

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Third Session of the Twenty-sixth Parliament

Parliament was prorogued on the 28th May, 1970, to the 6th August, 1970, 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 6th August, 1970

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Legislative Council met at 3.00 p.m.

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

PROCLAMATION

The Acting Clerk of the Council (Mr. J. G. C. Ashley) 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 third session of the Twenty-sixth Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Delivery

His Excellency the Governor (Major-General Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.) entered the Council Chamber at 3.06 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 today to begin the Third Session of the Twenty-sixth Parliament of Western Australia. Because of State Elections to be held next year, this Session will be restricted to one period.

Early this year Her Majesty the Queen with members of her family visited Australia to take part in the Captain Cook Bi-centenary celebrations. Although the

visit did not include Western Australia, it did nevertheless further strengthen the loyalty of all Australian people to the Sovereign and her family.

It is with regret that I refer now to the deaths of five former Members of the Parliament. They comprise a former Deputy Premier, Leader of the Country Party and Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Arthur Frederick Watts, C.M.G.; two former Speakers, the Honourable Joseph Bertram Sleeman and Mr. James Hegney; the former Member for Albany, Mr. Jack Hall, and a former South-East Province Member of the Legislative Council, the Honourable Charles Horne Wittenoom.

We extend sincere sympathy to their respective families, and pay tribute to them for their distinguished service to Parliament, and to the people of Western Australia.

FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

The deficit of \$711,859 incurred last financial year was considerably below the \$2,410,000 estimated when the Budget was presented to Parliament.

Although actual expenditure and receipts from State revenue resources varied from the estimates to some degree, the primary reason for the improved result was a higher level of Commonwealth revenue grants.

The Financial Assistance Grant to Western Australia was \$1,335,000 above the estimate. Following representations by the Premier at the Premiers' Conference in February, the State received a special supplementary grant of \$1,545,000 partly to relieve the impact of heavy wage and salary increases granted after the Budget had been presented.

Expenditure from the General Loan Fund on capital works amounted to \$70,170,144 in 1969-70 which exceeded the previous year's spending by \$5,667,129.

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

Western Australia continues to hold its position as the State with the fastest rate of population growth in Australia. Its growth rate is almost twice the national average. The population now exceeds 975,000. It is expected to reach 1,000,000 before the end of the year or early in 1971.

A continued high rate of capital investment has been responsible for further rapid growth and employment. The industrial structure has been widened and the continuing development of basic mineral resources has given a new dimension to Western Australia's pattern of exports.

However, the State's economy has been affected by drought, lower wool prices and the need to impose wheat quotas. The combination of all three has lowered the State's farm income by at least \$80,000,000, with consequent adverse effects upon industries geared to service the agricultural sector.

Up until the end of June, 1970, the Government's total drought relief commitments amounted to \$1,759,000. This comprised \$763,000 by way of direct financial assistance and \$996,000 by way of loans through the Rural and Industries Bank as carry-on finance and loans for re-stocking purposes. Special consideration is being given to conditional-purchase farmers in new land areas who are experiencing financial hardship. The State has placed a case before the Federal Government for financial assistance to improve various aspects of farming.

At this stage, future farm production prospects are considerably brighter in Western Australia than last year due to good opening rains in most areas of the State.

During the past year the upward trend in land prices in the metropolitan area has been checked and the Government will continue to seek means to maintain the stable situation that has been reached.

While there has been some downturn in the private sector of the home building industry, the State Housing Commission is planning to lift its rate of completions from 2,360 units in 1969-70 to 3,000 units by the end of the current financial year.

The economic repercussions of major developments such as the Robe River Iron Ore Project in the Pilbara; Alcoa's new Alumina Project at Pinjarra; and the proposed Amax Bauxite and Alumina Project in the Kimberleys will be felt throughout the entire State. Developments of this

kind will substantially increase the demand for consumer goods and a wide range of services, and also help Western Australia to maintain its position as a leader in the rate of development in Australia. To enable Members of both Houses to see at first hand the full extent of the dramatic developments taking place in the north of the State, a special tour was arranged since we last met, and was undertaken by most Members.

The value of minerals produced in this State during the last calendar year rose by 50 per cent—to \$342,570,000. The world's most modern—and Australia's first—nickel refinery was brought into operation earlier this year at Kwinana.

Increasing emphasis is being placed on the policy of processing mineral resources prior to export. This policy, in most cases, calls for negotiation at international levels because of the importance of securing substantial overseas markets.

Notable advances made by the manufacturing sector over recent years were maintained during 1968-69 when the volume of production increased by 14 per cent. to \$440,000,000.

Substantial growth was also evident during 1969 when exports overseas reached \$600,000,000. This represented 17 per cent. of the national total and highlights the growing contribution that Western Australia is making towards Australia's export income.

The tempo of development in the North has been maintained, and new towns are being established at Karratha and South Hedland. Work on the development of four others is expected to begin soon. One of these—Wickham—will be located between Roebourne and Cape Lambert to provide housing and associated facilities in reasonable proximity to the proposed Cape Lambert industrial complex. The other three will be in the area of the Robe River; on the Mitchell Plateau in North Kimberley, and at Paraburdoo in the Pilbara.

The decade of the 70's has been ushered in by some outstanding achievements and "far-reaching" developments in the fields of transport and communications, each one of which would have been a landmark in any ordinary decade. The 451-mile section of Eyre Highway has been sealed to the South Australian border, while the world's newest and most modern passenger train, the "Indian-Pacific," is now running on a regular coast-to-coast schedule between Perth and Sydney. The introduction of this service on the standard gauge railway symbolises the determination of the State and Commonwealth Governments to further reduce our isolation. The same attitude is reflected in the east-west microwave link which was recently completed by the Commonwealth at a cost of \$10,000,000. It has brought Western Australia into the national broadband trunk

network, enabling direct subscriber trunk dialling between this State and the Eastern States, and into the Australia-wide television relay network.

The Government has, within the limits of its financial resources, been able to cope with the pressures of growth and development, especially the provision of essential services.

Capital expenditure on education increased last year by \$3,240,000 to \$13,993,000. Three hundred and twenty-two classrooms were constructed and the number is expected to be exceeded in 1971. More than 175,000 children are enrolled in Government primary and secondary schools and a further increase of 5,000 is anticipated next year.

Western Australia's hospital and general health services have been developed to the stage where they rank among the best in Australia. Capital expenditure on these services last year rose by \$1,890,000 to \$9,700,000.

A record of \$54,793,000 will be spent this year on roads throughout the State. The programme provides for direct grants to local authorities of \$11,716,000 which is \$690,000 more than was provided last year. In addition, the Main Roads Department's programme totals \$43,076,800 which includes \$8,019,800 allocated to developmental roads under the control of local authorities.

The water supply situation in the Perth metropolitan area will be further strengthened during the coming summer when water will be available from the North Dandalup Pipe Head Dam. Work will begin this financial year on another major source of supply—the 45,800-million gallons storage dam on the South Dandalup River. \$7.5 million of the \$9.7 million currently being spent on upgrading the Goldfields Water Scheme is being financed by the Western Mining Corporation to meet an increased water requirement for its nickel mining project at Kambalda. The major Ord Dam—now in its second year of construction—will be substantially completed prior to the 1971-72 northern wet season. The current Comprehensive Agricultural Areas Water Supply Scheme, now in its sixth year, has already made it possible to extend water services to a further 1,600,000 acres of farmlands, bringing the total to date to 6,110,000 acres.

The increased demand for electricity in Western Australia has exceeded the Australian average for a number of years, and the generating capacity of the Kwinana station is being further enlarged to cope with current and future peak demands. The estimated cost of the Kwinana station to this stage of its planned development, including the proposed installation of three gas turbines, is approximately \$92,000,000.

A significant development so far as the State's energy needs are concerned has been a confirmation by West Australian

Petroleum Proprietary Limited of the Dongara gas field as a commercial proposition. The Government is currently negotiating with a subsidiary of WAPET—West Australian National Gas Proprietary Limited—on that company's proposal to build and operate a pipeline to supply gas from Dongara to the Perth-Kwinana-Pinjarra area.

The Government has made known its intention to proceed with the lowering of the railway in the central Perth area and has appointed an Advisory Committee to submit a plan for the future development of the railway land.

Appropriate action is being taken to establish a Conservation Ministry with the main objective, wherever practicable, of preserving the natural environment. Because the Government views the litter problem in the wider context of pollution of the environment it has sponsored, and given tangible support to, a State-wide anti-litter campaign. The Government has also been conscious of the need to set aside particular areas for posterity. During the past year the area under the control of the National Parks Board has increased from 843,499 to 3,507,407 acres. Two additional areas embracing more than 6,000,000 acres are in the process of being declared "Class A" reserves for the conservation of flora and fauna.

The rising road toll must be a matter of concern for the whole community. In a State like Western Australia where one-third of the population is under the age of 15 years, it is essential that school children receive the best possible instruction in road safety. With this in mind, the Government is expanding its road safety instruction and driver-training in Western Australian schools. The Government is also establishing driver-training schemes at youth education centres, including some in country areas.

LEGISLATION

I now refer in broad outline to some of the legislation that will be brought forward for your consideration during this Session.

Following a review of the Administration Act, consideration will be given at the time the Budget is framed to amending the Act to permit Probate Duty concessions being granted.

Authority will be sought to amend Parliament's Standing Orders to allow for the setting up of a Parliamentary Accounts Committee.

You will also be asked to consider a Bill to amend the Interpretation Act to preserve the status quo of a person who, under State law, is at present described as a

British subject, a natural born or a naturalised subject of Her Majesty, or similarly described. Such an amendment becomes necessary following the passing by the Commonwealth Parliament of the Citizenship Act, 1969.

Honourable Members will be aware of the Government's intention to establish Murdoch University at Melville. A Bill giving authority for the planning of this university will be brought forward this Session.

Also in the field of education, I am advised that legislative authority will be sought to amend the University of Western Australia Act to provide for the addition of two students and two more staff to the Senate; to amend the Western Australian Institute of Technology Act to provide for student representation on the council of the institute and to give that council power to issue degrees in certain cases; and to establish the Tertiary Education Commission as a statutory body.

Bills will also be brought forward to amend the Bunbury Port Authority Act to extend that authority's boundary to embrace the new inner harbour development at that port, and also to authorise the closure of the uneconomic narrow-gauge railway between East Northam and Coolgardie.

The Law Reform Committee which was established at the beginning of 1968 has submitted a number of reports on matters assigned to it. Legislation will be presented to deal with some of the committee's recommendations.

Another measure will provide for compensation to be paid to persons who suffer physical injury as a result of certain criminal offences.

It is also proposed to bring before this Session a Bill for an Act to make provision for the safety and welfare of persons engaged in construction work and in similar spheres of industry.

Amendments to the Police Act will be directed to combating the drug problem more effectively in Western Australia and will provide for substantially increased penalties for persons convicted of drug abuse offences. It is also proposed to increase penalties to cope with acts of vandalism.

It is the intention of the Government to control advertising signs on or near controlled access roads and main roads, and the Main Roads Act will be amended accordingly.

Legislation will be introduced to permit persons of 18 years of age and upwards to vote at State elections.

Other legislation will include various Bills—

To amend the Health Act to permit the sale of skimmed milk through normal retail outlets, subject to adequate safeguards.

To provide increased penalties for persons convicted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

To repeal existing Acts and to authorise new Acts relating to the branding and controlled movement of livestock.

To amend the Native Welfare Act to lift restrictions relating to the movement of aboriginal children, and to widen the definition of "aboriginal" so that it conforms with that used by other States.

To amend the Workers' Compensation Act to give increased benefits to dependants of deceased or injured workers and to injured workers.

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 withdraw from the Chamber, and the President resumed the Chair.

COAL MINE WORKERS (PENSIONS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Leave to Introduce

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [3.44 p.m.]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice —

For leave to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Coal Mine Workers (Pensions) Act, 1943-1970.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Introduction and First Reading

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

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Distribution of Copies

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) [3.45 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. S. T. J. THOMPSON (Lower Central) [3.46 p.m.]: I move—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency:—

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.

Mr. President, having disposed of the formal part of this motion, I will take the opportunity to thank those who were responsible for granting me the privilege, on a second occasion, of moving this very important motion.

Ten years have passed very rapidly since as a new member I moved a similar motion. I have found those 10 years to be of great educational benefit, and I often feel that, perhaps, if some of our critics could serve a similar period in Parliament they might also become better educated.

On the first occasion that I moved the Address-in-Reply, you, Mr. President, had just been elected President of this Chamber. I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your dedication and the manner in which you have carried out the duties of your high office.

Two of the important events which have occurred during your term of office, Sir, have been, firstly, the completion of the Parliament House building, and, secondly, the changing of the Constitution of Parliament.

During the past decade remarkable progress has been made in this State; I propose to make some reference to that progress during the course of my speech. I noticed that His Excellency referred to the State's revenue from agriculture. It is interesting to note that during the Address-in-Reply, 10 years ago, concern was expressed at the fall in wool prices. However, the farmers have met every challenge by increasing production, improving techniques, and by making use of better farming methods generally.

To give an illustration of what has been done in the agricultural sphere, during 1959-60 the State produced 58,000,000 bushels of wheat valued at \$82,000,000. In 1968-69, the State produced 112,000,000 bushels of wheat worth \$154,000,000. The wool produced in 1959-60 amounted to 170,000,000 lb. valued at \$78,000,000, and during 1968-69 production amounted to 358,000,000 lb. valued at \$157,000,000.

The story is somewhat similar with beef production. During 1959-60, 45,000,000 lb. of beef was produced which was valued at \$15,000,000. During 1968-69, 67,000,000 lb. of beef was produced, valued at \$35,000,000. Mutton production during 1959-60 was 32,000,000 lb., valued at \$10,000,000. During 1968-69 the production was 46,000,000 lb., valued at \$14,000,000. So it is quite obvious that the progress which has been made is remarkable.

Unfortunately, Sir, as the Governor mentioned in his Speech, farmers are now faced with a period of over production. They have to contend with wheat quotas owing to a world surplus of wheat, and with low wool prices. Farmers are faced with restrictions on production, and this has led to much hardship and uncertainty about the future. These restric-

tions, coupled with the drought and low prices for wool, are having a serious effect in country areas. Property values are being seriously affected. New farmers, or those who borrowed to develop or buy properties in recent years, are faced with the problem that the present-day productivity of their properties has no relation to the values prevailing when they entered into their commitments. This is a most serious matter.

Therefore, Sir, in my opinion it is not a question of being big or small but of how much interest one has to pay. In fact, provided the farms are efficiently managed, many of the one-man properties have an advantage at the moment.

Time does not permit me to deal with all aspects of farming problems. However, I make this comment: It would seem that, faced as we are with selling our surplus production on world markets, any variations in the world economic situation will continue to have an important bearing on our returns. Accepting this, I feel it is most important that the present inflation be halted and immediate steps taken in an endeavour to reduce those costs over which the farmer has no control. Inflation is the biggest problem with which the farmer has to contend at present.

An illustration of how costs are rising appeared in the Press last Tuesday. The headline was "Handling costs for wheat up," and the article went on to say that wheat handling charges had increased by 55 per cent. in the past year. Ironically enough, on the opposite page an item headed, "Rising demand for anti-misery pills" appeared. Obviously someone had been to the country!

However, Sir, on a brighter note, seasonal prospects in my area have never looked better and from the way rural policies are springing up lately, there could be better times after the next election! It would seem that the only commodity the farmer has at the moment which is in short supply is his vote, and I hope he gets good value for it at the next election.

Perhaps I should mention the grain alcohol controversy. The interest this subject has aroused in country areas is an indication of the desperation of the producers to clutch at any straw. While I commend the committee behind this move, I disagree with the proposal that the producers or farmers should provide the funds to prove the scheme. This proposal was put forward some time ago by a Mr. Humphries, and I think such an important suggestion warranted immediate examination by both State and Federal Governments. I believe the Commonwealth Government should have had the answer to the question by now.

I noticed in a letter published in the Press last Tuesday that Mr. Humphries said the proposal needs solid grower support. However, if such a proposal means an increase in the price of fuel, I can see that it will need much more than grower support. I base that assumption on the reception of the scheme for a marketing authority which was put forward by woolgrowers. I notice that bankers have now joined forces with those in opposition to the scheme, and I cannot help thinking that this will convince many doubtful people that the scheme is a must.

One aspect which has made remarkable progress in the State is our mineral development. Perhaps it would be as well if I quoted some figures which were given to the House by the Minister for Mines last year. These will help illustrate my point. In 1959 the value of mineral production was \$44,000,000. By 1968 it had reached \$259,500,000, and it is expected that the value of this production will reach \$400,000,000 by 1971.

How fortunate it is for the State, and for Australia as a whole, that we should have this tremendous expansion at a time when our primary industries are depressed.

As we all know, our Education Department has come in for its fair share of criticism in recent years. In order to justify the Government's administration of this department I would like to quote a few more figures which indicate the progress that has been made. In 1959-60 the percentage of revenue expended by the State on education was 13.13 per cent. This rose to 16.82 per cent. in 1968-69. In 1959-60 the total State expenditure was \$130,000,000 of which \$17,000,000 was spent on education. In 1970 the total expenditure for the State was \$313,000,000 of which \$55,000,000 was allocated to education. In 1959-60 the loan funds allocated to school buildings totalled \$4,000,000, and by 1968-69 this figure had grown to \$9,000,000.

The demand for technical education has increased considerably. In 1959 the total enrolment in this division was 36,650, and by 1969 this had risen to 68,000—an increase of 86 per cent. over that period.

Ten years ago there were 4,600 apprentices in the various classes conducted by the technical education division for specific trades. Today there are 10,000 apprentices attending such classes. While we still have our problems we must admit that the Government has done a good job.

I am not at all happy, however, about the question of education in country areas. My main criticism is directed to secondary education and to junior high schools. I think I spoke on this subject last year and perhaps it might be as well if I read a brief article from *The Countryman*

of the 16th July, 1970. The article is headed, "Staffing country high schools a problem," and part of it reads as follows:—

If this happens in the full-term high schools of the big towns, it follows that the situation is infinitely worse in the junior high schools of the smaller towns.

The shortcomings of the junior highs are now much more widely known, and many country people are already campaigning to have something done about them.

On Thursday, the 30th July, 1970, an article appeared in *The West Australian* headed, "Lewis tells of better schools plan." It reads—and this referred to what the Minister for Education had to say—

He said that secondary education in many country areas was not equal to that in metropolitan areas.

The Minister then said he had submitted to the Treasury proposals designed to improve education facilities in the country.

This, however, is cold comfort to the parents of children attending high schools, particularly when they are forced to send them away, as of course they are. There is an example of this in a local junior high school. A group of parents were dissatisfied with the position that existed; they removed their children and they are now being boarded in another town. These people are debarred from obtaining a living-away allowance because the necessary facilities are available in their own town. It is fortunate that the parents in question can afford to do this but there are others who are not so fortunate and who cannot afford to send their children away. This is quite wrong. All teachers at secondary schools should have the same qualifications.

After all, in my opinion, although I am not an expert on this, the first three years of secondary education form the foundation of a child's educational future. I trust that the Minister will be given every support in his endeavours to bring about some remedy to this deficiency in country junior high schools.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I think he has had sufficient time in which to rectify the position.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: I did not read the entire document regarding this point, but I think that if members would read it for themselves they would find that considerable progress has been made in the last 10 years. We have progressed remarkably but this other matter is a further development. It seems we cannot have progress without problems, and we have certainly experienced a great deal of progress and are therefore facing a number of problems.

In the country areas we are very much opposed to centralisation, but unfortunately under the set-up of education at present, it appears we must endure a certain amount of centralisation in country areas. We just cannot find the number of qualified teachers to cope with a high school in every small community; and these are problems the Minister is facing at present.

In his Speech the Governor referred to reducing the age of an elector to 18. This is a move which has, I think, been supported by all parties. I have some thoughts on it and I wonder sometimes whether we are quite sincere when we talk of maturity, or whether we realise that a large group of people will be included, and hope thereby to gain some political advantage.

I am quite convinced that many 18-year-olds do not care whether or not they have a vote, and I think it would be a very interesting experiment if we were to make voluntary the enrolment of those aged from 18 to 21 years. This would give us some idea of how many of the younger people were mature enough to enrol and cast their votes.

My time is limited today but there are many avenues I would like to pursue. For instance, I see the Minister for Health in his seat and I would like to speak for some time on the progress made in regard to new hospital facilities in this State. Local government is another topic on which I would like to dwell. A great deal of progress has been made in local government, with a consequent rise in rates. Here again, if we desire progress we must pay for it.

It does seem, though, that we are facing very troubled times in the world today. Ministers of religion, educationalists, and members of Parliament are all prepared to ask young people to break the law, and not only break it, but to do so with violence. This is a deplorable state of affairs and in fact there seems to be a world-wide trend at present that if people do not like a thing, they create chaos in order to bring about a change. In other words, it would seem that with all our advanced education today we are perhaps further than ever from that desired goal of peace and goodwill towards all mankind. In fact, I think a fitting text for today would be, "Challenge all existing authorities and trust no-one."

THE HON. C. R. ABBEY (West)
[4.05 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

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

House adjourned at 4.06 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 6th August, 1970

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Legislative Assembly met at 3.00 p.m.

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

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Assembly (Mr. J. C. Bartlett) 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 third session of the Twenty-sixth Parliament.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Guthrie) [3.04 p.m.]: I have received the writ issued for the electoral district of Albany, and from the returns indorsed thereon it appears that Mr. Wyndham Truran Cook has been duly elected to serve in the Legislative Assembly as member for the electoral district of Albany. I am now prepared to swear in the honourable member.

The honourable member took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance and signed the roll.

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 (Major-General Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.) deliver the opening Speech (*vide* Council report *ante*), returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

QUESTIONS (3): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. NICKEL SMELTER *Establishment*

Mr. T. D. EVANS, to the Premier:

Will he give an assurance that his Government will do all in its power to ensure that any proposed nickel smelter to be erected in this State for the treatment of nickel ore mined in the Eastern Goldfields will be erected in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder district?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

I would like to thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Government is at present actively reviewing possible nickel projects and is giving consideration to a proposal for the establishment of a smelter in the Kalgoorlie district. I might add it is the Government's desire