard to rental of Government offices from private organisations. I did this with the intention of discovering just what the Government was paying out, particularly in the City of Perth, in the way of rentals each year. It has no doubt been noticed by members that the Commonwealth Government is very reluctant to pay rentals even in outlying suburbs; it invariably finishes up buying the building.

Before Government members tell me the Commonwealth has the finance to do it, I might point out that the Government could find itself in a difficult financial position if it continues to pay rents in the vicinity of £30,000 plus rates, where rates are due on leases, in the city council area compared with what it could do if it put this money towards building offices, or getting some of its funds used for building offices, which could be repaid over a short term. The total amount in the Perth City Council area alone of £40,000 a year would finance in ten years, a building of £400,000, so that on a very short term the Government could have its own building and not be obliged to pay these considerably higher rentals it is faced with at present.

We now find that the Crown Law Department has certain premises in the Cecil Building, no doubt by virtue of the fact that the premises are needed. There are certain sections of the Crown Law Department in the Supreme Court building and more departments are going to be established in the new Rural and Industries Bank building. Before long one will find that, to get any sense out of a particular department, one will have to go to three different parts of the city instead of being able to get all the information at the one place. So I suggest that the Government look closely into this proposition and not willy-nilly pay rentals to the owners of Newspaper House, and places like that, just to suit the convenience of the people concerned. I say that advisedly

because I can remember the Minister for Railways, when he was on this side of the House, asking whether it was necessary to build the Rural and Industries Bank. He wanted to know whether accommodation could not be found in some private building rather than build a new premises for the bank. It would appear that because of some pressure from him he is making sure that certain interests are being well looked after by the rentals being paid.

Further questions indicate that a considerable sum of money has been spent on renovating the offices of various Ministers. This is an old sore of mine. I do not begrudge any Minister having a good office; I think that a poor office indicates a poor state of affairs. But I do begrudge the Government spending vast sums of money, as it did, on the old Treasury building. It is a crying shame that so much money has been poured into a building such as that. I was critical when money was spent on the office at the Public Works Department. Not that it is not a good office; but the point is that new offices will have to be built before long, and the more that is spent on improving and renovating these old offices the longer it will be before the new ones are built. In addition there are the rentals being paid to these private firms around the town.

The money spent on renovating the old offices, and on renting offices from private firms, would have formed a decent fund for building a new set of Government offices, without having to use any other money. It is interesting to note that the renovations the Premier's suite, the Premier's department offices, and the Cabinet room cost £16,222; and, because of the alterations, a certain section of the Education Department has had to shift to Newspaper House, causing the Government to be liable for £2,616 per annum rental. So as well as the actual sums spent on the offices, that rental will be paid in perpetuity, or until such time as the office is shifted from that private building, and that rental must also be debited against the account.

One matter which has concerned me for some time, and to which I hope the Premier will be sympathetic—I do not ask for sympathy on my own account, but on behalf of some of my colleagues as well as some members on the other side—is that more opportunity should be given for members to travel to their electorates by air, at all times and at any time. In this day and age, air travel is available; and, in a State such as this, members should be able to avail themselves of it so that they may visit their electorates. The members for the North-West, the member for Murchison, and possibly the member for Geraldton, have the right to use air travel on occasions; but I do not think it is good enough.

My proposition is that the Government should give consideration to this matter; and before members opposite say, "Why

didn't the previous Government give it?" I would say the members of that Government are no better off for not giving it than members of the present Government would be if they refused it. Members who represent these outback areas should be able to leave the city, go to their electorates, and return to the city without having to pay their own air fares, or having to travel by car or by sea. They can use the two fares they are allowed for the year on one item of business concerning their electorate; and then they are forced to use alternative means of transport.

They now have to go to their electorate for a two or three months' tour. My friend, the member for Kimberley, would take some time to tour his electorate; and by the time he had gone from the Broome end of his electorate to Wyndham, some time would elapse; whereas if he is asked to do a job in Perth, which requires personal contact with a department, he should be able to come down here by plane without incurring any cost to himself. At the moment unnecessary delay is occasioned by not giving a member an opportunity to use air travel. If my proposition were agreed to it would be of advantage to the people of the North-West and other outlying parts, and would be of considerable assistance to members representing those districts in carrying out their duties.

I do not think it would be abused. People do not go flying around willy-nilly for nothing. If I were a member for the North-West I would not feel inclined to fly to Wittenoom Gorge for the weekend for the fun of it. I would go to those places when I felt it was necessary for me to go there, and I feel that this proposition is one that the Government could look at very closely, and to which it could give sympathetic consideration. It is something which is long overdue; and if it were granted, it would assist the people in the electorates and the members concerned. They would be able to look after their electorates far better than they are doing at the moment—that is, if that were possible, of course.

I should now like to refer to that hardy annual, the Guildford airport. I should like to warn the Minister, who advocated the extension of this airport at Guildford, about this matter—I refer to the 17 degree airstrip. Underneath the flight funnel, and in a position where the aircraft will not be high in the air, they will pass over three schools. We have had instances in the past in America—and they still happen every now and then—of where aircraft have crashed in a built-up area. On some of these occasions they do not leave the runway as quickly as they should and then something happens. We have already had an instance of it in this State—the aircraft in question being the *Fitzroy* which crashed into the housing area at the top end of the strip.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: What do you want me to do about it?

Mr. JAMIESON: It is said that the pilot on that occasion might have endeavoured to save any further carnage by pulling the aircraft into the ground and sacrificing those on board—not that he could have saved them, anyway. However, the point I am making is that the Government surely must know that it is inadvisable to advocate the extension of an airport in a built-up area, or a semi-built-up area, particularly when it has available to it vast tracts of land where it would be possible for the aircraft taking off to gain height without endangering lives.

In South Australia, where one of the most recent big airports was built at West Beach, the aircraft take off over the water, so that if anything goes wrong the only lives at stake are those of the people on board the aircraft. If anything happens in this State the consequences will be on the Minister's head, and on the heads of those who sit on the other side of the House.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Don't be ridiculous!

Mr. JAMIESON: They will, because the Minister has advocated extensions to the airport, despite protestations and objections and reasons as to why it should not be there.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Have you ever been to other airports in the world?

Mr. JAMIESON: Of course I have.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Do you know where they are situated?

Mr. JAMIESON: Yes. I have told the Minister about one of the most recent to be built in Australia. It was built at West Beach for a specific purpose—so that the aircraft could take off and gather height over the bay without endangering lives. The same applies at the Idlewild Airport in New York, and the main airport in London; the aircraft take off over the water for a specific purpose—so that they will not cause any damage if they crash.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: They can do that in London and New York.

Mr. JAMIESON: They can do it here, too. What is wrong with the south of the city for the establishment of an airport? If it were placed there it could be reached from the city in a matter of a few minutes.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: The things that you have mentioned could go wrong anywhere.

Mr. JAMIESON: I know they could go wrong anywhere; but why take unnecessary risks? That is what I am pointing out to the Minister. He has had experience in controlling aircraft and he knows that these things can occur. We hope and trust that they will not occur at our airport, but we should make every effort to

ensure that they will not occur. It is foolish for the Government to continue to advocate an approach such as this, when it knows full well that an airport could quite easily be established in a more suitable area. It is not as though the metropolitan area of Perth has been built out. There are more suitable sites than the area at Guildford. The airport at Guildford was built as a war-time expediency. It was placed there merely because an airport of sufficient size was necessary at that time to meet the requirements of the forces. That airport was established very quickly without any thought being given to future town planning.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Did you recommend to your own Government, when it was in office, that the airport should be shifted?

Mr. JAMIESON: My word I did! On many occasions I made approaches to my Government that the Guildford airport should be shifted. I have always been opposed to any extension that was suggested to the Guildford airport, particularly after the *Fitzroy* incident on which occasion more lives could have been lost than there were.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: What was the answer given by the previous Government to your representations?

Mr. JAMIESON: It did not have any opportunity to do much until the death-knock. At that time the previous Government was strenuously opposing the proposition for the extension of the Guildford airport; and as a result of its representation to the Commonwealth Government, the proposed extension of one airstrip was discontinued. However, the Commonwealth continued with its arrangements to extend the 17 degree airstrip for which the resummptions at Guildford and Cloverdale are necessary.

Mr. J. Hegney: Without any consideration being given to the Stephenson plan.

Mr. JAMIESON: That is quite correct. As the member for Middle Swan knows, and as all members of this House know, the Stephenson plan should be taken into consideration. In that plan it was suggested that the airport should be established in the region of the Gngangara pine forest. I understand, of course, that there are difficulties associated with that proposal, too; but with the Commonwealth making available land at Jandakot for a secondary airport, there is no reason why it could not have obtained suitable land in that area to place the main airport south of the city.

After many attempts to get some reliable information on the actual prices of cement charged to the various State Governments, we are still trying to get an answer. Last year, in

answer to a question that was asked on the 23rd of July, the Minister for Industrial Development listed all the prices and showed that the price per ton for cement in Perth was the highest charged to any Government in Australia. As an answer to a question I take that one as a good example, because the Minister went on to say that, for various reasons, one could not compare effectively the respective prices, but to take the prices charged to the various Governments in each State would indicate that possibly they would all be on a similar basis.

However, he listed the price in Melbourne as plus delivery and the price in Hobart as plus delivery. With all this information given in answer to the question, he was unable, effectively, to cover up the fact that apparently the highest price for cement charged to any Government in Australia was charged to the Government of this State. I joined issue with the Minister once before on this matter by pointing out that it was most unreasonable that Perth, of all the capitals in the Commonwealth, should be called upon to pay the highest price for cement, when the raw materials for the product were readily available.

If the Minister is anxious to encourage the establishment of new industries in this State, surely it is time he did something about reducing the price of cement! He would be the very one to achieve this because he is closely connected with the people who control the price of cement in Western Australia.

I now wish to have a few words to say about what was stated by the member for Canning when, on opening day, he moved the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. I have heard some eight or nine speakers move that motion, but I have never heard a speech such as the one made by the member for Canning on the opening day of this session. As a matter of fact, I felt like scratching a great deal after hearing what the member for Canning had to say on this debate. One feature of his speech I will now quote as follows:—

The disturbing feature of the present legislation—

the honourable member was referring to the S.P. laws

—as pointed out by the Royal Commissioner, is the fact that in the existing set-up there is a possibility of a very small group of people, by financial and other pressures, dictating as to who shall govern the State. I think that point should be borne in mind by all political parties, and the people of the State as a whole.

What a gem! If ever there was a party that was controlled by a small group it is the party to which the honourable member belongs. He is controlled by those people

who would have us believe that the rights of certain people to make vast profits are the only rights that exist in this world. Yet he is prepared to utter a gem such as that! He knows—

Mr. O'Neil: I know that your sympathies lie with the S.P. bookmakers.

Mr. JAMIESON: My sympathies do not lie with the S.P. bookmakers any more than they lie with the punters or any other section of the community. My main interest, as a member of this House, is to ensure that all things are established on a fair basis and that they are operated within the law. This applies to S.P. bookmaking, and I certainly do not agree with the way S.P. bookmaking was conducted a few years ago. This effort by the member for Canning has set an all-time low, and makes one think that those on this side are considering the S.P. bookmakers' interests. The honourable member wants to put his thinking cap on again, because his party was influenced by the racing fraternity, as instanced by the fact that the people who are responsible for endorsing many members of the Liberal Party are those who are closely associated with the conduct of racing in this State. In that regard, therefore, the member for Canning should have another look at what he has said.

The Press in this State, of course, being closely associated with the honourable member's party, is a body that can dictate anything. For instance, if any member in this Chamber was morally inclined to support any legislation in regard to S.P. bookmakers or seemed likely to cross the floor of the House to vote on any issue, it would only need a smart columnist employed by *The West Australian* newspaper to write an article to the effect that the representatives of S.P. interests had created a fund for the benefit of anybody who crossed the floor on this particular issue, and the honourable member concerned, no matter how moral his obligations were in respect to the legislation under consideration, would not be able to vote according to his conscience because he would be crucified by the Press as a result of his action on any issue. This session we will probably have the prospect of the Press adopting snide tactics such as that when legislation is before the House, but we will see how far it gets as a result.

In recent times the Commonwealth has indulged in a large extensive export drive; and, not before time, a local committee, associated with this drive has been set up in Western Australia. I thought that was a matter the State should have investigated some time ago. As a matter of fact, I have made numerous references to it in Address-in-Reply debates and in speaking to the Estimates at various times in this House.

I still feel we are not tackling this problem in the right manner. We need to have direct representation in the Asian markets; we do not need agents. When we have agents we do not get the service we would receive by means of direct representatives. Whether the people that produce the commodities we would sell would be obliged to pay a percentage to maintain those agencies or not, I would not like to say; but I suggest that would be one way of financing them. It would be one way of meeting such an expense by adjusting the recognised sale price of the commodity to these people; and that percentage could be covered in the price, provided it was not too high.

If an office were established by the Government—without overloading it, or making it too heavy—in the vicinity of Singapore, where it had ready access to the cities on that side of the Asian continent, we might get action that would be of advantage to the State. I would go further and advocate the closing down of the Agent-General's office. If necessary we could replace it with an office that would do some good. After all is said and done, from what I can see, all the Agent-General does these days is to make arrangements for railway contracts, and what-have-you. He signs for whatever engines or other commodities we might need, and then Flower, Davies & Johnson, or some other firm, cops the percentage out of it without having had any real dealing with the contract. Because they are the local agents they get these percentages; and get them for doing nothing. If they must receive them, then they should do something to earn them.

I would far rather see any money spent in this State spent in an endeavour to get markets, where we assume markets are available, bearing in mind that there is a general trend in recent years in both Indonesia and the South-East Asian continent to lift the standard of living. This being so, they will need certain commodities not readily produced in those particular areas. I suggest the Government might look at the possibility of either completely tapering off the Agent-General's office in London, if necessary; or perhaps tapering it off with a view to financing a project that would give assistance to the State.

Mr. Court: We have not looked at the prospect of tapering off the Agent-General's office, but we have considered the prospect of establishing direct representation in Asia.

Mr. JAMIESON: That would be a good move, and the sooner it is done the better. I now wish to mention something at which I took umbrage at the time; indeed, I think every member on this side of the House was entitled to take umbrage at what happened. I refer to the touring of Ministers overseas. When the present Deputy Leader of the Opposition was

Minister for Works, he toured overseas with a view to seeking industries for this State, together with improvements in other matters. We constantly had the spectacle of his being harassed by the present Minister for Works, who referred to his trip as a Cook's tour.

Mr. Brand: That is not true.

Mr. Heal: It is quite true.

Mr. Wild: What else was it?

Mr. JAMIESON: I do not know how members opposite have the hide to put such verbiage before the House. We have not harassed the Minister for Industrial Development in his efforts; and it was no doubt possible to have criticised him for some of the things he did overseas. We did not criticise him, however, because we believe that this State needs to progress by the introduction of new industries. No doubt if the Minister for Industrial Development were to speak clearly and truthfully on this matter, he would indicate that due to the efforts of the then Minister for Works, who toured overseas, a number of contacts were made, and quite a number of things were done, and trends of thoughts put into the minds of industrialists, that had a great effect on the present Minister's approach to them when he went overseas.

Mr. Court: We have not denied that.

Mr. JAMIESON: I wanted the Minister to say that; and I am glad he has said it. I wanted to hear the Minister say that; because I think the previous Minister was harassed in spite of the tremendous difficulties he had in breaking new ground; he had to do all he could under most difficult conditions.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. Court: The only difficulty made for him was by his own Premier.

Mr. JAMIESON: The only difficulty that was made for him was by the organising ability of one, Sir Halford Reddish.

Mr. Court: What nonsense!

Mr. JAMIESON: We know he organised protest meetings that proved an embarrassment; and Mr. Ledger will tell the Minister for Industrial Development that that was so.

Mr. Court: The whole controversy was started by the then Premier.

Mr. JAMIESON: The Minister for Industrial Development should ask Mr. Ledger.

Mr. Andrew: The Minister says anything that suits the occasion.

Mr. JAMIESON: I dealt a while ago with cement prices, but I think I had better leave that until we get some further figures that are to be obtained from a very reliable source. We might then take the

Minister for Industrial Development to task on the possibility of his doing something about them.

We have had certain questions asked from time to time on various Government contracts and the association of various members with them. On the 3rd August I asked, without notice, a question of the Minister for Railways as follows:—

Has he any interest, either financial or proxy, in the firm of Tomlinson Ltd. that has the KA wagon contract?

The Minister replied—

I can assure the honourable member I have no financial interest, whatsoever, in Tomlinson Ltd. I think the honourable member has been reading a communist publication called *Unity*.

Mr. Court: That is correct.

Mr. JAMIESON: I did not have a communist publication called *Unity*, but I did have an extract called *The Morals of Private Enterprise*. I very often receive communications in the form of *News Review*, *News Weekly*, and that sort of thing, which are forwarded to me by various people; and in which are set out certain disquieting features which I feel needed checking. I did not rely on this information, because I spent some considerable hours at the company's office in order to see how factual these matters were. Lo and behold, some little time later a question was asked in respect of the interest of the Minister in J. & D. Ledger Pty. Ltd. We found he had one nominal share in that company. This was not much; but it was set up as a laughing matter by the Minister, who laughed it off heartily.

Mr. Court: Because he has no beneficial interest in that share. You want to be careful what you say before you make a complete fool of yourself.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: What are you trying to do?

Mr. Brady: Give him a chance! He will tell you his story.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. JAMIESON: I was a little concerned, because I thought there was probably more in this than appeared on the surface. I asked the Minister very clearly whether he had any proxy interest in the firm. I might tell him what Webster's Dictionary has to say about the definition of "proxy." The definition is, "A care for; the agency for another who acts as a substitute for his principal; agency of a substitute; one who is substituted or deputed to act for another; that which substitutes." Having defined the word *proxy* let us look at the shareholdings of this firm.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member's time has expired.

Extension of Time

MR. J. HEGNEY: I move—

That the honourable member's time be extended.

MR. BRAND: I move an amendment—

That the extension be limited to five minutes.

Motion put and a division called for.

Point of Order

Mr. ANDREW: On a point of order, I point out that a motion was moved for an extension of time, which I take to be the substantive motion. A motion was then moved by the Premier that the extension be limited to five minutes. I take the latter to be an amendment to the substantive motion?

Mr. TONKIN: It is as well for us to know what we are voting for. Are we voting for an extension of time as moved by the member for Middle Swan, or are we voting for the extension to be limited to five minutes?

The SPEAKER: The point taken by the member for Melville is rather apt. This matter was discussed earlier this afternoon. I ruled that an extension of time would normally be for half an hour. That is provided for by Standing Orders. The member for East Perth suggested that some dispensation should be made to enable a member to round off a few remarks, and that a shorter extension should be granted.

I mentioned this afternoon that a shorter period would not be in order, because the Standing Orders provide for a half-hour extension, but with the concurrence of the House I would accept a motion which provided for the extension of time for a shorter period.

In this case the member for Middle Swan was first to move for an extension of time. There was no limitation in that motion. Subsequently the Premier moved that the extension be limited to five minutes. I could not accept that amendment, because the motion must be put without debate. I gave my decision to the Ayes.

Mr. TONKIN: I do not think you did.

The SPEAKER: I did. It was challenged. That was why a division was called for. Several members called for a division, and obviously they will have to vote with the Noes. If there has been genuine confusion, I am prepared to put the motion again and allow the matter to be decided on the voices, if that is the will of the House.

Mr. ANDREW: What is the motion?

Mr. BRAND: In order to clarify the position: I thought I had the right to move the limitation of time in view of what was

said this afternoon. As there is some confusion, I ask leave to withdraw my amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The SPEAKER: When I interrupted the speech of the member for Beeloo I did hope that he would indicate that he required a short time to complete his remarks. I would have granted a short extension without any motion being moved. Now that the Premier has withdrawn his amendment, the question before the House is that the honourable member's time be extended.

Motion (for extension of time) put and passed.

Debate Resumed

Mr. JAMIESON: I was developing the theme of a further research into the records of the company. From the answer to a question asked by the member for Fremantle, I have been able to obtain the list of shareholdings in Ledger Investments. The list shows there are 156 shares held at the date of the last return. The shareholdings are as follows:—

Joseph Francis Ledger—1 share.

Gladys Muriel Ledger—1 share.

Charles Walter Michael Court as trustee for Kim Francis Ledger, Wayne Edson Ledger, Michael George Ledger, Haydem Charles Ledger, the sons of Colin Francis Ledger—50 shares.

Charles Walter Michael Court as trustee for Richard Peter Montgomery and Robert Francis Montgomery, the sons of Ethel June Syme—50 shares.

Charles Walter Michael Court as trustee for Kelwin Neil Pallot, Steven James Pallot, Garry Colin Pallot, the sons of Betsy Pallot—50 shares.

Colin Francis Ledger—1 share.

Ethel June Syme—1 share.

Betsy Vilma Pallott—1 share.

Charles Walter Michael Court—1 share.

I am not being over-critical of the Minister at this juncture, because I realise he has vast interests. I am merely pointing out the dangers of such association.

Mr. Court: I have no beneficial interest in those shares.

Mr. JAMIESON: The Minister has proxy interests, because he is looking after 151 shares. The company law is very definite in this respect. The Minister is the registered holder of the shares.

Mr. Court: I have no beneficial interest whatsoever.

Mr. JAMIESON: I asked if the Minister had any proxy interest.

Mr. Court: Have you ever been a trustee for anybody, or don't they trust you?

Mr. JAMIESON: Yes; and I tried to do them some good.

Mr. Court: You have to act within your trust.

Mr. JAMIESON: That is what I am coming to. The Minister leaves himself open when he implies he has no interest in Tomlinsons Ltd. We find out that Ledger investments have 2,000 shares in Tomlinsons Ltd.

Mr. Court: What of it?

Mr. JAMIESON: As a trustee, the Minister would be doing his best—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. JAMIESON:—for those people for whom he holds shares in trust. It may not be legally dishonest or morally dishonest for him, as Minister, to allot contracts to firms with which he is closely associated—

Mr. Court: I am not associated at all.

Mr. JAMIESON:—but he is running the risk of being adversely criticised because of his association with those firms that manufacture centre ride bogies and KA wagons.

Mr. Court: It is only people with a mind like yours who would think like that.

Mr. JAMIESON: The Minister has some interest, whether it be direct or indirect. I suggest to the Minister that he make sure he is clear of these interests. Failing that, he could take another portfolio where he would be away from any chance of being closely associated with them.

Mr. Court: How low can you get!

Mr. JAMIESON: Had the contract for the KA wagons been let to someone else, it would not be so bad.

Mr. Court: Have you looked at the articles of the company you are so concerned about? Have a look at them.

Mr. JAMIESON: The Minister is responsible for 151 shares out of 156 in that particular company.

Mr. Court: Did you see the articles of association to see the voting rights?

Mr. JAMIESON: I would say that the Minister, when he makes assertions in this House, should be sure that he has no interest—

Mr. Court: Neither I have.

Mr. JAMIESON:—whatsoever. Whether the interest is on behalf of someone else or not does not matter. It is still an interest. He has conveyed the idea that he has no interest, but that is not the position at all.

Mr. Court: The answer you got was truthful and factual, morally and legally.

Mr. JAMIESON: About the same as the cement one.

Mr. Court: You have a look at the articles of that company.

Mr. JAMIESON: There is a matter which I would like to bring before the attention of the Minister for Education. I refer to the Cloverdale School. I have approached the Minister, by question and by letter, about this subject for some considerable time and I find that the department is adamant in its intention to build the primary school next to the high school. By reference to those closely associated with secondary education, I understand that this is not desirable; and the teaching fraternity is not keen on it, mainly because of the discrepancy in size and ages of the children. Some of the children are difficult to control.

That might be all right with a small type of school, but it looks as though the Cloverdale School will be a fair size before very long. I suggest that it is undesirable to build the primary school close to the high school at the present juncture, and I would like the Minister to give some thought to this matter as, by so doing, he would benefit many people—not only the people of the Cloverdale area, but those who are responsible for the discipline in the two schools concerned.

Before concluding, there are two other matters with which I would like to deal. One concerns Parliament House improvements. According to information received from time to time, they are proceeding, and I would suggest to the Premier that if a Royal visitor comes to Perth in 1962 in connection with the Empire Games, it would be appropriate if the work at Parliament House could be pushed along to such an extent that the official opening could take place at that time. I think it is a ceremony which could take place at a time when the city would be heavily crowded with visitors.

The other matter I wish to speak of is in connection with the decision of the Government not to build a Government laundry. As I understand the situation, the Government may find itself in a dangerous position, because there is only one laundry—the Monarch Laundry—capable of handling big contracts. The Government could be creating a monopoly by dealing with a single organisation; and, in future, it may be held to ransom in connection with prices.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: They are very competitive prices, though.

Mr. JAMIESON: At this juncture, what is the position around the corner?

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: It is a contract.

Mr. JAMIESON: The position will be all right for a while; but what about when the contract has to be renewed? What will be the position then? It is like coal production. It is easy to get surface coal in the open cuts, but it is problematical whether one will be able to go back to the other coal when the open cuts are used up.

Mr Ross Hutchinson: Other laundries can take it also.

Mr. JAMIESON: My information is that they cannot carry out the contracts in regard to Government institutions.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You are right in part.

Mr. JAMIESON: Earlier in my notes I made mention of the Bentley High School, but at that time the Minister for Education was not present. I understand that next year the school population will be almost doubled, and at this juncture there is not much indication of the increased classroom accommodation. It is true that the Public Works Department built the Bentley High School in rather record time. I think it was about 60 days from the time the job was started until it was ready for occupation. This was an outstanding effort, and the workers did a good job. However, since then a shaking up has become necessary. It appears that the cost of that school will be out of all proportion to what it should be. In recent times, the workers at that school have not been urged to complete their work, and the response has been rather dilatory. As a consequence, I fail to see how the Public Works Department will complete its section in time for the next section to be gone on with so that it will be ready for the coming school year. From my observations, it would appear that the price of the construction is being increased, and not very much useful work is being done towards its completion. If that is the position, I suggest the Minister take steps to see that the money is put to better use.

I would like to conclude by saying that again it appears to me from the results of the Legislative Council elections held in this State on the 30th April, that the present Government has indeed lost the confidence of the electors of this State. I believe that this will be proved as soon as the voters are given an opportunity of expressing their opinion.

MR. ANDREW (Victoria Park) [11.51]: Earlier this evening the member for Mt. Hawthorn made a very vigorous attack on the Government. Among the things with which he charged it were its broken promises, and its bad and unsympathetic administration. He also brought to light the fact that two Ministers had made absolutely opposite statements; and when the Premier was asked to clarify the situation, he could not do so. I know what would have been the position if the situation had been reversed and a Labor Government had been in power, and a front-bencher from the Opposition had made an attack on the Government. Immediately the Minister or Ministers concerned, or the Premier, would have endeavoured to refute the charges made by the Opposition. However, the Premier and his Ministers took no notice of the attack made; and of course we know

the reason for this. They know that they will be protected because nothing will be published in the Press about the matter.

The other evening the member for Pilbara quoted certain statements which were made by Ministers a few years ago; and which, if they had been published, would have made those Ministers look very silly. At that time I noticed that the Ministers were laughing and I remarked on this to my colleague, who said that they were quite all right because they would be protected; he said that nothing would be published. That, of course, is most unfair, and does put the Labor Party—not only in this State but in all States, for that matter—at a great disadvantage.

I want to refer briefly to the remarks made by the member for Harvey in regard to the majority party ruling in this State. As the member for Beeloo pointed out, the majority party is not governing in this State; but we will let that pass. When the Labor Party had a huge majority in this House it really did not govern, because it was controlled in all its legislation by the Legislative Council, which has the final say. Never yet in the history of Western Australia has the Labor Government been in full control, and yet the member for Harvey is complaining because we are vigorously attacking some of the misdemeanours and stupid things for which this Government has been responsible.

For the information of the member for Harvey I would say that never yet has Western Australia had democratic government. Abraham Lincoln made the statement that government should be of the people by the people for the people. This Assembly is elected by over 350,000 people, but it is controlled finally by the decision of those elected by 150,000 people through their representation. Therefore, we have here a government of the people by a portion of the people. So anyone who speaks about democratic government in the State of Western Australia should reconsider the matter. Yet every time we on this side of the House have endeavoured to bring democracy into this State we have been frustrated by the undemocratic body sitting opposite in this House. I did not intend to touch upon that particular matter but I was provoked into doing so by the remarks of the member for Harvey.

Following my experience in the last few months during my travels in other parts of the world, I feel that it would be a very good thing if all members of Parliament were able to travel to other countries to see how those countries operate; how the people live; the enjoyment gained from family life; the economic life; and so on.

During the travels to which I have referred, I saw a number of cities, towns, and villages—they call them pueblos in Spain where I spent the larger portion of my time while away—and I came to several conclusions. One is in regard to the cities.

I consider that Perth is the most beautiful city I have seen. There is no doubt about that. There may be other beautiful cities in the world; undoubtedly there are. But I myself in my travels through Spain, England, Scotland, and a small part of Italy, have not seen a city as beautiful as Perth, and I think we should be very proud of that fact.

Another conclusion I came to was that the people in the countries to which I have referred are not as well off as those in Australia, and particularly in Western Australia. There is no doubt whatever about that. For instance, in London, the bus crews receive from £7 5s. to £9 2s. per week; and by "week" I do not mean 40 hours. In regard to the prices of things in England and Scotland as compared with Australia, I found very little difference. Butter is cheaper—although much of it is produced in Australia—because it is subsidised. Tinned fruits are dearer, and cigarettes are certainly dearer. They cost 4s. 1d. a packet of 20, which is equivalent to 5s. 1d. in Australia. That is a very high price, and it is a wonder to me how the people of England and Scotland can afford to smoke.

I went through the coalfields of England and spoke to some of the miners, who told me that although some of the miners on the coal faces underground received very high wages, most of the surface workers received as little as £7 a week. In addition, the industrial conditions, in my opinion, are not as good as they are here. For instance, except in London and Princes Street in Edinburgh, shops are open on Saturday afternoon, but close for one day during the week.

Bricklayers are getting £10 a week, as are other tradesmen. In fact, people in all walks of life are getting less than they would receive over here; although some of the tradesmen in the manufacturing industries do really get higher wages compared with others.

We did not see a great deal of France. We did not mind this as prices there are so fantastically high; and wages are no higher than in England—if anything, they are a shade less. While travelling by train in France it cost us 30s. each for a meal. I said to my wife, "If we have to live like this, we shall be broke before long and we will have to return."

Mr. Hall: What, no frogs?

Mr. ANDREW: Frogs' legs. My daughter, who was with me when we were comparing prices in Paris, said the prices were as high as in America, which is a higher wage-earning country than either France or Australia.

There is one favourable feature both in France and England, and that is the free medical service, which does not place a heavy financial burden on a person should he fall ill. If a person becomes ill the

medical treatment is provided free of charge, although it is a contributory scheme. I was particularly struck by the fact that people from other countries travel to England in order to obtain medical treatment free of charge. If an American is expecting a major operation which is going to cost him perhaps 1,000 or 1,200 dollars in America, he can pay his fare to England and can have the operation and receive medical treatment free. I pointed out that it was unfair that the Americans concerned contributed nothing and did not deserve to receive that service. The same applies to visitors from Australia. If one requires medical treatment, he may travel to England and receive it free of charge. Unfortunately from our point of view, the fare from Australia to England and return is far greater than from America to England and return.

Dr. Henn: Better treatment can be obtained here.

Mr. ANDREW: I would not say that the member is biased, but he might be. I cannot see why we in this country cannot develop our medical services to the extent that other countries have done, and I think we are working in that direction.

I spent a good deal of time in Spain. Spaniards earn as much in one week as Australians earn in one day. I was informed that tradesmen, such as first-class mechanics, receive 400 pesetas per week, which is nearly £3 Australian. Prices in Madrid—I cannot speak for the rest of Spain—are not greatly different from Australian prices. A suit costs 2,000 pesetas; ties are priced around about 50, 60, or 70 pesetas; and in one particular shop, very much like Woolworths, ties were selling at a special rate of 45 pesetas. A cup of coffee and toasted ham sandwich cost 2s. 9d. in the only decent store we found in Madrid. On this basis prices are not very different from our own, but rent in Madrid is very much cheaper. I was informed that Spaniards lived a great deal on wine and *pan*—I do not know whether I have pronounced it correctly, but it means bread. It puzzled many of us tourists how those people lived on the wages they received.

Mr. Bickerton: What about the cherries and strawberries?

Mr. ANDREW: They are beautiful. We saw beautiful strawberries in London which were the largest I have ever seen. In Madrid I had a car at my disposal, and on a number of days travelled 30, 40, or 50 miles and saw a considerable amount of farming. I saw only four tractors in my travels. Ploughs, etc., are pulled mostly by burros. The farmers still follow the old-fashioned method of breaking up the sheaves of wheat on the ground and then throwing them into the air to allow the chaff to be blown away from the wheat.

Mr. Jamieson: Did you see a bull fight?

Mr. ANDREW: I did. I do not think there will be much opportunity of the standard of living in Spain rising to any great extent until that country can bring its production per unit to a greater level.

In Ceylon I found poor wages and no social services. If a person is out of work, he has to beg, borrow, or steal. There is a large number of unemployed and, generally speaking, great poverty exists. However, the greatest poverty I saw was in Aden, where children do not go to school and people are living in caves in a very primitive fashion. I saw a number of buildings constructed of cardboard where people may enter to sleep and rest in the evenings.

Between Fremantle and London, Naples is the only port at which the ship can berth. At all other ports en route, passengers are taken ashore by tender or motor launch. I was quite proud of the fact that on returning to Fremantle approximately a week ago we received a very warm welcome from the people of Fremantle. Approximately half of the ship's passengers were migrants, and I feel it must have been a very gratifying sight to them to see the people of Fremantle welcoming the ship. I noticed five girls dressed in Highland costume, four playing the pipes and one playing the drum. I think that nowhere else in Australia other than Fremantle can such a welcome be given, because in most ports of Australia the public are not allowed on to the wharf.

I now wish to refer to a matter which perturbed me while I was in London. Quite a number of English people, on learning that I came from Western Australia, asked me why it was that the Australian Immigration Department warned migrants about coming to Western Australia.

Mr. J. Hegney: No doubt because of the Liberal-Country Party Government here.

Mr. ANDREW: I asked the reason the Immigration Department gave and was informed prospective immigrants were told that the position in Western Australia regarding employment was not good and that there were better prospects in the Eastern States. I am not exaggerating. I visited Savoy House and spoke to one of the officers there concerning this matter. He said, "I know they are doing that; but what can I do about it?" He asked me about the employment position in Western Australia and I told him I did not think it was very different from that of the other States.

I said, "It fluctuates." I was putting up a plod for Western Australia, which I think I was justified in doing. In any case, that is the position. Unlike my friend from Middle Swan, I am not necessarily

blaming this Government for the position. Probably it is partly to blame, but basically the fault lies with the Federal Government; and I think I am justified in saying that.

I can remember making a speech in this House several years ago. At that time I said that Western Australia covered a third of the territory of the whole of Australia and one-fifteenth of the population, which was mainly stationed in the south-west corner of the State. I went on to say that that small population was charged with the development of the whole of the State, which was an utter impossibility, and the State should have Federal assistance to carry out the job properly because we could not finance it ourselves. Nothing was said about that speech in the morning paper; apparently it was not thought important enough. But earlier this year the Minister for Industrial Development made a statement along the same lines, and he made the headlines. I do not know whether something is more truthful when he says it than when I say it; but when he said the same thing as I had said some years ago, it warranted double-column headlines; whereas when I said it, the matter was not worth mentioning.

However, there is no doubt the Federal Government has neglected Western Australia; and why the people of this State have been so foolish as to elect nine Government members from the ten seats in Western Australia, when that Government has not done anything for Western Australia, is beyond my comprehension. When the previous State Government wanted to export a million tons of iron ore for the purpose of starting an industry in this State it could not get permission from the Federal Government.

Mr. Brand: Neither have we up to this point.

Mr. ANDREW: That Government wanted the permit to enable it to finance a new industry. It is of no use the Premier talking, because I will have something to say about him presently.

Mr. Brand: Then don't put your finger up to me.

Mr. ANDREW: I will point more than my finger. The Commonwealth Government is spending large sums of money in the Eastern States. I suppose the Snowy River scheme will cost £400,000,000 or £500,000,000 before it is finished. The Federal Government is spending large sums in the Eastern States; and, as a consequence, the development of Australia is lopsided. The Commonwealth Government is making it more lopsided by spending money on developing a part of the country which is already much more advanced than the other part—namely, Eastern Australia. So it is necessary, if the Commonwealth Government wants to do its job properly, for it to spend more

money in Western Australia, and assist the Government of Western Australia, whatever Government may be in power, to develop this State. I lay the major blame at the door of the Commonwealth Government, but I do say that this State Government has to shoulder a portion of the blame because of the way it has been fooling around and upsetting the economy of the State, and upsetting industrial conditions in the State.

I was rather surprised the other day to hear the member for Murchison talking about telescopic railway freights. After the Menzies conservative Government took office in 1949 inflation in Australia advanced rapidly, to such an extent that the goldfields were almost priced out of existence. The mining industry is one which cannot pass on its costs, because the price of its commodity is fixed. If inflation had continued at the rate at which it started when the Menzies Government came into power, the mines would have gone out of business and there would have been no goldfields today. Even now many mines have had to close down and many more will have to cease operations in the future. A number of small shows have closed because of rising costs; yet the member for Murchison says that the Government is justified in increasing costs, and that the industry can stand these increased charges. I was surprised at the statements he made; but, like the other members on that side, he has to toe the line.

I now want to mention two more items regarding the Immigration Department. I was speaking to a chemist who was coming out on the boat as a migrant. He was a man of some means. He told me that he had £10,000 sterling—or £12,500 Australian—but he said that he had to wait four months to get sponsored. Finally somebody woke up to the fact that if he undertook to buy a house from the Housing Commission in South Australia, or from a company there, he would not need a sponsor. Personally, I do not see any reason why anybody with £12,500 needs to be sponsored to come to Australia. Surely such a person can keep himself until such time as he buys a business and a home!

He said to me, "The Immigration Department in Great Britain is not catering for the middle-class man like myself. The department does not advertise or hold out any inducement for us to come to Australia. Many of us want to go there because, although we are situated all right in England, we are looking to the future for our children, because we believe they will have much greater advantages in Australia." He considered that a drive should be made to induce more people with a certain amount of money to come to Australia. If those people could be induced to come here many of them would start small businesses which might grow to big

businesses, and their profits would not be going out of Australia. I think that is something which the Federal Government—I know that this Government is not concerned with the matter, because that is not one of its functions—could take note of and act upon.

There is one other matter I would like to refer to in connection with immigration. There are some British people who come to Australia, and, although they have not much money, they pay their own fares. I met two couples in that category, and one of them disembarked at Fremantle and are now living in Western Australia. They are only a young couple and they have not a great deal of money. They told me that when they went to the Immigration Department to make inquiries about coming to Australia the department was not interested in them when it found they were paying their own fares. I would have thought that the department would be more interested in that type of person than in those who pay only £10 to come to Australia.

These people showed spirit in the first place by being independent and paying their own fares. By their actions they indicated that they would make good Australians, or good settlers in this country. They are people whom the department should help as much as possible. I only wish we had a lot more migrants of that calibre coming to Australia.

Now I want to discuss a subject on which I will cross words with my good friend from Eyre; and during the course of these remarks I shall be criticising the Premier to some degree. I refer to the Eyre Highway. I agree with a good deal of what the member for Eyre said about the need for an East-West highway. I think it is a necessity. However, I consider it is a national responsibility. The Commonwealth is the authority that should bear the expense for the building of such a highway, because it would be serving the needs of the Commonwealth as a whole.

I remember that, some years ago, we had some drainage problems in Victoria Park. The then Minister for Works, the present Deputy Leader of the Opposition, was addressing a party of people in that suburb, including several Perth City councillors. He asked those councillors whether the Perth City Council looked after the drainage works in its various wards. The answer that he received, of course, was "Yes." The Minister went on to say he knew that would be the answer he would get, but he wanted confirmation. He then said to the councillors, "When the drainage problems in your wards become too great a responsibility on your local authority, the Government will step in and take over the responsibility for those drains because it is the superior body."

The Government of Western Australia did that, and it put in a drainage system in Victoria Park. The same principle applies in regard to the building of the Eyre Highway. The scheme does not warrant Western Australia investing £5,500,000 in that project. That money could be used in more profitable ways in other parts of the State. I assume that the Premier proposes to use the money that would be available from the Main Roads Department, but if that money were used for the building of new roads and for the improvement of existing ones in various parts of the State it would help our development more effectively than would the building of an East-West road.

Mr. Nulsen: I disagree with you on that point.

Mr. ANDREW: The honourable member is entitled to disagree with me. I cannot see how the building of an East-West road, to cost £5,500,000 to this State would assist the economy of Western Australia at present. Even the road hauliers who transport goods from the Eastern States to Western Australia at present consign their trucks on the railways at Port Pirie for disembarkation at Kalgoorlie because they consider that this is more economical than driving them across the Nullarbor Plain. The spending of £5,500,000 is a considerable sum in order to attract tourists to this State.

Mr. J. Hegney: They have not the money yet.

Mr. ANDREW: I think that £5,500,000 could be better spent on other developmental works.

Mr. Nulsen: The money would be spent in Western Australia. It would be spent only on that part of the road that is within the borders of our own State.

Mr. ANDREW: I realise that; but the money would do more good in the more settled parts of the State. In *The West Australian* of Monday, the 22nd August, there appeared a statement by the Premier on iron ore, which reads as follows:—

State Will Retain Koolyanobbing Ore

The West Australian Government will retain its Koolyanobbing iron-ore deposits until they can be used for a fully integrated steel industry.

Prime Minister Menzies was told this by Premier Brand, who returned from Canberra to Perth during the weekend.

Mr. Brand said he outlined to the Prime Minister and other senior Federal Ministers the State Government's plans if it were given a licence for the export of iron ore from the 10,000,000-ton deposits at Mt. Goldsworthy.

Then comes the subheading—

W.A.'s Aim.

And the article continues—

Mr. Brand said: "I told Mr. Menzies that it was our aim to get an integrated steel industry and we did not wish to interfere with the deposits at Koolyanobbing, where there are about 100,000,000 tons of good quality iron ore.

"The Government's intention is to retain these until they can be exchanged—

I want members to note that word "exchanged." Continuing—

for a steel industry, which is fundamental to W.A.'s industrial future.

"Any agreement under which we pass over the Koolyanobbing deposits would have to be firm in a time schedule and lay down the amount of money to be spent."

Such an agreement had been entered into by the South Australian Government. Under it, Broken Hill Pty. Ltd. was required to spend £30,000,000 in establishing a steel industry.

My mind goes back a few years and I recall when the Premier was a member of the Government which gave away for 6d. a ton, the best iron ore deposits that we had in Western Australia. Those deposits will ultimately be worth between £400,000,000 and £500,000,000. Despite this, the Government of the day gave those deposits away without even bargaining with the Broken Hill Pty. Co. to have a steel industry established in this State.

Mr. Brand: That is not true.

Mr. ANDREW: The Government threw away the State's bargaining power at that time. If it had not done that and had entered into a proper agreement with the company we might have had a steel industry in this State today. Even if the Government, at that time, had not been successful in negotiating for the establishment of a steel industry in Western Australia, we would still have had our bargaining power in the form of the Yampi Sound iron ore deposits which would have assured us of the establishment of a steel industry in this State in the future.

Despite what has gone before, the Premier, in this Press statement, is talking as if that action by the Government of which he was a member had never happened. The Premier must have a very short memory or else he does not wish to remember.

I am just wondering what could have been done for the development of this State in the future with the expenditure of that £500,000,000 on housing, schools, hospitals, and other public works. However, that money has now been given away. As a matter of fact, the conscience of the

Broken Hill Pty. must have been pricked—a very little bit—because it raised the price of that iron ore from 6d. to 1s. 6d. a ton.

Mr. Brand: That is what it is paying in South Australia.

Mr. ANDREW: In my opinion that is one of the gravest single actions that could have ever been committed to damage the future welfare of Western Australia; that is, for the Government at that time to give away £500,000,000 of the State's assets for practically nothing. The members who comprised that Government should not sleep soundly in their beds after doing a thing like that.

During the last session several pieces of legislation were passed, and I hope that legislation of a similar nature will not be placed on the statute book this session. Some of the Acts that were passed were extremely bad. One in particular, was the amending Act to the Royal Commissioners' Powers Act. That Act was passed by the Government to protect witnesses who had perjured themselves and were to give evidence before a Royal Commission. In my opinion the Act was agreed to merely for the protection of people whom I considered to be shady characters. When the Government put that legislation through it was done, purely and simply, for that specific purpose. I do not think that any goodwill the Government might have has been enhanced among the people by agreeing to that legislation.

Another amending Act the Government endeavoured to have passed was the Bill to amend the Electoral Act which I think was extremely dishonest. In politics I consider that there should be at least some measure of integrity shown by members when considering any question that is brought before this House. However, I think the Government showed a great lack of integrity in its approach to that particular question because that Bill was so loaded that, if it had been passed, a Labor Government would never have governed this State during our lifetime, or in the foreseeable future at least. Unfortunately for the Government, it was unsuccessful in having that legislation agreed to, but no doubt it will make another attempt in that direction if the opportunity occurs. Because it is such dishonest and improper legislation I hope the Government will always fail in its efforts.

We all know that one of the measures which was fought most vigorously here was that which contained amendments to the Money Lenders Act. There are certain financial institutions which are breaking the law with impunity, because the gains are so high. They had their punishment reduced, and this provided a further encouragement for them to break the law to a greater extent than they were doing previously. Before the Act was amended,

if they lent money and contravened the provisions of the Act it meant that they did not receive their principal back.

But they broke the law because the gains were so great; particularly when one considers that some of them charged a rate of interest as high as 60 per cent. It was known that others charged 30 per cent.; and some 25 per cent. The gains were so great, however, that they were prepared to take the risk of losing their capital; and it was very difficult to uncover their dishonest activity.

This Government, however, did away with the penalty, and the only penalty they now have is that if they are detected they must charge the amount of interest that is permitted. It is not often that I have kept the House late—in this case till early morning. Other members have done so on occasion, and I thought that perhaps it was my turn to do something in that direction! I have always tried to consider members in this House, and I trust they will forgive me if I deal with one or two matters which are not very contentious.

As the Minister for Works knows—because he lives in that area—the south side of the river has a tremendous population. This is not generally recognised by Governments—and I now refer also to the Government which was of the same political colour as myself. The population in that area is greater than most people in authority seem to think. As a matter of fact, an officer of the department was speaking to me, and when I told him of the population in the various areas south of the river—in an area of 20 miles square—he said, “If I had known that, I would have advocated that this particular building be considerably enlarged.” He was referring to the traffic office of Victoria Park.

We need various amenities south of the river; not necessarily in Victoria Park, because I am not that parochial. But in that area we are catering to a greater extent for those thickly-populated areas in the South-West. One of the immediate requirements is a major hospital. I know that the officers of the department who advise the Ministers in this regard seem to think only in terms of the north side of the river. I know a hospital is to be built at Osborne Park; and I do not say anything derogatory about that.

Mr. W. Hegney: Hear, hear!

Mr. ANDREW: I thought that might appeal to the member for Mt. Hawthorn. But the fact remains that on the other side of Victoria Park, on the site of 50 acres which have been acquired for the purpose, a hospital should be commenced as soon as possible; because this would save the congestion in the city of Perth as it would cater for so many people coming up from the south-west; and that

area, which is 20 miles square, contains one-fifth or one-sixth of the population of the State. I hope the Government will give this matter very serious consideration. Tomorrow morning some of the members—although I do not know which members, but I daresay those whose electorates are adjacent to the river—are taking a trip—

Mr. Craig: You mean this morning.

Mr. ANDREW: I beg the honourable member's pardon. Later this morning these members are taking a trip up the river for the purpose of inspecting it in company with the members of the Conservation Board. We propose to have a look at the river and see whether it can be beautified for the purpose of making it attractive, both to tourists and the residents of Western Australia. We must not lose sight of the fact that it is necessary for us also to cater for our own population.

I know very well that I approached the previous Minister for Works on a number of occasions in an endeavour to secure a dredge to undertake dredging work east of the causeway. I wanted the work to be done on the unsightly river-side east of the causeway and also on this side; because, as I said earlier in my speech, Perth is a city beautiful; and though the approaches to Perth, generally speaking, are not too bad, this particular aspect is an eyesore. It consists of a lot of muddy scrub, dirty water, and mosquitoes. This could be vastly improved. I hope the Minister for Works will give attention to the provision of a dredge as soon as possible to enable that work to be undertaken. Apparently the Swan River Conservation Board is concerned with that matter, and we will look at it later today.

While in England I went on a one-day tour in a bus. After that I obtained a car and toured the country individually, because I wanted to see it for myself. There was one feature of the highways in England that impressed me very much. I refer to the fact that on the highways in Great Britain there are no advertising signs on the side of the road. I know there are signs on the side of the road in Western Australia—there are quite a number at the moment. I brought back a copy of the Act which covers this particular activity, and I find that the Minister in charge of main roads has the right to say "Yea" or "Nay" to the establishment of signs, and he has said, "Nay."

Accordingly it is possible to drive along the beautiful highways in Great Britain and not see any advertising signs or billboards on the way. I have seen photographs of some of the main highways in America, and they are absolutely covered with these signs. I have also seen some of the highways in other countries of Europe alongside which there are plenty of signs which constitute a real eyesore. We want to avoid that eyesore in Western Australia.

I do not know whether the Minister has the power now to prevent people putting up billboards.

Mr. Nalder: The local authorities have, I think.

Mr. ANDREW: I think the Government should have the universal right throughout the State. The Minister should have the authority to be able to say whether billboards can be put up alongside highways or not; because people generally do not want them as they are inclined to spoil the countryside and take away a great deal of its beauty. I am afraid I have kept members a little while on this occasion; but they have also kept me on numerous other occasions, so it is tit for tat! In conclusion, I hope the Government will give serious consideration and thought to doing something which will suit the people of this State; and not act merely in the interests of big business.

There seems to be a tendency on the part of the Government to consider only what suits the big business interests, and to give very little, if any, consideration to the interests of the people, who in the main are the workers of this State drawing a pay envelope each week. If the Government were to look after the interests of the workers to a greater extent it would be doing more service to the State than it has done in its term of office.

Question put and passed; the Address, as amended, adopted.

BILLS (21)—FIRST READING

1. Absconding Debtors Act Amendment Bill.
2. Church of England in Australia Constitution Bill.
3. Coroners Act Amendment Bill.
4. Supreme Court Act Amendment Bill.
5. Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act Amendment Bill.
6. Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill.
Introduced by Mr. Watts (Attorney-General).
7. Stock Diseases Act Amendment Bill.
8. Fruit Growing Industry Trust Fund Committee (Validation) Bill.
9. War Service Land Settlement Scheme Act Amendment Bill.
10. Vermin Act Amendment Bill.
Introduced by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture).
11. Police Act Amendment Bill.
Introduced by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Police).
12. Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust Act Amendment Bill.
Introduced by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Transport).

13. Native Welfare Act Amendment Bill.
Introduced by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Native Welfare).
14. Firearms and Guns Act Amendment Bill.
Introduced by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Police).
15. Evidence Act Amendment Bill.
16. Administration Act Amendment Bill.
Introduced by Mr. Watts (Attorney-General).
17. Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act Amendment Bill.
18. Metropolitan Region Improvement Tax Act Amendment Bill.
Introduced by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Transport).
19. Milk Act Amendment Bill.
Introduced by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture).
20. Death Penalty Abolition Bill.
Introduced by Mr. Tonkin (for Mr. Graham).
21. Licensing Act Amendment Bill.
Introduced by Mr. Burt.

House adjourned at 1.2 a.m. (Thursday).

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 25th August, 1960

CONTENTS

	Page
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE—	
Decimal Currency : Interstate discussions and State Government's view	775
Oil Search—	
Conditions of Rough Range license	774
Conditions of Beagle Ridge license	775
Commonwealth activity at Beagle Ridge and ownership of oil	775
Snapper Fishing : Ban on use of traps	775
QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE—	
Sittings of the House : Days and hours	773
ADDRESS-IN-REPLY : TENTH DAY—	
Speakers on Address—	
The Hon. J. M. Thomson	775
The Hon. J. D. Teahan	779
The Hon. L. A. Logan	781

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Days and Hours

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Mines:

Recently the Minister informed members that it was possible the House would not be sitting the week after next. Amongst certain members there is some confusion as to days of sitting, and hours of sitting; and I would therefore ask the Minister whether he could give some clear indication to the House of his intentions concerning the conduct of sittings in future.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The answer to a question without notice of this nature will make it necessary for me to make not quite a second reading speech, but perhaps to give a more lengthy reply than I would in normal circumstances give.

You know, Mr. President, that the position in respect of the conduct of the Legislative Council over the years—not only when I have had the privilege of being Leader of the House, but when Mr. Strickland was Leader of the House; as was the case with many other Ministers—has always been on the basis that not only would pairs be arranged to suit the convenience of members for business of a private nature, and business of such a nature requiring attention within their electorates; but also consideration would be given—and it has usually been given—by the Leader of the House to the various desires of individual members.

So far as I am concerned, that position obtained last year as it would have continued to obtain this year, had it not been for what I might describe as the unusual action of the Opposition in refusing to grant pairs. I wrote to Mr. Strickland on this matter, after he had written a letter to me telling me that pairs would not be granted any more. My letter was dated the 23rd August, 1960, and reads as follows:—

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 17th August and note your remarks.

Under date the 18th August, the Acting Premier wrote to the Hon. A. R. G. Hawke, M.L.A., and I enclose copy of his letter for your information.