

what is good for the people and we will make the decisions here in this place where we have the numbers, and also in another place where we also have the numbers."

This Bill is a classic example of the Liberal Party deciding that it knows what is right for the people of Western Australia and it will push this piece of legislation through the Parliament. The alternative offered by the Labor Party is one in which I think the people of Western Australia would be interested; namely, an opportunity to become involved in what is happening in their own State and what is happening to their families. The people want to have some say in what is happening to them. They do not want to be told by the Liberal Party, and by Sir Charles Court, that they can have this or that. They do not want to be told, "You cannot have this because of the Australian Government."

The people want to know the reasons for the decisions made by the Government. So many people in the community nowadays are questioning the Premier of Western Australia because of his attitude. It was evident recently, in a survey conducted by his own party, as to how the Premier —

Mr Young: Who told you that silly story? Can you tell us where you got it from?

Mr HARMAN: I do not have to tell the honourable member, because he knows. It is already documented in this House as to where that information came from. If the honourable member wants to spend his time outside the Chamber when issues are being debated and information is being given to the House, he should read *Hansard* to ascertain where this information came from.

The facts are that the Liberal Party in this State has discovered that its stocks are down. It has organised a system that will provide the party with an opportunity to keep its stocks up to the extent that it will remain in Government. The Government has done that by this Bill; that is the whole purpose of the measure.

If we analyse the objectives of the Bill it will be found that the Liberal Party will remain in office as long as the electoral system proposed in this measure remains in existence. We do not want to have any association with that sort of legislation. We want the people of Western Australia to become involved in what will happen to them, and the Labor Party offers the people of this State that opportunity under a system of Government—when we become the Government—that occurs through committees; where people become involved in all sorts of legislation which is brought to this House from the Executive Government.

As I said when I commenced my speech, this is a classic example of the Liberal Party remaining in power by domination

and by telling the people of Western Australia, "This is the way you shall be ruled, because we believe we have a divine right to rule, and this is how you will be subjected."

Question put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes—26

Mr Blaikie	Mr Nanovich
Sir Charles Court	Mr Old
Mr Cowan	Mr O'Neill
Mr Coyne	Mr Ridge
Mrs Craig	Mr Rushton
Mr Crane	Mr Shalders
Dr Dadour	Mr Sibson
Mr Grayden	Mr Sodeman
Mr Grewar	Mr Stephens
Mr F. V. Jones	Mr Thompson
Mr Laurance	Mr Watt
Mr McPharlin	Mr Young
Mr Mensaros	Mr Clarke

(Teller)

Noes—19

Mr Barnett	Mr Harman
Mr Bateman	Mr Hartrey
Mr Bertram	Mr Jamieson
Mr B. T. Burke	Mr May
Mr T. J. Burke	Mr McIver
Mr Carr	Mr Skidmore
Mr Davies	Mr Taylor
Mr H. D. Evans	Mr J. T. Tonkin
Mr T. D. Evans	Mr Moller
Mr Fletcher	

(Teller)

The SPEAKER: I declare that the motion—that the Bill be now read a third time—is carried with the concurrence of an absolute majority of the whole number of members of the House.

Question thus passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 10.29 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 11th September, 1975

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

BILLS (4): ASSENT

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator received and read notifying assent to the following Bills—

1. Friendly Societies Act Amendment Bill.
2. University of Western Australia Act Amendment Bill.
3. Stipendiary Magistrates Act Amendment Bill.
4. Metric Conversion Act Amendment Bill.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE**STATE ENERGY COMMISSION***Clerk of Library Services*

The Hon. Lyla ELLIOTT, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

Why did the State Energy Commission advertise for a Clerk of Library Services, stating applications would close on the 29th August, 1975, and subsequently inform applicants that the commission did not intend to proceed with an appointment for the position?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

None of the applicants met the commission's requirements for the position.

A review of the position's requirements is being made and further advertising will be undertaken.

QUESTIONS (15): ON NOTICE

1.

TRANSPORT*Bus Services*

The Hon. Lyla ELLIOTT, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Transport:

Further to the reply to my question on the 9th September, 1975, concerning MTT timetables, will the Minister—

- (a) advise whether the reduction in MTT bus services was the result of—
 - (i) a Government direction; or
 - (ii) a decision of the MTT;
- (b) advise whether the smaller number of trips on existing routes will result in a reduction in take-home pay of MTT employees;
- (c) guarantee that no MTT employees will be retrenched; and
- (d) reconsider the retrograde step of reducing services in view of world trends to upgrade public transport systems?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (a) M.T.T. decision. Alterations are made in line with M.T.T. policy of assessing the patronage of a service and adjusting timetables accordingly.
- (b) Drivers' hours have not been reduced and pays are made in accordance with the award.
- (c) No retrenchments have been made to date. Relationships between M.T.T. management and staff are excellent and will continue in this way.

- (d) M.T.T. Annual Reports, which are tabled each year in Parliament have always shown an increase in mileage. Not in any year has there been a decrease.

2. **ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX***Costs of Collection*

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Transport:

For each of the years 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75—

- (1) What were the total costs to the State Government in the collection of the Road Maintenance Fund under the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act, including—
 - (a) vehicle costs;
 - (b) road inspectors;
 - (c) administration; and
 - (d) other costs?
- (2) What were the—
 - (a) total number of vehicles used; and
 - (b) total number of road inspectors employed?
- (3) What were the total amounts collected under the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| (1) | 1972-73 | 1973-74 | 1974-75 |
| | \$321 476 | \$391 669 | \$495 494 |
| (2) | (a) | 11 | 11 |
| | (b) | 11 | 12 |
| | | \$ | \$ |
| (3) | 3 359 297 | 3 684 368 | 4 177 823 |

3.

IRON ORE*Deepdale and Robe River*

The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Industrial Development:

In view of the reply to my question on the 19th March, 1975, and the Press disclosures on Wednesday, 10th September relating to the plans of Dampier Mining Co. Ltd. to develop the Deepdale iron ore deposits—

- (1) Have company proposals for the establishment of a work force townsite been submitted?
- (2) If proposals have been submitted, do they provide for a consolidation of the Dampier Mining and Cliffs Robe River Iron Associates work forces into a single community based at Pannawonica?

- (3) If proposals have not yet been submitted, is the Government actively canvassing this proposition with Dampier Mining with the objective of ensuring that the proposals, when submitted, do provide for such consolidation and the consequential sharing of infrastructure?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Refer to (2).

4.

HEALTH

Iodine Content of Milk

The Hon. G. W. BERRY, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is iodine in milk a health hazard?
- (2) If so, what are the acceptable limits in micrograms per litre?
- (3) (a) Has the Minister read the article "Adulterated Food—is Milk a Hazard?" in *Choice*, September, 1975, 16 (9), pages 299-302; and
(b) if so, is any action contemplated?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) Yes, in certain circumstances.
- (2) No limit has been set in Australia.
- (3) (a) Yes.
(b) the matter is being considered by the National Health and Medical Research Council. Local milk is being analysed for iodine and dairy farmers are being alerted to the possible over-usage of iodine-containing sanitizers.

5.

TEACHERS

Inservice Training

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the Government support the view that in-service training is essential for teachers?
- (2) What is the Government's policy on teacher in-service training?
- (3) What provision is made to encourage teachers to undertake in-service training?
- (4) What permanent staff is engaged in organising these courses?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) It is considered that a programme policy of teacher development is important.

- (2) To ensure that

- (i) teachers have access to refresher and training programmes;
 - (ii) curriculum and other developments are instituted in the schools as easily and naturally as possible; and
 - (iii) the educational experience of children is consistent with sound theories and practices.
- (3) Every endeavour is made to encourage teachers to attend in-service courses and conferences held out of school hours, on a voluntary basis. In this regard subject associations, educational institutions and teacher organisations are encouraged to organise and conduct courses.

In addition refresher courses which are held in school time, and conducted by departmental officers, are designed to cover schools generally once every two years.

- (4) 1 Superintendent,
2 Education Officers,
1 senior Headmaster on secondment and approximately 20 advisory teachers.

6.

ABORIGINES

Hostel: Swan District

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

Further to the reply to my question of the 13th August, 1975, concerning the urgent need for hostel accommodation for homeless Aboriginal people in the Swan district—

- (1) Is it a fact that Commonwealth funds available for Aboriginal hostels were not used in this State during the last financial year?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) What is the action being taken referred to by the Minister in (b) of his reply of the 13th August?
- (4) As the shelter being provided by St. Norbert's in East Perth cannot be related to the needs of people living in the Swan district, will the Minister have these needs investigated urgently?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) During the last financial year no moneys were allocated by the Commonwealth Government to my department for the provision of accommodation for homeless Aboriginal

people in the Perth Metropolitan Area. Money was allocated to the New Era Aboriginal Fellowship in order to set up a facility at Norbett Street, East Perth. Officers of my department provided support and advice to the organisation concerned. The facility is now in operation.

- (3) The Commonwealth Government has provided funds for my department to appoint a specialist team of four officers who will work in close conjunction with the Aboriginal Advancement Council seeking solutions to the problems faced by and the needs of the homeless Aborigines in Perth.
- (4) The specialist officers referred to in my reply to the previous question will be looking into that very problem.

7. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Point Samson

The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) In view of the Press release that Dampier Mining Co. Ltd. is to purchase a half interest in railway and port facilities of Cliffs Robe River Iron Associates, will the option that BHP holds over the area adjacent to Point Samson, and generally known as Red Bluff, automatically lapse?
- (2) If so, will an early public statement to this effect be made so that landholders at Point Samson will be free to improve their houses and properties generally without the threat of being overshadowed by a major industrial enterprise?
- (3) If the reply to (1) is "No", and bearing in mind that The Pilbara Study report does not envisage industrial use for the Red Bluff area, what will be the future for this attractive parcel of land?
- (4) With the apparent removal of severe industrial pollution threat, can we anticipate that the small community in Point Samson—centrally situated in a region that has seen great urban/industrial expansion during the last decade—will now be serviced with a reticulated electric power supply by the State Energy Commission, and an unrestricted water supply by the Public Works Department?
- (5) If so, when?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) No.

- (2) to (5) It is premature to be making any public statements about the final form of development at Cape Lambert and nearby areas. The whole question will be the subject of a series of studies and conferences between the Government and the companies with full regard for the local community's needs.

I assume the Hon. Member welcomes major industrial development in this area as such development is in accordance with the Government's policy for the Pilbara.

8.

STATE FORESTS

Fire Detection

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Forests:

- (1) Does the Forests Department intend to discontinue the manning of fire watch towers, and in particular the Sawyers Tower?
- (2) If so—
- (a) by what means does the department intend to continue a fire watch in that area; and
- (b) in view of the grave fire hazards existing in the Shire of Mundaring, which could easily result in loss of life if a major fire developed, would the department be prepared to reconsider the manning of the Sawyers Tower?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

- (1) Towers will be continually manned in the main plantation areas at Wanneroo and the Blackwood Valley during 1975-76 fire season. Fire detection in hardwood areas will be provided by aircraft where they have proven advantages over the tower system.
- Occasional use will be made of towers in hardwood areas to support aircraft during fire emergencies or when aircraft cannot operate.
- Key towers including Sawyers will be kept in a state of readiness for this purpose but will not be continuously manned.
- (2) (a) Fire watch in Mundaring area will be maintained by aircraft with tower support when the need arises.
- (b) State Forest areas in Mundaring are subject to regular fuel reduction by prescribed burning so that fire hazard is minimised. The combination of aircraft and towers to provide fire detection is a marked improvement on towers alone

and continuous manning of Sawyers tower is not considered justified. The efficiency of the detection system will be monitored to ensure maximum performance.

- (b) will the ratepayers and electors of the Shire of Exmouth be invited to express their opinions on the future administration of their shire?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon for the Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (a) The Government believes in local government being administered by democratically elected local people free from party political intrusion, e.g. the Shire of Roebourne Council is to be elected in May, 1976.
- (b) The question of the future administration of local government at Exmouth is being considered.

9.

HEALTH

Sir James Mitchell Spastic Centre

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Education representing the Premier:

Is the Government intending to provide funds for the Sir James Mitchell Spastic Centre for either—

- (a) improvement of facilities on the present site; or
- (b) the re-location of the centre on an alternative site?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (a) and (b) The Council for Special Education has recently reported on the education facilities at the centre. Proposals for future action will depend on a full consideration of this report.

10.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Shire of Exmouth

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR, to the Honorary Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

Further to the reply to my question on the 20th August, 1974, in which I was advised that the Government would give early consideration to the appointment of an elected council for the Shire of Exmouth "when evidence is available that a change is in the best interests of the district", and in view of the reports in *The West Australian* newspaper on Tuesday, the 2nd September, and Wednesday, the 3rd September, 1975, to the effect that the appointment of the Civil Commissioner at Exmouth, Col. J. P. K. Murdock, O.B.E. (who also holds the position of Commissioner for the Shire of Exmouth), would not be renewed by the Australian Government past the 31st December, 1975, and that the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. E. C. Rushton, M.L.A., is reported as saying that Western Australia is responsible for local government in the area—

- (a) will he advise the present attitude of the Government to the appointment of an elected council; and

11.

BANDYUP PRISON

Rehabilitation Programmes

The Hon. Lyla ELLIOTT, to the Honorary Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) What training or rehabilitation programmes are employed at Bandyup Women's Prison?
- (2) Has any research been conducted into the effectiveness of these programmes?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon for the Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) (a) All inmates at Bandyup Training Centre undergo a routine medical examination on admission including V.D. screening tests.
- (b) On completion of reception documents all women are referred to the welfare officer for initial assessment and help with any immediate problems.
- (c) Inmates are then placed in occupations at the centre depending on availability of work, interests of inmate, etc.
- (d) Inmates with a sentence of over three months are subject to a case conference which includes close study by one of the assigned prison officers, referral to a psychologist and preparation of a specific programme depending on the individual circumstances of each case.
- (e) The case conference makes various recommendations including type of work to be undertaken, schooling, special visiting arrangements, work release, etc.
- (f) Certain inmates are attending community charitable groups to assist in the work of these

bodies, e.g. Red Cross, Opportunity Shops, visiting Swan District Hospital, etc.

- (2) Two staff members recently attended the Conference in Canberra, "Women as Participants in the Criminal Justice System". They were impressed with the apparent lead we have achieved at Bandyup compared with other States. We are, for instance, the only State offering work release programmes to female prisoners. It was also clear that our general rehabilitation programmes were well in advance of those available in other States.

Although the number of females at Bandyup has declined dramatically in recent years, it would not be correct to attribute this to the rehabilitation programmes alone, as clearly sentencing policy is the major influence which would mask the benefits or defects of any other changes.

The work release programme has, however, been demonstrated as highly successful as of 44 cases placed on work release since 1971, only six have returned to prison, including one subsequently released again on work release who has not returned.

No other research into the effectiveness of the programmes is currently being undertaken. A recidivism rate is not currently available, but will be built into the new records system currently being introduced. However, as previously mentioned, the significance of figures of recidivism is generally highly unreliable because of the presence of so many variables other than the programme itself.

12. EDUCATION

Facilities in Libya

The Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Minister for Education:

In respect of Western Australian citizens under Government contract who, accompanied by their families, have been, or are to go to Libya to assist in specific agricultural development in that country—

- (1) Is it correct that in the forthcoming year there are no suitable education facilities available for the children of these Western Australians, and correspondence courses will have to be used?
- (2) Is it correct that other participating nations have catered for the education of their children so affected?

- (3) Would it be possible that the Education Department could ascertain the problems existing to—

- (a) rent or lease suitable accommodation in which our Western Australian children could be taught; and
- (b) employ those wives, accompanying their men folk, who have previous educational teaching knowledge to act as tutors to these children who apparently will be disadvantaged?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

In 1974 suitable arrangements were made for students to attend the British School. At present there is the possibility of only one family with school age children being appointed and the educational facilities are being discussed.

13. WEST BUSSELTON SCHOOL

Reticulation System

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Education:

Will an allocation of funds be made in this financial year for the provision of a bore and reticulation for the West Busselton Primary School?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

Because of the high cost involved it is unlikely that funds will be available for this work in the current financial year.

14. IRON ORE

Housing at Wickham

The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) As a result of the proposed development of the Deepdale iron ore deposits and the use of Cape Lambert as the associated port, where will the Dampier Mining Co. wish to house its workforce associated with the shipment of its product?
- (2) As the logical choice, Wickham, will be in conflict with the recommendation of the Pilbara Study Group, will the Government permit the expansion of that town beyond the population of 3 000?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Wickham.
- (2) Options have been kept open to date.
- When a decision is made, the findings of the Pilbara Study Group will be considered.

The Hon. Member is no doubt aware, however, that these findings are in no way binding on the Government.

15.

FISHERIES

Esperance Area

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

Further to the reply to my question of the 10th September, 1975, concerning fisheries in the Esperance area, will the Minister table the by-laws referred to in section (2) of his answer?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

I am advised that the Hon. Member has been supplied with a copy.

BILLS (3): THIRD READING

1. Taxi-cars (Co-ordination and Control) Act Amendment Bill.
 2. Transport Commission Act Amendment Bill.
 3. Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).
- Bills read a third time, on motions by the Hon. N. E. Baxter (Minister for Health), and passed.

**ELECTORAL DISTRICTS ACT
AMENDMENT BILL**

Second Reading

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Minister for Education) [2.57 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to make certain adjustments to the boundaries of the metropolitan area as currently specified in the Electoral Districts Act and together with associated amendments to the Constitution Acts Amendment Act, to increase the number of Legislative Assembly electoral districts in the redefined metropolitan area and to provide for the creation of an additional metropolitan province. Members will have each received, I trust, a copy of the plan of the proposed metropolitan boundaries which were provided for distribution the day this Bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly.

There has been extensive growth in population in several electoral districts within the present agricultural, mining and pastoral area, though just beyond the boundary of the metropolitan area. Members are doubtless aware of the great expansion in population north of Sorrento, for instance, and of similar increases in the sizes of residential areas in the Dale, Kalamunda, and Rockingham areas.

Those areas, which are now closely residentially settled and are on the fringe of the existing metropolitan electoral area, have themselves become metropolitan in character, and it seems to the Government that there is every reason for adjusting the boundary of the metropolitan electoral area under the Electoral Districts Act so as to include within that metropolitan area a substantial part of these areas which have become closely settled in recent years.

Comparative figures of electors in the metropolitan, agricultural, mining, and pastoral areas at the time of the previous adjustment of boundaries in 1961, and at present, are relevant to this situation, and are as follows—

	Metropolitan	Agricultural mining, and pastoral
Prior to 1961 adjustment	228 912	137 135
Following adjust- ment 1961	231 937	134 110
Present figures 1975	405 232	219 737

This Bill accordingly redefines in its schedule the metropolitan area, and includes in those boundaries both Rottnest and Garden Islands. With regard to Garden Island the Minister for Works did give an assurance in another place that the matter will be considered in this House. However, consideration is being given to representations which have been made to remove Garden Island out of the metropolitan area, when it would become part of the agricultural, mining, and pastoral area.

In the Government's view, it is a necessary consequence of such an extension of the boundaries of the metropolitan area in the manner described to also increase the number of electoral districts within the metropolitan area so that the number of electors in each electoral district within the newly enlarged metropolitan area is not excessive.

The Bill thus proceeds to direct the Electoral Commissioners to divide the metropolitan area into 27 electoral districts, being an increase of four on the present number.

The proposed increased number of electoral districts returning members from the metropolitan area to the Legislative Assembly in turn requires an increase in the number of electoral provinces within the metropolitan area. At present three of the metropolitan provinces comprise five electoral districts and the other two comprise four electoral districts.

The Bill proposes to require the Electoral Commissioners to divide the metropolitan area into six electoral provinces so that it is possible to retain the situation where three electoral provinces are each constituted by five electoral districts.

The remaining three electoral provinces will thus each be constituted by four electoral districts.

The creation of an additional electoral province in the enlarged metropolitan area does raise some transitional complexities requiring amendment through a complementary measure to the Constitution Acts Amendment Act also before the Parliament.

Members may recall that I have stated that the commissioners will be required to divide the metropolitan area into 27 electoral districts. Similarly, the commissioners will be required to redivide the agricultural, mining, and pastoral area into 24 electoral districts, that being the existing number of electoral districts within that area. The provision of a requirement that the Electoral Commissioners shall divide each of those two areas into specified numbers of electoral districts, respectively, constitutes a significant change from the present legislation.

Members will be aware that section 5 of the Electoral Districts Act currently provides that the respective numbers of electoral districts within the metropolitan, and agricultural, mining, and pastoral areas is ascertained by the use of the quota provided for in that section.

The commissioners are required by the present Act to aggregate the total number of electors in the agricultural, mining, and pastoral area and one-half of the number of electors in the metropolitan area, and the grand total so ascertained is divided by 47, that being the number of existing electoral districts in the State other than in the north-west and Murchison-Eyre area.

It is the Government's view that the quota provisions in section 5 which respectively apportion the total number of seats between the agricultural, mining, and pastoral area and the metropolitan area should be dispensed with. It is the Government's view that it should be a matter for the Parliament, from time to time, to determine the respective total numbers of Legislative Assembly seats to be provided for each of those areas. The Bill accordingly provides for the repeal of section 5.

The Government further believes that adequate representation of country areas and country interests in the agricultural, mining, and pastoral area cannot be maintained with a lesser number of electoral districts than the present 24, and the Bill provides accordingly.

It must also be borne in mind, however, that the Bill, by creating four additional electoral districts within the new metropolitan area, is recognising the need to enlarge the number of metropolitan seats so as to enable proper representation to be given to electors within the metropolitan area.

The Bill does not disturb the commissioners' discretion to use an allowance of 10 per cent more or less for taking into account the number of electors to constitute a metropolitan electoral district, but the Bill proposes to extend the commissioners' discretion in this regard when dealing with electoral districts in the agricultural, mining and pastoral area. The Bill proposes that the commissioners shall have an allowance of 15 per cent more or less than the quota for that purpose.

The principal reason for allowing a greater allowance in the agricultural, mining, and pastoral area is that, particularly in the more remote parts of the State, it is more difficult to give proper regard to other criteria of community of interest, means of communication, distance from the capital, and physical features if the numerical allowance is limited to 10 per cent. Members will be interested to know that an increase in the allowance to 15 per cent was recommended by the commissioners as long ago as in their 1955 report at page 2 000 of the *Government Gazette* of the 22nd August, 1955.

The Bill does not propose to make any change at all to the constitution of the north-west and Murchison-Eyre area either as to the gross boundaries of that area or to the boundaries of the electoral provinces and districts presently existing therein.

The Bill proposes that the commissioners shall, by the 1st June, 1976, proceed to undertake and complete a total redistribution of—

- (a) the metropolitan area into 27 electoral districts and six electoral provinces; and
- (b) the agricultural, mining and pastoral area into 24 electoral districts and eight electoral provinces.

Assuming that the legislation was passed early in the present sitting of this Parliament, there will be sufficient time for the commissioners to undertake that task properly by the 1st June, after allowing for objections, and have their final recommendations prepared in ample time for the redistribution resulting therefrom to be operative for the next general election due to be held in 1977.

The Government believes that the proposals outlined above, combined with the proposals contained in the complementary legislation, constitute a fair and sensible solution to a problem which is getting worse day by day as the metropolitan-based population extends into the agricultural, mining, and pastoral area beyond the current boundaries of the metropolitan area as defined in the Electoral Districts Act.

In commending the Bill to the House, I ask members opposite to have a good look at it and not be too hasty in condemning it. This State has a vast area and a small population. The tremendous wealth of the State is produced away from the metropolitan area and those people are entitled to be represented. For instance, we have an area like the Kimberley which is one-third bigger than Victoria; and one electorate is the size of South Africa.

I am trying to mention a few general matters which I believe are of interest to the public if not of interest to the people opposite. I believe the areas which produce the wealth of the State and the nation are entitled to proper representation.

Mr O'Neill gave an assurance in the Legislative Assembly that a small deviation in the south-east corner of the Swan electorate would revert to the present boundary, and also if it is possible to follow Gngangara Road in the Toodyay electorate—and this would mean some surveying having to be done—that line would be followed.

I have an idea there is a third matter that is not marked on the map, but these questions will come up in the detailed discussion at a subsequent date and will be dealt with at that time.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. Thompson (Leader of the Opposition).

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Minister for Education) [3.03 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 30th September.
Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Minister for Education) [3.04 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

POSTAL MAIL

Complaints of Missing Letters

THE HON. R. F. CLAUGHTON (North Metropolitan) [3.05 p.m.]: I have a matter which I wish to raise on this motion, because I find there is not another appropriate way in which this may be done.

The matter to which I refer arises from representations made to me in the first place by a constituent of mine and subsequently by a petition raised in the Scarborough electorate. It relates to the

problems regarding the nonreceiving of post of the lady in question who is a Mrs Hardisty of 43 Westborough Street, Scarborough.

The first occasion on which she spoke to me there was a matter of some 22 items of post of which she had kept a record and which had not been received. One of these items was a bank order to her son in New Zealand on which he was depending to enable him to pay his fare back to Australia.

This bank order was subsequently recovered quite a few months later without any explanation of what had happened to it in the meantime.

The items lost were mainly letters, but there were also some parcels lost. Since the lady in question first approached me she has continued to lose further articles; but she has also spoken to a number of other people about the problem and she provided me with a list of some 35 names of people who claim to have lost items in the post.

I wrote to the 35 people concerned but have received only five or six replies. In one instance the signatory had died and the spouse said he knew nothing about it. One other said the article in question had been wrongly addressed and eventually it was delivered to the people who had sent it. In a further case the articles, which were pension cheques, had been placed in wrong letterboxes or had been left on tops of letterboxes and had blown away and had subsequently been found by some other persons who had returned them to her.

The lady in question complained to the local postmaster and he assured her he would do what he could to see it did not happen again. However, this does indicate a certain laxity on the part of the postal service.

There is one other lady from Shenton Park—a Mrs I. M. Martin of 9 Kingston Street. She is a pensioner who depends on letter writing to maintain contact with people. She was in a somewhat similar situation to Mrs Hardisty in that her son had gone to New Zealand and had worked in that country. She had forwarded her son a bank order to help him pay his return fare to Australia and, as with Mrs Hardisty's bank order, this was also lost, and it was only through the good offices of friends in New Zealand that the lad was able to borrow money and return to Australia.

I would like to quote a few items from the letter she wrote to me. One extract reads—

There were four letters sent to Mukinbudin early this year, after no reply I registered one in reply was told no mail had come.

A further extract reads—

Another letter sent about April to me to say she was coming for the day I did not receive as she called as I was getting ready to go out . . .

I.C.S. Pest Control wrote to me asking if it was suitable to call at a specified time last November, as I had not received the letter and had not rung them, they rang a neighbour to find out if I still wanted them to come, I went up to neighbour's place to tell them I had not received any mail, and to please come.

She also had an appointment with KEMH about which she never received advice, and this would have made it extremely difficult for her.

Mrs Hardisty had gone to a great deal of trouble in an attempt to resolve her problem. She approached the then Postmaster-General himself (Mr Lionel Bowen) and Senator Wilkinson who obviously did a great deal in an attempt to obtain satisfaction for her. An investigation was held within the post office but in the end it seemed no satisfactory resolution could be obtained from that kind of approach. She also wrote to the Ombudsman of the *Daily News*, who did what he could, and later to the Liberal Federal member for Stirling (Mr Viner) who informed her that the previous action she had taken could not have been bettered.

The Scarborough Ratepayers' Association took up the case and circulated a petition. Unfortunately the petition, which is directed to the Legislative Assembly, is not properly addressed, so it is not possible to deliver it to Parliament. I merely indicate to members that a petition was taken up and some 137 signatures are attached to it. I have it here if members wish to examine it. The terms of the petition request the Parliament to conduct an investigation into the nondelivery of mail in this State.

I bring this matter before the House with a request that the Government take whatever steps it can to resolve the kind of problem these people are facing. It is not uncommon to find letters in the daily Press expressing dissatisfaction or stating problems people are experiencing with the delivery of mail, and I hope the Government itself will take some action to have an investigation made into the state of the mail service to see whether these problems can be overcome in some way.

Finally, I would like to point out that some of the people to whom I have spoken expressed very high praise for the postal service. I do not think in the bulk of the mail that is handled there is any difficulty at all. The mail I send out is always delivered promptly and as far as I know there have been no problems with mail being lost. I would not like it to be thought

I was being critical of the postal service as a whole, but I think sufficient evidence has been presented to me to warrant the Government seeking some investigation of these problems.

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Minister for Education) [3.14 p.m.]: I am sure we all found that interesting but I think it would probably be appropriate if I sent the complaint on to Senator Bishop.

It is odd that one week we are roundly upbraided by the Opposition for making what was said to be unfair criticism of the Federal Government, and the next week we face, on the adjournment of the House, a motion upbraiding an instrumentality which is under the control of the Federal Government.

We appreciate the problems mentioned by the honourable member. The efficiency has dropped markedly over the last couple of years.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Over the last 10 years.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I will send the matter on for the attention of Senator Bishop to see whether the situation can be improved.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 3.15 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 11th September, 1975

The **SPEAKER** (Mr Hutchinson) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

BILLS (4): ASSENT

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator received and read notifying assent to the following Bills—

1. Friendly Societies Act Amendment Bill.
2. University of Western Australia Act Amendment Bill.
3. Stipendiary Magistrates Act Amendment Bill.
4. Metric Conversion Act Amendment Bill.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

30th September: Closing Time

THE SPEAKER (Mr Hutchinson): For the information of members I advise that as Parliament is to adjourn for a period of two weeks the closing date for questions on notice for Tuesday, the 30th September, will be at 4.00 p.m., on Thursday, the 25th September.