

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 11th August, 1964

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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

STUDENTS' ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Restrictions in S.G.I.O. Scheme

- The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:
 - How long has it been necessary to include in part A, form 46A, of the students' accident insurance scheme of the State Government Insurance Office the passage "The insured will bear under Plan A the first £2 and under Plan B the first £1 of each and every claim under the policy"?
 - What is the reason for applying this rule?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- The 15th February, 1964.
- Continuing loss arising from the operation of this scheme. Accumulated loss to the 30th June, 1963, was £18,303. Estimated loss for the year ended the 30th June, 1964, is about £10,000. Some change was necessary in an endeavour to prevent losses becoming too large.

STATE HOTEL AT GWALIA

Disposal of Furniture and Fittings

- The Hon. D. P. DELLAR asked the Minister for Mines:
 - (a) Were the furniture and fittings of the Gwalia State hotel advertised for sale in the *Kalgoorlie Miner*?
 - If so, on what date did the advertisement appear?
 - (a) Were tenders called for the disposal of the furniture and fittings or any part thereof;
 - If so, in which newspaper, and on what date, were such tenders called?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) and (2) Refrigeration equipment and fittings and cabinets were advertised for sale by the State Tender Board in *The West Australian* on the 11th and the 15th January, 1964, and in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* on the 14th and the 17th January, 1964, and disposed of by the board. The bulk of the furniture and furnishings was transferred to the Child Welfare Department for relief purposes. Other Government departments, including the Medical Department, Public Works Department, Mt. Henry Home, and Leonora Hospital participated in the distribution.

Following valuation, some items were disposed of locally by a senior representative of the Chief Secretary's Department, who went to Gwalia to supervise closing down formalities.

CROSSWALKS AT KALGOORLIE

Parking alongside: Town Council's Authority to Restrict

- The Hon. G. BENNETTS asked the Minister for Local Government:

Pursuant to what satutory, or other, authority has the Kalgoorlie Town Council the right to zone no parking areas bordering crosswalks on both sides of Hannan Street, and to threaten prosecution in respect of motorists who park vehicles in such restricted areas?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

Traffic regulation 183 provides *inter alia*: The driver or person in charge of a vehicle shall not stand or park the vehicle—

- within 20 feet of the approach side of a marked pedestrian crossing.

The Kalgoorlie Town Council, as the local traffic authority, has authority under traffic regulations 4 and 350 to erect signs to give effect to this and a number of other traffic regulations.

RENTAL AND PURCHASE HOMES

Provision at Kununurra

4. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Housing:

Will the Minister advise what progress he has made towards the Shire of Wyndham proposals:—

- (a) The making available of rental homes at Kununurra?
- (b) The building on terms of homes for landowners at Kununurra who are able to pay deposits?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

No proposals have been received recently from the shire of Wyndham in respect of housing at Kununurra. To date, the Government has met all urgent and essential housing needs, and regularly reviews demands for all classes of accommodation at Kununurra.

MENZIES-LEONORA ROAD

Bituminising

5. The Hon. D. P. DELLAR asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that no bituminising was effected on the Menzies-Leonora road during the financial year ended the 30th June, 1964?
- (2) If the reply to No. (1) is "Yes," why was the work not carried out as was promised?
- (3) When will the black road be completed from Menzies to Leonora?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No promise was given to carry out sealing work between Menzies and Leonora during 1963-64.
- (3) It was anticipated that a black top would be completed to Leonora during 1965-66. However, the reduced volume of traffic due to the closing down of the Gwalia Mine may vary the programme.

POLICE QUARTERS AT DERBY

Modernisation

6. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Housing:

As the police quarters at Derby are suffering from age and constitute an eyesore in a modernising town, when can it be expected they will be replaced with homes in keeping with surroundings?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

An amount of £10,000 has been provided on the 1964-65 loan works programme to commence erection of new quarters and lock-up at Derby.

The total cost of the work is to be £25,000.

It is anticipated that work will be commenced during this financial year.

PRIMARY SCHOOL AT NORTH MERREDIN

Sealing of Grounds

7. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) (a) Is the Minister for Education aware that the North Merredin Primary School grounds are a sea of water and in a soft, muddy condition in wet weather?
- (b) Will he give earnest consideration to this problem by having the grounds graded for quick run-off and then bitumen sealed?

Repairs and Renovations

- (2) (a) Is the Minister aware that repairs and renovations are badly needed at the school?
- (b) If so, will he sanction early repairs and renovations being put in hand?
- (c) If not, will he have the school inspected to ascertain the requirements to bring the school up to the standard necessary for the comfort of the children attending and staff alike?

Replacement of Furniture and Cupboards

- (3) (a) Is he further aware that the furniture and cupboards are old and obsolete and require replacing or modernising?
- (b) If repairs are carried out, will he have modern type blackboards installed?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) Yes.
 - (b) A ground improvements scheme has been prepared by the Public Works Department, but before this is implemented the department proposes erecting three additional classrooms in order that the old timber-framed rooms can be removed from the site. The modernisation of the existing rooms will be included in the contract for additions which will be started during this current financial year.
- (2) (a) Yes.
 - (b) The Public Works Department advises that external and internal repairs and renovations will be carried out in the latter half of the current financial year.
 - (c) Answered by (b).
- (3) (a) Replacement desks and chairs are on order.
 - (b) Answered by No. (1) (b).

The Hon. G. Bennetts: I got that reply five years ago.

"THE GULLY," WYNDHAM

Freehold Titles: Availability to Residents

8. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Housing:
 - (1) Is the Government opposed to the granting of titles to residents in the locality known as "The Gully" at Wyndham?
 - (2) If the Government is not opposed, what is causing many years of delay in issuing such titles?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) The Government is not opposed to the granting of freehold titles in the locality known as "The Gully" at Wyndham. It is proposed to make 21 lots available for sale to give the present lessees opportunity to purchase.
- (2) The issue of titles has been delayed through action to resurvey the lots, amending class "A" reserves, closing streets, terminating existing leases and obtaining from the present lessees an undertaking to execute an easement to protect the pipeline extending through the lots.

POINT SAMSON JETTY

Disrepair

9. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Mines:
 - (1) Is it the policy of this Government to allow the Point Samson Jetty to fall into the state of disrepair it now suffers?
 - (2) If such is not Government policy, why is maintenance of the structure grossly neglected?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) The jetty is not considered to be in a state of disrepair. It was used by 102 vessels in 1963-64 without incident.
- (2) It is considered that maintenance of the structure is not grossly neglected. 177 piles have been replaced over the past three years and 35 more will be driven during the 1964-65 financial year. Additional equipment on order will facilitate carrying out maintenance work.

NAPIER BROOME BAY

Jetty Facilities

10. The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Mines:

Will the Minister advise—

 - (a) Whether the Government has abandoned the Hawke Government's decision to provide jetty facilities at Napier Broome Bay to assist development of North Kimberley;
 - (b) if no such decision has been made, when can it be expected that these facilities will be provided?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) No firm decisions have yet been taken.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 4th August, on the following motion by The Hon. J. G. Hislop:—

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.

THE HON. H. R. ROBINSON (Suburban) [4.47 p.m.]: On page 5 of the Governor's Speech there is a paragraph which refers to the discovery of oil and gas at Yardarino and Barrow Island, and it states that the results are encouraging and that a full assessment of their value is eagerly awaited.

It is rather disappointing to read in this morning's paper that salt water has been encountered at Yardarino No. 2 well. At the same time, however, I think great credit should be given to Wapet, and to the other oil companies, for the manner in which they have carried out this exploration; for the work they have done in the various parts of the State; and for the large amount of money they have put into the venture. It has been said that Wapet has spent over £21,000,000 in the past nine years. This is a huge amount, and it is to be hoped they will soon find oil in commercial quantities.

Not only is oil important, but the gases themselves are important to the progress of Western Australia; and the finding of gas at Yardarino and Barrow Island could play a very important part in the future progress of Western Australia.

I would now like to say a few words on speech therapy. I understand there is a shortage of speech therapists in Western Australia. On the other hand, there are many young people, particularly girls, who learn art of speech and who, after matriculating, desire to take on the profession of speech therapy. It is necessary, however, for them to go either to Victoria or New South Wales, because they are the only two States in Australia where speech therapy is taught.

Perhaps the Minister responsible could have a look at this set-up to see whether or not it is possible to establish a training centre in Western Australia. It is most undesirable for a 17-year-old girl to have to leave her home environment and go to Victoria, or New South Wales, for a period of three years to qualify as a speech therapist.

Speech therapy is being used extensively here, not only with spastics and for speech defects in children, but particularly in the treatment of the aged. I think it is something that could easily be looked into to see whether some sort of system for training could be introduced into Western Australia.

Some months ago the Government acquired the Maylands aerodrome from the Commonwealth; and the arrangement with the Commonwealth, I understand, was for the acquisition to be for recreation and police use. Representations were subsequently made by the Perth Shire Council to have the area vested in that shire for recreational purposes. However, an article appeared in the *Daily News* last Wednesday, the 5th August, stating that the Perth

Shire Council had envisaged the development of this area for a population of 7,000 in multistoried buildings, with a hotel, a service station, and so forth.

I understand that the council itself has not finally approved of this plan. It is only a suggestion from the administrative officers and it still has to be presented to the Government; but I hope that if the plan does go forward to the Government, this area of 247 acres will be preserved for recreational purposes. The Maylands aerodrome itself is only a stone's throw from the heart of the city. As a matter of fact, when the new Swan River drive crosses the river on the aerodrome site it will be only seven minutes from the heart of the city. It seems a pity that such a large area should be developed for any other purpose. It should be kept for recreational purposes for future generations.

At one stage I suggested that the Western Australian National Football League should have a look at this ground as it was so close to the city, but apparently that body decided it was unacceptable to it as a national football headquarters. It could be developed for many types of sport, and I hope the Government will keep it for recreational purposes.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Too many of these places are taken away from kids.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: I would like to congratulate the Bush Fires Board; and I refer to its functioning in the metropolitan area, because this is the first time that the residents in the metropolitan area have known exactly where they stood in regard to regulations for burning off during the summer months. Before there was always confusion. There would be statements made by various departmental heads. The fire chief would make a statement one day and perhaps three or four days later another departmental officer would make a statement; but this is the first time the public has been made fully aware of its responsibilities in regard to the burning off period.

At the beginning of the summer season quite a large advertisement appeared in *The West Australian* on a prominent page setting out details of the prohibited burning period up to the 31st March; and the advertisement told exactly what should happen in regard to that period. Then, covering the period from the 1st April to the 31st May, there was a different type of advertisement setting out what could happen during that period. Perhaps to the 31st May may have been a bit too long, but it seems to me that the public was made fully aware of its responsibilities.

In addition to the advertisements that appeared each fortnight, some of the local authorities in the metropolitan area had printed the regulations and the rules for burning off, and posted them out with the rate notices to every ratepayer in the area. As well as that, 200,000 of these circulars

were distributed to school children to whom the whole of the regulations were described; and they, in turn, would go home and tell the story to their parents.

This had quite an effect on the number of fires we had in the metropolitan area during this last summer; so much so that Athol Thomas wrote quite a lengthy article in *The West Australian* of the 3rd April last under the heading, "Long, Dry Summer—But Fewer Fires." Portion of the article reads as follows:—

Metropolitan fire brigades have pleasure in announcing that business is not as good as usual.

Despite the long, dry summer, brigades in the metropolitan fire district had to attend far fewer of the minor blazes that consume so much time and energy as well as grass and rubbish.

Then the article goes on and quotes various figures. It is interesting to note that in comparing the summer of 1962-63 with that of 1963-64 there were, in the first case, 37 calls per day for fire brigades, while in the latter there were only 14 calls per day. As a matter of fact, the article finishes up as follows:—

The smaller our turnover, the better our business.

It seems to me that the Bush Fires Board, particularly in the metropolitan area, has done a remarkably good job, and I feel it deserves congratulations on the work it has carried out.

Last year, in the Address-in-Reply, I referred to the Institute for the Blind at Maylands and requested the Minister to give consideration to increasing the amount the Government gave to that institute each year, and within a few weeks a report was called for and the amount increased considerably. In addition to that, the Lotteries Commission increased its grant by £2,000 when it found the Government had increased the amount which it granted each year. This is a very worthy cause. I attended the annual meeting of the institute some months ago, and it is very grateful for the help given by the Government.

Several months ago the Minister for Local Government made a move to get some support for an alteration to boundaries of local authorities and called a conference of mayors, presidents, town clerks, and shire clerks to make suggestions for the improvement of the set-up of local authorities in the metropolitan area. It seems that from its inception it did not get off the ground on account of parochial issues. My personal feelings in this matter are that in addition to the alteration of boundaries, a look should be had at the question of whether a number of amalgamations should take place in the metropolitan area, because some of the areas are far too small and some are far too

big. It appears to me as if the time might be ripe for the Minister to make a move himself.

I feel that at a conference it is not possible to overcome the parochial attitude that is adopted by the councillors themselves. They represent particular areas and do not want them altered, even though they may have been in existence for, say, 50 years. They want their particular areas left as they are. When one looks at the boundaries of, say, 22 of the local authorities in the metropolitan area, one finds that Peppermint Grove has an area of .4 of a square mile; Claremont has 1.9 square miles; Cottesloe 1.5; and Mosman 1.3.

I wish to refer particularly to the town of Midland, as the Midland Town Council has an area of 2.5 square miles and one third of that area is non-ratable. The area includes the Midland Junction Workshops, and, of course, the area now taken over from the Midland Railway Company; and there is the abattoir. A third of that area is non-ratable. It has a rating potential of just under £36,000; and it is quite impossible for a council of that size to carry out a major works programme.

Then there are the adjoining authorities: on the one side there is Mundaring with 247 square miles, and on the other side Swan-Guildford with 396 square miles. It seems to me that Midland is a tiny pocket and something should be done to reblan the area along its boundaries, or there should be consideration given to amalgamation. I think the Minister should have a look at this problem to see whether something could be done.

The Mundaring area stretches from the Great Eastern Highway to Bellevue. The Swan-Guildford boundary comes to within three quarters of a mile of the main town of Midland and almost takes in the Midland High School. Until the Minister initiates some changes the situation will continue and the position will worsen.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: We have three in Kalgoorlie in four miles.

The Hon. H. E. ROBINSON: Possibly there is a case in Kalgoorlie, but I am referring particularly to the metropolitan area. The situation seems ridiculous in Kalgoorlie where there is a town council and a shire council; and the Boulder Shire Council adjoins. That is another area that should be looked at.

If there were a smaller number of local authorities in the metropolitan area it would be better for administration; it would mean an improvement so far as ratepayers are concerned; and it might mean an overall lowering of the rating.

The problem of mosquitoes in the metropolitan area has existed for many years, particularly in the upstream area of the Swan River. Each year a considerable amount of money has been spent by local authorities on mosquito eradication. This

is, however, only a temporary measure and not much relief has been afforded from the action taken. I was interested to read an item that appeared in *The West Australian* on the 24th February, 1964. It is headed, "New Barrier To Mosquito," and reads as follows—

TORONTO, Sunday: A new insecticide which is death to mosquitoes has been developed at the University of Western Ontario.

The article goes on to explain the research that had been carried out in connection with this mosquito insecticide. I do not know whether the Department of Public Health has made inquiries concerning this matter, but perhaps it could do so to see whether this insecticide could be made available in Western Australia.

Various conferences have been held. I attended one at Belmont called by the department some 12 months or 18 months ago. Plans that have been submitted have been long-range plans. They have included the gradual filling-in of the river flats and reclamation work which will take up to 20 to 30 years to complete. We should look for something which will deal with the problem now, and we should do our best to eliminate the mosquito problem in the metropolitan area.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: A lot of them must be migrating to Merredin.

The Hon. H. R. ROBINSON: They have been particularly bad in the metropolitan area during the last two years.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. J. Dolan.

House adjourned at 5.5 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

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