

With regard to the first, members will recall that the Justices Act was amended in 1965 to enable summonses for offences against the Traffic Act, and any other Acts which may be prescribed for the purpose, to be served by prepaid registered post. The new system has now been in operation for about 15 months and the Commissioner of Police has reported that the results have been particularly gratifying, many man-hours of police officers' time having been saved.

However, there have been some instances where summonses have been returned unclaimed after the charges have been dealt with in the absence of the offenders. When the amendment was introduced in 1965 it was visualised that section 136A of the Justices Act would enable a defendant who did not receive the summons to apply to have the decision given in default of his appearance set aside and for the case to be reheard. However, under that section application must be made within 21 days of the court's decision. It has been found in practice that in most cases the defendant does not become aware of his conviction until after the 21 days have elapsed and he is, therefore, out of time.

It is provided in clause 2 of this Bill that where a summons is posted but does not, in fact, come to the notice of the defendant prior to his being convicted he may, within 14 days after his becoming aware of the conviction or within such extension of the period as may be allowed by the justices, give notice that he requires a rehearing of the complaint. Thereupon, a day and time will be fixed and the justices will either confirm or set aside the conviction. Where the conviction is set aside, the justices will then rehear the complaint.

In explanation of the next provision, it is mentioned that courts of petty sessions have experienced difficulty in the matter of forms for the new provisions that have, from time to time, been added to the Act. As section 96, relating to forms, provides no power to prescribe them, officers have been obliged to improvise forms for the purpose, but unfortunately, they have not been uniform. The amendment to section 96 to be found in clause 3 of the Bill will enable forms to be prescribed.

The third amendment is to permit magistrates, in the case of joint offenders, to impose such penalties on joint defendants as should, in total, be not less than the minimum penalty prescribed.

Where a minimum penalty has not been prescribed it has been the practice for some magistrates to impose a single penalty on joint defendants, so that as soon as the one penalty is paid, all defendants are discharged from further liability.

Where, however, an Act prescribes a minimum penalty, magistrates have no option but to impose at least the minimum penalty on each defendant. The practice

of magistrates in the case of a first offence for which a minimum penalty is provided is often to impose that minimum penalty.

Thus, where an offence relates to ownership of property and the minimum penalty is, say \$10; and the same offence is committed simultaneously in respect of adjoining properties; then, if one property is owned by one proprietor and there are six joint owners of the adjoining property, the first owner is fined \$10, and the other owners are fined a total of \$60. Some Acts provide for very substantial minimum penalties; for example, a minimum penalty of \$4,000 under the Fisheries Act. The problem outlined became apparent when there was a considerable volume of bush-fire prosecutions against owners of land.

The amendment as contained in clause 4 of the Bill, while still providing for separate convictions in the case of joint offenders, will permit the magistrate to impose such penalties on joint defendants as should, in total, be not less than the minimum penalty prescribed in law. This is still a discretion left to the magistrate.

Members may well ask what is the position in such cases regarding costs allowed against the defendants. Under section 151 of the Justices Act magistrates have a discretion to order such costs as to them appear just and reasonable.

There is, therefore, no need to amend the Act to provide that costs in joint prosecutions may be apportioned between joint defendants. Once again, the decision must be left to the discretion of the magistrate. He might not make an order as to costs at all.

I am informed that, in most cases, if not all, it has been the practice for magistrates to decide what reasonable costs would have been allowed if there had been a single defendant, and then apportion the costs between the joint defendants as near as possible in equal amounts.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 5.12 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 22nd August, 1967

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

SUPPLY BILL

Assent

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the Bill.

QUESTIONS (23): ON NOTICE

HYDROFOILS AND HOVERCRAFT

Use between Perth and Fremantle

1. Mr. CROMMELIN asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) Has he given further thought to the use of the Swan River as a

means of transport especially for the carrying of passengers from Fremantle and other jetties en route to Perth?

- (2) If so, has he investigated the possible use of hydrofoils or hovercraft either by the Government or private enterprise?
- (3) What are the prospects of seeing either of these craft in operation in the near future?
- (4) If none, could fast catamarans or launches provide alternative reasonably priced travel to the city?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The office of the Director-General of Transport presently has these and alternative devices under study.
- (3) This depends on the outcome of the current studies. Initial indications are that both hydrofoil and hovercraft have high capital costs. Although they can be a most attractive investment it is known that for profitable operation almost continuous utilisation at close to full load capacity is required.
- (4) Yes, and on the studies undertaken so far conventional craft of a specialised nature seem the most likely to be used should such a scheme eventuate.

HOSPITAL AT BEVERLEY *Completion*

2. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:
 - (1) At what stage is the building of the new Beverley hospital?
 - (2) When is it proposed that this hospital will be completed?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Earthworks are nearing completion.
- (2) Subject to availability of funds, tenders should be called late September and contract time probably 15 to 18 months.

SCHOOL AT WEST DALE *Completion*

3. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Education:
 - (1) At what stage is the building of the new West Dale school?
 - (2) When is it proposed that this building will be completed?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Approximately 94 per cent. complete.
- (2) It is anticipated that the building will be ready early in the third term, 1967.

HOUSING

Midland: Availability to R.A.A.F. and Civilians

4. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Housing:

Of the proposed 80 houses to be built in the Midland area, how many will be available to applicants from—

- (a) R.A.A.F.;
- (b) local people?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

The 80 houses are already in various stages of construction and are to be made available as follows:—

- (a) R.A.A.F. 35;
- (b) Commission applicants 45.

McNESS HOMES

Bassendean-Midland: Rentals, Sales, and Completions

5. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Housing:

In the Bassendean-Midland area, how many McNess homes—

- (a) have been let;
- (b) have been sold;
- (c) are being built and where?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

At present, in the area in question, there are 15 McNess homes occupied on a rental basis; two being purchased; and none under construction.

HOUSING

Midland: Single-unit Flats

6. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Will early consideration be given to applicants from the Midland area requiring single-unit flats in that area?
- (2) When can it be anticipated the State Housing Commission will be able to build single-unit flats in the Midland area?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) The commission has very limited funds available for single-unit housing and this type of accommodation must be built where the demand is greatest. There are, at present, no applicants within the commission's criteria requesting the Midland area for this type of accommodation. Six applicants in the Midland area did not specifically request accommodation in this area.

Of thirty-four single-unit applicants not meeting the commission's criteria, only three specifically requested accommodation in the Midland district.

DE LEUW CATHER & COMPANY
Ring Road System: Reappraisal of Southern Leg

7. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Was the special assignment which he said was given by the Government to De Leuw Cather & Company restricted to "how the southern leg could be fitted adequately into the ring road system without any land being reclaimed from the river between Union Jack Square and the Causeway"?
- (2) If it were not so restricted, what additional assignment was given?
- (3) Will he state whether the assignment (or assignments) were given verbally or in writing?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) to (3) The assignment given to De Leuw Cather & Company dealt with the planning and staging of the inner ring road and freeway radials extending approximately three miles from the inner ring. Subsequent to the Government's announcement that no river reclamation would be carried out, discussions took place with the consultants who were then advised in writing on the 3rd August, 1967—

Your studies should be limited to the development of an interim plan to meet the needs of 1980 traffic only. Your planning should include a new river crossing immediately downstream from the causeway, together with improvements to either the existing Terrace Road or Riverside Drive.

RING ROAD SYSTEM

Southern Leg: Elimination of Riverside Section

8. Mr. TONKIN asked the Premier:

- (1) On the occasion when a paper prepared by seven architects and planners calling for the elimination of the riverside section of the freeway ring was presented to him, what undertaking was given?
- (2) Is any study and assessment of the group's proposals being made?
- (3) If "Yes," by whom is it being made?
- (4) In particular has any study been requested by the Government of the basic premises on which a

freeway "ring" is preferred by the Main Roads Department to a freeway "tangent"?

Freeways and Narrows Interchange: Reconsideration of Design

- (5) Is any re-study of the physical design of the freeways, including the Narrows interchange, being carried out?
- (6) If "Yes," by whom is the re-study being done?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (1) None.
- (2) and (3) The group's proposal will be studied by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority and its committees during the reappraisal of the region scheme.
- (4) The Main Roads Department has examined the paper "Perth Water Regained" which called for a freeway tangent system, and a copy of the 14-page detailed comments is available for the Leader of the Opposition.
- (5) No.
- (6) Answered by (5).

TOWN PLANNING

Vacant Residential Blocks in Metropolitan Area

9. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) In the metropolitan area what is the approximate number of subdivided residential lots not built upon—
 - (a) north of the Swan River;
 - (b) south of the Swan River?
- (2) Of these, approximately how many have water and electricity supplies available?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) (a) This figure is not known. A major survey would be needed to establish it. However, it could reasonably be assumed that such a survey would disclose a picture similar to that shown by the south-of-the-river survey.
- (b) A detailed survey carried out in 1965 by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority showed that 8,723 subdivided residential lots south of the river had not been built upon.
- (2) It is believed that water and electricity supplies are available to the great majority of the subdivided residential lots.

RAIL AND ROAD TRANSPORT

Freight Rates

10. Mr. W. A. MANNING asked the Minister for Transport:

What are the respective freight rates for rail and road transport of the following—

- (a) superphosphate;
- (b) grain;
- (c) wool;
- (d) livestock;
- (e) groceries;
- (f) hardware;

over 120, 150, 200, and 300 miles, using for examples the contract rates in various road transport areas?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

The various mileages are available in the freight rate book. The rail freights for haulage at the requested mileages are:—

Commodity	120 Miles	150 Miles	200 Miles	300 Miles
	\$	\$	\$	\$
†Superphosphate—				
January	3.82	4.25	4.92	6.20
February 1st to 14th inclusive	4.07	4.50	5.17	6.45
February 15th to June 30th inclusive	4.32	4.75	5.42	6.70
July 1st to December 31st inclusive	3.64	4.00	4.56	5.64
†Grain	4.55	5.00	5.70	7.05
Wool—Minimum 1 ton	10.43	11.90	13.65	15.99
*Groceries	11.95	14.10	16.85	20.70
*Hardware	11.95	14.10	16.85	20.70
Livestock—				
Per 4-wheeled sheep				
Van	23.90	27.60	33.60	44.50
Per 4-wheeled Cattle				
Wagon	26.50	30.80	37.40	49.50

* Forwarding Agents operating with the Railway Department under contract to many country centres can quote for these commodities including the provision of terminal services.

† In wagonloads.

Contract road transport rates exist only in relation to superphosphate and grain, which are as follows:—

	120 miles	150 miles	200 miles	300 miles
	per ton	per ton	per ton	per ton
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Superphosphate	4.47	5.58	7.43	11.13
Grain	4.53	5.66	7.53	11.28
	per load	per load	per load	per load
	\$	\$	\$	\$

Livestock (in loads of 130 to 200 head) 66.55 75.50 100.50 142.97
Wool

It is common practice for carriers to charge rates approximating rail rates.

Groceries and Hardware Road transport of groceries and hardware in truck lots is very uncommon. If such occurred a charge of 6c per ton per mile would be reasonable but actual charges would be adjusted according to whether two-way loading was available or not. In quantities of less than one ton, rates would be higher pro rata and would vary considerably according to the size of the consignment and the cost of operation in different areas.

RING ROAD SYSTEM

Traffic Interchange near Heirisson Island

11. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it implicit in the proposed city foreshore road system currently

being studied by De Leuw Cather & Company that a traffic interchange similar to that at the Narrows will be required in proximity to Heirisson Island?

- (2) What would be the approximate distance between the two interchanges?
- (3) Would it be contrary to good engineering practice to have two interchanges constructed with such a short distance between them?
- (4) Approximately what area of land in proximity to the land acquired for \$85,000 at the corner of Ellam Street and Scenic Crescent will be required for projected road and bridge works?
- (5) Has any estimate been made of the probable cost?
- (6) If "Yes," what is the amount?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Initially an interchange will not be required, and an "at grade" intersection with traffic signals will handle 1980 predicted traffic. Whether or not an interchange on the Perth side of the western channel will be required after that date is a matter for further study in the future. In any case, an interchange at Heirisson Island will not be required.
- (2) Approximately 1½ miles if an eastern interchange is required.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not yet known as planning studies are incomplete.
- (5) No.
- (6) Answered by (5).

ITINERANT TEACHERS

Number, and Cost of Service

12. Mr. BURT asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many itinerant teachers are employed by the Education Department?
- (2) What is the cost of maintaining this service?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) One.
- (2) Approximately \$5,200 per annum.

FATAL TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Metropolitan Area: Country Residents Involved

13. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Police:

What percentage of fatal accidents in the metropolitan area have involved residents from the country who have been travel-

ling in the metropolitan area at the time of these accidents?

Mr. CRAIG replied:
Ten per cent.

MIGRANTS

Health Screening, and Cost of Medical Treatment

14. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:
Re Press comment of the 7th January, 1967, on the Western Australian Tuberculosis Association regarding alleged laxity in health screening of overseas migrants prior to admission to Australia—

Will he, on the ground that migration is a Federal matter, approach his Federal counterpart with a request that the Commonwealth reimburse the State for all costs associated with hospitalisation and treatment of migrants found to be suffering from—

- (a) tuberculosis on or after arrival in Western Australia;
- (b) any other disease which should have been detected prior to admission as a migrant?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:
No.

SCHOOLS

Firewood Tenders

15. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Education:
- (1) When were tenders invited for the supply of firewood to Government schools in the metropolitan area?
 - (2) Who was/were the successful tenderer(s)?
 - (3) When was/were the contract(s) let?
 - (4) What are the terms of the contract(s) in relation to—
 - (a) price;
 - (b) quantity;
 - (c) delivery date?
 - (5) What quantities have now been supplied in accordance with the terms of the contract(s)?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Tenders were advertised on the 21st October, 1966, and closed on the 3rd November, 1966.
- (2) Ruttico Brothers.
- (3) The 17th November, 1966.
- (4) (a) Jarrah in 1-foot lengths, minimum girth 7 inches and maximum girth 20 inches, at \$6.80 per ton.
Mixed jarrah, banksia and sheoak in above size at \$7.27 per ton.

Jarrah in 1-foot lengths, minimum girth 7 inches and maximum girth 27 inches, at \$6.50 per ton.
Mixed jarrah, banksia and sheoak in above size at \$7.20 per ton.

- (b) As required by schools.
 - (c) As and when required during period the 1st January, 1967, to the 31st December, 1967.
- (5) Approximately 710 tons.

LAND EAST OF NORSEMAN AND SALMON GUMS

Development by Western Australia Development Corporation

16. Mr. MOIR asked the Premier:

- (1) What were the most recent proposals placed before the Government by the Western Australia Development Corporation for the development of land east of Norseman and Salmon Gums?
- (2) What decision has the Government made about these proposals?
- (3) Has the corporation made other proposals to the Government for land grants in any other area of Western Australia?
- (4) If so, will he state where the area is situated?
- (5) What were the proposals?
- (6) What was the Government's attitude to these proposals?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (1) and (2) Negotiations between the Government and the Western Australia Development Corporation on land usage are proceeding but no finality has yet been reached, relating to alternative proposals.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Two applications have been made by the corporation:
 - (a) an area of approximately 300,000 acres of vacant Crown land north-east of Wiluna, between that townsite and Lake Napperu;
 - (b) an area of approximately 100,000 acres in the Warburton Range locality.
- (5) The application for land near Wiluna is made under the usual pastoral lease conditions of the Land Act. That in the Warburton Range is applied for under special lease conditions—i.e., section 116 of the Land Act—for research and experiments.
- (6) Both applications are still under consideration.

DENTISTRY*Asian Students*

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

How many students in each of the five years of the dental course are from Asian countries and will presumably be returning to their own countries to practise, when qualified?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

First year 11; second year 5; third year 3; fourth year 6; fifth year nil.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE*Motor Vehicle Insurance*

18. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Referring to question 9 on Thursday, the 17th August, can I assume that the answer to (2) (c) means that there has been an alteration to section 2—"Legal Liability (personal and property)" and to section 9—"Personal Accident benefit (individual owners)" in respect of the amounts in which the State Government Insurance Office is liable?

- (2) If "Yes," what are the particulars?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) There has been an alteration in S.G.I.O. liability in respect of section 2(a) (legal liability—personal) but not in respect of section 2(b) (legal liability—property) or section 9 (personal accident benefits).

- (2) The Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act was amended with effect from the 1st July, 1967, to remove limits previously applicable to claims by injured persons against the drivers of vehicles in which they were passengers. These limits were \$12,000 any one passenger and \$120,000 all passengers in any one vehicle. The S.G.I.O. policy provided cover in excess of these limits but this is no longer necessary.

The proportion of premium attributable to this liability was assessed at approximately 50c per policy, and allowance was made for this in all new policies and renewals from the 1st October, 1966.

EDUCATION*Exchange Teachers: Scheme*

19. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) With what countries does Western Australia exchange school teachers?

- (2) How many exchange teachers are abroad at the present time and in what countries are they teaching?

- (3) Are there any overseas exchange teachers in schools in W.A.; if so, what is the number and from which countries are they from?

- (4) With reference to exchange teachers, is there any reciprocal arrangement with other countries regarding adjustment of salary?

- (5) Is it proposed to broaden this activity and exchange teachers with a greater number of overseas countries?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) With the United Kingdom and the United States of America regularly, and with Canada and New Zealand occasionally.

- (2) United Kingdom, seven. United States of America, none at present but two have just returned.

- (3) Yes; eight, all from the United Kingdom.

- (4) No.

- (5) Not at present.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT*Annual Reports: Delay*

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

- (1) What is the reason why the latest annual report of the Public Health Department available to Parliament is 1964?

- (2) When is it expected that reports for the years 1965 and 1966, respectively, will be available?

- (3) Does he agree that unless departmental reports are kept up to date their value is very much depreciated and inconvenience is caused to members?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Latest annual report available to Parliament is 1965.

- (2) The 1966 report is expected to be tabled during this parliamentary session.

- (3) Yes.

DREDGING AT PORT HEDLAND*Japanese Labour*

21. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Premier:

- (1) How many Japanese will be employed on dredging work at Port Hedland?

- (2) For what period of time will they be engaged?

- (3) Does he agree with the employment of Japanese labour?

- (4) Has he, or any of his Ministers, received any objections to their employment; if so, from whom?

- (5) What is the actual nature of the work to be carried out by these special Japanese employees and what special difficulties are there, if any, about the type of work which would preclude it from being carried out by Australian workmen?
- (6) Does he know of any case anywhere else in Australia where the dredge labour is Japanese; if so, will he supply details?
- (7) Has he made any protests to any Commonwealth authority concerning the employment of Japanese labour; if so, what are the details?
- (8) Has he made any recommendation to any Commonwealth authority concerning the employment of Japanese labour; if so, what are the details?
- (9) Did the Commonwealth seek the views of his Government, or any Western Australian Government department, before issuing permission through the Immigration Department for the Japanese to come to the country; if so, what are the details?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (1) I am given to understand that 60 men will be employed.
- (2) My information is that Japanese personnel will be issued with a six-months' work permit renewable if suitable Australian labour is not available.
- (3) Having regard to the labour situation and the need to have this specialised work undertaken quickly to earn export income for the nation, as well as to create important economic development for the State, the Government can see no reason to object to an arrangement which it is understood was the subject of a negotiated agreement between the company, the unions concerned, and the Commonwealth.
- (4) Yes, from a few individuals and from the delegate for the crew of the S.S. *Iron Warrior* and also the Seamen's Union members of S.S. *Dulverton*. A letter dated the 18th August, 1967, to the Minister for Labour from the president, Trades and Labour Council, advised of that council's "strong opposition and condemnation of the American Utah Construction and Mining Company, dredging division's action of employing Japanese labour to operate the dredge *Kokuei Maru* at Port Hedland."
- (5) It is understood that the dredge upon which Japanese personnel are to be employed is a specialised vessel upon which all equipment

and controls are marked in Japanese and upon which men skilled in its operation are essential. Communication between dredge, shore, and servicing boats make the employment of Japanese speaking operators essential in the interests of safety and efficiency.

- (6) No.
- (7) No.
- (8) No.
- (9) No, although the State Department of Labour was kept informed of the negotiations and advised Utah-Jild, the joint venturers, of the procedures and conditions which obtained in respect of the manning of the dredge *Alameda*.

GOVERNMENT PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PROMOTION OFFICERS

Terms of Employment

22. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Premier:

- (1) How many public relations officers are employed by the Government?
- (2) What are the names of the departments in which they are employed?
- (3) What are their respective—
(a) names;
(b) duties;
(c) qualifications;
(d) wages, salaries, and other remuneration;
(e) previous occupations;
(f) periods of appointment;
(g) dates of appointment?
- (4) How many additional public relations officers does the Government intend to employ in, say, the next six months, and what are the particulars?
- (5) Does the Government differentiate between public relations officers and Government or departmental promotion officers; if so, what is the difference?
- (6) In the case of the Government employing promotion officers as distinct from public relations officers, will he supply the same details regarding promotion officers as those previously requested concerning public relations officers?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

- (1) to (3), and (6) See schedule attached.
- (4) So far as I am aware, no additional appointments are contemplated in the next six months.
- (5) Promotion officers in the Department of Industrial Development generally make direct approaches to particular individuals or sections of industry.

The following is the schedule referred to:—

Name	Duties	Qualifications	Wages, Salary and Remuneration	Previous Occupation	Period of Appointment	Date of Appointment
Department of Agriculture :						
E. H. Lawson	In charge of publications and publicity, mostly aimed at providing information for farmers. Editor, Journal of Agriculture	M.Sc. (Agric.)	\$6,400	Agricultural Scientist (University Institute of Agriculture)	Permanent	24/10/61
C. H. Trotman	Writing technical and semi-technical material for publications and for information of scientific staff within the Department. Assistance to authors of scientific articles	B.Sc. (Agric.), Dip.Ed., Dip.Ed.Admin.	\$5,836 (paid by Commonwealth Extension Services Grant)	Senior Science Master, Tuart Hill High School	Permanent	17/7/67
C. R. Chambers	Production of written information of value to farmers for dissemination through mass media (largely press) in a weekly information service. Departmental reports (including Ministerial statements). Assists in editorial work	Leaving	\$4,996 (paid by Commonwealth Extension Services Grant)	Free-lance Journalist. Newspaper Reporter. Senior Journalist and Agricultural writer for "Daily News"	Permanent	5/10/64
G. B. Macafee	Film/Radio/Television productions containing technical information for farmers	Honours Diploma of Agriculture	\$4,596 (paid by Commonwealth Extension Services Grant)	Rural Officer, Australian Broadcasting Commission	Permanent	29/3/66
K. G. James	Assists in editorial work for Departmental publications, reports and press releases	Muresk Diploma in Agriculture	\$3,891	Field Technician, Department of Agriculture	Permanent	16/10/64
Forests Department :						
Vacant*	Organises publicity for country Shows, Research Display Room, etc. Prepares material for Annual Reports, Departmental bulletins, pamphlets and leaflets. Prepares material for educational and public relations purposes	....	\$4,793			
Fremantle Port Authority :						
L. Bambury	General public relations, including arranging and conducting inspections of Port, supervision of information services for passengers, compilation of Port publications. Collating and issuing information relative to the Port	Nil	\$6,270	Assistant Manager and Public Relations Officer, Shipping Department, Harrods of London. Secretary and Public Relations Officer, J. N. Grace. Advertising Manager and Public Relations Officer, Phoenix Real Estates Pty. Ltd.	Permanent	3/7/61
M. R. Rann	Assistant	Nil	\$4,178	Sales representative. Compositor, W.A. Newspapers Ltd.	Permanent	8/4/63
Department of Industrial Development :						
H. L. Zeitlin	Organises and conducts Trade Fairs, exhibitions and displays. Prepares advertising and other publicity material concerning the State and its products. Arranges the production of films demonstrating the State's industrial potential	Leaving Certificate	\$5,418	Manager of advertising agency	Temporary, indeterminate	25/6/65
Vacant*	Assists in above ....	....	\$4,034			

* Will probably be filled within the next six months.

Name	Duties	Qualifications	Wages, Salary and Remuneration	Previous Occupation	Period of Appointment	Date of Appointment
Department of Industrial Development :—continued						
K. A. Flanagan	Prepares material for publication in bulletins and contributions to Trade Journals in Australia and overseas. Prepares brochures and publications emphasising the State's industrial potential. Prepares articles and Departmental press statements as required	Diploma Radio and Television Production, New York University Summer School	\$4,600	Journalist	Temporary, indeterminate	26/7/65
D. M. Potter	As above	B.A.	\$4,600	Editor of Trade Magazine	Temporary, indeterminate	15/9/66
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board :						
L. W. Yorath	Responsible for general conduct of public relations as they affect ratepayers, consumers, the general public and the Press	Nil	\$4,793	Public Servant	Permanent	6/4/64
Main Roads Department :						
G. R. Harris	Prepares reports and articles for release to the public through all types of media. Arranges displays, prepares booklets and brochures for distribution to public	Graded Journalist	\$5,000	Journalist	3 year contract	24/10/65
Premier's Department :						
W. W. Mitchell	Promotes, under the authority and direction of the Hon. Premier, the advancement of the State of Western Australia through the field of public relations	Graded Journalist	\$6,311	Reporter, "The West Australian"	By agreement until either party gives 8 weeks' notice of termination	22/9/59
W. H. King	To assist in above	Graded Journalist	\$5,044	Reporter, "The West Australian," State Government Public Relations Officer, London	By agreement until either party gives 8 weeks' notice of termination	13/6/66
D. P. Flynn	To assist in above	Graded Journalist	\$4,681	Reporter, A.B.C. News Service	As above	15/6/64
I. W. O'Riley	To assist in above	Graded Journalist	\$4,681	Reporter, A.B.C. News Service	As above	21/6/64
G. S. White	The promotion and advancement of the interests of the State through the field of public relations in Great Britain and Europe under the authority and direction of the Agent General	Graded Journalist	\$5,718	Sub-Editor, "Daily News"	Until October, 1967	3/1/66
Public Works Department :						
J. J. H. Ryan	Responsible for press relations, release of news and information to the press. Preparation of displays, brochures and talks for the information of general public. Initiates action to improve Departmental relations with public whenever necessary	Diploma P.T.C. Public Administration	\$4,793	Public Servant	Permanent	14/8/64
E. R. Tamlin	Assist with above duties	Associate of Advertising Institute of Australia	\$3,604	Public Servant	Permanent	13/4/66
F. Johnson	Assist with above duties	Nil	\$2,620	Public Servant	Permanent	21/4/60

Railways Department :

K. J. McGowan	....	To publicise and promote the services and facilities of the W.A. Government Railways by means of newspaper advertisements, press statements, radio and television broadcasts, displays, films, brochures, etc. To organise special tours and conduct publicity in this regard	Nil	....	....	\$6,046	....	....	Railway Officer	....	....	Permanent	....	....	5/11/64
J. W. Morris	....	Assist in above duties	Nil	....	....	\$4,327	....	....	Railway Officer	....	....	Permanent	....	....	4/7/50
J. Carter	....	Assist in above duties	Nil	....	....	\$3,472	....	....	Railway Officer	....	....	Permanent	....	....	15/6/67

Tourist Development Authority :

Vacant*	....	Responsible for publicity pertaining to tourist development and tourist bureaux, including displays, brochures and general advertising	....	....	....	\$4,331	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
W. L. Parker	....	Assist in above duties	Nil	....	....	\$3,337	....	....	Public Servant	....	....	Permanent	....	....	23/8/60

Town Planning Department :

New Position*	Prepares reports and articles for communicating information to the public. Arranges displays, prepares booklets and brochures and engages in other publicity activities as required by the Department	Should be experienced journalist	3 year contract
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Promotion Officers, Department of Industrial Development :

L. W. Slade	Assists in the establishment of new industries or the expansion and diversification of existing industries in Western Australia by the promotion of sales of all types of goods and the development of Eastern States and overseas markets	Diploma of Sales Management	\$5,254	Manufacturers' representative	Temporary, Indeterminate	18/6/61
D. J. Kilpatrick	....	As above	Matriculation	....	....	\$5,254	....	....	Manager, Food Processing Company	....	....	Temporary, Indeterminate	....	....	20/1/63
H. F. Gaston	....	As above	Nil	....	....	\$4,793	....	....	Commercial Sales Engineer	....	....	Temporary, Indeterminate	....	....	26/4/65
R. G. H. Manser	....	Responsible for development of export trade, embracing the collation and dissemination of information on products required by importing countries. Special surveys on all aspects of trade. Organises and conducts Trade Fairs	Diploma Management Studies, Associateship in Business Administration	....	....	\$6,627	....	....	Work Study Officer, Public Servant	....	....	Permanent	....	....	25/7/60
F. Greenwood	....	Assists in above duties	Diploma Public Administration, Licentiate of Australian Institute of Advertising	....	....	\$5,254	....	....	Publicity Officer, Public Servant	....	....	Permanent	....	....	22/7/58

* Will probably be filled within the next six months.

FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

Implementation and Cost

23. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the fluoridation of public water supplies come into operation—
 - (a) before Parliament rises;
 - (b) before the State Election?
- (2) What increase is estimated in order to cover the costs of fluoridation for the following schemes—
 - (a) metropolitan area;
 - (b) great southern;
 - (c) goldfields;
 - (d) Albany;
 - (e) Bunbury;
 - (f) Geraldton?
- (3) What is the cost of defluoridation of water at Carnarvon, and from what level is it being reduced and to what content?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) (a) No.
- (b) Yes.
- (2) (a) to (f) At this stage no increase is expected.
- (3) This has not been estimated.

QUESTIONS (3): WITHOUT NOTICE TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

Unclaimed Stakes: Distribution to Racing and Trotting Clubs

1. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Police:

What was the total amount of unclaimed stakes on non-starters for each of the years 1965-66 and 1966-67 which remained with the Totalisator Agency Board and became available for distribution to racing and trotting clubs?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

1965-66 \$23,832.
1966-67 \$26,547.

MIGRANT HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION Investigation of News Item

2. Mr. BOVELL (Minister for Immigration): Last Thursday the member for Beeloo asked the Premier a question relating to a Press report concerning migrant hostel accommodation in Australia, and particularly Western Australia. The question asked by the honourable member reads as follows:—

- (1) Is the Premier aware of a news item on the 12.30 p.m. A.B.C. news today from a London source condemning migrant hostel accommodation in Australia, and particularly in Western Australia?
- (2) Is he also aware that the accommodation in this State is said to be badly infested with rats, fleas, and cockroaches?

(3) As this statement would appear to be a direct reflection on this State's health laws and administrators would he have the situation fully investigated at the highest level and submit a report on the situation to this House?

The Premier replied as follows:—

I did not hear the news. However, I am sure there is a complete answer to these accusations, and I will refer the matter to the Minister concerned.

I am the Minister concerned and the matter has been referred to me. On behalf of the Government, and I think of all responsible citizens in Western Australia, let me say that the overseas report was completely inaccurate and unfair. Furthermore, I want completely and absolutely to refute the allegations that have been made in this overseas report. I would further state that the Public Health Department carries out an inspection of the Point Walter hostel, which is a State hostel, monthly, and no complaints have been made to me about the subject under consideration.

Furthermore I would point out that the Point Walter hostel is within the electorate of the Leader of the Opposition and, knowing his devotion to his electors, I am quite sure that if anything of this nature had come to his notice it would have been raised in the House; and if he suspected that this was the position he would have made every endeavour to get to the facts.

The position might perhaps best be explained by a report which appeared in *The West Australian* following an interview, by the reporters of that paper, with the migrants themselves. We know that the Press is vigilant in its activities in the public interest, and this is one occasion on which its vigilance has, I feel, completely refuted the allegations in question. The report that appeared in *The West Australian* of Saturday, the 19th August, reads as follows:—

Migrants at the Graylands and Point Walter hostels said complaints about vermin were made only by dissatisfied migrants who wanted excuses to justify their attitude.

Most Point Walter migrants had been there only several weeks but none of those interviewed complained of vermin.

Several Graylands migrants—

The Graylands hostel is under the Commonwealth jurisdiction—

—who claimed that the reports were false and misleading, said

they intended to write to the Australian Immigration Department's London headquarters.

English migrant Mrs. E. M. Smith, who has been at the hostel for 14 months, said: "It is a lot of nonsense. I can't understand migrants saying these things. They must be prejudiced."

Other migrants' comments were: Mrs. I. Percival (Scotland)—"It's a lot of nonsense."

Mrs. T. Green (England)—"I haven't seen a rat, only a few ants and beetles."

Mrs. I. Willis (England)—"It's all a pack of lies. There's not a word of truth in it."

Those are some of the replies the Press received to its investigations following the overseas article in question. In *The West Australian* of the same date under the heading "Scots Answer Criticism" we find the following:—

A leader of Western Australia's Scottish community yesterday answered some of the criticisms made recently by Scottish migrants to the Scottish National Party.

Mr. Charles Bloomer, president of the Scottish Union in W.A., said most Scots in W.A. were happily settled and contented.

"We are most distressed at recent complaints by Scottish migrants about conditions here, particularly allegations of unfriendliness," he said.

The article continues, but I will not read all of it. This examination of the position by the Press completely refutes the allegations that have been made. Such allegations do considerable damage both to Australia and Western Australia, and I submit this reply to the question asked by the member for Beeloo last Thursday.

REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

Inclusion of Schedules in "Hansard"

3. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Speaker: My question concerns a matter arising out of a reply which I received to question 22 on today's notice paper which said, "(1) to (3), and (6) See schedule attached"; which, of course, gives the information I require. I think I am right in saying that these schedules do not normally appear in *Hansard*, and consequently if one is looking through *Hansard* to discover information in connection with such a question all that one would see in the reply would be, "(1) to (3), and (6) See schedule attached"; and it is some-

times very inconvenient to pick up the information required from the schedule.

Would you, Mr. Speaker, consider having this matter investigated with the object of making arrangements for details of schedules to be included in *Hansard* if that is not already done. I have struck some cases where they are not included.

The SPEAKER replied:

I am glad the honourable member has raised this point, because it is a lengthy schedule, and I was about to advise the House that I did not think we could include it in the *Votes and Proceedings*—which is normally done—because of its length; and in view of the fact that the *Votes and Proceedings* are made available at the next sitting of the House, I was going to table the schedule. I think the point is well taken, and I will see whether it is possible to get the full reply printed in *Hansard*. I do not think I can undertake to include the full text of the Minister's statement in the *Votes and Proceedings* tomorrow.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: TENTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 17th August, on the following motion by Mr. Elliott:—

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

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

MR. GRAHAM (Balcatta — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.56 p.m.]: A couple of weeks ago the Opposition endeavoured to impress upon not only the Government but the public as a whole the seriousness of the situation which has developed in respect of the meteoric increases in land prices, and the crisis in the housing position which has been brought about by a rapid expansion of our population on the one hand, and an insufficient building programme on the other.

Notwithstanding a mass of facts and figures which were presented exclusively by Opposition members, the Government was completely unrelenting and felt, first of all in respect of land prices, this was merely indicative of a booming economy—in other words, that it was a healthy sign and did not require serious attention:

and, secondly, that so far as the housing position was concerned, all in the garden was lovely.

When the amendment was moved to the Address-in-Reply it was naturally anticipated that the Government would mobilise its members, who constitute a majority in the Legislative Assembly, for the purpose of defeating the amendment. At the same time it was thought—or perhaps, more accurately, hoped—that the Government would pay some heed to, and would acknowledge, the situation that had been allowed to develop. One would have thought that the Premier and Treasurer would intervene, and indicate that it was the intention of the Government, even at this late hour, to make additional funds available so that the State Housing Commission could play a more prominent part than it is doing at the present moment.

The Government, particularly through its spokesman in another place, suggested that whilst perhaps the State Housing Commission was not building as many units of accommodation as it had done hitherto, this by and large conformed with the outlook of the Government, which places greater emphasis on the role of private enterprise. In that respect he claimed, without any evidence to support him, that something approaching a magnificent role was being performed by private enterprise, and that it was more than taking up the slack.

That statement is, of course, completely removed from the facts, because not only has the State Housing Commission tapered off its activities, but the same applies in respect of private residential dwellings. From the statistics the situation does not appear to be as bad as in fact it is to anyone who makes a cursory study of the figures, because whilst the tally of houses has been on the downward move the number of flats being completed annually has substantially increased until there is, roughly speaking, in the vicinity of 2,000 housing units per year being constructed in the form of flats. Indeed, the overwhelming number of these are being provided by private enterprise; and, apart from the circumstances that, (a) the rentals are too high; and (b) facilities are not provided to enable families to become accommodated in this form of dwelling, as is done of course, in the greater part of the world, these flats are eagerly sought..

I think I have already indicated that in my travels last year in all of the countries I visited, not only was the emphasis on flat dwelling, but there were no single dwellings whatsoever being constructed either by Governments or local authorities on the one hand, or by private enterprise or private activity on the other. Nowhere did I discover dissatisfaction or discontent or disabilities expressed by people in the various countries I visited. Here let me say I was not exclusively on a conducted tour; I took advantage of the opportunity of paying unannounced calls

on people in quite a number of different countries.

A couple of weeks ago, I repeat, there were attacks on the Government in connection with the insufficiency of housing. Notwithstanding statements from Government spokesmen, I do not retract one word that was said. Indeed, as a result of the experiences of some of my colleagues in recent weeks, obviously the situation is worse than it was represented two or three weeks ago.

This afternoon it is my intention very largely to adopt a different role and support an announced programme of the State Housing Commission; and I want to some extent—not that it is my duty or responsibility—to answer some of the false criticisms that have been made, albeit by a member of Parliament—an alleged supporter of this Government.

Mr. Grayden: You are on dangerous ground on that question.

Mr. GRAHAM: Before I have uttered a single word in favour of a proposition, we have these wise words from the member for South Perth! Might I counsel him that he remain silent for a while to hear what is submitted and then he will have an opportunity of speaking for a whole hour, if he so desires, in an endeavour to argue against what I am submitting. That is his right. He has the opportunity. He has not spoken, and I daresay nobody will prevent him from speaking in any manner he desires.

Mr. Grayden: I will read you something shortly that will enlighten you.

Mr. GRAHAM: I suggest to the honourable member that instead of making his speech during my time he use his own time in submitting whatever he cares to. This honourable member of whom I spoke said that one aspect of the policy of the State Housing Commission horrified him. He was referring to what he calls the State Housing Commission's high-density housing proposals. This thought had particular reference to a project which the commission has in mind in the Bentley locality. The honourable member stated that in Western Australia there is no need for us to allow any multi-storied flats, because we have millions of acres of land. In his view, the situation is as simple as that. Of course, it is not.

Here and now let me point out that the project which is in mind is not a high-density housing scheme; it is, as a matter of fact, one of only medium or less than medium density. However, this person apparently has his feet a considerable distance from the ground. I say that, because in his address I detect the same irresponsible and exaggerated statements I experienced some 12 years ago in connection with the Wandana flat project. I well recall its being said there would be no standing room on the estate on which these flats were built; that they

would become places of sin, full of prostitutes; that there would be no room for children in the flats and therefore abortions would abound.

I suppose this would be something to please the hearts of certain of the Young Liberal League; but do not let us get contentious in connection with this. It was said there would be a gigantic traffic hazard surrounding Wandana flats; that there would be almost daily suicides by people going to the top of the 10-storied structure and jumping over the sides; that marriages would be broken within a few years; that the gardens and the rest of the building would have the appearance of slums; that there would be a terrific loss to the State Housing Commission and the Government; and all that sort of twaddle. In addition, it was said that it was totally wrong, immoral, inhuman, unchristian, and goodness knows what to expect people to have to live in accommodation such as was, at that stage, being constructed.

Of course, time has shown that all these dismal stories were completely false. Indeed, many worthy citizens—approximately 550 in all—are living in the Wandana flats and there is a waiting list. The rentals, of course, are a mere fraction of those applying elsewhere. The project is making a terrific annual profit. It was previously making a profit, but on account of the policy of this Government in stepping up rentals—completely unnecessarily—there is now a very large annual profit being made.

Instead of being hesitant about anything that savours of change or innovation, especially in a young country such as Western Australia, we should be prepared to experiment or learn from others who have had experience. We should regard matters with an open mind, instead of being ready immediately to jump down on the conservative side and oppose something merely because it is different.

Before dealing specifically with this matter—and I think I can adduce some very interesting facts in connection with it—I desire to make a few remarks concerning land prices. I do so, because we are rapidly reaching the stage—and far more rapidly, in my opinion, than constituted authority will acknowledge—when it is becoming financially impossible for a large and growing section of the community to purchase land in order to provide homes for themselves and their families.

Some of those attached to the University who have made research in respect of this matter have found from experience covering some half a dozen different suburbs in certain areas, that land prices in the metropolitan area are increasing at a rate of from 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. compound per annum, and that the graph is becoming steeper. Those who care to work out the figures will see that

at 15 per cent. compound, the land doubles in price in five years. At a 20 per cent. compound rate, as is occurring in certain suburbs, indeed more in certain select ones, it takes a matter of 3½ years for land to double in value. I repeat that this rate is accelerating.

Accordingly, in the course of a few years, unless some drastic action is taken it will become impossible for an increasingly large section of our community to fend for itself. This, in turn, means that more and still more people will be knocking at the door of the State Housing Commission. Yet the Government has not the funds to cater for those who have already applied. The pressure will be on the Government to increase the ceiling of the income limit of eligibility for persons applying, because of the financial impossibility of those people being able to do anything for themselves.

Some of the factors responsible for the situation are, of course, obvious. Some of these are: The tremendous increase in population; and the immediate post-war baby boom, which is reflecting itself in the fact that those people are now coming onto the marriage market. Those people are reaching the stage where they are getting married and desire homes of their own. Not only was the post-war boom indicated by a rise in the graph; but, as somebody expressed it, the baby boom, to a large extent, has continued.

There is an additional factor also in that today there is a much lower acceptable marriage age. Whereas one might have anticipated marriage would take place between the ages of 20 to 25, now, particularly with girls, the age is 18, 19, or 20 and, indeed, younger. These people are becoming wed in increasing numbers. Added to this is the tide of migrants who are coming to Western Australia.

There is another fact which is that there are approximately 1,000 houses per year—this number varies from year to year—which go out of circulation. They have either reached the stage where they are old and dilapidated and condemned, or they are converted for commercial purposes, or demolished to make way for new projects—industrial, commercial, residential, and all the rest.

So whenever we see a figure for the total number of housing units completed in a year, it is reasonable to assume that we should reduce that number by approximately 1,000 for the reasons I have outlined. In addition to that, there are increasing numbers of people who are rebuilding a second home for themselves. Even if that second home be something in the nature of a shack, it still shows in the statistics as being a house or a dwelling.

Members are aware there are many seaside and other resorts where people go on their vacations and at weekends. The

houses at those places are not available to accommodate the many thousands of people who are seeking homes for themselves; they are an extension of the homes already occupied by people already housed.

Mr. Rushton: Many of them at Safety Bay and Rockingham are used as homes.

Mr. GRAHAM: In the majority of cases, that is not so.

Mr. O'Neil: There are approximately 5,000 with second houses.

Mr. GRAHAM: From the Minister we have virtual confirmation of what I have said. These are some of the factors responsible for the pressure being applied in so many quarters for housing, deriving from the effect of land prices.

Then, of course, there is the other factor; that is, the availability of land. I hope and trust that what the Government has announced is something that is *bona fide* and not merely something to tide over the period until after the elections, and that there is to be a complete reappraisal of the existing zoning in the metropolitan area. There are vast tracts of most attractive land not far removed from the city—indeed, halfway between Perth and the north metropolitan beaches—which could be available for subdivision but which the town planning authorities say at the present moment are zoned as urban deferred, but in the local authority areas they are, as often as not, shown zoned as rural.

So it can be seen that there is either a ban or a restriction on building in the near metropolitan area, and some action should be taken—and taken urgently—in order to release this land for use by the general public, and I underline those words. At the present moment the release of land, from whatever source, invariably means that the land is being made available to speculators, and people in all walks of life are joining in the fun. Where else is it possible to have a gilt-edged security with a return of a minimum of 15 per cent. compound interest per annum? All of the advantages are in one person or a group of persons forming a syndicate, as happens in very many offices and business places around town, where even the office boys and typists are joining in. They gather together funds on a limited basis for the purpose of acquiring land because of the tremendous return they can receive for their outlay.

I say it is palpably wrong that this should be permitted, and it is up to the Government, whose responsibility it is to govern, to devise some system to ensure that when land is placed upon the market it shall be for the *bona fide* purpose of being used in residential areas for housing in one form or another, and in the commercial and industrial zones for a purpose which befits the zoning in those particular cases. Now, I repeat, when land becomes available from Government, semi-govern-

ment, or local government sources, or from private subdividers, invariably it is snapped up by speculators. No wonder the spiral is increasing in intensity!

A great deal of land bounding the city unfortunately lacks drainage, filling, services, and the rest of it, and here I feel the public authority should do something because it has a part to play.

This question of providing accommodation for our people is something which is basic and something in which the Government should interest itself—not adopt a policy of *laissez-faire* and say, "This will straighten itself out, or no doubt the speculators or those who own large tracts of land will take some action next year, the year after, or some other time, and meanwhile the people seem to be managing somehow. We will tighten up things with the Housing Commission and we will do something else." This is merely postponing or glossing over the problem. The Government has shown no real appreciation of the problem, or any real desire to do anything about it.

To give some idea of what constitutes high-density housing, I would mention that the Wandana flat site in Subiaco consists of an area just slightly in excess of three acres on which there are 242 flats and in which a total of about 550 persons live. Anyone who passes that area at frequent intervals will, I think, be surprised at the lack of movement there is at the entrances, on the grounds, or anywhere else. I think they will agree that the project is a credit to the administration and the people who live there. I do not know from what particular disease or complaint these people are suffering. There are approximately 70 flats which have two bedrooms and a balcony. There are children of all ages who are accommodated in those flats, together with the other people; and I venture to suggest that in many respects those children have considerable advantages over those who find themselves completely enclosed by a six-foot picket fence and left to their own devices with the gates locked against them because mother wants them under her watchful eye. At Wandana the children have many facilities, including playmates and playgrounds; and shopping facilities are available on the site itself.

People are living there and millions of civilised white people, as well as coloured people, are living in accommodation somewhat similar to it without, I suggest, any detriment or disadvantage to themselves or their families.

In the Bentley area, if we omit public open space, I understand that upon full development a total of 528 units will be constructed, and these will range from the single-unit dwelling, row houses, two and three-storied conventional flats, to, in the ultimate, several blocks of multi-storied flats to cater for very many sections of

the community. This will be a complete community and will not be one section, because all the authorities agree that that is wrong basically. That is why there should never be a concentration of too many persons in the same category in any one housing project.

Let me say here and now that unconsciously, in respect of Graham flats in Hay Street, the upper floor was reserved for persons who were not pensioners, and I think that is quite proper. But even so, where there are 70-odd flats I would be inclined—if I were the Minister for Housing again—to have, in the one project, fewer than 50-odd flats for old couples. I would have a greater mixture of the general community than prevails at the moment.

The area in Bentley, as I have already mentioned, is about 33½ acres and it will accommodate 528 units; in other words, about 16 housing units to the acre. Some of the brightest possessions of the City of Glasgow, which I saw when in Scotland, were the housing projects which were aiming at 165 persons to the acre. It is true that 16 units will probably represent 50 persons to the acre, but that is not high-density housing.

Mr. O'Neil: If the overall open space is taken into account the density will be 30 to the acre.

Mr. GRAHAM: That is so, but I think there is room for argument that if the area is public open space it should not be considered to be part of the housing project. I am concerned with the space embraced in the residential area which, broadly, is available for the people who live there.

Let us take the case of Wandana, again, which is based on slightly over three acres. If there happened to be a half-acre park over the road which was available to the public, it would not be justifiable to say that the Wandana site was 3½ acres. There is nothing to hide in this argument; we should be fair and factual all along the line.

We come to the proposition that we have plenty of land. Words akin to that were probably said by the early settlers in Australia—or in Western Australia—and, parrotlike, we keep on repeating them. Indeed, if we currently conform with town planning practice, as we know it, for an individual dwelling we are permitted to have a lot as small as 32 perches; in other words, five building lots to the acre. Until a few weeks ago or a few months ago, virtually, there was a rigid rule of quarter-acre lots. Anything less than a quarter acre was slumming! Of course, we know that in the great bulk of the areas where such lots exist there is usually a hedge or a fence half-way towards the back of the block, and the rear portion is black sand, a fowl run, or a rubbish tip. Aerial photographs of many of the older suburbs show that that is the position.

Mr. Rushton: Surely you do not advocate one variety only!

Mr. GRAHAM: Of course not. If the honourable member will be patient, he will see that is precisely what I am not advocating. When we say that there shall be five residential blocks to the acre we overlook the fact that in any subdivision there has of necessity to be provision for roads, public open space, commercial buildings, larger playing fields and ovals, and the rest of it.

So, in a large area one can say—notwithstanding our one-fifth of an acre lot—that we get only about three building lots to an acre of land after making provision for everything else. Now if in the metropolitan area we need—as indeed we do—in the vicinity of 7,500 houses a year, and if my figure is accepted—and it is as right as I am able to get it from consulting the authorities—then we need 2,500 acres of land in the metropolitan area every year. That is on present day figures without allowing for our population to reach a figure in excess of 1,000,000 in a few years' time. If we proceed at this rate, and stick to quarter-acre or one-fifth-acre blocks, we will find ourselves on the other side of the gold-fields and still part of the metropolitan area. The movement outward will, of course, accelerate at an ever-increasing rate.

We have to learn from the experience of larger cities, not only in Australia, but in other parts of the world also.

Mr. Bovell: It would be one way of attaining decentralisation.

Mr. GRAHAM: No it would not be. It would be a way of ensuring that all transport systems would be completely overloaded because nobody would be within walking distance of the city.

I was interested in the observations of an honourable member who spoke in another place. He tried to pretend that the State Housing Commission intended to force luckless, hopeless souls into flats, whether they liked it or not. He said the Australian way of life was to own a quarter-acre block and to have an individual home. What is the picture?

This is nothing I am advocating; I am stating what the actual situation is. I find that in the metropolitan statistical area for the year ended the 31st December, 1966, 3,940 houses were built in the private field. Also, there were 1,704 flats built. In other words, approximately 30 per cent. of the accommodation was provided by private enterprise in the form of flats. That was, nearly one out of every three dwellings. Those people are building more and still more flats. The official figures show a tremendous upsurge, as I think I have already said. During the time of the Labor Government an average of about 300 flats per annum was being built.

At the present moment, in the vicinity of 2,000 flats per annum are being built. Indeed, this year I think the figure is nearer to 2,500. This is the number of flats that were built by private enterprise—not for the fun of it but because there are people who are seeking this accommodation and who are going into this form of accommodation. I venture to suggest the great majority of them are going there because they want to do so.

It could be true that a small fraction of them would desire individual premises, but very many persons prefer this type of accommodation. I will try to draw on my memory from the days when I was criticised in connection with Wandana. However, in the newspaper which headed the criticism there was an article which pointed out the necessity for multi-storied units in Perth and said that very many people were allergic to the lawn mower and the garden hose. I think that statement is perfectly true.

This is a time which is based on what I said earlier in connection with there being so many holiday homes. This is a time and an age when people are using their motorcars, their pleasure boats, their picnicking and camping areas—whether they be cottages, caravans, bare tents, or anything else of that nature. They do not want to be tied down with all that is involved, particularly during a long, dry summer, in the matter of watering, tending, caring, and the rest of it—whether it be the puppy dog, the budgerigars, or anything else attached to the home.

Some people desire that, but some people do not, and the figures have shown that an increasing number prefer to regard their house as a place in which to live in order to give them the opportunity to go out and enjoy the various things which are nearest and dearest to their hearts—whether it be pleasure or whether it be the pursuit of some cultural activity.

I repeat that nobody is forcing or compelling people to live in these places, unless perhaps the shortage of housing is a compelling factor. However, very many people have a hysterical and negative attitude with regard to flats because of a poisoning process, but after having lived in them and counted all the advantages as against some admitted disadvantages, and having learnt by experience, they prefer to continue to remain in flats.

In every one of the 12 or 15 countries which I visited, flats and more flats are being constructed. People are living in them, and people are happy and contented, and are raising their families in them. The greatest criticism I make in connection with flats in Western Australia is that proper facilities and amenities are not being provided for those people who have children, and who prefer to live in these types of places. Of course, the subject requires special attention. As we are all

aware, when pensioner flats and old people's accommodation are provided the amenities and facilities installed in them are not normally placed in group dwellings.

Some people run away with the idea that a flat is dearer to build than a house. That is true up to a point, but only in connection with the initial cost. However, I think we must have some regard for the fitness of things. We have reached, or we are rapidly reaching, the stage where it becomes a luxury for people to have the exclusive use of a large area of land. If they desire that, then of course it will be necessary for them to pay.

Until recently there was no law, in connection with town planning, against having a chicken farm in St. George's Terrace, a sheep run in Mt. Lawley, or wheat fields in Dalkeith.

Mr. May: Where?

Mr. GRAHAM: In Dalkeith. But, of course, it was foolish, and economically it was completely and utterly unsound. In my own electorate at the present moment, in the same way, it is becoming economically impossible for the vegetable growers and the market gardeners to continue their operations.

If somebody in Osborne Park desires to continue his market garden operations for the next 20 or 50 years he will probably be as free as the sea and able to do it; but, of course, he would be next door to a madman, because he would be operating on land that would probably be worth several million dollars. Of course, the whole thing becomes nonsensical.

In exactly the same way, if we have a proper appraisal of values—which I intend to deal with in a moment—it will become apparent that we cannot go on in this dreamland whereby virtually everybody occupies a quarter of an acre of land. Experience in all other parts of the world has shown this is so. If anybody wants that luxury, then it will be necessary for him to pay for it.

What is the position at the moment? We have our dwellings—and, goodness knows, everyone likes our single-unit dwellings—but we have them at a price. When I say that, I am not referring only to the meteoric increase in land prices that is being demanded in recent days, or the ever-increasing cost of erecting a house. Let us never forget that a house today is an entirely different structure from what it was a couple of generations ago. There are all sorts of requirements now that did not exist at that time. Consequently, a house—a dwelling and a shelter from the elements—is reaching the stage, when one has regard for the land as well, of taking a still larger and ever-increasing slice of the total earnings of a person over his lifetime.

We have our separate dwellings in the main, although there is this transition

which is being implemented by private enterprise. As far as I know there is no squeal from anybody; there is no squeal from those who are occupying the flats except, perhaps, on the score of the rental charges. However, that subject, of course, is not the consideration.

We are using up land. If we disperse our population then, of course, the cost of road construction per dwelling, or per family, is ever so much higher than if there is a greater concentration of the population; and not only the road construction, but also the annual maintenance that is necessary. In addition, there is the consideration of footpaths which serve a limited number of houses over the mile.

With multi-storied dwellings, there would probably be 10 times as many people, shall we say, to pay the same rates. In other words, 10 times the amount of revenue would be available to the local authorities; and what local authority does not require funds in those terms? There is the extra length of drainage to be undertaken, and of sewerage pipes, if any. Because of the great spread of population, so much of the metropolitan area has inadequate drainage and has not any sewerage facilities. In addition, there is the extra length to be traversed by our electricity mains. In connection with our bus routes, on every journey the buses, I suppose, are travelling half a dozen times as far as necessary in order to pick up a load.

If the population were more concentrated, these services would be a fraction of the cost; and, consequently, a fraction of the loss. There would be a more frequent timetable, a better service, a better patronage, and a better financial return on everything. The distance that the housewife has to go to the local shop, the distance her husband has to travel to his place of work, and the distance the children have to go to their school would be reduced. However, because of the great straggle and spread of population in the metropolitan area, these additional distances must be traversed.

What is the position because of this? I reside in the Shire of Perth, the largest local authority in the State, from a population point of view. I have had conversations with the councillors of that local authority and they deplore the fact there is so much which needs to be done, but which is impossible to do because of the tendency we have to spread our houses over a wide area. In consequence, very few streets have concrete kerbing on both sides of the street, together with the necessary concrete aprons, and very few streets have footpaths on both sides. In fact, very many streets do not have a footpath on even one side.

There is an inadequacy of street lighting and shade trees along the verges of the streets. There is not one single playing reserve that has the facilities, the shelters, or the accommodation desirable and

necessary for people who congregate on a reserve. There is a shortage of kindergartens, libraries, and centres for the aged. If there is a large gathering at a meeting or a function there is not a hall available which is capable of accommodating the people. There is very little scope for the development and the encouragement of cultural activities. These are some of the amenities we are denied and the penalties we pay because we prefer to think we are progressive in adhering to the concept of a quarter-acre lot on which to build a house. I repeat that, to very many people, this is a delightful way in which to live.

Many of us are living this way because we do not know, and never have known, any other way. We enjoy it, but at a sacrifice. I think it is fairly correct to say the average Australian likes his job and the security it affords him; he likes to have his few beers and his bets; he likes to go to football matches as a football barracker; he likes to watch his TV, and if he is able to do these things, everything in the garden is lovely.

Whilst abroad, I was amazed to find in some of the older countries, which are not as highly educated as we are in the scholastic sense, and whose standard of living is not comparable with ours, that the people place great emphasis on the better and the finer things of life; on the arts, the crafts, and the cultures that matter, such as literature, music, engravings, and paintings. In those countries I visited exhibition halls, recreation and fitness centres, and gymnasiums, all of which, in the main, are foreign to us.

I know that, in the age in which I live, attending a Shakespearean theatre would not appeal to me. No doubt I have missed something because of that, but we have not been taught to appreciate these things to a sufficient degree. I could not imagine myself attending a concert of chamber music. Many of the finer works of art are, to me, completely meaningless; and yet these are the priceless treasures which, in other countries, have been handed down through the centuries, because they contain something which keeps them alive in the minds of the people. But apart from a small percentage of our community, to us these are only words. A great majority of us do not have any experience in such matters; we do not know and we do not care. This is reflected in the current situation in the State of Western Australia.

This State is still without a concert hall. We have the mighty Perth City Council with all its resources. We have a Government which has available to it every year, more and more millions than it had the year before. I am as aware as anybody else that there are many calls made on those funds, but for some reason there never seems to be much money available for cultural pursuits; or what is available represents only a very fine trickle.

It is because of this situation that I had a look at some of our relics—if one

likes to call them that—and some of those facilities which have been provided for us by our great grandparents, when there was a mere handful of people in Western Australia; when there was very little security; and when one had a job, or a part-time job, one was considered fortunate. The standard of living was low, and yet I can list several buildings that were erected at that time. Most of the finer things we have in this State were built by our grandparents and great grandparents 60 to 100 years ago.

Today, in 1967, virtually we cannot find a dollar to renew or replace some of our old buildings, or to build something new to cater for the cultural needs of our people. The first wing of the Public Library—now called the State Library—on the present site, was built in 1903, and the remainder of the building was added in 1913. It is the baby of the buildings I am about to enumerate; that is, in 1903—64 years ago—the Public Library was built. The zoological gallery of our Museum was completed in 1895.

Mr. Williams: What about the Barracks Archway?

Mr. GRAHAM: That section of the Museum on the corner of James and Beaufort Streets, at first shared by the library, was built in 1893. The Art Gallery was opened as a section of the Museum in 1895. The foundation stone of the two long wings facing Beaufort Street was laid in 1891, but the building was not completed until 1908. The Perth Town Hall was built with the expenditure of Imperial funds between 1867 and 1870, and was opened in 1870. The celebration of its centenary will shortly take place, but we are still making do with that old Town Hall which was commenced 100 years ago by a handful of people residing in this colony at that time. We are still without a town hall worthy of the name in this day and age.

Perth's first true theatre, the Theatre Royal—which is now a cinema—was opened in 1897—70 years ago. His Majesty's Theatre—our only theatre now—was opened in December, 1904—nearly 63 years ago. For the entertainment of young people, the ballroom of Government House was completed in 1899—in the last century. The present building on the Perth railway station site was completed in 1894.

So one could go on reciting item after item to indicate that in recent years no facilities have been provided to cater for our increasing leisure. We are in a day and age when educational standards are increasing; when there is more and more leisure available to us; when communication with other countries is commonplace and, indeed, when communication with other planets is becoming virtually a reality; when we are playing around with building drains, sewers, roads, and certain

public buildings; and when we have more and more time available to us.

I have spoken on this matter on many occasions for the reason that I regard it as being the problem of the age. Many of us have seen the shortening of the working week—the reduction in the number of hours worked per week and in the number of days on which it is necessary to perform the menial tasks to earn one's bread and butter—the increase in public holidays; the increase in annual leave from a fortnight to three weeks; the granting of long service leave, after serving a period of 20 years, reduced to 15 years, and in other cases to 10 years, and to seven years in the State Public Service. Short leave and sick leave have been granted, and such leave is now cumulative.

There is no doubt we have not seen the end in the reduction of the time necessary for people to devote to their tasks in order to produce the goods and services which are required by the people who enjoy an ever-increasing standard of living. So if we care to project ourselves some time ahead, surely we reach the stage where it will be necessary for each one of us of the work force to devote merely an insignificant portion of every year to the tasks that require attention.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What preparation are we making in order to ensure that there will be facilities available, particularly to our younger generation? Is it any wonder that we read of these excesses that are taking place in the matter of stealing cars, speeding, sexual orgies, drinking, breaking and entering premises, and the rest of it? I know this has been going on over the years, and over generations and centuries; but I think it is evident in far greater proportions today, because of the facility of movement from one place to another; because of the affluence of society; and because of the time available to our young people.

Accordingly it becomes a challenge to all of us to make adequate and proper provision for all people, but more importantly for the younger generation, in order to ensure that they will have during their formative years the preparation and facilities to enable them to spend their leisure time enjoyably and profitably, instead of as vandals. I do not want anyone to think I am suggesting, for one moment, that all children can be classed as vandals. But we would be recreant to our trust, and to invention and science, if we do not make proper provision for the young people.

Instead of decrying what is virtually a drop in the bucket in the activities of the State Housing Commission—instead of members of Parliament, especially de-

crying such efforts which, in my view, are progressive, deeply necessary, and a step in the right direction—we should spend more on providing houses, yet not forget these finer and more cultural things of which I have spoken. Accordingly I think the scheme which has been announced by the State Housing Commission is one for which the commission can and should be commended. If there is a continuation of it, it will have a far greater impact on our move towards providing for the younger generation.

I am not suggesting that just anybody and everybody should be compelled to live at the top of a 15-storied block of flats, though many people would certainly seek to live there. Indeed, the competition appears to be on—the higher the flats go the better the people seem to like them; in spite of the higher rentals. That is what is happening not only in Perth but also in many other parts of the world.

Let us realise that there is something more to living than merely a bed in which to sleep and a belly full of beer! We are not animals that we should have to live in comfortable pigsties or comfortable fowl-houses. Our job is to get out and about and enjoy the things which man has conceived and improved upon, and which the Creator has provided for our comfort and enjoyment.

MR. GRAYDEN (South Perth) [5.54 p.m.]: When I interjected earlier the member for Balcatta suggested I could speak on the subject of housing for an hour if I wished to do so. I do not intend to do that, even though I could quite readily provide the necessary data which would enable me to refute most things the honourable member has said tonight. I have listened attentively to the speech made by the member for Balcatta—which took approximately an hour—and I must say that he was most dogmatic in his assertions. He started off by criticising one of the members from another place for referring to a proposal put forward by the State Housing Commission. He said that the member concerned had exaggerated; and he suggested, during the course of his speech, that any opposition to the State Housing Commission proposal indicated an hysterical and negative attitude. He left us in no doubt that in every way he was against such opposition, and conveyed the impression that no Government should brook criticism of a project of this kind.

To listen to the member for Balcatta one would gather that no authority in the world would oppose a housing development of this nature. I would, however, like to refer him to an item which appeared in *The Australian* of Saturday, the 19th August, 1967. I suggest that he get hold of this particular item and read it extremely carefully. It is headed, "Home

Units Bad for Children, says Peer." The article then continues—

Lord Llewelyn-Davies, British Architect, Engineer, and Town Planner, looked at the Sydney skyline yesterday—and gave a word of warning to home unit builders.

"In the future, people will want houses, not flats. I understand home units are going up all over Sydney—but are they selling?" he said.

"I am not very much in favour of high density living—and it is not good for children either."

Lord Llewelyn-Davies was made a life peer two years ago for his services to architecture and hospital planning.

His wife received the same honour two weeks ago for her work as chairman of the Great Ormonde Street Children's Hospital.

Lord Llewelyn-Davies will deliver two papers at an international seminar on hospital provision and planning, being held by the School Hospital Administration at the University of N.S.W. next week.

The 54-year-old architect, who is head of the Bartlett School of Architecture at the University of London, specialises in planning hospitals—but prefers building cities.

"My company in London is building a town called Washington in County Durham near Newcastle," he said.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member cannot go on reading indefinitely. I do not mind references being made to this article, but he cannot read the entire article straightout.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I appreciate your remarks, Sir, and I will not continue to read. I merely quoted the article to indicate that here we have a world authority on housing who has recently come to Australia and who, immediately he gets here, looks around Sydney and virtually says that we should not think in terms of home units, but in terms of building houses; that home units are not good for children. Yet we have the member for Balcatta returning recently from a world trip, and telling us that everywhere he went emphasis was placed on home units; and he suggested that no-one should criticise the intention to build home units and other similar types of housing in the Bentley area—for what I would call high-density living.

The honourable member suggested that this project should not be criticised, and he is extremely adamant that any criticism of such a project is unjustified. On the other hand, we have a world authority who has given a contrary opinion. I mention this to indicate that when people are dogmatic and adamant on questions of this kind, they should be extremely sure of their facts.

The honourable member also indicated that with the number of houses being built in Western Australia at the present time it would not be long before the area within a reasonable distance of Perth would be completely built out. He said these areas would be built out at an ever-increasing rate; whereas in actual fact the position is the reverse, because the further one goes away from Perth the greater becomes the area encompassed by the circumference. Whilst the development of the immediate surrounds of Perth has been tremendously impressive during the last few years I should point out that the area involved is relatively small; but as we go further out we find the circumference and therefore the area becomes greater, and so we will see much less obvious progress. That is the actual situation.

We have to look only at the amount of deferred urban land in Western Australia to realise that land is available relatively close to Perth. The statements of town planners and other authorities in recent months have indicated that some of those people who own deferred urban land need not hold out hopes of that land being declared urban land for some 20 years or more.

In respect of high-density development, such as that being undertaken in Bentley, I think this is a most undesirable form of housing. For many years I represented certain districts which contained a relatively poor type of house, because I was once the member for Middle Swan and my electorate included parts of Belmont. I was also the Federal member for Swan, and in that electorate there were similar areas with poor types of houses. I recall time and time again going to the State Housing Commission to make requests for the provision of houses, and the commission allotting houses in these areas. Some of the applicants on whose behalf I made representations would actually cry, and would refuse to take their families there. Many would not go there after they had made inquiries of the local shopkeepers and at the police station, because in some State Housing Commission areas the police were required virtually every night to attend to complaints.

Mr. Jamieson: I hope you are not reflecting on the settlement at Beeloo.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Unfortunately there are some areas which have a particularly bad name, and into which even applicants who are desperately in need of homes refuse to go. The member for Balcatta said there was no question of forcing people seeking houses into cluster homes, unit homes, and flats. Of course not; but when an applicant has waited two years for housing to be provided, what is the alternative? He has no choice but to accept the accommodation offered.

If an applicant refuses accommodation offered by the State Housing Commission,

generally he has to wait for a further period of 12 months, or thereabouts. Sometimes an applicant who refuses accommodation is given a second choice, and if he refuses again he has to wait a considerable time. Under these circumstances applicants do not lightly refuse houses which have been offered to them by the commission, but from the time they go into the houses in districts which have a bad name they begin to look around for alternative housing. Many of them immediately put in applications to the commission for a transfer.

The authority to which I referred earlier indicated that most families want a backyard where the children are able to make a boat to sail on the river, where they can tinker with their cars, or where they can keep pets. They do not want to be placed in a home right up against the neighbour's house, where the children can wander out of the front door into a common recreation area and possibly disappear at the other end. As a rule the parents want the children to be under their control, and that would not be possible in a housing development such as that envisaged by the member for Balcatta.

When the details of the Bentley housing project were announced it was suggested that 40 per cent. would ultimately be privately owned; in other words, people could purchase 40 per cent. of the units. Can anyone visualise the situation that would arise? Who would want to purchase a home in a project where 60 per cent. of the units are owned by the commission which probably will not maintain the units satisfactorily or paint them when they should be painted? People would not want to purchase homes in those circumstances, because that is the pattern followed by the commission in respect of its houses in the metropolitan area.

In the districts where construction in wood and asbestos is permitted, we can see commission houses which are urgently in need of repairs. They particularly need painting to prevent the deterioration of the woodwork. One of the first responsibilities of the commission is to ensure that its houses in the areas I have mentioned are maintained. Without exaggeration, I have driven mile after mile in some districts and found virtually every home in need of painting.

This is what I am frightened of: The development at Bentley will force people—although some object to the use of the word "force"—into a confined area where their homes will be hard up against those of their neighbours. A settlement of this type will, within a short time, get a bad name, and only a particular type of individual will accept accommodation in it.

So local authorities in Western Australia should be particularly careful in approving projects of this kind; and if they do not have a close examination made of any scheme that is put up they will finish

up with something that is not an asset to the district.

Mr. Davies: The commission will not be able to sell the terraced houses.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I understand that 40 per cent. of the units in the project I am referring to will be offered for sale.

Mr. Davies: These houses are like the duplex houses, and people cannot get a separate title.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I do not know whether legislation will be introduced to enable a title to be granted for this type of house. This idea was put forward in the early stages. The Housing Commission may have decided against it or decided to extend it and give all applicants an opportunity to purchase a home in one of these projects.

Mr. Graham: I suppose you know people are paying \$40,000 or more to live hard up against one another in the Mt. Eliza flats?

Mr. GRAYDEN: There are people without children who wish to live in flats for which they will pay a high price. If it is in a good position, the flat will increase in value. Our experience in South Perth is this: A person will pay £10,000 for a flat and sell it later for £15,000; but that is not the pattern in a project of the kind to which I have been referring.

Mr. Hawke: Please convert those pounds into dollars.

Mr. GRAYDEN: We would get into high figures if that were done. As the member for Balcatta mentioned, these types of dwellings are being erected in many places throughout the world, but this is being done mostly in respect of slum clearance projects. When there is a slum clearance project, and a lot of people are taken out of an area, it is necessary to fit the same number back into that area and, in those circumstances, this type of housing is useful. However, in Western Australia, where one can go 15 miles or less from the G.P.O. and find huge areas of land which can be purchased for £100 per acre, should we really be thinking in terms of a project of this kind? Of course not.

I will now get away from this particular subject because, as I said earlier, I did not intend to speak on it. I did so merely because the member for Balcatta was so dogmatic about this matter, without any justification at all for being so.

First of all I would like to pay a tribute to the late member for Mt. Marshall (Mr. George Cornell), and to the former member for Roe who recently retired. For many years I sat next to George Cornell; and I wish to make it clear that that was not by accident, but by choice because I had such respect for him. He was a man of tremendous humour, outstanding ability, and to my mind, great moral character. This Parliament has lost somebody who was of tremendous value to it.

The same comments apply to the former member for Roe (Mr. Hart). He was a member who was particularly tolerant; a man of great knowledge, particularly in regard to farming pursuits; a man of tremendous sincerity; and a man of great moral courage. My sincere regret is that this Parliament, in the one year, should lose two individuals of their calibre. Both were men who were prepared to say exactly what they thought. They went along with the principles on which they were elected, and this should be the position with every member. However, they went further than this. There are many issues raised in this Parliament which allow a member to exercise his own judgment; and they were two members who would do precisely this. In these circumstances, I say this Parliament is the poorer for their absence.

This leads me to a question which I would like to touch upon at some length. It is something which takes place in this State, in the other States, and in the Federal sphere. It is something that has taken place since we first had the party system in Western Australia; and the same position applies in the other States and in the Federal sphere. It has taken place since the Federal Parliament first came into being. I refer to the constant erosion of the rights of the private member of Parliament.

On the 19th November, 1965, the *Daily News* published an editorial under the heading, "An Erosion of Rights." I hope, Mr. Speaker, you will allow me to read it because quite a number of the remarks I will make are in respect of it.

Mr. Graham: How many pages?

Mr. GRAYDEN: The editorial reads as follows:—

A disturbing, yet often ignored development in Federal politics under Sir Robert Menzies, has been an erosion of the power of the private member.

Two articles on this page, yesterday and today, show how the influence of the Senate and the House of Representatives has waned in the face of increasing power assumed by the executive.

As a result, Government backbenchers have become the apparently willing rubber stamps of executive decisions while Opposition members are regarded as nuisances who can be safely ignored.

This trend had its beginnings soon after Federation with the refinement of the party system.

Since then, successive Governments have subverted the spirit of the Constitution to achieve their own ends—against the interests of the people.

Noted constitutional authorities such as Sir John Quick, Sir Robert Garran

and Sir Isaac Isaacs recognised this development years ago and swiftly condemned it.

"Like a Trilby"

More than 25 years ago Sir Isaac Isaacs was moved to ask: "How long will Australians stand by and see their national Parliament function like a Trilby, to sleep, wake, sing or be silent at the dictation of whatever Svengall happens to be in control for the time being?"

If Sir Isaac was critical then, how shocked would he be today at the naked power now wielded by the Prime Minister and his colleagues?

There is more to the editorial, but I think I have read enough to indicate the type of thing I wish to speak about.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. GRAYDEN: Prior to the tea suspension I quoted from a copy of the *Daily News* of a few years ago. It was an editorial dealing with the erosion of rights of private members, and it was rather critical of the Menzies Government. However, I would hasten to point out that this is something which is not peculiar to the Federal Government. It is occurring in virtually every Parliament in Australia, although in some quarters it occurs to a greater extent than in others.

This has been going on for a great many years now. Unfortunately, as the years go by it seems to increase in intensity and for that reason I want to speak about the matter at some length tonight. Our Western Australian Parliament is a rather costly institution. I have never worked it out. However, over \$500,000 is spent in members' salaries alone. This amount, added to other costs, would probably make an aggregate of over \$1,000,000, which must be paid by the people of Western Australia.

This is, of course, a comparatively small price to pay for democracy. The man in the street has the right to elect the Government and to change that Government should he desire to do so. However, I would point out that if this Parliament is to become nothing but a facade, there are cheaper ways of providing government. That, unfortunately, I think, is the position.

We should ask ourselves what are the functions of Parliament. The first and over-riding function of Parliament is to remove the Government should it abjectly fail the people of the State or country concerned. The second duty is to be constantly critical. Members must be critical of Government policy, administrative policy, and of the shortcomings of the individuals. This is not merely the duty of the Opposition; it is the duty of Parliament. No-one for a moment would suggest—and far be it from me to do so—that a popular Assembly should govern. We know what happens in those circumstances. A House full of Independants would create chaos and confusion. Many illustrations

of this exist. In the United States, for instance, there is a division of power between the Executive and Legislature. We have seen the great weaknesses in that set-up.

We know that the democracies in various parts of Europe have fallen because of this very factor, and for that reason I am not suggesting for a moment that a popular Assembly should govern. However, Parliament should be ever-critical of the Government, and the supporters of the Government are, of course, part of Parliament. This is a tremendously important thing and it is something we seem to overlook to a large extent in this State.

I believe we cannot function effectively as a Parliament unless members are supplied with all the information it is possible to collate in connection with any of the issues before Parliament. We cannot function really effectively if the Government does not encourage its supporters to be critical. Supporters of the Government can be helpful in their criticism because there are two forms of criticism. One of these is positive criticism. In this case a member suggests improvement or a better way of doing things. On the other hand there is negative criticism in which case shortcomings or corruption are pointed out.

However, both these types of criticism have a place in Parliament. Members are here to criticise. They can do it positively or negatively, but in either case they are still making a contribution. We get nowhere when criticism is stifled and individuals are expected to supply the canned type of approval, or opposition. This happens on TV. An incident occurs on television and laughter or clapping is supplied by the sound effects department. If we are placed in the position where we must show approval or smile merely because a Minister says something which he believes is clever, then we are in a serious position. That situation is the exact negation of democracy. That will be the ultimate result if we allow that state of affairs to continue.

I therefore want to make a plea for the restoration of the rights of members of this Parliament. I would like the Government to go out of its way to encourage criticism not merely from its own members, but also from members of the Opposition. I believe, as was stated by the member for Perth the other day, that if a Minister has all the facts connected with his particular portfolio at his disposal—and many Ministers in this Government are in that position—he should not be frightened of any criticism. Indeed he should welcome it, and there is no need in those circumstances for the Minister to resent criticism or to feel that anyone who does criticise is disloyal to the Government.

Unfortunately a number of instances of late have disturbed me considerably. I

am not going to quote them all because I am merely speaking in general terms at present. This is not a matter which is applicable only to this Parliament, but, in varying degrees, to every Parliament in Australia. However, I want to quote one instance to indicate the attitude on this particular question.

Recently I had occasion to make representations to a Minister to receive a deputation. Five organisations were involved and the representatives concerned were very responsible people for whom I have the greatest regard. Notwithstanding this, the Minister refused that request.

I cannot imagine that a Minister, in these circumstances, would refuse such a request. I would not for one moment suggest that the Minister should have received the deputation and indicated to it that he agreed with whatever was submitted. I simply requested the deputation so that the case could be put before him. I repeat: The representatives were responsible people who had worked out a case over several months because they did not want to do anything that would hinder them in achieving their objective. Those people did not want to be offensive to the Minister and they came to me and asked how to frame their request so that the least difficulty would result.

In those circumstances I was terribly perturbed to think that this group of people, representing five responsible organisations, were refused a deputation by the Minister. I am not criticising the Minister, but I am saying that this sort of thing is happening to all of us now.

I would draw attention to the State platform of the Liberal Party.

Mr. Craig: I take it that it was not a Country Party Minister.

Mr. GRAYDEN: One clause of our platform is as follows:—

WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE SUPREME FUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERSONALITY; that today's dogma may turn out to be tomorrow's error; and that, in consequence, the interests of all legitimate minorities must be protected.

That is the platform on which we, the members of the Liberal Party, are elected. The five people I have mentioned represented five responsible organisations; namely, the Wildflower Society; the Gould League of Western Australia; the Western Australian Naturalists' Club; the Tree Society of Western Australia; and the Society for the Protection of King's Park and the Preservation of the Swan River.

When five members from five organisations seek to put a considered request before a Minister, I would expect him to listen to the proposition, particularly in view of the fact that we have a clause such as I have quoted in our Liberal Party platform. If we are to disregard the rights

of minority groups to this extent, there is something wrong with our Parliamentary system. If any supporter of the Government were to champion the cause of one of those particular groups, he would be accused of wanting to get on the band wagon and share in the publicity that would ensue.

Mr. Toms: Show the Minister the clause which you quoted.

Mr. GRAYDEN: That is the sort of thing a member would be accused of; yet the reason we are in this Parliament is to put the views of all to ensure that true justice is done.

Unfortunately, too many members forget this when they come to this House. When a member is elected he has many responsibilities. First of all, he has an obligation to truth and justice; he has an obligation to Australia—to his country and his State; he has an obligation to his constituents; and then an obligation to his party. The obligation to his party, in these circumstances, comes a bad last. I am not suggesting for one minute that any member will come to this House on a party platform and go back on his word. This is an entirely different set of circumstances.

Certainly, every member of a party must stand by the platform on which he was elected. He has an obligation to do that, and similarly he has an obligation to stand by the policy speech of the leader of his party, because he was elected on that basis. However, outside of that he should not have to abide by party decisions. This would be contrary to, and a negation of, democracy. There are many issues which should be decided in this Parliament by members making up their minds as to the justice or the advisability of the propositions. If this is to be a truly deliberative Assembly, that is the course we should take. Unfortunately, this is often not what actually happens.

I am not dwelling particularly on what is happening at the moment. I have seen this sort of thing happening over many years in Western Australia. I have seen Executive decisions made in this State which, to my mind, were a negation of democracy. I believe that this happens irrespective of what Government is in power—whether it is a Labor Government or a Liberal-Country Party Government. The situation prevails in this State and in the Federal Parliament. I object to Executive decisions being made this way.

We undoubtedly have Ministers busily engaged in the work of their own portfolios with all their time taken up in this task and going to Cabinet meetings and listening to propositions put forward by other Ministers. The Ministers work harmoniously together and undoubtedly quite often would not wish to query something put forward by another Minister. They would assume that he would know what

he was talking about. If a Minister had a strong personality, that would greatly assist him in having proposals carried. Naturally, of course, some propositions would be queried, particularly those known to everybody. With some of the big propositions such as the development of iron ore, I imagine that if one Minister with a lot more knowledge of the subject were to put a proposition forward, Cabinet would back him. The matter then would go to the party room where, unfortunately, the situation would be rather similar.

Mr. May: Tell us all about it.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I have seen this happening over 20 years. I would say that a section of every party has but one ambition and that is to fit in with the feelings and wishes of the powers that be, either the members of Cabinet or the leader, or both. There is a big section in every group which sublimates its feelings to the wishes of the powers that be. The leader has only to give some indication that he would like something done, and immediately this section falls in and supports him.

Add to that group the other section which could not care less, which we have in every Parliament—individuals who might be retiring or who have lost interest. Unfortunately this is the situation. Put those two groups together and you have the section which is strong enough to defeat or carry anything that comes along.

If we go a little further and say that because a decision was agreed to in the party room, every person in the party has to abide by the decision irrespective of whether the matter is party policy or not, what do we find? We find that on the floor of this House, which should be a deliberative Assembly, members vote on party lines. So, virtually democracy is brushed aside. One man has made a decision originally and that decision has been carried down the line. In some cases members will have received little information on it, even when it has reached the party room. Members have to accept the limited information which the Minister gives them, and when the Bill is before the House they are dependent on the second reading speech of the Minister. Invariably that speech is terribly deficient in information.

This is an intolerable situation and it means that a Parliament in these circumstances becomes a farce as I mentioned earlier. If we are going to continue along these lines, then we will have to have a pretty hard look at the parliamentary institution as we know it. Over recent years all sorts of ancient institutions have come under scrutiny and they have been modified or abolished. That is something which we should think about if we are to continue along these lines.

I, personally, would hate to see any alteration to the form of our Parliament; but I believe that we should go out of our way to ensure that it functions as was originally intended.

Mr. May: You are so right.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I repeat that it was originally intended that Parliament should be there to depose a Government that signally failed the people of the State, and also to keep an eye on the Government. This is the role of Parliament.

Mr. Graham: It is obvious that you rehearsed this speech in the Liberal Party meeting room!

Mr. GRAYDEN: What prompted the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to make that remark?

Mr. Graham: You work it out.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I hasten to tell the honourable member that my criticism is not directed at this Government. It is the kind of thing that undoubtedly happens in every Australian Parliament.

Mr. Graham: You would not know what happens at a Labor Party meeting.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I think there was an instance in the British Labor Party not very long ago of some rebellion within the party. As I recall, the Leader of the Labor Party there referred to the rebels and said they would have to stop biting his heels. This is a comparable situation.

I do stress the fact that I do not believe that the average member, when he is elected, realises the responsibilities which he assumes. Some members seem to forget that they have any obligation to their country, or to their State; they forget they have any obligation to truth and justice, and to their constituents. They apparently feel that if a member does anything else except blindly support a party decision, he is being disloyal.

I only hope that one day we will include this subject in the social studies of the curriculums of schools so that children in Western Australia will be brought up with a clear understanding of the role of Parliament. When a private member rose in this House and criticised the Government, those members would realise that he was not doing something which was disloyal; he would simply be fulfilling his obligations to his electors, State or country or, as I said before, to truth and justice.

I am not going to pursue this matter, because it is not necessary. However, I do want to conclude my remarks by quoting an extremely eminent authority. I will be as brief as possible. I will quote this authority so that members will realise that what I am putting forward now is not something radical, or something that has not been talked about over many years—it is not something which has not been firmly accepted by those who are authorities on Parliament. The article is by Sir Isaac Isaacs who was, of course, the

Federal Attorney-General in 1905. He was elevated to the High Court of Australia and became Chief Justice and later Governor-General.

Mr. Hawke: He was the first Australian-born to be appointed.

Mr. GRAYDEN: The member for Northam is absolutely right. He was the first Australian to be appointed to that high office. I mention also that he was on the Federal Convention which drew up the Australian Constitution. In those circumstances, I think we could regard him as being an outstanding authority. The following is what he had to say in connection with the matter about which I am speaking:—

"The Parliament is the very core of our constitutional system. It has behind it traditions and a fundamental groundwork that unless denied by a written Constitution, appertains to every British Legislature.

"In Parliament, the people are supposed to be present to make their laws, and generally to watch over and direct their national affairs. That is representative government. It is the high watermark of democracy.

"The Cabinet is a body constitutionally subordinate to Parliament and selected from the representatives to conduct the daily business of the nation, under the supervision, control and direction of the Parliament.

"That supervision, control and direction cannot be abandoned or surrendered by the Parliament without a breach of the trust it undertakes to the people it represents."

The article continues—

Sir Isaac said there was a growing necessity for the Parliament to exercise not less, but greater and more constant vigilance and greater care to maintain in its own hands the power to fulfil the trust implied by the Constitution.

This was a duty dictated by tradition and commonsense and one that every elected representative undertook.

Parliament should not be silent.

"Why should it consent to be deaf, dumb, blind and impotent at the will of its own administrative officers and so reverse the relative positions the Constitution intends them to occupy?" he asked.

"It is a breach of a fundamental right. How long will a sensible people tolerate it?"

"How long will Australians stand by and see their national parliament function like a Trilby to sleep, wake, sing, or be silent at the dictation of whatever Svengali happens to be in control for the time being?"

There is another paragraph which completes his comments; and, at this stage, I emphasise Sir Isaac Isaacs was talking of the Federal Parliament. He said—

"Perhaps the most urgent Federal constitutional reform is for the Parliament to recover its own freedom, for on the parliament centre the whole democratic aspirations of the people."

I quote that paragraph to indicate that this is what Australia's most eminent constitutional authority felt in respect of the function of Parliament. To come to this House and see Parliament virtually become a farce grieves me. I can understand that Ministers do not have much time to think of these things. With the burdens that are imposed on them, Ministers are extraordinarily busy people today. They attend functions all over the State and they attend to all kinds of administrative matters.

Mr. Graham: Unveiling plaques to themselves mostly.

Mr. GRAYDEN: They have a tremendously difficult task to perform and, in the pressure of those duties, I can well understand their virtually overlooking the rights of private members of Parliament. Up to a point, I suppose I can understand their overlooking minorities—and I referred to this matter earlier.

However, I think the time has come when the Government should give earnest consideration to this question, because I am becoming sick and tired of the attitude which is expressed all over the place; namely, that members should not criticise their Government, and that they should simply sit here virtually as rubber stamps and applaud everything the Government does.

I do not believe this is the way to serve the people of Western Australia most effectively. If we continue along these lines, we are not going to function to the limit of our effectiveness as a Parliament. There can be no question about that.

I believe that in respect of the major decisions that have been made over the last few years, if this House had been supplied with far more information than was available, and if members had been encouraged to speak on the issues and had been given adequate time to do so, some of the projects the Government has undertaken would have been even more in the interests of the people of the State. I am not suggesting that the decisions would not have been made, but I believe a better result would have been obtained. I believe the Government has done a tremendous job, but no Government is perfect.

I could illustrate this by saying that every day, we see Ministers required to go from function to function. One can imagine just how much time they must lose in this connection. Just imagine the

results if a Minister got up in the morning and, even before his shave, said, "This is another opportunity to do something for Western Australia; what can I come up with; what can my department come up with which will benefit the people and the State?" Members can imagine what the results would be if that were the situation. However, instead, a Minister no doubt gets up and says, "I am flying up to Carnarvon to open a police station; or I am flying to Broome to open a school."

Mr. Craig: That will be the day!

Mr. GRAYDEN: With the pressure of his duties now, a Minister rises with those thoughts in his mind. We once had a Country Party Minister in the House who refused to attend functions of this kind. He said that if the people of his electorate could not appreciate that it was far more important that he should concentrate on his duties than attend social functions, then there was something wrong with them, and he could not care less.

That Minister did not run around the countryside, but devoted himself to the administration of his department. I do not advocate that all Ministers should follow his example; I am merely quoting the incident to indicate that there is no such thing as a perfect Government. There is plenty of room for improvement in any Government.

Mr. Graham: You can say that again!

Mr. GRAYDEN: There is no question about this. Therefore I believe that if members in this House fulfilled their role in the true spirit of Parliament, this Parliament would be a more effective institution for the people of Australia.

Mr. Bovell: Your philosophy applies to individuals as well. There is plenty of room for improvement among individuals.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I could not agree more with the Minister.

Mr. Graham: The Minister's conscience is pricking him.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I will admit to the Minister for Lands that I myself have been remiss on this matter, because I have been concerned with this question for a long time and I should have raised it much earlier. I promise the Minister for Lands I will not be so lax in the future but will take every opportunity in subsequent debates to bring the question forward, because I think it is something that is tremendously important to Western Australia.

Mr. Rushton: You should have raised it back in 1948.

Mr. GRAYDEN: I repeat that all members of Parliament have a great obligation to fulfil to the people. If any member thinks that when he is elected he has only an obligation to his party there is, as I mentioned earlier, something wrong with such a member. I do not know how much

longer I have to speak, but I do not want to labour the question.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has another eight minutes.

Mr. GRAYDEN: In the circumstances I will refer briefly to some remarks made by the member for Murchison in the House on Wednesday last. He was speaking about the Western Australia Development Corporation and, in the course of his remarks, he made a statement with which I do not agree. He said—

I do not think its intentions could be regarded as being limited to agricultural or pastoral activities. It wishes to explore the possibility of developing areas for light industry, research institutions, transport, and recreation. However, such developments cannot be realised unless the corporation has adequate powers in each case, without the necessity of recourse to specific authorisations from Government departments. Nothing can be done by it if it is subject to constant restriction.

With those words the member for Murchison was referring to the proposal which virtually means handing over the rights of a huge area of land—it was originally set at 4,400,000 acres—in the Balladonia area to the Western Australia Development Corporation. He is saying that not only should the company have the rights to agricultural land, but virtually to everything in this area. I find it extraordinary that in the Parliament of Western Australia, in 1967, we are in the process of considering handing over to a corporation which is owned in the main by overseas interests a large tract of land for a bag of flour. We are giving away a region for a bag of flour, because what the Western Australia Development Corporation is offering in return for the rights to this region is a pittance.

At various times, in the course of history, we have read of instances in Canada where regions have been exchanged for tomahawks and beads. We have had one or two instances in Australia where exchanges of some pieces of land have been made for bags of flour and tea. This State is virtually doing the same now; that is, we are handing over a region to a company in return for a bag of flour, because, as I have said, the company is paying only a pittance for the land. Now it is suggested this company be granted not only the agricultural rights, but also all the other rights in the area. To me, that such a transaction is contemplated is amazing.

The other day I was speaking to a person who has done a great deal of research on this proposal. She has crisscrossed the area in question and has been particularly impressed with the hinterland in the vicinity of Israelite Bay. She says that a few miles inland from that bay one en-

counters country which has a tremendous tourist potential. This woman said that the area is so impressive it should be reserved as a great national park on similar lines to Wilson's Promontory in Victoria.

This evening, in a period of eight minutes, I have not sufficient time to speak fully on this subject. I would like to speak on it for an hour. I had occasion to write to *The West Australian* on the 3rd April, 1967, to express my views on the whole proposal. In doing so I was limited to approximately 1,000 words. I repeat that it is a subject on which I would like to speak at length; in fact, not merely for one hour but for hours on numerous occasions. However, I am merely speaking on the broad aspect of it tonight because of the reference the member for Murchison made to it.

I wish to quote an advertisement which appeared in *The West Australian* not so very long ago. It reads as follows:—

Esperance
Western Australia
"Bedford Harbour" Subdivision
23 Farm Blocks 23
comprised in
52,970 Acres 52,970
of
Agricultural Development Country
for Sale
by

Private Treaty on Freehold Basis
On the instructions of the Esperance
Land and Development Company

This attractive subdivision in safe rainfall area is of mainly gently undulating sandy loam on clay, with easy low-cost clearing. Each block is offered for sale with approximately one third chained, fire-broken, burnt, some picking-up done, then ploughed with a 2 way offset Connor Shea disc plough. By popular demand no other improvements have been done. Some blocks enjoy frontage on the south side of the Esperance-Ravensthorpe bitumen highway, with the remaining blocks running back to within 9 miles of the coast.

The No. 1 rabbit proof fence is on the west boundary of the subdivision. Esperance is 81 miles distant, with Ravensthorpe 39 miles away. Two schools close by.

Prices from \$17,700 to \$20,400

The Esperance Land and Development Company, to which this land was made available, has subdivided it into blocks. The company has done very little development work and it is selling the blocks to Western Australians at the exorbitant prices quoted. In Western Australia we make land available on conditional purchase conditions, the whole object being to allow individuals to take up land at reasonable prices and thus allow them to spend what reserve capital they have on the development of the blocks.

In this instance we have handed land over to a private company which, on subdividing it, is selling the blocks at these extremely high prices. Many purchasers of blocks would have little money left for development. At this stage we now propose to do precisely the same in the Balladonia area. The proprietor of the Balladonia Motel, who has lived in the area for many years, applied, six years ago, for land in the vicinity of the motel, because he recognised its agricultural potential. This man pioneered a remote area by building a motel to provide a service to the public and yet, six years ago, when he applied for that land his application was refused. Despite this, we are now contemplating handing over 4,400,000 acres in the same area to a largely foreign owned company.

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

MR. W. HEGNEY (Mt. Hawthorn) [8.10 p.m.]: The trend of my remarks will be slightly different from that of many of the speakers who have preceded me. I propose to deal with a matter affecting the Commonwealth and State Constitution which was lightly touched upon by the member for South Perth. I am very proud to have this opportunity, and to be able to avail myself of it, to mention a matter of outstanding importance to the Australian people.

This happens to be the centenary of Australia's greatest poet, Henry Lawson. He was born on the 17th June, 1867, and consequently we celebrate his centenary this year. He died on the 2nd September, 1922. He was born in a tent in Grenfell in central New South Wales, and he went through some very hard times—we can all imagine the hard times which people went through in those days in the outback of Australia.

As far as I am aware no other reference has been made to this great man in any of the Australian Parliaments this year. Incidentally the Commonwealth Government and the Commonwealth Bank Board apparently think much of the late Henry Lawson because on the \$10 bill we find his effigy. His poetical works will live for a very long time among the Australian people.

David McKee Wright was another great Australian, and he wrote a preface and an introduction to Henry Lawson's poetical work. With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I would like briefly to read the introduction by David McKee Wright to one of the volumes of Henry Lawson's poems. This was a few years prior to Henry Lawson's death. It reads as follows:—

Henry Lawson was born in a tent on the Grenfell goldfield in 1867. His father was a Norse sailor who became a digger; his mother came of a Kentish family of gipsy blood and tradition. Henry spent his boyhood on old mining fields, and on a selection his father

had taken up. Later, he came to Sydney and learned coachpainting, attended a night school, dabbled in hypnotism, and was caught in the wave of socialism. Very early his verses attracted attention. He was the voice of a new movement; the ringing surging rebellion of his song echoed the unrest of the eighties and nineties, years full of great labour strikes and the breaking up of old political parties. Then he wandered far into the interior of Australia—his fame growing all the while—saw and shared the rude strenuous life of his brothers in a dozen varieties of toil, crossed over to New Zealand, and added to the tang of the gum-leaves something of the salt of the great southern ocean. He has lived the life that he sings, and seen the places of which he writes; there is not a word in all his work which is not instantly recognised by his readers as honest Australian. The drover, the stockman, the shearer, the rider far on the skyline, the girl waiting at the sliprails, the big bush funeral, the coach with flashing lamps passing at night along the ranges, the man to whom home is a bitter memory and his future a long despair, the troops marching to the beat of the drum, the coasting vessel struggling through blinding gales, the great grey plain, the wilderness of the Never-Never—in long procession the pictures pass, and every picture is a true one because Henry Lawson has been there to see with the eyes of his heart.

After the death of Henry Lawson, David McKee Wright wrote as follows in his preface—

The death of Henry Lawson marked the close of the period in Australian literature which began with Henry Kendall. While living, Lawson had many imitators, but no peers; with his death we turned a page to which there can be no additions. He belonged to a past of struggle, pain, and triumph, when the country was in the making. Others will use those days to give their work background of colour and romance; but there can be none to walk where he walked, none to see with his eyes.

There was another great Australian poet who, I think I am right in saying, wrote, among other verses, "Waltzing Matilda" and "The Man From Snowy River." I refer, of course, to Banjo Patterson. Patterson said that the difference between Lawson and himself was that Lawson travelled the outback on foot while he travelled it on horseback. Lawson wrote numerous poems and short stories. As a matter of fact many of his short stories have been translated into foreign languages. He attacked bigotry, class distinction, poverty and exploitation, and he has been likened to Robert Burns and Rudyard

Kipling. Lawson lived in the era before motorcars, wireless, and aeroplanes—the mode of transport in his day was the horse and the bullock team.

In the historic year of 1901, when Australia was federated, Lawson was a young man of 33 or 34, and he was asked to write a poem. He entitled it, "The Man Who Made Australia." This poem does not appear in the later volumes I have seen, but it is honest Australian in its approach, and with your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote a few verses to the House because it would help commemorate the centenary of Henry Lawson. I am sure members would like to hear this poem which runs as follows:—

There'll be royal times in Sydney for
the Cuff and Collar Push,

There'll be lots of dreary drivel and
clap-trap

From the men who own Australia, but
who never knew the Bush,

And who could not point their runs
out on the map.

Oh, the daily Press will grovel as it
never did before,

There'll be many flags of welcome
in the air,

And the Civil Service poet, he shall
write odes by the score—

But the men who made the land
will not be there.

You shall meet the awful Lady of the
latest Birthday Knight—

(She is trying to be English, don't-
cher-know?)

You shall hear the empty mouthing of
the champion blatherskite,

You shall hear the boss of local
drapers blow.

There'll be 'majahs' from the counter,
tailors' dummies from the fleet,

And to represent Australia here
today,

There's the toady with his card-case
and his cab in Downing-street;

But the men who made Australia—
where are they?

Call across the blazing sand wastes of
the Never-Never Land!

There are some who will not
answer yet awhile,

Some whose bones rot in the mulga or
lie bleaching on the sand,

Died of thirst to win the land
another mile.

Thrown from horses, ripped by cattle,
lost on deserts; and the weak,

Mad through loneliness or drink (no
matter which),

Drowned in floods or dead of fever by
the sluggish slimy creek—

These are men who died to make
the Wool-Kings rich.

Call across the scrubby ridges where
they clear the barren soil,
And the gaunt Bush-women share
the work of men—

Toil and loneliness for ever—hardship,
loneliness and toil—

Where the brave drought-ruined
farmer starts again!

Call across the boundless sheep-runs
of a country cursed for sheep—

Call across the awful scrublands
west of Bourke!

But they have no time to listen—they
have scarcely time to sleep—

For the men who conquer deserts
have to work.

Dragged behind the crawling sheep-
flock on the hot and dusty plain,

They must make a cheque to feed
the wife and kids—

Riding night-watch round the cattle
in the pelting, freezing rain,

While world-weariness is pressing
down the lids.

And away on far out-stations, seldom
touched by Heaven's breath,

In a loneliness that smothers love
and hate—

Where they never take white women—
there they live the living death

With a half-caste or a black gin
for a mate.

They must toil to save the gaunt stock
in the blazing months of drought,

When the stinging, blinding blight
is in men's eyes—

On the wretched, burnt selections, on
the big runs further out

Where the sand-storm rises lurid to
the skies.

Not to profit when the grass is wav-
ing waist-high after rain,

And the mightily clip of wool comes
rolling in—

For the Wool-King goes to Paris with
his family again

And the gold that souls are sacri-
ficed to win.

There are carriages in waiting for the
swells from over-sea,

There are banquets in the latest
London style,

While the men who made Australia
live on damper, junk and tea—

But the quiet voices whisper, 'Wait
a while!'

For the sons of all Australia, they
were born to conquer fate—

And, where charity and friendship
are sincere,

Where a sinner is a brother and a
stranger is a mate,

There the future of a nation's
written clear.

Aye, the cities claim the triumphs of
a land they do not know,

But all empty is the day they cele-
brate!

For the men who made Australia
federated long ago,

And the men to rule Australia—
they can wait.

Though the bed may be the rough
bunk or the gum leaves or the
sand,

And the roof for half the year may
be the sky—

There are men amongst the Bushmen
who were born to save the land!

And they'll take their places sternly
by-and-by.

There's a whisper on the desert though
the sunset breeze hath died

In the scrubs, though not a breath
to stir a bough,

There's a murmur, not of waters, down
the Lachlan River side,

'Tis the spirit of Australia waking
now!

There's the weird hymn of the
drought-night on the western
water-shed,

Where the beds of unlocked rivers
crack and parch;

'Tis the dead that we have buried, and
our great unburied dead,

Who are calling now on living men
to march!

Round the camp fire of the fencers
by the furthest panel west,

In the men's hut by the muddy
billabong,

On the Great North-Western Stock-
routes where the drovers never
rest,

They are sorting out the right things
from the wrong.

In the shearers' hut the slush lamp
shows a haggard, stern-faced man

Preaching war against the Wool-
King to his mates;

And wherever go the billy, water-bag
and frying pan,

They are drafting future histories
of states!

That was a little piece he wrote on that
occasion. It is interesting to note he made
two trips to Western Australia; one in
1890, when responsible Government was
established in this State, and another in
1896. As I said previously, he died in
1922.

That brings me to the year 1901 when
the Commonwealth Parliament was estab-
lished. Series of conferences were held
over quite a number of years prior to
the inauguration of the Federation, and
statesmen and representatives of the States
were looking around for a constitution to
meet the needs of Australia. It was de-
cided to adopt, more or less, the American
system of two Houses—the House of
Representatives and the Senate.

We know that when the Australian Constitution was adopted the Senate was to be established to guard the interests of the States. It was to be a protection for the smaller States against the stronger States. That was all right in the early years, but for many years past the Senate has become just as much a party House as the House of Representatives, and it will continue to be so.

A referendum was held recently for the purpose of breaking the nexus, or the relationship in numbers between the Senate and the House of Representatives under which the House of Representatives is to consist of approximately twice the number of members in the Senate. The people of Australia rejected the proposal. I voted "yes" at the referendum, but not on the understanding that the following day the Commonwealth Parliament would increase its numbers. I believe the nexus should be broken; but I also believe the time has arrived—as a matter of fact it is overdue—when the Senate should be abolished altogether, because the people of Australia elect the Government, and not two Houses, to govern for a certain period.

There is no necessity for a second Chamber, because it has been proved beyond any shadow of doubt that the Senate is only an echo of the House of Representatives. As a matter of fact, the members of the Senate today include Ministers in the Cabinet and the Government of the day. They sit in Cabinet and participate in the making of decisions. As far as the Senate is concerned, it is quite unnecessary.

A referendum of the people of Australia into this aspect should be held. From my inquiries of people in different places I am firmly of the opinion that, if there were a referendum as to whether there should be one or two Houses of Parliament, they would adopt the principle of getting rid of the second Chamber.

The Commonwealth Government increased the size of the House of Representatives in 1948, as it was entitled to do under the Constitution, but it also had to increase the size of the Senate from 33 to 60 members. At the time the House of Representatives was increased from 75 to 122 members. In these days when there is compulsory education throughout Australia, when many children continue schooling to the Leaving standard and go on to university education, the people should have sufficient intelligence to be able to elect a Government of one House for a period of three or five years. If they are not sufficiently intelligent now to do that, then they never will be.

My firm conviction is the people will not vote for two Houses. One would be quite sufficient. In regard to the passing of legislation in the Senate, one can find page after page in volume after volume

of *Hansard* to show that when the Opposition or the Government takes a certain stand in the House of Representatives the members of the same political complexion in the Senate take the same stand—as was pointed out by the member for South Perth in the course of his very intelligent remarks.

I now turn to the Constitution of Western Australia. The first nominated Legislative Council was established in 1832. Before I continue I should indicate I am not so simple as to think that many members of Parliament agree with my views on this matter; and I do not expect them to agree. What I am doing is to try to stimulate interest amongst the public, and more particularly amongst the younger generation, to give serious thought to the question of the Constitution, and to ask themselves the question, "Are two Houses really necessary?"

Let me deal with the Constitution of this State. From 1832 there was a nominated Legislative Council; in 1870 there was an elected Legislative Council; and in 1890 there was responsible Government when a Legislative Assembly and a Legislative Council were established. Since that time the Legislative Council has grafted itself onto the Constitution. The House of Review became a House of privilege, because the members were elected on a restricted franchise. Down through the years from 1890 to 1962 or 1963 that House of privilege carried on.

Ever since I was a boy I have heard from politicians and public men who probably had a vested interest that the Legislative Council was a non-party House, and that it was a House of Review established to check hasty legislation. I think you, Mr. Speaker will agree—and if members on either side of the House were honest they would also agree—that nothing is further from the truth, because at the present time there are three Ministers of the Government in the Legislative Council and they take part in decisions arrived at in Cabinet.

As a matter of fact the speeches made by Ministers in this House—I am not criticising the present Ministers for the practice—are often repeated by the Ministers in the Legislative Council, and often the same transcripts are used by them. What is more, at the last election, a few years ago, the members of the Legislative Council were elected on adult franchise—on the very same basis as the members in this House are elected.

Due to incessant agitation by members on this side of the House and by force of public opinion, this Government, a few years ago, found it necessary to introduce legislation to provide for an alteration to the franchise. Every person over the age of 21 years is now entitled to be on the Legislative Assembly roll and the Legislative Council roll. As a matter of fact, there is

only one roll. Whereas a person had to be 30 years of age to be a member of the Legislative Council, he or she can now nominate for a seat at 21 years of age.

This is the position as I see it: There are 50 members in the Legislative Assembly and 30 members in the Legislative Council. The Government of the day—as it is entitled to do—arrives at certain decisions; and three members of the Cabinet represent the Government in another place. Of course, they are bound—and rightly so—by the decisions of Cabinet. So when a Minister here introduces a Bill—the nature of it does not matter—the Government has the numbers to pass it; and when it is sent to the Legislative Council, the position is that the same result obtains. Very rarely is any radical alteration made to legislation by the Legislative Council, or very rarely is a substantial amendment sent back to the Legislative Assembly.

The member for South Perth had something to say about the cost of maintaining the Legislative Council. I should think the cost would be \$300,000 to \$350,000 per year; and I think the Minister for Education could do with some of that money for the purpose of furthering education in this State. The arguments that used to be advanced for the retention of the Legislative Council no longer apply, because we now have adult franchise for both the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly and one House is merely an echo of the other.

Queensland does not have two Houses of Parliament. As a matter of fact, the Queensland Parliament abolished the Legislative Council in the early 1920s. For many years a non-Labor Government has been in power in Queensland but it has not seen fit nor found it necessary to re-establish the Legislative Council.

I have made reference to the Constitution on previous occasions and I propose to reiterate what I said. The Constitution Acts Amendment Act provides for a definition of "Governor" and "Governor in Council." I have said before, and I make no apology for saying it again, the office of Governor in this State should be abolished. I do not refer in any personal way to any of the Governors we have had because over the years we have been fortunate in having very fine men filling that position. My remarks apply entirely to the office. I say without any equivocation that the office of Governor should be abolished and the Chief Justice should act as Administrator. There is no need for the office of Governor to be continued.

As a matter of fact, a few days ago I asked a question on the cost of maintaining the office of Governor. I was amazed to find that the total cost was \$95,000 per year—nearly \$100,000. Therefore the abolition of the Legislative Council and the office of Governor would save the State nearly \$500,000. As I said before, the money saved could be used for the purpose of edu-

cation. The reason I suggest the office of Governor should be abolished is this: The Governor is only a figurehead. A Governor was necessary in the early days of the colony—I admit that—but over the years distance has been annihilated and everybody receives a certain education.

I have had the experience of being in the Cabinet room when the Governor has been presiding over an Executive Council meeting. If two Cabinet Ministers are present, the senior of the two passes certain documents to the Governor. These documents contain decisions previously arrived at by the Cabinet. His Excellency the Governor initials the documents—that is all he is entitled to do at an Executive Council meeting—and the meeting lasts about half an hour.

We recently had the experience when the Leader of the Opposition—he may have been Deputy Leader of the Opposition at the time—had occasion to complain to His Excellency the Governor about the Government not carrying out the law. I suggest that the Governor could do nothing else but refer the matter to the people about whom the Leader of the Opposition was complaining.

Therefore in my opinion the right man to act as Administrator for this State is the Chief Justice. He is a man with high legal attainments; he is appointed for life and not subject to political changes; and I think he is a man who would fulfil the job with dignity. In addition, I think the State would be well served by him.

I do not intend to go into detail about the property in St. George's Terrace—Government House and Government Gardens. However, the other day the Premier mentioned that large buildings in the vicinity were overshadowing Government House. The Premier did not suggest that another Government House would be built; but I understand there are reports which suggest a portion of King's Park should be excised for the purpose of building another Government House. That might be something for the society for the preservation of King's Park to get its teeth into! So much for matters about the Constitution.

My final remarks are in connection with the recent dismissal of the town planner for the City of Perth. I do not think this is a matter that has been mentioned in the House before, so I propose to ask the Government—I cannot hear the mumbblings of the Minister for Lands, but do not think they mean anything—to give serious consideration to the appointment of a suitable person to hold an inquiry into matters surrounding the dismissal of Mr. Ritter. I do not know the pros and cons of this argument, but I did see the telecast and I have read certain reports in the Press. However, beyond that, I have not discussed the matter with anyone.

In the circumstances, I believe an inquiry should be held. It appears a meeting was called by the ratepayers under the provisions of the Local Government Act. The meeting was chaired by the Lord Mayor and certain statements were made. Apparently it was decided by certain interested ratepayers that another meeting should be held. In the meantime, Mr. Ritter was dismissed from his employment.

I understand the Lord Mayor has requested that an inquiry be held. I also understand that a number of prominent citizens have requested the Minister for Local Government to hold an inquiry, but he has declined to do so. He said that an inquiry was not necessary. I believe that both sides say they have nothing to hide; and in the interests of the public, and as a voter on the Municipality of Perth electoral roll, I personally consider there should be an inquiry into the position.

In 1963 the Minister, at the request of one of the councillors, ordered an inquiry into the administration of the Collie Shire Council. The Minister has the power to do that under section 683 of the Local Government Act. We also know that recently a traffic inspector at Albany was suspended by the council and he was given the benefit of an inquiry. Provision is made, under section 158, for an inquiry to be held in connection with the dismissal or suspension of town clerks and other employees of local authorities; but, of course, the town planner does not come under that. However, that is no reason why in the circumstances an inquiry should not be held because, after all is said and done, Mr. Ritter occupied a very important position. He was bound, I suppose, to express different views or suggest different propositions from those expressed by councillors. There are 27 councillors and they represent a diversity of interests, the same as there are in this Chamber people following different professions and occupations.

Human nature being what it is, there naturally could be some jealousies and misunderstandings. I had the experience years ago on more than one occasion of situations in which people were victimised. I am not saying that Mr. Ritter has been victimised, but some of the circumstances surrounding his dismissal lend colour to the possibility that he was victimised.

If neither side has anything to hide, the Government would be well advised to have the position cleared by arranging for an inquiry. We must remember that the City of Perth—the capital of the State—has had a fair name up to date; but I can assure the Deputy Premier that quite a number of people are not satisfied with the way things have gone in this matter—not by any means.

Mr. Graham: The Lord Mayor wants an inquiry.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I just mentioned that. He would not ask for an inquiry if he did not think it was justified. I know that at times a council can become a close-knit organisation, as it were, with one member protecting another. There could be strong personalities amongst the councillors, and they could have a lot of, not necessarily undue influence, but at least strong influence over the others.

I have not had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Ritter, but he was selected from a number of applicants, and was regarded as a man of outstanding ability. It seems strange, therefore, that a meeting of the ratepayers was held, at which he spoke, incidentally, and another meeting is to be held, but, in the meantime, he is tramped. I am not personally satisfied with the situation and would like the Minister, acting on behalf of the Government, to arrange for some consideration to be given to the matter. It should be re-examined and an inquiry held. I am sure the Government would appoint someone of unimpeachable character to hold the appropriate inquiry, and everyone would be required to abide by the result.

MR. CROMMELIN (Claremont) [8.44 p.m.]: As there has been some controversy in the Press recently in regard to the immigration problem, I want to take this opportunity to say a few words in regard to it. As members would know, the Graylands Commonwealth Immigration Hostel is situated in my district, and caters for 1,100 people. All the exaggerated comments, etc., which appear in the Press seem to have been expressed by a few disgruntled migrants who have since returned home.

At the same time I think we should be fair and ask ourselves whether the men who are going to England to choose these migrants are fully ware of the facts, both in regard to where the migrants shall live first, and also in regard to the prospects of obtaining a home. This latter seems to be the burning question with a great number of them.

The hostel was established in 1951 and in the whole of the time since then, until recently, no improvements have been made. The buildings in which the migrants are housed are known as Nissen huts. They have round iron roofs which come down the sides, and they have wooden ends. They get very hot, but cool down quickly, I understand. At the present time the Commonwealth Government is building more accommodation, but this is of brick or concrete blocks and is a vast improvement.

Members can appreciate how a man and his wife in England could be to some extent attracted to Australia, and Western Australia in particular. A certain amount of glamour is entailed in coming to Australia. First of all the boat trip itself costs practically nothing—£10 sterling.

The migrants call at various ports and eventually arrive at their destination, and we can understand some men and their wives being attracted by this voyage. However, when they get here they are, to some extent, disillusioned. They are not disillusioned by what they see, but only as a result of what they have been told.

Quite frankly, I feel that some of them listen, yet do not hear. They hear what they want to hear, but do not listen to that which is a little distasteful to them. That is why they become disgruntled when they arrive here. Let us face facts. When a large community of 1,100 is living in a small area in Nissen huts which have two or three rooms, and the nearest neighbour is possibly 20 feet away in one direction, and 30 feet in another, those concerned must get the feeling that they are in a crowded area.

There is no question about the hostel being a slum area, or unhealthy or unhygienic. As the Minister explained today, those points are well covered by the Netherlands City Council health authorities. However, we must not lose sight of the fact that these people who come to live in this hostel do suffer a certain number of drawbacks, and it is hard to make excuses for such drawbacks.

For instance, the families cannot cook their own meals. They can make themselves a cup of tea and have afternoon tea, but cannot cook any meals at all. They have no toilet facilities in the huts in which they live. At all hours of the day and night they and their children must go to communal toilets. The situation is being overcome now in the new buildings. Nevertheless, week after week, and month after month, these people have been putting up with these drawbacks; and it is hard for a person to live in a place like that when he is a little despondent.

I have walked around the hostel at different times over the past 10 years, not only in connection with my political ambitions, but also in an endeavour to help the people through our church group, and also in an endeavour to help the youth. The youth has been a problem at times, especially to the police in the district, although the situation appears to be reasonably good at present.

We do get the migrant who has been attracted to the country, and who, when he has been here a few months, finds his wife has become homesick and wants to go home. No matter what he says, she still wants to return. The first thing he does is to stick to his job until he can save enough money to take her home. When it comes to the question of a house, however, a different type of migrant is involved. He puts his name down for a house; and, in this respect, agents from the commission are stationed there to deal with inquiries.

I know of people who have put their names down for a house and who, in the meantime, have had an opportunity to rent a house at a reasonable rental. It has not been a Housing Commission home and they have refused to accept it because they preferred to wait for a Housing Commission house. In addition to that, there is the problem of the people who are offered a Housing Commission home but they want one in another district. Today, of course, the waiting period is longer than it was two or three years ago.

These people are entitled to stay in the hostel for two years and, if they so desire, at the end of that period they can make application for an extension. The people live in the hostels and pay an average of \$6 per week. For that \$6 they get accommodation of two or three rooms, and they get their furniture, blankets, and food supplied. However, what happens to some of them? Before they have been there a great length of time—and one can drive over and verify this—one will see all types of motorcars and television sets being purchased by these people.

Of course, a migrant who is paying \$6 a week for his maintenance can afford to save a deposit fairly quickly to buy a motorcar. Plenty of new cars can be seen in that area. Those who are not prepared to buy a new motorcar will buy an old bomb. So it is that in a few months they are in trouble because they cannot afford to keep up the payments on the new motorcars and cannot afford the repair bills on the old cars. Consequently, when they are offered a house, they are not in the race to accept it because of the hire-purchase agreements on their cars and television sets. When they can live at the hostel for \$6 a week they do not save for a home, and consequently they have to turn down the offer of a house.

Unfortunately, those types cannot be classed as being very bright. If they had any intelligence they would plan what to do in the first few months when living in a new State. In the years 1949 to 1953 there was a hostel at Dunreath for foreign migrants. I know one man who was there during the period I have mentioned and he told me it was amazing the difference between that hostel and the one at Graylands. He said that from Friday night until Sunday night there was not a soul in the hostel at Dunreath. After the migrants had been there a few weeks, or a few months, each one of the families appeared to save enough money to pay a deposit on a block of land. Once they paid that deposit they worked on the block of land.

Those people from Dunreath succeeded in buying land and building their own houses, but if one went to Graylands it would be difficult to find anyone who

would be able to put down a deposit on a block of land. Of course, one could not compare the prices of the blocks of land. But if one were to look at the wages of 1949 and compare them with the wages of today there would not be a great deal of difference between buying a block of land then and buying one now.

Mr. Toms: Yes there would.

Mr. CROMMELIN: Not a great deal of difference. I am not referring to blocks in the metropolitan area.

Mr. Rowberry: Could you work out a figure?

Mr. CROMMELIN: I have not worked out a figure.

Mr. Toms: It would be quite interesting.

Mr. CROMMELIN: It would be interesting, but one would get quite a surprise if the wages of 20 years ago were compared with what are paid today.

Mr. Toms: They are not comparable.

Mr. Williams: It depends on where one wants a block of land.

Mr. CROMMELIN: I do not know who is sent across to advise the migrants and I do not know whether those who are sent have had any experience of talking to the migrants who are in our hostels. I do not know if the people concerned try to find out if the migrants were told the full facts before they left England. The point is, the migrants should be told the full facts before coming here. I know that to some of them it does not matter what they are told. They are so excited at the prospect of coming here that they do not take any notice.

We recently read in the Press of one family who complained bitterly because a number of children from that family had gone to Fairbridge. In this respect I would point out that in the case of a large family, before they leave England they are told that they must sign a document to say they are agreeable to a certain number of their children going to Fairbridge. Yet those families get here and then complain. One family that I spoke to complained bitterly that seven of their nine children were at Fairbridge.

Mr. May: That was not the object of Fairbridge.

Mr. CROMMELIN: I did not say it was. I am pointing out that the people agree to be parted from their children. In my opinion, that would be the worst thing in a new country—to be parted from one's children. Yet those people are prepared to agree to that parting, but when they get here they squawk and say that they want their children all together. Even at Graylands, up to six children can be accommodated.

Mr. Toms: They should not be asked to part from their children in the first place. That should not be a stipulation.

Mr. CROMMELIN: It is not a stipulation.

Mr. Toms: It is a condition.

Mr. CROMMELIN: No. I said that if they were asked to part from the children they could say "Yes" or "No." Those people know how difficult it is to get a house to accommodate nine children. Not many houses can accommodate that number. Consequently, those people probably grasp at straws; but, having done so, what is the good of coming out and complaining?

Mr. May: The Government should make a special effort to provide a house for any family with nine children.

Mr. Rowberry: Is that the only choice they have?

Mr. O'Connor: There is nothing wrong with a family of nine.

Mr. CROMMELIN: As I have said, it is unfortunate that a few create all the trouble which is published in the Press. When they go back home they usually complain. As far as I am concerned, the sooner those people are out of the country the better it is for all. They only spread discontent.

Up until about 18 months ago, the complete period of turnover was 27 weeks. The average now is 36 weeks. That shows that those who want to go out and find something are able to do so, otherwise the turnover would be over a longer period. I can imagine that those disgruntled migrants who do go back to England are, perhaps, better off. I refer to those who do not like the country, or the work, or the climate, or anything else. Today in England a man and his wife, with three or four children, can get approximately \$28 a week on the dole. They can live in a council house and receive free medical, dental, and educational facilities. If that man decides to go to work, what does he earn?

On the ordinary basic wage, he earns \$29 per week. That is what is happening in England today. A person receives one more dollar for working than he receives for sitting on his tail and doing nothing. There are thousands of people who are doing that in England today, and that is the tragedy. The type of person, who comes to Western Australia and does not want to stay, goes back and does nothing. I could take members of this House to Claremont and show them one man who is single, and who has been in this country less than two months. He is earning \$44 a week, and he has "had" Western Australia; he is off home. He will have his fare saved up soon and he will go back to England. What will he do when he gets there? Absolutely nothing. He can earn \$22 a week by sitting on his tail and doing nothing. I say the sooner he goes back to England the better.

Mr. Rowberry: He is a consumer.

Mr. Court: He is a charge on the taxpayer.

Mr. Rowberry: What is to be done about it?

Mr. CROMMELIN: Tonight I am endeavouring to point out to the members of this House that it has to work both ways. The officers who choose immigrants have to be factual and endeavour to obtain the best type of immigrant available. To some extent I think the type of immigrant the country is now getting is not quite as good as the one of a few years ago, because there are just not the men and women who want to come to Australia. On top of this is the fact that they want their own home above everything else, and to have to wait two to two-and-a-half years is not any great incentive.

I had those few words to say on the subject because, as I said before, I have seen these people and I have spoken to them over a period of 10 or 12 years. On the whole, the average man and his wife who live in Graylands are good types of citizens, and they will continue to be good types of citizens. It is only the few no-hopers at Graylands who cause dissension amongst the others in spite of the fact that they live as a community. Let us face the facts; living in a community with families all around and very little space for amenities—although there is a recreation hall and rooms for children to play in—one cannot get away from one's neighbours. They are just too close, and it is a strain on the womenfolk and their families.

I leave this subject at that point. I now want to talk on one or two small items which are of interest to me. Firstly, I was very pleased to hear that the Minister for Police decided there would be a 65 miles per hour speed limit in this State. I have never thought that a man who drove at 75 miles per hour reached his destination very much quicker than a man who travelled at 65 miles per hour. In addition, I do not think the man who travels at the higher speed realises his own danger. Although he may have the best car in the world, it is not he or the car that causes the trouble; it is the other fellow who cuts the corner that causes the collision.

In this regard, I also want to mention how it is good to see that more and more drunk drivers are being caught. Unfortunately, we are not catching enough of them. I suppose as time goes on more and more will be apprehended. However, I suggest that if the police were to be outside some of the hotels at closing time, and between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday nights, the Police Department could add to its income quite considerably.

In this respect it is interesting to read in the minutes of the National Safety Council of last Wednesday, in regard to the statistics of deaths on the road, the following:—

The discussion followed during which time it was observed that 50 per cent. of motor vehicle drivers who had been killed in accidents and tested by Doctor Pearson showed positive signs of

alcohol, and 44.4 per cent. at a level of alcohol above one per cent.

This is really terrific. It also stated—

Doctor Pearson reported that 70 per cent. of all drivers in accidents in which only one car was involved, that is, had hit a tree or a post or overturned, had alcohol in their blood.

Therefore we still face up to the problem of excessive use of alcohol by motorists who, at times, unfortunately do not realise that they have an excess of alcohol in their blood.

I personally have become quite callous in regard to the statements I read in the papers. It is a stupid statement, I think, to appear in a paper, that a car has swerved off the road and hit a tree. To my knowledge I have never heard of a car with an electronic brain being able to swerve off a road and hit a tree. In my opinion it is the man who swerves off the road, hits the tree, and normally kills himself. I am not greatly concerned with the man killing himself, but I am very concerned about the other people that he kills—either his passengers or people in the other vehicle, if one is involved.

The final subject on which I wish to speak relates to the question I asked tonight in regard to endeavouring to provide transport for passengers from Perth to Fremantle by the river. We have all heard from the Minister for Works and every other member in this House about the excessive costs of maintaining the roads in this State. It does not cost very much to maintain the river, and consequently there is no need to worry to any great extent in that respect.

With the different types of fast boats which are available, and with the fast out-board motors which quite easily make a boat capable of attaining a speed of 30 or 40 knots, the time has now come to start a service from Fremantle which stops at appointed places on the river and terminates at Barrack Street jetty. There are jetties on the river which are quite capable of accommodating these launches which, of course, would be required to have a very shallow draft. In this respect, I can appreciate, perhaps, that hydrofoils would not be practicable because they have a draft of around 6 or 8 feet.

Mr. Jamieson: What happens when they get to Aquarama and have to cut their speed back to nothing?

Mr. CROMMELIN: Is the member for Beeloo talking about the ordinary boat?

Mr. Jamieson: I am talking about a boat of any size that can convey passengers.

Mr. CROMMELIN: Catamarans are available which draw only about 1 ft. 6 in. These would not have to cut their speed at all but could go around the bank.

Mr. Jamieson: It is not a matter of going around the bank. I am speaking

about when they meet the boats of the member for Darling Range and others on the river.

Mr. CROMMELIN: I was in Aquarama this morning having a look at a boat. I do not see any more difficulty in going around a bend in the river than in hitting a tree.

Mr. May: A lot of people go around the bend.

Mr. CROMMELIN: I return to the point which I am endeavouring to make; that is, surely there are types of boats available today which can be driven at a reasonable speed. These would not have to be driven over 35 to 40 knots in order to compete with an M.T.T. bus. I admit that, at times, I find it very difficult to keep up with the M.T.T. buses on Stirling Highway; they certainly exceed the speed limit. I have not seen an M.T.T. bus stopped by the police yet, but perhaps they will be in the future.

On a boat which would carry possibly 60 passengers, the upkeep would be small as there are no tyres and the only costs involved are in engine repair and maintenance of the hull. I feel certain that at selected spots on the river where there is parking space available these boats could be brought into operation effectively and they could bring passengers from Fremantle to Perth for nearly the same price as the M.T.T., if not at a better price.

There would be only one point to consider. I mention that I asked this question 11 years ago, although at that time it was not in regard to boats on the river. At that stage I asked whether a bus could be made available to go from the council parking areas on a trip round town and drop off the people where they wanted to go. The same thing would be necessary if passengers were brought up the river by boat. They could be dropped at Barrack Street jetty and, perhaps, a single run in a bus could be included in the fare on the boat. I consider that if this proposal were adopted it would help considerably to save traffic congestion on the roads.

Let us face facts; traffic congestion will get worse and worse. Soon we will not be able to afford to park in the Perth City Council parking areas; and if we could leave our cars in parking areas along the river and journey up in a decent boat at a decent speed and at a reasonable price, surely this would help to solve the transport problem in this State.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. O'Connor (Minister for Transport).

House adjourned at 9.11 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 23rd August, 1967.

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

QUESTIONS (11): ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

SHEEP FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Inspections for Burr Infestation

2. The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Are sheep imported from South Australia inspected by an inspector approved by the Western Australian Department of Agriculture before leaving South Australia?
- (2) Are such sheep again inspected on arrival at Parkeston?
- (3) Is it correct that sheep that have been passed by the inspector in South Australia have subsequently been held at Parkeston for shearing because of suspected burr infestation or for any other reason?
- (4) If the answer to (3) is "Yes," can the department state approximately the length of wool carried by these sheep?
- (5) Is it considered that the inspection in South Australia is adequate?
- (6) If so, why is it necessary to re-inspect the sheep at Parkeston, to the detriment of the sheep and at considerable increased cost to the owner when these sheep, inspected and passed in South Australia, are detained for shearing?
- (7) Is it correct that a charge of 10c per head is made for the use of the shearing shed for each sheep shorn?
- (8) Is it correct that sheep have been detained for considerable periods awaiting shearing, owing to inadequate facilities at Parkeston?
- (9) (a) What was the total number of sheep imported from the Eastern States annually for each of the last three years; and
(b) how many sheep have arrived at Parkeston during the last two months?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Sheep imported from South Australia are inspected by officers of the South Australian Department of Agriculture with a view to issuing the certificate required by this State.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes.