

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

## (HANSARD)

### Second Session of the Twenty-fifth Parliament

*Parliament was prorogued on the 1st June, 1966, to the 28th July, 1966, when it met for the despatch of business.*

*Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Governor (Major-General Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.)*

### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

## Legislative Council

Thursday, the 28th July, 1966

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#### MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Legislative Council met at 3 p.m.

The **PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair.

#### PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Parliaments (Mr. J. B. Roberts) read the Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor (Major-General Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.) summoning the second session of the Twenty-fifth Parliament.

#### GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

##### *Delivery*

His Excellency the Governor (Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.) entered the Council Chamber at 3.6 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 here for the second session of the twenty-fifth Parliament of Western Australia.

Since we last met, we have been honoured by the visit of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Her Majesty was warmly received wherever she travelled, both in the metropolitan and country areas.

The State was also honoured by a visit from two American astronauts who came as personal representatives of the President of the United States of America.

It is with deep regret that I refer to the deaths of Senator the Honourable Sir Shane Paltridge and Senator Seddon Vincent. Both were respected members of the Federal Parliament and they gave very distinguished service to the State and the nation.

It is also with deep regret that I refer to the recent death of the Honourable Hubert Stanley Wyborn Parker, D.S.O., V.D. The late Mr. Parker rendered valuable service to Parliament and to the State, as a Minister of the Crown, and as a member of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council.

During the year, the Honourable the Premier and three of his Ministers made overseas visits of varying duration, representing the State on specific occasions and endeavouring to widen contacts and strengthen goodwill between this State and other peoples.

For the first time in the history of the State Parliament, members of both Houses undertook a specially arranged tour of the north of the State. There is no doubt that this was a highly desirable undertaking, giving members an opportunity to extend their knowledge and personal understanding of a very important part of the State.

The confidence we all feel in the progress of the State has been further reinforced by major developments. In every field, the economy is expanding and employment is generally buoyant. Investment is still rising, from both local and external sources, as the State's vast natural resources are developed.

*Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.*

The budget result for the financial year just ended was the best, before Grants Commission adjustment, since 1950-51. The State deficit for 1965-66 was \$10,000 compared with a budget estimate of \$1,646,000.

This result was most satisfactory in view of the increased salary margins and basic wage variations which were absorbed during the year.

A further improvement in railway finances and increased Financial Assistance Grant from the Commonwealth were mainly responsible for the considerably reduced deficit.

Capital works expenditure from the General Loan Fund amounted to \$52,922,000, mainly on improvements to the Railway system, water supplies, schools, hospitals and housing.

*Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.*

*Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.*

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### *The Land*

#### *Land Development*

Land development continues at the highest level in Australia. For over seven years, farmland has been released at the rate of one-million acres, and pastoral leases at more than six-million acres. New releases in the next 12 months will include 450,000 acres in the Midlands area.

#### *Cereals*

An excellent season gave Western Australia a record 103,000,000 bushel wheat crop, and the State is providing 60 per cent of Australia's current wheat exports. Higher cereal sowings are expected this year.

#### *Wool and Sheep*

A record 2,000,000 increase in the State's sheep population has helped lift production of greasy wool by as much as 32,000,000 lb.

#### *Dairying*

Milk production was 5 per cent above the previous State record.

#### *Pastoral Research*

Surveying of boundaries for the proposed pastoral research station near Fitzroy Crossing has begun, and it should be possible to begin research into pastoral problems in the West Kimberley next year.

### *Meat*

There has been a consistent strengthening of demand for West Australian meat on overseas markets, especially in Japan, the United States of America and the Arabian Gulf.

### *Ord Project*

Thirty-one farms have been allocated at the Ord River. The cotton harvest this year is expected to show an improvement on the very satisfactory yields of last season and should return at least \$2,000,000. Discussions are proceeding with the Commonwealth in connection with finance for the completion of the Ord Irrigation Project.

## MINERALS

### *Value*

During the calendar year 1965, the total value of the State's mineral production rose by more than \$4,300,000 to almost \$54,000,000. Of this, gold production was valued at more than \$20,722,000.

Earnings from iron ore, bauxite, tin, beach sands and other minerals are expected to increase substantially during 1966 and subsequent years.

### *Gold*

The Government has acted on most of the recommendations contained in the report by members of the Parliamentary All-Party Committee which inquired into the State's goldmining industry. The Federal Treasurer has been asked to appoint an economist to prepare a case for an increase in the price of gold.

### *Iron Ore Shipments*

The State entered a new era in mineral production during the year when the first commercial shipments of iron ore were despatched from the mainland ports of Geraldton and Port Hedland to Japan. The first shipment from the new port of Dampier will be made in August. There have been several shipments to Japan of iron ore from Koolan Island.

### *Major Projects*

By the end of June, 1966, Goldsworthy Mining Proprietary Limited and Hamersley Iron Proprietary Limited had spent in excess of \$140,000,000 on their iron ore ventures in the Pilbara. Local firms participated substantially in these works.

### *Mt. Newman*

The Government is continuing negotiations with the companies concerned for a revised basis for developing the Mount Newman iron ore project. The result could be an even bigger development at Port Hedland than originally proposed.

### *Oil*

Almost simultaneously with the first shipments of iron ore, a decision was made to go ahead with the development of Barrow Island as Australia's third, and

biggest commercial oil field. This decision was made by West Australian Petroleum Proprietary Limited in May this year.

#### *Nickel and Copper*

Other significant developments in the intensive search for minerals in Western Australia have been the discovery of deposits of nickel and copper which have good prospects of becoming economic.

### **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

During the year, the economic growth of the State has benefited from the success of the Government's industrial development policy. The manufacturing sector has had another busy year, and there is every indication that the net value of production will exceed the record \$260,000,000 of 1964-65.

#### *Pellets*

Hamersley Iron Proprietary Limited has started work on a plant at Dampier which will be capable of producing 2,000,000 tons of pellets a year. This major processing industry is due to begin exports in 1968. It is the stepping stone to further processing in the area.

#### *Solar Salt*

The Leslie Salt Company of San Francisco has signed an agreement to establish a 1,000,000 tons a year salt industry at Port Hedland at a capital cost of \$7,000,000. The agreement will be presented to Parliament for ratification.

#### *Wundowie*

Another agreement which will be presented to Parliament for ratification provides for a modern mechanised foundry to be established at Wundowie by Australian National Industries Proprietary Limited. The company has an option to purchase the existing Wundowie Charcoal Iron Industry.

#### *Other Projects*

Work is well advanced on the blast furnace being constructed for Australian Iron and Steel Proprietary Limited at Kwinana. At Spearwood, production has commenced at the major paper making plant of Australian Paper Manufacturers Limited. The \$20,000,000 Kwinana fertiliser complex is being developed in two separate stages. Work has already begun on the first stage which is being constructed by C.S.B.P. and Farmers Limited. At Bunbury, La Porte Titanium Australia Limited is expanding its operations, and Alcoa of Australia Proprietary Limited is doubling the capacity of its alumina refinery at Kwinana.

#### *Country Industry*

The Government has been successful in negotiating the establishment of a number of industries in country areas, the most recent being the \$500,000 factory to be built at Donnybrook by A.C.I. Fibre Packages Company for the manufacture of fibre containers, and the reorganisation and expansion of Engineering Service Proprietary Limited at Kalgoorlie.

### **FISHERIES**

#### *Value*

A fall in crayfish production has been to a large extent offset by the development of a valuable prawn industry in the Exmouth Gulf and Carnarvon areas. The prime value of fish caught in the past year is expected to exceed \$13,000,000.

### **FORESTS**

A field research station will be built at Manjimup to deal with problems of karri regeneration and thinning. It will also be used by Forests Department officers to study problems associated with the growing of pines and with fire control.

### **TOURIST INDUSTRY**

Energetic promotion of the State's tourist attractions has resulted in an increased number of visitors to Western Australia. Current developments in the North-West have stimulated tourist interest in that area.

#### *Hotel Grading*

Close liaison between the Tourist Development Authority and the Licensing Court is expected to lead to the introduction in the near future of a proposed hotel grading scheme.

### **NORTH-WEST**

In the North, the extent and the pace of development are attracting world-wide interest. New ports and towns and other important projects have been developed and more are in progress. At North West Cape, the United States Naval Communications centre and the support township of Exmouth are nearing completion.

### **DEVELOPMENTAL WORKS AND SERVICES**

As well as encouraging the economic expansion of the State, the Government has undertaken a major programme of developmental works.

#### *Power*

The Muja Generating Station at Collie was officially opened in April, and will expand from 60, to 240 megawatts by 1968. To keep ahead of power demands, the Government will build another 240 megawatt station at Kwinana to be completed by 1970. During the year, electricity supplies have been extended to over 8,000 new consumers, including the towns of Northampton, Augusta, Dwellingup, Beverley, Williams, Southern Cross, Bullfinch, and Marvel Loch, and to over 1,000 individual farms.

#### *Roads*

A record \$31,932,000 will be spent this year by the Main Roads Department on the State's road system. Nearly one-quarter of this has been allocated for road works in the North, including the first stage of a nine-year programme for sealing the North West Coastal Highway between Carnarvon and Port Hedland. Work

is proceeding on the construction of the central section of the Mitchell Freeway in Perth and on the sealing of Eyre Highway.

#### *Railways*

The past year has seen a further strengthening of railway finances. Final results for 1965-66 are expected to be the best for many years. The standard gauge project is progressing, and the new Avon Valley dual gauge route between Midland and Northam was used for the first time in February by narrow gauge trains. Operations with 4ft. 8½in. gauge trains are expected to begin between Merredin and Fremantle during the year. Another major event was the opening in February of the new rail link between Koolanooka and Morawa for the transport of iron ore to Geraldton. Private developers throughout the world will be asked to submit self-financing proposals for lowering Perth's central city railway.

#### *State Ships*

The service previously operated by the State Shipping Service is now controlled by the Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission. To increase the cargo carrying capacity of the fleet, M.V. "Koolama" is to be lengthened, and the Commission is investigating the economics of adding to the fleet, either a versatile cargo vessel of 5,000 tons, or a barge-carrying type vessel.

#### *Transport*

An overall review of the State's transport system has been completed and the special report by Mr. C. G. C. Wayne, Commissioner of Railways, is being considered by the Government. The report will be important in formulating transport policies for the future. Sixty new buses will be brought into use this year by the Metropolitan Transport Trust following a 4 per cent. increase in patronage last year.

#### *Traffic*

The report by the Interdepartmental Committee recommending that the Police be given sole authority for traffic control is being considered by the Government.

#### *Water and Sewerage*

More than \$2,000,000 will be provided this year for further extensions to the Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme, and half of this will be advanced by the Commonwealth from special Loan Funds. The provision of new water supplies and sewerage schemes in country towns is continuing. In the metropolitan area, water services have been extended to Herne Hill, Bickley and Rockingham. Work on the South of the Swan River Sewerage Scheme has been continued.

#### *Port Construction*

The State's very extensive programme for expanding ports has been continued, and a new deep water jetty at Broome was officially opened a few days ago. A land-backed wharf has been brought into use at Esperance, a second land-backed wharf

is nearing completion at Bunbury, and the new Number 4 Berth at Geraldton has been completed. Major new facilities have been established by private mining companies at Port Hedland and at Dampier. Works in progress at Fremantle include preparations for up-river extensions to the Inner Harbour, and the construction of a new berth to handle containerised cargo. A new bulk cargo jetty is being built in the Outer Harbour, and the Parmelia and Success Channels are being deepened to 45 feet.

#### *Irrigation*

A new dam has been built at Waroona to increase supplies to the Waroona irrigation district, and the Commonwealth has undertaken to join the State in a preliminary assessment of the damming of the Gascoyne River.

#### *Homes*

In the past year, 2,500 homes were built by the State Housing Commission. This was 400 more than in the previous year.

#### *Education*

Enrolments at Government primary and secondary schools now exceed 146,000. Next year, a further increase of 4,500 is expected. New high schools will be built at South Fremantle and Balcatta, and new primary schools are planned for 1967 at Cannington, Bentley, Booragoon, Hamilton Hill, City Beach, Morley, Bunbury and Jurien Bay. An early start will be made on the building of a secondary Teachers' College. The further development of the Institute of Technology and other Technical Schools will be continued with the aid of Commonwealth finance.

#### *Hospitals*

The programme of expanding, improving and operating more than 100 Government-controlled hospitals has been continued. The Regional Hospital at Bunbury has been opened, the Geraldton Regional Hospital will be opened later in the year, and new hospitals are being built at Bentley and Cunderdin. Substantial additions have been carried out at the Derby District Hospital. Planning is proceeding on many other major hospital projects.

### **GENERAL**

#### *Local Government*

The boundaries, finances and general activities of Local Government will be the subject of an overall review by a committee appointed by the Government. Some amendments to the Local Government Act will be introduced this Session.

#### *Safety*

The Government is continuing with its efforts to improve road safety, and during this Session, an amendment to the Traffic Act will be introduced to provide for compulsory vehicle inspections throughout the State.

### *Native Welfare*

The area within which legal access to liquor is granted to natives is being extended to include the North-West, and vocational training facilities will be further extended during the year when a new centre will be opened at Gnowangerup. It is planned to build additional homes during the year for natives.

### *Police*

The strength of the Police has been increased by another 25 men, and the Government is currently considering further increases. The new Central Police Station has been opened at East Perth and new police stations have been built at Brentwood, Morley and Gosnells. Further police stations will be provided at Jerramungup, Koolyanobbing and Wanneroo.

### *Child Welfare*

There has been further progress in child welfare services, and a programme of improved Government services for the housing of socially deprived children is being implemented.

### *Town Planning*

The Government's policy of making all major public and private interests in the Metropolitan Region part of the planning process, has been developed a stage further. The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority's six advisory committees, which are representative of the Region's full spectrum, have been brought into co-ordinated operation.

### *Civil Defence*

The State Civil Defence and Emergency Service has set up an operational and training headquarters at Belmont. Emergency radio sets, financed by the State, have been installed at Carnarvon, Onslow, Port Hedland and Broome to ensure direct contact with Perth in the event of other communications being damaged by cyclones.

### *Youth Council*

There has been widespread interest in the recently established Youth Council and its activities. With a view to studying the accommodation requirements of youth groups, the Youth Council, in co-operation with the Perth Shire Council, has established a youth centre in the Maylands area.

### *Legislation*

Legislation to be placed before you, other than that already mentioned, will include Bills to amend—

The Bills of Sale Act, insofar as the procedure for registration of Bills of Sale out of time is concerned.

The Main Roads Act, to permit the Main Roads Department to employ cadets and to provide for the management of controlled access roads.

The Rural and Industries Bank Act, to empower the Bank to acquire land, and to arrange for the building of dwelling houses.

The Education Act, to authorise Parents and Citizens' Associations to provide sporting amenities for Government schools, and empowering the Minister to allow children below the compulsory leaving age to leave school in certain circumstances.

The Administration Act, to permit funeral expenses up to \$200 to be an allowable deduction for duty purposes.

The Petroleum Act, relating to the control of oil exploration and development of the State's off, and on-shore areas.

There will also be Bills to enable a Medical Centre to be established at Hollywood and to control the spraying of agricultural chemicals from aircraft.

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

His Excellency and the members of the Legislative Assembly then withdrew from the Chamber, and the President resumed the Chair.

### **BILLS OF SALE ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Leave to Introduce*

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (North Metropolitan—Minister for Justice) [3.45 p.m.]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice—

That leave be given to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Bills of Sale Act, 1899-1963.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

#### *Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Justice), and read a first time.

### **GOVERNOR'S SPEECH**

#### *Distribution of Copies*

**THE PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver) [3.47 p.m.]: I have to announce that for the sake of accuracy I have obtained copies of His Excellency's Speech which will now be distributed to members.

### **ADDRESS-IN-REPLY : FIRST DAY**

#### *Motion*

**THE HON. V. J. FERRY** (South-West) [3.48 p.m.]: I move—

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

May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sov-

ereign and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

I am deeply conscious of the privilege and honour of moving the Address-in-Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor of Western Australia on this occasion which marks the opening of the second session of the 25th Parliament of this State.

We realise that the Governor represents our Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II. It is through this system that we have our parliamentary stability today. I would refer to the recent visit, only last March, of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and I feel I speak for all Western Australians when I say how pleased we were to see the Queen Mother in our midst again, renewing acquaintances, making new ones, and keeping in touch and being informed of conditions throughout the State. I look back with a great deal of admiration to the time of dire peril, during World War II, when the Queen Mother, together with her late husband, King George VI, who was then reigning, refused to leave the City of London at the time of the full onslaught of the war against Nazi Germany. I recall full well the tremendous dedication and the devotion to duty of the Royal Family during this extremely trying period, and I am certain that not only Britain, but also the whole of the rest of the free world, took heart from their very fine example.

So it is we have this continuing contact with Royalty, and the setting of an example which spurs us towards keeping stability of government and, I should hope, achieving better government. This influence and contact with Royalty brings us together through the British Commonwealth of Nations which, although some people throughout the world would have us believe—and indeed would desire—is disintegrating, plays an important part not only in Western Australia, but also throughout the rest of the free world.

We have this continuing example and precept today by Queen Elizabeth II, together with her husband, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh. They are continuing this fine example of devotion to duty and dedication to those things which we as British people hold dear. To carry that to a further conclusion, we have had in Australia, for the past several months, the presence of none other than the Prince of Wales, Prince Charles, who has been furthering his education scholastically in a splendid manner by attending one of Australia's famous schools in Victoria and has taken the opportunity of acquainting himself with Australian conditions, getting to know Australians themselves, and learning all our ways, peculiar though they may sometimes be.

I consider it is not out of place to mention the members of the Royal Family when we are opening this session of Parliament in 1966. Royalty are people, and

when I speak of people it brings immediately to mind the two words, "decentralisation" and "tourism". Decentralisation is, of course, a much-handied expression, but to me it means people because decentralisation of industry brings additional people to Western Australia in so many ways. As for tourism, I prefer to refer to this subject as "travel trade", because tourism is a form of trade.

Referring back to decentralisation, we have a fine example throughout Western Australia today of this becoming an actual fact. It is so easy to mention this word, but today we are achieving decentralisation over the whole of Western Australia. We hear a great deal of talk—and quite correctly, perhaps—of the development of the north of this State, but decentralisation is also taking place in the southern areas.

The Governor has mentioned that it has happened at many ports along our coastline. We have it happening at Esperance, Bunbury, Geraldton, Port Hedland, King Bay, and so on. Development of these ports greatly assists decentralisation, because without transport it just cannot happen; people will not be attracted to the area. Transport is an important lifeline and vital for the fostering of trade and development in any country, and more particularly in this State because of our tremendous distances and area.

This brings to mind a recent report submitted by Mr. Wayne, the Commissioner of Railways. I consider that his report, if put into effect, will have a far-reaching effect on the future of Western Australia and the well-being and the welfare of our people.

Much has been said about iron ore development, and perhaps this is the most exciting development since the gold boom days in the 1890's which did a great deal towards fostering the development of Western Australia. From reliable sources we have been informed that today we have something of the order of 15,000,000 tons of high grade iron ore in this State. It could, perhaps, be well beyond that figure. This is a tremendous potential, but I will dwell for a few moments to mention the development of smaller industries established throughout the State which play a vital part in the life of our people.

I wish to mention the Department of Industrial Development which, in association with other government departments, has contributed, very largely, to promoting the facilities to enable people to occupy the land. I know of many small industries that have been assisted by this department and, very often, new industries have been encouraged and fostered by its officers. Quite often they are only family concerns, but they play their part in employing some people, perhaps, and in expanding our labour force. On the other hand, we have existing firms, which have been established

for some time, which are encouraged and assisted to increase their output in so many ways, particularly with a view to expanding our export trade which means so much to this State.

Whilst I speak of the development of the State I have in mind that it is my privilege and duty to represent the people of the south-west of Western Australia. Perhaps I can be excused if at this point I refer parochially to that section of the State. The south-west has always played a vital role in opening up Western Australia. From the earliest times we can recall that the south-west has carried more people than any other section of the State. Therefore, I was pleased recently to hear of the establishment of a comparatively small industry at Donnybrook, which was referred to a few moments ago by His Excellency the Governor. This is another example of decentralisation at work, which trend is continuing throughout Western Australia.

One industry which holds a unique place in our scheme of things, and which has a great bearing on our south-west, is the timber industry. Our hardwoods, which mean so much to us, are famous throughout the world. For many years this industry has enjoyed a great deal of prosperity and it still does. With careful husbandry of our forests I am certain we will have a good control over this important asset, and we will accumulate greater wealth by the planting of pine trees and the practice of reforestation over a long term. This is very necessary because, here again, this industry employs many people and is vital to our home and export trade. Of course the south-west has not only timber, but also a diversity of industry, both primary and secondary. So we have this progress occurring throughout the State.

I would like to turn in a natural direction from business and people to tourism. As I mentioned before, I prefer to call this "travel trade." I will demonstrate in a moment why that should be so. I realise that statistics are sometimes boring, but I feel it is necessary for me on this occasion to give some in order to emphasise my remarks.

With international travel to Australia, 132,000 visitors were brought to these shores in 1964. Western Australia had some share of this number. It has been established that a projected target of no fewer than 320,000 visitors to Australia will be achieved by 1970, and that five years later, by 1975, there will be 607,000 visitors to Australia from overseas.

Their spendings in Australia, estimated at over \$60,000,000 for 1964, could reach over \$120,000,000 in 1970, and over \$206,000,000 in 1975. The achievement of the annual visitor targets for the 10-year period from 1966 to 1975 will produce a total of \$1,332,000,000 in estimated spendings by visitors. These estimates exclude the spendings by cruise ship passengers, other funds spent in Australia by carriers

for supplies, etc., as well as the fares paid by overseas visitors to Qantas, which is Australia's international airline.

The travel industry might be worth \$20,000,000 to Western Australia in 1966. This will give Western Australia \$20,000,000 of new money, distributed among the community, and the earning value to the State will be approximately that of either our meat export trade, or our gold trade. That is the value of tourism, or travel trade as I prefer to call it. So it is a very important facet of our community today.

Turning to the Commonwealth scene, it is estimated that the Commonwealth taxation benefit from this overseas travel trade in 1966 will probably be \$13,000,000, in 1970 \$21,000,000, and in 1975 \$37,000,000. So we can see the value of the tourist trade on the national level, apart from the interstate and intrastate movement of people.

It is interesting to reflect on this sobering thought: that 80 per cent. of overseas visitors arriving in Australia today travel by air, and the other 20 per cent. by other means. Speaking of air travel, in this jet age of ours it might also be interesting to reflect on the possibility that in three years' time—in 1969—we will see super jets flying into Australia with a payload of 450 to 500 passengers per aircraft. That is a big movement of people. We can expect more and more people to come to Australia; and, because of these huge aircraft, and because the visitors will fly from other countries to Australia in large numbers, it is confidently expected that the air fare cost will be reduced by something in the region of 30 per cent., compared with what air fares are today. So this will be a means of attracting a great number of people and visitors from other countries.

We have a duty in the Legislative Council to review the legislation of this State as a whole, whether the legislation is in respect of decentralisation, tourism, or anything else. We know of no other legislation that promises to bring about more animated debate than, perhaps, an amendment to the Licensing Act or our liquor laws. We are, of course, used to handling all types of legislation. When we refer to the Licensing Act and to our liquor laws, it is sometimes popularly suggested in these days that the age limit for the consumption of alcohol should be reduced. Maybe it should be, and maybe it should not be.

In these modern times we are accustomed to all sorts of new expressions among the young, and to terms such as "mini motorcars". Now we have the spectacle of ourselves gazing upon mini-skirts. Those who might advocate the reduction of the age limit for drinking could carry their contention to a further conclusion such as—as a matter of conjecture—the introduction of mini-middles for young beer drinkers, or perhaps, to carry it further, to the ridiculous, of mini-tots for the tiny tots.

The point I am emphasising is that we have a duty in the Parliament of Western Australia, and particularly in this Legislative Council, at all times to give full consideration—as I am sure has happened in the past—to all business before Parliament. With the accent on people, I have spoken of the influence of our Royal Family. From His Excellency the Governor we have just heard about the development of our State by people and the administration of our State by Parliament. Let us not forget that we as members of Parliament are also people.

**THE HON. T. O. PERRY** (Lower Central) [4.7 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

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

House adjourned at 4.8 p.m.

## Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 28th July, 1966

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### MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Legislative Assembly met at 3 p.m.

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair.

### PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Assembly (Mr. L. P. Hawley) read the proclamation of His Excellency the Governor (Sir Douglas Kendrew) summoning the second session of the Twenty-fifth Parliament.

### SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Speaker and members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber; and, having heard His Excellency the Governor (Sir Douglas Kendrew) deliver the opening Speech (*vide* Council report *ante*), returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

### QUESTIONS (7): WITHOUT NOTICE ORD RIVER SCHEME

#### Failure of Commonwealth Government to Make Available Additional Moneys

1. Mr. **HAWKE** asked the Premier:
    - (1) What are the main reasons given by the Commonwealth Government for the failure so far to make additional moneys available for the Ord River irrigation scheme?
    - (2) What efforts, if any, has the State Government made to obtain moneys for the scheme from overseas countries?
- Mr. **BRAND** replied:  
The Leader of the Opposition gave me some notice of this question, for which I thank him. The answers to his questions are as follows:—
- (1) Their desire to have further information and undertake additional studies of the economics of the scheme, and with particular reference to the practicability of cotton produced in the area competing without subsidy in export markets.
  - (2) The State Government has not sought assistance from overseas. Representations have been made to the State Government to ascertain if it would be prepared to negotiate a proposal for development of the second stage of the scheme by private capital, partly from abroad and partly from within Australia. The State Government has made it clear that it prefers, at this juncture, to proceed with the project on the original concept of joint Commonwealth-State development of the basic facilities, and with the normal private development of the individual farms.

### LEEDERVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### Number of Children Enrolled, and School Grounds

2. Mr. **W. HEGNEY** asked the Minister for Education:
  - (1) What is the approximate number of children enrolled at the Leederville Primary School?
  - (2) What is the area of the school grounds, including buildings?
  - (3) What is the minimum area sought by the Education department when a new primary school is required?
  - (4) Has any discussion or negotiation taken place between the Perth City Council and any Government department relating to the proposed transfer of portion of the ground to the council?
  - (5) Is he aware that the parents and citizens' association involved is gravely concerned at the reported transfer?