

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Second Session of the Twenty-Third Parliament

Parliament was prorogued on the 17th June, 1960, to the 28th July, 1960, when it met for the despatch of business.

Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Governor.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 28th July, 1960

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MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Legislative Council met at noon.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of Parliaments (Mr. J. B. Roberts) read the Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor summoning the second session of the Twenty-third Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION

His Excellency's Commissioner (His Honour Mr. Justice Virtue) having entered the Chamber at 12.3 p.m., a message was sent to the Legislative Assembly requesting the presence of members in the Council Chamber.

Members of the Legislative Assembly having arrived accordingly, the Commissioner requested the Clerk to read His Excellency's Commission to do all things necessary in the name and on the part of Her Majesty the Queen, or in the name and on the part of His Excellency for the opening and holding of the second session of the Twenty-third Parliament.

The Commission was read.

COMMISSIONER'S STATEMENT

The Commissioner read the following statement:—

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly—

I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor to inform you that, at 3 o'clock this afternoon, His Excellency the Governor will declare to you the causes of the calling together of this session of Parliament; and it being necessary that a President of the Legislative Council be first chosen, it is His Excellency's pleasure that you, Honourable Members of the Legislative Council, after those who have been newly elected have been duly sworn by me in the terms of a Commission granted to me by His Excellency the Governor, do elect your President and notify the same to His Excellency.

Members of the Legislative Assembly retired from the Chamber.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBERS

The Clerk announced the return of writs for the election of members at the biennial elections showing that the following had been duly elected:— The Hon. R. C. Mattiske (Metropolitan), the Hon. R. Thompson (West), the Hon. W. F. Willesee (North), the Hon. N. E. Baxter (Central), the Hon. L. A. Logan (Midland), the Hon. F. D. Willmott (South-West), the Hon.

J. J. Garrigan (South-East), the Hon. J. D. Teahan (North-East), the Hon. R. F. Hutchison (Suburban), the Hon. S. T. J. Thompson (South).

These members, with the exception of the Hon. L. A. Logan, who was absent, took and subscribed the oath and signed the roll.

The Commissioner retired from the Chamber.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The Clerk reported that the office of President was vacant.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [12.25]: I move—

That the Hon. Leslie Charles Diver do take the Chair in the Council as President.

THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND (North-West) [12.26]: I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

No other member having been proposed, the Clerk declared the Hon. Leslie Charles Diver elected, and he was conducted to the Chair.

THE HON. L. C. DIVER (Central—President-Elect) [12.27]: I am deeply conscious of the position I now occupy, and I trust members will never have any reason to regret having elected me to it.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [12.28]: Mr. President, the honour that the members of this Chamber have bestowed upon you in appointing you as our President is indeed a very great one. Throughout the history of Western Australia this Chamber has, since its formation, played a very important part in the administration of the Government of the State.

Some of the names of the original members of the Legislative Council are very well known to probably all of us; some of them are household words to the children of our State today. I call to mind the names of the first members of the Legislative Council: men like Captain Stirling, himself; Captain Frederick Chidley Irwin; the Hon. Peter Broun (Colonial Secretary); and John Septimus Roe (Surveyor-General). As we know, from 1832 to 1870, the position of President was occupied by the Administrator of the Government of the State at the time. From 1870 to 1886, Sir Luke Leake occupied the Chair and presided as Speaker; and he was succeeded by Sir J. G. Lee Steere until the date of responsible Government on the 21st October, 1890.

Since that date there have been ten Presidents of the Legislative Council. In electing you to the position that you will

occupy, your colleagues have today made you the eleventh President of the Legislative Council of Western Australia. During the period of years, the function for which this House was originally appointed has been carried out by those who have had the privilege, over the years, to be members of it.

There are people who think that the Council does not perform its function, and that it should be altered; some even think that it should be destroyed. But I believe this Chamber will go on playing the part it has played in the affairs and government of this country for many years; and I trust the deliberations which will go on in this Chamber will be of the same standard, and of the same calibre, as they have been over the years.

You, Sir, if I may say so with the greatest respect, have accepted an extremely responsible position. You will now guide the destinies of this Chamber. The position that you hold as head of the Legislative Council is the highest honour that the members of this Chamber can bestow on anybody who is a member of it. I feel sure that you will carry out the duties of President in a manner which will be a credit to yourself and a credit to the Legislative Council.

In congratulating you most heartily I, as Leader of the House, would like to assure you—and I feel I can include every member of the Legislative Council in these remarks—that we will co-operate with you, and will help you in every way possible. I trust that during your term of office you will enjoy good health.

I repeat that I feel sure this term of office will be carried out competently, and will reflect credit on yourself and on the Legislative Council. I congratulate you, Sir.

THE HON. L. C. DIVER (Central—President-Elect) [12.31]: Yesterday, members voted me to this position. I thank them sincerely. It is not my intention to make a long speech. As I have already said, I am deeply conscious of the position to which I have been elected. I hope that time will prove me worthy of occupying the office. I thank members, and particularly the Minister for Mines, for their congratulatory remarks. I shall do my best.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [12.33]: I desire to inform members that His Excellency the Governor will receive the President-Elect forthwith.

Sitting suspended from 12.32 to 2.55 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT

THE PRESIDENT: I desire to inform the House that I have submitted myself to His Excellency the Governor and His Excellency has been pleased to express satisfaction at the choice of the Council in the following terms:—

Mr. President:

It is with much pleasure that I learn that you have been elected by the members of the Legislative Council to the high and honourable office of President of that House. I have every confidence that you will fill the office in a worthy and dignified manner.

(Signed) Charles Gairdner,
Governor.

I have also to report that I have received from His Excellency the Governor a Commission to administer the oath to members which Commission will now be read by the Clerk.

The Commission was read.

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH

Delivery

His Excellency the Governor entered the Council Chamber at 3.2 p.m. and, the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the Chamber, obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following speech:—

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

You are gathered for the second session of the twenty-third Parliament.

It is with profound regret that I refer to the passing of Mr. P. R. Lawrence, who rendered valuable service to the State as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

It is worthy of note that this is the first session of a new decade—a challenging decade of vital importance to the future of Western Australia.

There is good reason for pride in the progress of the State since World War II. Population has risen by almost 50 per cent. There has been rapid expansion on the land; the outlook for secondary industry is bright; production of minerals is assuming a greater importance in the economy; fisheries have developed sound export markets.

The past financial year has also been one of notable progress. There are signs that the economy has further strengthened and that the pace of progress is quickening.

Unemployment has fallen substantially. Employment has reached a record level. Indicators of economic activity encourage an increasing confidence in the future.

To assist the State's drive for accelerated development, the Commonwealth Government has agreed to sponsor skilled migrant tradesmen and their families for settlement in Western Australia. The migrant intake will be geared to the absorptive capacity of the State, and the placement will be according to the accommodation and employment opportunities available.

The buoyant economy reflects the results of a policy designed to stimulate growth in every part of the State.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

Revenue for 1959-60 totalled £64,387,912 and expenditure £65,793,726, leaving a deficit of £1,405,814.

This was a favourable result. The deficit was £109,686 less than expected despite increases totalling approximately £1,000,000 in the basic wage, margins and other costs.

Loan Fund expenditure for the year exceeded £19,500,000 but this was not sufficient for the range of works required, and care was needed to ensure that the most urgent projects were undertaken. The same situation will apply in the current financial year. When an increase in available loan funds amounting to £940,000 will be largely offset by higher costs.

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

Assessment of Crown land in agricultural areas is being pursued vigorously. Widespread interest in land for agricultural development continues.

The Government has released 1,500,000 acres of Crown Land for selection under conditional purchase for agricultural development in the South-West Land Division and Esperance District.

Keen competition from applicants from all Australian States has brought new capital to Western Australia.

Approximately 15,000,000 acres in the Eucla Division has been classified, and half will be designed into pastoral holdings. A further 2,000,000 acres has been made available for pastoral leasing in the Kimberleys.

A re-negotiated agreement for development of Chase Syndicate land at Esperance will be submitted to you for ratification.

The recent allotment of 92 farms virtually brings to a successful conclusion the developmental phase of War Service Land Settlement. The State can claim that all qualified applicants accepted under the scheme will have been given an opportunity of rehabilitation.

Expansion in the field of agriculture has been accentuated by excellent seasons.

Heavy general rains have given excellent prospects of a good season. The total area of cereals sown this year is expected to rise

by approximately 5 per cent. to a total of 6,750,000 acres, of which over 80 per cent. will be harvested for grain. Land development, confined mainly to light lands, continues at the rate of 500,000 to 750,000 acres brought into production each year.

In 1959-60 wool, wheat and meat production were at record levels. However, concern is felt at the lower values for wool at recent sales.

The new head office building of the Rural and Industries Bank is expected to be completed early in 1961.

Forest operations are being maintained in both pine plantations and hardwood areas. Timber continues to be a major industry and efforts are being made to find new export outlets.

In secondary industry, there are signs of fresh expansion. This is largely due to the encouragement given to local industries and to a strong bid to attract new investment from the Eastern States and overseas. The Industries Advisory Committee has continued to do work of great value to the State.

During the year the Minister for Industrial Development made two visits abroad—firstly to examine prospects of greater Western Australian exports to Asian countries, and secondly to confer with industrialists in Europe, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

To promote decentralisation, a special section of the Department of Industrial Development was created to aid country local authorities in attracting industries. A South-East Asian Exports Committee was established to develop exports.

The Government continues to give substantial preference to local manufacturers.

The largest single investment decision was that of the British Petroleum Company Ltd. to add a lubricating oil refinery to their large crude oil refinery already established at Kwinana.

Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd. have decided to build a paper and board mill at Spearwood, thereby taking the first major step towards a fully integrated paper industry in this State. An agreement with the Government will be presented to you for ratification.

The value of mineral production reached a record total of £21,800,000 during the year 1959. Gold production totalled 866,609 fine ounces valued at £13,542,000.

In view of the importance of minerals in the national economy, it is proposed to expand the geological section of the Mines Department to obtain a quicker appreciation of our resources.

Consideration is being given to tenders received for the supply of coal to the Railways and the State Electricity Commission, and a decision will be made in the near

future. Ministers appreciate the importance both of obtaining cheaper coal and maintaining Collie as a prosperous town.

Diamond drilling operations on a considerable scale during the past year have been undertaken at the Koolyanobbing, Dowds Hill and Bungalbin iron deposits in the Yilgarn field and at the Mt. Goldsworthy deposits in the Pilbara, with satisfactory results. Drilling will also be carried out in the near future at Wilgiemia in the Murchison and other iron ore deposits will be explored. Negotiations are still proceeding for the export of a limited quantity of iron ore.

The exploration of mineral deposits such as bauxite, magnesite, gypsum and copper by large companies has proved very successful, and has resulted in export orders.

An engineering chemical section has been created in the Mines Department laboratories.

The quantity of fish produced in 1959 was 30,328,000 lb. compared with 24,814,000 lb. in the previous year. The value of the catch rose by nearly £600,000 to £2,664,000. Crayfish export earnings rose by \$1,500,000 to \$6,500,000.

In stimulating these progressive developments, the State is engaged in a wide range of projects.

In the North-West, the Ord River diversion dam project is proceeding according to plan. Contracts totalling approximately £3,400,000 have already been let, and some work has started.

A contract has also been entered into with Northern Developments (Ord River) Pty. Ltd. to assist in gaining farming experience while the dam construction work is proceeding. This agreement will be presented to you for ratification.

In the past year, allocations for North-West road works reached £1,300,000.

Extensions to the Wyndham jetty undertaken as part of the special Commonwealth £5,000,000 grant have been completed and replacement of the old remaining sector should be completed by March of next year.

The report of Maunsell and Partners on a deep water port for the West Kimberleys has been received. The consultants recommend Broome and the report is now being examined, having regard for the general developmental and economic considerations in the West Kimberleys.

The report of the consultants Rendel, Palmer and Tritton on the proposal to develop Port Hedland as a deep water port should be available shortly.

Prompt relief was given by the Government to the settlers affected by the disastrous cyclone which hit Carnarvon.

The Wyndham Meatworks are reflecting the results of a good season and it is expected that 34,000 head of cattle will be treated.

Progress on construction of a new passenger/cargo motor vessel for the State Shipping Service is being maintained. The vessel is to be named *Kangaroo*. During the year, the six State ships in service carried a record cargo to North-West ports, with increased shipments of cattle and frozen meat southward.

Arrangements are in hand to establish a major new power station on the Collie coalfields. A third unit of the Bunbury power station is operating and the fourth unit is expected to be operating next year. The commissioning of a Collie-Wagin high tension line in May marked the first stage of extensions from Bunbury and Collie power stations to the Great Southern.

Construction of the Serpentine Dam has advanced to the stage of providing for substantial water storage this winter. Completion is expected in April, 1961. Investigations are in hand concerning future sources of metropolitan water supply. Concern is felt at the slow intake of water storages.

Work is well advanced on plant for improved treatment at the Subiaco Sewage Works. This plant, and a new ocean outlet at Swanbourne, should be in operation next summer. Investigations have commenced for a new sewage scheme south of the Swan River.

Progress has been made with the construction and maintenance of country water supplies and irrigation works. Reticulation to farmlands under the Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme is proceeding north of Cunderdin and south of Merredin. Representations have been made to the Commonwealth Government to assist financially with an extension of the scheme.

During 1959-60, a record sum of £7,600,000 was allocated from the Commonwealth Aid Roads funds. Particular attention has been given to improvement of country roads to assist the development of mining, agriculture and the pastoral industry.

Proposals are being prepared for the development of the Eyre Highway as an all-weather road to connect Eastern and Western Australia. It is hoped to secure Commonwealth and South Australian co-operation.

Construction of the Narrows Bridge was completed, and planning to provide a system of major regional roads in the Perth metropolitan area including the Western Switch Road is in progress.

At Fremantle Harbour, progress is being made with the construction of improved passenger facilities capable of handling 40,000 to 45,000-ton liners from the United Kingdom, and the facilities will be ready to receive the first vessel in December this year.

Improvements to harbour facilities at Port Hedland are almost complete, and extensive improvements to Bunbury Harbour are in hand. Construction of fishing boat harbours, which has commenced at Fremantle and Geraldton, will provide facilities for which there has been a long felt need and will give an impetus to the fishing industry.

The Railway Department experienced a busy year due mainly to a good grain harvest. More grain is stored in country districts than 12 months ago, and another busy year is expected. Despatches of super-phosphate were a record.

The improved financial result of the year's operations reflects the work of the Commissioner and his staff, who are to be commended. Passenger and freight operations are being carefully analysed and revised to produce more economical working and greater operating efficiency.

A concentrated drive has been made to meet the requirements of the public. Particular attention is being given to improvement of country station facilities. Railway commercial representatives have been appointed to maintain a personal liaison with farming and business communities. Road buses have replaced a number of the poorly patronised country passenger trains.

The whole question of transport is under consideration to ensure that both rail and road transport in country areas are used to best advantage.

The Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust has taken over the Tramway Department services and is now operating 80 per cent. of public road transport in the metropolitan area.

Government primary and secondary school enrolments are still rising and have exceeded 121,000. An encouraging feature is the increasing number of students voluntarily extending their schooling beyond the age of 14. More than 2,600 secondary school students are now enrolled in the fourth and fifth years.

New classrooms erected last financial year numbered 238, which is an all-time record. Mt. Lawley has become a Senior High School. Applecross and Tuart Hill will do so in 1961. In the current year, it is expected that a start will be made on Melville, Embleton and Swanbourne High Schools; additions to Wembley Technical School; the first section of the new Perth Technical College; and extensions to many existing schools.

The Carlisle Technical School catering for the automotive industry will open in February 1961. New dormitories at the Narrogin Agricultural High School will increase residential accommodation for students in the four agricultural schools to 226.

There are now over 1,300 students in the two teachers' colleges.

A contract has been let for a new hospital at Osborne Park. New hospitals are to be built at Port Hedland and Onslow. Progress is continuing with other hospital projects throughout the State.

New services for the care and treatment of the mentally ill are to be developed at Guildford and elsewhere in the metropolitan area.

The Public Health laboratory services have been extended by the establishment of satellite laboratories in Bunbury and Albany. In the near future, similar satellite laboratories will be established at Geraldton, Northam and Derby.

During 1959-60, State Housing Commission expenditure under the State Housing Act, Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement Act, and War Service Homes Act exceeded £7,100,000, of which approximately £900,000 was allocated to building societies.

Progress has been made in developing plans for the Empire Games Village. Surveys have been made and road construction will soon begin.

Bills will be introduced to amend the existing Building Society and Home Guarantee legislation to establish a better basis for building society activity, and to attract more capital to Western Australia for private home building.

The State Housing Ministers have requested the Federal Government to negotiate a new Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement not less favourable than the existing agreement which expires on the 30th June, 1961.

It is expected that discussions between the States on Uniform Companies Law will be concluded in time to permit a Bill to be introduced later in this Session.

Several amendments to the Native Welfare Act will be proposed. The provision of housing for natives will be extended. Additional hostels for native children will be provided, and manual training classes will be arranged where there are sufficient children. A medical survey of all natives in the North-West and Kimberleys was commenced last year.

The Child Welfare Department has opened the new "Riverbank" reformatory at Caversham. It will provide modern treatment for more difficult boys offending against the law, and enable the Anglican Boys' Farm at Stoneville to do more effective work with less serious offenders committed to institutional care.

Plans are being prepared for new Police headquarters on the Causeway site.

The Local Government Bill has been re-drafted by a special committee and is expected to be introduced early in the session. Re-drafted Uniform Building by-laws and Uniform Motel By-laws are expected to be promulgated soon.

Plans for further improved safety in industry, both in private and Government undertakings, are well under way. It is

pleasing to record the co-operation which has been received from both employer and employee organisations.

Action has been taken to publicise the willingness of the Government to negotiate for the transfer of State Building Supplies and Chamberlain Industries Pty. Ltd. to private enterprise. Emphasis will be placed on continuing the industries within the economy of the State.

The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority has been established. Its work will be furthered by continued close collaboration between State Government departments and local government bodies.

Measures taken to promote the travel industry have already produced increased activity. The Tourist Development Authority appointed under the Tourist Act passed last session has evolved a plan for giving financial assistance for tourist development projects. The State has acquired premises for Tourist Bureau branches in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. A Bill will be placed before you to ratify an agreement for the building of a modern tourist centre in Perth by Chevron Hilton Hotels Ltd.

It is anticipated that interstate and overseas interest in Western Australia will be greatly stimulated by the British Empire and Commonwealth Games to be held in Perth in 1962.

Consideration has been given to the report of the Royal Commission on Betting, and legislation dealing with this subject will be placed before you.

Planning for Civil Defence is proceeding but further expansion awaits a decision on policy by the Commonwealth Government.

Legislation to be placed before you in this session, other than that already outlined, will include:—

- Child Welfare Act Amendment;
- Re-enactment of Married Women's Protection Act;
- Coroners Act Amendment;
- Supreme Court Act Amendment;
- Absconding Debtors' Act Amendment;
- Legal Practitioners Act Amendment;
- Coal Mine Workers (Pensions) Act Amendment;
- Vermin Act Amendment;
- Amendments to Metropolitan Region Town Planning Legislation.

I now declare this session of Parliament open and trust that Providence may bless your labours.

His Excellency and members of the Legislative Assembly then withdrew from the Chamber.

[The President resumed the Chair.]

CROWN AGENCIES BILL

First Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [3.39]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of the House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice, for leave to introduce a Bill for "An Act to remove doubts as to and to determine the status of certain statutory bodies and for other purposes."

Leave given.

Bill introduced and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Distribution of Copies

THE PRESIDENT: For the sake of greater accuracy, I have obtained from His Excellency the Governor copies of the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament. These will be distributed amongst members.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

First Day

THE HON. S. T. J. THOMPSON (South) [3.41]: I move—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver:— "May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament."

I am very conscious of the privilege that has been granted to me, on this my first appearance in this Council, in being entrusted with this important motion expressing, as it does, the loyalty of the members of this Council to Her Majesty the Queen; and I thank those responsible for giving me this privilege.

Mr. President, I take this opportunity of congratulating you on being elected to that most dignified position as President of this Council, and I trust that your term of office will be of much distinction and pleasure to yourself, and of benefit to the House. I would also congratulate those members who were re-elected at the recent Council elections.

I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation to the members and officers of this House for the expressions of goodwill and the assistance I have received during the brief time I have been in office. Also, to the electors of the South Province, I wish to express my thanks for giving me the opportunity to represent them in the Legislative Council;

and I assure them that, although I fear I have been set a very difficult task to live up to the standard set by my predecessor, I shall do my utmost to promote their interests, believing, as I do, that at this stage of the State's development we must have a prosperous rural community if we are to have a great deal of progress on the industrial side.

At this point I would pay a tribute, on behalf of the people in the South Province, to the work done on our behalf by the retiring member. The hon. Mr. Roche represented us for 20 years, and, being a man who expressed his opinion in no uncertain manner, there was never any room to doubt where his loyalty was placed. His retirement is a great loss not only to the South Province, but to the State as a whole. Having been associated with him for many years I most sincerely regret that ill-health caused his retirement at this time when the wisdom and experience acquired over his years of service could be so valuable.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without adding to those sentiments, which I am sure have already been expressed by other members, concerning the retirement of Sir Charles Latham, who has served his State and his Party with such distinction. I wish both these gentlemen good health, and I trust that they may enjoy days of relaxation to the full.

In view of my brief experience, I propose to confine my remarks to those subjects in His Excellency's Speech with which I am most conversant. I congratulate the Government on the progress it is making in providing the additional facilities for education that are so badly needed. I noticed, with interest, that His Excellency referred to the record number of classrooms built in one year. It is very pleasing indeed in one's travels to see these improvements spread over such a large area of the State. There is much the same state of affairs with regard to hospitals. New buildings or extensions are going on in many centres.

Regarding land settlement, in his Speech, His Excellency made reference to the fact that one phase of land settlement has been brought to a successful conclusion. While this may be so, I have no hesitation in saying that there is still much to be done before all farms are on a sound economic basis.

I congratulate the Minister concerned for the improvements he has brought about during his term of office, and I hope they will be accelerated, particularly with regard to valuations. I am confident that these land settlement projects will develop into very valuable producing areas of the State, but, with the present low wool prices and increasing costs, some settlers are going to find it difficult to get established. I feel that we should keep in mind, when

considering these cases, the service the settlers are rendering to the State in bringing these areas into production.

These increased costs do not only apply to land settlement. The whole rural community, and more particularly the man on the land, are alarmed at the continued upward trend of costs over which they have no control.

I contend that the farmer has now reached the stage when he can no longer absorb these costs. To support this contention I quote figures given us by the Rt. Hon. John McEwen. He said that, although there had been an increase of 11 per cent. in production, there had been a fall of 11 per cent. in the return to the producer. This position cannot continue, and I appeal to the Government to explore every avenue of reducing costs. One avenue I suggest that it should consider, as one way of countering these rises, is the possibility of further economy in the transport service.

I would also suggest that an inquiry be held into the possibility of establishing killing centres in some country areas, preferably on a weight and grade basis, and a report made on same. This would relieve the present congestion at Midland Junction; and if rail transport were used between that centre and the port, a lot of trucks would be taken off our main roads.

Just one further point: We in the country areas have watched with interest the efforts of the Minister for Industrial Development to attract new industries to the State, and we congratulate him on the success he has achieved. I hope the same generous terms will be available for the advance of industry in the rural areas. One suggestion I would put forward is that the present vermin fencing scheme be extended to cover all types of boundary fencing on new land. This would help considerably in the early stages of becoming established.

In regard to proposed legislation, having had a long association with local government, I note with satisfaction that the Local Government Bill is to be brought forward in this session, and I am sure I am expressing the feeling of the majority of those in local government when I say that I hope it will be acceptable on this occasion.

While on this subject, I would like to make some mention of the Main Roads Department and the excellent work it is doing in the country. There is one request I would like to put forward in that respect, and that is concerning what we in local government call the fifty-fifty bitumen scheme. This is a very satisfactory scheme so far as local government is concerned, and it is doing a great deal to seal quite a lot of the secondary country roads. But in local government, attempts to make the best use of the scheme would be greatly advantaged if it were altered to a two-thirds—one-third basis.

Mr. President, I do express the hope that my term of office will enable me to contribute to the further advancement of this great State it is our privilege to serve.

THE HON. R. C. MATTISKE (Metropolitan) [3.52]: I formally second the motion.

On motion by the Hon. H. C. Strickland, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 3.53 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 28th July, 1960

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MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Legislative Assembly met at noon.
The SPEAKER took the Chair.