

I am not going to keep the House any longer; but I repeat in conclusion that I am under no illusion as to what will happen. Unless some effective legislation is introduced to protect the Government and the consumers of this State, the people of the State and the Government will pay, by increased prices, a lot more over the years than would be required if loan funds were allocated from time to time for the continued operation of the State Building Supplies.

It has to be remembered that although the State Building Supplies may make a loss now and again, its existence has been instrumental in maintaining some sort of reasonable prices over the years; and now that this protection has been removed, the field is clear for a number of companies—and there are not many of them—to collaborate and fix their prices. Then the Government and the people will have no alternative but to pay those increased prices.

Therefore I have pleasure in supporting the amendment on the amendment. I say again that I am astounded at the Government's continued refusal to agree to the appointment of a Royal Commission to probe the whole of the terms of the agreement.

Amendment on the amendment put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—23.

Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Kelly
Mr. Brady	Mr. Moir
Mr. Curran	Mr. Norton
Mr. Evans	Mr. Nuisen
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Oldfield
Mr. Graham	Mr. Rhatigan
Mr. Hall	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Sewell
Mr. Heal	Mr. Toms
Mr. J. Hegney	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. W. Hegney	Mr. May
Mr. Jamieson	

(Teller.)

Noes—24.

Mr. Bovell	Mr. W. A. Manning
Mr. Brand	Sir Ross McLarty
Mr. Cornell	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Court	Mr. Nimmo
Mr. Craig	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Crommelin	Mr. O'Neill
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Owen
Mr. Guthrie	Mr. Perkins
Dr. Henn	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Watts
Mr. Lewis	Mr. Wild
Mr. Mann	Mr. I. W. Manning

(Teller.)

Majority against—1.

Amendment on the amendment thus negated.

Debate (on the amendment to the motion) adjourned, on motion by Mr. Evans.

*House adjourned at 12.46 a.m.
(Thursday)*

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 17th August, 1961

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND TRUSTS

Employment Conditions, Annual Turnover, and Number of Staff

1. The Hon. J. M. A. CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Mines:

Referring to the Minister's reply to my question on Tuesday, the 15th August, requesting information regarding boards, trusts, and other similar statutory bodies, will he please supply the required information for the following instrumentalities:—

- (a) Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry;
- (b) Library Board of Western Australia;
- (c) Milk Board of Western Australia;
- (d) W.A. Egg Marketing Board;
- (e) W.A. Potato Marketing Board;
- (f) W.A. Transport Board;
- (g) W.A. Meat Export Works;
- (h) Totalisator Agency Board;
- (i) Metropolitan Market Trust; and
- (j) Abattoirs Board?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The information requested by the honourable member is being obtained and will be made available to him as soon as possible.

WATER MAINS*Pressure and Corrosion of Pipes*

2. The Hon. F. J. S. WISE (for The Hon. E. M. Davies) asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the poor pressure in water mains for this season of the year?
- (2) Is he also aware that internal service water pipes are becoming corroded in the short period of three years?
- (3) If so, is any remedial action being taken to provide a reasonable pressure of potable water, and to avoid the expenditure of money by citizens for the renewal of pipes, the life of which should be fifteen to twenty years?
- (4) If not, will the Minister take immediate action in the interests of health and unnecessary expenditure?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) No. Pressures in the mains are normal and satisfactory.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) (a) Answered by No. (1).

(b) Unlined galvanised wrought iron service pipes in the post-war years have been found to be unsuitable, and copper and cement lined G.W.I. pipes are now used exclusively and have been used for several years by the department for external services. Other capital city authorities in Australia have adopted the same policy. These pipes give a much longer life with freedom from corrosion. On inquiry, property owners are advised of the advantages of such a policy for internal services.

- (4) Answered by Nos. (1) to (3).

WAR SERVICE LAND SETTLEMENT FARMS*Writing Down of Valuations*

3. The Hon. A. L. LOTON asked the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has any agreement been reached following the visit to Western Australia by The Hon. C. F. Adermann, regarding the writing down of valuations on war service land settlement farms?
- (2) If the answer to No. (1) is "Yes"—
 - (a) is the writing down to apply to individual farms or to whole project areas;
 - (b) what is the average amount written down;
 - (c) what project areas are affected; and

(d) will the excess of instalments paid by settlers under the assessment figure which applied prior to the write-down, compared with the new figure payable, be credited against future instalments?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) See answer to No. (1).

FOREST PRODUCE*Royalty Received*

4. The Hon. N. E. BAXTER asked the Minister for Local Government:

What was the amount of royalty received by the Forests Department on forest produce for the years ended the 30th June, 1960 and 1961, respectively, on—

- (a) sawn timber;
- (b) hewn timber;
- (c) firewood;
- (d) wood for conversion to charcoal;
- (e) gravel; and
- (f) other products if any?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

	1959-60	1960-61
(a)	£784,680	£774,254
(b)	Nil	Nil
(c)	£10,146	£11,358
(d)	£279	£1,370
(e)	Not available	Not available
(f)	£50,628	£43,209

NORTH-WEST JETTIES*Cost of Works*

5. The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE asked the Minister for Mines:

The Minister is asked to advise—

- (1) The total cost of extensions and reconstruction of Wyndham Jetty?
- (2) The separate costs of all other works and/or expenditure which this Government has debited against the £5,000,000 granted by the Federal Government for expenditure on—
 - (a) Wyndham Jetty;
 - (b) Black Rocks Jetty; and
 - (c) the survey of Napier Broome Bay?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) The total estimated cost is £880,000 of which the State will bear £50,000.
- (2) Ord River Diversion Dam—Estimated cost £3,730,000.
Main Irrigation Channel from Ord River Diversion Dam—Estimated cost £348,639.

Commonwealth expenditure on the three projects enumerated will be—

- (a) Wyndham Jetty £830,000.
- (b) Black Rocks Jetty £65,361.
- (c) Napier Broome Bay investigations £26,000.

SINGAPORE ANTS

Incidence and Preventive Action

6. The Hon. A. R. JONES asked the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Will the Minister inform the House as to the incidence and location of Singapore ants in Western Australia?
- (2) In the opinion of the Government, have these ants become a problem?
- (3) If the answer to No. (2) is "Yes"—
 - (a) to what extent; and
 - (b) what steps have been taken to overcome it?
- (4) If no problem exists at present, will preventive action be instituted to control this pest in a similar manner to the measures taken respecting the Argentine ant?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) Scattered infestations of Singapore ants occur in the metropolitan area, but the greatest concentrations have been found in East Fremantle and Melville. The ant is also established in a number of northern towns including Dalwallinu, Mullewa, and Carnarvon.
- (2) Ants are a domestic nuisance in several areas.
- (3) (a) The nuisance value of the ants varies with the districts and the intensity of control measures adopted by individual householders.
- (b) The Government Entomologist has advised local authorities and many individuals on spraying measures which can be used to combat the ants.
- (4) There is yet no evidence that the presence of the Singapore ant warrants similar action to that taken against Argentine ants.

I might add that whilst living in Geraldton my home was also subjected to an infestation of Singapore ants; but I can assure members that an effective spray does get rid of them, because once I sprayed my house I had no further trouble from them.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from the 16th August, on the following motion by The Hon. H. K. Watson:—

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

May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Council 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 deliver to Parliament.

THE HON. R. F. HUTCHISON (Suburban) [4.42 p.m.]: My contribution to the debate on the Address-in-Reply this year will be somewhat varied. Firstly, I must express my concern at the unemployment in Australia, despite the many assurances by the present Government that unemployment is decreasing in this State and that it is not as bad as it is in other States. However, in my opinion the situation is serious and I do not think that any wave of the wand will improve it to any degree. That is why I interjected when a member was speaking the other evening on the folly of unions in Australia in sending word abroad that there was a great deal of unemployment in this country and advising people overseas just how bad things were.

I consider that was a humane act on the part of the unions in this country; and it is their duty to do that sort of thing. Every union in Australia knows that in countries overseas there are workers in similar trades who are anxious to migrate to this country, and it is the duty of those unions to inform their fellow workers abroad of the unemployment position in Australia so that they may be able to protect themselves and their families from suffering the plight of the unemployed who are already here.

When the unemployed recently visited this House there were many migrants among them. I spoke to a young Dutch migrant who had been here for three months but who had not done a day's work. He asked me: Will this help us to get a job? When I looked at those unemployed men and saw how shabby they were and the signs of stress they were showing, I could not help but think of the many nations which I have travelled through recently where over-full employment exists. It is shameful to think that a country as vast as Australia, and so abundantly endowed by nature, has people who are on the hunger line as a result of nothing else but bad Government.

It is about time that every one of us spoke up to express what he thinks about the present state of affairs in regard to

unemployment. The Liberal-Country Party Government now in office in this State commenced its regime by being destructive. It took away the security enjoyed by men in Government employ which had been built up over the years by regular employment. The Government did this by deliberately destroying or disbanding the Public Works Department day labour staff and throwing them on the labour market. I cannot understand how any thinking man could deliberately perpetrate such an injustice on men when there was already some unemployment existing in this State—as we have been told—when the Hawke Government was in office. The Government was assisted in being elected to office by a Commonwealth anti-Labor Government which was doing everything it possibly could to frustrate the efforts of the Labor Party to create full employment for our workers.

In Western Australia we have natural assets and a wide brown land existing north of Geraldton which could be developed to advantage with the right type of capital. However, the Commonwealth Government has played politics ever since the Liberal Party, headed by Mr. Menzies, has been in office; and when a Labor Party Government was in office in Western Australia the Commonwealth Government invariably flatly refused to assist in alleviating the unemployment position that existed in this State. Unfortunately, we have only a small population and, therefore, the unemployment position is discounted here in comparison with the Eastern States which have much larger populations. In view of our smaller population and, proportionately, the smaller number of unemployed that we have here, the Commonwealth Government apparently does not see fit to assist us in any way to alleviate the position. Even if only one person is unemployed and ready to use his hands in labour for the purpose of earning his daily bread, the opportunity to obtain employment should not be denied him.

Before the Chifley Government was elected to office, members of the Labor Party used to advocate full employment, but we were told it was a pipe dream and that such an objective could never be achieved. However, it is written in history now that such a situation not only came about during the regime of a Commonwealth Labor Government, but was sustained for quite some time, and Australia became prosperous. The Commonwealth was in a better position than it had ever been before; and, in fact, after the cessation of hostilities the Commonwealth of Australia was able to make a present of £30,000,000 to assist the British people to whom we owed so much during the war.

As I say, we had full employment and we also had a very satisfactory system of price control. Business people, especially small shopkeepers, told me that they had

never been so well off. One of them informed me that his living was assured; and, all told, everyone was satisfied. Despite this satisfactory state of affairs, everything was thrown down the drain, but not for 30 pieces of silver, as was the case with Judas, but for a gallon of petrol. That was done by an anti-Labor Government as a result of propaganda which appeared in the Press and which Labor was unable to counter because of lack of funds.

The wheel has now turned and we have devastation such as we have never had before. The volume of unemployment benefits being paid now by the Commonwealth of Australia did not reach such a peak when the Labor Party was in office. We still have people in our community who are not dressed as they should be and who do not have the amenities they require in their homes. If a severe illness occurs in any home it is a calamity, because, in many cases, in those homes where the breadwinners are out of work it is impossible for the contributions to hospital benefits funds to be maintained.

This is a state of affairs that should never exist in this country where we have natural resources in abundance; and we have men of vision in both the Commonwealth and State Governments to make this nation as prosperous as it should be. I do not wish to refer to my trip abroad merely for the purpose of letting members know that I made such a trip, but I wish to point out that in Germany, Holland, and right down through Switzerland and Italy there is a great deal of employment offering, and the people are prosperous and well-off.

I wondered what was wrong with the managers of Australia where unemployment exists to a marked degree. The stores and shops in those countries were stocked full of goods, and no-one appeared to be down-trodden. They were the very countries into which nations like Australia and America poured millions, but now they are prospering while Australia is experiencing unemployment. Surely the position in Australia is an example of the worst form of mismanagement.

I hope that not only the trade unions, but all men and women in this country who believe in the dignity of man and in full employment for the people, will raise their voices against what is happening here. During the depression years I held the strong opinion that after conditions had improved and when full employment had been attained, the children of those who suffered in the depression would not tolerate the same set of circumstances which their fathers and grandfathers had to bear.

After all, depressions are man-made and can only be caused under a capitalistic system. There is no real reason for depressions. Under the regime of a socialistic-minded Government, unemployment

cannot exist. The social services in England are second to none. I saw a Tory Government carrying out a socialised plan put in by the Labor Party; because no Government in England would be game enough to put a finger on the health services. If it did, it would not last a month. I spoke to many people of all classes there and they all agreed that their health services were a great benefit to the nation. They paid their taxes with little grumbling.

I have heard many doctors in Australia speaking very antagonistically against the health services of England, but in my travels in that country, and in my conversations with the man in the street there, I found that those health services were not only favoured by the working class but by the whole population. Every one in the community was looked after. The present Government, true to colour, has imposed a charge of 1s. on every prescription, and other charges for spectacles and hearing aids.

In England, if a person is a cripple he is provided with a wheelchair. In fact, all those who suffer physical disabilities or ill-health are provided with all the required amenities to relieve their suffering. Nobody in England, and certainly no Government would dare to interfere with the health services. In future if anyone in Australia says anything against the British National Health Services I shall be able to contradict him. Those health services are looked upon as a model by the rest of the world. If any Government in England dared to interfere with them, the Government would not last a month, because there would be a revolt against it.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What does a tradesman receive in wages in England?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I do know he is better off than the highest paid tradesman here. The larger his family is, the better off he becomes. There has been a remarkable uplift in the mental attitude of the population of England, because the people there do not have to worry should ill-health befall them or their families.

I spoke to one man on a bus and asked him what he thought of the health services. His reply was, "It costs me 9s. a week. I do not have to worry now, as I did in my earlier life, about ill-health. I am provided with everything. If my family is ill, I know they will be well looked after." By and large the people there are improving in health as a result of this freedom from worry.

I have always maintained that hard work does not kill anyone, but worry kills many thousands of people. The worry over the cost of ill-health in England has disappeared, and no-one there needs to go without spectacles or hearing aids. No invalid has to live in a house without being provided with a wheelchair, as was the case with one woman I know in Australia,

who spent 13 years in the house because she had no wheelchair. That could not happen in England, because medical appliances and aids are provided by the Government to the ordinary people.

If that can be done in England, why cannot it be done in Australia where hungry men are walking the streets looking for employment? Yet, members of Parliament in this State refer to the baseness of trade-unionists for telling their brother workers in England not to come to Australia because of the unemployment situation! I cannot see any baseness in such action. It was a great thing that those unionists did, and I would have done the same had I been asked to give advice.

Touching further on the question of employment, we should examine the attitude of capitalism towards this matter. Today we are better educated than people were in earlier times when the son of a worker was not permitted to be educated. Education was not introduced until the steam engine was invented. Capitalism found that engine drivers and mechanics were required to handle the machines and to understand the principles of steam compression; so education was thrown open to the sons of workers, but only up to the fifth standard.

Today we have reached the scientific age, which demands education of a much higher order. Therefore we see better schools being opened and the standard of education being increased, because now it is necessary for people to become better educated to fit into the scientific age.

Instead of capitalism adopting the role of factory manager for the purpose of making money, it has reached the stage of combining into cartels and trusts. Now we find that in the U.S.A. anti-trust laws have been passed to prevent this trend in capitalism. Throughout the world capitalism is rolling towards its own extinction. Instead of the powerful capitalistic groups being a menace to a few workers, they are becoming a menace to the whole world. We see powerful forces coming to grips. These combines and trusts are becoming extremely powerful, and they have the power of the Press behind them. In reality, the Press is another adjunct of big business.

When I was in Hawaii recently, the legislature was dealing with anti-trust legislation and the name of the Chase Syndicate was mentioned. There was an international flavour because an Australian sat in the gallery.

I want to mention a point I forgot to make earlier. We have all heard the glib talk of unemployment and what the Government is going to do about it. Men cannot be put to work on fine-sounding phrases. The unemployment is the fault of the present Government. We all know

that it is the policy of anti-Labor Governments to have a certain number of people unemployed because they want competition.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Absolute rubbish!

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: That is a fact. I have known that for many years, but now it is disturbing them. Like any other Frankenstein it cannot be stopped; it just keeps rolling and rolling. People's lives cannot be fooled about unless a penalty is paid, and unfortunately we all have to pay that penalty to a certain extent. Let us hope that the Federal Government this time will be changed, because the people know what it has done.

Under the Chifsey Government, I remember that we had full employment; and after the war the demobilisation of great armies was almost painless, migration boomed, and we had a very satisfactory system of price control. Life was so easy and people were so comfortable that they forgot who was responsible and were hoodwinked into giving away the people's Government. I hope that they do not do the same thing next time.

I was not playing politics yesterday when I interjected in regard to unions.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Not much!

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I meant every word I said. A union is established to protect the workers throughout the world wherever the British laws are practised. That is why these unions do their duty when they send members overseas to tell the people that there is no bread to be earned here. They tell them to stay put where they are because they will obtain no employment here.

I want to make my contribution to the protest against the sale of the State Building Supplies. I said something on the matter the other day, but this goes deeper than just a passing thought with me. This natural asset which we had will be exploited to the full. This Government has sold an asset which we painstakingly established and which former Liberal-Country Party Governments did not destroy. We had greater men at the head of things than we have now because they did not destroy these assets. The heads of this Government are a calamity to Western Australia. They will go out unsung and unhonoured for what they have done to this State. When Millars operated under the old system, the Labor Party stepped in and stopped it. I would now like to get on to a subject which is a little more pleasant.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Good!

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I must emphasise though that I mean every word I said; and I could keep on going for an hour or two. In Rotterdam a whole new city is being built; and in Milan, whereas before the war there were 320,000

people, now there are 2,500,000, and building is being carried out by the mile there, not by the acre. In Europe, employers are vying with one another for workers. People on railway stations and airfields throughout the borders of Europe are asked where they are going and whether they would like a better job. The labour situation in the hotels is also very grim as far as the employers are concerned. The hotels have southern Italian people in them who cannot speak the language, but people manage to make themselves understood by sign language. I could not speak their language but I managed by making signs. I have advocated here before that housekeeping should be made a science. If it were we should never be short of help in the home.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Did you not see any poverty in any countries you visited?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I did not.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You could not have had your eyes open then.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Not by and large. There were never any unemployed groups walking around protesting to Governments, and there is no need for them here. The situation here has been deliberately brought about by such things as the sale of public assets and the policy which was carried out in regard to the Public Works Department. I cannot bear to think of some of the things that this Government has done.

In the newspaper of the 10th August there is an article which states that Australia is in urgent need of a dental health insurance scheme, similar to the medical benefits and hospital scheme. The article is headed, "Dental Care 'Too Costly.'" Dr. Begg certainly spoke the truth when he made that statement. The article states—

Dr. Begg, senior lecturer in orthodontics at Adelaide University was speaking at the first Australian orthodontic congress in Sydney.

He said that, without such a scheme, Australian dentists would continue to find their professions non-lucrative.

More than 700 had gone to England to practise since England introduced its government-sponsored scheme.

That bears out exactly what I am trying to tell this House. In England, anyone who is in need of dental care goes to the hospital, and the insurance covers any work that has to be done. The article continues—

"Medical practitioners, even in the country, are earning a five-figure sum.

"The Australian medical and hospital schemes have unwittingly done dentists a great deal of harm.

"The public does not like having to pay dental bills without assistance when they receive help with medical bills.

"If the medical profession were aware of this problem, they would fight to help us bring sufficient political pressure to have a dental scheme introduced."

Dr. Begg said the exodus of Australian dentists to England was costing taxpayers money.

"The Federal Government is subsidising Australian universities and is virtually training dentists for England."

We cannot blame a trained man for getting out of a country which has the conditions existing here. Doctors in England, when they retire, receive a pension; so it is no wonder that there are very few disgruntled doctors who come from England. The next one I hear complain, I am going to ask him what he is short of.

I would now like to say a few words about local government. In England I was amazed at what I learned at meetings I attended. A nice compliment is paid to the womenfolk there. When a mayor is elected to a town the mayoress is given a small light replica of the mayoral collar. These wives do a lot as do the wives of mayors here. I thought it was a nice compliment to women, because they so often go unsung for all the work they do when their husbands are in social spheres or public positions. The women there are very proud of their little collar, and it gives them quite a lift in their public work.

In England, of course, they do much more social work in local government. They have adult franchise, and the duties of local government are better apportioned than they are here. They have their duties in the community and they really work with a will and tie in with the social and welfare schemes. I would recommend that Ministers take a trip. I would not begrudge it one bit if they came back and introduced something along the same lines here.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It is this franchise which has given you this marvellous opportunity to see all these wonderful things you have seen.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: What does the Minister mean?

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I am sorry, but I do not know what the Minister means. Perhaps he could explain when he replies.

The PRESIDENT: The honourable member should take no notice of interjections but should address the Chair.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Another protest I would like to make is in regard to the rise in university fees. I have been very proud that we have a free university here but I have received a great number of complaints about the steep rise in the

fees. I therefore took the trouble to obtain the 1961 calendar for the University of Western Australia, and I am astounded to see what the Government has done. It has pared everything of value and put nothing into the State.

The fee for the Faculty of Arts has been raised from £25 15s. to £48 7s.; the Diploma of Economic Psychology has been raised from £23 12s. to £47 17s.; the Faculty of Education, from £29 14s. to £48 17s.; the Diploma of Educational Psychology, from £23 to £43 17s.; Faculty of Economics, from £25 17s. to £48 9s. 6d.; the Faculty of Science, from £34 3s. 6d. to £59 7s.; the Faculty of Medicine, from £37 8s. to £60 8s.; the Faculty of Engineering, from £29 3s. to £60 2s.; and the Faculty of Agriculture, from £36 14s. to £59 2s. And so it goes on. The fees I have quoted are all for the full-time courses; the others are indicated, but it is no good wasting time quoting them.

The only one which does not seem to have been increased is the fee for Dental Science. Because we are losing our dentists, the Government has apparently decided to make the course a little cheaper instead of correcting the real cause of the exodus and introducing a dental service here. The fact that dentists are leaving the country is an indictment of the Government. As I have said, apparently the Government has reduced the fee for Dental Science from £73 8s. 6d. to £61 18s. 6d.

A university is a vital and necessary part of our lives, and in a young country like Australia, a country that needs educated people such as scientists, everything possible should be done to make it easier for students to get a university education. Not everyone can be a university student; and I am protesting now because of the cheese-paring policies of this Government, particularly in relation to university fees. Education is the fulcrum from which real progress in a country is reached; we cannot do without higher education in these days. In this scientific age higher education becomes imperative; it does not become a choice. Development of the power to think and reason comes from a sound education, and the opportunities of university training become more important to a nation. Therefore university education should be free and open to everyone who has the intellect to attain the standard required to study in a university.

As I have said before in this House, intellect is bestowed upon individuals impartially—male and female—regardless of colour or creed. So wherever it is available, it is the duty of Governments—irrespective of what they may be—to clear the path so that students may attend the University regardless of monetary considerations. Universities should be looked upon as a nation's assets, free to all who can obtain entry. I think there is truth in those words, and I do not think anyone would dispute them. Yet in this State,

where conditions are very bad and unemployment is rife, and people are crying out for something to be done, what is happening? The Government is denying the people who cannot afford to pay these fees the right to study and serve their state. The Government is denying the right to men and women to serve their State; and it is a pretty terrible thing to do. It is a derogatory and backward step for the Government to take in a scientific age, because it will mean a shortage of intellectuals and, in the future, we will not be able to carry on in the way we should.

We should be a leading nation. With our sun, our weather, and our opportunities, and with everything that we have to offer, we should not be going backwards. The opportunities are here for our children to develop healthy bodies and so develop healthy minds, and we should be doing all we can to help them instead of hindering them and preventing them from attending the University, which is the seat of learning in this State. So I ask the Government to give a second thought to this matter and to undo what it has done in regard to university fees.

I know of several children who have had to give away the idea of going to the University because they were told that the fees were going to be increased still further. I shall not be quiet on this issue so long as I have a tongue in my head and the right to speak in this House.

While in America I followed up a matter about which I had protested in this House on a previous occasion: films that are shown to our children on TV. I went to Hollywood and I visited the Columbia Corporation and various other film companies. I was told by the high executives of those companies that there was a market for these films. I said, "Yes. You can make a market for anything if you have the cash to do it." They invited me to their studios and were very nice to me. They showed me all around, but I still made my protest to them. They told me it was such an involved question that there was nothing that one man could do about it. I asked them whether they had received other protests about the quality of the films produced, and whether something could be done about it, but they sidestepped my questions and I could get no satisfaction from them.

As I said, they treated me very well and they photographed me at the Columbia Studios. I was shown around by the international representatives, but I could get no satisfaction regarding my complaints. Apparently what our Deputy Leader in the Federal Parliament said on a public platform was quite true: We are no longer a nation; we are only a colony and satellite of big business abroad. That is why we here are being fed with these films of violence, but I had the courage to go there and tell them what I thought

about their films. I appeared on TV four times and I made a number of records. I brought one home with me to show the progress that had been made but, I repeat, I could not get any satisfaction regarding my complaints. I think it will need a strong man, probably at Federal Government level, to see whether we can get better service; because the children in England get a much better service than our children do. In England they are showing historical films, and the standard of the films is so much higher than it is in Australia. I am not saying that children in England are not shown some films similar to what are shown to the children here, but if we could obtain some of their educational films it would at least do something towards counter-balancing the bad effects the poorer quality films are having.

It is of no use talking about what children do or what they do not do, because they sit down and see nothing else but films of murder and violence and dishonesty. That is the programme every night. I am a mother of children and, as I have said before, it is what we teach children when they are young that they remember, and they get so used to looking at films of violence that they see nothing wrong with them. From that, juvenile crime develops; and I think these films are one of the reasons for juvenile delinquency. Boys think it is clever to show their strength, and they get fun out of make-believe shooting when they are tiny. Why can we not show films that have something other than a theme of violence? We have had enough violence in the world.

As I said, I went to America and I spoke to the people concerned, but I could get no satisfaction from them. I was told that it was too big a question and that it was not the fault of anybody's in particular. I certainly do not know where it ends. It would take a person in a more powerful position than the one I hold to find the answer.

I was pleased to see that the Seaforth Home for Alcoholics will be ready in September. I have always protested about alcoholism or drunkenness being treated by putting the people concerned in gaol. I do not think it helps in the slightest degree, because alcoholism is, in a social sense, one of the cruellest diseases imaginable. I have seen good men go downhill through being addicted to alcohol. I have been through some of the large overseas clinics, and there is now a new approach to this question. I hope every assistance will be given to those responsible for the Seaforth home. I was at the first meeting the Salvation Army had here and I support them in their move.

The new idea is not to send alcoholics to gaol but to treat them as diseased persons. If they commit a crime they should be put on probation at one of the clinics, and while there they

could be treated. Alcoholics Anonymous is a very good movement and is doing some wonderful work in America and other countries. I am particularly interested in this subject because it is one which is very close to my heart. I have lived long enough to see the derelicts that can be created by the wrong treatment. Our whole attitude to the faults of human beings is wrong and our laws on the subject are wrong. In a minute I will speak about laws on another subject.

I have always advocated that the alcoholic content of our beer should be reduced. I think it is too strong; but when I asked questions about it I was told that it would not keep if the alcoholic content was reduced. That is a lot of nonsense. Australian beer is the strongest in the world—I am not stating that as a fact, but that is what I have been told—and if it is causing such a lot of misery, something should be done to reduce the alcoholic content. When a man is convicted of drunken driving, it is always the family that suffers—his wife and children. Our thinking should be sufficiently far advanced for us to be able to take a new line of thought and get to the real basis of these social problems.

In my opinion a man becomes an alcoholic because of worry or ill-health. First of all he drinks for relief and forgetfulness; few men deliberately become alcoholics. The stresses and strains which cause a man to become an alcoholic are gradually being recognised, and I hope every help possible will be given to the people who are suffering from this disease.

I now wish to speak on a subject upon which I have done a lot of research. I have attended many meetings in connection with this problem, and have inspected many institutions and, although it was hard work, I feel rewarded because of what is being achieved—I refer to epilepsy. There is a new approach to this problem, too, and I would like to read a short extract from a book I have on the subject. I was wondering whether something could be done in this State in the treatment of this disease. I have received many letters on the subject, and members would be astounded at the amount of suffering there is and the number of broken homes there have been because of epilepsy. I want to read this article because I want it recorded. It states—

The word "epilepsy" is Greek for seizure, and a seizure is the most easily recognisable way in which the disorder shows itself. But it is hard to define a seizure simply and exactly. Perhaps the best way to put it is this: a seizure is a temporary loss or impairment of consciousness; it usually occurs without apparent cause; and it is usually accompanied by muscular movements which may range anywhere from a slight twitching of the eyelids to a violent shaking of the entire body.

Epilepsy is a fairly common disease and it affects persons in all walks of life. As many people suffer from it as from diabetes or active tuberculosis—about one in 200 in the United States, or about a million.

This is an American book. It goes on—

Its cost to us is tremendous. Measured in money—and not counting lost manpower—it amounts to at least 60,000,000 dollars year. Measured in heartaches and wrecked lives, the toll is sorrowfully high. But much of the economic drain and most of the heartaches can be prevented. For doctors now know that, given adequate medical and social care, 80 out of every 100 persons with seizures can lead relatively normal lives. If doctors and laymen can provide for all patients the knowledge and treatment now available, the battle against one of the world's great scourges will be largely won.

There is a subheading entitled, "How It Got Its Bad Name." The article continues—

We now know that a person with tuberculosis or infantile paralysis has an excellent chance of recovering and living normally—provided that he has good medical care and that he and his family learn to work hand in hand with the physician. The same is true of a person with epilepsy. Too many people still regard the illness as an incurable horror, though if pressed they could not say why they think so.

This attitude, which is ages old, springs from our fear of the unknown. In ancient times a person with seizures was thought to be possessed of demons. That was the only way people could explain his occasionally strange behaviour. Even as recently as 200 years ago, some of Europe's leading doctors thought epilepsy was the work of witches. Educated people no longer believe that, of course, but some of them acted as if they did.

There is a further heading entitled "Epileptics Are Mentally Normal." The article continues—

The truth is that the great majority of persons subject to seizures are in every other way perfectly normal human beings. Dr. William G. Lennox studied the records of nearly 2,000 clinic and private patients. The intelligence of 67 per cent. was judged to be average or above; of 23 per cent. only slightly below average; and of only 10 per cent. grossly deficient. In another study Dr. Harry Sands found that intelligence scores of epileptics were the same as those found in the general population.

Some epileptics have I.Q.'s at the genius level, and some great, historical figures have suffered from seizures,

among them Julius Caesar, Alfred the Great, Lord Byron, Algernon Charles Swinburne the poet, Guy de Maupassant the writer, and Paganini the violinist.

Some doctors advocate giving the disease a name that is more precise and less distasteful. They have suggested such names as paroxysmal convulsive disorders, which emphasises one symptom of the disease.

The important point is to remove the stigma which has long been associated with the word epilepsy. This can only be done by educating people, and by improved methods of treatment. I thank the House for its indulgence while I was reading that article on epilepsy. The reason why I went away and made inquiries into this subject was so that I might be in a position to educate the public. I know of a family one of whose members was an epileptic. But it was kept secret. They would not use the word; but there was no reason at all why they should not have done so.

Epilepsy is merely the occurrence of a fit or seizure; it is the *grand mal* and is not pretty to watch. The one who is afflicted goes into a temporary sleep but when he awakes he is perfectly normal. I have a letter here which refers to a young man who was in the Navy. I do not propose to give any names or any detailed information in the matter. I will simply say that this young man fell sick and did not know what was the matter with him.

One day he fainted, and later on he was placed in hospital. After a short while he got quite well again and applied for entry into the Army. When the time came for his medical examination he was told he was an epileptic and that he would not be eligible for the Army. Accordingly he secured a job in the public service, but when it came to his obtaining a certificate to ensure his permanent employment he was not able to do so.

I think members should know, however, that in other countries, laws are being altered to remove this stigma which seems to be associated with epileptics. It might interest members to know that in my travels I secured two films on this subject; and, when I get sufficiently organised, I propose to launch a campaign on epilepsy. The ratio of epileptics is 1 in 200 throughout the world.

I was privileged to be the guest speaker at a meeting of the British Epilepsy Association, of which Princess Marina is the patron and Lady Cynthia Colville the president. There were also present leading neurologists from Europe, and other dignitaries. I found that people were changing their views entirely about this disease, and that it was no longer thought

to be a disgrace if one suffered from epilepsy. Previously it was considered to be no ordinary disease, and anybody who suffered from it was not too popular. It is very heartening to see this humane approach towards what is, after all, quite an ordinary disability.

I would now like to refer back to legislation that was put through last year relative to the registration of dogs. Members will recall that I protested very strongly at the proposal to make it compulsory for natives to register their dogs on the payment of a certain sum. I saw a letter in *The West Australian* complaining about the fact that it was necessary to obtain a statutory declaration to the effect that a dog had been sterilised; and that this statutory declaration had to be signed by one qualified to witness such a document—including qualified school-teachers. The lady who wrote the letter says—

Just imagine a qualified school-teacher, still a minor in the eyes of the law and not entitled to vote, being allowed to witness any statutory declaration—particularly that of a parent who legally is still considered a guardian.

The newspaper then obtained the opinion of the Local Government Department and it is as follows:—

A spokesman for the Local Government Department said that under an amendment to the Dog Act passed last year the registration fees were £1 for a bitch and 10s. for a male dog.

The amendment to the Act also provided that if the owner could produce a certificate from a veterinary surgeon or a statutory declaration certifying that a dog of either sex had been sterilised, the fee would be 5s. A classified State schoolteacher was a person qualified to witness any statutory declaration.

There appears to be something wrong in this, and I think the Minister should have a look at it. The whole position should be made easier, and it should not be necessary to obtain a statutory declaration. Surely it would suffice if the veterinary surgeon signed the statement. While I am on this subject, I would again like to protest at the imposition placed on the native population and the charge levied against them in connection with the registration of their dogs. This was one of the meanest things done by this Government; it perpetuated an injustice on native people.

In passing, I would like to make one or two observations on capital punishment. To my mind capital punishment is a relic of barbarism which does nothing but debase humanity. Surely we all look back with horror on the indignities that

were inflicted on people in days gone by—and I refer to such monstrous happenings as tarring and feathering, and so on. Yet we still persist with this outmoded system of hanging which, after all, is only another form of garrotting. The whole argument of a life for a life is archaic in the extreme. After all, a murderer is only a mental case and should be treated as such. Research should be carried out to try to discover what impulse or reaction causes him to commit these crimes. If this were done it would be a service to humanity.

The tragedy of a person who has been murdered is in no way lessened by the hanging of the person who committed the crime; and I am convinced that we fail in our duty to humanity in not trying to discover the cause for such human behaviour in such serious and tragic circumstances. I put that thought forward, because I am convinced that what I am suggesting is the line of approach we should adopt. If I had my way I would insist on those who condone hanging attending every hanging that took place. I am certain that would cure those who advocate capital punishment, whether they be Cabinet Ministers or anybody else.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: In the six years in which it was in office, what did the Government, of which you were a supporter, do about the abolition of capital punishment? It did nothing at all!

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: It did not hang anybody. Does not that mean something? It certainly did not follow the policy adopted by this Government which seems to want to hang everybody it can lay its hands on.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It is a case of "Don't do as I do, do as I tell you." That is what your party believes in.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I think the House will remember my having protested previously about women trainee teachers, and our approach to the women teachers who happen to get married. I went to considerable trouble to find out what obtained in New South Wales. I was told that although the Act has not been altered, it is never invoked.

I have a case here of a young woman who was married before she served her time with the department, and the department billed her £1,500 which it was necessary for her to refund. That is very severe indeed. I approached the department in the matter but got no satisfaction. I was told that she should not have got married. Whether she did right or wrong of course is a moot point. In New South Wales, if a woman marries, she is still able to teach; it does not affect her status with the department. As long as she serves her time with the Government, she is not penalised.

In Western Australia, however, as soon as a woman gets married her contract gets broken and she is penalised. That to me is a bit archaic and quite drastic. If it is possible for a man to marry and go on teaching, I see no reason why a woman cannot do the same. I found that in New South Wales if a woman should marry and have a child she is given leave. But if her health is affected, she is absolved from her contract.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Many school-teachers here get married and go on teaching.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: In Western Australia a woman must remain single while training. If she gets married she is considered to be no longer in Government employ; she has broken her contract. It does not matter in the least if she is willing to work. In the case of the girl I have mentioned, the department compulsorily kept half her pay and billed her for £1,500.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: She is still teaching and the department has billed her for £1,500?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Yes. I think members will agree that that is pretty tough. As long as I am here I shall continue to advocate women's rights and privileges. If my Government were in office I am sure it would find me a tough proposition, because it might be possible for me to convince them of my cause. I would now like to refer to a letter which I have here from the Director of Teacher Training in New South Wales. I know of a girl in New South Wales who got married; and so long as she was willing to continue teaching it did not affect her status at all. I do not know what is lovely about the attitude of the Government of Western Australia, because if a female teacher gets married she is liable to pay the bond. The case I mentioned happened to a domestic science teacher—a branch of teachers who are in short supply—and she has to repay a bond of £1,500. Getting back to the letter which I mentioned, it has this to say—

The policy of the department is to require a student in training, if a female, to resign her scholarship if she marries while in training. Usually, however, she is permitted to complete her course of training as a private student and she may then apply for employment by the department.

She is not saddled with the bond. There is nothing wrong with that. I am not saying that these girls should not enter into a bond. However, in New South Wales a girl can please herself whether she gets married or not. To continue with the letter—

A teacher who is under bond and who marries is not released from her bond obligations. If, however, after marriage she resigns to care for a child her remaining bond liability will be waived. A female teacher who resigns to be married after having served three years of her bonded period will not be required to serve the remainder of the bonded period and will be relieved of any equivalent financial responsibility.

Those conditions apply under a Labor Government, I am proud to say.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: How many years is the bond term here?

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: I think it differs. I am not *au fait* with it. I have a teachers' training scholarship manual which I intend to read. Going back to the case which I previously mentioned, the girl concerned was to have a child and she left the department, with the result that she has to pay the money back out of wages. What chance has a man when he has to pay £2 a week out of his wages in order to repay £1,500. It is a lifetime job. I tried to obtain some alleviation in this case, but did not get any satisfaction at all. This girl is liable to pay the bond, yet she is out of the Education Department. This couple have to pay the money whether the girl serves or not. If this girl is prepared to teach, why on earth should she have to pay a double penalty just because she got married? Those conditions need altering.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: There are three penalties if she has a bad husband.

The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON: Too right! I hope I have made a worthwhile contribution to the motion before the Chair. I think I have spoken long enough and have brought up quite enough subjects for the Minister to think about. Therefore, I conclude by offering you, Mr. President, my thanks for your patience in listening to a lot of varied subjects.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery.

House adjourned at 5.50 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 17th August, 1961

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