

Mr RUSHTON replied:

I have now finalised my programme of visiting the 138 local authorities as proposed. In the company of the member for Avon (Mr Ken McIver) and the member for the Central Province (Mr H. W. Gayfer), I completed the programme last night by visiting the Northam Shire Council.

Mr BRYCE: Mr Speaker—

The SPEAKER: Order! Will the member resume his seat?

Mr Bryce: Secrecy does not stop with the Government.

Sir Charles Court: That is a nice thing to say about the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: May I ask the member for Ascot to repeat his statement?

Mr BRYCE: I said it appears secrecy does not stop with the Government.

Sir Charles Court: That is a nice one.

The SPEAKER: Of course, the implication is very plain to me, and the public at large. I deplore the remark from the honourable member and I must ask him to apologise.

Mr BRYCE: Mr Speaker, if you understand, from what I said, any implication towards you, I withdraw.

Mr O'Neil: That is qualified.

Mr Jamieson: That is reasonable enough, too.

The SPEAKER: Order! I will accept the apology as it is tendered.

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE:  
SPECIAL**

**SIR CHARLES COURT** (Nedlands—Premier) [3.36 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 8th April.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 3.37 p.m.*

**Legislative Council**

Tuesday, the 8th April, 1975

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

**QUESTIONS (6): ON NOTICE**

**1. EDUCATION**

*Carawatha and Kardinya Schools*

The Hon. R. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the accommodation problem at the Carawatha primary school?

- (2) When will the primary school be built at Kardinya, which will relieve the Carawatha problem?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) The construction of a new school at Kardinya has been listed for consideration. Priority must be given to other schools with more temporary accommodation or greater growth potential. A final decision, therefore, must be dependent on the degree to which costs of buildings continue to escalate.

**2. INDUSTRIAL GASES  
*Storage Hazards***

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

With reference to my question on the 19th March, 1975, relating to the storage of bottled gases, and as there are no mining regulations for the control of such, is there any regulation under any other Minister's portfolio which will control the storage and sale of steel bottled gases?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied: Provision is made under the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Act for the packaging, storing and sale of steel bottled gases.

**3. TRAFFIC  
*Trail-bikes and Recreation Vehicles***

The Hon. D. K. Dans for the Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Recreation:

Will the Minister advise when it is proposed to introduce legislation to control trail-bikes and similar recreational vehicles?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied: This year.

**4. TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD  
*Greyhound Racing: Investments***

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Minister for Education representing the Chief Secretary:

Referring to my question on the 20th March, 1975, relating to Totalisator Agency Board investment on greyhound racing—

- (1) With regard to the amount allocated to race course development, \$8 122.95—
  - (a) does this mean its use is for greyhound race course developments only;
  - (b) if not, what clubs are likely to participate?

- (2) With regard to the amount allocated to the Special Purpose Fund, \$2 707.70, what are the uses this item will provide for?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Clause 11, Part 1, of the Greyhound Racing Totalisator (Distribution and Race Course Development) Regulations, 1974, specifies the manner in which the Board may authorise payments out of the Race Course Development account, such Clause reading as follows:

11(1) The Board may authorise payments out of the Racecourse Development Account—

- (a) to assist any person, or body of persons, to make improvements, or to provide totalisator facilities, on any Greyhound Racing Ground, or to construct, or make improvements to, facilities ancillary to any such ground which is, or is intended to be, conducted under the management of a Greyhound Racing Club or Committee of Management;
- (b) to re-finance or discharge, in whole or in part, any liability incurred by a Greyhound Racing Club in making improvements on any licensed Greyhound Racing Ground, or in the construction of, or making of improvements to any facilities ancillary thereto, whether on the racing ground or elsewhere;
- (c) to discharge in whole, or in part, any liabilities incurred by a Greyhound Racing Club in respect of a Greyhound Racing Ground which has ceased to be used for greyhound racing; or
- (d) under or in relation to an agreement, guarantee or arrangement entered into pursuant to regulation 8 of these regulations.

(2) Any payment to discharge a liability referred to in sub-regulation (1) of this regulation may be made directly to the person to whom the Greyhound Racing Club is indebted.

- (2) The Board has not resolved the manner in which this Fund shall be utilised.

5.

## RAILWAYS

### *Link with Mitchell Freeway*

The Hon. D. K. Duns for the Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the Government ensure that a railway permanent way is incorporated in the extensions of the Mitchell Freeway as it is constructed?
- (2) Will the Government provide a plan of the linking between the proposed railway permanent way within the Mitchell Freeway, with the existing railway system?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) Present planning provides for a busway in the median of the Mitchell Freeway.
- (2) The provision of a North-West railway in conjunction with a Murray Street underground railway was studied as one of the electrification options by Wilbur Smith and Associates. An illustration of how the two might be connected is shown on page 13 of Wilbur Smith's "Report in Brief". The alignment they suggest for the North-West railway does not precisely follow the alignment of the Mitchell Freeway.

6.

## FIRE BRIGADES

### *Rescue Apparatus and Equipment: High Buildings*

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Minister for Education representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) What is the maximum height that the rescue apparatus used by the Fire Brigade is capable of rescuing people from buildings?
- (2) What fire safety and fire prevention equipment is in existence at present in buildings under 4 metres in height not required to use the sprinkler system?
- (3) Is it known how many buildings in the City of Perth—  
(a) do; and  
(b) do not; comply with the fire prevention requirements?
- (4) (a) Are any buildings in the City of Perth regarded as a serious fire risk; and  
(b) if so, could they be named?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) The maximum operational height of Brigade aerial equipment is 25 metres (80 feet), subject to suitable standing being available. However, aerial equipment is designed primarily as a water tower for fire fighting purposes.
- (2) Fire safety and fire prevention is limited to design factors at the time of construction. However, fire protection measures include:—
  - (a) High buildings under 80 feet (25 metres)—
    - Fire Hydrant service;
    - Hose Reels and/or fire extinguishers;
  - (b) All high buildings over 80 feet (25 metres) (including those exceeding 42 metres)—
    - Fire hydrant service fitted with Fire Brigade booster connection and a secondary water supply;
    - Hose reels and/or fire extinguishers;
    - Fireman's lift (for exclusive Fire Brigade control in emergency)
    - Automatic fire and smoke detection systems (not sprinkler).
- (3) If the term "fire prevention requirements" means compliance with building regulations existing at the time, the answer to (a) is, buildings generally comply.
- (4) It is the opinion of the Board's Senior Officers that unsprinklered buildings in the centre of the city, high rise buildings and large residential and institutional buildings present a potential serious fire and life risk which is common to all cities.

#### QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

##### *Resignation of Governor: Amendment of Motion*

The Hon. R. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Justice:

In view of the unfortunate resignation of the Governor has the Minister given consideration to amending the motion moved by the Hon. I. G. Pratt, on the 13th March 1975? It is now impossible to present the address to Air Commodore, Sir Hughie Idwal Edwards. I believe it is necessary to amend the motion to thank Sir Hughie for opening Parliament. I draw this matter to the attention of the Minister so that consideration may be given to the wording of such an amendment.

The Hon. N. McNEILL replied:

The matter raised by the Leader of the Opposition warrants some investigation. I will have the matter investigated to see whether such an amendment is necessary.

#### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SEVENTH DAY

##### *Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 26th March, on the following motion by the Hon. I. G. Pratt—

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.

**THE HON. GRACE VAUGHAN** (South-East Metropolitan) [4.53 p.m.]: Despite the fact that the motion now before the Chamber needs to be amended, I will make my remarks in anticipation of some sort of amendment being moved to make the motion more acceptable. Although what I have to say in my speech on the Address-in-Reply may sound a little like a lecture on the behaviour of other people, I do not exonerate myself from such lapses.

Therefore, when I refer to other people, I do not mean they are the only guilty individuals; I include myself. The type of criticism to which I refer pains me very much, especially when it comes from the advantaged people of the community; those in the position of privilege, such as members of Parliament; those who have been fortunate enough to make a success of business; or those rare human beings, the very well adjusted of our society.

I refer specifically to the comments made by the Hon. G. E. Masters. I resented them very deeply, perhaps because they touched my own conscience, in that sometimes I too am given to thoughts of this nature. It is very difficult to accept that there are certain people in the community who are unemployed, not because of their own shortcomings in conscience, but because of a lack of advantage which has made them incapable of performing those deeds and of taking advantage of the opportunities that we believe are presented to them; thus eventually making them, what we might consider to be, a drain on our pockets.

Of course, this matter arises particularly during periods of great unemployment. During the Hon. G. E. Masters' address—he admitted he was talking off the top of

his head—he said that about 20 per cent of the unemployed were bludgers. Perhaps we may forgive him because, coming from another country, he may not understand the connotation of the word “bludger”; it has a very nasty meaning in Australia.

As Mr Masters complained that money was coming out of his pocket and was going to these people, I wonder whether he really knows that the accepted meaning of a “bludger” is a person who lives off the earnings of a prostitute. I wonder whether Mr Masters classes himself as a prostitute, particularly in view of his statement that he is paying money out of his own pocket to these “bludgers”.

All that aside, while I am picking on Mr Masters as the enunciator of this doctrine, I believe it is about time that people who are in positions of advantage and privilege—and who are able to exist in a highly competitive world—showed a little more tolerance, understanding and thought about the sorts of conditions which have been responsible for the behaviour of certain people, placing them in the position of having to accept unemployment benefits when perhaps with the sort of effort which Mr Masters and the rest of us are capable of making, they would never have been placed in such a situation.

Of course, in times of extreme unemployment it is very difficult even for people with a lot of initiative and advantages in the way of intellectual endowments or physical beauty—that does not apply so much to Mr Masters as it does to me!—to survive in this highly competitive and materialistic world. All these advantages determine whether one is to sink or swim in this modern world. I take all of us to task; of all people in the community, it is we who should be thanking our lucky stars that we are in such a position of advantage and privilege and we should show a little more tolerance and understanding.

This leads me again to discuss the issue of Aborigines. I know I have laboured this point somewhat before, but I intend to go on raising the issue because I think there is being built up in the community a tremendous amount of antagonism towards Aborigines. I can remember when I was a child that the major criticism of Aborigines—apart from the fact that they were always given the stereotyped labels of being oversexed, lazy, and mentally retarded—was that they were considered not to have any guts because they had not resisted the poisoning of their water wells and the superior instruments of war we used against them. They were accused of not doing what other races in a similar position had done; and I refer to the Maoris and the Zulus, who stood against the white intruder, as a result of which of course, there was a tremendous and horrible flow of blood in those countries, which has not occurred here.

It was a much more surreptitious, creeping type of end which came to many of our Aborigines; that this is still occurring can be seen by an examination of the Aboriginal infant mortality rate.

But now when we find a few Aboriginal people who possess this value of “guts”—those who are prepared to stand up to the people who are telling them how they should and should not behave—we are still objecting. We say, “The uppity Aborigines! Look what we are giving them! Look what we are handing out. We are making their lives so much more pleasant. How ungrateful they are to dare to insult us by criticising what we are doing for them”.

Despite the fact that so much money is being poured into the field of Aboriginal affairs and in the improvement of Aboriginal conditions, we are still saying that this should not be done; that the Aborigines should be grateful. If they were honest enough to admit it there are those who would say, “We wish the Aborigines had died out by now”; indeed, they find it a source of great concern that the Aborigines have not died out.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: You want to destroy their self-respect by giving them handouts.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: No, I do not want that to happen. What I want to see taking place is for people to change their attitudes; and in that respect I include myself. I say that our attitudes towards the Aborigines have to be changed. We should recognise that a great deal has to be undone before much more good can be done for these people. One cannot give a single answer as being the only answer to the problem, because there are just as many answers to this problem as there are part-Aborigines and full-blood Aborigines in our population.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: What changes do you suggest?

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: If the Minister for Health would like me to do so I could write a book on the problem. What I am asking for is understanding and tolerance. Firstly, we should recognise the fact that the position will not be cured overnight, and that we cannot expect gratitude, from people to whom so much of the taxpayers' money is going. What I am asking for is tolerance and understanding; and in talking about attitudes I am not attempting *per se* to give answers to the problem. I am sure that many of us have ideas on how to solve the problem, but I shall not bother the House with these. I merely wish to point out that many volumes have been written, dealing with the Aboriginal question; and at the present time a study is being undertaken in Australia into the problems encountered by people under different conditions in different places. Of course, we do not have a single answer to the Aboriginal problem.

One other matter to which I wish to address myself is the attitude of the State Government to the Australian Government. Whilst there might be a slight improvement in the position at the moment, it has come about only because the State Government is recognising the fact that many of the voters, Government officers, and local authorities are seeing on which side their bread is buttered; and they are not prepared to let the other States come in and collect all the grants that have been made available to the States, in refusing to co-operate with the Australian Government.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: Government by carrot!

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Not necessarily. I would term it government by sensible co-operation. Because we are human beings there is often misunderstanding on both sides, and in this sort of argument I am not talking about black and white. There have been many instances where the present State Government indicated its willingness to co-operate with the Australian Government but failed to do so. One blatant illustration was revealed when the Minister for Education talked about pre-primary centres. We find that most of the money being spent on pre-primary centres is coming from the Children's Commission.

This commission was set up for the purpose of providing all over Australia, in a way to bring about some sort of equity, early childhood services. That was the purpose for setting up the Children's Commission. We find that of the \$2.3 million allocated to Western Australia, almost \$1 million is being spent to implement an election promise made by the State Government. This means that almost half of the amount already allocated to the State by the Children's Commission has been expended to cater for children from five to six years of age, because Western Australia is the only State which, up till now, has not enrolled children into the primary schools at the age of five years.

We see that almost half of the money that has been allocated has gone to cater for about one-sixth of the children in Western Australia under the age of six years; that is the proportion of the children of that age who will receive almost half of the allocation from the Children's Commission.

Let us see what is happening to the children, aged from birth to five years, who need this type of child care. Western Australia is worse off than any other State in respect of child care centres to which working mothers can send their children.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: First things must come first.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: It depends on how old one's child is. If one has a child of five or six years of age one would think that children of that age group should receive priority. A working mother with a child younger than that age would think it unfair that the State cannot provide child care centres. Looking at the matter objectively, one can say that the State is acting unfairly if it spends almost half of the money that has been allocated by the Children's Commission on catering for one-sixth of the children who should benefit from such allocation, because whereas at the present time in Australia 29 per cent of the people who are responsible for children under six years of age are working, the figure for Western Australia is 32 per cent. So Western Australia suffers a disadvantage in that there are more mothers going to work but there are fewer child care centres to cater for the young children.

The Hon. J. C. Tozer: This expenditure cannot be made without the approval of the Children's Commission.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: That is correct, and it is one of the worst features. What I am putting forward is that the State Government should adopt an attitude of co-operation and trust in its relationship with the Australian Government, instead of continually knocking the Australian Government and what it does.

The State has been called upon to advise the Australian Government on how the money should be spent. The Children's Commission, believing that the State Government was entering into the spirit of the proposal and the terms of reference under which the commission could allocate money, accepted the word of the State Government that this was the best way in which the money could be spent. It was not until the Minister for Education (Mr MacKinnon) spoke to Mr Bowen the Australian Special Minister of State about this matter that Mr Bowen uncovered the way in which the money was being spent.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: Are you sure your facts are right?

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Yes. It is not merely a question of child education; it is a question of what the Children's Commission has been set up to achieve, and if Mr Lewis will listen, the objective is the care of children of pre-school age. The aim is to provide early childhood services, and not education. That is the reason the Minister for Education admits the pre-primary centres in this State will have to contain some element of child care.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: Did Mr Bowen give you information which was confidential?

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Mr Bowen has not given me any confidential information at all. The Minister for Education has said there has to be some difference, and I have pointed out to him there is need for the inclusion of a care content in pre-primary centres. It is not just a matter of pre-school education. Unless the care content is incorporated, Western Australia has no right to spend money on pre-primary centres.

I have some knowledge of the Children's Commission, the aim of its establishment, and its terms of reference. If some members will read the terms of reference they will understand what I am talking about. This is an illustration of attitudes making a difference to what actually transpires in respect of equity of child care in Western Australia, and in respect of the grants that have been allocated to the State.

An illustration of the increasing co-operation by various bodies concerned—despite the continual knocking of the Australian Government by the State Government—is that the local authorities in Western Australia are doing their utmost to obtain the grants from the Australian Government.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Why not be honest about the Children's Commission? You are not being honest.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: What does the Minister mean?

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: You know the proposal was put before the States hastily early in January, and the States were told to put up programmes quickly and to spend the funds before a certain time.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: Let me refer to the statement made by the Federal Minister (Mr Everingham) early in November last about the types of grants that would be available for home care service centres in Western Australia. He announced there would be 14 centres which would be serviced. However, they still had not been established by the State Government up to February last. Is that the way the State Government is supposed to be co-operating with the Australian Government in getting the very best services and facilities for Western Australia through grants from the Australian Government? It is obvious that Mr Lewis wants to perpetuate this attitude of non-co-operation, and he seems to be prepared to say anything as long as it is against the Australian Government.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: As long as it is factual.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: If one examines the controversies which have existed between the States and the Australian Government, one finds that there has always been an element of competition between the States for moneys allocated by the Australian Government, and to some extent one also finds a certain degree

of antagonism between the States and the Australian Government. That is understandable, but if Western Australia wants to do the best for its people it certainly should press on to obtain the best possible deal, but if the State Government adopts an attitude of pigheadedness and non-co-operation it will result in the people of the State missing out. It is only as a result of pressure from community groups, local authorities, and other bodies that we find co-operation is becoming a little better gradually.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: That is not factual at all; it is completely untrue.

The Hon. GRACE VAUGHAN: I do not wish to say much more in my contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate. I have been talking about attitudes, and some of the interjections have illustrated the truth of what I have been saying. I do call upon members of this House, and through them upon other people of influence, to bring about more tolerance and understanding of the people and the conditions under which they live. We should not wait to be moved by emotion before taking action as a result of something spectacular happening. We had a fair illustration of this in the last few days in respect of the Vietnam orphans when action, based upon emotional response, was taken.

At all times we should display tolerance and understanding of people who are less endowed, and have had experiences which make them less likely to succeed than we are; or of those who have fallen into unfortunate circumstances or suffer from handicaps which militate against their being as privileged as are the members of this House.

**THE HON. D. J. WORDSWORTH** (South) [5.13 p.m.]: Firstly, I would like to congratulate His Excellency the Governor for the Speech he made at the opening of Parliament; and it is indeed unfortunate that the Speech has received undue criticism. I would like to wish His Excellency well in his retirement.

The matter I wish to raise is: Who is governing Australia today? After foundation we found that we had to rely on decisions from Great Britain, and certainly on decisions of Her Majesty Queen Victoria and Westminster were slow to take effect. The people objected to that. Subsequently Western Australia was able to establish its independence. A State Government was formed, a Premier was elected, and a Cabinet was appointed.

At that stage we knew where the decisions came from. We were later within our prerogative in forming the Commonwealth of Australia. We then had another decision maker in the chain of command. It appears that we now have yet another decision maker in the chain of command, and that is in the form of the trade unions.

The influence of the unions seems to be growing stronger and stronger, as they begin to appreciate the power they can wield. Some people might say that there is nothing new in my complaint about the influence of the trade unions in making decisions which are of benefit to themselves only, and not to the whole of Australia. Indeed one of our members in this House has been wielding this strength for a long time, and I have not complained about this.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I wonder who that is.

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH. It is obvious that the unions are gaining in strength, and now we find they are influencing our entire overseas trade, as a result of which the primary producer is becoming more and more concerned.

In this connection I think first of the cancellation of the wheat sales to Chile. I admit that this year we had very good prospects for selling wheat and undoubtedly another country—probably Communist China, certainly not Formosa—bought that wheat. I can see this is going to affect us greatly in the future. It is very silly for us to have taken the step we did in connection with Chile which is a very large buyer of wheat. This step was taken, however, because of the whim of the unions.

Not only are we troubled with our grains, but we are also troubled with our livestock export. Here we are at the moment with a major glut of beef on our hands and yet we find the Meat Industry Employees Union is able to influence our entire export trade of livestock. Western Australia, in particular, has built up a very beneficial trade in live sheep. As a wool-producing State we have had a surplus of oldish wethers and these have brought high prices when exported to the Middle East. With the fall in meat prices there have been less livestock available for killing in our works, and the Meat Industry Employees Union has sought to ban the export of live sheep overseas.

In South Australia the position got to the stage where ships were picketed. Fortunately, however, the farmers there went down to the water front and managed to keep some of the exports going. While this was happening in South Australia we in Western Australia chose to limit ourselves and call a conference of the unions, the producers, and others to try to reach agreement as to what should be exported. However, while we perhaps did become party to an agreement I cannot say we are entirely happy with the force that is being used in our industry today.

We are now finding that the market would be far better filled with younger sheep rather than with the older wethers. On the other hand we are told that we can only export the extra heavyweight sheep; those which we used to export;

and that those which could be killed and eaten here should be kept and killed here rather than sent out. This means a loss of at least \$3 or \$4 a head to the producer, and in the difficult economic times we are experiencing today this sort of money should not be lost. We find that we are losing the live sheep market and that we are forcing upon the Middle East countries a product which they do not necessarily want—and I refer to the carcase. Those countries prefer to have the live sheep; they prefer to kill it in their own way, both from the religious point of view and from the point of view of using their own abattoirs which means they do not need deep freezing facilities. This means they can consume 75 per cent of the live weight as against the 50 per cent which is sent over in the carcase. However, because these countries are so strong in their desire to kill the sheep in their own way they are making arrangements to import sheep from other countries, and I understand they have reached an agreement for the supply of one million of sheep from Bulgaria.

I feel we have gone beyond the stage of thinking of providing work for the unionists. We have now reached the stage of losing markets—we are cutting off our nose to spite our face. The situation is becoming so serious that I am sure it will not be long before the producers of the State will take a stand and endeavour to wield their own influence. It is regrettable that primary producers should have reached this stage.

We have also found that we have had trouble exporting live beef from Australia. We had the very well known case of a shipload of cattle which was meant to go to Japan and which remained sitting in Geelong Harbour for three or four weeks, because its departure was held up by the unions that were involved. At that stage the trade appreciated it was no longer able to export live cattle overseas; but fortunately with a world glut of beef the unions have seen fit to lift the ban for three months.

Regrettably, however, this lifting of the ban is of little consequence because few traders can arrange to make a shipment during this short period. A lot more research, forward planning, and selling must go into the industry; such things certainly cannot be arranged in the short period of three months. I think so far as shipping is concerned six months is necessary for arrangements such as these to be made. Accordingly very little benefit will accrue from the lifting of the union ban for three months.

As we all know some cattle were sent to Singapore. Members will recall my having raised a question in this House when I referred to the report that cattle had died of tuberculosis. The Chief Veterinary Officer (Mr Gardiner) has since made a

statement that the cattle had not died of tuberculosis, but of heat stroke or of some other complaint; and that there was no incidence of tuberculosis on the farm from which they came. This is merely another nail in the coffin as it relates to our export of livestock overseas.

I received a letter on this subject in the mail today. It is a copy of a letter which was sent by the Secretary of the Esperance Branch of the Waterside Workers' Federation to Mr L. Jury, Regional Executive Officer, Department of Primary Industry, Perth. A copy of the letter in question was sent to me and also to Senator Wriedt and other members of Parliament and, accordingly, it is in no way a private document. I feel the letter should be read out so that members and the public will be able to appreciate the feeling that exists in Esperance at the moment particularly in regard to the waterside workers who have been forced to impose a ban on behalf of the Meat Industry Employees' Union. The letter reads as follows—

We understand that you have arranged, with other associated bodies, to meet Senator Wriedt, in order to discuss the possibilities of the resumption of the export of live cattle while the A.M.I.E.U. ban has been lifted.

We wish to point out that, as an individual group, we never, at any stage, have been in favour of supporting the ban imposed by the A.M.I.E.U. because it would involve loss of work for our own members. The W.W.F. originally expressed that it supported the ban only so long as it did not mean loss of work for its members, a fact which the news media overlooked, with the result that waterside workers were directly blamed, in some quarters, for the ban becoming effective.

We cannot see any reason why we should support a ban on live exports, when there is such a restriction on the export of chilled or frozen beef, brought about by import bans, i.e. America and Japan. Live exports would continue the flow of cattle to market—no glut.

We share the view that, because of its isolation from the metropolitan and South West meat markets the Esperance district has been severely held to ransom by the A.M.I.E.U. who have not and cannot have an active interest in our district for a minimum of three years if the building of the Esperance Meat Exporters export meat works was to commence tomorrow.

The shocking drop in cattle prices has not been followed by a corresponding drop in wages and other costs. By contrast, costs to the farmer have escalated alarmingly, doubly damning to the cattle producer.

As the A.M.I.E.U. is not a strongly represented body in Esperance the W.W.F. (Esperance Branch) has been attacked repeatedly by farmer organisations, the press and other allied interests as the party responsible for the prevention of live exports of cattle from Esperance, whereas, in fact, we would have loaded any cattle delivered to the ships side.

By any cattle, we consider that an isolated area such as Esperance should be at liberty to supply any size or weight of cattle to fill its export buyers requirements, and should not be restricted to only heavy weight steers. Freedom to do this would help to offset any problems of oversupply in Midland and the South West markets and would give buyers the time necessary to seek the right overseas markets.

It is ridiculous to imagine anybody being able to buy for, and supply shipping for, a market for a period of 3 months. Therefore we advocate that Esperance be free to export live cattle until such time as the export abattoir is ready to roll. Even then it should be permissible to ship out live those cattle which the Esperance Meat Export Works do not have markets for.

It is essential to the well being of the producers to be able to quit their surplus stock each year, otherwise the venture becomes uneconomic.

Senator Wriedt will appreciate that the slump in the sale of motor vehicles has been brought about by the fact that the country's farmers cannot afford to buy until something is done to restore beef prices.

We have been informed by one buyer that he would be interested in commencing live cattle exports from Esperance so long as he could have an assurance of a lengthy duration of time in which to operate, so that continuity of shipping can be organised.

What could be better than as previously suggested, i.e. no restrictions till Esperance Meat Exporters are ready to commence operations. We suggest that the boundary for the Esperance region be the same as that used by Co-operative Bulk Handling for drawing grain for shipment from this Port.

Yours faithfully

Waterside Workers' Federation  
(Esperance Branch)

Even though the letter is a long one I am glad I had an opportunity to read it because it does indicate that one section of a union is being held to ransom by another.



I feel that the Federal Government should immediately step in and take action to ensure that this small group in Esperance is not forced to carry out a shipping ban by a union which indeed has no members in the area at all.

The Hon. J. C. Tozer: The same applies to Broome and Derby.

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH: The member for the North Province has made a very fitting remark. The areas up there are very close to the markets in Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines which undoubtedly could be developed. They are however completely at the mercy of the unions. The American market is willing to accept some of our beef from the north, but the condition now laid down by the Australian Meat Board is that so much beef has to be exported to markets other than the United States before a quota for the U.S. market can be earned. It will be very hard indeed for the works in the north to comply with these regulations.

Members do not need to be reminded that Japan is taking only a ridiculous amount of some 2 000 tonnes of meat at a price of 20c a pound—not at dollar over a pound as was previously the case. In other words first grade beef which was being sent to Japan previously has now been brought back to the price of third grade sausage beef. So the chances of the North-West being able to fill that market, small as it is, are nil.

I am saying this situation applies not only to Esperance but also to the North-West; and it applies not only to beef but also equally to lamb and sheep meats. I therefore hope the Australian Government will give due consideration to the matter of writing to its own unions asking them to lift the ban on livestock, and that we will see exports once again leaving Western Australian ports. The market was built up to the stage where we were exporting one million sheep. Undoubtedly a market exists, and the sooner Western Australia gets back into the market the sooner will the primary producers get out of their difficulties.

It gives me much pleasure to support the motion.

**THE HON. T. KNIGHT** (South) [5.31 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion so ably moved by the Hon. I. G. Fratt on Opening Day.

The first problem I wish to speak about concerns the anomalies in this State in regard to unemployment benefits. I believe these benefits are being paid out to people who waste and squander the money. The money is not always spent in the best interests of the families of the unemployed people. It is a sad state of affairs when the taxes paid by those who have the initiative and ability to get out and earn

their living are squandered and not used for the purpose for which they were originally intended.

I believe the Government departments responsible for the payment of unemployment benefits should look for ways of paying them through a system of vouchers or coupons for food and clothing, with rent, and electricity and water charges being paid by the department. In this way the money will not be squandered and the families will be able to obtain food, clothing, and the necessities of life. The families concerned will thus obtain the benefit of the money which is made available by the Government in the form of unemployment benefits.

Anomalies occurring in another sector of unemployed people have also been brought to my notice; that is, the professional "bludgers" who do not want to work but prefer to collect the dole and eke out their life in the hotels and betting shops and on the beaches.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I cannot accept the word "bludgers" as being parliamentary.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I withdraw the term "bludgers" and substitute the term "loafers". The Hon. David Wordsworth brought to our attention in the House a few weeks ago the situation which existed in Gnowangerup, where there were seven positions vacant, but although the Gnowangerup Shire Council advertised them at considerable expense none of the positions were filled. In my opinion, these people sponge on the taxpayers, who pay taxes which the Government should use wisely. This situation should not be allowed to continue.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Are you referring to all unemployed people?

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: No; I referred to the spongers. I further believe the present situation in regard to the payment of unemployment benefits is killing apprenticeship to trades, because young people have no incentive to take up an apprenticeship in which they earn \$46 a week in the first year when they can receive \$31 in unemployment benefits.

In my first speech in this House I mentioned the cost of commodities in country areas. Several people in my electorate have drawn my attention to the fact that cigarettes and some other commodities can be purchased at the same price anywhere in the State. In Albany the price of a bottle of tomato sauce or vinegar varies from what it costs in Perth to 3c more than the price charged in Perth. But one of the greatest anomalies arises in the price of bottled beer. I do not see why a worker in a country area should pay more for his so-called luxury than the worker in the city. A bottle of beer is up to 17c dearer in Albany than in the metropolitan

area. Petrol is also more expensive in country areas. If cigarettes can be sold at the same price throughout the State, I do not think it would be very difficult to establish a uniform price for petrol and other commodities throughout the State.

Rumour has it that the Perth-Albany rail passenger service is to be discontinued. I hope the rumour is incorrect because if the service were discontinued it would create many hardships for businessmen, and pensioners and children in particular, who at the present time can leave Albany by train at 6.00 p.m., arriving in Perth at 7.00 o'clock the following morning; they can carry out their business during that day and leave Perth at 6.30 p.m., arriving in Albany the following morning.

If road buses are substituted for the train service, people would have to spend a day travelling to Perth, pay for accommodation overnight, carry out their business during the next day, pay for a further night's accommodation, and leave for Albany the following morning. A trip to Perth or Albany would cover three days and two nights. I believe a transport service such as the Perth-Albany passenger service, which was intended for the benefit of country dwellers, should not be discontinued.

I also wish to bring to the notice of the House the crucial position in which the farming community has found itself in the last few months. With the ever-spiralling costs and the drop in their income, farmers are finding it almost impossible to carry on.

The Federal Government has made available several loans, most of which either carry a very high interest rate or involve very stringent conditions, so that by the time the forms are filled out and the application is approved the farmer has passed his deadline. The Government should face reality and make available low interest loans or easy carry-on finance to help farmers in their present situation; otherwise the cities and towns in the rural sector will collapse because they exist wholly and solely in order to support the rural community.

I now move on to the subject of handicapped, disabled, and crippled people. I extend my thanks to the present Government, the Minister for Health, and officers of the medical and health services for agreeing to carry out—at no cost to the patients or their families—the necessary work on the homes of disabled people who are mentally, medically, and physically capable of living in the family environment which is so dear to us all. However, I do not believe the work should stop there. There are other people in a higher age bracket who have no family or whose family is too old to look after them. I believe motel type accommodation should be made available for them in the outer

suburban areas, with adjoining workshop facilities where they can learn a trade and produce articles which can be sold to the public. These people should have accommodation of their own where they can have their friends around for an evening, and so on, thus enabling them to live a normal type of life.

The paraplegics and quadriplegics at the Shenton Park Annexe are at present producing salable articles. A business has been set up, and I believe it should be sponsored. Perhaps the Government could subsidise these people and give them the opportunity to supply articles on Government contracts. This would enable them to make their own way in life and hold up their heads with dignity because they are supporting themselves. I believe their arts and crafts would enable them to become self-supporting. The assistance given to the paraplegics and quadriplegics at the Shenton Park Annexe could be extended to other disabled people to allow them to be at least partly responsible for their own future.

I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. D. K. Dans.

*House adjourned at 5.40 p.m.*

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## Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 8th April, 1975

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

### QUESTIONS (60): ON NOTICE

#### 1. HOUSING

*Manjimup: Building Blocks and Waiting Period*

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What is the total area of land held by the State Housing Commission in Manjimup, and where is this land located?
- (2) How many building blocks does this land represent?
- (3) How many building blocks owned by the SHC in Manjimup are serviced ready for the construction of dwellings, and where are these, if any, located?
- (4) (a) Does the SHC own land which does not require such a drainage feasibility study which he indicated was being undertaken with land on Leman and Lintott Streets;