

This is the tragedy of man. Having developed one aspect of his potential and not the others, he is like a baby playing with a very sharp knife. Not yet having control over himself, he is likely to do himself a fatal injury. This explains why he uses his brilliantly inventive mind to perpetuate the horrors of an Auschwitz, a Nagasaki, or a My Lai. What is the point of developing our technology if we are going to use it to destroy ourselves? We need to bend our intellects, our energies and our wills to the task of building a society that will ensure a better life for our children.

However, we are still compounding the error. If we examine the situation in our senior high schools we find it quite possible—even likely—that a student will proceed to his Leaving Certificate examination and yet not enter in his final two years upon the study of those subjects which confront him with some of the great social issues upon which he will have to make decisions for the next 50 years or so. Part of the blame for the extreme narrowness of such an education must be placed at the feet of those who constructed the matriculation regulations.

The narrowness continues for those students who go on to university. We cannot afford to have physicians, engineers, physicists, and so on who are social illiterates. It may be argued that there is not enough time for all students to study all subjects. This is very true. However, everyone is a citizen! Everyone is given the franchise at 18!

I will never be called upon to build a bridge; I will leave that to the engineer. I will never be called upon to diagnose a case of embolism; I will entrust that task to the physician. But each and every one of us is called upon to make decisions on the course society should take. Yet it is precisely this field—the field of social sciences, the field of study that will lead to progress in our understanding of man the individual and of man in society—that is most neglected; a neglect that will lead us very rapidly to our undoing.

If we want our young people to understand and cherish democracy; if we are concerned that they may be lead astray by demagogues, then we should give them the tools so that they may be able to evaluate the many and varied ideas with which they will be assailed. If a student's roots go deep into the democratic processes, he will be able to withstand the seductive blandishments of extremists whether they be of the left or the right.

I believe it is immoral to say to our youth: "You can have power by way of the vote, but we will do nothing to equip you with the knowledge and the wisdom that will help you to make decisions that will save mankind from disaster."

MR. HARTREY (Boulder-Dundas) [4.07 p.m.]: I formally second the motion

Debate adjourned, on motion by Sir David Brand (Leader of the Opposition).

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier) [4.08 p.m.]: I move—

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

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.09 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 20th July, 1971

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

QUESTIONS (2): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. ASSEMBLY LEGISLATION

Allocation to Council Ministers

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH, to the Leader of the House:

In order that members might be informed on the manner in which the Government Ministers propose to conduct legislation, would he tell us whether he intends any change to take place in the form that we have followed over the years; that is, that Bills come up to this House and he, as Leader, allocates them to his other two colleagues, or whether there is any basis of representation in the House of Ministers in the Legislative Assembly similar to that which exists in the Legislative Assembly in respect of Ministers in this House?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

In replying to this question I might possibly embarrass the questioner, because I intend to

endeavour to carry out the functions from this side of the House almost as precisely and efficiently as he did when he was here. Therefore we will have very little deviation whatsoever from the principles he applied in the application of the various Bills as they come forward. I do not think one can specify what will be done; it has to be played in accordance with the way that the legislation is brought forward, and I think that if we can continue in this session as we have done in previous sessions we will have a very good working arrangement.

2. MT. HAWTHORN SCHOOLS

Provision of Heaters

The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that—
 - (a) the Mt. Hawthorn Senior Primary School has been wired for the installation of electric heaters; and
 - (b) for many years the Infant School has had a gas connection?
- (2) Would the Minister advise whether the Government intends to provide—
 - (a) electric heaters to the Mt. Hawthorn Senior Primary School; and
 - (b) gas heaters to the Mt. Hawthorn Infant School?
- (3) If so, when?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

It so happens that although I received this question without notice, I have a reply to it which helps me to be able to answer it, as follows:—

- (1) (a) and (b) There are no specific electric or gas connections at either school for the purpose of installing such heating systems.
- (2) (a) and (b) Both schools will eventually be provided with either gas or oil burning systems.
- (3) There are no proposals for the conversion of the existing heating arrangements at either school.

QUESTIONS (15): ON NOTICE

1. VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Compensation for Victims

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH, to the Leader of the House:

As the policy speech of the Labor Party delivered on the 3rd February, 1971, foreshadowed changes in the method of insurance for compensation of victims of vehicle accidents, what progress has been made in the matter?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

Satisfactory progress is being made towards the preparation of the requisite legislation but it is not possible to state definitely when the study will be finalised.

2. *This question was postponed.*

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Assessment Committee Report

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

Is the Minister considering action at an early date to implement the recommendations of the Local Government Assessment Committee 1968 Report on Aspects of Local Government?

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS replied:

No, but in due course it is proposed that metropolitan municipal boundaries will be reviewed. In the meantime, the Boundaries Commission is dealing with each petition as it is presented.

4. INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Training

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS, to the Leader of the House:

Following the National Conference on Training for Industry and Commerce held in Canberra on the 11th May, 1971, will the Minister inform the House—

- (a) what is being done by the Department of Labour to liaise and implement the recommendations of the findings of the Committee;

- (b) has Western Australia a representative on the Steering Committee appointed after this Conference;
- (c) if the answer to (b) is "no" will he request the Minister for Labour to make strong representations to have a representative so appointed?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (a) The role of the State Departments of Labour is to be discussed at a further meeting of State Ministers for Labour with the Commonwealth Minister for Labour and National Service arranged for the 6th August, 1971.
- (b) Yes—the Committee of fifteen members includes Mr. C. T. Pullan from Western Australia.
- (c) Answered by (b).

5. ROAD MAINTENANCE (CONTRIBUTION) ACT

Funds Received and Grants

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the Minister please advise details of funds derived from the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act for the year ended the 30th June, 1971, in the following headings—

- (a) (i) total amounts collected from each category of contributor (i.e. interstate hauliers, primary producers, hauliers associated with mining, timber, etc.); and

- (ii) total funds collected for the year;

- (b) amounts and percentages of funds spent in—

- (i) the metropolitan area;

- (ii) country areas; and

- (iii) special grants?

- (2) What is the balance of unexpended funds as at the 30th June, 1971?

- (3) Will he please supply a list of all local authorities and recipients of any special grants, and amounts received by each of them, from Road Maintenance Charges distributions for the year ended the 30th June, 1971, in the following headings—

- (a) Metropolitan Local Authorities;

- (b) Country Local Authorities; and

- (c) Main Roads Department expenditure of funds derived from this source in—

- (i) the metropolitan area; and

- (ii) country areas?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) (a) (i) As many returns are still outstanding for June, amounts for that month have been estimated. Subject to this, road maintenance contributions for the year ended 30th June, 1971, are—

	\$
From Interstate Hauliers	209,214
From Primary Producers	76,890
From Others	3,663,277
Total	\$3,949,381

It is not practicable to segregate payments according to types of loading carried as this is not shown on returns.

- (ii) \$3,990,144, which includes some amounts due for operations prior to the year 1970-71.

- (b) Amounts and percentages of funds allocated in—

	\$	%
(i) Metropolitan area	222,900	5.81
(ii) Country areas	3,558,894	92.77
(iii) Special grants	54,244	1.42

- (2) Balance of unexpended funds as at 30th June, 1971—\$137,726.

- (3) See statement.

MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENT

ALLOCATION OF ROAD MAINTENANCE (CONTRIBUTION) ACT FUNDS 1970/71
PROGRAMME OF WORKS

	Programme Allocation	Special Grant	Total
	\$	\$	\$
METROPOLITAN LOCAL AUTHORITIES			
(Metropolitan Statistical Division)			
Shire of—			
Armadale-Kelmscott	600	....	600
Kalamunda ...	900	....	900
Kwinana	1,000	....	1,000
Mundaring	250	....	250
Serpentine-Jarrahdale	2,900	....	2,900
Wanneroo	2,500	....	2,500
Kings Park Board ....	....	5,000	5,000
Total : Metropolitan	\$8,150	5,000	13,150

COUNTRY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Albany Division—

Shire of—			
Albany	9,900	....	9,900
Broomehill	3,700	....	3,700
Cranbrook	11,450	1,500	12,950
Denmark	7,695	....	7,695
Gnowangerup	19,400	2,200	21,600
Katanning	8,250	....	8,250
Kojonup	12,300	....	12,300
Nyabing-Pingrup	11,899	7,644	19,543
Plantagenet	16,300	....	16,300
Ravensthorpe	16,900	....	16,900
Tambellup	4,000	....	4,000
Total : Albany Division	\$121,794	11,344	133,138

Bunbury Division

Shire of—			
Augusta-Margaret River	9,050	....	9,050
Boyup Brook	11,000	....	11,000
Bridgetown-Greenbushes	7,450	....	7,450
Busselton	8,235	....	8,235
Capel	3,800	....	3,800
Collie	3,200	....	3,200
Dardanup	3,900	....	3,900
Donnybrook-Balingup	6,372	....	6,372
Harvey	8,200	....	8,200
Mandurah	2,800	....	2,800
Manjimup	20,100	....	20,100
Murray	9,100	....	9,100
Nannup	9,821	....	9,821
Warcoona	3,100	....	3,100
West Arthur	8,800	....	8,800
Total : Bunbury Division	\$114,928	....	114,928

					Programme Allocation \$	Special Grant \$	Total \$
<i>Geraldton Division</i>							
Shire of—							
Chapman Valley	....	....	....	....	9,673	....	9,673
Cue	....	....	....	....	3,288	....	3,288
Greenough	....	....	....	....	4,750	....	4,750
Irwin	....	....	....	....	6,462	....	6,462
Meekatharra	....	....	....	....	13,049	....	13,049
Mingenew	....	....	....	....	4,780	....	4,780
Morawa	....	....	....	....	9,276	....	9,276
Mt. Magnet	....	....	....	....	7,732	....	7,732
Mullewa	....	....	....	....	9,587	....	9,587
Marchison	....	....	....	....	10,800	....	10,800
Northampton	....	....	....	....	11,522	....	11,522
Sandstone	....	....	....	....	5,564	....	5,564
Yalgoo	....	....	....	....	8,953	....	8,953
<i>Total : Geraldton Division</i>					\$105,436	....	105,436
<i>Kalgoorlie Division</i>							
Shire of—							
Boulder	....	....	....	....	11,900	....	11,900
Coolgardie	....	....	....	....	3,600	....	3,600
Dundas	....	....	....	....	6,300	....	6,300
Esperance	....	....	....	....	29,800	....	29,800
Laverton	....	....	....	....	14,700	....	14,700
Leonora	....	....	....	....	19,200	....	19,200
Menzies	....	....	....	....	5,400	....	5,400
Wiluna	....	....	....	....	15,600	....	15,600
<i>Total : Kalgoorlie Division</i>					\$106,500	....	106,500
<i>Moora Division</i>							
Shire of—							
Carnamah	....	....	....	....	8,150	....	8,150
Chittering	....	....	....	....	4,300	....	4,300
Coorow	....	....	....	....	7,300	....	7,300
Dalwallinu	....	....	....	....	18,550	....	18,550
Dangaragan	....	....	....	....	11,100	....	11,100
Gingin	....	....	....	....	11,200	....	11,200
Moora	....	....	....	....	8,900	1,000	9,900
Perenjori	....	....	....	....	16,450	....	16,450
Three Springs	....	....	....	....	8,500	....	8,500
Victoria Plains	....	....	....	....	7,700	....	7,700
<i>Total : Moora Division</i>					\$102,150	1,000	103,150
<i>Narrogin Division</i>							
Shire of—							
Beverley	....	....	....	....	7,600	....	7,600
Boddington	....	....	....	....	5,050	....	5,050
Brookton	....	....	....	....	4,600	....	4,600
Corrigin	....	....	....	....	11,100	900	12,000
Cuballing	....	....	....	....	5,900	....	5,900
Dumbleyung	....	....	....	....	7,700	....	7,700
Kondinin	....	....	....	....	19,300	....	19,300
Kulin	....	....	....	....	19,000	....	19,000
Lake Grace	....	....	....	....	27,900	8,000	35,900
Narrogin	....	....	....	....	6,850	....	6,850
Pingelly	....	....	....	....	5,350	....	5,350
Wagin	....	....	....	....	7,600	....	7,600
Wandering	....	....	....	....	4,950	....	4,950
Wickepin	....	....	....	....	8,050	....	8,050
Williams	....	....	....	....	5,650	....	5,650
Woodanilling	....	....	....	....	5,050	....	5,050
<i>Total : Narrogin Division</i>					\$151,450	8,900	160,350

	Programme Allocation \$	Special Grant \$	Total \$
<i>Northam Division</i>			
Shire of—			
Bruce Rock	11,000	.....	11,000
Cunderdin	7,250	.....	7,250
Dowerin	7,850	.....	7,850
Goomalling	4,500	.....	4,500
Kellerberrin	9,550	.....	9,550
Koorda	9,600	.....	9,600
Merredin	11,950	.....	11,950
Mt. Marshall	13,150	.....	13,150
Mukinbudin	7,950	.....	7,950
Narembeen	12,200	.....	12,200
Northam	4,300	.....	4,300
Nungerin	4,200	.....	4,200
Quairading	8,800	.....	8,800
Tammin	3,600	.....	3,600
Toodyay	4,450	.....	4,450
Trayning	7,500	.....	7,500
Westonia	6,900	.....	6,900
Wongan-Ballidu	10,900	.....	10,900
Wyalkatchem	8,050	.....	8,050
Yilgarn	12,100	.....	12,100
York	6,000	3,000	9,000
<i>Total : Northam Division</i>	<i>\$171,800</i>	<i>3,000</i>	<i>174,800</i>

Carnarvon Division

Shire of—			
Ashburton	4,600	.....	4,600
Carnarvon	5,700	.....	5,700
Exmouth	500	.....	500
Marble Bar	6,128	.....	6,128
Nullagine	7,142	.....	7,142
Port Hedland	1,861	.....	1,861
Roebourne	3,315	.....	3,315
Shark Bay	2,106	25,000	27,106
Tableland	2,400	.....	2,400
Upper Gascoyne	5,000	.....	5,000
<i>Total : Carnarvon Division</i>	<i>\$38,752</i>	<i>25,000</i>	<i>63,752</i>

Kimberley Division

Shire of—			
Broome	2,500	.....	2,500
Halls Creek	14,505	.....	14,505
West Kimberley	10,974	.....	10,974
Wyndham-East Kimberley	6,000	.....	6,000
<i>Total : Kimberley Division</i>	<i>\$33,979</i>	<i>.....</i>	<i>33,979</i>

SUMMARY

	Programme Allocation \$	Special Grants \$	Total \$
(a) Metropolitan Local Authorities	8,150	5,000	13,150
(b) Country Local Authorities	946,789	49,244	996,033
(c) Main Road Department			
(i) Metropolitan Area	214,750	.....	214,750
(ii) Country Areas	2,612,105	.....	2,612,105
	<i>\$3,781,794</i>	<i>\$54,244</i>	<i>\$3,836,038</i>

6. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Power Lines in Darling Range

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) In view of the very large body of public opinion against the routing of high voltage power lines along the suggested Darling Range routes to supply electricity to points north of the City, and the objectionable proposal to reserve a site for a power house at Long Point, south of Rockingham, will the Government, as a matter of urgency, initiate a feasibility study into the possibility of commencing a new power station north of Perth as quickly as possible to provide electricity for the northwards expansion of the City and industries that may be established in the area?
- (2) As a power station sited north of the City would be well situated to take advantage of natural gas being piped from the north of the State, will this type of fuel be taken into account?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) No. The establishment of a power station north of the City will not remove the need for the high voltage power lines referred to. The evaluation of power station sites is a continuing function, and at the present time a northern site has no special attraction.
- (2) Yes. Available fuel is only one major consideration when siting a power station. Currently available quantities of natural gas will not support a major power station.

7.

NATIVES

Fitzroy Crossing Reserve

The Hon. J. L. HUNT, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Has a contract been let for the buildings and ablution block on the Native Reserve at Fitzroy Crossing?
- (2) When are these amenities due to be completed?
- (3) Has a water supply been established on this Reserve?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) No. A contract is currently being negotiated.
- (2) Contract documents will require completion within five months of signing.
- (3) Yes.

8.

HOUSING

North West Towns

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR, to the Leader of the House:

In each of the towns of Carnarvon, Exmouth, Meekatharra and Mount Magnet—

- (a) what is the number of State rental homes;
- (b) what is the proposed building programme for 1971-72; and
- (c) what arrangements are made for the collection of rents and the maintenance of the houses?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (a) Carnarvon—188 units.
Meekatharra—9 units.
Mt. Magnet—18 units.
Exmouth—55 units (plus 128 units for the Exmouth Development Committee).
- (b) Carnarvon—still under consideration in view of difficulty in filling units recently constructed.

Meekatharra—nil—lack of demand.

Mt. Magnet—nil—lack of demand.

Exmouth—nil—part of housing to be occupied short term by the R.A.A.F. is Commission programme in advance.

- (c) Carnarvon—rents paid to Clerk of Courts. Consideration is being given to the appointment of a Collector.

Meekatharra—rents paid to Mining Registrar.

Mt. Magnet—rents paid to Mining Registrar.

Exmouth—rents paid to Commission Office.

Maintenance requirements at Carnarvon may be reported to the Commission's Supervisor in Carnarvon Office, who issues job orders for necessary work.

Meekatharra and Mount Magnet may be arranged through the Mining Registrars and to the Commission's Geraldton Supervisor who regularly visits these towns.

Exmouth maintenance is arranged by Mr. R. Stove of the Commission's Office.

9.

HOUSING

Employment of Trained Social Workers

The Hon. D. K. DANS, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) In view of the increasing size of State Housing Commission Estates,

and the number of tenants accommodated in Commission flats, does the State Housing Commission employ any trained social workers?

- (2) If the answer to (1) is "no", would the Minister indicate what apparent value the State Housing Commission could expect from the employment of trained social workers?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The State Housing Commission has an inspectorial staff of seven inspectors (including four female inspectors) to assess suitability and needs of tenancies and assist in supervision of tenancies. When sociological issues are evident, the Commission liaises with the appropriate Commonwealth and State authorities.
- Generally, the Commission considers that Social Welfare would be best undertaken by the Community Welfare Department.

10. MINING

Alumina Refinery in Shire of Swan

The Hon. F. R. WHITE, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Has the agreement for the proposed alumina refinery in the Shire of Swan been signed by either Pacminex or the State Government?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "yes" on what date were the signatures affixed to the agreement?
- (3) If the answer to (1) is "no" when is it anticipated that the agreement will be signed?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) See answer to (1).
- (3) When the draft of the agreement has been finalized.

11. EDUCATION

Wyndham and Kununurra Schools

The Hon. J. L. HUNT, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Has the transportable class room been shifted from Kununurra School to the Wyndham School?
- (2) If not, when will this building be ready for use at Wyndham?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) During the week commencing the 9th August.

12.

NOISE

Control in Residential Areas

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

- (1) Is the Government considering action to control noise levels in residential areas?
- (2) If so, when is it likely that controls will be introduced?

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It is hoped to present a Bill later in this Session.

13.

ELECTORAL

Redistribution of Boundaries

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Has the Attorney General received a report from the Chief Electoral Officer under Section 12 of the Electoral Districts Act?
- (2) Does the report indicate that at least eight seats are above or below the quota provided for?
- (3) If so, when is it proposed to appoint Electoral Commissioners to carry out a redistribution of electoral boundaries?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) As the law requires.

14. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Establishment of Wood Chip Industry

The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Leader of the House:

What is the present situation in respect to negotiations being undertaken between the Government, local timber interests and Japanese firms, for the establishment of a Wood Chip Industry in the South West of this State?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

In March, 1971, the Japanese company interested in purchasing Western Australian woodchips made a new offer which went a long way towards meeting the requirements of the W.A. Chip & Pulp Co. Pty. Ltd. The local company sought an opportunity to enter into detailed discussions on terms and conditions of a contract.

However, before these could take place, the Japanese advised that there had been a slackening of demand for pulp and paper products in Japan and that it was necessary to defer discussions on the offer until the economic outlook of the industry improved.

15. EDUCATION

Halls Creek School

The Hon. J. L. HUNT, to the Leader of the House:

Due to the bad drainage and obsolete toilet buildings at the Halls Creek School, when can improvements be expected to be carried out?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

It is anticipated that a new toilet block and septic tank will be installed within three months.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Election

On motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the House), resolved:

That The Hon. N. E. Baxter be elected as Chairman of Committees.

PARLIAMENTARY SUPERANNUATION FUND

Appointment of Trustees

On motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the House), resolved:

That in accordance with the provisions of the Parliamentary Superannuation Act, 1970, the Legislative Council hereby appoints the President (Hon. L. C. Diver) and The Hon. V. J. Ferry to be Trustees of the Parliamentary Superannuation Fund.

FAUNA CONSERVATION ACT

Disallowance of Regulations 6 to 9: Motion

THE HON. G. W. BERRY (Lower North) [4.56 p.m.]: I move—

That regulations 6, 7, 8 and 9 made pursuant to the Fauna Conservation Act, 1950-1969, as published in the *Government Gazette* on Wednesday, the 18th November, 1970, and laid upon the Table of the House on Thursday, the 19th November, 1970, be, and are hereby disallowed.

For those members who are not aware of the provisions of the Fauna Conservation Act and the regulations which are the subject of this motion, I would point out that they are related to the control of the red kangaroo. In my travels around the State I have found that not much opposition has been expressed to the provisions of the Act, which have three specific purposes.

Firstly, they seek to contain the red kangaroo below vermin proportions; secondly, to retain a viable kangaroo industry which makes use of the carcase and the skin of the red kangaroo; and, thirdly, to preserve the species to ensure that it does not become extinct.

I find that the provisions of the Act, as laid down, are acceptable. What I find at fault is the implementation of the regulations which seek to provide for effective control of the administration of the Act and I think if such implementation is persisted with it will result in a complete breakdown of two of the objects of the Act; namely, the control of kangaroos below vermin level, and the retention of a viable kangaroo industry.

To implement the provisions of the Act close co-operation is necessary between the department and three sections of the community; namely, the pastoralists, those engaged in the kangaroo industry, and the shooters. Those engaged in the industry are the processors who handle the carcases once the kangaroos have been shot and who are also concerned with the sale of the meat to those engaged in the pet food industry. Consideration of the views and suggestions put forward by those in the three sections of the industry and general agreement among them is most necessary for the effective implementation of the regulations.

When initially collating all the information required for the drafting of the regulations, the department admittedly dealt with the individual sections of the industry concerned. It was from the information it gathered that the department compiled the regulations. While the department gathered the information from the groups individually, I feel that at some stage attempts should have been made to gather the information collectively, to ensure that when the regulations were introduced they would be workable. I do not say they would work to the satisfaction of everybody, because that is virtually impossible, but they should be workable. If that were done many of the difficulties that, no doubt, have arisen could have been met or could have been overcome.

I consider this suggestion to be most important. In the course of my travels I have heard many conflicting statements—statements which I found difficulty in reconciling. These concerned the discussions which the various sections of the industry had with each other, and the statements do not tally with the information that has been given to the department. While people might have expressed their views individually to the department in respect of their particular sections, they were not aware of what was being proposed by those in other sections of the industry.

The pastoral industry with which we are concerned operates under three Acts. First and foremost is the Land Act, then there is the Vermin Act, and then the Fauna Conservation Act. For the industry to operate effectively under even one of them—let alone the three of them—is a little difficult. The industry feels that these regulations will impose further restrictions on its activities, and will make it more

difficult for it to operate. It is the opinion of the industry that much more consideration should have been given to the framing of the regulations.

I am concerned with this aspect: If these regulations are not effective or workable we will be placed in the same position as we were in previously; we will find the kangaroos in this State treated as vermin, with no-one to control the numbers. We will not have the people available to control them or to make use of the carcasses.

I think the position could become very serious, because the pet food industry is not entirely dependent upon kangaroo meat. If we make one section of the industry inoperative through the promulgation of these regulations, then I am sure it will turn to other sources of supply for pet food. Should that eventuate there will be no-one available to control the red kangaroo population in the pastoral areas. I consider this to be a very serious matter.

I have not found one section of the pastoral industry which gave the department any credit for the regulations it has drawn up. In saying that I do not imply that the regulations were not drawn up without a great deal of thought and work. I realise the department has put in a great deal of work in framing them, but under the circumstances in which we are trying to make the regulations operate we are defeating the object of the Act, and we will be faced with the problem of the kangaroos being in vermin proportions, instead of the position where they are in danger of becoming extinct as part of our native fauna.

It is with that object in mind that I ask for the disallowance of the regulations. I also request the department and the Minister to call a round table conference of members representing all sections of the industry which are concerned with the implementation of the Act to see whether satisfactory regulations, which are workable, can be drawn up.

Debate adjourned until Tuesday, the 27th July, on motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the House).

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SECOND DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 15th July, on the following motion by The Hon. L. D. Elliott:—

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. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [5.07 p.m.]: I want to commence my remarks this afternoon by referring to the death of six of our former members; and I want to express to the wives, the families, and the relatives of these members my sincerest condolences.

Next I want to take an early opportunity to congratulate Mr. Willesee, Mr. Dolan, and Mr. Stubbs upon becoming Ministers of the Crown. I hope that these three Ministers will have a successful period in office. No doubt they will have by now gathered some indication of what the pressures of ministerial life are like.

Of course, I also want to extend my congratulatory remarks to the members of the House who stood for election earlier this year; I refer to both those who stood for the first time and the others who stood for re-election. I offer them my congratulations on being elected or returned as members of this House. To the Chairman of Committees (The Hon. N. E. Baxter) I also offer words of congratulation.

It is a long time since I stood in this position in the House and spoke to a similar motion from this place. I have stood on the other side of the House for a period of 12 years, and that is a long time in anyone's lifetime. I am sure I would not have liked to miss that opportunity. The period during which our Government was in office was, indeed, a most interesting one both to me and, I am sure, to my colleagues when they were with me on the other side of the House. This was a period in which Western Australia saw unprecedented growth.

The debate on the Address-in-Reply gives members the opportunity to address themselves to the House on all sorts of topics, and there is no bar to the subject matters about which they may speak. A member may talk on parochial matters relating to his own electorate; on matters of financial and State importance; or on matters of world importance, if he so chooses. This afternoon I will, perhaps, mix my contribution a little—if I might use that expression—in respect of one or two of the subjects I will cover.

I have before me two documents. One is the policy speech delivered by the Labor Party, and the other is the policy speech delivered by the Liberal Party. Prior to the recent elections, no doubt the electors listened to the speeches of the leaders of both those parties, and on the 20th February last they, by a very narrow majority, decided to elect the present Government to office. I hold no bad feelings on the decision they made.

The majority, by which the Government operates at the moment in the Legislative Assembly, is indeed a very narrow one. I have had some experience of this, because

the Government of which I was a member was first elected by quite a narrow majority also. I would like the Ministers in this House to know that as far as I am concerned—and I think this goes for the other members of the Liberal Party, the only people for whom I can really speak—they will have our co-operation in the conduct of legislation through the House. In saying that I do not want an incorrect view to be held that we will simply pass all legislation the Government introduces. At least in the presentation of legislation we will be happy to co-operate.

The story in relation to the Legislative Council elections also held earlier this year was a little different. One half of the composition of this House faced the electors on the 20th February last, in the same manner as the whole of the membership of the other House with the same number of people being entitled to cast a vote and with the various provinces being made up of contiguous Legislative Assembly districts.

It is interesting to see the representation that has resulted from the elections, so far as the Legislative Council is concerned. I think there are seven provinces only in which members of the same political party are colleagues; and in eight of the provinces the political representation is, indeed, very mixed. In my own case my colleague continues to be a member of the Labor Party, and this has been the experience for a long time since I have been a member of this House.

We in the Liberal Party said in relation to the election promises of the Government that it would have some difficulty, to say the least, in fulfilling them if it were elected. The Labor Party went on, confident that it would fulfil its undertakings. When the election was over we all thought Parliament would be called together at a very early date in order to put into effect some of the matters which the Government told the electors it would implement. However, Parliament was not called together early, as we all thought it would be; as a matter of fact, we met last Thursday, and we met only two or three weeks before the normal meeting time of Parliament. There were some of us who realised that Parliament could not meet early, despite what was said that it would meet early after the election, because we saw—not the impossibility of such an eventuality taking place—the impracticability of the Government calling Parliament together so soon after it was returned to office. We realised that a legislative programme had to be prepared before Parliament could meet, in order to give legislative effect to the matters which the Government intended to introduce. Of course, it was obvious that the Government was not ready to call Parliament together as early as it said it would. Therefore, it was into the third week of July before Parliament met.

In addition to the speeches that the Liberal Party and the Labor Party made, the next document of interest that has been placed before us is the Governor's Speech. I have a copy of it in my hand.

The Governor's Speech usually indicates what has taken place in the past, and it foreshadows what will take place in the forthcoming session of Parliament by way of legislation. Also, usually it has due regard for the seasonal conditions; and it sets out all the nice things we expect His Excellency to say on an occasion such as this.

However, on this occasion the Governor's Speech did not contain much information about what had gone on over the past years. I suppose that was to be expected, because the Labor Party's policy speech told the people of the shortcomings of the previous Government; and it is hardly likely, on an occasion such as the opening day of Parliament, that the Government would turn around and say that after all certain commendable things were done by the previous Administration.

In addition, on opening day I felt something went wrong somewhere. I could not for a moment suggest that it was fortuitous, but the lights of the Chamber went up and down on different occasions. As His Excellency went along with his Speech the lights would go up when he said some things favourable to the previous Administration, and they went down when other things were said. When it came to the speech delivered by The Hon. Lyla Elliott—and I want to congratulate her upon her maiden speech in the Legislative Council—the lights were operating quite normally until she started to talk about the abolition of the Legislative Council, when they went out altogether!

I want to make a reference to one or two matters contained in the Governor's Speech. The Speech starts off by saying—

Since your last meeting events great and small, at home and abroad, have exercised their varied effects on the State's economy and its future, and so on our people's personal lives. Forthcoming Sessions of this Parliament will be influenced by the repercussions of events past and stresses of those yet to come, and the State looks to you to face them with wisdom and courage.

I could not help but think that we were being prepared for something—that we were being asked to bear some more taxes, and that the phrase "stresses of those yet to come" could be shortened to one word—"taxes."

My belief in this regard was strengthened when I read this morning's paper and I saw that Mr. Stubbs, the Minister for Local Government, had foreshadowed another tax. I suggest to him that he should be most careful about these matters as he might be stealing the thunder of the Treasurer in putting forward a proposition

that everybody in the community should be taxed in order to give local government an opportunity to get more revenue. However, so long as there is nothing sinister behind this, and so long as it is only a suggestion, I hope we do not see, following the imposition of a tax on all young people, a Bill introduced to amend the Local Government Act to provide for a universal franchise for local authority elections—

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: And why not?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I would expect the honourable member to say "Why not?" I thought the honourable member would be the one to wake up and say that. However, although we must leave that matter for the time being, it is obviously something that is foreshadowed.

This afternoon I do not intend to deal with any matters connected with finance; because, in another place, no doubt the Government will be asking for supply and we in this Chamber will be asked to pass a Supply Bill later in the week. Therefore, anything I have to say about financial matters can be left until the debate on the Supply Bill. That gives me a better and more appropriate opportunity to address some remarks to the House in regard to that particular subject.

Another comment in the Governor's Speech that attracted my attention was this—

Investment is being sought from all sources. Two Ministers directly concerned with the Government's industrial and mining policy recently visited Japan, to assure Japanese investors and industrialists there has been no change in government policy in this respect, or in the ebullient business scene of the past several years.

I merely want to comment on that sort of statement.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: It pleased you?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The honourable member does not have the faintest idea what I am about to say. Therefore I would suggest to him that he should not interject. The statement I have just read, which appeared in the Governor's Speech on opening day, is in direct contrast to a statement I read in the edition of *The Sunday Times* dated the 14th February, 1965. That statement was a full-page advertisement, paid for by the A.L.P., and it referred to "The Iron Ore Scandal." That hurt me a little and I smarted under it.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Is that the one that Mr. Graham could not remember when he was on television?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am not aware of what Mr. Graham could or could not remember. I simply draw attention to

the two statements. The article to which I have just referred was used for election purposes. The article states—

£175 millions of your money going to Japanese interests. Evidence is available which proves beyond all doubt that a long range plan has been in existence to allow the complete exploitation of our iron-ore by foreign interests.

I simply wanted to mention how quickly one can have a change of mind on subjects of this nature. In the paragraph in the Governor's Speech which I just read there is a reference to there being no change in Government policy in this respect, or in the ebullient business scene of the past several years.

So, Mr. Claughton, it is pleasing to see that the Government you support is taking a plank out of the policy of another Government—

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: It depends whether the policy you are referring to is one—

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: —and champions the cause of private enterprise; because we all know—

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: —of encouraging development instead of encouraging exploitation.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH:—that the only way in which the mineral deposits and mineral wealth of our country can be developed is the way in which we—and by "we" I mean the Liberal-Country Party Government—encouraged development—in other words, a partnership between Government and private enterprise with the Government affording the opportunities and private enterprise the knowhow and risk capital that it has shown a willingness to invest in our country.

In speaking of minerals I notice from the Governor's Speech that several new iron-ore, nickel, and bauxite agreements are to be presented for ratification during this session of Parliament. Of course, I have no argument with this because I have had some experience of the necessity to negotiate agreements with different companies and then present those agreements to Parliament for ratification. As I said, I have no argument in that regard but I am interested to see that this Government intends to introduce amendments to the Mining Act, and I will be interested, too, to see how many of the recommendations of the mining committee I appointed are included in the new Act. However, I cannot comment any further on that matter until I see the Bill.

Reference is made in the Governor's Speech to the very important matter of the sharp deterioration in the rural economy in the past year. I think, generally speaking, we expected to be called together very early during the life of this Government

to give legislative effect to assistance which was to be given to the rural industry. However, if I am to believe what I read in the Press, I understand that the Government has been able to give effect to certain relief measure without the necessity to introduce legislation. I will be most interested to find out in some detail just what that assistance has amounted to; because there is no doubt that our rural industry is, to say the least, in a most difficult situation. I am sure members of your party, Mr. President, will have something more to say about this matter when they make their contributions to this debate.

I wish to refer to another paragraph which appeared in the Governor's Speech, which reads as follows:—

The growing road toll influences the Government to employ every possible means of reducing it. To this end, and to achieve greater overall efficiency in traffic management, the Traffic Act will be amended vesting State-wide traffic control and vehicle licensing in the Police Department.

I cannot say any more about that until the legislation is introduced, but my own party's attitude to this proposal has already been made known. We put forward certain suggestions, and we asked for opinions from the people most affected. We asked for their comments on the suggestions that were being put forward in relation to traffic control.

The next paragraph in the Governor's Speech states—

Legislation will also be introduced to repeal the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act.

This means, of course, that the Government will give away something in the order of, I think, \$4,500,000, which was the amount being collected through the road maintenance tax. I would have thought some mention would have been made in the Governor's Speech as to how this amount would be made up; because soon after the elections the Government said it would cost many millions of dollars to put its election promises into effect and we found the Government suspending the putting into effect of those promises because it said it was facing financial difficulties. Despite that, there was an increase in salaries and wages for the Police Force, further increase in the salaries and wages of school teachers, and the \$4,500,000 for the abolition of the road maintenance tax. Those three items alone add up to nearly \$10,000,000, so it seems to me that sooner or later some mention will have to be made as to how that figure will be made up.

After that item we turn over fairly quickly to the question of other legislation, but I cannot find anything in the Governor's Speech about a refund of stamp duty

to all the firms that were going to get their money back. That item appeared in a prominent place in the Labor Party's policy speech, which I have in front of me, but I cannot find any mention of it in the Governor's Speech. Perhaps none of the firms that were going to get their money back have got it back. I do not know, but there it is.

On page 7 of the Governor's Speech the following appeared:—

My Government will ask you to encourage Western Australians to positive action in improving the quality of life for this, and for future generations. It is proposed to do this by replacing the unproclaimed Physical Environment Protection Act of 1970 with more effective legislation to provide for an Environment Protection Authority, an Environment Protection Council, and an Environment Protection Appeal Board.

We heard a great deal about this subject prior to the elections. I am not sure, but I think this was one of the subjects about which an early decision, from a legislative point of view, was to be reached; but it is now July and we still have no indication of legislation. I understand that the Leader of the Opposition in another place asked the Premier when he thought the legislation might be introduced, and I think I am correct in saying it was foreshadowed that it would be September before it came forward.

All these points about protecting the environment seem to me to have just gone to pot for the time being. What would have been wrong with proclaiming the 1970 Bill that we passed last year? If it did not fulfil all the desires of the present Government, at least it could have been amended; but at the moment we have nothing at all. There is a director whom we appointed, and I presume he must be active in his position and is no doubt preparing the legislation. I think I read a report about that in the newspaper. In the meantime, we have nothing in the way of legislation.

I fail to see why the Government has not proclaimed this particular piece of legislation. I repeat that, whatever its shortcomings might be in the opinion of the Government, it could have been proclaimed, and in this session of Parliament some amendments to that legislation could have been presented for consideration. We are in the situation that there was great hurry and flurry on the part of the Government to do something in Parliament, but up to date it has not done anything.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: We assume that when the new Bill comes forward there will be no delay in this Chamber?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I want to give Mr. Cloughton some advice; I do not know whether he will take it. As far as I am concerned, he cannot assume anything.

I want to take the opportunity to mention some other matters. This afternoon Mr. White asked a question about the alumina refinery agreement. He wanted to know whether the agreement had been signed. He followed up that question with a couple of other questions, and obviously the agreement has not been signed. I think it has not been signed because the State Executive of the Labor Party probably said, "Hold your horses for a while; we want to have a look at this." I think there is a difference of opinion between the Government and Trades Hall which will have to be sorted out before the agreement is signed.

I am somewhat concerned about this sort of thing. I read this afternoon's newspaper and found the same type of thing has occurred in connection with the erection of a power line across the hills. The State Executive had an opinion to pass about that, but it was beaten to the punch because yesterday the Government made a decision to curtail the plans in regard to that matter. Is that correct?

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I have not seen the paper.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I think it was in the stop press.

One of the things that concern me is the trend that seems to be developing in relation to law and order. I do not want you, Mr. President, to think that this is a bandwagon on which I am endeavouring to jump. It is not. The same set of circumstances prevailed when we were in Government.

I am sure it must be a matter of great concern to everybody to read about this sort of thing in a daily paper: "Three Robbers Bash Shop Man." These days some people seem to think that they can go on to another person's premises, overcome by force the man who owns the premises, use some implement on him to put him out of action—the report says this fellow was bashed with an instrument which he thought was a picket—take his money, and go away. I am sure neither the Police Department, the Minister, nor any of us likes to see this sort of thing going on, but it seems to be the trend.

One sees the same trend in regard to moratorium marches, when the small minority of people protest against the things that they think should not occur. One also sees the Premier of the State heading their march.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: You would not class the Premier in the same group as those three robbers, surely.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I think it would be a good idea if Mr. Cloughton made his own speech because he is not helping me very much. Of course I would not class the Premier in that category. Even Mr. Cloughton should know that.

If I may continue, uninterrupted, in addition to the moratorium march there has been the protest over the visit of the South African rugby team. I do not mind people protesting and having opinions, but I become very concerned about the manner in which they seem to be protesting. As this team went from west to east the protest seemed to become worse. One saw Australian citizen tearing at Australian citizen, and mob protest against the opinion that some people held. To my way of thinking, it is a very bad influence.

Unfortunately, it has travelled further than that. The trade union movement, no doubt spurred on by a small section of the movement, is contributing to this state of affairs. Mr. Hawke, the Federal President of the A.C.T.U., seems to express his approval of these protests. People seem to be becoming unmanageable in their protests. I think this is a very bad thing.

I do not know the man who was the president of the union which operates at the Perth Airport, but I think he had a ton of courage to stand up and tell the big bosses from the Eastern States that he wanted the right to work; and that was what it amounted to. However, he was told what he had to do—that he and his union must go out on strike—and, because he did not want to go out on strike, the big bosses disbanded the union and said it was no longer in existence. Such things are not good for our community, by and large.

Before I conclude, I wish to refer to the Government's intentions in relation to sitting hours. I have received an indication that Parliament will sit on Tuesdays from 4.30 p.m. to 6.15 p.m., and from 7.30 p.m. to not later than 10.00 p.m.; on Wednesdays the same hours will apply; and on Thursdays from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 2.15 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. in the earlier part of the session, and not later than 10.00 p.m. in the later part of the session.

I do not think those hours need necessarily apply to the Legislative Council. I am sure the Minister in charge of the House will be obliged to take the conduct of the business of the House as it comes from day to day. It seems to me it would be quite useless for us to come here at 11.00 a.m. on a Thursday if our whips knew, for instance, that there were to be only two speeches on the Address-in-Reply or on the Supply Bill that morning, following which we would go home again. I think we can rely on the Leader to call the House together as he thinks fit and proper, depending upon the requirements of the notice paper from time to time.

I recommend that the Leader of the House look at Standing Order 36 of the Legislative Assembly, which says—

Bills may be introduced and taken to the stage that the Motion "That the Bill be now read a second time" has been moved before the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech has been adopted, but no other business beyond that which is of a formal character shall be entered upon. Provided, however, that the introduction of Bills under this Standing Order shall not prevent any discussion on the subject matter of any such Bill during the Address-in-Reply debate.

I think that is a very good Standing Order. The suggestion I now make is not offered in a critical sense but purely to be helpful. I suggest that the Standing Orders Committee might consider asking this House to include a similar provision in our Standing Orders, following which the legislation which, no doubt, the Government has prepared in the months that have gone by since the 20th February, could be introduced into the House and adjourned after the second reading speech has been made. Then the Address-in-Reply could continue, and in the days that are ahead members of the House, generally, would have more time to study the Bills which Ministers had introduced while the Address-in-Reply debate was in progress.

I suggest that Mr. Willesee might mention this matter to the chairman of the Standing Orders Committee, and if it meets with the approval of Ministers he might consider adopting the suggestion.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Do you think we could introduce Bills during the Address-in-Reply debate?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, I do. I do not think there is any harm in it.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I have nothing against it. I did not know we could do it.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: When we were over there we did it by moving the suspension of Standing Orders. I would suggest that if Ministers have any Bills ready they might ask the House to agree to the suspension of Standing Orders for the purpose of introducing those Bills. If they are Bills of an important nature which will require a good deal of study, we would be glad to have as much time as possible for that purpose. The Leader of the House has foreshadowed a Bill in connection with his own portfolio. That is a Bill which will need considerable study. If it is ready now we would be glad to have it.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: It is far from ready now.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Finally, last year, when I was Leader of the House, I made some reference to the somewhat

tedious task I had to undertake of replying to the comments made by members during the Address-in-Reply debate. This requires a great deal of work. The various departments must put other things to one side in order to work on the questions that have been raised by members, and the Leader of the House has to occupy himself sometimes for an hour or an hour and a half in order to supply the information. I suggest, out of consideration for Ministers, that this practice be discontinued. It is only my own private thought, but I suggest that as a matter arises the Minister concerned might reply in writing to the member's question so that the member might use the information for whatever purpose he has in mind.

I think it would be a good idea if it obviates the rush to obtain the information and have it available before the Address-in-Reply is finished. However, I make one exception and that is where a member would like to be informed straightaway upon a matter. In that case he should say so at the time he is making his speech. For example, if I spoke this afternoon on a matter about which I would like the Leader of the House to inform me as soon as possible, I could tell him now and he would know that it is a subject about which I want an answer in the House. However, in regard to other matters I may raise the Minister could expect that I would be satisfied with a written reply.

Of course, members have other opportunities to raise the matters again and to complain if the written reply is not satisfactory. For example, generally two Supply Bills are brought to the Chamber, so that constitutes two opportunities for members to do so.

Finally, there has been some suggestion that Parliament might not be called together in the strict, formal manner which has been followed in the years since responsible Government in this State. Personally, I am not too sure that we should have merely one opening of Parliament and one Governor's Speech. I think if that were done we might be inclined to lose contact with the people we represent. I am still a little touchy about the charges of secrecy that were levelled at my Government allegedly because we would not tell everybody what we were doing—that we were doing things in secret. I would not like that charge to be levelled at the present Government.

I do not think the Governor should be brought here to deliver a speech to this Chamber without anybody else being present. There may be a happy compromise in this matter; it is not my task to investigate it. I merely mention it because the subject has been raised in the Press.

THE HON. W. R. WITHERS (North) [5.48 p.m.]: Mr. President, I congratulate you on your re-election to preside over this

Chamber and I also congratulate all members of the Council for the respect paid to them by their electors. I pray that I will be able to represent my province with the dignity shown by my predecessor, The Hon. Frank Wise. It is my pleasure to be humbled by the dignity of this House and I trust that I may well serve the State Parliament through my representation of the people in the North Province.

I thank all members for the friendly assistance and guidance offered to me since the elections. In my short time as a member I have been greatly impressed by the efficiency of the staff and officers of the House, and with the sincere manner in which they perform their duties. I take this opportunity to express my thanks for the assistance given by those ladies and gentlemen.

It is now my wish to introduce certain thoughts to members of this House. Within this gigantic State of Western Australia we have almost unlimited potential for continued development if we plan rationally. I refer specifically to the isolated areas of Western Australia, and in particular to the area above the Tropic of Capricorn which represents 36 per cent. of our State's land mass.

This northern province has already received some of the investment required to farm its great resources, and it will prove to be a compound interest bearing deposit for those persons who are willing to work and invest towards the aims and requirements of all industries that will in the future benefit the State and the nation. The income from this region has helped to bolster the State's finances at a time when the downturn in rural economy has caused so much hardship in rural areas. This hardship would have been transmitted to an even greater cross section of the community had it not been for the income from the far distant regions of our State.

It is now my duty to present some facts that are well known to my electors but unknown to many of our citizens in the more urban areas of our State. I refer to the fact that many of the people who are participating in development by decentralisation are faced with problems that should not be experienced by a modern society such as ours.

One finds that whole communities and towns in the north are over 1,000 miles from the nearest senior State high school. The parents are faced with the exorbitant cost of sending their children to the cities for an education that costs up to 400 per cent. more than the maximum allowable income tax deduction. The only alternatives lie in education by correspondence or, in the case of a few towns, education to the Junior level with a limited curriculum which prevents most students from entering a selected tertiary study.

To give members an example of the situation, I advise that the nearest senior State high school to Wyndham is at Geraldton, which is 1,527 air miles away. The hostel there has no vacancies and there is a waiting list.

In February, 1972, a senior high school will be built at Tom Price. This will mean that a Wyndham senior student will save 1,000 miles travel per day if he wishes to attend the nearest State high school. I mention 1,000 miles travel saved per day because no residential hostel is contemplated for the Tom Price school. I might mention that Tom Price is still 1,000 air miles from Wyndham.

Another senior high school will be completed at Carnarvon in February, 1972, but this school will still be 1,250 air miles from Wyndham. At the moment there are no vacancies at the hostel, and no future additions are planned.

I have used Wyndham as a measurement point, but these facts can be applied to the northern communities in greater or lesser degrees. To further emphasise these facts by parochial comparison, I ask that members visualise the residents of Perth sending all senior high school students to Adelaide for their secondary education. If this ludicrous situation can be visualised, then contemplate the situation of the East Kimberley student who, at the moment, has to travel even greater distances than that—to be specific, a further 200 miles. This situation forces many valuable settlers to leave the area, and this limits the development of the area as well as the financial return to the State.

One finds that the cost of power in many areas prohibits the use of air conditioners in climates that make them a necessity and not a luxury in classrooms and homes. Some towns supplied by the State Electricity Commission are subject to power costs up to 350 per cent. above Perth metropolitan costs. Such power costs limit and sometimes prevent the development of industry close to the source of minerals and deep water ports. Of course, members can imagine the effect this will have on our future. Unless we take advantage of our minerals and our ports the development of the State will suffer. We must be able to compete in the world markets, especially now that we are going to lose some of our trade with England.

A survey on the cost of living in the East Kimberley made in 1970 showed that a family would have to pay \$2,670 per annum more than its metropolitan counterpart in order to live at a similar standard. The survey showed some startling penalties which are imposed on the northern dweller.

I will quote one item from that report, which will be quoted fully at a later date. The summation of the Kimberley costs above metropolitan costs in sections 2 to 12 of the survey shows that it costs the Kimberley householder \$2,671.42 more than

his Perth counterpart to live up to similar standards. If we assume that the Perth householder has a taxable income of \$2,500, then he will pay \$331.58 in personal income tax, leaving a net income of \$2,168.42.

To live up to this income, without saving, the Kimberley householder must have a net income of \$2,168.42 plus \$2,671.42, totalling \$4,839.84 or \$4,840 in round figures. To achieve this net income he must now earn a taxable income of \$6,599 with a tax of \$1,759. It can be seen that a Kimberley householder pays \$1,427.42 more income tax than he should do to live at the same standard as his Perth counterpart, and for this he receives fewer services.

In the training of our Aborigines, one finds the inadequacies of State and Federal planning. The situation is further confused by enthusiastic lay organisations which may offer advice without knowledge or, on the other hand, give knowledgeable advice diametrically opposed in ideas and ideals to that of other organisations.

A situation has developed in which sincere departmental workers have become paper slaves and public pressure and the advice of lay organisations have committed our Federal Government to a policy of discrimination against the non-Aboriginal Australian.

I refer to the Commonwealth allowances which provide free secondary education for an Aboriginal and not for a non-Aboriginal in an isolated area. This can apply even in a situation where an Aboriginal family can have a greater family income than a non-Aboriginal family. Present planning is providing some Aboriginal homes that are bigger and better than the most senior public servant's home in the town, and the Aborigines' rent is subsidised.

I wish to make it quite clear that I am in favour of high standards and allowances; but they should be available also to the non-Aboriginal Australian so that there is equality without the discrimination that can cause so much ill-feeling between different racial and social backgrounds. The Minister for Community Welfare has my sincere sympathy and best wishes in regard to the problems he is going to encounter.

Isolated areas always have a freight problem, but in the case of the north the situation of inadequate port facilities and high freight costs has led to a State-wide problem. I refer to the loss of intrastate trade to interstate suppliers who can supply fruit, dairy products, meat, groceries, and other goods to the north in better condition and at lower prices because of the inability of our transport systems to compete in the parameters of cost, time, and refrigeration with those offered by interstate interests.

It is to be hoped that highway construction and the planning of the State Shipping Service in conjunction with port planning will solve the existing problem.

Local Government authorities in developing areas are facing problems that will require financial assistance in order to cope with the area requirements, particularly in roadworks. Council plant hire rates to the Main Roads Department need to be much higher than the existing 20 per cent. above metropolitan rates.

In some northern towns flooding can completely isolate groups of towns from surrounding areas, and further isolate one town from another for periods long enough for the towns to be troubled by food shortages. A good example is the Wittenoom, Tom Price, Paraburdoo area. There are, of course, other towns with this problem, and it can be prevented by upgrading the road systems.

It has been reported in *The Sunday Times* of the 18th July that Western Australia will probably hold out against daylight saving. If this does prove to be the case, I hope the Minister for Local Government will consider the request of the Kununurra Chamber of Commerce and the Wyndham-East Kimberley Shire Council, who have previously been denied a request for an East Kimberley time zone to align with South Australia and the Northern Territory.

At this time there are only 22 road miles between Kununurra and a 1½ hour time change. If South Australia should advance the clock by one hour we will then have a situation where a motorist can leave the eastern edge of the Ord River scheme, drive to the administration centre in Kununurra, and arrive 2 hours and 10 minutes before his departure time!

In some pastoral areas where towns are in the process of developing, one finds the odd case of these towns affecting station properties to a point where they are no longer viable as station properties. I feel that compensation should be made for such loss.

To initiate planning to solve some of these problems, I now ask the Leader of the House to make representation—

- (1) To our Federal members for the implementation of a realistic zone allowance with realistic zone boundaries;
- (2) To the Minister for Education for implementation of school and travel allowances to all students so that country students may receive secondary education for entry to tertiary level without paying more than is paid by metropolitan residents. If the Minister cannot implement this system by the first school term of 1972 I would ask the Leader of the House

to make representation to our Federal members for the purpose of granting equal rights for non-Aborigines under the Aboriginal grants scheme;

- (3) To the Minister for Local Government to increase the northern margin on plant hire rates to the Main Roads Department;
- (4) To the Minister for Works to implement uniform power costs throughout the State; and
- (5) To the Minister for Lands and Agriculture to make available adequate compensation to stations affected by developing towns. I refer particularly to Boodarie and Pippingara stations in the Port Hedland area.

There are problems and paradoxes evident in many other fields in the northern area of the State, and I refer particularly to such things as water and sewerage, land lease and purchase, tariffs, housing grants, social services, gaols, the judiciary, communications, and export facilities, to name but a few. There are others, but I will leave the matter there for the moment, and conclude my remarks by offering my thanks for the attention shown by members to this my maiden speech. I would also like to congratulate The Hon. Lyla Elliott for the confident way she moved the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. S. J. Dellar.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Assembly Personnel

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying the personnel of sessional committees appointed by that House.

House adjourned at 6.05 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 20th July, 1971

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

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES

Appointment

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier) [4.31 p.m.]: I move—

That the member for Gascoyne (Mr. Norton) be appointed Chairman of Committees.

Question put and passed.

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Appointment

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Toms): I wish to inform the House that I have appointed the member for Canning (Mr. Bateman), the member for Bunbury (Mr. Williams), and the member for Roe (Mr. W. G. Young) to be Deputy Chairmen of Committees during the present session.

DARLING RANGE

Erection of Powerlines: Petition

MR. I. D. THOMPSON (Darling Range) [4.32 p.m.]: I wish to present a petition addressed as follows:—

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned residents, in the State of Western Australia, do herewith pray that Her Majesty's Government of Western Australia will intervene and direct the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority and the State Electricity Commission of W.A. to NOT proceed with the proposed erection of high voltage power lines across the foothills of the Darling Range.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that your honourable House will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

The petition is signed by 5,371 people, and I certify that it is in accordance with the rules of the House.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

HELENA VALLEY AND PIESSE BROOK

Construction of Pylons: Petition

MR. I. D. THOMPSON (Darling Range) [4.33 p.m.]: I have a second petition addressed as follows:—

We, the undersigned wishing to preserve the great natural beauty of the Helena Valley and Piesse Brook, which, if preserved will be of immense value to all present and future citizens of the Metropolitan Area, express the strongest possible objection to the construction of a 5 chain swathe with 140 foot high steel power transmission pylons through these valleys, and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

The petition bears 4,510 signatures, and I certify that the petition is in accordance with the rules of the House.

The SPEAKER: I direct that this petition also be brought to the Table of the House.