

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 30th July, 1959

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

GASCOYNE RIVER

Conservation of Water

1. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for the North-West:
 - (1) Have any new steps been taken since March this year to conserve water in the Gascoyne River at Carnarvon, to assure an adequate water supply for the town and the plantations?
 - (2) Has he or the Public Works Department sought outside advice as to the best method of conserving water in the Gascoyne River?
 - (3) Has any decision been made as to the practicability or otherwise of placing a "barrage" at or near the mouth of the Gascoyne River, similar to those in the Murray River in South Australia, for the conservation of water?
 - (4) Will a survey be made of the Kennedy Ranges to establish whether it is practicable to dam the Gascoyne River in that area?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) No new steps have been taken to conserve water but further investigations have been made in the river bed and a substantial basin of approximately 40 acres in area below the river bed level has been located 1½ to 2 miles upstream from the bridge.
- (2) No. Possible advisers with the requisite knowledge and experience of similar problems are being considered.
- (3) No.
- (4) Yes.

BUNBURY HARBOUR

Financial Position

2. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:
 - (1) How much has the Bunbury Harbour Board paid towards interest, sinking fund, and depreciation since 1945?
 - (2) What amount had to be paid by the Governments for maintenance since 1945, at the port of Bunbury?
 - (3) What is the total expenditure, revenue and loan money at the port of Bunbury since 1945?
 - (4) What was the total liability of the port of Bunbury in the year 1958?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Nil.
- (2) £248,246.
- (3) From revenue funds—£690,533.
From loan funds—
 - (a) On account Bunbury Harbour Board—£1,092,951.
 - (b) Bulk-handling facilities—£11,075.
- (4) Bunbury Harbour Board's total liability to the Treasury as at the 30th June, 1958—£1,247,292.

ALBANY HARBOUR

Financial Position

3. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) When did the Albany Harbour Board take over the control of the Albany harbour?
- (2) What has the Government expended at Albany on port maintenance since the Albany Harbour Board took over control of Albany harbour?
- (3) How much has the Albany Harbour Board paid to the Government since its inception?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) The 17th April, 1950.
- (2) £58,675 expended by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Harbour Board, and fully recouped.
- (3) £217,648 interest and sinking fund.

4 to 7. *These questions were postponed.*

RELIANCE MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Assurance of Backing by Previous Government

8. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

Will he confirm with the representative of the Reliance Manufacturing Company, who visited Glasgow in January of this year for the purpose of discussing with representatives of Edward MacBean & Co. Ltd. a suggested partnership to enable the Reliance Company to make polyvinyl chloride plastic-coated clothing and cloth in Western Australia for markets throughout Australia, that he was given clear-cut assurances by me, in my then capacity as Premier and Treasurer of Western Australia, of solid financial and other backing from the Government should such be required to bring the suggested partnership into actual existence?

Mr. COURT replied:

The representative of Reliance Manufacturing Company states he visited Glasgow in January this year as a result of assurances of financial support given by the hon. member in the capacity of Premier and Treasurer. The representative further states these assurances were withheld after his return from Glasgow, resulting in his making arrangements to move to another State. The assistance given by my Government has been the means of retaining this industry in this State.

CEMENT

Exports to Darwin

9. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

What tonnage of Western Australian cement was exported to Darwin during the years—

1954-55;
1955-56;
1956-57;
1957-58;
1958-59?

Mr. COURT replied:

Year	Tons Exported
1954-55	630
1955-56	755
1956-57	7,604
1957-58	1,700
1958-59	1,450

KALGOORLIE-BOULDER SCHOOLS

Appointment of Clerk-Typists

10. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Education:

Would he give consideration to approving of the appointment of two female clerk-typists to assist the headmasters and headmistresses of primary schools in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder area?

Mr. WATTS replied:

No. Clerical assistants are appointed to primary schools with an enrolment in excess of 600 which are used for special purposes such as training or research. There are no schools of this type in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder area.

11. *This question was postponed.*

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

Interest Rates on Compulsory Deposits

12. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Is it the practice of the State Electricity Commission to charge intending subscribers a compulsory deposit of £50, on which interest at 2½ per cent. is paid, as

some farmers in my electorate have to borrow this sum from the bank at 5 per cent?

- (2) Will he investigate the position, with a view to—
 - (a) reducing the rate of interest on borrowed sums for the purpose of compulsory deposits to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; or
 - (b) increase the rate of interest on deposits, to that charged by the bank?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) The State Electricity Commission asks for a security deposit varying from £1 to £50, depending on the horsepower of the connected load. Most farmers pay deposits of under £10.
- (2) (a) The Minister has no power to reduce to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. the rate of interest charged by the banks.
- (b) No, because on the basis of three-monthly readings the consumer on the average owes more than the amount of the security deposit.

I would point out to the hon. member that this practice has obtained for a considerable period.

BUS COMPANIES

Takeover by M.T.T.

13. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What bus companies have been taken over by the Metropolitan Transport Trust, and on what dates respectively?
- (2) What are the expected dates of the takeover of the remaining concerns, respectively?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Perkins) replied:

- (1) Metro Buses Pty. Ltd., 31st August, 1958. Beam Transport Limited 31st August, 1958. Carlisle Bus Service 12th October, 1958. Kalamunda Bus Service 7th December, 1958. United Buses Pty. Ltd. 14th December, 1958. Emu Bus Co. Pty. Ltd. 22nd February, 1959.
- (2) Concerning the remaining private services, the only definite information that can be given at this time is that negotiations are now proceeding for the acquisition of the Coogee Spearwood Buses Pty. Ltd.

COUNTRY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Living-Away-from-Home Allowances

14. Mr. BURT asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What amount was paid in allowances by the Education Department on behalf of schoolchildren living in country towns, to enable them to attend schools away from home, in order to achieve a higher standard of education than was available in their localities, for the years ended the 30th June, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, and 1959?
- (2) How many schoolchildren were assisted by this allowance for the years ended the 30th June, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, and 1959?
- (3) What is the present amount of this allowance per child, per annum, and under what conditions is it payable?
- (4) When was the rate of allowance last increased?
- (5) What consideration has been given by the present Government, if any, to—
 - (a) increasing the rate of allowances;
 - (b) increasing the area over which the allowance is payable?
- (6) If the answer to No. (5) is in the negative, will consideration be given to this matter?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) 1958—Approximately £55,000. 1959—Will not be available until well into 1960 as many parents do not claim until the end of the calendar year.
- (2) 1958—1,284. The remarks above apply to this question also.
- (3) I will supply the hon. member with an informative circular on this subject.
- (4) 1st January, 1955.
- (5) and (6) The matter is under consideration.

Regarding Nos. (1) and (2), it will not be possible to supply other information asked for. The Treasury does not keep separate records of living-away allowances as distinct from scholarships, travelling and book allowances and examination fees.

COLLIE COAL

Research

15. Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) What lines of investigation will be undertaken by the Commonwealth committee of experts in connection with the research of Collie

coal, not already undertaken by the West Australian fuel technologists?

- (2) Will he give an indication of the nature of the findings of the fuel technologists of this State, and of any action the Government proposes to take to implement these findings?
- (3) Is it a fact, the Minister for Railways when in Collie recently, stated the project to coke Collie coal is not a commercial proposition?
- (4) Will he confirm this statement, and if so, upon what information does he base his opinion?
- (5) Have the Lurgi representatives stated that they could not have done any better than Dr. Usuna and Mr. P. Donnelly in research into the carbonisation of Collie coal?
- (6) Is the final report which is awaited from the Lurgi Corporation required, because Dr. Usuna was not satisfied with Lurgi's earlier report which indicated the plant for small briquettes would not be as good a proposition as the 3½ inch briquettes developed by our own State fuel technologists?
- (7) Has the Government yet received a final report from the Lurgi Corporation?
- (8) If so, what is the nature of the report?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) The committee of experts appointed by the Commonwealth Government is to cover completely Australian and overseas research into coal uses.

The Mines Department Fuel Technologist (Mr. Donnelly) is shortly visiting the Eastern States and we have already asked the Commonwealth Government to authorise him to confer with the Chairman of the committee in order to outline work done on Collie coal and to discuss generally the committee's outlined proposals.

- (2) This cannot be done immediately in view of current consideration of the results of research and investigations.
- (3) No. From memory—and I think those present would confirm this—I said—

"It is one thing to coke Collie coal in a laboratory or pilot plant and another thing to coke it on a commercial basis."

I did not state that the coking of Collie coal is not a commercial proposition, because a decision on this point had not and has not been reached.

- (4) Answered by No. (3).
- (5) Not as far as can be ascertained from departmental records.
- (6) This aspect will be considered and the hon. member advised after I have had an opportunity of examining more closely the reasons for a further report.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) Examination is not complete and it is not proposed to indicate its contents until the examination is complete.

BENTLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Construction

16. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) When is it anticipated that a start will be made on the construction of Bentley high school?
- (2) When will this school be available for occupation?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) November, 1959.
- (2) Estimated May, 1960.

EASTERN ACCEPTANCE CO.

Tabling of Papers re Money Lenders' Act

17. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Attorney General:

Would he lay on the Table of the House for a period of two weeks, all Crown Law papers and/or files dealing with inquiries by the department into alleged breaches of the Money Lenders' Act by Eastern Acceptance Co?

Mr. WATTS replied:

I suggest to the honourable member that it would be more desirable for him to peruse the file at my department.

CONDEMNED STOCK

Losses to Export and Home Markets

18. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What number of cattle were lost to export through condemnation by meat inspection, for the years 1956, 1957, 1958?
- (2) What number of sheep, lambs and pigs were lost to export through condemnation for the years 1956, 1957, 1958?
- (3) What number of cattle and vealers were lost to the home market through condemnation for the years 1956, 1957, 1958?
- (4) What number of sheep, lambs and pigs were lost to home market through condemnation for the years 1956, 1957, 1958?

Mr. BOVELL (for Mr. Nalder) replied:
In questions Nos. 18 and 19 the member for Albany has asked for information which is not normally available to the Agricultural Department. However, in an endeavour to secure the information for him, we are seeking assistance from outside firms, and for that reason I ask that these two questions be postponed.

Mr. Hawke: Under contract?

Mr. Brand: No, tender.

19. *This question was postponed.*

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Revenue and Interest

20. Mr. ANDREW asked the Treasurer:
For each of the years ended June, 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, 1959, what was—

- the State's total revenue—loan moneys excluded;
- the State's total interest;
- the percentage of interest to revenue?

Mr. BRAND replied:

	Years Ended June				
	1940	1945	1950	1955	1959
	£	£	£	£	£
(a)	11,110,943	13,953,830	25,810,961	45,719,846	60,068,237
(b)	3,528,758	3,413,765	3,367,761	5,825,199	8,545,825
(c)	%	%	%	%	%
	31.73	24.46	13.05	12.30	14.23

RUNNING SHED EMPLOYEES

Annual Leave

21. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Railways:

- Will he, through the Secretary for Labour's Department, withdraw objections to subclause C.1 of clause 40 of Railway Award 183 of 1958, relevant to three weeks' annual leave for running shed employees on shift work of an arduous nature?
- If not, how can his Government reconcile the granting of three weeks' annual leave to Mr. W. Mitchell, Government Publicity Officer, for work of a non-physical or arduous nature?

Mr. COURT replied:

- No. The clause meant to be referred to by the hon. member is apparently Clause 35 of an application (183/58) to amend an existing award, and is one of a number of variations which are being sought and which will be heard and determined by the Court of Arbitration in due course.
- The cases are not comparable.

BLACK ROCKS DEEP-WATER PORT

Report by Consultant

22. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Works:

- On the 9th July, in reply to a question, he stated it was not a fact that no work would be done on the proposed deep-water port at Black Rocks near Derby until after an overseas consultant had reported to the Government on the proposal. On page 17 of *The West Australian* of the 25th June, 1959, the following report appears, viz.:—

Works Minister Wild said yesterday the Government would probably arrange through the Agent-General in London to obtain the services of an overseas consultant for North-West port problems. No work would be done in the meantime on the proposed deep-water port at Black Rocks.

Will he state which is correct?

- Has any action yet been taken to obtain the services of such an overseas consultant?

Mr. WILD replied:

- Investigation work is in progress to prove foundation conditions of the ocean bed at a relocated site of possible jetty head at Black Rocks. Investigations will also be made of ocean bed conditions in the vicinity of the existing Derby jetty. No work on actual construction of Black Rocks port is being done.
- Yes.

23. *This question was postponed.*

METROPOLITAN BEACHES

Erection of Groynes

24. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Works:

- Has he yet received any reports from the Fremantle Harbour Trust in connection with proposed erection of groynes at certain metropolitan beaches?
- If so, will he indicate the nature of such report?
- If not, can he state when the report is likely to be available?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1), (2) and (3) Discussions have been held with the General Manager of the Fremantle Harbour Trust, and arrangements are being made for further discussions between Mr. Tydeman and the respective local authorities.

OSBORNE PARK HOSPITAL*Constructional Details*

25. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will he indicate what progress, if any, has been made in regard to plans and specifications for the Osborne Park Government hospital, since he replied to my question on the 9th July?
- (2) Is he yet in a position to advise the approximate date of—
 - (a) calling tenders for construction;
 - (b) commencement of building operations?

Mr. BRAND (for Mr. Ross Hutchinson) replied:

- (1) and (2) An endeavour is being made to secure additional land to improve the siting of the hospital and so ensure a better frontage to Balcatta Beach Road. Consideration is being given to amending the design of the hospital on this account and having regard also to other hospital construction recently announced, which will also provide some service for this area. In these circumstances, I am unable at this stage to give the information requested by the hon. member.

SWAN RIVER POLLUTION*Cause and Remedial Action*

26. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Works:

As a report in *The West Australian* of the 29th July (see page 18, Special Suburban Section) refers to pollution in the Swan River, will he have early action taken under the Swan River Conservation Act to ascertain cause of pollution and to remedy same?

Mr. WILD replied:
Yes.

MIDLAND JUNCTION WORKSHOPS*Saving of Expenditure*

27. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Has any instruction been given to the management of the Railway Workshops at Midland Junction to save a fixed amount in expenditure?
- (2) Will the same standard of work be carried out on new work produced in the Railway Workshops in the current year as has been the practice in the past?

(3) Has any instruction been issued that—

- (a) fewer man-hours should be spent on new work being performed at present;
 - (b) less material should go into new rolling stock production?
- (4) What is the estimated saving on production at the Workshops in the current year?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Financial allocation for expenditure during the current year has not yet been finalised.

Consistent with a policy of increased efficiency and deficit reduction, all branches of the W.A. Government Railways are expected to effect economies. The reference to "a fixed amount in expenditure" is not understood. Perhaps the hon. member would like to amplify what he seeks to ascertain.

- (2) There should be no reduction in standard of work in the workshops merely because of economies and efforts to achieve greater efficiency.
- (3) (a) and (b) No; but a policy of economy and increased efficiency could have this result.
- (4) Answered by No. (1).

BETTING ROYAL COMMISSION*Statement by Counsel*

28. Mr. ANDREW asked the Attorney-General:

- (1) Did he see the statement in *The West Australian*, of the 29th July, by O. J. Negus, Q.C., representing the W.A. Turf Club and the Blood Horse Breeders' Association, "that betting control legislation was building a group of extremely powerful individuals, at present law abiding, who could become American gangster types."
- (2) Is a counsel supposed to—
 - (a) give evidence; or
 - (b) elicit evidence from witnesses?
- (3) If the latter is correct, is not Mr. Negus departing from the recognised rules of behaviour that apply to the Supreme Court?
- (4) If the answer to No. (3) is in the affirmative, will he see that Mr. Negus and any other counsel who has offended or may offend, is informed accordingly?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Counsel may not only elicit evidence from witnesses but also make submissions as set out in

question No. (1), since the terms of reference of the Royal Commission include effects, influences, and trends under existing legislation, and the submissions are therefore relevant.

- (3) and (4) See answers to No. (2).

ROAD TRANSPORT

Incorrect Statements by Magistrates

29. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Attorney-General:

- (1) In the face of the Government's policy to aid the decentralisation of the State by granting exceptionally low railway freight rates for long-distance haulage with the provision that goods shall be transported by the existing services for distances as shown in the State Transport Co-ordination Act, will he take action to ensure that magistrates do not make statements indicating sympathy with lawbreakers who convey goods in motorcars?
- (2) As, in the Perth Police Court on Tuesday, the 28th July, a magistrate is reported as having stated that there is only one train a week to Dwellingup, when in fact there are trains on Monday (one), Tuesday (two), Wednesday (one), Thursday (two), and Friday (one) in addition to a freighter bus service twice weekly, and the magistrate merely cautioned an offender against the State Transport Co-ordination Act, will he have the position examined by the Solicitor-General to prevent a recurrence of decisions based on incorrect statements made by the magistrate?
- (3) To ensure that every endeavour by responsible people is made to maintain regular services to the more sparsely-populated areas of the State, and avoid further closures of branch railway lines, will he take action—
 - (a) to have offenders against the State Transport Co-ordination Act dealt with on a factual basis; and
 - (b) to prevent Transport Board Inspectors being subject to ill-informed comment by a magistrate?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) and (2) The judiciary, which includes the magistracy, is independent and it would not be proper for a member of the Executive to instruct a member of the judiciary as to how he should conduct his court or as to what statements he should or should

not make therein. I shall, however, bring the hon. member's question and my reply to the notice of the magistrate concerned.

- (3) (a) Crown Law officers prosecute on instructions received from the Transport Board on a factual basis.
- (b) Answered by Nos. (1) and (2).

Illegal Use of Motorcars

30. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Transport:

In view of the reported proceedings of Perth Police Court action respecting illegal road haulage of goods in motorcars, in which the magistrate publicly expressed sympathy with offenders and belittled the provisions of the W.A. Transport Co-ordination Act, will he give his assurance that the Transport Board officials will not be deterred in carrying out their appointed duties in administering the Act?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Perkins) replied:
Yes.

31. *This question was postponed.*

CAR AND MOTORCYCLE DEALERS

Assistance for Inspecting Constable

32. Mr. O'CONNOR asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is he aware that following the introduction last year of new regulations covering car dealers and motorcycle dealers there is one constable (Constable Glossop) whose responsibilities entail calling on all dealers in the metropolitan area, inspecting registers, forms 9 and 10, etc., checking to see they are in order, and making the necessary reports among other things?
- (2) Does he think one man is capable of doing all this work efficiently?
- (3) If not, is it anticipated some further assistance will be given to Constable Glossop to enable this work to be done efficiently?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Perkins) replied:

- (1) Constable Glossop is not the only constable inspecting dealers' books and premises, as instructions were issued last year to all police officers throughout the State, which would include the suburbs in the metropolitan area, to perform the duties mentioned.
- (2) and (3) Answered by No. (1).

CROSSWALKS*Walcott and Bedford Streets*

33. Mr. O'CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is there a possibility of a crosswalk being made in Walcott Street near the junction of Bedford Street?
- (2) If so, when?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Perkins) replied:

- (1) Vehicle and pedestrian counts made by the Main Roads Department show that there is not yet justification for a crosswalk in Walcott Street near the junction of Bedford Street.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).

TRAFFIC LIGHTS*Charles Street and Scarborough Beach Road.*

34. Mr. O'CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Owing to the large flow of traffic at the junction of Charles Street and Scarborough Beach Road, North Perth, has any action been taken to install traffic lights on this corner?
- (2) If not, will he have this investigated with a view to installing traffic lights on this corner?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Perkins) replied:

- (1) Traffic studies have been made, and design is under consideration to ascertain whether traffic lights are justified at the intersection of Charles Street and Scarborough Beach Road.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).

SCHOOL DESKS AND CHAIRS*Tenders*

35. Dr. HENN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Have tenders been finalised for the provision of school desks and chairs for the State Education Department?
- (2) How many tenders were received and what was the quote of the successful tenderer?
- (3) What was the tender submitted by the State Engineering Works?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) 10.
(b) £65,445 1s. 8d.
- (3) £101,218 15s. 0d.

ROAD TRANSPORT*Subsidies*

36. Mr. COURT: May I make a personal explanation, Mr. Speaker, in order to correct an answer given to a question yesterday?

The SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. COURT: In an answer to a question asked by the member for East Perth with regard to subsidies paid for the two years to the 30th June, 1959, the figure given was £228,363. The Chairman of the Transport Board has requested that I convey to the House the fact that there was an error in tabulation and the figure should have been totalled at £173,855. The error is regretted.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS*Minister's Explanation.*

37. Mr. WATTS: In all probability the member for Mt. Marshall is entitled to some explanation of the postponement of his questions Nos. 4 to 7. I am advised by the General Manager of the State Electricity Commission that it has been necessary to despatch a clerk to Northam to get the information.

Mr. Hawke: Lucky clerk!

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.**COUNTRY RAIL FARES***Increase*

1. Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Railways:

In view of the fact that the Government has decided to increase rail fares in the metropolitan area, is it the intention to increase country rail fares likewise?

Mr. COURT: replied:

I thank the hon. member for notice of this question. The answer is that general increases in country rail fares are not under consideration; but there will be some small consequential adjustment to country rail fares, which automatically follows the adjustment of suburban fares, because of the suburban portion of the country travel.

2. Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Railways:

Do you mean that as a result of the increases in the metropolitan area some reduction will be made in country areas?

Mr. COURT replied:

I appreciate the humour of the hon. member's question; but I think he will appreciate that the adjustment will not be downwards. It will be an adjustment to give effect to the suburban part of the journey incorporated in the country fare.

NATIVES NORTH OF LOONGANA

Tabling of Papers

3. Mr. GRAYDEN asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

Has he any further information with respect to the question I asked recently relating to the plight of aborigines recently located in the area approximately 250 miles north of Loongana on the Trans-Australian railway?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. Perkins) replied:

On behalf of the Minister I wish to advise that a further search has been made today to see whether there is any information available on the files which would help the hon. member, and the answer remains the same as that which I gave yesterday. I can, however, assure him that as soon as the Minister returns, he will be giving further consideration to this matter and will be conferring with the district officer in Kalgoorlie to make sure that any information available is passed on to the hon. member.

RAIL FREIGHTS

Increase

4. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

In a question on rail fares I ask the Premier and Treasurer whether he could give the House and the country any assurance that there will be no increase in rail freights during the current financial year?

5. Mr. BRAND replied:

I would not undertake to give the House, off-hand, an assurance that there will be no increase in freights. When the Government has considered this question we will make an announcement. If the decision is that we are not going to increase freights, we will be glad to announce just that.

DANGEROUS CROSSWALKS

Police Supervision for School Children

6. Mr. COURT: This is the answer to a traffic question, which I promised

to get for the member for Middle Swan. He raised a question in regard to crosswalks and the information I have been able to obtain is as follows:— There is no comparison in the number of children using the crosswalk referred to and that at Midland school but, as the Leake Street crossing is used by very young children and as it is felt by the department that the crosswalk may be badly located, it has been arranged to provide police supervision morning and evening at school periods. In the meantime thought is being given to representations for further observation to be made by the Main Roads Department for a more suitable site for the crosswalk.

BETTING ROYAL COMMISSION

Scope of Inquiry

7. Mr. HAWKE asked the Attorney-General:

Is he in a position to give the House any information with regard to the question I put to him the other evening in connection with the terms of reference of the Royal Commission on betting and horse-racing now current? The question is as to whether the terms of reference are considered to be sufficiently wide to allow a searching inquiry to be made into the actual conduct and management of horse-racing on registered racing and trotting tracks when betting is associated with those races?

Mr. WATTS replied:

I submitted the hon. member's query to the Solicitor-General, and my best way of answering it is to read his memorandum to me, under today's date, which is as follows:—

In reply to your verbal inquiry I confirm that, in my opinion, the Royal Commission now sitting may receive evidence as to the administration or control of racing clubs, provided that the evidence sufficiently relates to betting within the State on horse-racing.

I sought verbally from the Solicitor-General, as I have already informed the Leader of the Opposition, a fuller explanation of the last few words. He said that he was only desirous of excluding such things as the administration of the dining room or the methods by which the staff were employed, and things of that nature. So long as they were associated with horse-racing and betting his opinion was as stated.

Protection of Witnesses

8. Mr. HAWKE asked the Attorney-General:

Earlier this week a conflict developed in the House regarding the various types of witnesses who might appear before the Royal Commission on horse-racing and betting. Is the Attorney-General in a position to clarify the position now?

Mr. WATTS replied:

The same circumstances apply in regard to this question, and this memo. is from the Solicitor-General dated yesterday—

In my opinion the protection to be afforded to witnesses by the proposed new section 12(3) will apply only to witnesses who are summoned to attend the Commission under section 2 of the principal Act. Since the Royal Commission is not a court, any person may make statements to the Commission otherwise than at a sitting of the Commission. The Bill would not afford protection to any such witnesses. The framers apparently contemplated that the only witnesses who should be afforded protection are those who formally attend before the Commission in response to a summons, whereupon they would be properly examined touching the matter to be inquired into by the Commission.

Summoning of Witnesses

9. Mr. HAWKE asked the Attorney-General:

Do I understand from what the Attorney-General has just read that all witnesses who give evidence in public before the Commissioner will in fact be summoned witnesses?

Mr. WATTS replied:

The system is as I indicated the other night. It is intended to ascertain from persons who desire to give evidence in such a fashion the tenor of the evidence they desire to give. Having ascertained the tenor of the evidence, if the Commissioner is prepared to hear it he will issue his summons.

SCHOOL DESKS AND CHAIRS*Tenders*

10. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

With reference to question No. 35 on today's notice paper, regarding school desks and chairs, what was the name of the successful tenderer?

Mr. WILD replied:

From memory I think the name of the successful tenderer was H. and L. Vawser.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY*Ninth Day*

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MR. MANN (Avon Valley) [2.44]: I feel that I am competent to speak to the debate this afternoon after the contribution made by my worthy colleague, the member for Murray, last night. He made a delightful speech telling us of the events that have occurred in this House over the years. Like him, this is my third term on this side of the House, and I purposely decided to sit in the cross-benches on this occasion so that I could look at both sides and try to view things without any bias and with a completely open mind. These three years will be my last term in Parliament.

Mr. May: You have said that before.

Mr. Graham: We heard another "Nellie" last night.

Mr. MANN: This is very definite. I look at Parliament in an entirely different light. On this occasion I am not vote-catching—not that I have been before—but after listening to my colleague speak last night I thought I would take this opportunity of speaking. The speech of the member for Murray last night, when he related all those small incidents, was delightful. It was full of humour.

I wish to congratulate you, too, Mr. Speaker. You and I both know what elections are because we have had to fight them—a bit fair and a bit foul; but we both won on this occasion. I am very pleased that you are occupying that position, and I offer you my sincere congratulations both on winning the election and on being appointed Speaker.

I wish to pay tribute to the electors of Avon Valley and to thank them for re-electing me by a majority of nearly 1,000 votes. That is no small number, and I am immensely proud of being able to represent them once again in Parliament. I also extend a sincere welcome to the new members of the House—on both sides—and I wish to comment that the material in this House to-day is the best that I have seen for a long time.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Toms: You'll get on.

Mr. MANN: With their help we will build a solid core, and in that I include my worthy friend on my right, the bashful member for Toodyay.

Mr. Craig: He won't be bashful for long.

Mr. MANN: When I look back at my long years in the political life of this State I find they have been most interesting. I can

remember sitting here during the time the Mitchell-Latham Government was in power. It was in office for three years and then went out for a mighty long time—14 solid years. Of course we suffered because of the results of the depression; and we were abused and held responsible for everything.

In those days Labour was a powerful force; it had men like Collier, Millington, Troy and that type, and in the party there was also the nucleus of the strength to come in men like Hawke, Tonkin and that type. It was powerful for many years, but as time has gone on there has been a change, and today the party is not as vigorous as it was nine years ago. That sort of thing happens everywhere. Even if my colleagues do not like what I am about to say, I feel I must say it because I believe it to be true. I am glad that the member for Northam, his deputy and the member for East Perth were returned to Parliament at the last elections.

Sir Ross McLarty: But on the Opposition side.

Mr. MANN: I told the electors of Avon Valley that these men were too good to lose; we could not afford to lose them. In the past, Labour has been a strong opposition, but the tragic part of it is that the same cannot be said today. I believe that the first consideration should not be to the party but to the welfare of the State. I sincerely hope that when the time does come—and I hope it will be a long time yet—when the Opposition once more becomes the Government, the new blood that is coming into the parties on this side of the House will be responsible for things being done which will be beneficial to the State.

With the new blood that we are getting on this side of the House I am hopeful that what I tried to do some years ago will be achieved, and that we will have one solid party on this side, instead of two different ones. If we can sit as one party when we are a Government, surely to God we can sit as one party when we are in Opposition! Surely there should be more to it than party politics! I have never been a strong party man; I left the Country Party in the hope that we would be able to have one united party among the anti-Labour forces in this State.

When I sat behind Sir Charles Latham, he preached a policy which the Government is carrying out today. I hope the member for Murray will not be annoyed at what I have to say but I believe that this Government is the first one that has really carried out Liberal policy in this State for many years.

Mr. Hawke: Unfortunately.

Mr. MANN: I realise that when the member for Murray was Premier he could not do much about carrying out Liberal policy; times were different, and he could do little

about it. But the present Government was elected on the Liberal Party policy. It was in 1914, that Scaddan, who was the first Labour Premier after Daglish, started all the State trading concerns, including butchers' shops and fish shops and heaven knows what; and that nearly ruined the country. And State trading concerns have been carried on ever since by all Governments.

But we now have a Government that has the courage to make a few changes. I hope I will live a few more years to see the fruits of this Government's work. The Premier has assumed office at a time when big and important changes are taking place in Australia. In 1930, no-one visualised that there would be the finance and the air of prosperity that there is throughout the whole of the Commonwealth today. In 1930 we thought we were completely down and out. Thousands of men were unemployed, and farmers were in misery. Today, however, there is an air of prosperity everywhere. I contend that we are the only part of the civilised world, outside the Iron Curtain, which offers ample opportunity for investment and advancement.

Mr. Hawke: The only danger now is that peace might break out in the world.

Mr. MANN: I only hope that I will not live to see another World War. I hope that peace will be maintained.

Mr. Cornell: Not while you are on the Liberal side.

Mr. MANN: I had better not reply to that interjection from my friend sitting behind me because what I could say might be regarded as being unparliamentary. Today Australia has great chances of making rapid and tremendous progress.

I now wish to refer to remarks that are made about members of Parliament. I get very annoyed when I hear men say, "I would not be seen dead in Parliament," or, "I would not lower myself to be in Parliament." In my opinion, Parliament is a respectable club. When people make such remarks I think it is very unfortunate, because undoubtedly parliamentary Government is the only form of Government that is worth while. In reply to one man who made such a remark, I said, "You are the one who would moan like blazes if there were a dictatorship in the country." We should do everything in our power to keep this Parliament on a high plane. I admit that the Press does not offer any help. The whole of the Australian Press today, unfortunately—contrary to the attitude adopted by the English Press—seems to do everything it can to lower the prestige of Parliament.

In England a member of the House of Commons is regarded as being an extremely important person—that has been traditional throughout parliamentary history—but in Australia today the Press is

most anxious to besmire the good name of Parliament; and the comment is often made that a member of Parliament neither toils nor spins. The day will come when there will be retribution, and those who publish such statements will earn their just deserts. Tribute should at least be paid to an institution that is worthy of the British Empire.

Mr. W. Hegney: You have a dictatorship now in the Legislative Council.

Mr. MANN: I will keep off that subject. Judging by the changes it has already effected, this Government apparently intends to carry out its policy to the letter, and it remains to be seen what the final result will be. I am a pretty fair critic myself, and am able, having reviewed the efforts and the demeanour of the Premier to date, to sum up how he has shaped; and I have also looked over his team of Ministers, and consider that both the Premier and his Ministers constitute a very good team. The Premier has had a baptism of fire since he has been sitting in that important seat on the front bench.

Mr. W. Hegney: He has plenty of people to consult.

Mr. MANN: He needs to consult no-one! He does not intend to play second fiddle to anyone!

Mr. Hawke: We have only been in first gear up to date.

Mr. MANN: Members need have no concern that he will not carry out the policy of his party to the satisfaction of the people of this State.

Mr. Graham: You will find out!

Mr. MANN: I will find out; I am fully convinced that at the end of three years, unless something drastic happens, we will be returned to office again.

Mr. Graham: We will fire nobody!

Mr. MANN: That cry takes me back to the time when Sir James Mitchell was in power. The cry then was: "Work, work!"

Mr. Graham: We will fire nobody!

Mr. MANN: However, Sir James Mitchell did his job.

Mr. Andrew: He nearly ruined the State.

Mr. MANN: So long as this State is a State, we will always have unemployment; it cannot be avoided. At least today there is some measure of assistance available for unemployed persons until they are able to find work again. However, it is impossible to create work for all. It is childish to think otherwise. Everything depends on the financial condition of the State.

Mr. Hawke: There is no shortage of work.

Mr. MANN: I now want to touch on an important subject namely, the relationship between the States and the Commonwealth. I am a Liberal; and I want to

say quite clearly that every Commonwealth member, irrespective of the party to which he belongs, has only a Commonwealth point of view and not a State point of view.

Mr. Hawke: I have heard many Liberal members say worse than that about you.

Mr. MANN: Yes, I know. Today we are a mendicant State relying on the few crumbs that are dropped by the Commonwealth. Neither Menzies nor any other Prime Minister has had any respect or consideration for Western Australia. That attitude is common, not only to all Commonwealth Governments, but also to all Commonwealth members. They have not been concerned with this State; but we are the ones who put them in power.

Mr. Cornell: The only time State members have their uses is during a Federal election.

Mr. MANN: If you approach them on any matter concerning the welfare of this State they are horrified. Commonwealth Governments, whether Labour or Liberal, have done nothing to assist this State.

Mr. Andrew: The Commonwealth Labour Government was only in office during wartime.

Mr. MANN: The Commonwealth Labour Government had a long run. The hon. member need not worry about that.

Mr. Andrew: I'm not worrying.

Mr. MANN: I wonder how we are to carry on? Whatever Government is in office, the question that is always put to it is: How are you going to finance the State? In my opinion this Parliament of ours is no longer a House in which legislation is passed. It is purely an administrative body. It is a business concern which knows that it will be granted a certain amount of money from its shareholders, and it is given the responsibility to control the cost of administration. I have seen Bill after Bill pass through this House, none of which was worth a damn. It gets down purely to a question of administration.

I have faith, however, in the members of Cabinet, some of whom are experienced in certain spheres. A change of Government has never done any harm to the State. I think any Government that has served the State for nine years needs to be changed. It is only human nature for men, after occupying an office for several years, to follow the line of least resistance and begin to take things easy.

As I said previously, we are entirely dependent on the finance that is provided by the Commonwealth Government; and there is no doubt that if the prosperity of this State is to continue, and if the northern part of this State is to be developed, we must have finance.

The first essential is that parties on both sides of the House should form themselves into a strong combined movement and submit a case to the Commonwealth for better conditions in Western Australia. That would be a most important and necessary step. We find, however, that year after year we go on in the same manner and nothing is done. We all know how important and necessary a safe and assured water supply is for our country areas; but we do not seem to be able to impress on the Commonwealth Government that funds should be made available for this purpose. Yet, on the other hand, we find that Government is spending something like £400,000,000 on the Snowy River project, and similar vast sums on other projects.

We are desperately short of water, and it is galling to find that we will have at our disposal only a limited amount of money to provide this essential commodity for our country areas. In passing I would like to pay a tribute to the ex-Minister for Works, for the work he inaugurated in connection with the development of water schemes in this State. It is to his credit that he developed the whole of the Great Southern scheme, and also the water scheme in the wheatbelt area. We appreciate what he has done, and our grateful thanks go out to him.

We all know that Mr. McEwen, a Federal Minister and Leader of the Country Party in Canberra, was in Western Australia a short while ago. The suggestion of a wool subsidy was put to him by the Country Party, but he knocked it back without any hesitation at all, saying there was very little chance of this subsidy being paid. I know Mr. McEwen personally. He is a most able man, and I am sure it will be necessary for farmers to enlist his sympathy in their endeavours to secure more assistance. I think it is necessary for the people of Western Australia to make a determined stand, and indicate that they will not tolerate dictation from the Commonwealth Government. If we do this I am sure that our endeavours will meet with more success.

This matter of assistance for our State is an all-party issue; and if we present a united front to the Commonwealth, I am certain more money will be made available. It is most unsatisfactory to find that the Premier of our State has to go cap in hand to the Commonwealth Government for the funds necessary to develop Western Australia.

Another most important issue which I would like to bring before the House is the establishment of a sewage farm in this State. We are all proud of our beaches, which are amongst the finest in Australia. But they are gradually being polluted by sewage. By the establishment of a sewage farm, we would eliminate this pollution and also bring revenue to the State. It might interest members to

know that, in Victoria, I saw the Werribee sewage farm, which is a wonderful source of production. The farmers in Western Australia will no doubt say that the price of their stock will be affected if we establish a sewage farm here. That was the cry in Victoria until the last world war, when the Americans took charge of the farms and proved that no ill effects on the meat arose from the use of the pastures on those farms.

A great deal of our sandy and light country could be used if we established a proper system of sewage farming. I understand that, in Werribee, over 70,000,000 gallons of purified water pass into the sea. The time will not be too far distant when this State of ours will have double the population it has now—we could even have a population of 1,000,000 people in Perth alone. The question is: What are we going to do about it?

Two of the most important aspects of this matter are, firstly, an accumulation of filth; and, secondly, an enormous waste of money. I understand that at Werribee the authorities are running 17,000 head of cattle. Half of these are pure-bred Aberdeen Angus cattle, while the other half are pure-bred Herefords. Some of these heifers are being sold to farmers as the nucleus of new stock. I am certain that we could do the same thing here, but no Government has faced up to these problems.

Mr. Jamieson: Wouldn't that be a socialistic undertaking?

Mr. MANN: There are limits to socialism; the scheme I have in mind is to help the people.

Mr. Bickerton: The cattle will not know.

Mr. MANN: I hope the Government will give serious consideration to what I have said. In conclusion, I will only say that I am very glad to be back in Parliament for a further term. There is no doubt that parliamentary life grows on one. My associations here have been most enjoyable, and I have developed the greatest respect for our members and for their views. We can at least say that a friendship does grow up amongst us; we seem to have the distinction of being able to forget all our differences once we leave this Chamber.

I do not think that any other Parliament in the Commonwealth of Australia has a greater capacity for camaraderie and goodwill among its members. We may get heated during our discussions in this Chamber; but once we leave, all that bitterness is forgotten. I thank members for their great kindnesses to me, and I can assure them that I propose to serve out my full time here.

Mr. W. Hegney: I hope we will hear from you again.

Mr. MANN: I am sure the hon. member will find great inspiration in my speeches. I am glad to say that you, Sir, have nothing more to worry about. I have watched

your progress very carefully, and it is a source of great satisfaction to me to know that you have attained the high position you now hold. My congratulations are also extended to my friend, the member for Bunbury, on his elevation to the position of Chairman of Committees. I am sure he will prove worthy of the honour. Finally, I express the wish that the present Government will have every success in the furtherance of its policy. I support the motion.

MR. ROWBERRY (Warren) [3.7]: I must say that I feel considerably cheered and heartened by the inspiration I have derived from the hon. member who has just resumed his seat. Like other new members in this House, I have always felt a considerable amount of nervousness on rising to my feet. I had a talk last night with the member for "Stratford-on-Avon," and asked him if he was "going" today. He said, "Yes, if I can pluck up enough courage."

Mr. Brand: At least he was honest.

Mr. ROWBERRY: After hearing him speak, however, I have derived great heart.

Mr. Hawke: Our supporters will be prepared to re-elect the hon. member!

Mr. ROWBERRY: The occasion of the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply is generally used by members to put forward long lists of requirements for their respective constituencies; they seem to adopt the role of mendicants. Either that or they mount their hobby-horses and proceed on a joyride around Western Australia or even Australia.

Mr. May: It will cost you more to go around the metropolitan area shortly.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I suggest to the hon. member that we should take that up in a special committee! Last evening I was very interested in some of the remarks made by the member for Murray. He was full of beans—I was about to add, also full of good humour and spirits. He certainly did go to market. I was most interested in the way he moved along the back bench and, leaning over, told the Premier, "Don't you worry about those fellows over there, Davie boy; I am right behind you." As a matter of fact I could almost hear him saying, "Gang down the burn Davie lad, and I will follow thee."

Whether Davie fell in the burn and got drowned is another story. It must be a source of great satisfaction to the member for Murray to sit back and not have to face the bowling. It was most interesting to see his reaction when the bowling was on the other evening; when members from this side of the House were hurling down no-balls, wides, inswingers and outswingers, and even Chinamen.

The hon. member referred to the Chinese population. According to him, very soon every second person in the world will be a Chinese. I cannot agree with the ideas he expressed on the question of economics. He said that a man was growing old when he ceased to have ideas; I do not know what ideas he meant. However, I shall deal with his ideas on economics.

He claimed that the establishment of the Kwinana steel rolling mill was a wonderful thing for the State. I have no doubt that he thinks so. Any man who brings forth an industrial child like the Kwinana rolling mill, has something to be proud of. But I could not understand or reconcile his attitude with the giving away of the State's right to exploit its iron ore deposits in connection with the Kwinana steel rolling mill.

Mr. Brand: We cannot understand why your Government intended to give away our iron ore at 3d. a ton.

Mr. ROWBERRY: He said, in effect, that it was a good thing. Let us examine what happens with the production of iron at Kwinana. The iron ore is mined at Yampi Sound in the North. It is sent in ships to the B.H.P. works in the East, where it is smelted and converted into ingots. The product is then brought back to the Kwinana steel rolling mill, and turned into steel plates, which are then exported to the East. According to the member for Murray, that is a good thing. To my mind, and according to my conception of economics, it is a good thing, because the more money that is spent in the production of an article, the more money there is in existence for the purchase or consumption of that article. The political philosophy to which the hon. member subscribes reckons these are not costs to be reduced.

There is quite enough scope for this in the cost of production of steel plate at the Kwinana rolling mill, especially when we realise that the B.H.P. obtains the iron ore from the State of Western Australia at something like 1s. 6d. per ton. Against that, the price paid by the British Steel Corporation is £7 15s., Australian, per ton of ore. We can see that great difference between the price paid by the B.H.P. for iron ore as against the price which it ought to pay, although the member for Murray says he has no regrets about the price now being paid to this State. For that reason we can see why so much money can be spent in taking ore to the B.H.P. works over East, bringing it back as ingots to this State, and exporting the finished product to the East again.

Mr. Hawke: The B.H.P. is now sending some to Russia.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I congratulate the Government on being elected to office, and the Premier and his Ministers on their

appointment as Ministers of the Crown. My congratulations are tinged with a little regret, but that is quite understandable.

The source of my disappointment is two-fold. Firstly, I am disappointed with the way in which this Government has precipitately rushed in and sacked men from the Public Works Department day-labour force. I am strongly of the opinion that before taking that action the Government should have set up a subcommittee to go into all the ramifications of this case, so as to ascertain whether there were more avenues of employment than obtain at present. Despite the explanation of the Premier a few days ago that his Government would create more employment, the fact is that he will be merely redistributing the existing amount of employment. The cake is no bigger; only certain people will get a bigger slice.

Had the Government meant what it said at the hustings—namely, that industry was for the people and for the welfare of the people—it would not have dismissed these men. Instead, it would have appointed a committee to find ways and means whereby no man was deprived of work in the transition period between day labour and contract work.

As stated by the member for South Perth, the question of native welfare should be approached from the attitude of Christian consideration. If the natives are entitled to Christian consideration, then so are the workmen of this State who have a different pigmentation of skin.

The other point which is the source of my disappointment has already been touched on—that is, the exploitation of the great deposits of iron ore in this State. I was disappointed that every mineral except iron ore was mentioned in the Governor's Speech. It was stated that private companies were to take steps to exploit the possibilities. His Excellency stated—

Much interest is being shown by large exploratory companies in our mineral deposits, and active operations in the search for bauxite, copper, nickel, uranium, asbestos, gypsum, manganese, and other minerals are proceeding.

Iron ore could be included in the list of other minerals; but I should have thought that the most important mineral to the economy of this State would be the first-mentioned.

I gained considerable satisfaction from the fact that the member for Murchison during this debate indicated that the Government would probably institute operations to determine the extent of our deposits of iron ore. Knowing the party discipline which is maintained on members opposite, I could not imagine that the party would allow a new member to get so much out of step as to mention, to the

detriment of his party, such a thing as an export license for iron ore. I am hopeful that one of the greatest mediums for creating employment and wealth in this State will soon be taken up by the Government.

The member for Avon Valley stated that the Federal members of Parliament for this State do not do Western Australia much good at all times. In my opinion one occasion when they did not do the State any good was when the Hawke Government was seeking a license for the export of iron ore. I reject the idea that an export license was refused because there was a possibility of a shortage of iron ore to meet Australia's future demands. The known deposits of iron ore in this State are sufficient, according to several authorities, to last for another 278 years.

By that time, even the member for Avon Valley will be forgotten. The rate of consumption of iron ore in 1957 was 389,686 tons. At that rate of consumption, the iron ore deposits should last for 278 years. Therefore, if the Government wants to create employment and wealth in this State it could very well take the matter up with the Federal Government. The main deposits of iron ore in Western Australia total 295,592,000 tons. That figure is the result of merely a cursory examination. It could well represent the deposits on the surface; and the real deposits could probably be three or four times that amount. The British Steel Corporation is paying £7 15s. for iron ore from all over the world.

If the Government really wants to advance the economy of the State; and if it really wants to help the Old Country, it should get a license to export iron ore. If it objects to exporting iron ore to Japan, the ore could go to Britain which is in dire need of it. Even at ten times the price of 1s. 6d. per ton we would still be showing a profit on what is being obtained now and would also be helping the Old Country along.

By this means we would obtain the necessary finance to develop our great North-West, about which we have heard so much in this Parliament. Having slated the Government and told it what to do, I now desire, on behalf of my electorate of Warren, to join the long list of mendicants.

I represent an electorate which covers an area of 100 miles by 150 miles. It is bounded in the north by Nannup, and in the south by Walpole, about which the member for Claremont told us something the other evening. The electorate has five principal centres and seven major timber mills. The principal needs of these towns are water and electricity.

To deal with the north first, Nannup could be described as being between the devil of Manjimup and the deep sea of

Busselton. It seems to be a sleepy little town which the gods have passed by. I am hoping that the development of the pine plantations in Nannup, together with the tourist industry, will help considerably to raise the status of that town and give it some impetus.

Its present great need is for a water system. This is in common with a lot of other places. Water is the great need in the State, for domestic, commercial, and agricultural purposes. Nannup is no less wanting in that respect than any other town. It also has a school which is practically falling to pieces. I believe representations have been made to the Minister for Education for something to be done about it. On today's notice paper I placed a question concerning that school, but it was postponed. On behalf of Nannup, I am hopeful that the school will receive attention in the near future, and that alterations and renovations will be carried out.

The member for Claremont has already told the House that Walpole is an ideal fishing centre. It is also a beautiful tourist resort. What is mostly required there at the present time, is the linking up of the bitumen road between Nornalup and Shannon River. This road gets into a bad state of repair during certain periods of the year, as various members of both parties who contested the recent election in the Warren area will know. If this were done we would have a complete bituminous link between Perth, Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, Augusta, Nannup, Pemberton, Shannon River, Walpole, Denmark and back to Perth. This would make an ideal tourist run and would add considerably to the development of Walpole as a tourist resort.

There is also in my electorate a thriving little town by the name of Northcliffe which has been described as the last place God made; and which, unfortunately, is deteriorating so far as settlement is concerned. I have from one of my constituents at Northcliffe a list, showing that 15 farms are unoccupied and up for sale. Eight of them are ex-tobacco farms, and the other seven are dairy farms. If anyone wants to buy a farm at a throw-away price, and does not mind living in the nether-lands or outer spaces of this State, I advise him to go to Northcliffe.

I have drawn the attention of the Minister for Lands to the situation. At the present time these farms are going back to bush, and very soon the value of the asset to this State will have deteriorated to nothing. I am desirous that the Minister for Lands should pay a visit to Northcliffe as soon as possible so that he can go into the question of the vacant farms. I suggest to the Minister for Lands that he allow the sons of farmers on adjacent occupied farms to take over these properties at a nominal rental to preserve—if for no other purpose—the asset for the

State. This would be a distinct gain, and the matter could be taken up with great advantage both to Northcliffe and the State as a whole.

Northwards from Northcliffe we arrive at the town of Pemberton which, at the present time, is very disturbed. I say that, despite the fact that the Minister for Industrial Development visited Pemberton recently, for which I am thankful.

Pemberton is a town which depends primarily on its sawmills. It is to the credit of the Hawke Government that it kept the small sawmill going on double shift when the main one was burnt down. In this way, people were kept in employment, and purchasing power was distributed throughout the community. After all, it is the purpose of Parliament, not to save money but to spend it. If a Government starts off to save money, it will do itself out of a job. The idea is to spend money and spend it in the best possible way. I shudder when I hear responsible Ministers say they will save money. Money is a costless creation, but we will not go into that point at present.

Pemberton is very much concerned with the future of its mill—that is, its economic future. Even though the Minister gives us a promise that in future a major mill will be built at Pemberton and that there will always be a major mill there, it cannot be said that the same conditions as at present will obtain if the mill passes into private hands. For instance, long service leave will be altered. At present employees, at the end of 10 years, enjoy long service leave of three months' duration; but should the mill pass into private hands, then the period of employment before long service leave would accrue would be increased to 20 years.

The position of compensation would also be altered. Numerous cases have been brought to my notice where men in private mills have had their compensation cheques deducted from their holiday pay if they go off on compensation just before either the Easter or the Christmas holidays. This is provided for in the Act, which states that a person cannot have any other emoluments while being paid compensation. Private companies enforce this provision, with the result that if, for instance, a married man is out on compensation and he draws his holiday pay in order to have a holiday or buy toys, or such-like Christmas comforts for his children, he will have the amount of his holiday cheque deducted from his compensation. As I say, this may be legally right, and it can be justified under the law; but, morally, it is iniquitous. In the State mills, this provision is not enforced. If a man goes on compensation, he is paid, in addition, his full holiday pay.

Then there is the question of holiday pay. Under the Timber Workers' Award, holiday pay is at the rate of 11-1/3rd hours per month of continuous service.

This continuous service provision in the award is exploited by the private employers to the extent that if a man should lose a day's work in one month, the private employer deducts the whole 11-1/3rd hours from him. This is another iniquitous situation which does not apply in the State mills. In the State mills a formula is followed in that if a man loses one day in one month, and there are 25 working days in a month, he would lose 1/25th of that 11-1/3rd hours. That is a just and reasonable rule to apply, and it is in keeping with the spirit behind the award.

I merely submit these points to the House to illustrate that although a major mill might continue to operate in Pemberton, the same conditions will certainly not apply. This will reflect on the economy of the town because all these things will make a reduction in the purchasing or spending power of the people.

Pemberton has done great things for itself; and if at any time a town has worked for itself and created things for itself with a minimum of assistance from a Government, I would say Pemberton has. It has made a name for itself throughout the whole world from the tourist angle. This has been made possible by the fact that there has been a steady and constant income from the State mills. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that the initiative and efficiency of its citizens have largely contributed to that situation. Roads have been constructed through the forests, thus enabling tourist buses to travel amongst the giant timbers. A natural swimming pool has been built by voluntary labour; and hatcheries, which distribute fish throughout the whole of Australia, have been established.

Clubs and funds have been formed, all designed to provide help where necessary. Included in the funds, is one called the Mutual Aid Fund of which I am one of the founders. This fund, in its short existence, has paid out a total of £1,725 to such things as a swimming pool; cemeteries; girl guide headquarters; school, hockey, and recreation grounds; hospital facilities; nurses' quarters; infant health centre; and basket ball courts. This illustrates that when Pemberton asks for assistance from the Government—and I hope it will not be put on the bottom of a long list—it does not do so without first having done things for itself.

Northwards of Pemberton, is Manjimup, which is the main centre of the Warren area. In fact, it contains 50 per cent. of the inhabitants of that district. This town also has difficulties and requirements peculiar to itself. Practically 90 per cent. of the bridges and culverts in the district are falling into disrepair because of the heavy haulage over them. I would like to ask the Minister for Forests to have small reserves of jarrah timber set aside near one of the mills so that repairs to these bridges and culverts can be made at a minimum

cost. This will be reflected not only in the economy of Manjimup, but also in that of the entire State.

Mr. Jamieson drew attention to the state of the House.

Bells rung and a quorum formed.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Before the interruption, I was dealing with the desire of the road board to have a timber reserve set aside for necessary repairs. If the Government continues its present policy of dissipating the P.W.D. work force and plant, it will be necessary for the work to be carried out by the local governing authorities; and therefore a modification of the policy of the Forests Department is vital. The board has already made a request to the Minister that the reserve be granted. I again stress the fact that without the P.W.D. work force to continue the work on main roads, all that work will necessarily fall on the local authorities, as will the spending of money on roads and their maintenance.

I wish to express my appreciation of all the local governing bodies and the people who voluntarily give their services to the community and so enable the processes of Government to be carried on efficiently. The fact that there are so many people in the community willing to give their time and services without any emolument at all is remarkable. Without them the processes of modern government and civilisation would fall to the ground.

Manjimup has a peculiar problem in regard to its high school. I have here a communication from the Parents and Citizens' Association, telling me about a meeting which was called to deal with the erection of a hostel. It seems that the efficiency of the five-year high school, which is in process of being erected at Manjimup, is being seriously interfered with by the fact that there is no accommodation for students who wish to attend that school.

That high school caters for the outlying mills and for Bridgetown, Pemberton, Shannon, Walpole, and Northcliffe. At the end of 1957 there were 14 students offering, but only four attended.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Mr. ROWBERRY: I was dealing with the question of student hostels for the Manjimup five-year high school, and pointed out that of the 14 students offering at the end of 1957, only four went to the Manjimup High School. At the end of 1958 there were 20 students offering and only six went to that school. Information obtained from the respective schools indicates that in 1960, if accommodation can be found, the following children will attend the Manjimup High School:—

Northwood—7 boys, 4 girls.

Pemberton—4 boys.

Bridgetown—5 boys, 7 girls.

Total—16 boys, 11 girls.

There would probably be others as well. It is vitally necessary that this school be enabled to accommodate these students. It is essential for the economy of this country that we have trained technicians, and facilities should be provided to enable students who are willing and able to continue their studies into the higher spheres to do so. I am apprehensive that if accommodation for these students is not provided in Manjimup the parents of the children concerned will decide that probably it would be better if they shifted to Bunbury or elsewhere. If the children are denied the right to undertake further study, this State will probably lose acquisitions to its scientists and technicians.

The Government has indicated that, under certain conditions it will provide the finance for student hostels. But there is no building in Manjimup which can be modified to house students, and it would be necessary to build a new hostel. If it is a question of money, then I say that money is a costless creation, as I will prove in a few moments.

There is another crying need in Manjimup, and that is for something to be done for the group of children known as the slow learners' group. The self-appointed committee which operates in Manjimup is doing a wonderful job in looking after these children who, through no fault of their own or of their parents, are deprived of certain of their faculties. Indeed, they could be described as those whom God has passed by in a certain way. It is vitally necessary that they be taken in hand and educated but kept apart from other children in the community.

It is a well-known fact that children are inevitably cruel; they are cruel to each other, particularly if anyone is afflicted, as these children are mentally. So it is necessary that they be not only educated apart but also housed apart. I put in a special plea to the Premier on behalf of the committee in Manjimup in the hope that the Government will give them some assistance by the provision of a hostel. They are in the process of erecting a school which is costing £2,000. A sum of £1,000 was granted by the Lotteries Commission, but their capital has now been expended, and they are prevented from carrying into operation the most essential part of the scheme—the provision of a hostel to house the children.

Children from Northcliffe, Shannon, Pemberton, Nannup, and surrounding districts will attend there. As I have already indicated, it is necessary for the happiness of these children, for the happiness and comfort of their parents, and for the happiness of their brothers and sisters, that they be educated in a place apart, and given individual attention.

This is a special appeal to the Premier for charity to be granted to these people. I believe that the member for Northam,

when he was Premier, promised these people he would grant a £ for £ subsidy to assist them to establish the school and hostel for mentally retarded children. I have here a letter from him to Mrs L. J. Davey, the Secretary of the Slow Learning Children's Group, which reads as follows:—

**Slow Learning Children's Group—
Manjimup Branch**

In reply to your letter to me of Wednesday last, I would advise I undertook to try to have suitable teachers made available by the Education Department in country centres where a sufficient number of slow learning children were available to receive special instruction.

In connection with the cost of the erection of suitable buildings for such children, I undertook to give careful consideration to making Government finance available provided the local people concerned also raised some finance. I think the basis suggested was £2 of Government money for every £1 raised by the local community.

Your members will understand that members of the new Government are entitled to initiate any policy they think advisable, both in connection with the supply of suitable teachers and also in relation to financing suitable buildings.

That was the promise made by the Leader of the Opposition who, at that time, was the Premier of the State. I can think of no other cause to which the Government could better apply humanitarian principles and extend some Christian consideration than this one. It is a section of the community that needs help along the lines set out in the letter written by Mr. Hawke. The Premier is the chief almoner of the State when it comes to helping people from Government funds, and I hope there is some money left to provide this group with the school and hospital they desire in order to assist the handicapped children.

A little while ago I said that money is a costless creation, and we should not worry much about it. In case we are in any doubt that banks can issue money at the cost of issue, after creating it from nothing, I will read the following report published in the *Manjimup and Warren Times* on Wednesday, the 4th March, 1959. The report deals with an article taken from the quarterly economic review made by the Bank of New South Wales. It points out the danger of banking legislation and the danger of Government-owned banks. Among other things, the article contains the following:—

“As a minimum, the Government should be prepared to tighten up the definition of the Development Bank's powers and, in doing so, might well

pay more regard to the constitution of the Industrial Bank of Canada", the bank suggests.

The bank explains that the Industrial Bank of Canada, which was established for somewhat similar purposes, is debarred from accepting deposits from the public, and its total lending is not allowed to exceed three times its capital and reserve fund.

In actual fact that means that the Bank of New South Wales admits that this Industrial Bank of Canada is permitted to lend three times the amount of money it actually has. So, in order to carry out these proposals I have mentioned during the course of my speech, we should institute some scheme whereby we could have this power to create money and place it in the hands of the Government where it can properly be spent.

The **SPEAKER**: The hon. member has five minutes left.

Mr. **ROWBERRY**: Having exhausted the requests I had to make on behalf of my constituents, I would like to say a few words on the subject of crosswalks which has been exercising the public mind for some weeks. My remarks are directed to the amendment to regulation No. 231. I was perturbed to read the other day, in the National Safety Council news circular, the following words:—

The former pedestrian crossing regulation was as unrealistic as it was unworkable. The new regulation, while retaining the essential priority for pedestrians, allows a common sense practical application of the regulation.

The old regulation reads as follows:—

The driver of every vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian crossing a roadway within any marked or defined pedestrian crossing except to the extent that the movement of all traffic approaching, crossing or using such pedestrian crossing is being regulated by a police officer or traffic inspector or by traffic signals.

There was no uncertainty about the old regulation. Without any ambiguity whatsoever it laid down that the pedestrian had absolute right of way whilst on a crossing. I have no doubt that if this regulation were not rigidly enforced and commonsense exercised—I think I have found that it was—it could lead to a traffic hold-up. It could be that a vehicle could be held up at a crossing in a street two chains wide because one pedestrian had entered the crossing at one side of the street. However, the regulation was never intended to be read in that way. The new regulation No. 231 reads as follows:—

(1) Where a pedestrian walking on a pedestrian crossing and a vehicle approaching or travelling on that

crossing are, if they continue on their respective courses, likely to collide on that crossing or to cause a dangerous situation, the driver of the vehicle shall reduce speed or stop the vehicle so as to enable the pedestrian to continue on his course without interruption.

In the first case the pedestrian was on the crossing and he had absolute right of way. Now the car driver and the pedestrian have to make up their minds whether, if they continue on their courses, they will cause a dangerous situation. The position as between vehicle and vehicle at a crossing and that between pedestrian and pedestrian are two entirely different matters. The additional proviso to regulation No. 231 reads as follows:—

Sub-regulation (1) of this regulation does not apply if the pedestrian has disregarded or failed to comply with a direction of a member of the Police Force, traffic inspector or traffic control light signal regulating or controlling the movement of traffic using or approaching or crossing the pedestrian crossing.

This means that, should the pedestrian make a mistake and walk on to the road, he is fair game for any motorist who might come along. With the application of the old regulation there was a considerable hold-up of traffic in the city block. It could be that a pedestrian who was 50 yards along the street on a sidewalk could enter a crossing at the time the vehicle had stopped at the crossing.

Mr. **J. HEGNEY**: I move—

That the hon. member's time be extended.

Motion put and passed.

Mr. **ROWBERRY**: So a totally unnecessary hold-up of traffic took place. That could easily have been overcome without reverting to the words that have been lifted from the proviso to regulation No. 190. Here a vehicle gives way to another on its right, and there is a clearly established situation; it is not merely a matter of opinion. The vehicle on the right has right of way and that is the end of it.

I find that in my electorate the people now believe—quite erroneously of course—that the pedestrian has no right on a crosswalk at all. As a matter of fact, I was nearly run down myself the last time I visited Manjimup. The driver glared at me as if I had no right to exist.

Mr. **Jamieson**: How would you get on in Hay Street?

Mr. **Evans**: He must have been a Liberal.

Mr. **ROWBERRY**: The situation could have been met by the proviso in regulation 231 in order to prevent an unnecessary hold-up of traffic. I know that something had to be done in regard to traffic turning

right or left at intersections, but the majority of intersections are controlled by lights, and that position does not arise. The matter of pedestrians crossing in the middle of the street, or between intersections, could have been met by the proviso in the old regulation stating, that when a vehicle had stopped at a pedestrian crossing to allow pedestrians to cross, no further pedestrians could enter the crossing after the vehicle had so stopped.

That would have taken care of the situation which has arisen now, and which has been the cause, in my opinion, of new regulation No. 231 being issued. In his explanation, the Minister said that this practice had operated in the Eastern States with advantage, and that we should therefore adopt it. In the matter of following, blindly, practices adopted in the Eastern States, I would like to quote an article from *The West Australian* of Thursday, the 9th July. It reads as follows:—

New Rules for N.S.W. Drivers

Sydney, Wed.—Widespread changes in motor vehicle regulations are expected in N.S.W. soon.

The changes, which the Government has been considering for some time, are likely to be in operation in two or three months.

One of the main changes will be to make safety glass compulsory on all vehicles, instead of being optional, as now.

Flashing light signals and traffic indicators, if adequate, are expected to be made legal.

Other expected changes are:

Compulsory dipping of headlights.

Rejection of smooth tyres.

Reflector bands along the back of large vehicles to prevent small cars from running under table-tops.

Automatic stop lights operated from the foot-brakes of large vehicles.

All the regulations mentioned in the article I have just read have been in existence in Western Australia for quite some time. Accordingly, I cannot follow the reasoning of the Minister for Police when he says we should follow the example set by the Eastern States.

MR. MOIR (Boulder) [4.28]: May I, Sir, add my congratulations to those of other members, on your being elected to the high position you hold. Like other members, I would also offer my best wishes and congratulations to the member for Bunbury on his appointment as Chairman of Committees. As a former holder of that office, and as one who has deputised and sat in the Chair you now occupy, I appreciate the difficult task it is sometimes necessary for you to carry out. I think we all know that it is not as easy as it looks. The occupant of the Chair may appear to sit and look

quite relaxed, but I know it is necessary for you to be most observant and on the *qui vive* the whole time, because while you sit there you do not have too many friends on the floor of the House—by that I mean that members will try to take advantage of you if they feel they can get away with it. I think you are quite capable of dealing with those situations.

As I represent a mining electorate, much of my speech will deal with the mining industry. I regret the Premier is not in the Chamber, as much of what I have to say will, of necessity, be directed to him. The conditions under which the industry is conducted in the part of the State I represent are not easy by any means. While some of the larger companies are doing fairly well, others are not so prosperous; and indeed in the past the latter have had to seek substantial Government assistance. Furthermore, there is a much reduced band of prospectors and small mineowners. A large proportion of them face great difficulties from time to time, and are in need of Government assistance.

We know and we are grateful that the Federal Government has seen fit to grant some assistance. Although that assistance is welcome, it does not go far enough. The assistance is not as great to the small prospector or small syndicate as is imagined, owing to the limitations which are imposed. The Government of which I was a member in the later stages, made many representations to the Commonwealth Government for increased assistance to the goldmining industry, but it was not successful.

With a change of Government, many people thought—seeing that the new State Government was of the same political complexion as the Federal Government—that more consideration would be given to appeals made by the State for consideration of various aspects of State problems, among them being the need for assistance to the goldmining industry.

We find, however, that the new Government has not made any difference to the industry, although the Commonwealth Government has re-enacted the legislation under which it has continued to grant assistance and increased the assistance slightly. But the assistance is nowhere near enough. It cannot be compared, in any way, with the aid given by the Commonwealth Government to some other industries in this country, which do not and cannot possibly have as great a claim for assistance as the goldmining industry.

The change of Government aroused considerable interest throughout the State, and in particular on the goldfields; and it was expected that this Government would do as much as the previous administration. The people wanted to know whether the policy adopted by the previous Government in regard to the goldmining industry would be continued. They were agreeably surprised at the promises made

by the Government, during the short time it has been in office.

But when those promises are examined, it will be seen that they are rather nebulous. Many people on the goldfields would like to have something definite as to what this Government proposes to do for the goldmining industry. It is all very well to make airy promises. No doubt many people will be watching with interest the budget proposals when this Government introduces the Estimates for the ensuing 12 months.

The people in the goldmining industry would have been satisfied had assurances been given that the same assistance would be rendered, wherever necessary, as was rendered in the past. This Government went further than that, and made all sorts of glowing promises of more assistance to the industry. Here I wish to quote something printed in *The West Australian* of the 27th May. It is as follows:—

More Aid for Gold Likely

State Government backed diamond-drilling programmes and geological research would probably be stepped up to revive the goldmining industry in Western Australia, Mines Minister Griffith said in Kalgoorlie today.

On his first visit to Kalgoorlie since assuming his portfolio, the Minister addressed 400 students and visitors before officially opening extensions to the Eastern Goldfields Technical School.

There is nothing new about the Government-backed diamond-drilling programmes. They were instituted by the previous Government soon after it took office in 1953, and considerable funds have been made available for the programmes to be carried out.

The assurance that geological research would probably be stepped up rather intrigued me, because I am fully aware of the difficulty of obtaining the services of the highly-trained men. I know the Mines Department is fully staffed, and it has obtained the services of as many geologists as possible. I was wondering whether, through some good fortune, the present Government has been able to obtain the services of more geologists. I would be interested to hear that is the case, because I know the existing staff of the Mines Department has been fully engaged in geological research for many years past.

To say that geological research would be stepped up could only mean that more officers have been engaged. As their services are in great demand by oil companies, and mining companies in search of minerals all over Australia—and indeed all over the world—it seems rather strange, and it may be good fortune on the part of the Mines Department if it has obtained the services of more geologists.

In the *Kalgoorlie Miner* of the 27th May, the following appeared:—

"New Look" Government Policy Hinted State Minister Will Recommend More Assistance to Gold Mining

State Government-backed diamond-drilling programmes were likely to be stepped up and geological research increased, the Minister for Mines, Mr. A. F. Griffith, said in Kalgoorlie yesterday.

It spoke about the value of the assistance to mining and the value of geological research and diamond drilling. That is very interesting. Some of the harder heads among us would like to know, in view of all the diamond-drilling plants owned by the Mines Department having been fully occupied for some considerable time, how the Government proposes to implement its promise.

[*The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Roberts) took the Chair.*]

As I said before, the geologists are fully occupied carrying out surveys. I know that mention has been made of surveys that were begun by the previous Government; and they were mentioned in such a way that one would be inclined to think they had been started by the present Government. That was not the case. I refer to a survey carried out between Kalgoorlie and Norseman which will occupy at least two geologists working full time for two years or longer. That survey was started previously, and I hope this Government is not claiming that programme as being part of its new look in mining.

We were fortunate enough to have the Premier visit the goldfields about the 12th June. People on the goldfields are anxious to know something of a more authentic and definite nature about this programme. *The Kalgoorlie Miner* had this to say under the heading, "Premier Quizzed on Extent of Aid to Gold Mining"—

The extent of State assistance to the mining industry would depend upon Western Australia's loan fund allocation this month, the Premier, Mr. Brand, said in Kalgoorlie yesterday.

Mr. Brand, who will attend the Loan Council meeting and Premiers' conference in Canberra at the end of this month, confirmed the recent statement by the Minister for Mines, Mr. Griffith, that the State Government aimed at giving a greater impetus to the mining industry.

I think you will agree, Mr. Deputy Speaker, that the statements I have read out this afternoon would lead people in the goldmining industry to believe that they were to receive something in advance of what they obtained previously.

While the Premier did not say anything definite, he did say that all sorts of things were going to happen.

Mr. W. Hegney: All propaganda!

Mr. MOIR: Later, the Premier struck a rather discordant note, which was surprising, because we saw this heading in *The Kalgoorlie Miner* of the 24th June, "W.A. May Get £2,000,000 More Than Last Year."

It was rather surprising to be informed, a few days after the Premier had visited Kalgoorlie, that he was disappointed in the amount of loan money he was to receive. I think that an extra £2,000,000 would be sufficient for quite a bit of work, even allowing for the inflationary period through which we are passing. Even though the Premier received £2,000,000 more than previously, he was disappointed.

I can understand that even if £20,000,000 more were granted to this State, any Government could find plenty of essential work to justify the spending of that money. Governments know approximately what amount they will receive; and I am quite sure that the Premier did not go to the Loan Council thinking that a sizeable sum in excess of the previous year would be handed to him. It was surprising to see that the Premier was disappointed when he received £2,000,000 more, especially in view of the fact that in this House, when the previous Premier made statements that certain things could not be carried out because insufficient money was available, members of the Government—who were then in Opposition—including the Premier, stated that we were getting adequate sums of money from the Commonwealth Government.

The older members of this House would know that to be true; and it is recorded in *Hansard*. The money received then was less than the Premier has been allocated this year, yet he regards the addition of £2,000,000 as a matter for regret. I am wondering if this is to be used as an excuse as to why the further assistance which he has been talking about is not now to be given to the mining industry.

All members in this House know the very substantial assistance which was given to the goldmining industry by the previous Government. We know that a sum totalling £250,000 was made available to the Sons of Gwalia mine to enable it to survive and get on its feet again. I am happy to say that indications at the present time are that the mine is now in process of recovery and will be able to carry on for quite a number of years. Of the £250,000 to which I have referred, £100,000 was made available free of interest.

In regard to the Bullfinch mine, we know that the Western Mining Corporation was assisted to the extent of £100,000 to enable it to carry on with a develop-

mental programme which it could not finance out of its own resources. Considerable sums of money were also made available to the people who were mining copper at Ravensthorpe. An amount of £100,000 was made available in addition to approximately £40,000 to assist in the housing of employees, and about £30,000 to provide facilities for bulk handling of concentrates at Esperance. In addition, substantial sums were spent on diamond drilling and in assisting companies to diamond drill. Loans were made available to smaller mining companies, and substantial amounts were given to assist prospectors.

Altogether, the assistance given by the previous Government represented a considerable sum of money. When we were told that it was the intention of this Government to give more, it was indeed pleasing news. However, I have my doubts about it. I do not know whether it is because I am of Scotch extraction that I am inclined to be canny in these matters, but I am doubtful about people when promises are made which are not being carried out.

Mention has been made of iron ore. When the member for Murray was speaking last evening the Premier interjected—rather angrily, I thought—and said that members of the Opposition would give away iron ore to the Japanese. I never heard of any proposal of that nature. We would give the iron ore away to nobody.

Mr. Brand: Look at the files.

Mr. MOIR: I can tell the Premier plenty about iron ore.

Mr. Brand: Tell us about the arrangements Mr. Willcock was making when Premier.

Mr. MOIR: In the *Kalgoorlie Miner*—it is a great paper, the *Kalgoorlie Miner*—on the 15th May this year, there was an article about iron ore, with the sub-heading, "Commonwealth and States Should Combine".

Mr. Brand: Shouldn't they?

Mr. MOIR: I am not going to read the whole article, which was headed, "Brand Wants Iron Ore in W.A. Assessed". Part of it is as follows:—

It was vital for Australia to know just what deposits existed.

He supported the right of the Commonwealth to safeguard iron ore and restrict its export. However, as the quantities of low quality ore became clearer, the Commonwealth and States should draw up a plan to sell some of it overseas.

"If we sell any of our ore", the Premier said, "the profits would not be used for a State-owned trading concern such as the proposal by the Hawke Government to extend the charcoal-iron industry."

"I believe that profits from overseas sales of iron ore should be to help private enterprise establish industry in Western Australia. I would be particularly interested in any proposition which might lead to private enterprise establishing a steel industry in Western Australia."

He wants the iron ore assessed. I would like to know why.

Mr. Brand: In order that we might know the resources, because no-one else does.

Mr. MOIR: Are we to spend good State money assessing what our resources are in order to give them away as a previous Government did when it handed over what it thought was the main iron ore deposit in this State to the Broken Hill Company, for which it charged a miserable royalty of 6d. a ton?

Mr. Brand: What do you mean by main deposits? That argument about giving away the main deposits was used in debate in this House. However, we knew about Koolyanobbing.

Mr. MOIR: As I understand it, I am making this speech. The Premier is supposed to be listening.

Mr. Brand: I listened for long enough. I could not stand it any more.

Mr. MOIR: Would the Premier listen to me a little more? I listened to him.

Mr. Brand: Thank you very much! Go on.

Mr. MOIR: That company evidently had some idea of fair play. It must have thought 6d. per ton was such a miserable amount that it voluntarily offered to pay 1s. 6d. per ton. It must be admitted that it is really something nowadays for a big business concern to make such an advance—from 6d. to 1s. 6d. Its conscience must really have been stricken. We are supposed to go ahead and assess how much more iron ore we have here. What for? So that it can be bound up and handed over to this company again.

Mr. Brand: We will tell you the reason in due course.

Mr. MOIR: It has been well known among mining men for a long time that there is far more iron ore than that which was handed over to B.H.P. Fortunately, though, it was not known to the McLarty-Watts Government at the time; otherwise it would, no doubt, have handed it over. It appears that we have some very large iron ore deposits. I am very fearful of what is going to become of them. I am very fearful as to whether this very generous Government will hand them over too.

Mr. Toms: It might be offered 2s. a ton this time.

Mr. MOIR: With reference to the Premier's remark that the profits will not be used for a State-owned trading concern,

I do not think that the Government of the day would have attempted to set up a charcoal-iron and steel industry at Wundowie if private enterprise had been prepared to do so. But private enterprise was not prepared to do it at all. If the Government of the day had not established the industry, it would certainly not be there today. When the Hawke Government was in office, it would cheerfully have given every possible assistance it could to any company which was willing to establish an iron and steel industry in this State.

But private enterprise is not enterprising enough to shoulder these responsibilities except if it is getting assistance in very large lumps from the Government.

As far as the goldmining industry is concerned, there is quite a lot of disappointment that this Government did not see fit to appoint one of the members of this Chamber—which is the democratic Chamber—as Minister for Mines, but has appointed a Minister in another place. Recently, we have seen that we are not to have a full-time Minister for Mines at all, but only a part-time Minister.

Mr. Brand: Would that not apply to railways?

Mr. MOIR: In the *Daily News* of the 23rd July, 1959, there was an article as follows:—

MINISTER GETS NEW OFFICE

The first step in providing better office accommodation for State Cabinet Ministers will be taken today.

Transport Minister Perkins, who has had to operate from the State Housing Commission for the past three months, will vacate his suite of offices.

He will leave by train for the Eastern States late today and, on his return in about a fortnight, will move into a new suite of offices on the sixth floor of the State Insurance building, St. George's Terrace.

Housing Minister Griffith will eventually take over Perkins' present offices.

Mr. Griffith, who is also Mines Minister,—

"also Mines Minister" has just been tagged on—

—will retain his present office in the Treasury building in addition to the office in the State Housing Commission.

He cannot be in two places at once; and I take it that part of the time he will be at the Housing Commission; and part of the time at the Mines Department. I think I am quite right in asserting that we have a part-time Minister for Mines.

Mr. Toms: And a part-time Minister for Housing.

Mr. MOIR: Previously, for many years, we had a full-time Minister; and I can assure the House that if a Minister for Mines is doing his work properly, he will not have a 40-hour week at all. He will spend as many as 14 hours a day at work because he has to keep pace with the many problems that arise from time to time.

Mr. Brand: When the hon. Mr. Kelly was Minister for Mines, was he a part-time Minister for Mines or part-time Minister for Industrial Development?

Mr. Bovell: Or part-time Minister for Fisheries?

Mr. MOIR: He worked from his office at the Department of Mines. He was available to any person from the goldfields who wished to see him. The hon. Mr. Kelly adopted the same principle as I. Any person coming from the outback or the goldfields, or any mining centre at all, always found the door open to him.

Mr. Brand: So with this Minister.

Mr. MOIR: He never ever refused to see anyone. If Mr. Kelly was not out somewhere, he would be in the office. If he was not—

Mr. Brand: Mr. Telfer would be there.

Mr. MOIR: It appears to me that instead of the Hon. A. F. Griffith being the Minister for Mines, we have Mr. Telfer as Minister for Mines.

Mr. Brand: He would make a good Minister; but the Hon. A. F. Griffith will be there all the time.

Mr. Evans: He would make a better one.

Mr. MOIR: We also know that the previous Government carried out a tremendous amount of work on the coalfields, as indeed, have Labour Governments for a long time back. We know that the Wise Labour Government drilled coalfields and that the McLarty-Watts Government—

Mr. Brand: Drilled them also.

Mr. MOIR:—handed them over. Handed over leases that were being held in the interests of the State.

Mr. Toms: All Labour Governments are wise Governments.

Mr. Watts: That was the Wise Government.

Mr. MOIR: I will say more about coal-mining a little later. We have heard a lot, recently, about mandates being given to this Government. It makes peculiar reading when one goes back to the appeals made to the electors prior to the election. On the 18th March there was a full-page advertisement in *The West Australian*, with photos of a lot of candidates; and it was headed "David Brand Says These Are the Men who Will do the Job. Go Ahead, Vote Liberal."

Mr. Cornell: Who is the good-looking fellow at the back of the sheet?

Mr. MOIR: While I see a lot of well-known faces there, and people with whom I am acquainted—I have become acquainted with some of them since the election—there are some people there that I do not know at all. As the proposed representative for South Perth, there was a chap by the name of Strickland, whom the Liberal Party were advising the voters to vote for. He is not in this House, but evidently the member for South Perth was not acceptable to the Liberal Party prior to the election. In other words, they would not have a bar of him, but preferred this man named Strickland. For Mt. Lawley they preferred a man named Barras—

Rowberry: But in the end they were embarrassed.

Mr. MOIR: They have evidently had time to observe the member for Darling Range in this House and they did not want a bar of him either; but advocated that the people should vote for someone named Kosterka. However, the voters did not think that way, and the member for Darling Range was re-elected—I am pleased to say—and still sits here. The Liberal Party was very emphatic about the member for Mt. Lawley and about Mr. Barras; and got out a big advertisement telling the electors of Mt. Lawley to elect Mr. Barras. He is probably a very distinguished gentleman; but the people of Mt. Lawley did not take the advice, and re-elected the member for Mt. Lawley. The advice given to the electors by the Liberal Party was entirely disregarded in those three instances—

Mr. O'Connor: The money for those advertisements did not come from the Treasury.

Mr. Brand: That point is well taken.

Mr. MOIR: We could tell you the story about that. The spending of that money out of the Treasury was perfectly justified, perfectly in order, and perfectly honest. Had there been anything wrong about it, members on the Government side of the House would have been only too delighted to do something about it; and to do it to the Ministers concerned, of whom I am proud to say I was one. There is also the advice extended to the electors by the Country Party. Had that been followed by the electors, Mr. Deputy Speaker, your distinguished colleague would not now have occupied the Speaker's Chair. He would not have been there if the Country Party had had its way, because it did not think he was a fit and proper person to represent the people of Blackwood. They much preferred a man named Muir.

Mr. Rowberry: And a very good name, too.

Mr. MOIR: They did not think much of the Minister for Works (the member for Dale) because they preferred two people to him—a Mr. McPhail and a Mr. Mills. Fortunately the member for Dale was able

to survive; and I am pleased to see him here. It all goes to show that there was a great divergence of opinion, on both sides of the House, as to who were fit and proper persons to be here.

The member for Murray last night addressed some remarks across the Chamber—very improperly I thought—to our Leader; and said that, although they were kindly towards one another here, politically if the Leader of the Opposition thought he could have the member for Murray unseated he would do it immediately. He need not have confined those remarks to our Leader; because no doubt the Country Party would do the same thing if it could; and probably more quickly than we would. The member for Murray need have no illusions about that at all.

A matter which concerns me is the promises that the Government has already broken. Both in its election propaganda and in this House the Government stated that it would, if returned to office, adopt an entirely different policy in regard to coal; that it would immediately embark upon a policy of obtaining cheaper open-cut coal. Indeed, the Premier went so far as to say that he hoped eventually to obtain all open-cut coal.

Mr. Brand: Unless we do, we will not be using any coal at all, because we will be outpriced.

Mr. MOIR: That would depend upon the steps taken. It is a very serious thing to find that after all these statements were made to the electors of the State, to the effect that these things would be done, either the Government has changed its policy altogether, or the Premier is at variance with some of his Ministers. We find, in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* of the 19th June, a statement headed "Mines Minister at Collie". It reads—

It was not the Government's intention or desire to bring about unemployment on the Collie coalfield, the Mines and Housing Minister, Mr. Griffith, said today. The situation on the coalfield was extraordinary, he said. There were three companies supplying coal to virtually one consumer, the Government.

In the event of calling tenders for the supply of coal the Government would be in a position to get open-cut coal at a cheap rate, probably as low as £1 a ton. That no doubt could be achieved by employing less men in the industry than at present, but that was not the answer.

I want members to note that.

The Minister said the Government wished to comply with its announced policy of getting cheaper coal, for if new industries were to be attracted to Western Australia they had to be

offered cheap power. More industries would create a bigger demand for coal and that would bring about more stability for Collie.

Mr. W. Hegney: They were having a few bob both ways.

Mr. MOIR: It is known as "the dollar each way." The Government knows perfectly well, because it was told in this House, that we could obtain more open-cut coal. It knew perfectly well that that would mean large-scale dismissals at Collie, with the result that Collie as we now know it would cease to exist. The Government had its opportunity to obtain open-cut coal. It is remarkable to see that when, on the 1st July, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition asked the Premier a question on open-cut coal, he got this answer:

In view of his declaration in *The West Australian* of the 9th March that his party's policy was to obtain more coal from open cuts, why did his Government refuse the Griffin Coal Co. permission to open-cut the Wyvern?

The Premier replied—

The Government did not refuse the Griffin Coal Mining Co. permission to open-cut the Wyvern.

It is of no use the Premier shaking his head at the Deputy Leader across the Chamber, and grinding his teeth.

Mr. Brand: I do not know who is grinding his teeth. It is not me.

Mr. MOIR: Do Ministers of the Government refuse to answer correspondence sent to them?

Mr. Brand: I would say we are a good-mannered crowd and that we would answer correspondence just as regularly as our opponents.

Mr. MOIR: Before I vacated my office, and while I was in a position of a caretaker-Minister—during the time the Country Party and Liberal Party were making up their minds what they would do about the Government—

Mr. Brand: I must say that you were not as busy as some of your colleagues!

Mr. MOIR: —I received a letter from the Griffin Coal Mining Co. stating that because of a fire which had been experienced at the Wyvern mine the company would no longer be able to obtain coal there. Accompanying this letter were a number of other letters from its customers. This was to draw my attention to the fact that the Griffin Co. had received letters saying that it was essential that its customers should continue to have Wyvern coal because of its quality. The company said that it could be seen, from the letters, that it was important it be allowed to mine Wyvern coal; and there was only one way to do it, and that was by the open-cut method.

The company had already started to remove the over-burden from the coal seam in anticipation of the request being granted. But as I was only in the position of a caretaker-Minister to carry out ordinary routine duties, I left the letter for my successor, whoever it might be. That letter was one of the top ones on my desk when the present Minister for Mines took over. If this Government did not stop the company from obtaining open-cut coal, I would like to know what happened.

Mr. Brand: We didn't stop it.

Mr. MOIR: What would be the reply to the letter? The letter demanded a reply, "Yes" or "No," because the company had already started to remove the over-burden, anticipating that a favourable reply would be received. Obviously something cropped up; something happened to prevent the company from getting open-cut coal, even though it was desirous of obtaining it. I do not know whether there was some little talk around the corner; or whether somebody said, "Just behave yourselves and do not embarrass us at this stage." I know perfectly well from my own experience that Amalgamated Collieries would be waiting on the doorstep of the new Government to obtain permission to get open-cut coal. We have not seen any revolution at Collie.

Mr. Brand: One step enough for me. One step at a time.

Mr. Bickerton: You took two on some things.

Mr. MOIR: The steps taken in that case are in contrast to the indecent haste of this Government in sacking Government employees.

Mr. Heal: Hear, hear!

Mr. MOIR: The Government is barely in office before it is sacking men right and left. But evidently its dealings with the coal company have to be carefully watched. Apparently the Government has to tread very warily in its dealings with those companies; but when it is dealing with Government employees, it is a different matter altogether.

Mr. Brand: Tell us how the A.L.P. got on with the organised strike.

Mr. MOIR: The A.L.P. is not under discussion at the moment.

Mr. Wild: Just as well!

Mr. MOIR: The Premier, being a law-abiding person, should be the last to be sorry that there has not been a strike. The Premier is sorry that the unions were not ill-advised and did not rush into a strike because that would have suited his book right down to the ground.

Mr. Brand: Not my book; your book.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Roberts): Order! The hon. member should address the Chair.

Mr. MOIR: I am addressing the Chair, Mr. Deputy Speaker. The Premier seems to get a bit hot under the collar about these things. Sometimes the truth hurts.

Mr. Brand: I feel very cross!

Mr. Bovell: I have never seen the Premier in such a happy frame of mind.

Mr. Fletcher: I sometimes smile when I am not happy.

Mr. MOIR: I cannot let this occasion pass without saying how disappointed I am in the Premier for allowing the small pittance given as extra money to the single unemployed to be taken away from them on the ground that it would cost £50,000 per annum.

Mr. Brand: On the ground that it was not paid by any other State.

Mr. MOIR: What would that matter?

Mr. Brand: We were a claimant State.

Mr. MOIR: There are a frightful lot of things being done in this State which no-one would dare to do in the other States. Before the session is finished I will bring some matters up here and lay them before the Premier to show exactly what this Government is doing.

Mr. Brand: It was not justified on any score.

Mr. MOIR: I was astounded because I happen to know something of the Premier. I know that he personally experienced hardships long before he got into Parliament.

Mr. Brand: No-one paid me 17s. 6d. a week.

Mr. MOIR: I went through hard times and nobody paid me any money to help me along; but it has not made me unsympathetic to those who are up against hard times. It has made me appreciate their plight.

Mr. Brand: Look where it has got you!

Mr. MOIR: I am rather surprised that the Premier does not appreciate these things, seeing that he suffered hardships long before he became a member of Parliament. We should not forget the lessons we learn as we go through life. It is one thing to be sympathetic to those who are well able to look after themselves; and it is another thing to be sympathetic to those who are not so fortunate, and who require assistance when they fall on hard times.

I want to mention something that I think the Premier would hasten to put right if he knew about it. I refer to the relationships between private members and Ministers. I am sorry to have to mention this, especially as the Minister concerned is not in the State at present; but I wish to take this opportunity of

placing the circumstances before the Premier to ensure that the same sort of thing does not happen to other members. This incident concerns the Minister for Police, who had certain communications from the Police Boys' Club in Boulder. I think some of the correspondence was also directed to the Premier in an effort to obtain assistance.

One of the matters about which they were concerned was the provision of an instructor for Boulder. The Police Boys' Clubs are wonderful organisations on the fields and the people in charge are doing an excellent job. The clubs are deserving of every assistance and I know perfectly well that this Government would do everything in its power to help them, although I realise that the Government cannot do everything.

What I have to complain about is this: The club in Boulder required an instructor, and that request had been passed on to the Minister for Police. I discussed the matter with the Minister here the Wednesday before last, and he told me that he would be in Kalgoorlie on his return from Canberra and intended to have a look at the matter to see if he could do something about it.

On my arrival in Kalgoorlie on Friday morning I telephoned the secretary of this Police Boys' Club to advise him what the Minister had told me; namely, that he would look into the question. Much to my surprise, however, he told me that he had already been advised that a part-time instructor would be stationed at Boulder; that some six or seven days previously Mr. Peter Brown, the Commonwealth member representing Kalgoorlie, had passed this information on to him. I take extremely strong exception to that.

In the first place, I fail to see what a Commonwealth member has to do with any State matters. I fail to see what a Commonwealth member has to do with a small question that affects the Boulder Police Boys' Club, which comes under the jurisdiction of a State department. Therefore, I take strong exception to the Minister for Police advising the Commonwealth member for Kalgoorlie that he had appointed a part-time instructor to the Boulder Police Boys' Club, and telling me that he would look into the matter.

The practice followed by all Labour Ministers—I know I followed it—was that when a Commonwealth member approached any one of them on a matter affecting a State electorate he was referred to the member for that district, whether Liberal or Labour. It is not the prerogative of a Commonwealth member to interfere with those questions that come under the control of a State department. I know what would happen if a State member of Parliament wrote to a Commonwealth Minister on a Federal matter. He would soon be told what to do. However,

apparently that was an inadvertent happening, and I hope it will not occur again.

Mr. Heal: It will.

Mr. MOIR: One matter about which I was rather surprised and which shows the difference in the point of view—

Mr. W. Hegney: You don't want to be surprised at anything this crowd does.

Mr. MOIR: I am still capable of being surprised. Recently an inquiry was held into the basic wage on a Commonwealth basis. That inquiry lasted for several months. On the bench were learned gentlemen who heard all the evidence that was submitted by expert witnesses from all over the Commonwealth, including leading economists. Any person was at liberty to give evidence before that tribunal if it was considered pertinent to the inquiry. After months of eliciting information the judges reserved their finding; and finally, on a majority decision, decided that the basic wage should be increased by 15s. a week.

One of the considerations they had to keep in mind was whether the economy of the country could afford such an increase. Nevertheless, after due consideration and after hearing all the evidence submitted by expert witnesses and those learned men coming to the conclusion that it could, we had many people making all sorts of terrible predictions—including our own Premier—of the effect that this decision would have on the country.

It seems rather remarkable to me after all these experts advising that an increase in the basic wage is warranted and that the economy of the country can stand it, and learned judges deciding that the basic wage shall be increased, people can rush into print to predict all sorts of dire results. In other words, they are saying that this high Commonwealth authority was completely wrong and did not know what it was doing.

On the other hand, I have noticed from Press reports that General Motors Holden Ltd. made tremendous profits from its operations last year, and yet there is not one word from those people who have complained about a rise in the basic wage.

Those people have not offered one word of criticism about the effect such a huge profit would have on the economy of the country. In my opinion the profit made by General Motors Holden is more likely to have a bad effect on the economy of Australia than any increase in the basic wage. There is one feature concerning the making of this profit which I am sure will have to be faced by the Commonwealth Government, no matter how desirous it is of introducing overseas capital into Australia for investment. The Commonwealth Government is faced with the problem that when such a company makes these large profits the dividends payable

to shareholders are sent out of Australia, and this constitutes a great loss in our export income.

Before drawing my remarks to a close, I emphasise the hope that this Government will not continue with its airy promises to the goldmining industry and will give us something concrete on what it intends to do to assist the industry. I hope it will not try to convey the impression that it will grant assistance beyond what was given previously, if, in fact, it is unable to assist.

MR. W. A. MANNING (Narrogin) [5.26]: I have a few words to contribute to this debate. Firstly, I differ from the opinion expressed by the previous speaker; namely, that he is disappointed with the Premier. On the contrary, I am proud to be on this side of the House in company with the Premier and members of the Government, because I feel that he and his members will accomplish something during their term of office which will prove to be worth while and of benefit to the State.

Mr. Rowberry.: Don't prophesy too much!

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I am quite sure the coalition Liberal-Country Party Government, in view of the breadth of vision it has shown since it has been on this side of the House, will prove to be of value to this State and help to speed its progress. This State needs a Government with wide vision.

When I was elected a member of this Chamber and I spoke to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply at that time, I said that one of the most important steps this State could take was to encourage trade with our near neighbours in the north—in Singapore, Malaya, the Persian Gulf, and Ceylon. Those parts hold teeming millions which provide a ready market for our goods. We have a natural geographical advantage over other countries to control the market in those places; but unless we wake up, that opportunity will not be left to us.

A few years ago, I was visiting Singapore; and whilst in one of its large stores, I noticed a small quantity of Western Australian products on the shelves. When I inquired what was the reason for such a small display of Western Australian goods, the answer given to me was, "We can sell all we can get; our main trouble is that we cannot get enough." If that is still the position we should take active steps immediately to take over and hold the market that is offering there.

There are many other ways by which we could encourage trade, particularly in our primary industry. One is that we should process our primary products as close as possible to the point of production.

That point should be kept in mind with every aspect of our industrial activities. There is plenty of scope for this to be done, and in my opinion it is one of the principal factors that should be taken into consideration. If we are to boost our primary production, one of the first steps we should take is to commence surveys to ascertain the deficiencies of the soil and what possibilities it would offer if it were improved with trace elements.

This has not been evident at present in this State, yet it has been the practice in countries overseas for many years. I have before me a report issued by the Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture in 1949, ten years ago, when a particular farmer was able to secure a report on his land. I will read a small extract from that report to illustrate my point. The report was on his paddock—or on his field—as it is called in Scotland. It reads as follows:—

The general sample shows no need for lime at present, but the colour tests which were made in the field suggest that the light land at the top of the hill is slightly sour and I would advise you to give this part a light liming at your convenience during the next year or two; for example, one ton of ground lime or ground shell lime or 35 cwt. of ground limestone per acre.

I am of the opinion that the heavier land at the base of the slope is not in need of liming at present, and I propose that you have it retested at the end of one rotation by when a light liming may be justified.

In view of the very low potash content of this field, I propose that you use compound potato manure for both mangolds and barley, giving at least 10-cwt per acre for the potatoes and 3-cwt. per acre for barley after oats.

That illustrates the type of soil research report that is required in this State if we are to secure the utmost benefit from the lands that are being opened up. It is possibly not generally known to members, but much is being done to encourage tree-planting in the agricultural areas with a view to combating soil erosion. Just out of Narrogin in the forestry area known as Dryandra there is a Forest Department nursery established which produces tree stock for particular areas. This has been built up in recent years; and in the season ending next month, they are expected to market a total of 28,000 trees.

These trees are being sent to the medium and low rainfall areas of the State. I do not think there is the slightest doubt that this should be encouraged. There is plenty of scope for land development in

various areas. I have in mind some of the southern areas—Esperance, and the like. The scope is, in fact, unlimited. Last week I happened to be in the Hyden area, out east in what is known as Forrestania, the area of the proposed 3,500 farms scheme, 40 miles east of Hyden and the rabbit-proof fence, where there is some fine country with a rainfall of 13½ inches. This area should be opened up. The possibilities are tremendous, and there is ample land that can be opened up. As I have said, the field is wide; it is only a matter of opportunity.

Another most important matter to which I wish to refer is that the difficulty of securing nurses in the country has not yet been overcome. There is a reason for this—namely, the training system we have for nurses. As an illustration, I would explain to the House that the Narrogin Hospital is a training centre for nurses in their first year, but there is a condition laid down that any girl who starts there must do her remaining two years in Kalgoorlie. It is possible that the climate of Kalgoorlie or Boulder is quite salubrious; on the other hand, it is possible it is not. But the fact remains that a number of the girls do not desire to go to Kalgoorlie after having completed their first year's training at Narrogin. Yet, if they have started at Narrogin, it is compulsory for them to do so. They cannot go to Royal Perth or any other hospital.

If a girl started her training at the Royal Perth Hospital she would expect to complete her training there. We train girls in the Royal Perth Hospital—the largest hospital in the State—and we then imagine they are fully trained. But as a rule they have no knowledge of conditions that obtain in country hospitals. There should be some system evolved whereby nurses could be given a diversity of training which would enable them to cope with any situation which might arise.

Mr. Norton: That depends largely on the doctor in the area.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: The centres of which I speak are approved hospitals. I would now like to refer to the main point on which I rose; namely, housing. I have mentioned this in the House before; and I have said that, despite the efforts of the State Housing Commission—which have been very good—the country areas are further from being satisfied in their housing needs than they were in the past. More houses are being built in the metropolitan area than are necessary. That is sometimes denied, but I will quote from a Housing Commission report to show that it is so.

Mr. Heal: I would not say that is correct.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I will now quote certain figures from a report of the Housing Commission dated the 30th June,

1958. The report gives figures of outstanding applications as at the 30th June, 1957, and as at the 30th June, 1958, and reads—

	30th June, 1957	30th June, 1958
Outstanding applications in metropolitan area—		
Perth	5,387	5,035
Fremantle	(Decrease of 266 on the previous year)	(Decrease of 352 on the previous year)
Midland Jctn.		
Country applications outstanding	1,104	1,227
	(Increase of 37 on the previous year)	(Increase of 123 on the previous year)

So the number of applications outstanding at the end of both years showed an increase in country areas and a decrease in the metropolitan area, which is positive proof that sufficient houses are not being built in the country areas. There is a reason why that trend has been accentuated. As most members know, houses are being built in the metropolitan area from funds provided by insurance companies, building societies, and similar bodies, which will not extend the same privilege to country people.

So in addition to the Housing Commission getting ahead of itself in the metropolitan area, we have all these other organisations also providing homes here. I have repeatedly had people coming to me—people who have found it necessary to give up their jobs, because they could not find houses in which to live in the country.

Some of these people have told me that they would have to leave their jobs and go to the metropolitan area. I know for a fact that when they do go to the metropolitan area it is possible for them to secure a house. I do not say they are provided with a house from the Housing Commission, because it is necessary for such people to put their names on the waiting list; but there is not one person who has come to me who has not found a house in the metropolitan area after finding it impossible to do so in the country. There is an opportunity for this Government to ensure that the country people are given at least a fair deal in regard to their housing permits.

Mr. Watts: The Minister told me this morning that he was going to look into the matter of housing in country areas.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I am very glad to hear that.

Mr. W. Hegney: It looks like a bigger dose of socialism in the country.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: When I brought this matter to the notice of the ex-Minister for Housing (Mr. Graham) he told me that he would make available £40,000 for a building society in Narrogin if I could start it. I thought that was an excellent offer, and I left no stone unturned to get things moving.

It was impossible to secure the required number of people who had the available money, at the one time, to warrant the starting of a building society. There is no need to secure all the people at one time, because the number can be spread over a period, but there were many factors which made me very wary about starting one. Eventually I gave up the idea, because there would be too much responsibility in starting a society like this, not knowing where the end was, when the participants had finished their payments in 30 to 35 years' time. When leading people into a scheme like this, I like to know where they are going.

I examined the rules of the building societies which were receiving funds from the Commonwealth to be allocated to house construction. The allocation to these societies is one of the reasons why the State Housing Commission is not receiving as much funds as previously. I fear many members of these building societies are not aware to what extent they are committed.

Obviously, the members of the societies are responsible for paying off the value of the house, plus interest. In addition, however, they are also responsible to meet the expenses of the building society. I do not know if anyone can tell me what is the limit of those expenses.

The following are examples of some of the rules of these building societies:—

(1) Members shall pay such amount per share per month calculated from the first pay as the Board shall from time to time determine and this amount shall be applied towards the management expenses of the Society and a separate account of the moneys received and expended on account of management shall be kept. Members applying for shares after the first pay shall pay the amount so determined retrospectively to the first pay provided that the management expenses charged to the member shall not exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ per centum per annum on the balance of principal moneys owing by the member computed with monthly rests.

This paragraph appears to place a limit on what may have to be provided, but is it so when we look at the following?

(2) If the last preceding balance-sheet of the Society has disclosed a loss or deficiency of any kind, the member shall be liable to contribute to such deficiency in proportion to the number of shares held having regard to the number of shares in the Society.

(3) If during any year the Society sustains any loss exceeding the amount of its reserve fund the excess shall be debited to the accounts of the members excepting ordinary members in respect

of their shares in proportion to the amounts standing to the credit of each at the beginning of such year.

Mr. O'Connor: The same will apply to any profits.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Yes. I would not mind if the members secured their profits and thus reduced the price of their houses. What concerns me is that the expenses of a building society can be so high that the members are shouldered with a responsibility of having to meet an expense account every year. I do not know what is the limit of the expenses, and I think some thorough investigation should be made. I understand that the Minister for Housing is contemplating some action in this regard, but at this stage I do not know what it is. I am bringing this matter to the notice of members, because there is a danger that people joining some building societies do not know what they are going into.

I dropped the idea of starting a building society because I could not find any justification in so doing unless I could be assured that the members of the society would not be burdened with the heavy expenses.

Mr. Bickerton: Should not the State Government dispose of the State Housing Commission, along with the other Government undertakings?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: If the hon. member were to ask me something which was sane I would answer him. The State Housing Commission has a responsibility, distinct from that of the State trading concerns. I now refer to another matter concerning housing. Last year the Minister for Housing in the previous Government started an experiment in Narrogin by providing houses for natives, after I had put forward a proposal that houses, suitable to the needs of natives, be built as an experiment. The idea was to lift them from the squalid conditions of their camps, and provide them with houses of a high enough standard.

Four houses were built as an experiment. I visited those houses a few weeks ago at 11 a.m. on a Saturday morning, when usually there is great activity going on in the family and the day's cleaning has not commenced. I found those homes to be exceedingly well-kept. There was good quality furniture in them and the floors were covered with linoleum. They were clean and the womenfolk occupying them were neatly dressed. The mid-day meal was being prepared; I could smell the cooking. I said I would be glad to stay for lunch if I could. In fact, any person could have stayed for lunch in the homes of these natives, who only a few months previously had been living in reserves.

Mr. W. Hegney: Some white women have their house cleaning done by 11 a.m. also.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I am not denying that; but many people think that the native women are not capable of doing the

same. I made the visit in company with the secretary of the welfare association. He went to collect the rent and he met with considerable success. One family was away in town doing shopping. Before they left they took the money for the rent to their neighbours with a request that if the rent collector came the rent was to be given to him. I asked this man if the rental was being paid regularly. He said most of them were four weeks in advance; they did that just in case something might happen to prevent them paying for a week or two.

Mr. Sewell: What Government initiated the scheme?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I said it was done by the previous Minister for Housing, and I give him full credit for it. He enabled this scheme to be proceeded with, and it has turned out to be a success.

Mr. Graham: The member for Narrogin is entitled to considerable credit also.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I could not have done much without the Minister's co-operation. The scheme is progressing very satisfactorily. The present Government is so capable of carrying on the affairs of this State that there is no need for me to enlarge on the matters which should be drawn to its attention.

On motion by Mr. I. W. Manning, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 5.50 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 4th August, 1959

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

STATE TRADING CONCERNS

Disposal of Wyndham Meatworks and Robb's Jetty Works

1. The Hon. F. J. S. WISE asked the Minister for Mines:

In view of the reply given by the Minister for Mines to my question on Tuesday, the 28th July, 1959, I now ask—

- (1) If the Government does intend to dispose of Wyndham Meatworks and/or the W.A. Meat Exports Robb's Jetty Works to private enterprise, will it clearly state so by answering "Yes"?
- (2) If the Government does not intend to dispose of Wyndham Meatworks and/or the W.A. Meat Exports Robb's Jetty Works to private enterprise, will it clearly state so by answering "No"?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government's policy has been clearly stated in respect of State trading concerns, and therefore the type of answer requested by the honourable member is not appropriate. The categorical answers requested cannot be given at this stage.

CLOSED REFORM SCHOOL

Caversham Building

2. The Hon. A. L. LOTON asked the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) On what date was the closed reform school building at Caversham commenced?
- (2) What was the original estimated cost?
- (3) What has been the cost to date?
- (4) What is the estimated cost to complete the school?
- (5) When is it anticipated that the school will be completed?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) June, 1958.
- (2) £125,000. This was an approximate estimate made before full particulars were available.
- (3) £102,000.
- (4) £195,000 without furnishing, which may amount to a further £16,000.
- (5) March, 1960.

HOUSING COMMISSION RENTS

Collections at Bunbury

3. The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) For what years did a private organisation collect rents for the State Housing Commission in Bunbury?