

am sure, willingly give something which has been allocated to posterity in bonus form to something realistic and actual, even up to £100,000 to each State towards medical research or medical use.

When I first had thoughts on this matter I discussed them with certain gentlemen who in various parts of Australia belong to the Royal Australian College of Physicians. They thought if such a suggestion could be put forward in the proper places the benefit to mankind in the future would be incalculable. I am conscious there are the directors of insurance companies who will have to be consulted on this matter, as well as the leading men in business and in the medical profession. I most earnestly present this proposal for the consideration of all the insurance companies in Australia to make a permanent and remarkable contribution to the health of the community through medical research.

I notice another reference in the Speech dealing with the provision of court buildings for country towns. The questions recently asked in this Chamber by Mr. Strickland were very pertinent to that comment, because in that lovely little town of Broome is a courthouse of history and a courthouse which if remodelled to meet today's needs would be equal to anything we could devise in modern architectural standards.

The present courthouse in Broome is the old cable station built at the turn of the century when cables came from Singapore and Surabaya to Broome. It is a structure which has withstood all the cyclones and which, if remodelled to meet today's needs, would leave no doubt that Broome would continue to be the home of the magistracy and the legal centre of the north-west. I suggest that these matters should be taken quickly into consideration by the Government, because we can allow such matters to drift so far that they get entirely out of their perspective and deprive the people involved of their rights.

I did intend to deal with certain financial matters but I will save them until the next Supply Bill and simply conclude by stating that I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. R. C. Mattiske.

House adjourned at 8.32 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 20th August, 1963

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

BILLS (2): ASSENT

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator received and read notifying assent to the following Bills:—

1. Reserves Bill.
2. Supply Bill, £25,000,000.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**FIREARMS***Licenses*

1. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many persons are the holders of licenses entitling them to possess firearms?
- (2) How many of these persons have residential addresses in the metropolitan area?
- (3) What is the total number of firearms the subject of firearms licenses?
- (4) How many of these weapons are possessed by people in the metropolitan area?
- (5) Of the total number of firearms, how many are pistols, and of these how many are in the metropolitan area?
- (6) During the past five years, how many applications to possess firearms have been refused?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Total licenses 83,600.
- (2) Licensees with metropolitan area addresses 23,200.

- (3) The total firearms subject to license 149,192.
 - (4) The firearms possessed in the metropolitan area 41,776.
 - (5) (a) Concealable weapons 4,401;
(b) Concealable weapons—metropolitan area 1,540.
 - (6) Applications for licenses refused over past five years 360.
- Mr. Hawke: Who said we couldn't defend ourselves!

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS BASE IN NORTH-WEST*Use of Imported Caravans as Dwellings*

2. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier:

- (1) Is it a fact that caravans have been procured from the Eastern States for use as dwellings, etc., in connection with the construction of the communications base in the north-west?
- (2) Does he know how many such caravans have already been brought into the State and how many more are likely to be brought here?
- (3) If not, will he make inquiries?
- (4) How does this measure up to the stated intention of using local materials and manufacturers where possible?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (1) Caravans are being procured by the contractor for the U.S. Navy radio base at Exmouth to accommodate his construction work force. The caravans are insulated damp-proof housing units and are being built by World Wide Camps Pty. Ltd., 3 Coglin Road, Elizabeth, South Australia, a subsidiary of Northland Camps Inc. of U.S.A.
- (2) Four units have been delivered, and a further 96 are on order.
- (3) Answered by No. (2).
- (4) (a) Article 5 of the United States Naval Communication Station Agreement, ratified by the Commonwealth Parliament (No. 30 of 1963) states—

At all stages in the construction and maintenance of the Station the maximum practicable use will be made of Australian resources. Arrangements for giving effect to this Article shall be as determined from time to time by the two Governments.

- (b) Practical expression has been given to this clause by the contract documents which set out which items shall be of

United States origin, which of Australian origin, and which items shall be left to the contractor's option. There is no mandatory requirement to use Western Australian materials. In cases where Australian materials are specified, the question would normally be decided by price, quality, and delivery.

However, there are some materials, equipment, and services which it has been agreed are to be of W.A. origin.

- (c) In this case the contractor operates on a world-wide basis and in U.S.A. and elsewhere normally does business with Northland Camps Inc. In this case he obtained quotations from their Australian subsidiary, as well as from a number of Western Australian firms. According to the contractor the price quoted by the South Australian firm, delivered and furnished, was substantially below Western Australian quotations unfurnished.

Discussions are currently being undertaken about the extent of the W.A. component in units to be delivered.

Mr. Graham: Pretty poor, isn't it?

TRAILERS: TOWING RESTRICTIONS

Comparison of State Laws

3. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Do anomalies exist, as between the mainland States, in the laws relating to the towing of licensed trailers?
- (2) If so, is the Western Australian law unduly severe in comparison with the other States in this regard?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes, but only of a minor nature.
- (2) All States subscribe to the Australian Motor Vehicle Standards Committee recommendations, and Western Australian laws in regard to the towing of trailers follow very closely along the same lines.

LONGMORE RECEPTION HOME

Completion, Method of Operation, and Carrying Capacity

4. Mr. O'CONNOR asked the Minister representing the Minister for Child Welfare:

- (1) When is it anticipated the new Longmore Reception Home will be completed?

- (2) Will this home work on similar lines to the Mt. Lawley Reception Home?

- (3) What is the carrying capacity for—

- (a) boys;
- (b) girls?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) The construction of the building is anticipated to take nine months from the acceptance of tenders.

- (2) No. The essential purpose of the Mt. Lawley Reception Home is to provide shelter for children. The essential purpose of "Longmore" will be to assess the needs of children for treatment.

- (3) (a) 35 boys.
(b) 25 girls.

PRISONER REHABILITATION COMMITTEE

Establishment and Functions

5. Mr. HALL asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Has a prisoner rehabilitation committee been established?
- (2) If so, can prisoners released from prison receive assistance from a rehabilitation committee without recommendation from prison authorities?
- (3) What connection has the rehabilitation committee with prison authorities?
- (4) What are the aims and objects of such rehabilitation committee, and what assistance does it receive from the Government, financial and otherwise?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes—within the past few weeks.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The committee is a voluntary organisation and proposes to co-operate with departmental officers in welfare work.
- (4) Its objects are—

- (a) To provide for released prisoners the opportunity of personal rehabilitation and to ensure that any such persons, prepared to live a socially acceptable life, shall have the chance of achieving this ideal.
- (b) To co-operate with and extend the field work of the Prisons Department and any parole or probation service which may be set up under future legislation.

- (c) To work for better community understanding of the problems associated with the rehabilitation of prisoners.

- (d) To help the dependants of prisoners.
- (e) To co-operate with statutory or voluntary bodies working in the field of prison after-care.
- (f) To work for the provision of hostels to provide accommodation for released prisoners who are in need of accommodation or whose place of residence is in the country.

As already stated, this organisation has only recently been established. Affiliated organisations are already being subsidised by the Government.

CLASSROOMS AT ALBANY

Use of The Residency

6. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the building, known as The Residency at Albany now being used as classrooms for primary school children to be maintained for that purpose, and if so, for how long?

Alleviation of Shortage

- (2) What plans has the Education Department in mind to alleviate classroom shortage at the Albany primary school?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes, until the end of the present school year.
- (2) It is proposed to erect three classrooms at Spencer Park School to alleviate the overall classroom shortage in Albany.

THIRD PARTY INSURANCE

Revenue from £1 Surcharge

7. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Treasurer: Will he indicate the amounts of revenue derived from the new third party insurance surcharge of £1 for the periods the 1st January, 1963, to the 30th June, 1963, and also up to the present time?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied: A sum of £111,281 was collected between the 1st January and the 30th June, 1963.

Collections since the 30th June amounted to £46,234.

SUPERPHOSPHATE: RAIL HAULAGE

Tonnage and Revenue

8. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Railways:

For the period the 1st July, 1961, to the 30th June, 1962, will he

indicate the monthly particulars as follows:—

- (a) Tonnages for bulk and bagged superphosphate transported by rail; and
- (b) revenue for fertilisers transported by rail for the mentioned periods?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (a) Monthly tonnages of bagged and bulk superphosphate transported during the 1961-62 season were—

	1961	Bagged Tons	Bulk Tons	Total Tons
July	933	....	933
August	936	....	936
September	649	....	649
October	1,016	440	1,456
November	9,718	2,340	12,058
December	6,453	5,275	11,728
	1962			
January	37,568	10,764	48,332
February	80,850	11,373	92,223
March	98,400	14,392	112,792
April	83,459	9,731	93,190
May	62,040	4,035	66,075
June	22,880	398	23,278
		404,902	58,748	463,650

- (b) Revenue for all fertilisers was:—

	1961	£
July	4,208
August	5,872
September	3,551
October	4,776
November	25,744
December	30,119
	1962	
January	102,678
February	203,869
March	243,400
April	208,239
May	156,321
June	44,975
Total	£1,033,752

GOLDFIELDS WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

Extension to Meenaar-Quellington Area

9. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What is the estimated cost of the proposed Meenaar-Quellington water scheme?
- (2) In view of the large amount of loan money available to the Government, why cannot a start be made with the scheme in the near future?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) £50,000.
- (2) As I advised the Leader of the Opposition on Thursday night, the loan allocation which the Public Works Department received for engineering works in the south of the State was £200,000 less than the amount that had been submitted. Because of this reduction

only £71,000 could be allocated for new water supply works. This is in addition to the £500,000 to be spent on the comprehensive water scheme and £166,000 for local authority borrowing schemes (water supplies).

Of the £71,000 an amount has been set aside to commence work on the Meenar-Quellington extension in the second half of the financial year. This will enable the extension to be completed before the 1964-65 summer.

BREAD PRICE

Authority for Increase

10. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Is he aware that the price of bread has increased by one penny per two-pound loaf and one half-penny for a one-pound loaf?
- (2) On whose authority was the increase effected?

Protection of Consumers

- (3) Will he take action to appoint an appropriate committee under the Wheat Products (Prices Fixation) Act to ensure that any increase in bread prices is justified?
- (4) If he is not prepared to set up such a committee, what action, if any, does he propose to take to protect consumers?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Prices are determined by the Bread Manufacturers (Perth and Suburbs) Industrial Union of Employers of Western Australia.

Mr. Graham: That's lovely, isn't it!

Mr. WILD:

- (3) The Wheat Products (Prices Fixation) Committee lapsed in 1959.

Mr. Hawke: But the law did not.

Mr. WILD: The remainder of the reply is—

- (4) The bread manufacturers gave an undertaking to the Minister for Labour in 1959 to use the same price-fixing formula as used by the committee and to provide full details of factors which necessitated a change in price. This has been done and the reasons for the price rise furnished.

CANNINGTON SCHOOL

Resiting

11. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Education:

Is consideration being given to the resiting of the Cannington School?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Such a suggestion has been made and is being considered.

STATE HOUSING COMMISSION HOMES

Harvey Applications and Building Programme

12. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What number of applications are listed with the State Housing Commission for homes at Harvey—
 - (a) Commonwealth-State rental homes;
 - (b) State housing purchase homes;
 - (c) War service homes;
 - (d) pensioner flats?
- (2) What is the commission's current and future building programme for Harvey?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) (a) 25.
(b) State Housing: 2.
(c) War service homes: 2.
(d) Pensioners: 2.
- (2) The commission has, currently, nine houses under construction, and when the subdivision is finalised, land will be acquired and the programme determined for 1963-1964.

HOSPITAL BENEFITS FOR ACCIDENT CASES

Doctors' Certificates Required and Cost

13. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is he aware that post-hospital accident cases can require as many as three or more doctors' certificates—one for employer, one for social services, one for lodge, etc.?
- (2) Is he further aware—
 - (a) that 2s. 6d. is charged for each certificate;
 - (b) that 2s. 6d. to 10s. is not easy for low income recipients, particularly on social services;
 - (c) that delayed receipt of doctors' certificates frequently delays receipt of sickness and other benefits to sick and injured?
- (3) Will he—
 - (a) remove or reduce the economic hardships mentioned;
 - (b) endeavour to ensure that doctors' certificates are supplied in duplicate or quadruplicate

so that patients can receive financial benefit immediately on date of entitlement?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) to (3) I have some knowledge of the circumstances to which the honourable member refers, but the subject matter is outside my jurisdiction and appears to be concerned with authorities who require medical certificates to support claims for benefits. If the honourable member would confer with my department every endeavour would be made to assist and advise.

CROWN LANDS TRIBUNAL

Composition and Duties

14. Mr. W. A. MANNING asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Who are the members of the Crown Lands Tribunal?
- (2) Does the tribunal inquire into the use of all types of reserves and forests?
- (3) Does the tribunal decide where its inquiries shall be directed?
- (4) If not, who actually decides what shall be referred to the tribunal?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Messrs. S. J. Stokes, Divisional Land Superintendent, Department of Lands and Surveys—Chairman; A. T. Moulton, "The Mount", Bridgetown—Member; J. E. Usher, 33 Wittenoom Street, Bunbury—Member.
- (2) No.
- (3) No.
- (4) The Minister for Lands.

MANJIMUP SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Agricultural High School Status

15. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) As Manjimup Senior High School has been gazetted as an agricultural high school, when is this decision to be implemented?
- (2) As Manjimup is the centre of a highly diversified agricultural area, and at present children have to proceed to Muresk or Denmark for specialised education, will he give this project early and favourable consideration?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) The honourable member has been misinformed. The school in question has not been "gazetted" as an agricultural high school.

- (2) It is unlikely that a residential agricultural school will be established in Manjimup for many years. If there is sufficient demand an agricultural course for day students could be considered, if and when sufficient qualified staff is available.

CORONERS' INQUIRIES

Number Conducted

16. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) How many inquiries were conducted by the City Coroner for each of the years 1959-1962?
- (2) How many coroners' inquiries were conducted in the rest of the State for the same years?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) 1959—121
1960—145
1961—116
1962—122
- (2) 1959—85
1960—85
1961—57
1962—73

It is assumed that the information sought and now given is in respect of inquests conducted by coroners and not concerning the many hundreds of sudden deaths which are investigated by the police and referred to coroners, but concerning which coroners decided that the holding of formal inquests was not necessary.

POLICE FORCE

Number of Resignations and Total Strength

17. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) How many resignations from the Police Force took effect during the past twelve months?
- (2) In which branches did the resignations occur?
- (3) What was the total strength of the Police Force at the 30th June, 1962 and 1963, respectively?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) From the 16th August, 1962, to the 16th August, 1963: 23.
- (2) Uniform Branch: 22.
C.I.B.: One.
- (3) The 30th June, 1962—actual strength: 1,164.
The 30th June, 1963—actual strength: 1,184.

ASSISTANT UNDER-TREASURER*Appointment of Mr. L. E. McCarrey*

18. Mr. H. MAY asked the Premier:

- (1) Will he inform the House why Mr. L. E. McCarrey was appointed to the position of Assistant Under-Treasurer having regard to the fact that he was not employed in the State Public Service?
- (2) Were any applications received from officers within the State Public Service; and if so, who were they?
- (3) Were any of the applicants qualified to occupy the position; and if so, why was no-one selected from within the Public Service instead of a selection being made from outside the service?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (1) Because he was considered to be the most suitable applicant.
- (2) Yes, applications were received from—

J. A. Klumpp.

A. E. Tonks.

E. N. Birks.

E. M. McKenna.

- (3) Not to the same extent as Mr. McCarrey, whose qualifications, academic training, and experience in the Bureau of Census and Statistics, including the W.A. office of the bureau, together with his work as economist in the State Department of Industrial Development and in electronic data processing at the University of Western Australia, established him as the applicant best qualified to carry out the required duties.

LEAVING AND JUNIOR EXAMINATION*Entrance Fees: Payment by State*

19. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Upon what wage level does he base his reply to my previous question that he is not aware that a £5 fee and £3 10s. to £4 Leaving and Junior examination fees do not constitute economic hardship?
- (2) As the basic wage regimen does not provide for education fees, where would a recipient of a basic or tradesman's wage find Leaving and Junior Certificate fees, where members of the same family are sitting for both examinations in the same year?

- (3) Will he consider assisting (without embarrassment to families affected) those families who cannot find such fees and are likely to permit children to leave school prematurely?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) None. The original question asked whether I was "aware that the finding" of the fees causes economic hardship and I replied that I was not so aware.
- (2) Not known.
- (3) No. The department has neither the power nor the funds to pay such fees.

COMMONWEALTH-STATE HOUSING SCHEME*Number of Houses Built under 1945 Agreement*

20. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Will he advise the number and applicable years of houses built under the 1945 Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement?

Losses from Rebates

- (2) What is the amount of losses which may arise from rebates under the scheme before the Commonwealth is required to share in these losses?

Payments Received under 1945 Agreement

- (3) Apart from the final payment received in 1960-61, what other payments have been received from the Commonwealth under the 1945 Commonwealth-State Agreement?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) Year	No. of Houses.
1944-45	63
1945-46	230
1946-47	509
1947-48	846
1948-49	1016
1949-50	952
1950-51	1261
1951-52	1022
1952-53	1104
1953-54	1501
1954-55	2031
1955-56	1579

- (2) Provided rents have been assessed in accordance with the 1st Schedule of the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement, 1945, and rebates have been granted in accordance with the agreement, the cash difference would constitute a loss for sharing with the Commonwealth. Losses can only be assessed at the end of each

financial year when the actual cash received and the actual cash paid for maintenance, rates, insurance, interest, repayment of loans and administration is known.

- (3) Recoups from the Commonwealth including the payment in 1961 were as follows:—

In respect of year—	£
1944-45	564
1956-57	34,241
1957-58	38,591
1958-59	75,347
	<hr/> £148,743

No losses were incurred in other years.

COPPER

Grades Acceptable by Fertiliser Manufacturers

21. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Premier:

- (1) What was the lowest grade of copper acceptable by fertiliser manufacturers in Western Australia for agriculture purposes 12 months ago, and as at the present date?
- (2) If higher grades are being demanded, what is the reason, and what action is being taken by the Government concerning this matter to ensure that the higher grade requirements do not reduce available supplies of copper and so result in increased prices of fertiliser containing copper as well as the closing of copper mines producing lower grades of ore?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (1) Grades of ore of 10 per cent. copper and higher were sought for the 1962-63 fertiliser season although some quantities of slightly lower grade were accepted to meet tonnages for which prospectors had already made commitments.

This season large quantities of ore of 25 per cent. copper content are also offering from local sources.

Copper containing fertilisers can now be formulated on 20 per cent. average material which will be made up of local concentrates blended with crushed ore containing 10 per cent. and upwards of copper. The cost will be lower than last season and ample supplies seem assured.

- (2) Higher grade copper ores are required on economic grounds to offset rising costs of handling,

transport, and application to the land. Lower grades are becoming increasingly uneconomic in this regard and could only result in higher net cost to farmers for copper containing fertilisers.

Aspects of the availability, utilisation, and the economics of local supplies including low grade deposits have been discussed by officers of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Mines, and fertiliser companies and will be reviewed from time to time as circumstances warrant.

CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Payments to Widows' Children: Effect of Federal Budget Proposals

22. Mr. DAVIES asked the Treasurer:

Will the payment of £2 per week mothers' allowance and increase of 10s. per week for the first child, announced by the Federal Treasurer in his Budget, and to be paid to widows, have any effect on payments made at present to widows' children by the Child Welfare Department?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

The considerable rises in Commonwealth social service benefits present an opportunity to review the scales of State supplementary assistance paid by the Child Welfare Department. Consideration is being especially directed to the more generous treatment of those groups of needy women who receive no Commonwealth help. This more liberal help to these unfortunates can only be afforded by economising on cases who are now more generously treated by the Commonwealth.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

DALKEITH MURDER CASE

Fingerprinting of Local Residents

1. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is it a fact that the residents of Dalkeith who were interviewed over the weekend in connection with the recent murder were fingerprinted?
- (2) If so, were the people concerned given an option of being fingerprinted?
- (3) If not, does the Minister not consider this an abrogation of civil rights?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) to (3) The honourable member did not give me prior notice of his question. There was no compulsion on anyone at all in regard to being fingerprinted. Co-operation was forthcoming in practically every case, and I do not consider it to be an abrogation of civil rights in any way at all. It is a matter of expression of co-operation by the citizens of the district towards the police in their efforts to find the murderer.

WATER SUPPLY AT ESPERANCE

Installation of Filtration Plant

2. Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Further to my recent representations to him regarding the desirability of installing a filtration plant for use in the Esperance reticulation scheme, will he give consideration to the examination of the filtering plant now available at the Kalgoorlie Power Corporation, with a view to incorporating it in the Esperance water supply, if found suitable?

Hardness of Water

- (2) What is the degree of hardness of the water to be used at Esperance?

Mr. WILD replied:

I would like to thank the honourable member for giving me notice of this question. The answers are as follows:—

- (1) Details of the plant will be obtained.
- (2) 23° Clark.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN THE NORTH-WEST

Special Child Allowance

3. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) What Government departments in the north-west have wages employees in key positions in essential services who are receiving a special north-west child allowance?
- (2) What are the designations of such wages employees in the key positions?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) and (2). I wish to thank the honourable member for giving me notice of this question last Friday. The answers are as follows:—
(1) State Shipping Service: Branch managers.

- (2) Wyndham Meat Works: Chief engineer, assistant accountant, paymaster, foremen, bank officer.
- (3) Medical Department: Medical officers, hospital managing secretaries, health inspector, dental technician.
- (4) Agriculture: Regional vermin control officers, assistant regional vermin control officers.
- (5) Public Works Department: District officers, works clerks.
- (6) Harbour Works Department: Wharfingers, assistant wharfingers, shed clerks.
- (7) Native Welfare Department: Officers in charge native hostels.
- (8) Mines Department: Supervisors, State battery.
- (9) Main Roads Department: Works clerks.

MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY

Agreement for Takeover

4. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Railways:

Is it not a fact that Premier Brand signed an interim agreement of takeover with the Midland Railway Company before leaving London?

Mr. COURT replied: I must confess I did not quite get the last part of the question, but I understood it to be, "Is it not a fact that Premier Brand before he left for England?"—

Mr. Jamieson: Before leaving London.

Mr. COURT: No.

DALKEITH MURDER CASE

Fingerprinting of Local Residents

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

Does he consider the question asked this afternoon by the member for Victoria Park in connection with the fingerprinting of residents of Dalkeith could be detrimental in the efforts of the police to catch the criminal?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

Not necessarily. I do not say it has been helpful, but on the other hand I do not think it will cause any harm.

6. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Police:

Is the Minister aware that some of the residents in the Dalkeith-Nedlands area on interview have

expressed their intention of refusing to give fingerprints and did consider this an abrogation of their rights as citizens?

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman):

I think that question is similar to a previous question.

Mr. CRAIG replied:

The answer is "No."

TRAILERS: TOWING RESTRICTIONS

Comparison of State Laws

7. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Police:

With further reference to question No. 3 on today's notice paper will he check the replies given and assure himself that they are accurate?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

Yes.

FIREARMS

Licenses

8. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Police:

In view of the information supplied this afternoon in reply to question No. 1 on the notice paper revealing there are almost 150,000 firearms subject to licenses and held in Western Australia—which, if I might interpolate, does not include all firearms that are in Western Australia—has he any comment to make on this fact, and will he give consideration to existing legislation with a view to ensuring there might be a more realistic number of firearms available to the public at large?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

An inquiry on the lines that the honourable member is now making was made after an incident some months ago and I had an assurance from the Commissioner of Police that the present Act is sufficiently tight enough to cover all firearms that are in existence in the State, except for some modifications or amendments that will be required, notice of which I have given today.

POLICE FORCE

Aberdeen System of Police Protection

9. Mr. CRAIG (Minister for Police): The member for Swan asked a question without notice on Thursday in regard to what is known as the "Aberdeen system of police patrol" and whether such was used in Western Australia.

Mr. H. May: They don't get paid there, do they?

Mr. CRAIG: For the information of the honourable member and also the House, the Aberdeen system referred to was also known as the "Team Policing System" as used in many large industrial cities in the United Kingdom.

The system is, briefly, rather than have a number of constables working singly on beat patrol, several are gathered into a mobile unit in charge of an N.C.O. The complete unit then descends on a particular area and covers it thoroughly—that is, every street, lane, by-way, and the rear of all premises—while, at the same time, keeping in touch with one another. Having completed one area thoroughly, the unit moves to another area, where the process is repeated. There is no set programme of movement, so that thieves and other prospective lawbreakers never know where the patrol will show up next.

The idea is a good one, especially in large cities where there are a number of warehouses and lockup business premises. It was tried here a few years ago in business areas adjacent to the city, such as East Perth and West Perth, where normally there are no constables on beat duty. This was done when extra men were available.

However, there have recently been many calls on manpower, and patrols have been confined to the C.I.B. night wireless patrol cars and the uniform van patrols from central station.

The Aberdeen system was known here as the "space patrol"—that is, it dealt with the outer spaces—and it will be again instituted when sufficient men become available.

MARINE STORES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Standing Orders Suspension

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Deputy Premier) [5.1 p.m.]: I move—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable a Bill for "An Act to amend section two of the Marine Stores Act, 1902-1948," to be introduced and passed through all its stages in one sitting, and to enable this business to be entered upon and dealt with before the Address-in-Reply is adopted.

MR. HAWKE (Northam—Leader of the Opposition) [5.2 p.m.]: Before the Opposition agrees to support this motion we would require some assurance from the Government. The wording of the motion provides for the proposed Bill to be introduced and passed through all its stages in the one sitting. I presume the Government has considered this matter sufficiently to be able to give an assurance that it does not expect Opposition members to go on with the debate immediately after the Minister has introduced the Bill.

We have no knowledge, except in a very general way, as to what will be in the Bill, and it would be unreasonable in the extreme for the Government to expect us to go on with the debate today. We would expect to be permitted to exercise our reasonable right of having the second reading debate adjourned at least until tomorrow.

Mr. NALDER (Deputy Premier): Yes; I can give the Leader of the Opposition that assurance.

Question put and passed.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr. Craig** (Minister for Police), and read a first time.

Second Reading

MR. CRAIG (Toodyay—Minister for Police) [5.6 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

May I, firstly, thank the Leader of the Opposition and all members of the House for enabling this Bill to be introduced at this stage. There is no intention on the part of the Government or of myself to push the measure through, and I am pleased that the Leader of the Opposition made his request.

In moving for a suspension of Standing Orders I was prompted to such action because I feel that the Bill which I will now explain to the House is an emergent one, which should be dealt with as soon as possible.

In the first instance I am certain that all members are well conversant with the facts of a test case which took place in the Perth Police Court on Thursday, the 8th August, at which six storekeepers pleaded guilty to breaches of the 1902 Marine Stores Act, which states that only licensed marine dealers are authorised to collect empty bottles.

Members are, of course, fully aware that for many years it has been common practice to return empty aerated water bottles to local storekeepers and receive in return a sum of money which had been placed in the original purchase price as a deposit. For as long as I can remember this sum has always been in excess of that given for

bottles collected by marine collectors. I believe marine collectors pay something like one halfpenny per bottle irrespective of what is the value, so far as its return is concerned, to the storekeeper.

The publicity given to the verdict has created such confusion over the upsetting of a longstanding, even if illegal, practice—I am not at all certain of this because the case was in no way contested—that it has become very evident that unless immediate action is taken the position will soon become chaotic.

I draw members' attention to the fact that it is intended to amend only section 2 of the Act at this stage. The Act has been in existence for some 60 years and contains what might be considered quite a number of irregularities. I think it was in 1960 that the member for Fremantle drew attention to a number of points which needed rectifying. The definition in the Act reads—

“Marine stores” means partly manufactured metal goods, second-hand anchors, cables, sails, old junk, rags, bones, bottles, jute goods, and marine stores of every description, copper, iron, brass, lead, Muntz metal, scrap metal, broken metal, or defaced metal goods.

Mr. W. Hegney: What about the kitchen sink?

Mr. CRAIG: That would be covered, because it would be scrap metal. It is not my intention to prevent any other reform being undertaken under this Act, and members have my assurance that the present action is taken only to restore order in the handling of empty bottles on which a deposit of money has been made, or is ordinarily made, by the purchaser.

This is an urgent matter and other amendments, no matter how desirable, can possibly wait until later, after full inquiry has been made into all aspects of the empty bottle trade.

The amendment is a simple one, in that it merely exempts the bottles in question from the Act. Such action was taken in lieu of making storekeepers hold a marine dealer's license, because I can foresee many difficulties in administration if this were done. Under the terms of the Act the bottles could be received only during very restricted hours. There would be a great deal of work for the police in inspecting their books, and so on, and no doubt many breaches of the Act would follow as a result.

Those concerned in the original prosecution have emphasised that the real reason behind their action was that unwashed dirty bottles handled by shopkeepers were a menace to public health. In my opinion that aspect can well be left to the health authorities, and I am confident that if such a hazard exists inspectors will

have power to act. In any event I am sure they will watch the position closely and will act accordingly.

In seeking the support of members I emphasise that unless something is done fairly quickly there will result inconvenience to consumers; chaos in the trade; accumulation of empty bottles, and resulting danger of litter and broken glass, because no-one will be responsible for their collection; customers might not co-operate on account of low return; and children, who are possibly recognised as being the most active collectors, will have lost their incentive to collect and return bottles to storekeepers.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Hawke (Leader of the Opposition).

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 15th August, on the following motion by Mr. Mitchell:—

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

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

MR. W. HEGNEY (Mt. Hawthorn) [5.12 p.m.]: I wish to make some comments on matters of public importance. I am pleased the Acting Premier gave an assurance to the Leader of the Opposition that he would not oppose any debate on the amendment to the Marine Stores Act. I was afraid there was going to be a bottleneck created in connection with the Address-in-Reply.

My first duty is to my constituency, and I propose to mention a few matters of interest. The first concerns sewerage extension in a section of the Mt. Hawthorn electorate. Some time ago the Minister for Works was good enough to visit the Glendalough Home, conducted by the Little Sisters of the Poor. That institution has been in existence for many years, and the original septic system is still in use. I am sure the Minister and departmental officials will agree that the time is opportune, if not overdue, to have a new system installed.

The Minister has given me a tentative undertaking—there has been no firm undertaking—that if finance is available, sewerage for that area will be proceeded with.

I read in the *Daily News* recently that the Minister had notified The Hon. H. R. Robinson that £140,000 may be available, if this amount is approved, for sewerage extension for the area between Lake Monger and Herdsmans Lake, up to Scarborough Beach Road and Federation Street. The Glendalough Home is situated in this area, and I hope the Minister will do everything possible to ensure that this section of my electorate will be provided with deep sewerage within the next year or so.

Another matter of interest is the volume of traffic which flows along Scarborough Beach Road and Main Street. There are no traffic lights there. I have made representations to the appropriate authorities and I have been given to understand that traffic lights may be installed during the ensuing financial year.

Traffic lights have been placed at the junction of London Street and Scarborough Beach Road, which was very necessary; and I suggest it is equally necessary to have lights installed at the intersection I have mentioned, because about five streets converge at that point: Scarborough Beach Road, Main Street, Brady Street, Birrell Street, and Green Street. I suggest that anybody who passes along that way at any time of the day or evening will agree that the installation of traffic lights there is necessary.

Another matter I would like to touch on briefly is in connection with the road or highway to be known as the Leederville Highway. Some time ago—nearly 12 months ago, as a matter of fact—I saw a plan in a daily paper with accompanying advice to the effect that the Leederville highway would be proceeded with. Anybody who read the paper would have got the impression that the work would be proceeded with, if not forthwith, in the very near future.

On the 29th August, 1962, I asked the Minister for Works the following question:—

- (1) Can he state when a start might be made on the construction of Leederville highway from Sutherland Street to Osborne Park (apparently via the eastern and northern ends of Monger's Lake) referred to in the recent report of the Town Planning Authority, and published in *The West Australian* newspaper?
- (2) When is this highway likely to be completed?

The answers to my questions were—

- (1) This work has not yet been programmed. It is not expected that it will be put in hand within ten years
- (2) Answered by No. (1).

I think that in such cases some indication might be given to the people as to when the actual work is likely to be carried out; because after the report appeared in the newspaper I was inundated with inquiries from people in the Mt. Hawthorn district who might have been affected. They gained the impression that the highway would be proceeded with almost immediately, and they were rather perturbed at the position. It appears, however, it will be many years yet before the road will be constructed.

Before proceeding with a number of other matters which I consider to be of importance and interest, I would like to touch briefly on the recent by-election for the Midland Province. I noticed, when perusing the *Midland Advocate* of the 13th August, a statement headed "We, The Undersigned." Then there appear the names of a number of men or women in various districts from Northampton and Dandaragan across to Goomalling and Dalwallinu who signed the following statement:—

We, the
undersigned

T. D. Bullock	.....	Moora
V. E. Williams	.....	Dandaragan
Roger Tonkin	.....	Coomberdale
L. Nenke	.....	Moora
Peter W. Thomson	.....	Coorow
L. W. Grierson	.....	Carnamah
C. E. Maley	.....	Three Springs
C. J. Raynor	.....	Geraldton
Colin Pearse	.....	Mingenew
A. J. Gillam	.....	Irwin
G. Bishop	.....	Geraldton
V. G. Husbands	.....	Northampton
L. R. Duncan	.....	Geraldton
Jean McKinlay	.....	Geraldton
J. J. O'Brien	.....	Mullewa
E. R. Lawrence	.....	Morawa
M. I. White	.....	Morawa
Margery Burton	.....	Morawa
S. T. Cannon	.....	Perenjori
W. H. Hyde	.....	Dalwallinu
R. Pitman	.....	Goomalling

... publicly bring to the notice of the electors of Midland Province our belief that *Jack Heitman* is the man for Midland. His ability and energy make him in our opinion, eminently suitable to serve the Province in the Legislative Council. His record of achievement marks him as a man of action and great honesty of purpose.

We Urge You to Vote . . .

Heitman 1

On Next Saturday, August 17

Authorised by V. L. Ockerby, 1140 Hay St., Perth

I have no argument with Mr. J. Heitman, who will be duly sworn in as a member of Parliament. I have no personal grievance with him. But what I think is reprehensible is that a political party in

this State will stoop to the depths of trying to mislead the people in the province by refusing, or being ashamed, to advertise the political party to which he belongs. We know now that Mr. Heitman was the Liberal candidate. Why was not that fact advertised in the Press?

This notice also appeared in the *Geraldton Guardian*, the *Geraldton-Greenough Sun*, the *Central Districts Herald*, the *Tribune*, the *Merredin Mercury*, the *North-east Times*, and the *Northam Advertiser*. But in not one of those papers was the fact mentioned that J. Heitman was a Liberal candidate. As I have said previously, that is unpardonable. The other day the Leader of the Opposition raised the matter of an election advertisement that, contrary to the provisions of the Electoral act, had not been signed; and it will be interesting to know whether any action will be taken against the offender.

Mr. Heitman won the by-election by 374 votes. I can imagine the feelings of the members of the Country Party, more particularly when I take into consideration the statement by the Leader of the Federal Country Party reported in this morning's newspaper. Among other things the report in the newspaper states—

It was sheer dissipation of resources to use men and money to try to unseat Country Party members, who had an unblemished record of loyalty to the Government, he said.

The same thing could be said of the members of the Country Party in the State House—that they have an unblemished record of loyalty to this coalition Government—yet we find this sort of thing happening and those responsible refusing to let the people of the Midland Province know that the man named J. Heitman was the Liberal candidate. Both the Country Party members and the Country Party organisation had no quibbles about advertising their candidates.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Cut it out!

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I will not; because what I am about to read is part of the newspaper article, which goes on as follows:—

A Liberal decision to contest the Victorian seats of Indi and Wimmera was ridiculous, when it was realised that the Government had an effective majority of only one.

Mr. McEwen, who is also Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, said: "Such contests are calculated to take me out of the fight to win back seats for the Government and force me to spend my time working to help hold these two seats against my ally, the Liberal Party."

What has happened on the occasion of this by-election suggests an overflow of what occurred in the Darling Range electorate last year; and I have no doubt that

the Country Party will take due cognisance of it. I suggest that one of the Liberal Ministers will very likely take the position of Agent-General in London in the future, and that the Country Party might put the Liberals on the spot and demand equal representation in Cabinet.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: What is your purpose in bringing this up?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The next point I wish to make has reference to a paragraph in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech. At page 7 of the Speech we find this—

Amendments to legislation having particular application to natives are under consideration for the purpose of easing certain restrictions and encouraging self-sufficiency.

I am pleased to note that the Government, through the Minister for Native Welfare, intends to introduce legislation to remove a still further restriction from the members of the native community. I have a vivid recollection of introducing comprehensive amendments to the then Native Administration Act, when I was Minister for Native Welfare eight years ago, and receiving very strong and hostile opposition from those who were then on this side of the House.

When we endeavoured to improve the status of the members of the native community by giving them the right to be free citizens and to exercise the same rights as we enjoy, there was very strong opposition to our proposals. That Bill repealed a number of sections of the Act, and much dead wood was removed, and since then progress has continued to be made; and that is in striking contrast to the views or the attitude of the Government through Cabinet today with what happened, only two years ago, when the Government introduced a Bill to give citizenship in 1976 to natives who are now five years of age.

It is a large amount of progress to realise that now they will have the right to vote, and that the other restriction to which they are subjected will be removed.

I am also pleased to note the answer I received to a question I submitted to the Minister for Native Welfare; and I might say here that in 1955 it was found that those in charge of native children—the religious missions—were receiving a much smaller subsidy from the Government than were the people who were caring for white children, and the Government did take steps to bring about an equality of subsidy and so remove the discrimination applying to the native community.

Then it was found that the Lotteries Commission was giving a subsidy of 7s. 6d. per week to the children in white institutions; and, as the Minister at the time, I made representations to the Chairman of the Lotteries Commission and he

agreed to give a subsidy; and that has continued, I am pleased to note, ever since.

In fairness to the Minister for Native Welfare, I must say that I asked him a question without notice as to why there was still a difference of 2s. 6d. in the subsidy paid by the Lotteries Commission for native children compared with that paid in respect of white children. The Minister said he would have investigations made, and he told me just before the House met this afternoon that the Lotteries Commission was investigating the position and would give consideration to it.

I propose now to deal with another matter, which is of great importance to the wages employees in the north-west. Last Thursday, pursuant to notice, I asked the Minister for Labour certain questions, as follows:—

- (1) What categories of Government employees are receiving the special "north-west" child allowance?
- (2) What are the conditions of payment of such allowance?
- (3) What was the approximate cost to the Government during the last financial year in respect to such allowance?
- (4) What is the approximate number of Government employees on wages in the north-west?
- (5) As it was indicated about two years ago that it would cost an additional £17,300 per annum to extend the concession to Government wages employees, what would be a rough estimate of the additional cost at present?
- (6) Why has the Government refused to grant the concession to wages employees?
- (7) Will he undertake to review the position with a view to granting such allowance to the wages employees?

The Minister replied—

- (1) Officers under the Public Service Act, police officers, teachers and wages employees in key positions in essential services.

Those are the ones getting the £50 special child allowance—the Government employees who are receiving it in the north-west and whose children are attending the local schools. Mr. Wild continued—

- (2) Officers in No. (1) above must have children attending the local school.
- (3) £6,855.
- (4) 1,300.
- (5) £19,000.
- (6) Child allowance was granted to foster recruitment of key personnel in essential services in the development of the north.

- (7) This position was reviewed by a special committee comprising the Public Service Commissioner, Under-Treasurer, Under-Secretary for Works and the Secretary for Labour in January, 1963, and they did not recommend the granting of such allowance to wages employees.

I asked a further question without notice, and the Minister was good enough to supply the information. My question was—

- (1) What Government departments in the north-west have wages employees in key positions in essential services who are receiving a special north-west child allowance?
- (2) What are the designations of such wages employees in the key positions?

The Minister replied:

- (1) and (2) I wish to thank the honourable member for giving me notice of this question last Friday. The answers are as follows:—

- (1) State Shipping Service—Branch managers.
- (2) Wyndham Meat Works—Chief engineer, assistant accountant, paymaster, foremen, bank officer.
- (3) Medical Department—Medical officers, hospital managing secretaries, health inspector, dental technician.
- (4) Agriculture — Regional vermin control officers, assistant regional vermin control officers.
- (5) Public Works Department—District officers, works clerks.
- (6) Harbour Works Department—Wharfingers, assistant wharfingers, shed clerks.
- (7) Native Welfare Department—Officers in charge native hostels.
- (8) Mines Department—Supervisors, State Battery.
- (9) Main Roads Department—Works clerks.

Every conceivable designation is there, and all those types of Government employees on salaries and wages are receiving this £50 extra allowance; but the ordinary wages employees are not. Why the discrimination? Can the Minister justify such discrimination between the wages employees on the one hand, and shed clerks, work clerks, district officers of the Native Welfare Department, and school teachers on the other?

Let me tell the Minister—through you, Mr. Speaker—that one of the provisions in the agreement which the members of the teaching profession sign when they are trainees in the training college, is that when they qualify they will proceed to any part of the State to which the Director-General of Education desires or requires them to go. But the Minister says the idea is to recruit key personnel. Well, native welfare officers have been up there for years and so have wharfingers. All these types of people have been up there for years.

It may be that in the first place the Government decided to offer some inducement to specialised personnel. However, it has been extended until we find that everyone in the north, except wages employees, is receiving this £50 allowance, including members of the Police Force who work to an industrial award. Good luck to them! I am not quibbling about those officers receiving the allowance; but the Government should not show such discrimination between men on wages and men on salaries working in the north-west. I hope the Minister will reconsider the position and grant those men on wages the justice to which they are entitled in the circumstances.

I would like to refer again, briefly, to unemployment, which was the subject of a special debate the other evening. I noticed in this morning's issue of *The West Australian* that there has been an increase in unemployment of about 600 on the previous quarter's figures, yet the Deputy Premier stated the other day that the position would improve. It now appears that the percentage of unemployment in Western Australia is the highest on the Australian mainland. For a period the Government was boasting and pointing out that such percentage was lower than that in any other State in Australia. We now find that the percentage is highest on the mainland, and the indications are that the position is not going to improve.

Further, I consider that the number of young people out of work is extremely large. In the total number of people unemployed there are 637 youths, 1,158 girls, and 1,084 women. I had hoped that the Government, with all its boasting of what it has done; what it will do this year; and what it will do in the following years, would have done something by now to alleviate the unemployment position.

However, the fact is that it is not good enough to have 637 youths and 1,158 girls—representing the younger generation—out of work in a progressive State such as Western Australia. One has only to review the position to realise there is substance in the statement I make, and I hope the Government will direct its attention towards alleviating this serious position.

In line with that, I also noticed another statement published in the newspaper that the Government is going to provide funds to relieve unemployment; but until recently it refused to admit that there was any grave unemployment in this State.

I now wish to speak on a matter which concerns me as an Australian; and I make no apology for the statements I am about to make. On the 15th November, 1962, I asked the Premier the following question:—

Assuming another appointment will be made at the appropriate time, will the Government give favourable consideration to the appointment of a Western Australian citizen as Governor, in accordance with the policy of the Australian Labor Party (W.A. Branch)? If not, can the Premier give any valid reason for his refusal?

To which he replied—

No; the Government has already discussed the matter, and it intends to proceed along the lines that have been followed here, of appointing a man from England, if a suitable man can be obtained. No further decisions have been reached in this matter.

I think that reply is a gross insult to the people of this State and this country as a whole; namely, to imply that there is nobody in Australia who is capable of holding the important position of Governor of this State.

In *The West Australian* of the 17th November, 1962, appeared a leading article headed, "Our Next Governor"—and, in passing, I might say that I am in no way casting any aspersion on the incumbent of this office, or the person who is about to occupy it, because I believe he would be an extremely desirable person for such an office. There is nothing personal in this statement whatsoever. I am merely presenting the viewpoint that Western Australian citizens should have had the opportunity of enjoying the honour of one of their own people or a person from some other part of the Commonwealth being appointed as Governor of this State.

The following is what appeared in the leading article of *The West Australian* dated the 17th November, 1962—

OUR NEXT GOVERNOR

Premier Brand's summary dismissal of the idea of appointing a West Australian as Governor cannot be justified in principle. The field of choice should be left open.

It is more than a matter of not excluding a West Australian from the vice-regal post. If there is one available who is suitable for appointment when the need arises, he should be given first preference and an Australian next. The criterion should be fitness for the position.

I quite agree with those sentiments.

Further, in *The West Australian* dated the 27th November, 1962, there appeared the views of other newspapers, one of which was from *The Age*, Melbourne; and the article is headed, "Filling Victoria's Vice Regal Post". I do not propose to read the article, but its purport was that an Australian citizen could have filled the position of Governor of Victoria with dignity and pointed out that two prominent Victorians had, at different times, acted as Lieutenant-Governor.

I now come to another aspect of this matter. I do not know whether you have received any complaints or had any opinions expressed to you, Mr. Speaker, but I have received quite a few, including those expressed by a naturalised Australian. There are a number of people who have settled in this State since 1945. Thousands of them have been naturalised and they enjoy the full rights of citizenship; but the implication is, according to the views expressed by this Government, that none of these people is capable of holding down the office of Governor of Western Australia. The following is an extract from an opinion expressed by one of these people which was published in *The West Australian* newspaper only recently:—

CHOOSING A STATE GOVERNOR

C. E. Pedersen, Mandurah: I was born a Dane, but have lived in Australia for nearly 50 years, tagged along in both world wars and during the last held command of five of H. M. ships, married an Australian girl and raised an Australian family. Does that make me eligible to voice an opinion?

During my many years here I have learnt not only to love this country very dearly, but have developed a great admiration and respect for the people in it.

As a seafaring man I have been to many lands, but I have not seen a better country, and have not met a finer race of people and if Australia is good enough for us to live in, then surely it is good enough for us to be governed by an Australian.

Although born in another country, I felt a very real concern when I read that the Premier does not consider that we have a man in this State capable of representing us. How much more must a natural-born Australian feel the insult?

Mr. Bovell: Of course, the Premier never said that at all.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Then, on the 3rd April, 1963, *The West Australian* published another report; and, with your indulgence,

Mr. Speaker, I will read it. It is as follows:—

BEST MAN WANTED AS GOVERNOR

Many loyal citizens will be puzzled by the Premier's latest comment on the appointment of a new Governor. Mr. Brand said "the Government believed that a suitable successor . . . could be found in Britain."

Does this mean that in his opinion the right man could not be found outside the United Kingdom? If so, he is supporting a narrow, old-fashioned conception. He is also opposing public opinion which has been shown by Gallup poll to favour an Australian appointment overwhelmingly.

The only standard in a completely open field of choice should be fitness for the post. Other things being equal, a West Australian or at any rate an Australian, regardless of present residence, should be appointed.

So it goes on. I express these sentiments because it appears that this Government can see good in everyone but its own people. I will quote two examples to the House.

One instance was when the Collier Government defeated a Liberal Party Government in 1933. The Collier Government did not look outside the State for an appropriate person to fill the post of Lieutenant-Governor. It appointed Sir James Mitchell, a man who was highly respected in Western Australia. He had been a former Premier and he was succeeded in Parliament by the present Leader of the Opposition. But the Collier Government did not hesitate to appoint him to the post of Lieutenant-Governor. Was there any dissatisfaction among the people during his term of office? Certainly not! He filled the office to the complete satisfaction of all the people of Western Australia.

I will now quote two instances of Australians filling the exalted post of Governor-General of Australia. One was Justice Isaac Isaacs who was regarded as being amongst the highest legal dignitaries in Australia, and one of the greatest constitutional lawyers this Commonwealth has ever produced. Because of his name there was some protest against his appointment, but he filled the position of Governor-General with dignity and to the satisfaction of the people of Australia.

An ex-Premier of New South Wales was another Australian who filled the high office of Governor-General. He commenced his career as a boilermaker's labourer; but after taking a course at the university in the study of law he qualified as a lawyer, and he finally was appointed to the position of Governor-General. During his term of office I never heard any valid complaints about his work and

the service he performed for Australia. So far as I am concerned, the Constitution could be amended to provide that a Western Australian or an Australian should be appointed to fill the office of Governor of this State. I have said that this Government cannot see any good in any Western Australian filling this office.

I will now quote the following statement which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 29th September, 1962, and which was not made by myself or by the Leader of the Labor Party in this State. It is a statement by a Mr. Sandover, and this is what he says—

ROLE OF W.A. FIRMS NOT APPRECIATED

At the annual meeting of Swan Portland Cement Ltd. this week, chairman A. Eric Sandover appealed for greater recognition of the part played by W.A. companies in the State's development.

He contended that there had been a noticeable tendency for many people to overlook the contribution made by local companies in the past and what they would contribute in the future.

Mr. Sandover said that almost daily a great deal of attention was given to the intentions of outside industrialists while W.A. concerns were often ignored. Many of these local companies had made invaluable contributions to the State's progress when the population was smaller, conditions more difficult and the need greatest.

He felt, he said, that something should be done to correct the current impression.

Mr. Sandover has expressed publicly for the first time what many West Australian industrialists have been saying privately. They feel that new industries from outside the State have been treated more generously by the State Government than they have been.

W.A. industries, generally, have proved their efficiency in recent years and today are strongly established. Their past adversity has probably helped their present strength.

That applies in industry in the same way as it does to the subject I have just been discussing. There are men in this State and in other parts of Australia who have held top positions in our Navy, Army, or Air Force, or in the fields of law and politics; and surely, therefore, an Australian could have been selected to fill this important position. I have said that the Government has more regard for outside industry than it has for Western Australian industry. If time permits, I hope to deal with that aspect later.

I am now going to touch on the question of constitutional reform in so far as it affects Western Australia. I am amazed that the people of this State have tolerated for so long certain existing provisions in our Constitution. The Constitution provides that there shall be 50 members elected to the Legislative Assembly by the people of Western Australia on the adult franchise basis, and that there shall be an election held every three years. That is fairly democratic. Some people say that there should be five-year Parliaments, similar to the House of Commons; but that is another story.

However, the other side of Parliament, known as the Legislative Council, is made up of 30 members each of whom has a six-year tenure of office. Those 30 members represent 10 provinces and they can be elected only by those people who possess certain property and other qualifications set down in the Constitution. Voting for the Legislative Council is optional, whereas in the Legislative Assembly elections voting is compulsory. We also have another fact written into the Constitution ever since responsible Government; namely, that any person of the age of 21 years can hold the position of Premier in this State. Indeed, according to the Commonwealth Constitution, any person who has attained 21 years of age may become Prime Minister of Australia, but no person of that age can hold a seat in the Legislative Council of this State.

Our Constitution definitely provides that one must be 30 years of age before he is entitled to occupy a seat in the Legislative Council. For how much longer are we to tolerate such a state of affairs? This provision may have been suitable in 1829 or 1834. However, now that we have a university and a multiplicity of high schools scattered throughout the length and breadth of the State there are thousands of young men and women who have graduated from the university. But the fact remains that unless they have reached 30 years of age, no matter what their attainments or qualifications may be, they cannot hold a seat in the Legislative Council. In my opinion the qualification to hold a seat in the Legislative Council should be the same as that required to occupy a seat in the Legislative Assembly.

Then there is the outmoded and almost barbaric provision which belongs to the dark ages, stating that although a citizen of this State can only exercise one vote in Legislative Assembly elections, he can exercise 10 votes in the Legislative Council elections. Plurality of voting should be abolished, and the principle of one person one vote should obtain.

There is the added provision whereby the Legislative Council can veto legislation as often and as long as it likes. I think the States of South Australia and Tasmania are

on the same basis. However, Western Australia has the strongest entrenched Upper House in this country. The same position obtained in the British Parliament until 1911 when it was altered; but there is a different story in regard to legislation passed by the House of Commons. I feel very strongly about this aspect of the Constitution of Western Australia.

I had the duty and responsibility for introducing legislation in this House when I was a Minister in the previous Government which was of tremendous importance and interest to the people of this State. They were Bills to amend the Workers' Compensation Act and the State Government Insurance Office Act. Although the Bills were passed no fewer than five times in this Chamber, they were defeated by the Legislative Council.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): I have to stop the reference by the honourable member to the other place as the Legislative Council.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I shall refer to it as the other place. The reason I used the term was that it is mentioned in the Constitution Act. On those five occasions when Bills were passed in this Chamber, they were subsequently defeated in another place. It is about time that the other place had its wings clipped considerably, and a provision similar to the one applying in the British Parliament should obtain here, to deal with deadlocks or arguments between the two Houses which cannot be resolved.

The position which now obtains is that when a deadlock occurs, sometimes a conference of managers is held. But unless there is unanimity of opinion among the managers the Bill passed by the Government is defeated. Briefly, the provision in the British Parliament is as follows:

If the House of Commons passes a Bill on three successive occasions in three successive sessions within a period of two years, and the House of Lords vetoes the legislation, the House of Commons can automatically send the Bill to Her Majesty for assent. The Bill would then become law. In 1949 this provision was altered, and reference is made in Halsbury's Laws of England, Volume 28, page 393, paragraph 720, as follows:—

If any public bill, other than a money bill, a bill for extending the maximum duration of Parliament beyond five years or a bill for confirming a provisional order, is passed by the House of Commons in two successive sessions, whether of the same Parliament or not and, having been sent up to the House of Lords at least one month before the end of the session, is rejected by that House in each of those sessions, it must, upon its rejection for the second time by the House of Lords, unless the House

of Commons directs to the contrary, be presented to Her Majesty for the royal assent.

A provision of this nature should be included in the Constitution of this State, and it is about time the authority of the other place was curtailed so that the will of the people is paramount. Following the introduction, by the previous Labor Government, of the Bills I have referred to, on each occasion they were defeated in another place.

Now I turn to another matter of great importance, and much has been written and published in the daily Press about it. I refer to the proposals by the Commonwealth Government to deal with restrictive trade practices. I admit the Commonwealth Attorney-General has made many statements on those proposals, but in describing them I do not know whether the term "kite flying" is appropriate to be used. That publicity has been exceeded only by the incessant propaganda and statements of the Government of this State as to what it proposes to do in regard to certain dealings.

People reading the newspapers in the last few months would gain the impression that millions of tons of iron ore had been exported from this State. However, when the Leader of the Opposition asked a simple question as to how many tons of iron ore had been exported, the answer was nil. We have also heard from the Minister for Labour since the last session of Parliament that he would introduce comprehensive amendments to the Factories and Shops Act, and we have read from time to time in the Press about what he would do for the corner shop and the chemist. Up to date nothing has eventuated and we are still waiting for him to take action. Similarly we are waiting for the Government to take action in regard to restrictive trade practices.

It does appear that the Commonwealth Government will be forced by existing circumstances to introduce and to pass a measure on the basis of what the Attorney-General has publicised over a period; that is, to restrict certain traders from boycotting and limiting the activities of less powerful neighbours. The Western Australian Act passed by the Labor Government some years ago, the title of which was later changed to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, was repealed by the present Government subsequently. A perusal of the report on the administration of that Act revealed the following:—

A study of the matters which have been handled by the office shows the need for the legislation by the following unfair practices which were disclosed by investigations:—

- (1) Existence of market sharing and price fixing arrangements between manufacturers which

enables an unfair price to be charged to consumers as for superphosphate.

- (2) Preferential discounts and allowances to selected traders which discriminate against small competitors or new entrants.
- (3) Action of trade associations restricting admission and denying non-members access to supplies on basis which allows competition.
- (4) Denial of supplies because of refusal to abide by rules laid down by trade association.
- (5) Collusive tendering for supply of goods and services.
- (6) Tying arrangements requiring traders to handle only goods sold by the principal.

This legislation has been repealed.

At this stage it is interesting to quote extracts from a speech made by the President of another place in the debate on the amending Bill in 1958—the Unfair Trading and Profit Control Act Amendment Bill. This was what he had to say—

I believe in free enterprise, but the trouble with many people who oppose this legislation—the informed section of those who oppose it—is that they believe in free enterprise only as far as it suits them to do so, and having passed a certain datum peg they want to exercise all their rights and privileges in regard to level tendering for the commodities that they wish to supply. In spite of that, they would still have us believe that that is free enterprise. I submit that people who indulge in such practices have no right to attack the representatives of the people in this Chamber, who endeavour to ensure that those whom they represent receive a little protection.

The main aims of this Bill are to prevent collusive tendering and to alter the Title of the Act. I am not at all happy with the state of affairs that exists in Western Australia today in regard to prices. To those who assert that this legislation is scaring away private enterprise, I would say that it is they who are placing a dagger in the back of this State. They talk about making political capital out of this question but I say, without fear of substantiated contradiction, that this legislation will not frighten away any worth-while company operating in Great Britain, Europe or America, because those firms are well aware of similar legislation operating in the countries where they now are. The wording of the legislation may not be the same, but the effects of it are the same on anyone who transgresses the law.

We find today that the Commonwealth Government considers it necessary to introduce legislation which the Labor Government of this State introduced a few years ago. It is possible the Commonwealth Attorney-General will introduce that legislation later on in the year, and it is hoped the legislation will have some teeth, as *The West Australian* mentioned.

The existing legislation on this matter—the Trade Associations Registration Act—is absolutely innocuous, and is of no avail. We knew it would be when it was passed by the present Government. I have had an opportunity to study the reports of the Registrar of Trade Associations for the past three years. In the first two reports he emphasised that Eastern States influences had much to do with the working of Western Australian businesses. In the report of the 30th June, 1960, he said—

An association of wholesalers is bound to accept the prices declared by Eastern States manufacturers. The association, however, may classify its re-sellers for discount and rebate purposes. Breaches of the selling regulations may result in suspension of membership with consequent loss of supplies.

In the report for the period ended the 30th June, 1961, the Registrar said—

The operations of a significant number of associations were found to be governed or chiefly influenced by Eastern States associations or trading concerns. In some instances, the price and discount structure emanated from manufacturers, associations or organisations domiciled in other States; the price formula set by a local association was first ratified by an Eastern States board; association membership sometimes was subject to the approval of manufacturers, associations or a Federal body.

The Government of Western Australia cannot do anything in regard to the Trade Associations Registration Act, because even if it felt inclined to do something, it does not have the power. It will not be long before the position will arise in Western Australia, after the Commonwealth Government passes its legislation, that the Government will be forced to pass complementary legislation to protect the people in business here, and those whose ramifications extend through the length and breadth of Australia.

The Commonwealth Attorney-General in a document accompanying the proposals on restrictive trade practices, which was tabled in the Commonwealth Parliament in December last, set out a list of practices which were required to be registered. These are some of them—

Arrangements involving price fixing.
Uniform terms of dealing.

Restriction of output or outlets.

Boycotts and limitations on right to membership of trade associations.

Practices involving re-sale price, maintenance, and discriminatory dealing.

Certain kinds of mergers and takeovers of companies and firms.

He said those were some of the types of agreements required to be registered, and if they were in the public interest no action would be taken; but if after examination and investigation it was found that agreements between traders were inimical to public interest, steps would be taken. He listed the following inexcusable unlawful practices:—

Persistent price cutting at a loss to drive a competitor out of business.

Collusive tendering and bidding.

Monopolisation.

Why is the Federal Attorney-General, who is the champion, I know, of free enterprise—I was going to say private enterprise, but there is a great difference—ostensibly anxious to have legislation of this kind implemented? The Federal Government has been forced to do something to protect the interests of traders throughout Australia and to prevent monopolies and unfair trading.

There is ample evidence of the need for such restrictive trade practices. As a matter of fact, I think it was in this morning's paper that the president of the Manufacturers' Association stated that the Attorney-General has no justification for introducing such legislation because he has enumerated only 30 of the trade practices. Thirty trade practices of a restrictive nature that would help to undermine and cripple small businesses are surely enough to necessitate a Government introducing appropriate legislation!

A few years ago the Commonwealth Government appointed a Joint Committee on Constitutional Review. It comprised representatives of different parties and they unanimously agreed that the present legal position is that the Commonwealth can control harmful restrictive trade practices in interstate commerce but not in intrastate commerce or productive industry. It also stated that its view is that the effective control of restrictive trade practices requires uniform policies applying to trade and commerce within the whole of the Commonwealth.

The report then went on to state that the committee recommended that the Government should be given power to deal with restrictive trade practices. I believe that under section 51, dealing with foreign corporations and companies, the Commonwealth Government has not the power to deal with them. Therefore it is evident

that something will have to be done to alleviate the position of the general business community in this State.

I do not propose to deal with a number of statements and opinions which have been expressed in regard to restrictive trade practices; but it is of paramount importance to the people of Australia—the ordinary business people, those in private industries, and the consumers—that they have a measure of protection against the increasing tendency for monopolies and cartels and combines to control the economic life of Australia.

It has been found necessary in the older countries of the world to introduce legislation of this nature, and it was from that legislation that the Western Australian Act stemmed some few years ago. New South Wales, England, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, and West Germany are but a few places where legislation of this nature is in operation.

I recollect well that when we were debating legislation of this type a few years ago, I had very strong evidence that a number of small business people in this community were being squeezed out by certain strong industrialists but they were afraid to come out in public about it because they thought there would be revenge or reprisals against them. The following is a letter written by the secretary of the Retail Grocers and Storekeepers' Association of W.A., appearing in *The West Australian* on the 10th July this year:—

This association has been most interested to read the exchanges between Federal Interior and Works Minister Freeth and State Opposition Leader Hawke followed by your editorial comments on the proposed Commonwealth legislation to curb restrictive-trade practices.

The association, and the National Association of Retail Grocers with which it is affiliated, have long sought the introduction of such legislation to control the many restrictive practices rife in Australia's grocery industry.

The legislation is sought not with any desire or intention of protecting inefficient traders, but to preserve the opportunity for individuals to enter and operate in this industry in an atmosphere of keen, fair competition.

At present Australia's individually-owned retail food outlets are fighting a desperate battle for survival against increasingly powerful larger competitors which are to an unprecedented extent, receiving from manufacturers preferred discounts and other concessions, mainly of a secret nature, which are assisting them to a position of dominance in the industry. In many instances concessions are being forced from manufacturers.

In these circumstances it is not surprising that many food manufacturers, in private discussion, hail the fair trade proposals as being urgently necessary, not only for the retail trade, but also for manufacturers.

Manufacturers

Unfortunately, these manufacturers are unable to publicly voice these views for fear of reprisals from the powerful retailing interests concerned.

We have studied overseas legislation on restrictive practices and in view of the complexity of the subject we consider Sir Garfield Barwick's proposals to be a masterpiece of lucidity. With only minor exceptions, they have this association's wholehearted support.

I have here an article which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 8th April this year in which the pastoralists backed up the move to curb trade of this type. On the matter of retailers being afraid to complain, I will briefly refer to the Honorary Royal Commission on Restrictive Trade Practices appointed by this House in 1958.

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

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Thank you. We knew this obtained, and it is still going on. The statement is not made by me but by the secretary of a responsible organisation. On page 8, paragraph 6 of the report of the Royal Commission which inquired into restrictive trade practices in 1958, is the heading, "Reluctance to Give Evidence" The paragraph reads as follows:—

Difficulty was experienced in some cases with certain persons who had volunteered information to the secretary of the Commission to attend and give evidence, on the ground that they thought (whether rightly or wrongly we cannot judge) that they might suffer some detriment as a consequence of their appearance before the Commission. Some of these objections were withdrawn when the Commission decided to sit in camera. Subpoenas were issued requiring the attendance of one or two of these people.

That is an indication of what is happening and the reason why I have quite an amount of evidence which time will not permit me to use. However, later on I may do so. This report showed there were quite a number of firms that adopted collusive tendering, and the Government of the day and other people were obliged to pay the prices that these firms decided to charge. About this time last year the Country Party passed a resolution urging that certain economic or trade restrictive practices be attended to by the introduction of legislation with a view to protecting

the consumer. I think the Minister for Native Welfare was present at that conference.

In conclusion, I desire to say that this Government has continued to try to mislead the people with regard to the wonderful work it professes to be doing. I think the Minister for Industrial Development interjected the other night and said this Government was the most positive Government that has ever been here. I think I said that it was really a superlative Government.

Anyone would think it was blameless after reading the daily Press and the publicity which the Government receives from day to day. This has been going on for four years; and people are still waiting for something to be done. For quite a long while we have had a denial that there is any unemployment problem in Western Australia; but now the Government has been forced to admit to it and try to find extra money in order to provide employment for some of the people.

As I said earlier in my remarks, we have the colossal number of nearly 7,000 people who are registered for employment, and many of them are young boys and girls who cannot obtain work. Yet the Government goes along placidly and contentedly as though everything were in apple pie order. I hope the Government will bestir itself and do something to alleviate the position in which many people in Western Australia find themselves at the present time.

MR. CROMMELIN (Claremont) [6.10 p.m.]: It is my intention to speak for a short time on a subject which has been bandied around the place and in the Press quite a bit in the last few days. I refer to the Police Force—its running, control, and functions. First of all, I would like to say that I could not be critical of the C.I.B. to the same extent as was the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. On the contrary, I have had three experiences with the C.I.B. over a period of years and can therefore speak with authority.

On the first occasion we were unfortunate enough to lose £1,000 worth of goods from a factory; and within six weeks those goods were all recovered. Some four or five years later I lost a suitcase containing about £200 worth of fox pelts which was taken from my car. It was taken at 1.15 p.m. and by 4.30 p.m. was back in my hands. My final experience, which took place in April of the year before last, occurred at my home when a certain light-fingered gentleman walked through the front door of the house while my wife was upstairs. He collected my wallet, a watch, an electric shaver, and a diamond engagement ring and walked out the back door.

Mr. Heal: You were holding pretty well.

Mr. CROMMELIN: Within a few hours a couple of detectives came down for the purpose of helping to solve this robbery. I

described the watch to the best of my ability and heard no more for three days until those detectives came down again and told me they had recovered the watch. The other articles were never recovered; and the biggest loss so far as my wife was concerned was her engagement ring. However, the watch was recovered in Sydney within 72 hours. If that is not an example of co-operation between the C.I.B. in this State and in the other States I just do not know what is.

Subsequently, when I was spending a few days in Broome, the police sergeant advised me he had the picture of a watch to show me. This picture was magnified to some considerable extent, and in fact it was about one foot across. I was able to identify this watch. The light-fingered gentleman who had taken the watch had been picked up in Sydney within 24 hours of his arrival; and within two months of that—I suppose there were some routine matters to go through—he was in gaol for six months and I had my watch back—and I am happy to be wearing it today.

Perhaps my thoughts run on different lines from those of anyone else who has spoken in regard to the police; and in this regard I want to go back to 1958 when the member for Swan was the Minister for Police. Around about that time most people were showing some concern as to the goings-on of some of the rough elements around the city in milk bars, etc.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. CROMMELIN: Before tea I was about to point out that in the year 1958 I was showing some concern at the trouble being caused in the city block by certain types of young people. In an endeavour to find out what protection was afforded to the public in the city block I asked the Minister for Police how many constables were actually patrolling the streets. I have always felt that the sight of a policeman helps to prevent crime. I asked the question and learned that three sergeants and eight constables were stationed at police headquarters. That did not mean there were that many policemen patrolling. In the *Police Gazette* of March, 1959, there appeared a letter under the *nom de plume* "Vigilant" and headed "re Shortage of Staff." It was an interesting letter and this is what the writer had to say—

I read with interest the Commissioner's reply to the request regarding an increase in strength, and that if the union could put up a strong case then he would present it to the Minister.

No stronger case could be put up, other than to invite the Minister to witness the number of police constables available to do beat duty at Central,

and if he stood at the Central gates as they went out it would probably be an eye-opener.

This matter was raised in the House last year, by Mr. Crommelin, and the official answer to his query was definitely misleading and merely pulling the wool over his eyes as to the true position that there were insufficient men available to give the public the protection they were entitled to.

The rapid growth of night-watch services and escorting firms is merely evidence of the failure of the Government to provide sufficient police to protect life and property.

I do not know who the person is.

The following year I again asked how many policemen were patrolling the city and received the same sort of answer: five sergeants and nine constables. That did not mean a thing at all either; but this year, on asking the same question, I got a definite reply which stated that there was the large number of five policemen on night beat in the city block.

Now, I can appreciate that there are police patrols on call, but I cannot for the life of me see how any police commissioner can expect five men on night beat in the whole of the city area to be of sufficient strength to maintain order. We have had an outbreak of hooliganism which appears to start in one suburb and move on to another, and that sort of thing necessitates immediate police action.

To get back to the point, I think it is important that we see more policemen actually in the street both day and night. In fact, I would say that I saw more policemen at the opening of Parliament than I have seen at one gathering—apart from the Royal Visit—for many a long day. We have been told of the number of police that are available if required, but I am only interested in the metropolitan area at the present time.

In June, 1961, there were 784 men in the Police Force and the population, according to the Commonwealth Statistician, was 420,133. In 1962 the force had decreased by five to 779, and the population had gone up 11,000 to 431,000 people. At the end of June this year there were 796 policemen and the estimated population at that date was 440,000. The point I want to make is that in 1961 the Police Force received a cut in working hours from 48 to 40 hours per week. In my estimation that means that 784 policemen worked eight hours each week less; and consequently, in theory, the number of the force was cut by one-sixth, and to bring the force up to normal strength 130 more policemen would have been required.

We who live in the suburbs have to face up to the fact that there are police stations with a number of policemen in them

throughout the metropolitan area. The policemen at these stations are included in the total of the Police Force for the whole of the metropolitan area. What concerns me is that at these stations the policemen—who I understand go through quite considerable training through a police school—are doing a lot of clerical work. There are six of these men at Claremont, four at Scarborough, and 16 at Victoria Park. I would say without fear of contradiction that I have never seen a policeman in daylight in the Claremont district. They are too busy doing work in their office—tasks which in my opinion should not be put on to the police officers.

Is it right that a trained policeman, who has served in the force for a considerable number of years, should have to be responsible for the licensing of guns? It is the responsibility of the license holder of a gun to renew his license before the end of December in each year. In Claremont there are 1,067 license-holders, and of this number 15 per cent. have to be followed up. In other words, those licensees receive a letter sent by the sergeant of police informing them that they have not renewed their licenses and had better hurry up and do so. If a person does not do it, a policeman has to ring him, and if he is not on the phone the policeman has to go out and see him; and that, of course, takes considerable time.

Policemen also have to deliver and collect all the factory returns for the police district in which they are stationed. In Scarborough there are 15 factories; in Claremont 83; and in Victoria Park 334. These statistical forms have to be returned by the factories to the police; and, as is the usual custom with a lot of manufacturers, it takes them a long time to get down to completion of the forms. Once again it is the policeman who has to do this work, a job which to me seems quite beneath him and quite unnecessary for him to perform.

We find that the police are also responsible for the serving of summonses. At Scarborough last year they had to serve 1,219 summonses; in Claremont 1,507; and in Victoria Park 3,515. A policeman is fully employed during the day doing his work, and on top of that he has to serve summonses either in the unearthly hours of the morning or late at night. If he misses a person the first time he has to go back over and over again until such time as he has served the summonses.

Mr. Rowberry: He is in sight of the populace all the time he is delivering his summonses.

Mr. CROMMELIN: I do not know that he is in sight of the populace, because all summonses are not served in daylight.

On top of that the policemen at the stations have to receive the accident reports that come to the local station; and that again, of course, is a tremendous job. At Scarborough last year 837 reports were handed in over the counter; at Claremont 1,013; and at Victoria Park 220. The filling in of an accident report means that the policeman must write down word for word what is told to him as to how the accident occurred. But, of course, having done that, he has not finished by a long way because he has to fill in another statistical form, H11, which is headed "Report of Road Traffic Accident"; and on that particular form there are 99 questions. He would not have to answer the whole of the 99 questions but he has to be accurate in filling in his portion of the form. This information has to be returned to the statistician's office.

There are also driver's licenses that have to be handed in after accident reports. There are some people who, instead of sending their driver's license to the traffic office prefer to take it to the local police station; and the policeman must make out a receipt for the money received; bank it at the end of the week or the end of the month; reconcile his accompanying statement; and forward the details to the central police office.

In my opinion, policemen are not being used as policemen. In suburban stations, to a large extent, they are turned into office staff. That is a waste of good men who could be out doing what they have been trained to do—in other words, be a policemen.

Let us see what happens when we talk about the proportion of policemen to population. In the metropolitan area we find that we have a policeman to approximately 600 per head of population. That sounds very good and reads very well until we come again to suburban stations.

I do not know the population of the Scarborough district or the Victoria Park district; but I do know the population of the Claremont district; and it is 18,000 people. So, with the help of the patrol cars and the C.I.B., the policemen who are stationed in Claremont are responsible for the maintaining of order, the prevention of crime, the answering of telephones, the serving of summonses, and all the other sundries required by a population of 18,000 people. I ask you Sir: Is it humanly possible for six men to do such a job? Of course it is not!

In Victoria the authorities have realised that it is not right for trained men to do such menial tasks, and on the 24th May this year there appeared in the Press an article which was headed "Victoria Needs More Policemen". I do not intend to quote the whole article, but there is a small

paragraph which is most illuminating. This article applies to the suburbs over there the same as it does here, and it reads—

In recent weeks, the leaders of several fast-growing outer suburban areas, confronted by an upsurge in vandalism and petty crime, have complained that people are without enough police protection.

The Victorian Government claims it has made many moves to increase police numbers, including the employment of women for office duties, the service of many summonses by post instead of by person and the collection of fines by post. These have released more men for active duty but they have not increased the strength.

I wonder how long it will be before the Commissioner of Police, whom I am given to understand employs cadets and women in the central police office, prevails upon the Minister for Police to obtain more funds so that he can employ, if possible, young men of 16 or 17 years of age—we could call them "cadets," who have an ambition to become trained policemen—in the suburban stations to learn the office routine. It is not hard; and if that were done, and cadets were placed in suburban stations, it could mean the release of experienced men for normal police work. The same applies to women. At least one typist could be employed at every suburban police station.

Messages are sent over the air to the police stations, and, although I have not heard the contents of any of them, I have heard messages being sent and in Scarborough last year 2,629 wireless messages were received. In Claremont the number was 2,706 and, by a strange coincidence, in Victoria Park the number was also 2,706. I asked what had to be done about these wireless messages and the answer I received was that every one had to be written down. A trained man must sit down and laboriously write out in a book every single wireless message that is sent out to his station. Surely that is a job which a stenographer or a typist could do. She could even take the messages down in shorthand and type them back later, and keep a record of them in a book. As far as I am concerned it is time some relief was given to the police in regard to this sort of work.

Also, do not let us lose sight of the fact that even in 1961 the then Minister for Police stated that crime was increasing, and increasing at a proportionately faster rate than the increase in population. This year we learn that crime again is increasing. To the end of December, 1961, there were 16,767 major and serious crimes reported. In 1962 the number was 17,356; and for the first six months of the current year 9,845 cases have been reported, which indicates that there will

be almost 20,000 major crimes carried out this year. That increase of 1,000 or 2,000 is fairly steep.

As I have said before, prevention is always better than the cure, and so I think we must give consideration to allowing the police to be police and not a race of typists and trained telephonists. On the question of the prevention of crime I read a little while ago that some person was concerned at the use of plainclothes men in cars. Personally I agree with him. I do not believe in the use of plainclothes policemen except as detectives.

Mr. Rowberry: What is the difference?

Mr. O'Connor: There is a lot of difference.

Mr. CROMMELIN: What is the difference? The difference is that one has a uniform and one has not. I agree they are both policemen but, as a law-abiding citizen, I would rather have the opportunity of knowing that when I drove along the highway, and I was exceeding the speed limit, I was going to be apprehended by a man in uniform than by a man in a car. It is deception and we do not want deception.

Mr. Rowberry: Then why not keep to the law?

Mr. CROMMELIN: That is one way of answering the question.

Mr. Rowberry: Isn't it the best way?

Mr. CROMMELIN: But that does not get us anywhere. I still say I would rather see a man on patrol duty in uniform. He has nothing to be ashamed of.

Mr. Rowberry: It was St. Paul who said that laws were made for the transgressor.

Mr. Tonkin: You don't want to set the snare in the sight of the bird.

Mr. CROMMELIN: Many European countries are strongly in favour of having all their policemen in uniform and the cars they use painted in distinctive colours. One can drive up the autobahns in Germany and see huge fast cars, standing out with their white paint, with sirens blaring, and one knows that they are police cars. In Adelaide the police have courtesy cars. Three of them are employed on that work and they are equipped with loud speakers and flashing lights on the tops of the roofs. We do not appear to have any courtesy cars, although for some short period we did have a car which was used by policemen who were advising people when they were infringing the regulations. I would be happy to see our Police Department use courtesy cars all the time.

In recent times harsher penalties have been imposed for speeding. Many people lose their licenses for a first offence, but in most cases when one reads the account of the case one finds that in such instances it is because the circumstances were rather

serious. I wrote to Adelaide to find out what sort of treatment was meted out to speeders in that State. I received a letter from the Attorney-General's Department, portion of which reads as follows:—

While penalties for exceeding the speed limit in cases in which such speed does not amount to dangerous driving vary, in general, at speeds which are excessive but under say 55 to 60 m.p.h. (which might well be considered dangerous driving), penalty for a first offence varies in Magistrates Courts according to circumstances from about £15 to £25.

We are standing up to that one. The letter continues—

In the case of a second offence, the penalty is say about £40 to £50 with a compulsory cancellation of license, usually up to say three months. Where dangerous driving is proved, fines are usually in the vicinity of £70 to £100 with the cancellation of licence up to about six months, or even longer.

There is no central traffic court and charges are heard normally in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction nearest to where they have occurred. Special Magistrates hear the majority of serious driving offences.

I think the provision of special magistrates to hear serious driving offences charges is something to which we in this State must give serious attention.

One matter I would like to mention was discussed by the Leader of the Opposition the other night—I refer to his concern at the number of accidents and deaths on our roads. It is rather interesting to quote from a letter I received last year—September 1962—signed by a Mr. R. W. Dalby of 130 Oxford Street, Leederville. I shall not read the whole of the letter because it is too long; but, in part, he said—

As a motorist I am naturally concerned at the high road death toll.

As a parent I am more than concerned over the part the younger driver plays in this death rate. As a parent of two drivers-to-be, having a daughter almost 17 and a son 15, this modern age problem assumes more importance.

Hence my vital interest in the question of youth and death on the road.

We know that a lot of time, money and effort has been spent in attempting to educate people on the importance of care on the roads. We also know that in this State a modern driving school operates under your guidance at Mt. Lawley, but I pose the question—is it being fully utilised as it should? In my humble and perhaps not fully acquainted opinion, I would say not.

He is not quite correct there. To continue—

I say that because I feel that the authorities should not hesitate to use compulsion, if compulsion means saving lives. I therefore suggest that your council bring all the pressure they can together with other interested parties such as the Royal Automobile Club and insurance companies, to get the law regarding issuing of licenses amended to make it compulsory, in the metropolitan area at least, for the younger driver to be—from 17 to 21 years, to compulsorily attend the Mt. Lawley safety school for preliminary schooling in the art and how and when of driving. Until he has passed a prescribed course and received a certificate of competency from the school he would not be accepted for testing for a license by the traffic authorities. Even then, and this is where the important amendment would be necessary, he would only have a provisional yearly license, which would be reviewed according to his record in that period, and renewed for a further year or refused on the result of that review, taking into account all the facts.

This period of review to continue until he is 21 years of age, after which time the law would assume he is responsible for his actions in the same way as on other matters at that age.

It will be seen that my object is not to prevent him getting a license, but is bestowing a privilege which he is entitled to respect and be responsible towards, during that impulsive time of his life.

The fact that 7% of the drivers, cause 30% of the accidents, is surely sufficient proof if any more is required to prove the point that the responsibility of a younger driver is not sufficiently developed for him to control a lethal weapon, without thought for himself or others. I emphasise again that in unskilled and unthoughtful hands a car is a lethal weapon.

Even if to equip further schools for this type of tuition means increased driving license fees, and enlisting the support of insurance companies, I feel that the cost would be more than justified in lives saved. Life itself is all too short even now, and anything to maintain this state of affairs is worth paying for.

I must make it clear here that as a father of two prospective drivers, what I am advocating is not something which will not affect me, and that I cannot be accused of adopting a mean and selfish attitude in this matter.

That, I think, is a very sensible letter from a very sensible parent.

Following that communication I received a note from the National Safety Council, which informs me that in June of this year the State of Washington passed legislation in an endeavour to establish more teacher-training schools. The new legislation which is now in force will provide finance for teaching by taking two dollars out of every 20 dollars of fines on moving traffic violations; and this money will be given to schools for the purpose of paying experienced instructors to teach these young people how to drive a car. The State of that particular country will reimburse them to the extent of 30 dollars per student.

That is a very fine objective for which to work. Because of the lack of facilities it is of course not possible for us in this State to do anything like that. But we have been advised from articles in the Press that, in the very near future, the Government intends to bring down legislation under which it will be necessary for professional drivers—those who charge a fee for teaching students to drive a car—to submit themselves to an examination, and the certificate they require will be issued by the National Safety Council.

It might be of interest to you to know, Mr. Speaker, that for a police driver to become an instructor at the police driving school in New South Wales, it is necessary for him to submit himself to a course of training for nine months. Unless he is prepared to do that, and unless he can pass the examination for the course, he cannot get a certificate—not even to teach a man how to drive. That system, of course, originated from the practice at the Hendon Police College in England.

In our own State we find that Constable Woolmer had the opportunity of attending such a school. He attended the school for five weeks, and he topped the classes there. This was very satisfactory indeed. But at the end of five weeks' intensive training all he received was a certificate to say that he was a good driver. He is not, however, a qualified teacher. It can be seen, therefore, how important it must be for the young people to be given the opportunity to learn.

Students from the Teachers' Training College who attend the National Safety Council receive about 14 days' training, at the end of which time they can be sent to different schools in the country areas. They are certified as having sufficient knowledge to voluntarily teach children to become competent drivers when they come of age.

If it takes nine months to teach a policeman to become an instructor, and if it takes five weeks for a man who attends a driving school in Sydney to obtain a

certificate that he is an efficient driver; and a fortnight for a teacher from the training college to obtain a certificate which says he is a fit person to teach young people to drive, then it is fairly evident that the more young people we can teach to drive through training schools, the better will they be able to develop a sense of responsibility. That, combined with a provisional license, might go a long way towards helping cut down the number of deaths and accidents on the roads.

I should point out, however, that although one finds that each year nearly 200 people are killed on the roads, it is a remarkable achievement to keep the figure down to as low as 200, particularly when one realises the number of cars that use the roads each year. I am sure it would surprise members if I were to tell them that at the present stage there are 15,000 new driver's licenses being issued each year; and of these 15,000 licenses, 7,000 are issued to people under the age of 21 years. So when we consider that these young drivers are given so little training—perhaps they are taught by their parents, after which they undergo a routine examination by the police inspector—it is little wonder that there is such a great number of young people involved in accidents and tragedies; and I refer particularly to those in the under 21-year-old group.

Mr. Bickerton: Are there any more in proportion?

Mr. CROMMELIN: I have just pointed out that of the 15,000 new licenses issued 7,000 are issued to people under the age of 21 years.

Mr. Bickerton: Is there a greater proportion of younger drivers involved in accidents?

Mr. CROMMELIN: The 7,000 young drivers in the 21-year-old group cause 20 per cent. of the accidents.

Mr. Bickerton: Who causes the other 80 per cent.?

Mr. CROMMELIN: I could have a table drawn up for the honourable member if he wishes. I understand, however, that the Police Department is tackling the job at the moment. It does, however, entail a great deal of work, because it would mean keeping track of licenses from the time of issue and following up each license to see when its holder became involved in an accident.

I was going on to say that a Senate Select Committee was appointed to consider these road tolls. I think the report was made available last year, or the year before. Although I have not a copy of the report with me, one of the strong points made in the report of that Select Committee was that the more teacher

training that could be given to the young people, the more chance they would have of becoming sensible and efficient drivers.

Last year in this State £132,000 was obtained in fines. I suppose it will be as much again this year—I will be very surprised if it is any less. Today, however, the State Government and the Commonwealth Government combined are spending just on £30,000 in assisting the National Safety Council in its work. The National Safety Council was built up by way of finance to the extent of £70,000. All of this amount has been donated; which means, of course, that the work that it is carrying out must be important from the point of view of the oil companies, the insurance companies, and the other organisations which help keep the Council going.

If our State Government would give some thought to the procedure adopted in the State of Washington, where 10 per cent. of the fines is taken each year for the establishment of schools of instruction, it would be a great step forward. As I have already said, £132,000 was realised by way of fines last year; so if we put by 10 per cent. of that amount each year it would not be long before we could have a lot more teaching instructors, which would mean that the number of students they could handle would increase. This is quite evident, because the amount of the fines each year would be fairly stable; and at the end of a period of time it is possible that through helping enlarge the scope of the National Safety Council we could achieve a great deal. Increased penalties could also help.

So I leave that thought with the Minister, because I believe it is something that could well be done. I do not wish to start speaking on any other matter at the moment, because I would not be able to cover the other subjects in the time left to me. I would, however, repeat what I said at the commencement of my speech. I have no criticism to make of the Police Force, but I do criticise the fact that the Police Force is not being used to the fullest extent. If more use were made of the cadets and the females in the police offices, a great deal more protection could be afforded by the suburban stations, where the population is definitely at a disadvantage by virtue of the fact that the policeman's duties entail too much office work, and too little police work.

MR. ROWBERRY (Warren) [8.14 p.m.]: Like some of my colleagues on this side of the House I find nothing very exciting or exhilarating in the Speech so bravely given by the Lieutenant-Governor at the opening of Parliament. I would like here to express my appreciation of his courage and fortitude in delivering the Speech he did, particularly when one considers the circumstances of his health.

Unlike the honourable member who moved the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, I am not satisfied that everything that could be done has been done in my electorate. I have a few requests to put to the respective Ministers which, I trust, they will listen to and deal with effectively, sympathetically, and quickly.

First of all I would like to make a request of the Minister for Works in regard to the water supply at Northcliffe. Northcliffe is a town which was developed by group settlement in the early 1920's; and since then it has suffered the disability of having a restricted water supply. It has also suffered, in common with a number of other districts in this State, from a lack of electricity, and we are hoping that eventually we will be able to get the State Electricity Commission to extend its lines to Northcliffe.

In the meantime, I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister a reply to a letter of mine which he forwarded under date the 10th July, 1963. It reads as follows:—

Referring to previous correspondence, I can now give advice that the department is preparing its programme for 1963-64 and every consideration will be given to the provision of a water supply at Northcliffe.

It will be appreciated that at the present time no definite advice can be given until the extent of the department's allocation of loan funds is established, but the matter will be kept in mind.

I know this matter has been brought to the notice of the Minister on numerous occasions previously. In point of fact, the hotel, which is an excellent one and forms a link in the drive from Perth via Manjimup, Northcliffe, Walpole, Albany, and back, has served quite a useful purpose in that tourist link. During last summer water was so short at the hotel and the local saw mill that the hotel nearly had to close down. In fact, representations were made to the Tourist Development Authority, to the Minister, and to the Public Works Department. The hotel owner has done all that is humanly possible to find bore water, but unfortunately beneath Northcliffe there is a hard stratum that cannot be penetrated by ordinary drills, and above which there is not very much water. Therefore, in the summer-time, the town experiences a distinct shortage of water.

The summer before last it was possible, by carting water on one of the mill trucks, to keep the hotel open and so provide water for its sanitation system and for use in the bar. But this source nearly fell through and the hotelkeeper was so desperate that he was forced to write to the Licensing Court asking for a temporary suspension of his license because he did

not have enough water. It might be argued that in a district like Northcliffe which experiences an average rainfall of something like 60 in. a year it should take second place to the other districts which have a very low rainfall of, say, 11 in. or 12 in.

However, it must be appreciated—I have mentioned this point before—the greater part of that rainfall at Northcliffe takes place over four or five months of the year and it is impossible for individuals to provide any greater storage than 3,000 or 4,000 gallons from their roof run-off. Therefore, to provide a water supply for the remaining seven or eight months of the year is beyond the capabilities of the householders and the hotelkeeper.

The baker, too, was very much inconvenienced because of the lack of a good potable public water supply; and I would like once more to bring this matter to the Minister's attention hoping he will keep it in mind when he is making his allocations for water supplies for the 1963-64 financial year. In a village or town such as Northcliffe, where practically all the buildings are of timber construction and bush encroaches right to the edges of the town, it is necessary to have a complete water supply available as a means of protection.

Last summer the town was nearly swept away by flames from several bush fires; and had it not been for the efforts of the local bushfire brigade and the employees of the Forests Department, those fires could easily have been similar to those we had further north in the summer before. So there is every reason why this town should receive consideration in regard to the provision of a water supply. The mere fact that it is an isolated town at the end of a road and nearly at the end of civilisation is not a good enough argument. We often talk of decentralisation; and I would imagine that one of the main things to bring about decentralisation would be to induce people to stay in the country towns which they now occupy—and we can do that by raising the standard of living and by providing all the amenities which are available to their brothers and sisters in the more developed towns.

Here is an added reason why Northcliffe should have prior recognition in the provision of a water supply scheme: I believe a survey has been made and it is possible that the water is there, although it may be difficult to reticulate. However, difficulties should not deter us. We should not be deterred from doing anything because it is difficult or even dangerous.

I now wish to speak of Pemberton, which is in my area; and I am sorry the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Industrial Development are not in their places. I suppose they have important business to

attend to outside the House and will have the opportunity of reading what I am about to present.

Mr. H. May: The Minister for Railways has gone home sick.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I thought he sounded as though he had a bad cold earlier in the evening. I have one myself—

Mr. Bovell: Don't strain your voice.

Mr. ROWBERRY: They breed them tough where I come from. I would like those Ministers to have been present. Approximately two years ago one shift at the mill at Pemberton was put off. That meant the dismissal of some 135 to 145 men. Some of the men concerned were re-employed temporarily by the Forests Department. This is something with which the Minister for Forests could deal. At the moment these men are being progressively put off from their employment with the Forests Department. That department has retrenched or sacked—which ever term is best—the single men first. These men are in the age group of 50 to 60 years and, because of this fact, it is most difficult—and improbable—for them to obtain any other employment. Now the department has started on the married men; and in a few weeks' time they will receive notice that their services are no longer required by the Forests Department.

The Leader of the Opposition and I tried to impress upon the Treasurer that he make more funds available to the Forests Department in last year's Estimates so that these people could be kept continuously employed. It is no use talking about the great advances we are going to make and the great new industries we are going to establish if we fail to hold on to the industries that we already have. It is no good talking about the further employment we are going to provide for our people if we fail to provide employment for the people we already have.

In the distant future we are contemplating the establishment in our area of such an industry as paper pulping, and to cope with that industry we are contemplating an extension of our pine forests. We not only require an extension of the pine forests for the purpose of paper pulping, but the time is not far distant when this State will be unable to provide its own timber requirements from its indigenous forests. So that is one more special reason why we should achieve a double purpose. If extra funds could have been made available we could have kept these people gainfully employed in the district in which they have spent most of their lives—in the district in which some of them were born and bred.

We could have provided those people with gainful employment and at the same time have made an investment for the future by building up our pine forests

so that we would not only meet our future timber requirements, but provide the soft woods which will be necessary for the establishment of a paper pulping industry. I hope the Ministers concerned will give this matter another look. I will now pass on from Pemberton and go north to Manjimup where we have some peculiar disadvantages, as the district contains a large agricultural area.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: One of them is the member.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I believe it could be. It may be his disadvantage is the Government and the Ministers with whom he has to deal. Now that the Minister for Health has spoken, I would bring something to his notice. For several years now we have been trying to obtain a better and more complete dental treatment.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Vote for fluoridation of water supplies and you won't need one.

Mr. ROWBERRY: It could be that the fluoridation of water supplies would make the difference. However, that may be debatable.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: It could make the difference.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Until the Minister can tell me it will make the difference—

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I will.

Mr. ROWBERRY: There is a vast difference between "could" and "would".

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: It will make the difference.

Mr. ROWBERRY: We will take it that it will—

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: But the legislation has to be passed first.

Mr. ROWBERRY: —but until such time as the legislation is passed—and even after it is passed—it will still be necessary to provide proper dental care to do away with dental caries.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: The school dental service will probably be able to cope.

Mr. ROWBERRY: At present the school dental service is conspicuous by its absence. That is one of the drawbacks from which the people of Manjimup are suffering and because of which they made representations to me as their member that we should have a proper dental clinic established in Manjimup in company with other districts.

The Minister said it is the intention of the department to provide these dental clinics in districts which have no dental surgeons in attendance, and in isolated districts which at present have no dental services. But we in Manjimup contend that even dental services, and the services of a practising dentist—even two dental surgeons—do not solve the problem. The

problem is that dental services are beyond the means of a large section of the community. The wage-earner who is on or just above the basic wage, with two or three children in the family, simply cannot afford dental services. He cannot afford the dentist's bill, and therefore there must be some other means of providing dental treatment and care.

That was the purpose in providing dental clinics; namely, to cater for people whose means did not enable them to have the services of a dental surgeon. We who live in the country submit that more provision should be made for dental clinics. The Minister said they would be provided when more dentists were trained. He gives as his reason for not providing them—

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You fit very nicely into the category of those who think I have a magic wand to wave.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I know the Minister does not have a magic wand to wave. It is quite easy for me to enumerate all the things which are deficient. It is quite easy for me to tell the Minister about all the things that should be done; but it is another matter to have the money with which to do all these things. The submission I am making is that we should establish a priority in the allocation of the money, when the money is there. In his letter the Minister said as follows:—

It is realised that a School Dentist has not been at Manjimup for some time, but as would be implied, this has been caused by lack of sufficient dentists; consequently, it is not possible to indicate when regular visits can be made.

The Minister does not say anything about not having any money; not having the finance with which to provide this dental service.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: We have not got enough dentists, anyway.

Mr. ROWBERRY: The letter continues—

The Department hopes to obtain several new bursar graduates next year, and at least one—or probably two, will be sent to the Manjimup-Bridgetown area.

I am very pleased about that. But the point the Minister makes about not having enough trained dentists to supply the needs of the community is denied by—

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Am I telling lies?

Mr. ROWBERRY: I did not say the Minister was telling lies. He can make an honest mistake. He can be wrong in his information; in his deduction from his facts.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: If you think there are enough dentists here to do the work—

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order!

Mr. ROWBERRY: I do not know anything about it; I am merely reporting this authority. I have here a letter from Mr. Findley, of Applecross, in which he discusses doctors' fees and medical benefits—and what better time is there to mention dental treatment? He says, with regard to dental fees, that there are no set charges for dental fees. They are merely assessed by consultation between the patient and the dental surgeon. Mr. Findley suggests that some form of dental health scheme should be introduced so that parents may readily take their children to a dental surgeon without fear of expense. In this way dentists would receive payment similar to that which doctors receive under the national health scheme.

This is a matter for the Commonwealth Government, but it could be applied in a modified form under State legislation. There is a reply to that letter from the Australian Dental Association (W.A. Branch) spokesman. The name of the person is not mentioned. He is mentioned as "spokesman" for the Australian Dental Association (W.A. Branch). The letter reads—

Because of the complexity of treatment it is not desirable or possible to lay down a definite scale of fees. The association recommends to members that fees be discussed with patients.

The association does not recognise that there is a shortage of dentists. There could be a mal-distribution in some areas. The association believes that if there is to be a national health service dental health should be included.

I have read quite clearly that the association does not recognise there is a shortage of dentists.

Mr. O'Connor: Who is the authority?

Mr. ROWBERRY: At the risk of wearying the House I will quote it again. I will read it very slowly. The authority is the Australian Dental Association (W.A. Branch) spokesman. I hope that is clear to the honourable member.

The Minister believes that because another dentist has set up practice in Manjimup, it should be sufficient to meet the case. But as I have already explained, the presence of even two dental surgeons in a community, which does not have the incomes spread among its members to enable them to take advantage of these facilities, is not enough, and something more should be done.

There is another letter in regard to this matter. It is from the secretary of the Manjimup Parents and Citizens' Association, and is dated the 13th August, 1963. The letter contradicts what the Minister said about the member for Warren being a disadvantage for Warren.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: A "peculiar" disadvantage you said.

Mr. ROWBERRY: The letter reads—

Dear Sir,

I wish to thank you for your letter of the 15/7/63, which was discussed with the accompanying letter from the Minister for Health, Mr. Hutchinson, at the recent parents and citizens' association at the Primary School, re the dental clinic.

As you have invited comments from our association, we are heartily in accordance in asking if you will kindly submit to the next sessions of Parliament that one of the mobile clinics (dental), now on order, be in attendance in our district.

In agreement with you, the point regarding the high cost of private dental services to a wage earning district, has been missed.

That is, by the Minister. The letter continues—

This is indeed a great hardship to overcome and does need more emphasis to connect our need to the services of a dental clinic. We extend to you our thanks for your support and offer our best wishes.

I would rather that sort of commendation than the Minister's puerile comments about a peculiar disadvantage. However, we do not want to antagonise the Minister because, after all, he is the one who will make the decision. I hope he will do it wisely and consider that even though there are isolated cases in the agricultural areas the average income in those districts would probably be much in excess of the average income of the householders in the Warren area. I do not think isolation alone should determine the question; it is a matter of income and the ability to avail oneself of the service of a dentist by reason of one's income.

On several occasions in the past members have heard me speak about tobacco, and I would like to approach this matter from a different angle tonight. We know that the sales of Manjimup tobacco held recently in Victoria were somewhat of a fiasco. In answer to questions asked the Minister has told me that a report on the ramifications of the sale and the reasons for the refusal of manufacturers to buy Manjimup tobacco has been called for, and until that has been done he will not be able to give any information to the House.

I do not intend to stress that angle again, but I would like to stress the point that the absence of the tobacco income has had a considerable impact not only on the tobacco growers but also all other sections of the community in Manjimup. One can readily appreciate that if a town the size of Manjimup loses an income of anything from £500,000 to £750,000 per annum the blow must be felt by more than just the primary producers.

The financial institutions and the tradespeople who have kept the growers provided with groceries, bread, and the like—the bare necessities of life—have outstanding accounts, and they have definitely suffered as a result of the present position of the growers. I would like the Minister to look into the possibility of rehabilitating some of these tobacco farms for use as dairy farms, and for butterfat production. I believe something like 25 per cent. of the farms in the Manjimup area which were devoted to the production of tobacco were formerly dairy farms.

I give the Minister and his department full marks for the research they have made and for the efforts they have put into discovering an alternative means of primary production so that the tobacco growers can be rehabilitated and given gainful employment. However, I ask the Minister this question: Has he and the department considered converting some of the tobacco farms into dairy farms? These tobacco growers are excellent people—I nearly said they were peasants, but that is a word to which some people in the House seem to take exception. They are natural primary producers and are excellent handlers of stock. They have an innate patience and a love of their animals and their land which enables them to become successful farmers. Their womenfolk also are very much concerned about the position and they would be of considerable help in the establishment of dairy farms.

So I wonder if a survey could be made to see whether, and if so how many of these farms could be brought up to the standard required for the dairy farm improvement scheme. I know the minimum acreage is 165 acres to enable a farmer to qualify for extension under the scheme; but I think it would be possible for the department to make a survey to determine the possibilities of re-establishing these people.

At the present time hundreds of acres in Manjimup are lying dead; they are a dead asset and the owners have no means of earning an income from that land. There is no possibility of the farmers getting a mortgage or a loan from the bank until something is done about rehabilitating them. If those producers could become semi-established as dairy farmers they would have some possibility of obtaining further loans and mortgages to enable them to build up their stocks and increase their earning capacity. I leave that thought with the Minister.

I would also like to bring to his notice the possibility of using the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act for the rehabilitation of the tobacco growers. When representations were made to the person who administers the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act he said that the purpose of the Act was to enable farmers to continue with their production.

It was assumed that as the tobacco growers could not continue with the production of tobacco the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act could not be applied. I put this to the House: If when the Act was first passed it was found that the farmers for whom it was introduced could not continue with the production of wheat and wool, and they were forced into other avenues of production, would the Act have applied or would such other production have been *ultra vires*?

The tobacco farmers in Manjimup are no longer able to continue with tobacco farming and I cannot see why the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act cannot be used for their rehabilitation. I think further inquiries should be made into the possibility of bringing these farmers under that Act so that the growers at Manjimup can be established in an alternative means of production, to wit, dairy farming.]

Mr. Bovell: That matter was thoroughly examined and the position did not allow a rehabilitation in another form of primary industry.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I am not quite convinced by that argument, and I have very good reasons for not being convinced by it. I have obtained quite a bit of advice on the subject and I am not convinced that the Farmers' Debts Adjustment Act could not be legally applied. I am of the strongest opinion that further inquiry into the whole matter should be made.

At Manjimup also we have an extremely efficient research station which recently was giving excellent service by rendering advice to tobacco farmers. There now seems to be some doubt surrounding the future of this tobacco research station, and I do not know the reason for it. Some people say that the soil in the Manjimup district is not suitable for the continuation of the station's activities; that it is not indicative of the average type of soil in the Manjimup district; that it would not lend itself to proper research on potato, orchard, and other types of cultivation.

However, I would say that the soil around Manjimup chiefly consists of red gum and jarrah soil, and this research station is situated in that type of country. It is undulating and it is hilly. It is karri gum and red gum country. It has swamp and river flats, and, in fact, it has a combination of all the types of soil in the Manjimup area. At this juncture I do not think that the extra expenditure which would be required to establish another research station in Manjimup would be justified, because it would probably cost in the region of £100,000 to establish an alternative research station and that money could well be applied to establishing, say, the tobacco growers in dairy farming or allied primary production.

I do not think in this instance or at this time it is necessary to change the site of the research station; nor do I think

that, in the circumstances, it ever would be necessary. Of course the soil experts and other agricultural experts will tender their advice, and no doubt that will be followed by the Minister.

Nevertheless, he is a farmer himself and he should be able to make a judgment, and I strongly advise him to look twice at the possibility of putting the State to extra expense by shifting that research station to another site, because there is very little vacant land in Manjimup suitable for the establishment of another research station. That is one of the difficulties faced by the ex-tobacco farmers when considering their rehabilitation; namely, the difficulty of granting them sufficient acreage to take on dairy farming and other production. There is just not sufficient land available.

I am not going to advocate at this time or at any other time that land should be excised from timber or forest reserves for such a purpose because there should be, and is, enough ideal land around Manjimup not being used, without encroaching on our valuable timber reserves. Such land could be and should be used to re-establish these tobacco growers who are efficient and dedicated farmers and who would make a success of this scheme if given an opportunity. So the Minister should give further consideration to this matter and to the question of shifting the research station at Manjimup to another site.

The Minister for Education is not in his place either tonight. He is probably suffering from a cold, too. I was going to point out to him that because of the agricultural set-up in Manjimup it is highly desirable for an agricultural wing to be attached to the Manjimup High School. At present, the farmers who wish to give their sons the benefit of advanced education in farming methods and agricultural technology have to send them to Denmark, Narrogin, or Muresk. Manjimup is the centre of a large and diversified agricultural area and I would like the Minister to have another talk with his departmental officers about the addition of an agricultural wing to the Manjimup High School.

I am aware that there other influences at large in that field. I know it is possible for the member for Warren to be advantaged if such a wing were added to the Manjimup High School, and because of that there are more powerful political influences being exercised in adjacent areas. Nevertheless, if we take into consideration the economic possibilities of the Manjimup area, it will be found that it justifies the establishment of an agricultural wing at the Manjimup High School.

I have one more grouch. I place before the Minister for Lands the fact that for nearly 50 years people have been travelling from Manjimup and surrounding districts

to camp in the Nornalup national park which is called the "Peppermints" and "The Depot." Last summer, however, these people were told that they could no longer use this ground for camping. A policeman not in plain clothes was even called in to assist in evicting these people who pioneered this area in the Nornalup inlet by camping there 50 years ago. In doing this they no doubt broke the laws laid down by the National Parks Board and also by erecting permanent or semi-permanent structures on this area. I believe, too, that the sanitary arrangements were the crudest; and, apropos of the empty bottles question that we have heard of tonight, the number of bottles strewn around the area was enormous.

Despite all these factors, it is coming to a pretty pass when, in this State, with so many open spaces, people cannot camp on an area for, say, a fortnight or a week of their holidays without being subjected to an over-rigorous and dictatorial law.

I realise that the provisions of the Health Act have to be observed and upheld; but in this instance I am asking that the Minister set aside a camping area in the Nornalup Park, because it is far enough away from organised communities and far enough away from the road to ensure that no harm or danger will be suffered by anybody. In fact, one has to make a journey of about two miles by sea in order to reach this camping area.

It should be possible for a camping area to be set aside for these people, to enable them to avail themselves of these facilities during the summer months if they wish to do so. The shire council has agreed to accept responsibility for looking after the camp, for policing it, for enforcing the health regulations there, and for seeing that everything is sanitary and above board. I can see every reason why these requests should be granted. I know I am setting something off at half-cock; but I am merely preparing the Minister for Lands for that which is likely to eventuate.

The pioneering spirit among our people is not dead. If we are to have a well-behaved populace we must give that populace some means of recreation, and enable it to get away from things when it wishes to; and provide it with some means of communing with nature, which is possible only in these camping sites I have mentioned.

The mere fact that such a small number of people have pioneered and opened up a State of this size is, of course, a great tribute to the people concerned; and we should provide these camping facilities for those who wish to get away from everybody, and live among sylvan surroundings. They would not be harming anybody; they certainly would not be harming the flora or the fauna of the country. In

fact, I can see no reason for the refusal of the responsible authority to grant the appropriate lease to the local governing authority, to enable it to set aside the necessary camp sites for the people of the district.

Much has been said by members about traffic problems while speaking to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. I would like to commend the Minister for Police, and his department for some of the regulations which have been gazetted recently. I refer especially to those that relate to pedestrian traffic. For too long, I think, we have approached this problem from the wrong angle altogether. Even now some of the members who have spoken during this debate have referred to certain things as a right. In fact, however, nobody has a right as such.

No-one has a right to use a road for instance, unless he is not interfering with anybody else. The basis of liberty in a democratic community like ours is that one can do what one likes providing one does not interfere with someone else's liberty. Unless pedestrians are regulated in their movements; unless they are forced to keep to the left on the footpath—and I say that advisedly; and unless we have regulations which force them to cross the road in certain places, their right to do so is very debatable. In my opinion it is not a question of right at all.

The regulation is there for the safety and well-being of the public generally. It is just as easy to walk in a straight line on the left-hand side of the pavement, as it is to walk in a haphazard fashion, colliding with everybody in one's path. The same thing applies when one is crossing a road. The right of a pedestrian to cross a road is no right at all. He has no right to cross a road, particularly if he interferes with the movement of oncoming traffic. If he interfered with the movement of a motorcar, for instance, he would be in a bad way. Accordingly we must legislate for the safety and well-being of all the people. As I have said, there are no such things as rights.

We hear about rights-of-way at intersections. It has been proved conclusively in actions for damages that there is no absolute right for either people or vehicles to do certain things, despite the fact that the law says they may. After all is said and done the safety of the people is the paramount concern.

I mentioned intersections and the rights of vehicles at intersections; and in this connection I would like to give a small illustration. While coming to Parliament House this morning I turned right into King's Park Road; and as one who knows the traffic regulations slightly, I was within 2 ft. of the centre line, which was the correct place to be, when I stopped. I found that a car on my right, coming

out of King's Park Road and going west—a Government car by the way—also stopped. We had both stopped, and whilst I was in this position another car overtook me on the left, and turned right into King's Park Road. The driver of that car, of course, broke several regulations.

What interests me, however, is that a desire has been expressed for regulations saying that people who issue licenses to drivers of motorcars must themselves have a certificate as proof of their ability to teach driving. The member for Claremont elaborated this theme quite well I thought. A person, having been taught to drive, is handed over to a police constable in order to obtain a license. Any police constable can issue a license. He need not have any particular skill or ability in driving or teaching; yet he has the right to issue a license. It does not make sense to me. It has been clearly established that the majority of accidents on the road are caused by bad drivers.

At this point it is clear that drivers can get on to the road only after they have been issued with a license by a constable. Whom are we to blame? Are we to blame the person with the license, or the person who issues the license? The person who issues the license is responsible for the driver being on the road; and accordingly the skill, ability, and efficiency of the constable concerned should be of the highest order. No ordinary constable should have the responsibility of issuing a license to a driver.

If it is logical to have a trained and licensed teacher-driver; then I think it is equally logical to have a trained police staff whose duty it is only to issue licenses: a staff which could study not only the driving skill and ability of the person concerned, but also his mental and physical make-up; because in a large number of cases that invariably determines whether there will be an accident or not.

Another important point is that seldom if ever is a driver tested for his license under lights, after dark. Quite a number of accidents occur after dark. In point of fact some people are physically handicapped while driving after dark. Their eyesight is such that it does not recover quickly enough from the shock of advancing headlights; and they are blinded for a longer period than would be the case with an ordinary person. They tend to run off the road or over the line, and collide with other vehicles. I am bringing these points to the notice of the Minister.

I draw the attention of members to the fact that in the country there is, in my opinion, not enough supervision of traffic on the highways. We find that drivers consider the centre line on a road establishes their right to drive on the centre

line, and that they do not have to keep to the left. There does not seem to be any supervision of this road regulation at all.

I have had occasion to report breaches of the traffic regulations which I have seen taking place. I made a report to the traffic inspector of a shire council, and gave him the details of the happening. I have not yet received an acknowledgment of the letter, which I sent some months ago. We see that the average Australian takes very unkindly to people in plain clothes interfering with traffic branches. I cannot go along with the member for Claremont when he says that all traffic policemen should be in uniform; it would be a greater deterrent to people who break the traffic laws if they did not know who was likely to apprehend them.

The outlook which advocates the wearing of uniforms, whereby people can be warned and prevented from breaking the law, is wrong; and until we alter that outlook and become our own policemen, we should not worry whether the policeman is in uniform or in plain clothes.

MR. HART (Roe) [9.13 p.m.]: I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, and after examining the Speech of the Lieutenant-Governor I agree that it gives us an overall picture of the position in Western Australia. But looking at the remarks which apply to agriculture I cannot help but feel a little disappointed.

I represent a wheat and sheep district in the eastern portion of the State, and to those electors agriculture is very important. I felt that to some extent the subject of agriculture was being overlooked, or perhaps somewhat taken for granted. Quite a lot of emphasis was placed on the development going on in the north, on industrial expansion, and on other forms of development. In my view the progress being made is very good.

From my point of view there is need for us to be a great deal more up to date in our thoughts on agriculture in Western Australia. Agricultural development and production present a very exciting picture; and as one drives around Western Australia—from Northampton in the north to Esperance in the south and eastwards through the eastern wheatbelt—one sees a scene of large expansion and activity.

An examination of the figures relating to agricultural production in Western Australia reveals that the value is in the vicinity of £117,000,000 annually. This represents new money coming into the State every year, and I suggest it would be difficult for us to find other sources of income which benefit the people more. In the main, this money is spent almost immediately, and is circulated among the people in the State.

I want to place before members of this Chamber a brief summary of the progress made by agriculture in the last 12 years, and also of the potential for further agricultural development. Briefly, in land development from 1945, when there were 13,500,000 acres of land cleared for agriculture, the total rose to 25,500,000 acres in 1962. In wheat and wool production, between 1948 and 1960, we find that grain production increased by 114 per cent., while wool production increased by 97 per cent. in the agricultural areas. We should be very proud of those increases, and should do more to advertise and boost our agricultural areas. I realise this State is expanding rapidly on the agricultural level, and is receiving a new influx of farmers from the Eastern States; but personally I do not think the maximum is being done to advertise and boost our agricultural areas.

Looking at the sheep numbers in the agricultural areas for the period 1950 to 1962, in those 12 years they increased from approximately 6,300,000 to 15,000,000. Of the sheep population of Western Australia, the numbers found in the agricultural areas represent 82 per cent. of the total.

When we turn to the improved pastures we find that due to the efforts of officers, technicians, and scientists in the Department of Agriculture, a wonderful advance has been made, which in turn has brought about a great increase in the carrying capacity. Dr. Rossiter of the C.S.I.R.O. stated recently that Western Australia now has 8,000,000 acres of improved pasture, and this acreage would probably be doubled within 10 years. He added that the greatest increase was taking place in the eastern and mid-eastern wheat areas.

This is a summary of the progress Western Australia is making in agricultural development. The potential, however, can perhaps be brought home quite clearly and be appreciated more when we consider what we have, and what we might be able to do. At present the farmers in this State have 7,000,000 acres of uncleared alienated land; 18,000,000 acres of cleared land yet to be sown to pasture; and on top of that a further 18,000,000 acres of unalienated land to be taken up and cleared, all of which is suitable for present forms of agriculture. Bearing in mind the great progress made in agriculture and the potential for further development, I cannot stress too strongly the need for making these facts more widely known.

In our agricultural set-up we hear a number of complaints, and there are some things urgently needed. I would like to mention two of them. The first is that there is an urgent need for some form of financial assistance to a certain section of our developing farms; and, as I see it, the second is that there is a case to give some freight assistance to grain growers in our middle eastern wheatbelt area.

I know the matter of finance has been raised in quite a lot of different places, and I know the problem is one that is difficult to get around and come up with the right answer. At the present time we have the Commonwealth Rural Development Bank and the associated banks, etc., which are all doing a very good job. But I would like to stress that within the development that is taking place in Western Australia we have a small percentage of young farmers—sons of farmers—and perhaps contractors who have made enough money to branch out on their own and who are at the initial stages of development. However, in Western Australia, at the present time, there is no form of financial assistance available for these fellows at all.

If one is fairly well established, one can obtain substantial finance from the Commonwealth Rural Development Bank. If one is around the corner and has reasonable assets, then the associated banks come into the picture. But there is a group of farms that have been established by hard work and development has reached a stage where the farmers require some financial assistance. However, their properties are not an asset from the banking point of view; and it is those fellows that we are not catering for at the present time.

We have to bear in mind what agriculture means to Western Australia; and this Government should give more serious thought to evolving some way to assist that section of farmers. There are several ways in which this could be done, but I do not intend to delve into any of them tonight. However, I would briefly say that one way would be on the basis of the old I.A.B., although not so wide or broad. However, we cannot overlook what that form of assistance did for the eastern wheatbelt some 25 or 30 years ago.

I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that a lot of the farmers in the eastern wheatbelt are there today because of that assistance they received. I know arguments could be put forward which would paint not too good a picture of that form of assistance, but I would say over a 30-year period, it would prove to be a good financial investment for Western Australia. I stress that point. Just because we are getting along reasonably well and fairly quickly there is no reason we should say we are going along all right, so why delve into the very prickly problem of financial assistance for a small group? I hope we can get around to assisting these farmers because they are the farmers of tomorrow, just as a lot of our leading farmers today were those who needed substantial help at the level I have been speaking of, when they commenced farming operations.

My other point, as I mentioned earlier, is that perhaps some form of freight assistance could be given to a certain section of our wheat farmers and grain

growers in the middle eastern wheatbelt. I refer to those farmers who are 200 miles or more from a port. As we look at the picture today, we find that great assistance in regard to freights has been given to a lot of our farmers at Geraldton, Fremantle, Bunbury, Albany, and now Esperance—assistance that has resulted in a big benefit to those farmers.

Many of the farmers in the eastern wheatbelt have, for 30 years, grown substantial amounts of grain and they are paying—even with the small subsidy they receive—21d. per bushel and £3 5s. per ton freight on superphosphate; and the help that has been given to other places by way of new ports cannot possibly assist the farmers of whom I am speaking, because they are too far away geographically. Therefore, consideration should be given to helping those farmers who are 200 miles or more from a port, by way of freight assistance. I do not suggest a flat rate whereby others would have to pay more.

The wealth from these areas would justify this form of assistance, bearing in mind what has been done for all the other farmers throughout the coastal areas. In support of this idea that I am putting forward, I would stress what the areas to which I have referred are producing. I looked up the production figures for 1960-61, which are complete and should form a basis for information. I found that in the central area, which comprises about 50 sidings and starts at Wubin in the northern area and down to Lake Varley and east to Kondinin, over 11,000,000 bushels of wheat were produced, nearly 1,500,000 bushels of oats, and 1,500,000 bushels of barley, totalling 14,000,000 odd bushels, and representing an income of £8,886,000 for the State. Over a period of 30 years or more these people have proved the area, have been paying terrific freights, and they have made the annual contribution which I have mentioned towards the primary wealth of this State. If we pause and analyse the position, we will realise what this £8,500,000 to £9,000,000 annually means to everybody in Western Australia.

To show how differently others have been treated, I would point out that in the year 1960-61, through the benefit of freight at Geraldton—I am not criticising this in any way—the grain produced was worth about £9,250,000 and the average freight was 7d. to 17d. per bushel. So what a benefit various Governments have conferred on the grain growers of Geraldton! There is much the same picture at Albany where the average freight is a little over 1s. a bushel. In the Fremantle zone we find freight averages from 7d. to 17½d. up to this 200-mile limit which I have been talking about.

Mr. Fletcher: What is the Lake Varley freight?

Mr. HART: About 21d. They do get a little subsidy. I will not enlarge any more on this particular matter I have raised except to say that to give this benefit to them—bearing in mind the assistance they do get at present—it would cost the Government only £60,000 to £70,000 a year, but it would be a terrific boost. I can further add that the total area through there is partially developed. With some incentive, however, I have no doubt they could double their overall production probably within 10 years, and I have not touched on the income from wool. Therefore they are a great financial benefit to Western Australia.

Mr. Fletcher: They do more for the State economically than some of the overseas companies which take the profits out of the country.

Mr. HART: I think I have covered the various points on that subject, which is really agriculture in Western Australia; and in conclusion I would ask this Government to give greater publicity to our agriculture and its needs. I would point out that the great financial incentives we are able to offer industrialists come, in the first place, from the background of our agricultural production; and to be able to continue giving this assistance—which I agree we must—we must keep on with our agriculture. If it is good enough for one, it is good enough for another. Only a little of what is produced need go back to give them further zest to carry on.

There are quite a number of smaller matters I could touch on—probably they would come under the heading of grouches—in regard to these areas, such as lack of water and amenities; but I feel that perhaps I can deal with them piecemeal at some other stage. The overall picture is that I feel there is a need for more of the money produced in these areas to go back to the producers. I support the motion.

MR. SEWELL (Geraldton) [9.33 p.m.]: Since I spoke in this House last year, not only on the Address-in-Reply but also on the Estimates and on the legislation concerning the Talling Peak iron ore, much has been done in the Geraldton district; but much still remains to be done.

In the last 12 months we have, in that area, been subjected to a lot of rumours and counter-rumours; and unfortunately we do not seem to be able to pin anyone down to give us anything concrete in the way of contracts with the Japanese. This is most unfortunate because it would mean so much to the district and to the State. We can only go on hoping at this stage that things will turn out as we wish them to.

Members will recall that in the Estimates last year the Treasurer made provision for £300,000 for improvements to the Geraldton Harbour. This was to be spent on dredging, the provision of a land-backed berth, and also the completion of what was known as the old concrete wharf. This was to provide for the loading of the iron ore from Talling Peak and from the hills east of Morawa. Be that as it may, that work has proceeded and it would appear that an excellent job has been done by the engineers, those in charge of the dredging, and all others involved in making a wharf.

The only unfortunate part about it was that it destroyed what I suppose was one of the best beaches in Australia for children and elderly people. I refer, of course, to what was known as the West End Beach. Fortunately, however, there are citizens in Geraldton prepared to do something for themselves, and they have gone further around the coastline to make provision for a beach for young children away from the surf.

Within the last few months we have been told of the deposits which are near Mt. Gibson in the Wubin area. I believe that those deposits are not so much at Mt. Gibson but a little further away from there. We have been given a certain amount of information on those deposits, but there is a lot of hush-hush connected with them. I assure members that Geraldton will fight tooth and nail if there is any suggestion made that the iron ore should be shipped from any other port but Geraldton which, I understand, is 40 miles closer than Fremantle. Were a railway constructed, it could also convey the ore from the deposits east of Morawa.

As members know, Talling Peak is entirely separate and is further north from Mullewa and it will be necessary to build a railway from Mullewa to pick up the Talling Peak iron ore. That has, of course, been provided for in the agreements and Acts of Parliament already passed in this House. If what we hope for comes to pass, and the iron ore is exported from Mt. Gibson through Geraldton, I will tell the Deputy Premier and Treasurer right here and now that a lot of pressure will be placed upon him—if it is necessary—and the Government to provide somewhere in the vicinity of not less than £5,000,000—and it could be more—to establish the port of Geraldton as an international port.

It is understood that the boats which would be coming in to load the iron ore from Mt. Gibson would want at least a 34 ft. draught. Unfortunately, in the harbour there is a rocky bar which will take quite a lot of shifting.

Apart from the iron ore, which will last only a limited time, the area is food producing. It would seem that any Government which was farsighted enough and worth its salt as a Government would

make provision for the harbour to be deepened to take larger boats; because after all, although we will be gone in a few years, for hundreds of years the port of Geraldton will still exist because primarily it is a food producing area; and whilst there is life on this planet it will have to be fed. Any nation which can grow the cereals, meat, and wool which are grown in the Geraldton district must certainly have a port that is both efficient in its cargo-handling methods and deep enough to take the largest cargo-carrying boats afloat at the present time and those of the future.

I realise that this is going to be a difficult proposition, but I can assure the Deputy Premier and Treasurer that those are the lines upon which the people of Geraldton are at present thinking. They are marking time until further and more concise information is available in connection with the sale of the iron ore.

We know that the Federal Government made provision for a loan in the vicinity of £2,500,000 to the New South Wales Government for port facilities at Newcastle, necessary for the export of coal to Japan. I understand some similar amount was made available to the Government in Queensland for Gladstone. I do not know the figure, but it was a considerable amount, and this was also to be used for the export of coal.

I can assure members that we in Geraldton will not be fobbed off with any excuse as to why the same provision cannot be made for Geraldton; because, as I have said before, apart from the iron ore and other minerals in the area, it is a food producing district and must have a proper port.

The work which has been done is appreciated, but we would like to see it speeded up. We would certainly like to have some information in connection with making the harbour deeper than was proposed last year, as a result of the vote of some £300,000 made available by the Treasurer.

Another important industry which will need some careful study is the crayfishing industry. We have heard a great deal in the last ten years about our marvellous crayfishing industry, and that is correct; but in my opinion the industry has become over-developed because of people who have entered it for their own ends. We have the same set-up in the goldfields, and it applies everywhere. That is my candid opinion. More people have been attracted to the industry than the industry can take.

This year, mainly because of our inclement weather, crayfishermen have found themselves in a difficult position, but not one which they cannot get out of. It might be possible for the Minister and the Director of Fisheries to give some thought to

establishing a committee made up of interested people, mainly the producers, to work out a formula which could be put forward. The committee could be administered properly by the Fisheries Department, to enable the industry to get the protection which it so vitally needs today.

Wet fishing of snapper, jewfish, and so on—which exist in our northern waters, particularly around Shark Bay and Carnarvon—is coming back into its own this year, although to a lesser degree than it was hoped. The prawning industry will more or less counterbalance what has been lost by the crayfishing industry in the overall picture of the finances of this State.

We all know that the crayfishing industry is most important, not only to those people who work in the industry but also to the State. It is also important for the national economy as a whole. I urge the Minister to consider the proposal that a committee made up of interested people should be set up to ensure that not only the crayfishing industry but the fishing industry generally in our northern waters is suitably protected.

Because of the continual rains experienced early in the season, we had a flood in an area which most people believed would have been impossible to flood. The Government and those local authorities who were approached in this matter disclaimed all responsibility for the flooding. I believe they do have a responsibility, although to prove it would be very difficult. The flood waters very nearly destroyed four homes belonging to tomato growers. Each cost in the vicinity of £7,000, and they were built in the last couple of years.

The area concerned, at Glenfield, is on the Northampton road, seven miles from Geraldton. There was originally a bridge over what is known as Dalby's Gully. This gully is often a miniature river which does not find its way into the sea, as do most of our rivers in this country. There are a number of such rivers and creeks which come down from the hills in the back country and disappear into our beach sandhills.

The Main Roads Board is doing an excellent job. The board altered the line of the existing main road. It did away with the bridge and put in a big concrete culvert. Due to the tremendous flow of water from the hills—the Waggrakine hills—the culverts became blocked, and the water flowed over the top of what used to be a bridge. The water scoured out much of the surrounding flat area, and caused a good deal of mud to flow. Instead of the natural flow of water into the sandhills, all the water went into the one area, where the tomato growers had their homes.

The department says that the damage has been caused by act of God; that it has no responsibility in the matter. There could be a legal tangle here. I believe

that if the department had shown some initiative in draining the water away, the water would have disappeared several weeks sooner than it did. The area is still flooded, but the water is now in the fields and not across the road. In such cases the department and the Government should give some practical support to these people—if not by assisting in repairing all the damage caused, then by making an *ex gratia* payment towards alleviating the hardship resulting from thousands of tons of water flooding an area which had never been known to flood before.

I direct the attention of the Acting Premier to this matter. I know it has been dealt with by the department and the Crown Law officers, and there is no doubt that their legal ruling is a correct one. However, the Government and the department have more than a legal right to do certain things. They have moral obligations, and I consider this to be one of them.

I recently asked the Minister for Native Welfare when the houses built at Wonthealla for our native folk would be lined. The department had promised the local progress association some nine months ago that this would be done. We have had a good deal of talk from various people—I was going to use the term "do-gooders". I approve of these houses being built, but they should have been built to a standard similar to that of other houses in the area.

Apparently the people who are building these homes have a rule of their own. They ignore the local authority when it comes to building standards. These houses would be in their third year, and they are still unlined. We talk about what we are doing for our native people, and we put the best of them in houses alongside other people—alongside homes of ordinary working people—and the houses are not lined in accordance with building regulations. The houses have no ceilings and no linings. Some of us wonder how sincere some of those people are who talk about the welfare of our native population.

The Minister for Native Welfare has informed me that similar houses are being erected in other parts of the State—at Mt. Magnet, and so on—and they will be celled. He has stated that the contract will be completed within six months. Although this information is quite welcome, I am wondering why the department has not gone the whole hog and lined the houses as well as ceiling them; because, as anybody who has lived in an asbestos house in the country—and this would apply to the city as well—which is unlined and unceiled, would know, when a northerly or a south-westerly wind is blowing it is most unpleasant.

The fact that ceilings are being fitted will be a help, but these houses need to be lined as well. The position will be

that a contractor will have the job of putting ceilings in houses in several districts throughout the State. Probably next year, we hope, or perhaps the year after, somebody else will be asked to line these houses. Probably in their big-hearted way they will line two rooms out of the four, or something like that. Personally I think it would be far better to do the job properly in the first place and line and cell at the same time; because surely the authorities do not intend to leave these houses without any linings at all! If that is to be the position then it is a poor old policy, and I hope the Minister will look into the matter.

I do not know whether he studied the answer before he gave it to me, but it was quite definite. I know that the contract has been let and all these houses will be celled but not lined. Some of them are on the Murchison, and those members who have been on the Murchison in winter time would know what it is like. I ask them how they would like to be living with their wives and children on the Murchison in the dry season, when the cold easterly winds were blowing—living in houses that were not lined. I think a tent would be far more comfortable and cosy. I can assure the Minister he has not heard the last of the matter of lining houses for our native people.

As regards schools in the Geraldton district, I think if members look back through previous *Hansards* they will see that I have discussed this question every year. Last year the Minister for Works accused me of repetition when I spoke about the water shortage in Geraldton, and the high water rates, I told him then—and I say the same thing again now—that I shall continue to press for things to be done in my district until some action is taken.

To get back to the question of schools, which I started to discuss, so far as the ordinary educational facilities in the district are concerned I do not think they could be improved upon. However, I do not want the Minister to run away with the idea that we have all we want. The member for Mt. Hawthorn will recall that prior to his leaving the office of Minister for Education he had approved the expenditure of £60,000 for the Geraldton High School; and to prove to the House how much the district has grown, I would like to state that Mr. Watts, who succeeded the member for Mt. Hawthorn as the Minister for Education, two years later authorised the expenditure of another £60,000 on this school. Last year a further £45,000 was spent in the way of additions, and still the expenditure is not finished.

In itself the high school is a pleasure to look at, and in my view will always be a standing monument to Mr. Clare, who used to be the Principal Architect. The whole

set-up at the school is excellent. One problem, of course, is the lack of an assembly hall, and almost every time the school parents and citizens' association has a meeting that question arises. A case for the provision of an assembly hall has been put to the Minister, and I have raised the matter in this House. Apparently a shortage of funds prevents the building of such a hall at the Geraldton High School.

The primary school is an old building; but, like all the other schools in the district, it is efficiently staffed and is being efficiently run. Everything seems to be going along quite well. The same applies to the Allendale school which, although it has been built since the member for Mt. Hawthorn was Minister for Education, he will remember quite well. Last week the Minister told me that provision had been made for a new school on a new site at Bluff Point. That, of course, will serve the Bluff Point area.

The next problem for the Minister to solve—and this will affect the Treasurer because the necessary funds will have to be made available—is the provision of a school in the new suburb of Rangeway, which is on the road to Mullewa. It is a new suburb of Geraldton and it is growing very quickly.

The provision of an agricultural college, which is the term generally used by laymen, has been discussed at various times by interested parties. It has been mentioned by me on several occasions in this House and we have always been met with a firm refusal. We have been told that it is unnecessary and that the money for such a project is not available. That is the answer all members become used to receiving, but I believe that an agricultural college of some sort, although not necessarily along the lines of agricultural colleges already established elsewhere in the State, is essential to the district. The young farmers in that area should be able to go somewhere to obtain scientific knowledge on agriculture to enable them to cope with the problems they will meet in the years that lie ahead.

Farmers in the future will have to compete on the world's markets and in countries such as America, Japan, and Europe, where apparently there is no lack of money for education, or for those projects which will be for the betterment of the countries concerned. In Geraldton we have land which would be suitable for such a college. It could be called a scientific bureau, or any other name which might be decided upon—I do not mind what it is called so long as it will serve its purpose.

Members have heard me expounding the necessity for a hostel for young people coming in from the country to attend the high school. The Stella Maris College, and St. Patrick's College, run by the Christian Brothers, although they take in

boarders, would not have sufficient accommodation to enable them to accept all those children who would like to come in from the country, and even from Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, for their education. It is pleasing to be able to report to the House that a contract has been let for an expenditure of some £40,000 on a hostel to be erected under the high school hostels authority, and it is well on the way to being built.

I should like to report to the Minister for Health that the regional hospital buildings also seem to be proceeding as planned. The contractor appears to be getting on with the job of building the nurses' quarters, and we are hoping that approval will be given for the construction of the main building. The Minister for Health has been very active in the matter; but I hope he will be able to inform us that as soon as the nurses' quarters and general store rooms have been erected the regional hospital itself will be commenced.

I believe that credit should be given where it is due, and I certainly give credit to the officers of the Education Department. I suppose I could be criticised for saying that the educational facilities in Geraldton are of a certain standard when we have not got this, and we have not got that, and we have not got something else. That is quite true; but when the day comes when we have got everything we want it will be time for us to take stock of ourselves. While we still want things if we are progressing. I believe the Education Department, from the director down, has done a great deal for the district of Geraldton, and the set-up generally is a credit to the people and a credit to the State. Also I am pleased, as I said before, to be able to state that a start has been made on the regional hospital—something which has been talked about for a great number of years.

A burning question in Geraldton at present is that of water supplies and excessive water rates. This question will interest the Minister for Works and Water Supplies, and especially after he chided me last year about growling and grizzling over the shortage of water and the high water rates in Geraldton. You will remember, Mr. Acting Speaker (Mr. Crommelin), that I had a motion before the House last year which was eventually defeated by one vote. That motion had for its purpose the appointment of some sort of body to inquire into the question of a uniform water rate for the whole of the State, apart from the metropolitan area. The Minister gave what I thought was a complete reply, although I did not agree with it, naturally. However, he is the one in charge and we had to accept the reply he gave.

Last year we thought we had been badly treated by the department as a result of its increase in water rates, but that is

nothing to the increases it has made this year. There is a common saying around Geraldton that the Water Supply Department charges like a wounded buffalo. We know that there are three methods of assessing water rates, but some further method must be considered to alleviate the excessive burden of increased water rates in all country towns, and even in the suburbs if it is found that the people in those suburbs are suffering from excessive water rates.

The water rates are assessed on the annual value of the property. Thus we have the position of the local authority, which is always telling the world how good it is, deciding to increase the municipal rates—in fact, I understand that at present an increase in those rates is mooted—and so the Water Supply Department follows up by sending its representatives along the street and they say, "We can get £6 a week for that house, £7 a week for that one", and so on; and the rates are fixed accordingly. It is only when a definite anomaly can be proved that one has any chance of getting any redress for excessive water rates.

Therefore, the system at present in operation is not a just or a correct one. Even the explanation given by the Minister in this House last session still does not prove to me that the system is a good one. It is the same system that was operated by a Labor Government, and the present Minister is still using it. I admit that I do not have the answer to the problem, and the people who complain bitterly to me about their charges do not have an answer either, except to say that the department charges like a wounded buffalo and that something should be done about it.

The point of view taken by most people is that those who are in business, and those on salaries and wages governed by the basic wage formula do not feel the impact of such charges as greatly as people on fixed incomes. They are the ones I am concerned about. I know that if the charge for water for a house in Geraldton were £22 a year, the water rates in a similar house in the metropolitan area would be only £9 or £9 10s. a year.

The fact is that instead of people retiring in a place such as Geraldton, they leave it to live somewhere else because they cannot afford, on a fixed income, to pay the high water rates that apply in a country town. Those who are dependent for their income on social service benefits and on superannuation payments are indeed placed in an awkward position. Workers who have spent their lifetime in a district working on the railways, with municipalities, and in other types of work, should be encouraged to remain in the district and not be driven out by excessive rates.

On the one hand, one could be told that water is the cheapest commodity one has. The Minister told me that last year. I will admit that compared with people living in arid regions, we, in Geraldton, are perhaps fortunate; but this does not alter the fact that the Geraldton people are indeed shouldering a burden when they are faced with an increase of £2 or £3 a year in water rates, a similar amount with the increase in the municipal rate, and another few pounds extra because of increased fares.

It can easily be seen that people who live outside the metropolitan area really get it in the neck. Regardless of this we still hear, continually, talk about decentralisation, and we are always getting asked what we are doing about encouraging it. We hear a great deal about that from the Minister for Industrial Development, particularly. He has his image in front of him and he is setting his sights on the target, and this policy is used as his talking point. However, nothing seems to be done for the people living in the outback areas, and nothing is done to encourage them to remain in those parts, and nothing is done to encourage more people to settle in the outback.

The next thing that comes to my mind is the iron ore proposition. I am not blaming anybody for the present position. We hear all kinds of stories, such as the economic position overseas, the quality of the iron ore, and so on. I believe it is a question of international finance, and offsetting one thing against another. Until such time as an understanding is reached on these matters and some outlook adopted that will assist the country people, this State will not progress as it should, because we cannot have the total population of the State living in and around the metropolitan area.

In regard to the water position, generally, it is perhaps a little amusing to members for me to speak of a water shortage at this time of the year. Nevertheless, this time next year we could be again suffering from a shortage of water. I understand that the water-boring programme carried out by the Government in areas east and north-west of the present boring site at Wicherina would lead us to hope that the water supply position in Geraldton will be improved in the future.

We know that in certain parts of the sandplain areas there are millions and millions of gallons of untapped water under the ground. Of course, it is realised that such a process would be costly, but nevertheless it needs to be done. The Minister will certainly have to pay attention to providing water supplies to small towns such as Narngulu and other towns in that area. Therefore, the old saying that once people are given water they always want more, is quite correct.

Nevertheless, we would like the Minister to relieve the burden which has been placed on our shoulders as a result of the heavy impost of increased water rates.

The water in the area of which I have spoken could be used more extensively for gardening purposes, and the day may not be far distant when an abattoir establishment of some sort will be built at the junction of Narngulu, and the Government will be more or less forced into the position of supplying water for that area. We do live in the hope that our water problems are at an end.

I ask the Minister to take some steps in regard to holding tanks. This is a matter on which members have heard me speak in this Chamber on previous occasions. The only trouble is that the holding tanks have been placed at a spot other than that which I advocated. Holding tanks will help tremendously to overcome the shortages we experience in the summer months, when we get a couple of weeks of really hot weather with no accompanying wind. The Minister and his department know the importance of the new holding tanks at Geraldton; and I can assure him that the townspeople will appreciate it very much indeed.

The housing position in Geraldton has given us some concern in the past months. There was a rumour that the Government was financially embarrassed and did not have sufficient money to go on with this project; and accordingly we were left in the lurch so far as our new contracts were concerned. I have been informed, however, that the delay was mainly caused by the inability to acquire suitable cheap land on which to build workers' homes.

I would like the Minister representing the Minister for Housing to take particular note of what I am about to say. We would like the programme to be speeded up if possible. A number of new houses have been built—I think there are about 60 new houses; but we would like the number increased to 100. I would draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that not since the Hawke Government went out of office has a tender been called for, what are wrongly called, pensioner flats. I think the real name is flats for elderly people. One does not have to be a pensioner to get one of these flats, although mostly pensioners occupy them.

I understand that the member for Balcatia and his department were responsible for initiating this building programme, and any furtherance of that programme would be very much appreciated by the people of Geraldton, particularly if two-unit flats could be built. Now that the land has been cleared, perhaps the Housing Commission can see its way clear to building some of these flats. It is very necessary that they be built, as they would fill the much-felt want that we have

talked about over the years. Why the Minister responsible did not continue with the building programme is beyond me; but I daresay no amount of questioning will provide the answer.

There is one matter which I would like to refer to the Minister for Works. It is the responsibility of the Main Roads Department. I think this was referred to the Minister before the Premier went overseas. I am not too sure in whose area the bridge in question is, though I think it serves the Premier's district, even though it is in the Geraldton electorate. The bridge to which I refer is over the Eradu crossing; and this has been flooded in the last two or three years. Indeed, flooding takes place every year. The amount of traffic that passes along the Geraldton-Morawa and Wongan Hills tracks certainly warrants a decent bridge over the Eradu crossing. Accordingly, I hope the Minister will take some cognisance of that fact. It is most important that the bridge in question be built at least before the next winter commences. It is rather farcical for people to come several hundred miles, travelling on real good bitumen roads only to find, when they are 30-odd miles from their destination, that they are held up by a flooded river. It does not make sense.

As members know, the question of television was mentioned in this House last year. The House agreed to a motion that representations be made to the Commonwealth Government in connection with it. Unfortunately, however, the position remains as it was then. Recently Senator Branson obtained from the people in the country areas some 6,000 signatures or more to be presented to the Federal Parliament. At least if this does not do any good, it will not do any harm. Something should be done to bring home to the Postmaster-General's Department the importance of establishing television in our northern and eastern areas—the goldfields area.

Not only is the establishment of television important to the farmer and his wife, but it is also of importance from the point of view of the worker and his wife and family. They are as much entitled to the benefits of television as are families in the metropolitan area. It would provide a great amenity for them; and, of course, the educational side of television is very worth while indeed.

Mr. Toms: They will be sorry when they get television.

Mr. SEWELL: I now wish to touch on the question of abattoirs in the Geraldton district—and I refer to municipal or Government-controlled abattoirs. I know that the Minister for Agriculture could tell quite a story about all that has happened in this connection in the last couple of years. Recently we had a conference of our local council, but there was so much

shilly-shallying and buck-passing that eventually it was left with the present Government which, in the first place, refused to have anything to do with it. That is where the matter rests at present.

We know the time will come when we will have our own abattoirs which will be controlled by Government or semi-government instrumentalities. This will ensure a fair go for the producers and provide the high standard necessary for our export meat. At the moment, as in the case of television, there are many who want to jump on the band waggon and make speeches, but who are not prepared to tackle the Government of the day for the necessary finance to enable this facility to be provided. The sheep and cattle population is growing year by year; and eventually the economic situation will be such as to compel the Government to do something about establishing abattoirs in the districts to which I have referred.

When one considers the distances to be travelled by rail and road, one appreciates the fact that it is too far for livestock to be carried. That is why I am advocating that a large sum of money—£5,000,000 or more—be spent in improving the Geraldton Harbour. As I have said before, iron ore is not the only commodity that must be considered. If improvements were carried out to the Geraldton Harbour we would have refrigerated boats calling in and picking up not merely barley, wheat, and wool, but also meat for export to various parts of the world.

This would of course also apply to cray-fishing. One can well appreciate the cost of transporting dead weight 320 miles by rail, and 300-odd miles by road, from Geraldton to Fremantle. We are very fortunate that we have survived as long as we have. If we do not do something about it soon, however, we will be left in the lurch; and the potential of a vast district like the Victoria district will be more or less left untapped; and this of course would be a great loss to both the State and the Commonwealth.

Most of the subjects I have mentioned will certainly be aired by me again later on. Particularly will I refer to water supplies and roads. The Minister has said that I mention them every year, and I can assure him that until something concrete is done I will continue to mention them. I will not cease my endeavours until the Commonwealth Government realises its responsibility and finds the money I have mentioned, not only for improvements to the Geraldton Harbour, but also to ensure that we get a really good and sufficient water supply at a reasonable cost.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. W. A. Manning.

House adjourned at 10.20 p.m.