

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY: It did, and it generally does. The curtailment of speeches is not a bad idea, and I think it has proved to be beneficial. Members, of course, take the opportunity, when speaking to the Address-in-reply, to express their views on matters appertaining to the Government and the welfare of the State, as well as to those dealing with their own constituencies. If the Government decided that it was not going to permit the Address-in-reply to drag on, it would be taking a proper stand; and there would be no objection from me.

Mr. May: Were you always ready in years gone by?

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY: Yes, I used to make my contribution to the Address-in-reply fairly early; I never waited until the closing stages to speak to the motion.

The Premier: And those contributions were always informative!

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY: There is no doubt about that; in that respect the Premier is certainly a good judge.

The Minister for Railways: You have done quite well today.

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY: I thank the Minister for that remark.

The Minister for Lands: You heard that one.

Hon. Sir ROSS McLARTY: In conclusion, I do hope that the Premier will bring down the Budget early—I feel that is his intention at present—and that full scope will be given to members not only to discuss the Budget itself, but to deal with all the departments and items concerned.

On motion by Hon. A. F. Watts, debate adjourned.

*House adjourned at 5.55 p.m.*

## Legislative Council

Wednesday, 23rd June, 1954.

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## QUESTIONS.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

(a) *As to Delivery to Norseman, Cost, etc.*

Hon. G. BENNETTS asked the Chief Secretary:

(1) What is the delivery costs of water, per thousand gallons, from Mundaring to the Coolgardie-Norseman take-off?

(2) What is the delivery cost, per thousand gallons, from the Coolgardie take-off to Norseman and the detail of such cost?

(3) What was the average daily gallonage delivered to Norseman for the months of December, 1953, and January and February, 1954?

(4) What was the average number of hours daily of booster pump operation at Widgiemooltha and Higginsville respectively for the months of December, 1953, and January and February, 1954, respectively?

(5) What was the daily operational cost of booster pump stations at Widgiemooltha and Higginsville for the months of December, 1953, and January and February, 1954, respectively?

(6) When supply of water to the Norseman section is restricted at the Coolgardie take-off, as has been the case recently, would not the booster pump stations at Coolgardie and Norseman be equal to delivering such restricted supply without the booster aid of the Widgiemooltha and Higginsville stations?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

(1) Estimated 9s. 8d. per thousand gallons (1952-53).

(2) Estimated, 1952-53—5s. 6d. made up as follows:—

	s.	d.
Local pumping .....	2	3
Maintenance main and reticulation .....	5	
Interest sinking fund and administration purposes ....	2	10

Gallons Per Day.

(3) December, 1953 .....	400,000
January, 1954 .....	343,000
February, 1954 .....	370,000
	Hours.

(4) December, 1953 .....	9.1
January, 1954 .....	3.1
February, 1954 .....	4.2

	Per Day.		
	£	s.	d.
(5) December, 1953 .....	18	1	0

Reduced pumping—			
January, 1954 .....	7	10	6
February, 1954 .....	9	10	0

These costs cover wages and all pay overheads, fuels, oils, etc.

(6) No.

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

*(b) As to Storage and Consumption.*

Hon. N. E. BAXTER asked the Chief Secretary:

(1) What was the total calculated water storage at the end of the 1953 winter—

(a) at Canning Dam;

(b) at Mundaring Weir?

(2) What was the total consumption of water, drawn from Canning and Mundaring, for the year ended the 31st December, 1953—

(a) in the metropolitan area;

(b) in the country?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

(1) (a) Canning Dam: 20,550 million gallons (full).

(b) Mundaring Weir: 10,084 million gallons.

(2) (a) In the Metropolitan Area:

From Canning Dam—8,682 million gallons.

From Mundaring Weir—Nil.

(b) In the Country:

From Canning Dam—Nil.

From Mundaring Weir—2,682 million gallons.

*(c) As to Adequacy of Conservation Facilities.*

Hon. N. E. BAXTER asked the Chief Secretary:

Does the Government consider that the present conservation facilities are adequate to meet the annual increasing requirements?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

For the metropolitan area, no. Plans are well advanced for providing further supplies. For the country (ex Mundaring), yes.

**HOUSING.***As to Condemnation Orders.*

Hon. N. E. BAXTER asked the Chief Secretary:

(1) How many condemnation orders of living premises have been issued by the Health Department since the 1st January, 1954—

(a) in the metropolitan area;

(b) in the country?

(2) What is the number of condemnation orders that the Health Department has instructed local health authorities to issue since the 1st January, 1954?

(3) In view of the alarm expressed by the Government over the present housing position, and the rents and tenancies position, which the Government appears to be so concerned about, does the Minister consider that the issue of condemnation orders by the health authorities is in keeping with the proposed legislation to restrict evictions?

The CHIEF SECRETARY replied:

(1) Nil.

(2) Nil.

(3) Health authorities issue condemnation orders on dwellings because of features that are detrimental to health. Every effort is made to prevent hardship arising therefrom and ample time is given the occupier to obtain alternative accommodation. Such condemnation has little or no effect on the present housing position.

**BILL—SUPPLY (No. 1), £16,500,000.***Standing Orders Suspension.*

On motion by the Chief Secretary, resolved:

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the Supply Bill (No. 1) to pass through all stages at any one sitting.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.***Third Day.*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland) [4.38]: May I preface my remarks by congratulating you, Sir, on being elevated to the highest position that can be attained in this Chamber? We trust that while you occupy that position, members will not make it unduly hard for you, and that at the end of your term you will be able to look back to a satisfactory period of office, not only from your own point of view, but also from that of this House.

I would also like to say how sorry I am that some former members of this Chamber were defeated at the recent election. At the same time I congratulate those who have been elected, and trust that their deliberations will be of benefit to the State generally.

A perusal of the Governor's opening Speech would convey that this State is in a very satisfactory position; that everybody is happy; that there is full employment; and that everything in the garden is lovely. I know that the Speech is presented by the Governor, but it is first of all framed by the Government. The reason for my referring to the matter is that only five weeks ago there was a Federal election; and although, according to this Speech, everything in the garden is lovely. If we refer to the advertisements that were issued five weeks ago, we find that an entirely different picture was presented. It is funny how conditions can alter in five short weeks, so that whereas at that time everything was said to be in a mess, now everything in the garden is lovely! That is very strange, is it not? I thought I would like the House to know that some folk remember the contradictory statement made by the same people on different occasions.

The first part of the Speech intimated that this session was summoned earlier than the customary time so that the Government could bring down legislation dealing with rents and tenancies. I think that the Government has a bit of a neck even to suggest such a thing after its action during the special session of Parliament last April. No greater piece of political hypocrisy has been put across the people of Western Australia than was put across at the special session.

Hon. E. M. Davies: You flew a kite that did not come off.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: It is unfortunate that the people of this State have not been told the truth of what happened during that session. But we cannot even get the newspapers to print it. The reports of what happened in this House do not state the truth at any stage of the game.

The Minister for the North-West: Do not tell me that the papers will not print it for you!

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: My opinion of the papers is that they are more anti this side of the Chamber than the other.

Hon. G. Bennetts: Do not give us that!

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: If the hon. member looks through the papers, he will find that what I say is correct. Unfortunately, on this occasion, both the Government and the Press were wrong. I shall refer to a couple of statements made in the Press; and at no stage has any attempt been made to correct them.

Hon. A. F. Griffith: Look how interested the Press is today.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I shall refer to that directly. I have here the editorial of the "Sunday Times" of the 18th April which refers to "the slaughter of the Bill by the Upper House." This House did not slaughter the Bill. The editorial goes on to say—

It is difficult to understand why the Legislative Council, realising that most property owners were already reasonable in their demands, did not in the interests of those people as well as the tenants, leave in the legislation sufficient to check those who would abuse the privileges that have been given to them as landlords.

The amendment which Mr. Watson moved was the very thing the paper said was not left in the Bill; but, again, no attempt was made to correct the untruths stated there. What is more, what does the "Sunday Times" know about what happens in this House? It never has a reporter here to find out what goes on, so that it is not in a position to print a report of our proceedings. Apparently it goes to the Government, and what the Government says

is gospel. Again, the Minister for Housing, when speaking about the results, is reported in the same paper to have said—

This is the result of the action of the Liberal and Country parties through their members in the Legislative Council who defeated the desires of the Government to continue some form of control at least until the end of the year.

Again, this House attempted to amend the Bill to give some control until the end of August. But what happened? The Government refused to accept the amendment.

The Chief Secretary: You could not even accept it among yourselves. You had two proposals here.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The Minister knows that had he accepted the amendment moved by Mr. Simpson it would have been carried in this House. He also knows that had the Government accepted the amendment in another place, it would have been carried there.

The Chief Secretary: I never anticipate what might be carried.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: On both occasions the Government refused to accept the amendments. It did not want to accept any amendment.

The Chief Secretary: You did not want to give any protection either.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The amendment was moved in an attempt to give protection, but the Government refused to accept it.

The Chief Secretary: And the fangs were drawn out by one of your members!

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The Government is to blame, and no one else, for the position today; and it is time the people of Western Australia knew it.

The Chief Secretary: Have a look at the voting list and see how many of your people are on it!

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: From the remarks that were passed around the Chamber when the amendment was moved by Mr. Simpson, I know what would have happened to it.

The Chief Secretary: He was so confident that he did not bother to divide the House.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The Chief Secretary refused to accept it, and said so, therefore what was the good of going on with it? I will admit that there were a few on this side of the Chamber who would have voted against it; but with the Government members behind the amendment, it could have been carried. This House did carry the amendment moved by Mr. Watson.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: Should the Government, like a dog, accept any bone thrown to it?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: From the sob-story put up to us when the Minister was almost crying on our shoulders about what was going to happen to the poor old tenant, one would have thought that the Government would have accepted something to help him. But what did the Government do when it came to the point? It refused to accept anything at all. At no stage did it have a thought about the tenant. The whole matter was a purely political stunt, nothing more nor less. It is time the people of this State knew that it was the Government that refused to accept our amendments, and so threw away the last vestige of control and put the tenants where they are today.

The Chief Secretary: You told the people that story, but they did not believe you.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The people do not know the truth of the story.

The Chief Secretary: You told them, but they did not believe you.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The papers have printed their reports. I have already stated what was in the paper.

The Chief Secretary: I have seen it in the paper.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: What was in the "Sunday Times" was not true, as the Chief Secretary knows. Mrs. Hutchison, in her opening speech, twitted this House and said that she was ashamed of what it did. Well, this House has nothing to be ashamed of; and if the hon. member wants any sympathy, she should go to her own party and not come to the House.

The Chief Secretary: If you say that often enough, you may convince yourself.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I am well and truly convinced about it now. The amendment moved by Mr. Watson was an attempt to stop the bushranger. It would have had the effect of preventing quite a number of evictions; but the Government would not accept it. Therefore it is obvious that at no stage of the game did the Government want to accept an amendment. It did not want the Bill to go through. There would have been a majority on the side of the Government at one stage had the Government wanted the amendment; but it did not want it.

I wish to refer to some of the actions of the Government, and to its discourtesy in connection with the special train to Kalgoorlie. In reply to a question yesterday, it was stated that, apart from the members of the Government, the Leader of the Opposition, Sir Ross McLarty; the Leader of the Country Party, Mr. Watts; Sir Charles Latham, Mr. Simpson, and Mr. Hearman had been invited. This is not exactly correct. Mr. Watts was invited, but at that time Sir Charles Latham had not been invited. It was only because of the inability of Mr. Watts to go that Sir

Charles Latham was invited. Mr. Hearman, another member who was supposed to be invited, was not invited in the first place; it was not until he pushed his barrow that he got an invitation.

Hon. A. F. Griffith: The reply was that members of the Government only were invited and—

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: No member of this Chamber, apart from Mr. Simpson, who is an ex-Minister for Railways, was even given the courtesy of being invited. This was an action unparalleled in the history of government in this State, and I take exception to it. I do not say that I would have gone had I been asked; I would probably have refused at the time. But I think it only gracious to ask each member of Parliament to attend such functions instead of members from one side only being invited. To my knowledge no other Government has been so discourteous.

Hon. G. Bennetts: If we get this resotrain all members can come down to Esperance.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I now want to refer to other parts of the Governor's Speech. The Department of Agriculture is mentioned in regard to scientific research. Despite the fact that we on this side—particularly Country Party members—have, for many years, endeavoured to impress upon the Government that insufficient money is made available to the Department of Agriculture, there has been little improvement in that direction. Probably it is looked upon as the junior department, and therefore gets the least amount of money. In these days science is playing a big part in agriculture and will continue to do so in the future; therefore it is essential that more money be granted to this department. It becomes even more important when one realises that the prosperity of this State depends upon agriculture.

I refer particularly to three important aspects connected with the department: firstly, soil erosion; secondly, salt encroachment; and, thirdly, the veterinary service throughout the State. Two years ago I was able to see a demonstration in regard to the prevention of soil erosion in the Mingenew district. That demonstration was arranged by the Department of Agriculture. I am happy to say that the farmers in that district who saw the demonstration have followed up the good work, and it is an eye-opener to see the amount of land that has been reclaimed because of the scientific knowledge made available to the farmers in that area. Unfortunately, the department has not a sufficient number of experts to send to all other districts. Unless we do something soon, the few acres that are gradually being brought under control each year will be offset by the large number of acres being lost in other parts of the State.

The problem of salt encroachment is one that has been placed before the public and Governments over the last five or six years. There again the department is so small and we have so few experts that they are unable to get around and advise farmers on the best methods to adopt. For the last 12 months I have been endeavouring to get a member of the Soil Conservation Committee to visit Three Springs. When one realises what has happened in that district—and the same problem occurs in many other districts throughout the State—one can appreciate how long it will take, under the present set-up, to do something about this problem. Year after year, hundreds of acres of good land are being rendered useless because of the salt encroachment. In a primary producing State such as ours, we cannot afford to lose what, in most cases, is our most valuable land.

The scientific members of the Department of Agriculture also have many problems to overcome in our North-West. I think the Minister for the North-West, and other members from that area, will agree with me in that contention. The other day I read a report in regard to a field trial that had taken place at the North-West research station, and the results of that trial were most illuminating. But to have only one trial in the whole of the North-West appeared to me to be a puny attempt to overcome the problems. I think the Minister for the North-West will agree with me there, too. The field is so vast that we need hundreds of experts to experiment in those particular areas. In the Meekatharra area, particularly, stock were dying in hundreds just prior to the last rains. But had some expert advice been available as to the best types of pastures to grow, and how they should be grown, probably many of the sheep could have been saved.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: Big strides have been made in that direction.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I admit that; but they have not been quick enough.

The Minister for the North-West: The pastoralists have been there for about 80 years.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I know that; and, as a result, they have their own set rules. In the early days it was all right; but since then, in many cases, the areas have been eaten out.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: Then you agree with what I said—they have taken everything out and put nothing back.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: In many cases, I agree.

Hon. G. Bennetts: I suppose they have been overstocking.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Probably that happened in many instances; but it has also happened in other parts of Western Australia, particularly in the agricultural areas.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: That is true.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: That is why we need the scientific knowledge. If we can get that knowledge we can tell these people how to overcome their problems. So I emphasise the fact that the department is not big enough; there are not enough experts to advise people how to bring their properties back into a good state of production.

Hon. C. H. Henning: Advice wants to be taken to the pastoralists.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: There must be practical demonstrations; otherwise they will not believe the advice given. That is why I said that one research station in the North-West is not sufficient; and I hope that the Minister for the North-West will push the Government to ensure that more money is provided for the department. In that way scientific knowledge will be made available for the benefit of the State.

The Minister for the North-West: There is more than one station and more than one officer up there.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: There are very few, considering the vastness of the area.

The Minister for the North-West: There are few pastoralists, too. Five hundred in the whole of the North-West, I think.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: On many occasions in this House I have endeavoured to get members to agree to declare kangaroos as vermin. When the appointment of the Agriculture Protection Board was being discussed I raised the same point, and wanted kangaroos to be declared vermin throughout the State. Unfortunately I did not get much support. If members read the report of the trials carried out in those northern areas they will realise what damage kangaroos do. I will read a small portion of the report.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: Is this the report on Port Hedland?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The Woodcock Research Station. This is what the report has to say in regard to kangaroos—

Kangaroos were preying so heavily on these edible grasses that they were neither able to grow freely nor seed. These young plants were obviously overstocked but by kangaroos as no sheep had access to them. The whole area was covered by kangaroo tracks and droppings.

On the burnt portions of the vermin proof plot the edible species were seeding freely.

This was a very striking demonstration of the way in which kangaroos alone could suppress the growth and reproduction of desirable species and it shocked those who saw it.

If we are to have sanctuaries in certain parts of the State, where kangaroos can breed, and in other parts of the State they are such a nuisance that they ought to be declared vermin, there is something wrong. Kangaroos will not stop in the sanctuaries; they will breed in those places, and then drift to other parts of the State where they will become a nuisance. I hope that attention will be given to that aspect.

The Minister for the North-West: There are no sanctuaries in the North-West.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Surely the Minister does not believe that kangaroos will stop in the sanctuaries down here. They drift from the sanctuaries into the agricultural areas and gradually further north.

The Minister for the North-West: But you are speaking about the North-West.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I am speaking of the State generally. I mentioned the report only because it has the facts down in black and white. There is a report in to-night's paper of the damage being done by kangaroos.

The Minister for the North-West: But you have known that for 25 years.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes; but since I have been in this House I have hammered members about the problem, without any satisfaction.

The Minister for the North-West: The whole trouble is that the kangaroo skin has never appreciated in value and there are fewer shooters.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I do not know whether that would solve the problem either; I think there might be too many.

The Minister for the North-West: It would help.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: That poison is the shot.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I did hope that after the strong representations made from Geraldton, particularly with regard to the visit of the Queen, we would have received some recognition on future visits of people to the State. I find that that particular area is still being neglected, just as it was before. Recently we had what was called an exhibition of Japanese woodcuts. Those who saw it tell me that it was a very fine exhibition and was well worth seeing. But looking through the itinerary, I find that there is no mention of any visit to be made to areas north of Perth.

Accordingly, I would like to protest, to whoever is responsible for drawing up the programme, against the omission of the northern part of the State. Surely we have as much right as the southern part

of the State to see these things. These are among the disabilities that will lead people in the north to start a new state of their own; and on account of the way they have been treated over the last half-century I think they have every reason to do so.

The Chief Secretary: I thought you were going to say during the last 18 months.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I am not blaming any particular Government. I give credit where credit is due, and I think that the previous Government was as much to blame as the present one.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: I would like to have you in our gang.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: In this State at the present time are members of the Victorian Government. They are here on a sight-seeing tour with a view, I believe, mainly to having a look at the Albany super works. I do not think, however, that they are spending all their time at the Albany super works; but no attempt has been made to show them the north of our country.

In his Speech, we find that the Governor makes reference to soldier settlement schemes all down the South-West. Not one word has been said as to what is happening north of Perth, and yet we have quite a big scheme in progress west of Midland. There is no mention of it whatever; we are the forgotten country. I protest against that part of the State being neglected in this fashion.

I also notice from the Governor's Speech that it is intended to introduce legislation to enable perpetual leases to be granted to ex-servicemen under the conditions which govern the provisions of the fund for the Commonwealth land settlement scheme. Only last year this House expressed the opinion that these settlers should be allowed to buy their own properties, subject to their serving the first 10 years as leaseholders. I fail to see why they should now be made to hold these properties in lease all their lives. They are entitled to own them. There is no reason at all why the freehold tenure should not apply. While I admit that there may be some who would be better off, we should at least give them the opportunity of deciding for themselves. We should not insist that they hold these properties leasehold for life. I do not think that should apply to anyone in the State.

While talking on the subject of soldier settlement, might I say that there are many private individuals who, because of the lack of qualifications—and even many of those who have qualified and have had to wait so long with little prospect of getting a soldier settlement farm—have endeavoured to find places for themselves; and although, under the soldier settlement scheme, millions of pounds are being made available, and very often squandered—and the cost of bringing some of those places into production is pretty high—we find

that there is no provision anywhere for these people to be helped. With a little aid from the Government they could, however, make a go of it.

I think it is time that the Government came to their assistance for the benefit of the whole of Australia. Members might say that if they were bank risks, they would be helped by the Rural and Industries Bank. However, there are many of those properties which are not bank risks, but which, from a production point of view, are excellent risks. In my opinion some attempt will have to be made to help them, because there are a number of these boys who, over the last three or four years, have obtained the necessary plant and secured their own property, but have found it very hard to make ends meet. If something is not done for them, they have only one alternative, and that is to walk off their properties. This means that some other individuals will buy them at considerably reduced cost and enjoy the advantage of the previous men's efforts. The Government should render some assistance to these settlers. It need not be great; and in the end it would, I am sure, bring extra revenue into this State.

I forgot to mention, while talking of the lack of facilities in the North, the matter of the Geraldton harbour. Looking through the schedule of works over the last three years, I find that not one penny has been allotted for that harbour, despite the fact that some three years ago a ban was put on it and boats drawing more than 27 feet were not permitted to enter. I know a survey was made of that particular entrance. To my knowledge, however, the result of that survey has never been made public, and nothing has been done to remedy the matter.

The Geraldton harbour is the second harbour in Western Australia—that is, in relation to tonnage. I think the members for Albany and Bunbury would agree. Something should be done to lift this ban, which states that ships with a draught of more than 27 feet shall not enter the Geraldton harbour. It is disgraceful, and it is time the Government looked into the matter and did something to remedy this state of affairs. Geraldton is fortunate in having a harbour; I know that others have had to be built at Albany and Bunbury. There is no necessity, however, to let the Geraldton harbour go to pieces because we have built up the other two. Geraldton will always be a harbour town. It has a big hinterland, and it is essential that we should have that harbour. Despite this fact, we find that not one penny has been allotted for work on it. I ask the Government to lift as quickly as possible that ban on shipping entering the harbour.

On many occasions I have stressed the fact that I consider it necessary to have a green belt around the city. When Sir

Charles Latham was Minister for Agriculture I asked him to do something about it, but nothing was done. I now find that the Town Clerk of Perth has put forward exactly the same suggestion; namely, that a green belt be preserved around the city. When we go into the pros and cons, we will find it is only logical.

The Town Clerk's main theme was that such areas would be for the production of vegetables, eggs, and other foodstuffs. Unfortunately, too many of our market-garden areas are gradually being pushed out further into parts which are not capable of producing to the same extent. This is due to the increase in the rates of those properties. Somebody builds houses alongside, and the rating of those properties goes up. These individuals then find that they cannot carry on as market gardeners because of the high rates. That is why it is necessary to have this green belt; the rates would not then be increased, and these areas would not be made unproductive. I am glad there is at least one person in Western Australia who agrees with my ideas. I commend the Town Clerk of Perth for making the suggestion, and I hope the Government will take some cognisance of it.

Speaking on water supplies, I have time and again urged the Government to give consideration to what I regard as a number one priority throughout Australia.

Hon. G. Bennetts: It should be a Commonwealth responsibility.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The hon. member may make it a Commonwealth responsibility if he pleases. At the present time we are having some work done, in Geraldton particularly; but that is only carrying on a plan that has been laid down for some years. In effect, however, it will never and can never be suitable for the requirements of the area. This year we had the wonderful experience of having our water restrictions lifted in early June. That state of affairs is not helpful to any town.

I believe that the water level in the Wycherina Basin has been reduced by something like six feet. If that is so, it is a serious matter, because Geraldton relies solely on that water—except perhaps once in seven years when it gets 100,000,000 gallons in the dam. The salinity of the water is also increasing. I understand; and, if I am correct on both those points, I think it is time the Government looked further afield. I know that any scheme to supply water to those areas is going to cost a lot; but, if we do not spend that money, we are going to lose a considerable amount. So the Government should take bold steps to find some method of supplying water to the northern areas. From my point of view—and I have studied many of the projects suggested.

and all possible avenues of water supply—the Murchison River is the best possibility.

It would be necessary for a diversion scheme to operate; that is, the first flow which contained the rubbish and the first flush of saline water would be diverted. The main flow would then be held in a reservoir and the later flow, which again might be saline, diverted. There are, I believe, some excellent spots in the river suitable for the purpose and I feel sure that we could build up a sufficient supply to carry us through in those years when the river did not flow. Such a scheme would cost a good deal of money; but that would apply to any scheme, and the sooner we can get the engineers on to the work of formulating some plan, the better off we shall be. I put it to the Government that this is a possibility that ought to be explored.

I observe that, in the Governor's Speech, the Government has intimated its intention to reintroduce price control. This is the statement—

Following the defeat of price control legislation last year, the price level has risen considerably.

I cannot accept that statement; I do not believe that the price level has risen considerably.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: What about meat?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Meat is a commodity subject to seasonal fluctuations. Let us work it out.

Hon. G. Bennetts: Out on the footpath for a lot of evictees!

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: As to housing, to which the hon. member refers, during the last seven years, since the erection of Commonwealth-State homes has been undertaken, the men who have occupied them have been men with families of four, five or six children, and they have been paying rentals amounting to £2 10s. to £3 10s. a week. As against that, other individuals have been occupying homes at little more than the rentals ruling in 1939, thus paying about 25s. a week for a comparable home. All that has been done has been to level up the rentals paid by a man with a wife and one or two children to the rentals paid by a man with a large family.

I have taken an opportunity to secure price lists of various commodities. I obtained the weekly dockets of commodity costs in December last from a Queen's Park store, and from the same source I obtained the dockets for June of this year. Of the 21 articles I listed, or for which I could find alternatives, three had increased in price and three had been reduced. Carrying the comparison further, out of 10 articles mentioned in the Press and included in the store list, eight had been reduced in price and none had been increased.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: How could you compare them?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I dealt with commodities of the same brand in each of those two months.

Hon. C. W. D. Barker: You cannot quote that as an example.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I maintain that it can be accepted as a fair illustration when the same article is being sold. Out of six articles mentioned in John Wills's list, one had been increased in price and three had been reduced. I could give details of the prices when control operated; I have them here. Thus, of the 37 articles listed, only four have increased in price, while 13 have been reduced. Yet we are told that the price level has risen considerably. Clothing can be bought more cheaply now, and when price control existed, shops did not sell shoes at 10s. a pair as they do now or reduce the price of tea and butter by 3d. per lb.

Hon. R. F. Hutchison: What about sheeting and tea towels?

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I think the hon. member will find that prices in those instances have been slightly decreased, but at any rate they have not been increased. In view of these facts, why the necessity to reintroduce price control? Where is there any argument in favour of recontrol?

Let me refer to a matter that was mentioned in the Press the other day. I allude to "First-Year Trainee's" letter regarding communist students at the Teachers' Training College. In my opinion, action should be taken to remove the gentlemen in question from their particular jobs. We have to bear in mind that communism is no longer a political belief. It has advanced beyond that stage and become an insidious and traitorous organisation. When we study the position, we must come to the conclusion that there are only two courses open to us; namely, either to accept communism and Russian domination or else to stop its advance entirely. We have not much time in which to decide what attitude we shall adopt. Anything may happen. If we are going to sit back and allow the communists to overrun various places individually, it will not be long before they will be here.

Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: They soon will be here if we do not feed them.

Hon. L. A. LOGAN: We have to prevent them from moving any further. They send envoys to those places which, until a few years ago, enjoyed the protection of stronger nations, urging the people to demand independence; and as soon as independence has been granted them, they are swallowed up. So it has gone on. This is the reason why I contend that we must make up our minds what we are going to



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

do. We are confronted by an insidious organisation and we have to put a stop to its advance.

If we have people in our midst who are traitors, they should be treated as such. We do not permit a thief to come into our homes day after day and steal our belongings. We take steps to prevent him, and we must do the same to combat this menace. The sooner the people of Australia appreciate the danger of the position, the better off we shall be. There will be opportunities during the session to discuss other matters, and I shall defer further comment until then. As a final word, I would say that the Governor's Speech impresses me as being so much repetition and resurrection.

On motion by Hon. A. F. Griffith, debate adjourned.

### ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (Hon. G. Fraser—West): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till Tuesday the 29th June, at 4.30 p.m.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.27 p.m.