

Such a decision would, in fact, be in line with the policy adopted by the present Labor Government of a more generous allocation of staff to schools. There is, indeed, among headmasters in my electorate general satisfaction with the ratio of pupils to staff. This more generous allocation includes an increased number of remedial teachers. For the first time, class sizes are at a level at which teachers may adequately deal with their pupils as individuals.

The free book scheme, while not yet fully implemented, is also making its contribution. The quality of the books provided is of a high standard. If any delay in delivery of books to schools has occurred, no headmaster has brought it to my attention. I mention, incidentally, that I have seen nearly all the headmasters in my electorate.

Primary education had, for a long time, been the Cinderella of the education system and I am more than pleased with the attention the Government has accorded to it. The importance of an adequate primary schooling to the child cannot be too highly stressed. His success or lack of it at this level can colour the whole of his life. It is important, therefore, that schools are adequately staffed with well-trained teachers having available to them a sufficiency of facilities and aids needed to perform their task, and responsible for a group of pupils small enough to teach to their potential.

This does not exhaust the forms of assistance extended to schools by the Labor Government. Besides upgrading the quality of education, it has moved to equalise educational opportunity. This has meant, for example, increased boarding allowances for country children.

The granting of autonomy to teachers colleges has been achieved and among the benefits of this reorganisation I would expect to see better trained, more professional teachers. The separation of teachers colleges from the Education Department I have believed to be fundamental to making the system more responsive to change and for an intelligent discussion of the problems facing it. Full marks must go to the Government for these achievements.

Criticism has been levelled at the Government for not immediately implementing a policy of preschool education for all. In refusing to be bulldozed on this issue, the Government has shown a better appreciation than its critics of the problems involved. The problems are chiefly those of buildings and staff. The Nott report on preschool education indicates quite clearly how much better the kindergarten movement has fared under Labor Governments. From the figures given in that report on the proportion of children at present attending kindergarten—15.06 per cent. in

1972—it is apparent the existing number of buildings and staff would need to increase at least six times for all eligible children to be catered for. The cost of buildings alone would be above \$30,000,000 and at least an extra 1,000 teachers would be required.

The present Kindergarten College would be stretching its resources to turn out 100 graduates a year, and a realistic figure would be nearer to 50. The maximum number of graduates available over the next two years would be 80.

Those who would suggest that primary infant teachers could be utilised to fill the void lack an appreciation of the differences involved. It would be doing a disservice to preschool education as such, and perhaps also to the children concerned. Any primary trained teacher turning to preschool education should be required to undergo at least 12 months' retraining.

Having seen accomplished so much of what I believed, when I entered Parliament in 1968, should be done in education, I am tempted to give my views on further innovations which I see as desirable. However, this is not an appropriate occasion, except perhaps to pay tribute to Mr. Dettman, who recently retired from the position of Director-General of Education. He must be given credit for many of the improvements that were achieved during his period of office.

The Labor Government has shown itself worthy of the people's confidence in what it has already achieved. It is nevertheless presenting another extensive legislative programme which will continue to bring important and fundamental changes in our lives.

THE HON. S. J. DELLAR (Lower North) [9.12 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

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

House adjourned at 9.13 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 15th March, 1973

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Legislative Assembly met at 8.00 p.m.

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Norton) 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 fourth session of the Twenty-seventh Parliament.

SWEARING-IN OF MEMBER

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Norton) [8.04 p.m.]: I have received the writ issued for the electoral district of Blackwood, and from the returns indorsed thereon it appears that Mr. Alexander Ashley Lewis has been duly elected to serve in the Legislative Assembly as member for the electoral district of Blackwood. 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 (4): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. TOWN PLANNING

Wanneroo-Gingin Industrial Area

Sir CHARLES COURT, to the Premier:

(1) (a) Will he table a plan and reports showing details of the Government's proposal to develop 80,000 acres as a northward extension of the metropolitan region, and announced on the 17th January, 1973;

(b) what is the approximate location of the proposed port site for this area?

(2) (a) Does he plan to introduce legislation this session dealing with this area, and/or with the development of any other region;

(b) if so, which regions will be involved;

(c) will the legislation be in the first or second part of the session?

(3) If he is not prepared to table a plan and reports, would he please give reasons?

(4) What consultations took place with the local authorities involved before an announcement was made on the 17th January, 1973?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for adequate notice of the question. The reply is as follows:—

(1) (a) I seek leave to table the plan requested. It must be stressed that this is

only a preliminary outline plan. A comprehensive report is not available. The general concept arises from a number of discussions emanating from several departments and concerning such issues as port development, a site for power stations and the development of major housing areas and employment centres. Further impetus to the discussions was given by Commonwealth entry into the field of urban and regional development and the likelihood of financial assistance. It is not expected that a comprehensive report will be available for several months.

(b) About eight miles south of the Moore River. Hydrographic surveys are still proceeding.

(2) (a) Yes.

(b) The Perth north-west corridor area and an area north of Geraldton.

(c) This will depend on the completion of studies relating to development and finance. However, it is hoped that legislation will be introduced in the autumn session.

(3) Answered by (1).

(4) The presidents of the Wanneroo and Gingin shires were acquainted with the proposals immediately before the public announcement was made. There have since been consultations with the Wanneroo shire, and further telephone contact with the Gingin shire.

The plan was tabled (see paper No. 1).

2. ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

Nonpayment: Arrests

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

How many arrests have been made since the 1st January, 1972, for nonpayment of road maintenance tax?

Mr. BICKERTON replied:

I thank the member for Mt. Lawley for some notice of this question. The reply is as follows—

Seven persons were arrested in Western Australia.

3. SUPREME COURT CASE

Illiterate Youth Defendant

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Did he see a report in *The West Australian* on Tuesday, the 13th March, 1973, wherein it was stated that a 20-year-old youth who appeared before the Supreme Court was almost completely illiterate?
- (2) Will he have the case investigated and report to the House?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

I thank the Leader of the Country Party for adequate notice of this question. The reply is as follows—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I will have the matter investigated.

4. NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

State Aid

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will he inform the House about the Government's present policy and actions regarding aid to non-Government schools?
- (2) In particular will he state whether—
 - (a) State aid will reach in this current school year of 1973 20 per cent. of the cost of educating students in Government schools—i.e. approximately \$62.50 per year per primary school pupil and \$104 per year per secondary school student—as promised by him last year;
 - (b) he has any knowledge of the Commonwealth Government's action honouring the previous Government's undertaking during this current 1973 school year to the same extent?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

The member for Floreat gave me adequate notice of this question which has enabled me to reply as follows—

- (1) and (2) The policy of the Government and proposed intentions were outlined in a Press announcement on the 29th November, 1972.

It is recorded in that announcement that in Western Australia the increased grants to match the Commonwealth would be made

progressively in each of the next two years beginning in 1973.

This is in line with action proposed by the Victorian Government and does not conflict with announcements made by the Commonwealth Government.

A Bill to this effect is currently before the Legislative Assembly.

No advice has been received in regard to 2 (b) but it is assumed the present Government will proceed with this undertaking of the previous Government.

EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Leave to Introduce

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier) [8.39 p.m.]: In order to preserve the privilege of the House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice—

That leave be given to introduce a Bill for "An Act to Amend Section 9B, Section 21E, and Section 37A, of the Education Act, 1928-1972."

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. J. T. Tonkin (Premier), and read a first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Distribution of Copies

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Norton): Accompanied by members of this Chamber, I attended His Excellency the Governor in the Legislative Council Chamber to hear the Speech which His Excellency was pleased to deliver to members of both Houses of Parliament. For the sake of greater accuracy, I have caused printed copies of the Speech to be distributed amongst members of this Chamber.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIRST DAY

Motion

MR. BATEMAN (Canning) [8.41 p.m.]: I move—

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech be agreed to—

May it please Your Excellency: We the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

I am very conscious of the honour accorded me by the Premier and members of Cabinet to move this motion for the Address-in-Reply. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to them for this honour.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to compliment the Government on the new look associated with the opening of this session of Parliament. Firstly, there is the change to an evening function. I am sure that is greatly appreciated by all of us present who recall the discomfort of afternoon openings in recent years. Moreover, the evening opening permits a much greater participation by the public.

Another change has been the replacing of the 21-gun salute by a fireworks display. This display can be seen across the river and will also allow a greater participation by the public on this very important occasion.

Then, of course, we have the welcome brevity of the Governor's Speech. The old traditional Speech evolved during generations in which time was not quite so pressing, and in which tradition was still unassailed. This year's presentation reverts the Governor's Speech to its basic function, which really is generally to inform members of Parliament gathered here tonight what to expect in the way of a legislative programme during the coming session.

The great number of subjects and the masses of statistics inserted in the Governor's Speech in previous years were absent, but members may be assured they will all come up for discussion and full airing during the present session.

There is ahead of us on this occasion a much more hopeful outlook in respect of the economic situation. Since taking office the Government has been beset by the backlash in Western Australia of an Australia-wide recession, derived from international trade and currency troubles unequalled for a generation. The Government has worked hard not only to hold the line during the past two years, but also to lay a foundation from which the economy of the State may take off when the world demand for our principal products fully recovers.

The fall in unemployment, the buoyancy of the rural industry, record world steel production figures, and several other less important economic weathercocks have all now swung towards more serene times, and towards, perhaps, a less frenetic commitment on the part of the Government. We are not out of the wood by any means, as we are warned by the current new flare-up of the deadly disease of "dollaritis", which has been mentioned daily in the newspapers, on the radio, and on television. Nevertheless, I am sure we are all praying for a speedy and successful end to the problem and for a return to the normal conditions so that the State will be able

to resume its hard-working way towards a much reduced sensitivity to such circumstances.

Parliament has ahead of it a very heavy legislative programme, the diversity and extent of which are as good an indication as any of the far more complex and sophisticated community we have become. I commend members of both sides of the House to a deep study of the proposed legislation and to a sincere investigation of their motives in relation to the decisions they will be required to make.

Last year I was very fortunate to be granted a study tour of England and Europe to examine methods of waste recycling and disposal; and I was particularly interested in the recycling of water. The ever-increasing development of Western Australia places an equally ever-increasing demand upon our resources of fresh water. This matter, of course, will become particularly important with the introduction of massive steel production. I am keenly aware that we must make provision for this demand, but I am also keenly aware that water is one of our scarcest industrial commodities.

If our population is to grow as we expect it to grow, and if it is to enjoy the standard of living we certainly wish to provide for it, it is fairly obvious that our present water resources will be totally inadequate. For that reason, whilst I was overseas I made a particular study of the modern techniques of recycling water.

What I learnt overseas leads me to suggest to the Government that the State would be very well served by an immediate and extensive investigation of the production of such water and its use in domestic gardens, public parks, sports grounds, power houses, and, of course, industry.

I was particularly interested in the remarks of a recent visitor from South Africa. I refer to Dr. Cillie, Director of the National Institute of Water Research in South Africa—a country with climatic conditions similar to ours. Dr. Cillie said, when lecturing in Perth, that people had to appreciate the value of water, and that much education was needed to encourage its careful use. I am sure many people present tonight have experienced an occasion when a water main has burst, and they have turned on the tap only to find no water coming from it. When this occurs people realise the value of water. Dr. Cillie said—and I agree wholeheartedly—that the recycling of water in industry would help to conserve this commodity.

I have been honoured to represent the Canning electorate during the past five years, and in the tradition of those speaking to the Address-in-Reply I wish to make mention of some of the more pressing needs of my electorate. There are many inherent problems associated with a rapid rate of development—which the Canning

electorate enjoys—and I would like to mention two matters in this connection. Obviously, when an electorate is developing as rapidly as the Canning electorate is developing, one finds many problems; however, as time does not permit me to mention all of them, I will refer to two only. They are, on the one hand, the recent rezoning of a large tract of land in Canning Vale for light industry; and, on the other hand, the vicious rates squeeze being experienced by many Canning people.

In respect of the rezoning, I realise the area concerned has a great deal to recommend it. It is close to the standard gauge railway line and is serviced by gas, water, electricity, and sewerage. It is surrounded and crossed by made roads; it is very close to the Port of Fremantle; and it is within eight miles of the City of Perth.

Quite obviously it has a lot to recommend it. Nevertheless, above and beyond these obvious advantages, one must give a lot of consideration to the human element involved when rezoning land of this type from one category to another, because many of the people concerned in this development or rezoning are elderly.

Many of them have lived in the area all their lives; many have raised families there, and many made their living from that land. Under the circumstances one can readily understand why these people are a little upset at having to leave their homes and their familiar surroundings. Of course, this is very distressing to them.

So, I ask respectfully that when the final decision is made, the rezoning is completed at Canning Vale, and the people concerned are required to leave the area, very special consideration be given to assist them to re-establish themselves in areas of their own choice.

The other matter to which I wish to refer is somewhat similar. It is one dealing with people who have been caught up willy-nilly in the march of progress. The introduction of the Cannington-Armadale corridor four years ago by the previous Government vastly increased, by almost fourfold, the value of rural properties reclassified as urban land.

Unfortunately this did not bring about a similar increase to the incomes of the small farmers—the orchardists, the poultry farmers, and the like—along the Canning River. Because of the financial trouble these small farmers found themselves in, the previous Government introduced legislation which granted them a 50 per cent. rebate on their rates. No doubt members in this Chamber are familiar with the conditions that prevailed at that time.

However, in the succeeding four years land values have risen again so sharply that these urban small farmers now find

themselves back at square one. Their rebate at the present time is quite ineffective.

I refer to a very hard-working and worthy section of the community which supplies the metropolitan market with a considerable portion of its fruit, vegetables, eggs, and other small-farm products; and it would be a great pity for local consumers, and also a great injustice to the people concerned, if they were forced to the financial wall by circumstances over which they have no control.

May I respectfully commend this situation to the generous consideration of all members, in the hope that early action may relieve these urban farmers of this unwarranted burden and anxiety.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion might I urge both the Government and the Opposition to work conscientiously towards the lasting prosperity and security of the people of Western Australia. These are the people who elected us to Parliament, and to whose needs our first thoughts are pledged.

MR. BURKE (Perth) [8.52 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Leader of the Opposition).

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier) [8.53 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 20th March.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 8.54 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 20th March, 1973

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Officers: Changes in Positions

The **PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver): I wish to advise members of the following changes affecting officers of the House which I have approved, and which became effective from the 12th March, 1973—

Mr. L. A. Hoft has been appointed to a new position of Second Clerk Assistant.