

I would like to close on that point, because decentralisation and the use of our outports is something I would like to see executed, and I hope it is something that is in Mr. Wayne's report. If not, I would like to put it there.

MR. ELLIOTT (Canning) [4.4 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Hawke (Leader of the Opposition).

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

MR. BRAND (Greenough-Premier) [4.5 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 2nd August.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.6 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 2nd August, 1966

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

QUESTIONS (4) : ON NOTICE

HIGH SCHOOL AT EAST KIMBERLEYS

Establishment

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

In view of the increased population in the East Kimberleys, the subsequent growth in the number of children who are reaching junior high school level, and the need for parents to either send their children to other parts of the State for continued education, or to leave the area themselves with their families because of this necessity, has the Government, through the Minister for Education, given consideration to the establishment of a high school together with boarding facilities, for such pupils of the Wyndham, Kununurra, Halls Creek and general East Kimberley area?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Consideration is currently being given following a report from the director-general on his recent visit to the area.

GLASS SAND MINERAL CLAIMS

Readymix Group (W.A.) Pty. Ltd.

Application : Decision

2. The Hon. R. THOMPSON asked the Minister for Mines:

When does the Minister for Mines intend to give a decision on recommendations made by M. Harwood, Esq., Warden of the Warden's Court, on the 19th November, 1965, regarding applications by Readymix Group (W.A.) Pty. Ltd., for mineral claims 1074H-1079H for glass sand near Jandakot?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied: I hope to be in a position to make a decision within 14 days.

STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY

Transhipment of Grain : Capital and Cost

3. The Hon. N. E. BAXTER asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) Who is providing, or has provided the capital funds for—
(a) the receipt and storage bins; and
(b) the machinery;

to be used for the transhipping of grain on the standard gauge railway line?

(2) To what proportion, from what means, and by whom, is the amortisation of this capital being met?

(3) Will the W.A.G.R. be paying all transhipping costs, including operating and administration expenses of the grain facilities?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) Co-op Bulk Handling Limited.
(2) The W.A. Government Railways will amortise this capital over a period of 30 years.
(3) Yes; subject to an adjustment of charges where, to meet their requirements, C.B.H. use the facilities for receipt of local grain or for storage as distinct from transhipment.

WATER SUPPLIES AT SALMON GUMS

Record of Bores

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

(1) What records exist at the appropriate department in regard to bores that were sunk in search of water in the Salmon Gums district?
(2) In what year was each bore sunk?
(3) What is the depth and situation, and what was the analysis of each?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) The Geological Survey has very incomplete records of drilling and well sinking results in this area. There are unconfirmed reports of bore and well sinking by farmers in the area. Mr. Ellis, former Government Geologist, made a survey for groundwater of the district in 1945, and his conclusions are as follows:—

G.S.W.A. Annual Report, 1945, p. 8 and 9 Report on Underground Water Supplies; Salmon Gums District, Southern Mallee—Eucla Division, W.A.

... conditions are entirely unfavourable over the whole area for the collection and storage of useful subterranean supplies of either domestic or stock water.

Geological conditions necessary to provide artesian or sub-artesian water of useful quality do not exist in the area, and it is quite useless sinking any bores in the hope of encountering this class of water.

The solution of the water supply problem obviously depends on sources other than those of a subterranean nature.

The Geological Survey is conducting a groundwater survey in the southern mallee and this has been in progress since May, 1965. To date the Salmon Gums district has not been covered by this survey.

- (2) Drilling and well sinking by the Government appears to have been done prior to 1930.

These bores have now collapsed and have been abandoned.

Most of the drilling by farmers appears to have been done prior to 1945.

- (3) Bores reaching water level are 50 to 150 feet in depth. All other records (approximately 60) show depths of five to 150 feet and these bores have either encountered hard rock or saline water.

A Government well was located at Swan Lagoon, five miles south-west of Salmon Gums; another (No. 1 tank) was located 12 miles east-south-east of Salmon Gums. Approximately 50 bores were sunk by the Government in 1929, in the Peak Charles-Ellens Rocks area, 10 to 12 miles west of Salmon Gums. These varied from 3 to 150 feet and only two obtained usable water.

There are unconfirmed reports of two farm stock wells (now abandoned) six miles west-north-west of Scadden.

There are no water analyses on record. Generalised salinity reports vary from brackish stock water to highly saline.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY : SECOND DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 28th July, on the following motion by The Hon. V. J. Ferry:—

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

THE HON. W. F. WILLESEE (North-East Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [5 p.m.]: Mr. President, at the outset I would like to congratulate The Hon. Mr. Ferry on his opening remarks when he moved this motion last Thursday. His study of the tourist income was very interesting and reflected the amount of forethought that he had given to the words which he uttered. His reference to tourism meaning "travel trade" was, I thought, most appropriate, and his anticipation of an additional income to the State of \$20,000,000 in the year 1966 from this source shows just what a valuable adjunct to our Government income this particular traffic can be.

It was with regret that I heard, during the Governor's Speech, of the passing of an ex-member of this Chamber who was very prominent in this State for many years—I refer to the late Hon. Mr. Hubert Parker. He was a member of the Legislative Council for 20 years and was also a member of the Legislative Assembly for a considerable period prior to that. It is not given to all of us—and indeed it is to very few of us—to have the opportunity to serve in both the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council, and also to hold high and responsible portfolios in various Governments.

During last June we enjoyed a trip to the north-west by plane. The trip was undertaken, I should imagine, by every honourable member who could possibly avail himself of the opportunity. It was of great benefit to each and every one of us as individuals, and, in the ultimate, it must be of great benefit to Parliament. Whilst I do not intend to touch on the details of the trip I feel sure that as the

debate on this motion progresses it will reflect much of the interest generated during the trip.

I was a little disappointed that no mention was made during the Governor's Speech indicating that the Ministry might have given further consideration to the possibility of a dual session of Parliament annually—that is, two sessions of Parliament in the one year. I feel that this is practicable, and it could be of benefit to Ministers in the conduct of State business. It would also tend to make a member's job somewhat easier. Members would be able to give more consideration to the legislation which is brought before Parliament if its introduction were spread over two sessions in the one year. At the moment we have the problem of a great deal of legislation being introduced late in the session, because of the necessity to finish in a short time.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What do you think the duration of these two sessions should be?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE: I have not given it a great deal of thought but I should imagine, on a rough basis, Parliament should be prorogued for a period of time suitable to the Ministry. In the event of legislation not being finished at a given date it would be carried on to the next session. The term of one session could be foreshadowed, to a particular date, and the later session would, of course, be elastic as far as the finishing date was concerned. It would depend on the amount of legislation to be dealt with. However, that is something for the future and I think the time will soon be here when we will have two sessions of Parliament in the one year.

I was a little startled recently to read in the newspaper that two people had been fined for keeping birds in cages. I was one of the 60 people who rang the department the next day to find out if I was an offender. I have some budgerigars and finches, and a broken-down canary. I found that I was an offender and I had to apply for a license and pay my dollar just like anybody else, if I wanted to avoid prosecution.

I was ready to go to the Minister with a hot complaint that a regulation had been gazetted since Parliament last sat. However, on looking into the matter, I was surprised to find that the regulation had been gazetted for some time. It was gazetted several years ago in order that a check could be kept on native birds and animals held in captivity. I venture to say that the 996 people who took out permits last year are a very small proportion of those who should be applying for permits. I believe that animals kept in captivity should be well treated, and there should be some right of inspection; and I suppose the only way to keep trace of the people who keep such animals is by the recording of permits.

I feel some further inspection is needed now that this situation has seen the light of day; because if all backyards, or homes, were checked the position would be found to be much worse than the existing licensing-fee system would lead us to believe. Secondly, I think that in the main those people who take out permits would tend to be the better types of bird fanciers; and the people who treat animals badly are those who would be in the group who have not applied for licenses in the past. It was interesting to know that this situation obtained, and how one could, unwittingly at times, break the law.

I asked a question today with regard to the possibility of the Government providing a junior high school, with boarding facilities, somewhere near the centre of the Kimberleys, and embracing the child population of Kununurra, Wyndham, Halls Creek, and the surrounding stations. The reply of the Government is certainly not unfavourable, and was as follows:—

Consideration is currently being given following a report from the director-general on his recent visit to the area.

I am concerned with this problem because I have known it to be the reason for many families leaving the north over a long period of years.

We have two sets of people to consider when development of an area is proposed. There are those who already live in such an area and who have grown accustomed to the conditions prevailing and who, because of specific circumstances, get along either by sending their children south or keeping them at a local school. Those people are satisfied on that basis.

When we introduce additional population, and take that population from a city area where the families are used to all the amenities of better medical facilities, housing facilities, and teaching facilities, those people realise that they give up a lot to go into the new area. They believe that a project such as the Ord River irrigation scheme will carry with it some priority for the provision of various facilities. When a young family goes from the metropolitan area to the north, problems come upon that family very quickly. They are faced with the question of sending one of the children away to school, and it is possible they can manage to do that. But the next year there are two children to go away and, in some cases, three children.

It is at this time that a decision has to be made by the family concerned as to whether they will remain in the area or go back to a more populated centre where there are better facilities in order to give their children the advantage of a better and higher education. In many cases, where families have done this, they have inevitably had to go back to the starting point and have found themselves further behind than when they left the area originally. They have not been able to stay long enough in the north to stabilise

themselves in the manner they desired. When they return to the cities they find they have given away a considerable period of their lives, and they could have earned promotion or better incomes had they followed the normal course and stayed at their old jobs. This is not a new problem in the north and I think, in essence, it was the reason why my family left Wyndham many years ago.

I saw the problem again when people went north to work on the Ord River project. They are great people and have done a great job. I hope there will be a solution and that they will be given some priority so that they can remain in the area, because they want to do that. If we can give their children a higher education in that area, the children, too, when they grow older, will tend to stay there and become part of the permanent population.

A family in the north has only a short time with its children when the children have to be sent south. Inevitably, when the children receive a higher standard of education in the south they do not go back to the north but accept employment in the city.

So I accept the answer to my question as being most encouraging. I hope the Government can give this matter sufficient priority for it to reach fulfilment in a short space of time. The need is not one that can be classed as town against town, or population against population. It is applicable to all of the north-west.

Another matter which has been exercising my mind lately, and to which I have found no solution, is the legislation we have on our Statute book regarding compensation. I find myself asking the question "Is compensation under our present law providing an adequate system of recompense to displaced or inconvenienced persons?" There are degrees of settlement at the present time. There is settlement which can be made by the Government within the law as now defined, and that settlement is to the satisfaction of the Government. But it is not a complete settlement because it is not to the satisfaction of the individual. He is still an aggrieved person, and he has every right to be as I see the situation.

Generally, compensation is inadequate. When compensation is inadequate, to a person without any fluid resources it presents a serious problem. It seems to me that the basis of compensation—based on what we have in the law, and on what we should be doing for the benefit of the person aggrieved—is very different.

A person who has lived in a home in a particular district for many years and who, during the course of that time has seen various amenities provided in his area, such as roads, electric light, water supplies and so on, finds little comfort when some innovation is introduced in the form of a railway, or a road, if such

construction is going to affect his home and his normal way of life. Such a person should be compensated to the full for being deprived of the amenities he previously enjoyed. However, with all due respect, I do not think it is possible, under the present legislation, for such a person to receive adequate compensation.

In my opinion, when a major undertaking, such as the construction of a railway, road, or provision of water supplies is contemplated, the total capital cost of that project, whether it be thousands of dollars or millions of dollars, should include the cost of adequate compensation to those people who will suffer any disability or inconvenience as a result of such construction being put in train. In this year of 1966 I do not think we can regard the fulfilment of any great undertaking as real progress if it means that we are going to tear down things that have taken a long time to erect, and which have been created for the benefit of communities who live in the vicinity of the proposed undertaking.

I have a personal interest in such a situation which has developed at West Midland; that is, the construction of the standard gauge railway through that area. Problems have been created because of the present provisions in the Act: the Government will not resume the land and properties occupied by those people who are affected. However, already a road which these people use has been affected and, therefore, they do not have the same accessibility to their homes that they previously enjoyed. Also, it is obvious that the noise of trains passing much closer to the houses constitutes a disability. Already the people are complaining that their television sets are being affected by the dust nuisance. Unfortunately, as the law stands at present, no compensation can be obtained for these people. The reply by those in authority to claims for compensation was summed up in a newspaper article which appeared in *The West Australian*, on the 18th May, 1966, as follows:—

COMPENSATION PLEA FAILS.

Residents of Amherst Road, Midland, will not receive compensation over land resumption for new railway work in the area.

Assistant Railways Minister O'Connor has told the Midland Town Council that compensation was paid only where the land resumed was part of a property.

This was not the case in Amherst Road.

He could understand residents being unhappy about the railway line's coming closer to their properties, but he felt claims of a reduction of land value were exaggerated.

He regarded the loss of business by a shopkeeper in the road as a normal business risk.

The Minister, in making those remarks, has kept within the confines of the law. He even went out to the area to review the situation and what I have read to the House was his resultant reply. However, it is not justice. It is not treating fairly those people who are affected by the construction of this railway, and it is the duty of the Government to re-examine the existing law with a view to introducing amendments to provide that when people are placed in a situation such as those at Midland, they should be shifted to another area and be set up in homes or on properties which are commensurate with, and of the same standard as, the ones they had to vacate.

If the Railways Department took possession of the homes in this particular street to enable the land to be used for its purposes at some future date, it could let the houses at a small rental to people who would be prepared to occupy them on that basis, and so recoup some of the capital it has expended in resuming the properties. I support the motion.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan) [5.20 p.m.]: My first words are to express sorrow at the loss of our old colleague, Mr. Hubert Parker, who gave willingly of his potential at all times to this House and to the Legislative Assembly. I would like to have it recorded that I feel I have suffered a considerable loss in the death of Hubert Parker.

I am quite certain that in the past few months many of us have been spending time trying to gauge and understand what is happening to ourselves and to others. Trying to understand what has brought about all this puzzling change in behaviour; to understand the inclination to do what previous generations have never sought to do. I do not think any of us have ever been able to supply an answer to these questions, and, what is more, to open the door wide enough to alter some of these activities. In keeping with this line of thought I wish to take the opportunity to read to the House an extract from an article which appeared in an American rehabilitation journal. With the rush of organised industries in the United States many men have been left to care for themselves. The following is an extract from an article which appeared under the name of Mr. Vadolsk, a Master of Education, and the Vocational Evaluator at the Baltimore League for Crippled Children and Adults:—

The development of the industrial system had a dehumanizing and de-personalizing effect upon man in his relation to others and to himself. For the industrial system to succeed on such a large scale, workers were required to specialise in only one aspect of producing the finished product.

Skilled craftsmen were no longer in demand. Their products could be made faster and cheaper by combining the abilities of several workers, few of

whom had any direct relationship to the finished product.

Thus, with the development of the industrial system came a compartmentalization of human experiences. Man no longer experienced his work as being of any great personal value, but rather as a means to an end: a means of achieving personal worth through the accumulation of money. Man's entire value system: he was no longer an individual who gained satisfaction from working and producing a total product but was just another "cog in the wheel" who compartmentalized his abilities and did his work in return for money.

Satisfaction now came from what his money could buy.

Not only did man's value system change, but industrialisation had an even deeper effect—man's entire personality was broken into fragments. He was a machinist at work, a father at home, a Catholic at church, and so on.

His personality became so fragmented that integration of all facets of life was impossible. This fragmentation can be seen in the domain of religion: it was completely separated from daily existence and made an affair of Sundays and special observances.

I think I have read enough of that article to give members some idea of what is entering my mind. But how much further will this degradation develop, when it is realised that computers are progressively doing the work that was performed by many men in the past, and with each worker being called upon to work fewer hours. It is not every day that we have to make new laws in this community, but it seems to me we have to try to do something to preserve the true nature of things. We have to supply something that will appeal to man and return to him his true personality. At the moment nothing is being done. I do not know of anyone who can come forward with a solution; I only know that I cannot.

If we thought about this question seriously over a period of time, and even if some of us were to mix among these people to try to discover the effect of industrialization on their lives, we might bring forth some legislative action to help man in the future.

I take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Health for supplying me with a photograph of the new hospital built at Bunbury. I want to say something on hospitals; probably at length. In the newspaper cutting which I have before me, and dated Friday, the 17th June, 1966, there are one or two statements which I think must be looked at, but I will not try to be a carping critic of what has been suggested in this article. I wish to try to outline some of the difficulties with which

the Minister will be confronted. This article reads—

BIG HOSPITALS CHANGING W.A. MEDICAL PATTERN

A chain of regional hospitals costing more than \$11,000,000 now taking shape in Western Australia will change the concept of hospital care in this State.

The completion of this chain will mean there will be a major hospital with modern diagnostic facilities as a focal point for medical care in each region.

Another paragraph further down, attributed to Dr. Rowe, reads as follows:—

The regional hospitals should have a better chance of attracting medical specialists, Dr. Rowe says.

This suggestion is a lifetime old, but I think one has to realise that large hospitals do not bring specialists. Population brings specialists. They are attracted by people and the work to be done. If these hospitals do not provide the work—no matter where they are built—they will not attract specialists. To cover the majority of cases that will require the need for such a hospital, we must contemplate the appointment of not one specialist, but numbers of them; that is, if we are to make it into a class hospital.

When I first came to Western Australia I think Dr. Gilbert Barker had about three resident doctors at the Royal Perth Hospital during the war period. Afterwards this number began to increase as the population grew. However, this week, I asked someone whom I thought should be able to give me the right answer on how many doctors were on the payroll of the Royal Perth Hospital at the present time. I was told that there were 95. This is a specialist hospital. One must look further and say that specialisation has reached such a degree that it is almost impossible to be a specialist in any of two branches of medicine.

Those who desire to become specialists in cardiac work have been helped tremendously by the Heart Foundation, but their work is so intricate and so sustained that they simply have to spend their lives looking after cardiac cases. The same would apply in all the other fields, such as blood disorders and lung disorders.

For instance, until just recently, the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital handled practically nothing else but chest work, and it is a specialist institution in this field. Many of the specialists there do not attempt to do any other type of work. If one were looking for a specialist for this hospital one would have to look for someone who had an overall knowledge of the speciality which he was practising.

Speaking to some of my colleagues—because this matter is of very great interest to us—I found the general opinion was that if a specialist surgeon was required in a regional hospital, and one was appoint-

ed, unless he had a full team of experts in this or that branch around him—of those who were required to help in the surgery—he would not remain a specialist for very long. One finds that in the early stages it would be necessary to grant to this surgeon, and some of his colleagues, a substantial income until such time as there was sufficient work to keep these men engaged.

Another aspect in placing a specialist into some of these areas is this: If he remained there for any length of time he would be a long way behind his colleagues in the central cities, because the rate of progress in medicine recently has been so rapid that one cannot keep up with it unless one lives among a team of scientists. If this person were kept away from the city for any length of time he would have a great amount of post-graduate work to do to catch up with the progress being made, and it is extremely difficult in these circumstances for the person to catch up. If he could work with a team that would be alright, but if he got behind it would be difficult to catch up.

I know of the experiences of one or two of these men who possess the highest qualifications and who went out to certain areas. If I were to give the examples I do not think anyone would know of the persons to whom I was referring. In one area the surgeon came into the picture, and for a time it was felt by quite a number of us that this was a good thing; but soon the inevitable happened. A number of the practitioners around that area had been accustomed to carrying out their own surgery work, and only very seldom was he called in. The result was that he joined the group. I guarantee that this man is now doing more general practice work than surgery work.

These are the things about which we have to be careful in providing the hospitals and the changes in pattern. Another case which I give as an example concerns a friend of mine who is a member of the Royal College. He joined the medical force in a certain area. While he carried out his work expertly he had to rely to a large extent on general practice as well.

Let us consider the position in a place like Albany where for some years there has been a large hospital. The hospital has not been able to attract any specialists. It is a large hospital with 112 beds and for some time after it was built the hospital was rather empty. Today the position is this: If a citizen there is asked whether there are any difficulties in getting medical advice he will reply in the affirmative and say that a medical practitioner cannot be attracted to Albany for love or money. That was the information given to me on a number of occasions.

Those are the questions which have to be looked into. Unless we can find the required specialists to give the department the help that is needed to enable a hospital to function as it should—not what it might possibly do years ahead—it will sink

into oblivion. I would rather see the provision of a small hospital which could cope with all the surgery treatment that is required in the area, and allow it to expand under good architectural methods until it was built up into a first-class hospital.

The Hon. R. Thompson: How many resident doctors are there at the Albany Regional Hospital?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: There must be half a dozen or more visiting doctors. I think more have been appointed since my daughter lived there two years ago. This is the position one must look at to ensure that we do not throw away any of the \$11,000,000 that is being spent by having apparatus and space which will not be used. Further, it is not very wise to provide apparatus of a highly scientific nature when no-one in the institution has been specially trained to use it. That would only create a danger.

Possibly one of the steps which might be of real value is to teach someone in these institutions the art of using electricity for restoring hearts that are not beating regularly, or hearts which have stopped. I think it was a few weeks back when the President of the Perth Shire Council said he felt that the head injury accidents which occurred in the Perth Shire district should be treated at the Osborne Park Hospital. The position is that there are only two neuro surgeons, and one part-time or semi-retired neuro surgeon in this State. They are all employed in the Royal Perth Hospital. The supply of neuro surgeons is very acute. Many of them in the Melbourne hospitals have almost reached the retiring age, and they have no desire to continue working because so much of their work is brought about as a result of motor accidents. It is very doubtful whether they are paid adequately for their work. The neuro surgeons are probably the highest-skilled surgeons in the community, but we have managed to attract only three to this State since the motor-car became a menace in Perth.

Let me refer to the bed position in the metropolitan hospitals. This has nearly reached a point of disaster, and something real has to be done, and done quickly. At times it is very difficult to find a bed for a sick person in Perth. A fortnight ago we looked around the city for a hospital bed for a visitor who had sustained an accident. We wanted to get him into hospital. We rang every hospital in Perth, but found there was no vacant bed. Finally we discovered one in a suburb. This week we also had a similar experience. There are virtually no beds available in Perth and I can say that very few beds have been provided for private patients.

The greatest expansion has been made by St. John of God Hospital. I think it should be able to—I would say entitled to—borrow money from the Government at a certain rate of interest to carry out the expansion. It has done yeoman service in

building that hospital; it has done yeoman service in training the nursing staff. I know of the work that is done by that hospital from the five weeks I was there. It has also built a maternity wing, and quarters for the nurses.

I have made inquiries at various times as to whether there was any possibility of altering the position of the Mount Hospital, or of extending it; that was done before we knew anything about the Mitchell Freeway. No money could be obtained from the Government. So far as I can learn the Government cannot lend money to the Mount Hospital, because it is an association; but in fact it is purely a Church of England hospital. It has only 92 beds, and it is difficult to make a profit from the bed accommodation. At the present time it is experiencing difficulties, in view of the noise which is created by the development of St. George's Terrace and by the work on the other side of it. Very few people elect to have a bed on the side of the hospital which faces St. George's Terrace. This makes it very difficult for the hospital to continue functioning.

We cannot wait for two years until a medical centre is formed. We are at the point where things are desperate. If a review were made of the \$11,000,000 that is to be spent on hospitals I would say that work would be discontinued for the time being. Let us look at the overall picture as it affects the citizens of Western Australia. It is absolutely essential that something be done in a hurry.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: Do you think we are getting value for the money being spent?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I wonder whether we do! I have not yet a definite opinion, but I can tell the honourable member more about what I think ought to be done. Let us consider Royal Perth Hospital; it is creaking in every brick. It is impossible for patients to get in. Rooms that were intended to be wards for one person now accommodate two and a mass of equipment. All the new equipment used in cardiology is scattered around the institution.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Even in the passageways.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I am not quite certain, and the facts I am giving may be out of line, but not very far. Let me refer to the time I spent in the Manchester Royal Infirmary. The hospital was not over-flush with beds. A particular method was adopted in the casualty department. When a case arrived at the infirmary it was taken to the casualty department, and the severity of the illness of the patient was discussed. If it was found that the patient's illness could be treated at one of the local hospitals he was sent there with a note directing that treatment be given at that particular hospital.

I believe that some similar procedure has had to be instituted at Royal Perth Hospital. Cases come in at night and are put into "observation" and the next morning a decision is made as to whether they should be admitted, sent home, or transferred to another hospital. This is the situation at Royal Perth Hospital and it is the same in all these hospitals.

Whilst one must commend the department for taking an overall look at the country areas, it must be realised that no-one can expect a specialist hospital to be maintained in the country areas. A hospital cannot maintain a gynaecologist, an obstetrician, an oculist, and so on. It can not be done. What must be estimated is what can be done at a certain place and what patients must be transferred. But this does not apply to country towns. It must be decided what a hospital can do and then the hospital must be fitted with everything that is necessary. But there is no possible chance of sending specialists to these hospitals and asking them to stay for long periods.

We have only to consider the number of medicos with higher degrees in Kalgoorlie. What did they do? Did they stay in Kalgoorlie? No. They went to the city. Did those in Geraldton with high degrees stay in Geraldton? No. They came down here because they would not have maintained the standard of their work had they stayed in Geraldton.

I believe that if the Royal Colleges were asked, they would assist in this matter. I for one would urge that the colleges be asked to help because this is a plan for the people generally of Western Australia. We have to realise that not only does the country need beds but the city does too, and if we do something along these lines I am quite certain we will achieve something worth while for the benefit of this community.

On the 20th June there was in *The West Australian* an article by T. R. Jenkins, and it was entitled "Conflict Over Training Of Nurses In W.A." I think that the following was the most surprising paragraph I or anyone else read that morning:—

The committee had its first meeting on January 4, 1963. It has now had 31 meetings—two in 1963, 12 in 1964, 13 in 1965 and four this year so far.

They still cannot come to a conclusion. Is it not quite obvious that the committee needs to be altered? If people on both sides will not give way at all, is it not obvious that some change has to be made? What department should wait from 1963 to 1965 on futile meetings? Here again I think that we are making some mistakes.

It is very difficult to get girls with their Leaving Certificate to go in for nursing when the pay and prospects in various commercial fields are much better. If a girl becomes a nurse after so qualifying, then she must be dedicated to the occupation of nursing. The situation has arisen recently where some girls have obtained their Leaving but because they have not

passed in two chosen subjects, which have been picked out of the hat as far as I can see, they have not been accepted.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: You are quite right there.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: This is the greatest piece of nonsense I have heard of.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Absolute stupidity.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: What has been happening is that one half of the committee is endeavouring to build-up the nursing profession. The nursing aides will still be in the hospitals. I maintain that we could quite easily apply to the nursing profession the system that has been applied in the medical profession over a century or more; that is, that a person can start to learn medicine and when he has reached a certain degree of qualification he can then decide in which field he wishes to engage. He can decide whether he will be a general practitioner or specialise in some field. The same could be done with nursing.

One of the greatest requirements of a nurse can best be described by repeating what was said to me of a nurse when I first went to the Manchester Royal Infirmary. I was told, "There is a nurse. She knows who to pat and when." To know how to handle a person is absolutely necessary in nursing. A brilliant girl can be a specialist without any difficulty because she can be trained and can absorb the training. I can assure members, having had the experience of nurses of this calibre, that if one comes in the door to take charge of a person, that person knows he is in good hands. He knows the moment the nurse comes in the door.

There would not be half the difficulty in getting nurses if we allowed girls just to come in and be ward nurses, or room nurses for patients; because the girl who can make a sick person comfortable is worth her weight in gold. Many of these girls have that ability. It is this constant elevation that is not good, except for those who are intelligent enough to be able to carry it through.

We could start quite easily by taking in nurses who could be trained as first-class nurses. I want to tell the Minister about something I find extraordinary. I was discussing with a matron of one of the big hospitals, only a few days ago, the treatment which I had been given by a special nurse when I was in a hospital. A special nurse comes on for eight hours and if a person is very sick, as some of us have been, three specials are required for the day. This is a service for which one pays oneself and it is not recoverable from the health insurance, although it is, of course, to a certain extent, deductible for income tax purposes. Matrons are very worried about these specials and the matron to whom I was speaking put a suppositious case to me: A girl could be on my staff today and I could discharge her because she was, in my opinion, incompetent.

The very next day she could be sent back by one of the bureaux as a special nurse and I would have no authority whatever. When the special comes in she takes control. The matrons obviously want this situation altered. A special is required only when the situation is very grim, and she must be a highly trained nurse. There should be no doubt about her in the mind of the matron of the hospital to which she is sent.

I have spoken for a long time because this subject, as members all know, is very close to my heart. I want to see this plan succeed. I do not want one section of the public with a shortage of beds while there are empty beds hundreds of miles away. Something must be done, and if any help is wanted from me I will gladly give it. I am quite sure, having spoken to some members of the colleges, that they, too, would be very glad to assist.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. N. McNeill.

House adjourned at 5.56 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 2nd August, 1966

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The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (28) : ON NOTICE

STATE HOUSING COMMISSION HOMES

Rent Increases; Reaction of Tenants

1. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Upon what criteria did he form the opinion there had not been any violent reaction from tenants over the recent rent increases of Housing Commission homes and that most people had accepted the increases as reasonable?
- (2) Were the rent collectors questioned concerning their experiences?
- (3) Did any collector express an opinion which would justify the conclusion to which he had come and which was reported in *The West Australian* of the 1st July?
- (4) If "Yes," in what district does that collector operate?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Soon after individual notices had been posted the commission reported that as a general rule those affected by the increases considered them as well as the method of catering for increases in excess of \$1.00 per week to be reasonable.

This view was based on several checks of country and metropolitan officers and agents closely associated with the commission's