

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 11th August, 1959

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

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

PEMBERTON TROUT HATCHERIES

Assistance

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Has consideration been given to assisting the trout hatcheries at Pemberton, as this worth-while organisation is urgently in need of financial assistance?
- (2) If the answer is in the affirmative, has any decision been reached?
- (3) Is he able to supply details of assistance that may have been given?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1), (2), and (3) The honourable member was good enough to give me some notice of this question, but not enough for me to ascertain all the information. I believe that some assistance is to be given; and if he will put the question on the notice paper, I will ascertain the extent and give the answer tomorrow.

TRANSFER OF LAND ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [4.40] in moving the second reading said: The Bill has a dual object, firstly, to empower the Minister to approve of the destruction of the obsolete documents and records of the Land Titles Office; and, secondly, to enable the use by the office of photographic and photostatic methods of copying documents, etc. The problem of storing the constantly-increasing volume of title documents has been occasioning concern for a considerable time. This problem is not

confined to Western Australia as, last year, a conference in Adelaide of registrars carried this resolution—

This conference is of the opinion that each registrar should in concurrence with any authority nominated by the appropriate Minister be given power to destroy any documents considered obsolete. Unless something of this nature takes place, conference feels that the incidence of accumulation of documents, as under the old system, is being perpetuated under the Torrens system by departmental hoarding.

The Torrens system of registration is based upon the register book and the registration of documents therein. Every document when registered becomes, constructively, part of the register book; and to destroy any registered document means, in effect, to destroy part of the register book. It is obvious that only very old and carefully selected documents could be destroyed with any safety; and to ensure that only those documents which no longer serve any useful purpose are destroyed, the Bill provides that both the Commissioner of Titles and the Registrar of Titles, firstly, shall decide which documents may with safety, be destroyed, and then shall seek the Minister's approval for destruction.

While, as a general rule, no document less than 30 years old would be destroyed, it is not thought advisable to stipulate any period in the Act, for experience may show that some classes of documents might safely be destroyed after a shorter period. It is considered that the classes of documents which could with safety be destroyed after 30 years and, in some cases, earlier, are—

- (a) discharged mortgages,
- (b) caveats that have been withdrawn,
- (c) cancelled certificates of title where new titles have been issued, and
- (d) documents lodged for the purpose of bringing land under the provisions of the Transfer of Land Act.

Last year the storage position at the Titles Office was relieved somewhat as a result of demolitions necessary for the erection of the new R. & I. Bank building. The relief was due mainly to the provision of new strong-rooms in place of the old ones, and by the installation of modern "Compactus" filing cabinets. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the accommodation and public facilities at the Titles Office leave much to be desired, and the need for further improvement is fully recognised.

Members will, I am sure, agree that the hoarding of old records which no longer serve a useful purpose should not be encouraged, irrespective of what the accommodation position may be. Where the

accommodation position is acute, the need to discard useless records becomes an urgency. Members will be aware that throughout the world, ever-increasing use is being made of photographic reproduction of original records. This method of duplication, generally, is quicker, cheaper, and more accurate than that done manually.

The Bill proposes that, in addition to the certified copies that the principal Act now provides may be furnished, the public may be supplied with photographic and photostatic copies of certificates of title, caveats, powers of attorney, and registered instruments affecting land. Also, where the register book is not readily available, a searcher may be shown a photographic or photostatic copy of that part of the book concerned. Photographic copies would be of the microfilm and ordinary size types. Members will be aware that a photostat is largely an automatic method of making photographic copies directly upon the surface of prepared paper.

Harking back to the storage problem, I would advise the House that it is proposed to establish within the metropolitan area, but outside the city boundaries, a repository where records of all Government departments not frequently referred to, but which cannot safely be destroyed, can be stored. This would relieve the storage-space pressure of departments. Documents which may be needed for public inspection will be microfilmed, and the films can be seen by searchers. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by the Hon. F. J. S. Wise, debate adjourned.

CHILD WELFARE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Child Welfare) [4.45] in moving the second reading said: The Child Welfare Act is an Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the making of better provision for the protection, control maintenance and reformation of neglected and destitute children and for other purposes connected therewith. The amendments to be introduced by this Bill are planned to make still better provisions for such children, and are in line with modern concepts of child care. Particular attention has been paid to the treatment of delinquents in the Bill, and it is stressed at this stage that the Child Welfare Department must at all times be recognised as the treatment agency.

Hitherto there has been some confusion as to the respective roles of children's courts and the department in determining what treatment should be given; how it is to be given; and for what length of time

the child is to remain under the jurisdiction of the department. In order to clarify these points, it is necessary to determine the respective roles of these two entities. The Children's Court is a judicial body concerned, primarily, with the establishment or otherwise of the guilt of the accused child; secondly, with receiving as much information as it is possible to collect concerning the child found guilty; and, finally, with making a decision as to the child's future treatment—and at the same time fixing a time limit during which treatment is to be carried out. In the event of such a child being committed to an institution, it becomes a ward of the Child Welfare Department, and the department then assumes full legal responsibility for his care, management and control during the period specified in the court's order.

It is proposed to amend section 34 of the Act by deleting that portion which enables the court to commit a delinquent to an industrial school, and, in its place, enable the court to commit the child to the care of the department for treatment, discipline and training. This is considered to be an essential amendment because the department has a range of treatments which it should be free to use in accordance with the needs of each individual. Such facilities for boys include the Child Welfare Reception Home, Tudor Lodge (boys' hostel) Anglican Farm School, Stoneville (industrial school); Point Walter annexe (privilege centre); parole classes in conjunction with the Department of the Army on three nights per week; and classes at the reception home each Saturday. In the near future, the closed reformatory at Caversham will be added to this list of facilities.

With girls, the department uses the Child Welfare reception home, and the Home of the Good Shepherd (industrial school), and makes extensive use of such other facilities as are available at the Y.W.C.A., Girls' Friendly Society Lodge, and other hostels. Therapeutic group activities are at present in operation, and this form of treatment is to be extended. In order to permit the Director of the department to use these facilities and to have flexibility in managing his wards in accordance with their individual needs, amendments are proposed to sections 10 and 20.

One vital need for these amendments is in regard to admission to the closed reformatory at Caversham. This establishment will cater for 33 boys only, and it will not be possible to admit a thirty-fourth. Once this institution is available, children's courts will tend to commit boys there regardless of its capacity. By committing male delinquents to the care of the department for treatment, discipline and training, the Director will be the authority to control admissions and discharges, thus ensuring that the place will not be overtaxed with inmates. Other amendments in

the Bill relate to the delegation of some ministerial powers to the Director; the court's powers in regard to children charged with minor offences; and some improvements to maintenance procedures.

Clause 2 contains amendments to section 4. The clause seeks to include two new definitions. The term "parents" is used freely, and references are made to it in sections 27, 34, 47A, 52, 116, 117, 123, and 137A. As doubt can arise about the meaning of this term, it is desirable to define it in accordance with the wording of the clause. A definition of "treatment, discipline and training," is necessary because of the proposed amendment to section 34(a). By committing delinquents to the care of the department for treatment, discipline and training, in lieu of to an industrial school, it is desirable to set out the meaning of these three terms, and, at the same time, define the scope of the Director in his treatment of delinquents.

The amendment dealing with the Director is simply to transfer the definition to its correct alphabetical placement. It is out of order because, in 1955, the title of "Director" was substituted for "Secretary."

There is a proposed amendment to section 9A in clause 3. In 1958, section 9A was passed by Parliament to enable the Minister to delegate to the director his powers to depart from court recommendations in particular cases. As there is no proper provision in the Act authorising the Minister to delegate any of his other powers, it is proposed to repeal section 9A as it stands and replace it with a more comprehensive section which will give the Minister the right to delegate the following every-day matters to the Director:—

1. Approval to transfer wards from one institution to another in accordance with their behaviour.
2. General power to transfer wards from one institution to another.
3. Power to approve withdrawals from wards' savings bank accounts.
4. Power to expend wards' savings to their own benefit.
5. Authority to pay subsidy for wards in institutions.
6. Authority to pay subsidy for wards with foster parents.
7. Authority for children under 16 to perform in public for gain or reward.
8. Authority to pay for inmates of lying-in home.

These are all matters which the Minister has delegated to the Director in the past, without having had the legal authority to do so. Adequate provision has been made in the clause to preserve the Minister's own right to use these powers and to revoke any delegation at his own discretion.

In clause 4 there is an amendment to section 10 (2). Section 10 deals with the powers of the Director in relation to wards, and these are particularised in subsection (2). Subsection (2) (c) reads—

Wards may be transferred with the approval of the Minister from one institution to another institution.

With the new form of committal envisaged in clause 7, which deals with the committal of a delinquent to the care of the department for treatment, discipline and training, it is proposed to add the words set out in the clause; and then subsection 2 (c) will read—

Wards may be transferred with the approval of the Minister from one institution to another institution or from one form of training to any other which, in the opinion of the Director is likely to prove more beneficial to the child.

It is particularly stressed that the Minister must give approval to such transfers, and that his power to do so is not the subject of delegation. The proviso to subsection (2) is related to the power of a children's court to make recommendations concerning children who appear before it—section 20 (e). Both the proviso to section 10 (2), and the making of recommendations in section 20 (e), tie the hands of the department to such an extent that it is necessary to obtain ministerial approval to depart from them when it is necessary to do so. This has the ridiculous effect of making a mere recommendation more binding on the department than an order of committal. The department, being the agency for carrying out treatment, must have freedom to manage its wards to their greatest advantage—always subject to ministerial approval.

It is therefore proposed by this clause, and also by clause 5, to remove the compulsive feature of court recommendations. The court is still empowered to make recommendations, and the department will pay due heed to them; but the latter should not be bound by a recommendation, made at the time of committal, which precludes the treatment agency from treating the child in accordance with his current needs. Some recommendations received from the court are "not to be released for six months," "not to smoke," "not to be allowed home leave." At the time of committal, these restrictions probably appear warranted, but no court can anticipate accurately how a particular child will respond. Actually these examples, which are quite common, are prohibitions, not recommendations; and it is strongly felt that both clauses should be agreed to.

In the event that the amendment contained in clause 7 is passed, the court could no longer commit delinquents direct to an institution. In order to clarify section 25, the clause specifies the classes of children which can be committed to institutions

in accordance with sections 30 (b)—destitute and neglected—and section 32—incorrigible or uncontrollable.

The proposed amendment to section 34 is the most important amendment in the Bill. Although what I shall have to say will be repetition, I think it will give members a better understanding of the Bill. Hitherto delinquents have been committed to industrial schools, and, because there were few other facilities available for their rehabilitation, that is where reformation was attempted during their terms of committal. The position is very different today with a variety of treatments available to the department. There is no need to repeat them here as they have been mentioned at length in my opening remarks, and when I was dealing with the definition of "treatment, discipline and training."

In order to make the best use of these facilities, it is obvious that delinquents should from now on be committed to the care of the department and be subject to the most appropriate forms of treatment within that range. The real object with each delinquent is to re-educate him so that a change of attitude to society is achieved. No two individuals are alike in all respects, so what will influence one for the better may not necessarily have the same effect on another. Flexibility of methods of treatment is desirable, and will be provided by this clause.

Again, attention is drawn to the fact that the Minister's approval must be obtained in each instance. The proposed amendment to the second proviso to the section is consequential. In addition, the word "probation," being the first word in the second last line, should be "parole." The word "parole" is preferred to distinguish between a ward released to the supervision of a probation or other officer of the department, and a child released on probation by a court.

Provision exists in the Act for dealing with children for offences punishable by imprisonment—section 34—but there is no provision for alternative methods of dealing with children who have committed minor offences. Clause 8 makes provision for such minor offenders; and it empowers the court to dismiss the charge under certain circumstances, or to place the child on probation for a term.

It is considered that these alternatives should be made available to the court; and actually they are identical with the alternatives provided in section 34 (b) (c) and (d). Clause 9 contains a proposed amendment to section 39, and the three proposals are consequential upon the amendment to section 34 (a). The complete section, with these amendments, will read—

If any child, being a destitute, neglected, incorrigible or uncontrollable child at the time of being committed to an institution; or being a

child who is committed to the care of the department for treatment, discipline and training, at the time of being so committed is upwards of 16 years of age, such child may be ordered to be detained in an institution or to remain in the care of the department for treatment, discipline and training, as the case may be, or otherwise dealt with under this Act, for the period of two years, notwithstanding that such period would extend beyond the time of such child attaining the age of 18 years.

The proposed amendments to section 41 are consequential on the amendment to section 34 (a), and it is suggested that—

- (a) subsection (1) should be deleted because delinquents would not be committed to an institution but instead would be committed to the care of the department for treatment, discipline and training;
- (b) the first proviso to section 41 (2) should be deleted because it conflicts with the existing section 41 (2) and also because the Bill is designed to obviate the committal of children direct to an industrial school;
- (c) the word "also" must be deleted because this would be the only proviso attached to the section.

It is desired to delete the words "and in the following order," from section 67 in order to give the complainant freedom to choose the near relative most likely to be able to contribute towards a child's maintenance, in the event that it is necessary to bring the matter before a court. As the section reads at present, it is necessary to sue the near relatives—in a certain order—for maintenance, and it could result in fruitless proceedings against father, mother and stepfather before the stepmother could be sued. In cases where the means of the various near relatives are known, this is a waste of time. Under this proposal, the stepmother, in the example quoted, could be summoned to court in the first instance.

In clause 12 there are proposed amendments to section 68 of the principal Act. An amendment to the Act in 1952, enabled the Children's Court to make a maintenance order for a child three months after the marriage of its parents had been dissolved by the Supreme Court, if the latter court had not made an order for the support of that child. As the Child Welfare Department is not a party to divorce proceedings, this clause enables the department to sue for the maintenance of a ward, or any other child being maintained by the department, in spite of the fact that the parents may have commenced divorce proceedings in the higher court. This is highly desirable as children dependent on the department are

maintained from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The department should have freedom to approach a Children's Court for the maintenance of children in these circumstances, in order to protect governmental funds to the utmost.

It is proposed to amend section 69 of the principal Act by a provision contained in clause 13 of the Bill. The words "governing authority" mean the manager, or committee of management, of any subsidised institution. Section 69 deals with the making of maintenance orders; and in the case of wards, the court can order the near relative to pay maintenance to the department or a governing authority. As wards are maintained by the department, there is no necessity to make provision for the relatives to pay the institution direct; and, therefore, the words "or a governing authority" should be deleted from sub-sections (1) and (4).

Clause 14 seeks to introduce a new section. There is no provision in the Act at present enabling a court to make a maintenance order "by consent" of the parties concerned. This clause enables the court to make orders by consent, and sets out in detail the procedure to be followed. Adequate safeguards have been included so that the court can be satisfied that consents to pay maintenance have been given willingly.

Members will see that clause 15 of the Bill contains a provision to amend section 72 of the principal Act. Clause 11 seeks to delete the order of liability in which near relatives can be compelled to maintain a child. This clause is consequential upon that proposed amendment. There is a further provision contained in clause 16 in which it is proposed to amend section 73. Section 72 of the Act deals with the maintenance of a legitimate child and, amongst other things, states—

The allegation in the complaint that any sum has been expended upon, or is due or owing for, or in respect of the maintenance of the child, shall be received as *prima facie* proof of such allegations.

Section 73 deals with the maintenance of an illegitimate child, and it is desired to have the same provision as to past and future maintenance being received as *prima facie* proof.

I do not think that any of us will be deluded into believing that our delinquency problem will be cured by merely amending the Child Welfare Act. I do think, however, that this is a change which could well be given a trial. I have given these aspects of my department considerable thought, and I have quickly come to the realisation that it is impossible to attempt to reform a child in one, two or three months. During the years I found that any attempt by controllers of these

institutions to act on their own initiative was hamstrung by the court recommendations which were, in fact, binding, unless the controllers approached the Minister concerned to release them from such recommendations.

I am sure members will appreciate that it is not advisable for a department to approach a Minister and ask for a court's recommendations to be varied, because the Minister would then be overriding the authority of a magistrate. While in some cases this may be necessary, it is not an easy decision for any Minister to make. As has been stated, in some cases the court recommends no release for three months; no smoking; and no home leave, and those recommendations immediately become an order, and the department cannot vary it. Accordingly, no matter what the child does within the institution, the controller of that institution has no option but to follow the order of the court; he cannot vary it. In other words, he has no control over the child.

This takes away from the controller the power of internal discipline. Most of us will remember that as lads, a smoke, or the thought of home leave, would be something to look forward to; but when one of these children is sent to an institution and the recommendation of the court is there in black and white, and cannot be departed from, the boy feels that he is in the institution for three months and that nothing can be done about it. Accordingly he sulks around the place, and does not try to reform his ways.

If, however, he is given something to look forward to, I think it might be possible to improve and reform him. I appreciate that there are some boys whom it is not possible to reform; and, therefore, it is necessary to impose severe penalties on them to ensure that they are taught their responsibility to society. I hope members will give these provisions some thought, and see whether we cannot give the department the control to place a child where it thinks fit. I am certain there are many boys today who have been convicted and sent to an institution, who should never have been so dealt with. But under the Act as it stands, there is no alternative. For minor offences I think it is better to place them in a parole class, and give them the opportunity of mixing with other boys who themselves know how to behave.

If this were done, I am sure we would get away from the necessity of their having to be sent to Stoneville, or to the Home of the Good Shepherd. As has been mentioned, the closed reform school at Caversham, when it is completed, will hold only 33 boys. This institution is intended for those delinquents who refuse to stay in an institution. There is only one way to keep such boys in an institution, and that is to surround them with a high brick wall. We do not want to call it a prison, because we want

to get away from that aspect, so it is proposed to call this institution a closed reform school.

The boys there will be taught trades; but of course their freedom will be restricted to within the walls of the institution. The difficulty of having no departmental control as to who is to be sent to these institutions, might tend to lead magistrates in children's courts throughout the State to send all delinquents to Caversham.

Members will appreciate the difficulty that will arise if more than 33 boys at a time are sent to this institution at Caversham, because it is designed to hold only 33 boys. The position will be a most difficult one if, for instance, we have 40 or 50 boys sent there. So I think that the department, which has the knowledge of these boys, should have the authority to say where they shall be sent. That has some bearing on the behaviour of the boys themselves. If they are sent to the institution at Stoneville, they know that if they keep breaking out from there their next place of residence will be at Caversham. With this knowledge it might help them to be a lot happier at Stoneville.

If I may digress from the Bill for a moment, I would like to point out that today I have appointed a further child welfare officer to the country districts. There will be one based at Albany; and the office now at Katanning will be shifted to Narrogin. The entire boundaries of the present officers in the country will be varied; this will curtail to a large extent the travelling, and the time wasted in travelling.

The Hon. J. M. Thomson: The officer at Katanning will go to Narrogin?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I do not know about the officer going to Narrogin, but the office will certainly be shifted to Narrogin. There will also be an officer posted to Albany. There has not been one there in the past, and it is thought advisable to have one there. By reducing their areas of operations, most of these officers will be within 100 miles of their centres, and that will lessen their travelling time. If there are any other points on which members might seek information, I shall be pleased to supply it when I am replying to the debate. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On motion by the Hon. R. F. Hutchison, debate adjourned.

SUPPLY BILL, £21,000,000

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 6th August.

THE HON. E. M. DAVIES (West) (5.10): A similar measure to this, of course, is brought down each session for the purpose of making finance available to Her Majesty's Government. In supporting the

second reading of the Bill I would like to bring before the House some matters of importance, particularly with regard to Crown Land in the City of Fremantle. I have already mentioned, when speaking to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-reply, the Government's proposal to resume certain land with a frontage to Queen Victoria Street, thereby depriving the City of Fremantle of certain revenue. While the Bill deals with the question of providing finance to enable the Government to carry on, some of the assumptions of private land within the City of Fremantle will result in the Fremantle City Council being denied some of its revenue.

I want to deal with only one or two phases of importance to Fremantle. The first one relates to Commonwealth land; and I am not going to hold the State Government responsible for that, other than to say that portion of it was excised and used for the purpose of a reservoir when the water supply for Fremantle came from the vicinity of the gaol, and was stored in that reservoir.

The land to which I will refer is Lot No. 1350, consisting of an area of 4.6 perches. It has a frontage to Swanbourne Street and a side elevation shown on the plan, probably, as Broome Street, which has now been changed to Fothergill Street. This is used by the Department of the Navy for its oil tanks. In my opinion those tanks are in the wrong place, because this is elevated land, and if it were used for housing purposes the residents would have an ocean view.

These naval oil tanks are on the skyline, and they detract from the appearance of that part of Fremantle, which should be used for residential purposes. The land which has been excised, and which is under the control of the State Water Supply Department is Lot No. 1747. As I have said, it was used as a reservoir for the water supply at Fremantle, before water was piped from the Canning Dam. The majority of this land is owned by the Commonwealth, but the portion of which I would like the Minister to take cognisance is that area which has been excised and which is under the control of the Water Supply Department—Lot No. 1747.

Whilst this is only a small portion of the area owned by the Commonwealth Government, I would like the Minister to try to find out from that Government the purpose for which it ultimately intends to use the land. The gradual filching of land and property from Fremantle for Crown purposes—for which incidentally no rates are paid to the local authority, thereby depleting its revenue—is of great importance. Apart from this, the use being made of that particular land by the Department of the Navy for its tanks, is not right. The tanks are in the wrong place; they should be down at the Winterfold estate in South Fremantle where there are

others, and where they would have a certain amount of camouflage because they would be in quarries. At present, these tanks are visible from many parts of Fremantle and detract from the aesthetic appearance of that particularly high land which could be used for residential purposes.

Without labouring that question too long, I would ask the Minister to try to obtain some information as to the Commonwealth Government's intention with regard to this land. Also, I would like him to ascertain whether the land owned by the State Government for water supply purposes is going to be retained much longer; because at present it is not being used.

I have stated previously that the area of Fremantle is 3,800 acres of which the State Government owns 271 acres, and the Commonwealth, 90 acres. The Fremantle City Council has been exceedingly good to the various Governments inasmuch as it has made certain lands available from time to time but, unfortunately, there does not seem to be much reciprocity. Approximately 12 years ago, the council passed 23 acres of land, adjoining the Fremantle Park, to the State Government free of charge. This was to be used for the erection of the John Curtin High School.

There was, at the top of the Fremantle Park, another piece of land which was to be retained for the erection of buildings for the youth movement; but when the John Curtin High School was built and it incorporated a very fine hall which was to be used for youth functions—on the condition that the amount of £8,000 raised in Fremantle for the youth movement, was transferred to the Government—it was felt that to use that land for any other purpose would detract from the fine appearance of the high school.

Therefore, about three years ago, the council made available an additional five acres adjoining the school site, and at the same time it agreed to provide approximately 46 acres at Hilton Park for a regional hospital. In return for these grants, the State Government agreed to provide some land on a freehold basis, in order that the council might, if it so desired, sell the land and, with the proceeds, purchase further land adjacent to the Fremantle Park, for the extension of recreation facilities in that area.

What I want to complain about is that this arrangement was made some years ago, because it was thought best to obtain the land then rather than later, because later the land might not be available. I was one who on behalf of the Fremantle City Council took part in the negotiations with the then Under Secretary for Health (Mr. Stitfold), and officers of other departments. Whilst we were requested not to impose any ties on the land, we suggested that if we were to make the 46 acres available to the Government for hospital purposes, we should at least receive as a

quid pro quo a certain portion of Crown land to provide for recreation and other facilities in parts of Fremantle.

In fairness, I feel I must read some of the correspondence. I heard this afternoon that there is before the House a Bill to amend the Transfer of Land Act, so as to permit of the disposal of certain documents. I hope that some of the correspondence that has been sent to the Lands Department from the Fremantle City Council will not be among the documents to be destroyed. The following is a letter from the Fremantle City Council, addressed to the Under Secretary for Lands, and dated the 19th March, 1957:—

I have for acknowledgment your letter of the 19th ultimo reference 4382/54, setting out various lands that the Crown are prepared to make available to this Council in exchange for Council lands required for further development of the John Curtin High School, and provision of a Fremantle Regional Hospital site of approximately 46 or 47 acres at Hilton Park.

I have to advise that at the Council meeting held on the 18th instant, my Council agreed to accept the lands referred to in your letter and set out hereunder, in exchange for a hospital site of approximately 46 or 47 acres at Hilton Park and a strip of land located between the projection of Ord Street and the John Curtin High School site, at the corner of East Street and Ellen Street, on condition that the Council have the free title to the lands referred to in your letter, so that they could be sold to private purchasers if the Council so desired.

Lot No.	Street:	Area		
		Ac.	r.	p.
Base Flats Area				
1850	South Terrace	0	3	38.0
804	Solomon	0	2	20.0
1037	Knutsford	0	1	27.2
1039	Knutsford	0	1	24.6
1043	Knutsford	0	1	19.6
1048	Knutsford	0	1	19.2
1266	Stephen	0	1	32.6
1268	Stephen	0	0	32.6
1270	Stephen	0	0	32.6
1687	Stephen	0	0	32.6
1688	Stephen	0	0	32.6
1689	Stephen	0	0	32.6
1693	Near Markets	0	0	21.5
1038	Blinco	0	1	23.8
1040	Blinco	0	1	23.8
1042	Blinco	0	1	23.8
1044	Blinco	0	1	23.8

It would be appreciated if you will arrange for the survey and sub-division of the hospital site, and the transfer of the Council lands to the Crown and the Crown lands to the Council, and at the same time confer with the Council's Legal Advisers—Frank Unmack and Cullen.

Time drifted on and the following letter addressed to the Town Clerk at Fremantle, and dated the 6th February, 1959 was received:—

Dear Sir,

Referring to your letter of the 6th May, 1958—Members will notice the difference in the dates—regarding exchange of Crown land for that made available by your Council for the John Curtin High School extension and the Fremantle regional hospital site, and which I regret has not been replied to earlier, I have to advise that part of the Crown land offered to your Council, (Lots 1038, 1040, 1042 and 1044), comprise portion of "A" Reserve 11384 (Educational Endowment) and the trustees have not yet agreed to the release of these lots.

Even when released, it will still be necessary for a clause to be inserted in the next Reserves Bill as reserve 11384 being of Class "A" can only be amended by an Act of Parliament.

The matter of the release of Lots 1038, 1040, 1042 and 1044 is being followed up.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. C. SMITH

For Under Secretary
for Lands.

The lands mentioned in the second letter—those that form part of a Class "A" reserve—are not included in the lands that I have just enumerated. I want the Minister to ascertain the reason why these sections have not been included in the Bills which have been presented each session. Members know that towards the end of each session a Reserves Bill is introduced to deal with this class of transfer. Yet the years have rolled by, and no-one has obtained any satisfaction.

I am not raising this matter to have a shot at any particular Government, but I would like the Minister to know that the situation has been the same during the regime of two Governments. The fault seems to lie in the Lands Department; and although I have approached the Premier in the previous Government, and the present Premier, both of whom told me that they would endeavour to have the matter finalised as early as possible, no word has been received from the Lands Department. I am mentioning the matter now in order that if there is any difficulty in regard to the transfer of this land, it may be included in the Reserves Bill at the end of the session. I support the Bill.

THE HON. J. G. HISLOP (Metropolitan)
[5.29]: This is an occasion on which the individual member may exercise his prerogative of speaking on many matters; and it is an occasion that does not come to him again until towards the close of the session. It is for that reason I have taken the

opportunity of submitting certain suggestions to the House and of discussing other matters of importance—or which I consider of importance.

An event occurred last week which, I hope, has cleared the atmosphere of this House for the rest of this session; and for other sessions to come. I and other members must have noticed this year a feeling of tenseness in this Chamber. It is a feeling which comes each time with a change of Government; because man does not find it easy either to win or lose; nor does he recognise his altered status until such time as the responsibility of his new position becomes perfectly clear.

In this instance the responsibility to the people of the State remains unchanged; and it is not very long before one finds that a state of basic settlement is reached; and the usual decorum again obtains; and individuals find their positions more amicably. It is a natural tendency among individuals to resent change; but time brings many changes. I have risen to speak because I feel that time has wrought many changes in this House since I first entered it. I do not wish to labour the past or to tell members that the days in which I first entered this House were better than the present, because they were not.

It would appear that in this life the only thing which is permanent is change; and change we must accept; but there are, and always will be, happenings in a House such as this, that will embarrass individuals and occasionally raise some sense of disappointment and perhaps ill-feeling. Those happenings are very often brought about through the fault of no particular individual. They are not one-sided; and they occur no matter what Government is in power, as was emphasised in recent days; and again the question was not one-sided.

There are certain factors which have arisen in the last few years and which I think we might well examine in order to see whether, in these changing times, some control might not be declared by members of this House. Last week a Minister was chided for giving more information when speaking in reply to the debate on the Bill than he gave when introducing it. That has become rather a habit in recent years.

It is certain that years ago the practice to which I have referred would have been frowned upon; just as it is frowned upon today. However, it has become customary for Ministers, in the case of some measures, to introduce them to the House with very little in the way of detail, as compared with the amount of information given when replying to the debate on the second reading. That tendency has been increasing as the years have passed. Whether it is due to the fact that there are now more measures placed before the House than there were formerly, or whether the Bills introduced are more contentious than

they used to be, is a matter for debate. But even in the session before this we had instances of this occurrence.

Last session we had instances of very little information being given when a Bill was introduced; but a much more detailed statement being made when the Minister concerned was summing up. There are other things, also, of which members have complained from time to time. I do not think any session is concluded without some member complaining of the abruptness of answers given to questions; and sometimes the accusation is made that the reply to a question is misleading; or that it simply does not answer the question.

Of course, when a question is asked with—in common parlance—a sting in its tail, there may be justification for the reply being couched in similar terms; but it is not always a point of that nature to which members take objection. I can recall a question which I asked recently and to which the answer given was not complete. I have also noticed that over the years the conduct of debate in this Chamber has altered; and I feel certain that there has been a growing custom among successive Presidents of this House to allow members a much wider range when debating measures.

There has been a tendency among members, at times, when called to order by the President, to continue their contribution to the debate along the same lines as they were pursuing when called to order. One of the matters which I think members of this Chamber could complain about is the method of Ministers in presenting Bills which incorporate amendments to Acts other than the statute which the Bill in question seeks to amend.

In circumstances such as those which I have mentioned, we have, on occasion, been presented with one Bill covering amendments to as many as three existing Acts, instead of being presented with two or three Bills for that purpose. This practice makes it very difficult for any member to look up all the Acts concerned and get a complete story. These are just a few of the things about which members have complained from time to time; and I have wondered whether we might not incorporate into the duties of some committee, such as the Rights and Privileges Committee, the duty also of maintaining the dignity and status of this Legislative Council; a committee to which such matters could be referred, and which could then suggest to the House that certain changes be made.

Were this suggestion followed, the duties of such a committee would not conflict with those of any existing committee. While we talk about our rights and privileges, we might well add to the functions of the Rights and Privileges Committee the responsibility of members in relation to this House. My most important reason

for speaking at all at the moment is my concern over certain factors in regard to the Murray report on the universities of Australia and, in particular, its reference to the provision of University college accommodation.

The Murray report is extensive; and I have not yet had opportunity of perusing it fully; but I have been able to acquire a full résumé of that Commission's report. As the summary covers most of what I wish to refer to, I shall content myself with dealing with that. I feel that we should all be thankful that in the Federal Government there are men who spent their early lives in Universities, receiving their education there; and who are therefore able to appreciate the necessities of university life. We should be thankful that in the Federal Parliament are both the present Prime Minister and the present Leader of the Opposition; each of whom spent a great deal of his early days in university life and knows exactly what it means.

I will read two paragraphs of a condensed report of the speech made by the Prime Minister, when presenting the Murray report to the Federal Parliament on the 28th November, 1957. On that occasion Mr. Menzies said—

But I hope that we will not, under current pressures or emotions, be tempted to ignore the basic fact that civilisation in the true sense requires a close and growing attention, not only to science in all its branches, but also to those studies of the mind and spirit of man, of history and literature and language and mental and moral philosophy, of human relations in society and industry, of international understanding, the relative neglect of which has left a gruesome mark on this century.

Let us have more scientists, and more humanists. Let the scientists be touched and informed by the humanities. Let the humanists be touched and informed by science, so that they may not be lost in abstractions derived from out-dated knowledge or circumstances. That proposition underlies the whole university idea. It warrants and requires a great variety of faculties and the constant intermingling of those who engage in their disciplines.

It is on that basis that I wish to refer to University college accommodation. The Murray report, in paragraph 75, says—

Certainly they are not as much alive to the needs of the future in this country as they are in the United Kingdom and the United States. Indeed, they are not as sensitive in this matter as might have been expected. Australia has already benefited in quite spectacular fashion from the

application of science in the primary industries; there is common agreement that, with a very high standard of living, secondary industry can only maintain its present promise of great achievement by technological and managerial skill and enterprise of the highest quality; and behind all this is the basic need to drive ahead with the development of a whole continent, vast areas of which, but for the benefit of science, must remain unproductive bush and barren desert. All this is becoming more fully recognised. What is not recognised is that this requires not a small number of very clever people, but a very large number indeed of very highly educated men and women, and that nothing short of this will do.

Both the Federal Government and the Murray report accepted the necessity for University college accommodation; but I believe that the Murray Commission made a mistake in not accepting University college accommodation as an essential part of a University, but rather as an adjunct which should be added to a University by public gifts and service. I am not going to emphasise at great length the increased sum which the Commonwealth now gives to the universities; but it is a very handsome increase. The sum now given to the universities has risen from £6,000,000, previously, to £22,000,000 at present under the proposed schemes.

There are promises of considerable sums of money for the future for contingencies and equipment, and for the increase of professorial salaries. However, the decision of the Murray Commission regarding accommodation—which was accepted by the Commonwealth Government—was as follows:—

We recommend that the Commonwealth Government should offer for the next three years capital grants for the building and equipping of, or extensions to, colleges, on the basis of £1 for every £1 provided by State Governments or other sources, with the limitations that total Commonwealth grants so given should not exceed £200,000 in the first year, £400,000 in the first two years, or £600,000 in the whole three-year period.

I do not know how many University colleges there are throughout Australia but there must be a considerable number when it is realised that there are eight universities plus the University College in Newcastle, and that there will be at least four colleges attached to our own University. Therefore, a total of £600,000 in the three-year period will not go far towards meeting the increasing requirements of the universities during that period.

I take it that if the total grant is £200,000 a year, our contribution will be based on the proportion of population in each State, so we could expect about one-fifteenth of that amount. Unfortunately, I am not in a position to give the exact figures. I may, through questions, at a later date ask the Minister to present the exact figures to the House, but I cannot imagine that we would get more than our share if the grants were made on a population basis; and our share would amount to £15,000 out of £200,000.

We are asking the public to contribute £200,000 to meet present requirements at the University, but together with that we must consider a statement which appeared in the Press recently; that is, that a sum approaching £10,000,000 might well be spent on the University in the next 10 years. If that be so, we can look for a tripling of the number of students attending the University today; and we can look for a considerable increase in the accommodation required by the University colleges.

What concerns me is this: When a Government decides to contribute to the expenditure involved in a national matter and to accept some responsibility in regard to it, it should review the relationship of the public to it on the basis of whether such matter has a wide public appeal. For instance, the Red Cross Society has a wide appeal among members of the public; and all things relating to children, especially handicapped children, have a wide appeal in the community. The Medical School is another institution that had an extremely wide appeal; and the National Heart Foundation will, I am sure, create an equally wide appeal, based somewhat on individual fear; perhaps, because heart trouble is such a common complaint.

The Government should also concern itself, when making its decision, with whether the matter is one of limited interest or one for which it must assume major responsibility. I believe, as has been stated in the report made by the Murray Commission, that the need for University colleges will not make for a wide general appeal. At this stage, I would like to add that a University does not produce its best citizens without adequate University accommodation. We should think once more of the views expressed by the Prime Minister, wherein he said that the humanities touch science and science touches the humanities.

It is only when men of University training mingle together and learn the problems of others, apart from their own academic training, that they achieve the highest in their careers. The man who, unfortunately, has to attend a University without spending some part of his period of training among the community life in a college, or a similar institution, does not receive the full benefit from his

University education. Therefore, if we are to become a nation dependent on science and learning, it is essential that, in the future, these colleges shall be regarded as an integral part of the University.

Through the House I make this plea to the Murray Commission, that when it meets again it shall consider further the relationship of University colleges to universities, particularly in regard to the financial support which the Commonwealth Government will render. If we are to look ahead in the years to come and find that the financial requirements of a University college are to be placed before the public every year or two, we may discover that the call upon the social purse is more than the people of the State can bear; because I do not think anyone doubts that there is only one purse from which all these contributions to social services come. We all know that these contributions are made wholeheartedly by the middle-class section of the community.

Although in the recent years of inflation this section of the public has very nearly been forgotten, it is still supplying the vast amount of money that is raised by public appeal for various social services. If a constant demand is to be placed upon the public, we may find that many of the other well-deserving charitable organisations will not receive adequate support. I cannot imagine for a moment that our public schools were built without some thought being given to the provision of boarding houses within their school grounds. For example, I cannot imagine that the Governors of Hale School would have thought of moving the school from its present site to the future one without including the provision of a boarding house in the plans.

In fact, they contemplate building a boarding house which will hold 200 boys, who will be sent to Hale School by their parents in the country, and many other boys whose parents wish them to enjoy the full benefit of the community life in that school. In the same way, the University colleges become such an integral part of the University that they must be regarded as being part and parcel of it. If the University is to be extended and increased in the way that we mentioned, without adequate University accommodation being provided, it will not play its full part in the way that we expect.

I thank the Minister for Mines for his replies to some of the questions that I raised during the debate on the Address-in-reply, but there are one or two matters that were passed over—not by him—to which I would again like to draw attention. During the debate on the Address-in-reply, I made it quite clear that the State Health Education Council should be reorganised and made into a statutory body in view of the tremendous progress

being made in medical services, and because of the vast sums of money which will have to be spent on hospital buildings.

I asked a question in regard to that council, and I was told that whilst it was an advisory body, the Commissioner of Public Health could not over-ride its findings. I make it quite clear to the Minister for Health that there is a growing feeling among the members of the medical profession that a purely advisory body such as this should be superseded by one which has some authority. There are those who have been members of the State Health Education Council, who have said to me, quite frankly, that it is a completely useless body. If that is the opinion of those who have been members of that council, it is about time some other body was constituted with authority much more definite, in order that the public money made available to it could be used in a more satisfactory manner by people who could give to the department advice which would have to be accepted.

During my speech on the Address-in-reply I also commented on the nursing profession, but I did not enter into any great detail apart from saying that Matron Anstey's evidence did not call for the degree of opprobrium as the report in the newspaper would have done; but had the evidence which was given before that court, been accepted, it would have meant much added expenditure by the State; and I do not think it would have made anybody one jot happier. I do not think the answer to the nurses' problem lies in the raising of their salaries. It lies in the total review of their present methods of training.

The members who represent country districts know full well the difficulty of obtaining nurses to staff country hospitals; and at the same time they are cognisant of the fact that the hospitals in the metropolitan area are fully staffed. I can assure those members that country hospitals will never obtain adequate nursing staff whilst the present training scheme persists.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Have you any suggestions?

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I will repeat my suggestion for about the fifth time in the hope that it will have some effect. I suggest that the training of nurses should include all types of nursing. I also suggest that basically it is impossible to take persons of varying standards of education and train all of them to the same high standard of scientific efficiency. However, it is possible to take people of varying grades of education and give them a basic training; and, from that point on, some of them could be trained to specialise. I further suggest that we should accept nurses for training six months earlier than we do now, and that, before they enter a hospital, they should be given a considerable degree of education in those subjects which they will encounter during their nursing career.

The time of training for the basic qualification should then be reduced to two years. From that point, the nurses should be permitted to specialise in the branch of nursing they prefer for their future careers. During the two years of basic training, I would ensure that the nurse received experience not only at the training school, but in country hospitals, where she would have an excellent opportunity to receive wider experience. During the time of her training, the nurse should be rotated round the various institutions so as to give her a much wider outlook in the field of nursing.

Having completed the basic qualification, I would institute a scheme—similar to the one adopted in the teaching profession—under which hospitals would be graded, and the progress of a nurse within them would also be graded. I know of an instance where a sister was left in charge of a small country hospital for 16 years, without receiving any promotion. That will not appeal in a general manner to the nursing profession.

We cannot continue with a scheme under which the metropolitan hospitals are fully staffed, whilst the country hospitals are inadequately staffed. Can we imagine that by giving an increase in salary to a matron, who works around the clock, she will receive more satisfaction than if she were provided with a nursing assistant? Of course not. If all we can do is to ask the Arbitration Court to grant more wages for a country matron, then it is time we had a complete re-organisation in our thinking of the nursing profession in this State.

There are those who contend that if the nurses are shifted around the metropolitan area and the country districts, we will not be able to obtain nurses. That point need not be discussed. I believe that when a nurse takes on her profession she becomes absorbed in her task. The sick people are the same whether they be in the city or in the country.

I would suggest that country residents take on the responsibility of ensuring that nurses, sent out to country hospitals, receive some form of recreation in their leisure hours. Many of the nurses now working in country towns feel lonely, because they do not have any friends in those towns. The introduction into country hospitals of committees—to be regarded as part of the hospital set-up—to look into the care of nurses, would be very welcome. Such committees would assist greatly in ensuring that country hospitals were fully staffed.

The Hon. J. M. Thomson: The Country Women's Auxiliary would attend to that.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I am not attempting to give any details; I have given the basic idea of what should be done. I do not mind whether or not my idea is

accepted. What matters is that some scheme should be inaugurated which would overcome the perpetual call for assistance from country hospitals.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Some change is wanted.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: If no notice is taken of the suggestion I have just put forward, I shall move in this House for a Select Committee to inquire into the re-organisation of the training of the nursing profession within the hospitals in this State. I am certain that I shall meet with considerable success in such a move. At the moment I am putting that idea before the Health Department. It is the duty of that department to ensure that adequate arrangements are made for the staffing of nurses in metropolitan and country hospitals.

There is to be a hospital of 150 beds in Albany. If a scheme of the sort I have just put forward is not adopted, how will it be staffed? What is the use of spending £1,000,000 in building a 150-bed hospital without having some idea of how it is to be staffed?

The Hon. J. D. Teahan: There is a good hospital in Meekatharra which is also difficult to staff.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: The same position applies to all the country hospitals in the State. This situation is serious; it is one which must be grappled with quickly.

I draw attention to the fact that no comments have been made on my views with regard to the sale of cartonned milk. A great number of people are still wondering when milk, in this form, will be permitted to be sold; and when the present deadlock between the Milk Board and the milk suppliers will be settled. Surely some agreement could be reached under which the people could obtain milk in this form! If it is necessary to charge extra for cartonned milk, that should be permitted.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: It should not cost anything extra.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: I do not know. We have to realise that the life of a carton is one filling, whereas the average life of a bottle is seven to eight fillings. The cost of a carton, in those circumstances, could be considerably greater than that of a bottle.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Bottled milk is still the cheapest all over the world.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: It is a matter of considerable concern that the sale of cartonned milk is allowed to be delayed. Surely the Minister should exercise his authority and find out what is happening about this matter at the Milk Board! Shortly I shall be asking a few questions of the Minister in this House to find out why the sale of cartonned milk has not yet come about.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The Minister for Agriculture is investigating the matter at present.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: In view of the opinion held by the Minister for Mines, before he reached that high office, that entrances to doctors' surgeries should not be blocked by parked motor vehicles, I put this plea to him: I ask him to intervene with the Minister for Transport to reserve a space outside the Mount Hospital for parking by doctors. There is already an arrangement for a small parking area to be set aside in the grounds of that hospital for doctors, but that is too far from the entrance.

I ask the Minister to make an inspection and find out how heavy is the equipment which the surgeon or anaesthetists have to carry from their cars in the parking ground to the theatre. Under the existing parking arrangement, they have to carry the equipment a considerable distance to the lift, and then into the theatre. If, in the city, parking space is set aside specially for taxi cabs and people who class themselves as transporters of goods, surely a similar provision should be made for people who give of their services to the public at the hospitals.

The Hon. L. C. Diver: At the Royal Perth Hospital, parking space is reserved for doctors.

The Hon. J. G. HISLOP: At the Mount Hospital, for some unknown reason, the parking facilities which for years had been reserved for doctors, were removed by the previous Minister for Transport. The Government should reconsider this question, and it should allow, not every doctor, but only those giving service at the Mount Hospital, to have a space reserved for parking there. Some of the equipment used by medical practitioners is extremely heavy. The surgeon's bag is one of the heaviest loads I know of. There is very little more I desire to add except to say that at this stage I content myself by supporting the Bill.

THE HON. J. D. TEAHAN (North-East) [6.12]: When the present Government took over from the out-going Government, it announced that it would inquire very carefully into the position of the finances of the State; but I have heard nothing further. I take it the Government as a result of that very close inquiry, has found the finances to be in a healthy condition, and the position to be quite satisfactory; because in a statement issued within the last few days there is a suggestion that the State's finances are quite healthy and the position good. That was when the Premier announced that the public could expect relief from at least two taxes—the entertainments tax and probate duty.

I was pleased to learn about that, because I had intended to mention entertainments tax. On several occasions I

endeavoured to seek relief from this tax in respect to some entertainments held in the country. In many of the centres in remote areas, the avenues for entertainment or amusement are few. They are nowhere near those which are provided in the city or in the bigger towns. In fact, the citizens seek to provide the entertainment themselves.

In regard to cinema entertainment, private enterprise has found this not to be worthwhile in some of the smaller towns. In order that those communities should not be deprived of this entertainment altogether, local committees took it on themselves to run picture shows at regular intervals; and the proceeds from them were devoted to local amenities. Such a position exists at Cue, Yalgoo and similar centres.

Previously I put forward a case to the Government for entertainments tax exemption in respect of Cue and some other towns. The answer I got was that those places already enjoyed conditional exemptions from tax, and that they should be satisfied. They are not, because the exemptions are not wide enough.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: When did you get that answer?

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: It was not in the life of the present Government. When local committees organise entertainment and amusement, in an honorary capacity, they should be encouraged by the exemption of entertainments tax. In view of the small amount of revenue which the Government obtains from these country entertainments, it should give some relief. Other organisations which also render excellent service in this direction are the railway institutes in various centres. I wish to speak of the one I am familiar with; that is the Kalgoorlie Railway Institute.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: Before tea I was speaking about suggested relief from entertainments tax for organisations such as railway institutes; and I mentioned the Kalgoorlie Railway Institute because I have some knowledge of it. That organisation conducts weekly entertainments and provides healthy amusement for 500 or 600 young people at Kalgoorlie and Boulder. It is doing a splendid job. If organisations of this kind did not exist, I do not know where young people could find similar entertainment. The Railway Institute has to pay entertainments tax each week despite the fact that any profits which it makes—and it does make profits—go to the institute library; the upkeep of technical classes; and the teaching of first aid and ambulance work.

Despite the worthy objects of the institute, entertainments tax is imposed. Therefore, I trust that any organisations

similar to that which I have mentioned, will be freed from the necessity of having to pay this tax. There was a time when railway institutes were exempt from the tax, but it was reimposed. Even if total exemption is not practicable for all entertainments it should be given to those which are conducted for educational, charitable or philanthropic purposes. This would give relief to most country bodies. The organisations to which I have referred have to seek registration, and have to prepare returns. An exemption would relieve them of that irksome duty.

I now turn to a subject which was raised by Mr. Watson in his excellent contribution to the Address-in-reply; that is the matter of stamp duty. Stamp duty, like many other things, is something we have come to accept because we were born with it. It has become commonplace, and we accept it without question until someone raises the matter. It would be too much to expect total relief from stamp duty, because all Governments seek taxes to augment their income. This seems to be such a lucrative source from which a Government can obtain money that it would be expecting too much for it to be eliminated; although it is not imposed in the Australian Capital Territory.

However, if the Government is desirous of assisting the family unit, it could do so through the stamp duty tax. It should exempt the home which a person is buying or intends to buy; particularly as a person usually buys one home in a lifetime. A young married man visualises that when he has sufficient deposit he will purchase a nice home in which to make himself comfortable. Nothing is more conducive to making good citizens than for people to own their own homes. However, what a shock this young chap gets when he pays his deposit! An ordinary working man's home costs somewhere in the vicinity of £3,500 to £4,000, and he has to pay £1 in the £100 in stamp duty. This is an impost of £35 to £40 which he does not reckon on having to meet. A home is the major necessity in a man's life, and a stamp charge is imposed which could easily be set aside. Expenditure is incurred in drawing up a contract of sale; and the mortgage also costs a certain amount of stamp duty. If the person concerned has good health and is fortunate enough to see the final payment made on the home, he will pay more stamp duty when lifting the mortgage.

The ordinary working man is taxed on the greatest necessity of his life—his home. If the Government is seeking to give relief, that is certainly one way in which it could give it. A few days ago a suggestion was made in the Press that probate duty be eased. This is something which could also be done. Action should be taken to eliminate the value of

the family home from the assessment of probate duty. That would not be asking too much, because during the lifetime of the average family man he has had to pay plenty by way of municipal and water rates, and other imposts. Therefore, when he passes on, his home should be exempt from probate duty.

Finally, I wish to refer to another subject which was spoken of during the Address-in-reply. It is worth mentioning again if only to hammer home the necessity that something should be done about it. I refer to the fruit-fly pest. Very little is being done at the present time; but perhaps this is due to lack of finance. If the finance were available, the pest should be tackled in the same way as was the Argentine ant.

Recently a friend of mine transferred from the Goldfields to a certain suburb of Perth. There were fruit trees in the yard, and he set about doing everything he could to prevent infestation by fruit-fly. His neighbour told him that it was a losing battle. When the fruit season came round, his trees were laden with fruit, but it was infested with fruit-fly. It is most dis-heartening to see infested fruit—figs and other types—lying rotting on the ground in a neighbour's yard. No wonder it is a losing battle! In my opinion, the Department of Agriculture should arrange for its officers to visit these places, and if they find that a person is disinterested in his trees, that person should be told to chop the trees down; or they should be chopped down for him.

The Hon. A. L. Loton: There were prosecutions this year.

The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN: The penalties are not severe enough, and people are not alive to the necessity of doing something to control this pest. I hope more stringent measures will be taken so that trees will be eliminated in cases where people are so disinterested as to leave fruit lying on the ground. I hope something is done in this regard.

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West) [7.40]: I would like to preface my remarks by making reference to a question which I asked the other day, and by tying it up to a subject—economy—which has in a number of cases, been discussed at great length. Some members might recall that I asked a question with regard to the collection of rents. Very often we feel that the setting up of a particular office will lead to some form of economy. The story behind this is that in a particular town, rents for the State Housing Commission were collected by a professional agency at a fixed fee. On the average, the fee worked out at 4s. 7½d. per house per month.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: Was there much trouble?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: No trouble whatsoever. In the setting up of an office and the engaging of men to collect rents, the costs worked out at 9s. 4½d. per house per month. It was pointed out that quite a lot of other duties were performed in the office, apart from the collecting rent. Therefore, I asked another series of questions and the answers gave a list of the persons who were engaged in the office, and what their duties were. The man doing the collections was listed as "clerk-collector." He is responsible for rent collections, banking, and returns, etc. The duties include tenancy and arrears investigation and inquiries; installation of tenants; maintenance complaints; and generally to act as the Commission's agent.

Rent inspectors are stationed in the town; and this seems to be one of those cases where the apparent economy is not a real economy, as is so often the case. A similar state of affairs exists today in quite a few institutions, such as hospitals and the like, where men are engaged for the purpose of doing incidental maintenance work. It may be that such work will cost about £3,000, £4,000 or £5,000 over a year; and one, two or three men are engaged in doing this incidental work about the hospital, school or whatever it might be.

In one particular case I made investigations, and I am absolutely positive that considerable economies could have been effected if the secretary in charge had been given a budget of, say, £4,000, and told to engage local men as and when required to do the work. Maintenance work of that kind very often does not come in a steady, even flow. When some part of a building wants painting, a team of men could be engaged and the section would be quickly painted. With two maintenance men engaged, they start on a room; and they probably take two months to do a job which a team of men engaged on a contract basis could do in a week.

A ward of a hospital could be painted and finished, and the whole show could go merrily on its way again. I submit that the basis of employing regular maintenance men is, in many instances, not as economical as it would appear to be. This matter, in regard to some departments, could well be looked into; and the man in charge could be given a budget with a view to engaging local men for maintenance work. There would be so much work that the people at present engaged, could set up on their own. If they are engaged full time now, there must be room for them to start a little business of their own; and, perhaps, in this way they could establish a new business or industry in the town or district in which they are at present employed.

With speeches, fashion seems to play a part no less than it does with women's frocks, because in the last two years it has become the fashion, not only in this State but in the Federal sphere and many other places, to make some reference to the North.

The Hon. J. D. Teahan: If not to the North, to the natives.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Yes. The question of the North has become a great challenge to Australia. Whether or not Australia is looking for a magnificent challenge, I do not know, but it has become fashionable to discuss the North in great detail, and to point out the terrific advantages that would accrue to this country were the North developed.

Whether we like it or not, this State—and indeed the Commonwealth—is in much the same position as we are all in with respect to our private affairs. What we have to do is govern in accordance with what we can afford to do. Much as we might want to do some particular thing, we are governed in our actions by the amount of money available. Also, whether or not we should make a terrific effort in any particular part of Australia may be weighed in the balance against whether we should make some effort elsewhere.

Many reasons which have been put forward for the development of the North, are quite erroneous. The first is the strategic one. We hear that we should develop the North for strategic purposes. I find this reason quite untenable, because I cannot see how we can defend the North. The only really good surveys of Australia—made from the strategic point of view—have not shown that this is a good reason, either. I think that in regard to the strategic defence of Australia, little has been added to Kitchener's original summation in about 1911. When we have a large tract of country, such as we have in the North, it is difficult to find a point from which we can command our defence. A terrific number of strategic reasons, tactics, and so on, can be gone into from that point of view.

If the return from the North is better than the return from any other part of the State, then the question of its development becomes a different matter. Mr. Wise touched on this point the other day when he mentioned the South-West of the State. Whether we are dealing with a business, a farm or a State, we develop the one which shows a quick return; we develop it rapidly in order to provide a basis from which to spread our activities.

I have yet to hear any soundly-based argument—I have no doubt such an argument could be developed—which has proved to me that we have developed those parts of our State which can be readily

and easily developed, and that we are now ready to tackle the difficult problems which exist in other parts of Western Australia.

It should be possible to travel from Perth to Mandurah, and then along the coast road to Bunbury, and on to Augusta, and beyond. Such a trip would be an interesting one. I have done this trip by road; and recently I made the trip by air. It is amazing to see the amount of land, which is easy to develop, that is awaiting development. Some of this country, perhaps, is not of very good quality. But that need not be a bugbear, because with modern developments in agricultural science, I am sure that something could be done with it. Where we have soil which can be easily cleared, and where there is an assured rainfall—I am speaking of rainfalls which rarely go below 30 inches in a year—we can be assured of production. Where we have land that is easily cleared, and we have a regular rainfall, it is far easier to make those apparent deserts bloom like a rose than it is to make a real desert bloom like a rose.

We have heard a great deal of talk about the coast road from Mandurah to Bunbury. This road is now a reasonable one. From my experience of the last time I went over it, I should say that, allowing for the slightly shorter distance involved, one could travel from Bunbury to Fremantle as quickly over that road as one could by using the inland road. This road opens up quite a lot of country, and it gives easy access to many beaches.

In developing such roads we can, in the southern part of the State, gain a terrific advantage from another source—the tourist. For years we have talked about the money which tourists can bring to the State, but to my knowledge there is only one town in the South-West which has consistently catered for tourists; and that town is Busselton. Despite the remarks of Mr. Jones the other evening, Busselton has consistently catered for the holiday-maker—the tourist rather—who wants a holiday and who will spend money on his holiday. Indeed, Busselton has prospered because of this.

Because of the population of the district, Busselton should have developed into a town of reasonable size, but I submit it should not be as big as it is. Again, Busselton has, in its shopping centre, a general air of prosperity because it has looked after its tourists; it has given the holiday makers the facilities they require; and they have responded by going there. However, not much encouragement is given to the tourist who wants to move on and see some more of the State. He can see some interesting country by travelling along the inland road from Perth to Busselton, but he has to return by the same route. If he could travel along the coast road—if it were bituminised—to Busselton and then on to Augusta, he would be able to make a magnificent trip with good roads most of the way.

Apart from the principal road from Busselton to Augusta, there is the coast road which is little more than a track; and I suggest it will probably remain little more than a track for a number of years. But I can see nothing wrong with that. If, however, the road is kept in reasonable repair it will provide an interesting drive to Augusta. But from Augusta on, we run into trouble as far as tourist facilities are concerned.

There is one plan which, I am sure, would, if put into effect, be of immense benefit to the Augusta district. Just across the Hardy River, at Augusta, there is a stretch of country known as the Scott River country. This is quite a considerable tract of land, and it has a 30 to 35-inch rainfall. Mr. Willmott and Mr. Murray will, I am sure, bear me out when I say that this country could be put down to maintenance-free pasture for about £7 10s. an acre. The land, too, is easy to clear; but it suffers from the remarkable disadvantage, for a piece of land which should be so easy of general access, of not having into it a single road that will stand up to any sort of winter use. If a person wants to have a look at this land he needs to go in the summer.

Even so, the last time I was there—it was in May—I could drink the water from anywhere in the Scott River. The water in that river is really good. This big stretch of land may not be suitable for general settlement, in that a lot of it is damp, but it is suitable for general grazing; and it badly needs an all-weather road for a distance of about five miles in from the coast. I suggest that a bridge should be built over the Hardy River at Augusta, and that the road should be constructed from that point. There are several reasonable sites for the bridge. The road would then run parallel with the coast until it got within striking distance of Windy Harbour, and then it would provide a link with Pemberton.

There has been some talk of bituminising the Brockman Highway or the Stewart Highway. The Stewart Highway, which connects Augusta with Pemberton, runs in the main through forest country, but it would not be as advantageous to bituminise that highway as to build a road through the Scott River country, because such a road would provide two advantages. Firstly, it would open up the country for agricultural purposes; and, secondly, it would provide a tourist attraction for the district.

The coastline from Busselton to Augusta runs more or less along the bottom right-angle corner of the State; and the best fishing there is on the western side in the summer, but in the winter, it is better on the southern side, because the prevailing winds then are not as bad there as they are on the western part of the coast. A lot of interesting beaches and other attractive

tourist spots would be opened up by the formation of the road I have suggested. Also, it would enable holiday-makers to have a round trip; they could drive from Augusta across to Pemberton, and then up through Manjimup, Bridgetown, and Donnybrook to Bunbury; and from there they could return to Perth via the inland road. By this means they could travel down along one road and return by another.

But if anyone wishes to go further afield, I suggest he could go from there to Walpole. Here the people have problems which are separate and distinct from those of the other holiday resorts. The authorities are working on the road, and are making a very good job of it, but they have run into some sort of problem on the lower eight or nine miles. From an engineering point of view the present route of the road is difficult; it runs into very hilly country, and, with the bridges over the Deep River, it presents a number of problems; so much so that the Main Roads Department has given the matter a lot of thought; and, so far as I know, the ultimate route of that section has not yet been determined.

Up to some six or nine months ago I think it was intended that the road should shoot just about due east, running inland into some new timbered areas. But, so far as I know, that has been dropped. I would suggest—and perhaps the Minister may be able to make some inquiries about this—that from about seven miles out, instead of following the route of the present road, the new road could veer slightly west and be built on the opposite side of the Deep River—on the west side—alongside some foothills, and come into Walpole from a south-westerly direction. I think it would be much easier to make the road along this route; and at least it would warrant a preliminary or investigatory survey.

From a tourist point of view, that route has quite a few advantages. Most of those travelling from Pemberton to Walpole go through densely wooded country—huge karri—but if one branches off one goes through tingle country, and these trees are even bigger than karri. Along these routes there are no wide vistas, whereas the approach I suggest, from Crystal Brook, would give the traveller some magnificent panoramic vistas which would be a relief after travelling through such dense forests. It has another advantage in that it gives easy access to all of that strip of coast near Broke Inlet.

Here again we can touch on the question of general economy, because ultimately the local authority—the Manjimup Road Board—will be expected to construct roads of some sort through to the various beaches in that area—even to Castle Rock and the innumerable good fishing spots which exist from there to Coalmine Beach.

If the road follows the present route it will be a costly undertaking so far as the local authority is concerned because, in building roads to the various fishing spots, it would have to recross a sweep of the river, whereas if the ultimate bitumen road followed the route I have suggested, the cost to the Manjimup Road Board would be reduced considerably.

All expenses are ultimately met by the taxpayer; and in the siting of roads, the final cost must be kept in mind. What I have instanced is a classic case of where the cost to the local authority, and thus to the individual taxpayer, could be reduced considerably by the re-siting of certain roads.

The position so far as the tourist in Walpole is concerned has improved considerably, as a Mr. Lanning has opened a very nice motel. However, although the district has much to offer in the way of excellent fishing, beautiful scenic drives and marvellous wild flowers—particularly at this time of the year—nobody can obtain sufficient land on which to build a cottage at the fishing beaches. The National Park Board holds 30,000 acres of country as a national reserve. In other areas such as at Augusta, Hamelin and Dunsborough, anybody can buy, close to the sea, a small block of land on which he can build a cottage.

But the position in the vicinity of Walpole, is that it is impossible to obtain a small piece of land on which to build a weekend, or fishing cottage. On the 30,000 acres held by the Park Board, all building is forbidden; and the net result is that anyone wishing to build near the water, but outside the Walpole townsite, must move outside the area held as parkland. Under this arrangement, of course, the town of Walpole gets little or no advantage from these people; and, likewise, these visitors gain no advantage from the town of Walpole. I can see no reason why certain areas adjacent to good fishing spots could not be set aside and subdivided into smaller allotments to be leased to people who might wish to build fishing shacks, provided those shacks complied with certain minimum standards.

The Hon. L. C. Diver: You say that there are 30,000 acres of land there.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: Yes.

The Hon. L. C. Diver: What hope have they of getting any of that if the people up here cannot get a small piece of King's Park for a swimming pool.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: That is the point I discussed with Tom Swarbrick when I was there some time ago. He said, "If we could divide a small area of 10 acres into one-eighth-acre blocks so that people could build cottages, it would be a great help to the district." I said, "There are people in Perth who want only a few acres in King's Park for a swimming

pool. They can't get the land so you have no chance." It seems absurd that out of 30,000 acres of land some cannot be allotted to people who wish to build small fishing shacks.

I would like to revert for a moment to the Scott River area which I mentioned a few minutes ago. Ultimately that land will be taken up—in fact there is one settler moving in there in the near future; and I hope he will be the forerunner of many. Roads will have to be built for these people somewhere along the route I suggested; but there is one point which has to be given careful consideration—that is in regard to the timber which is there. At the moment there are only odd little bits of timber scattered throughout this area, and I would suggest that it all be left, because when settlers move in to the district, that timber will be wanted. But at the moment the Forests Department has given a permit to sawmillers to haul out of the area the small amount of timber that is on it.

I have no doubt that when the district is settled the fence posts which will be required will have to be brought from other districts because of this policy of the department.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: From B.H.P. at Kwinana.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: It seems the height of absurdity that land which is so ideally suited for grazing, and which has so little timber on it, should be denuded of its timber in this way. To me it is a short-sighted policy because the area is close to good timber country and the sawmilling people could obtain their timber from those other areas.

Bearing in mind the terrific expanse of country which is as yet untouched from Augusta to Walpole, and indeed as far as the Walpole side of the Nornalup bridge—in deference to Mr. Thomson I will not cross that bridge—

The Hon. A. L. Loton: Keep in your own territory.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: In that area there is a terrific amount of land crying out for development. There are already main roads leading to the towns in that part of the State; the local authorities are already there; and other services have been provided. So it would appear that expenditure along the lines I have suggested would be warranted because it would return its worth manyfold in a very short time.

I have shown how easily we could develop two good tourist routes so that tourists could travel either down the Coast Road to Bunbury, through to Augusta, across to Pemberton and through the

centre of the South-West; or across to Pemberton, down to Walpole, back through Albany, and then home.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: What about the South-East Province?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: You took us around the South-East, and I am taking you around the South-West. There are huge tracts of land with a plentiful water supply; the only problem at present is to get a good road built. I offer those suggestions in the hope that the Minister may be able to give me some satisfactory answers. I support the Bill.

THE HON. R. C. MATTISKE (Metropolitan) [8.13]: I would like to take this opportunity of referring to two or three matters mentioned by Mr. Wise in his speech last week. The first comment I wish to make concerns his reference to the historical aspects of the Supply Bill. I feel we must all be grateful, particularly the younger members of this Chamber, to Mr. Wise for that explanation, which I personally found of particular interest; and I am sure the other younger members must have found it so too.

The opportunities we have for getting information of that nature from persons as experienced as the honourable member, are limited; and there should be more opportunities given for us to hear these things. Therefore I sincerely hope that in the future other members who have served for many years in this Chamber will let some of the younger members have the benefit of their knowledge and experience. I think that in giving knowledge and experience there should also be tolerance; and whenever anyone first enters this Chamber he should be shown the greatest tolerance and given every encouragement so that he can do his work in a fit and proper manner.

I can vividly recall, when I first came here, how I made a frightful mess of my first two or three speeches, particularly when I first had to lead the second reading debate on a Bill and left myself wide open to some caustic criticism by the then Leader of the House, the late Hon. Gilbert Fraser. But he did not utter one word of criticism in this Chamber. When we were outside he told me of the many mistakes I had made, and I hope that since then I have profited from the advice he gave me.

To continue in that strain, I hope tolerance will also be shown to our two new Ministers. The task of being a Minister in a Government is not an easy one; and for two new persons to lead legislation in a Chamber such as this, and to deal with subjects concerning departments over which they have no control, must be an extremely great burden; and we should be tolerant of them, and give them every assistance to carry out their duties to the best of their ability. To those of us who

have views which might differ from the views expressed by the Ministers, I would say, "Let us express ourselves forcefully and lengthily, if need be, but in doing so let us consider that there is a manner that one can adopt in opposing a person's view in order to avoid making him look small in the eyes of others." We should make it known that we are opposing the subject matter he is submitting and not him personally.

I, therefore, hope that all members of this Chamber will show that tolerance, so that we may have better debates, and so that better results may ensue. I was pleased by the manner in which Mr. Wise opened his speech, though a little later I was extremely disappointed when he referred to the electioneering advertisements, and said that he had a bundle of them which he could bring into this Chamber if he were permitted to trundle in a wheelbarrow. When he said that, I felt that the honourable member was not doing himself justice; it was not worthy of him.

Those advertisements about which he spoke, and in which he said the Liberal Party made no mention of the poor cousin—to use his words—the Country Party, have nothing to do with this Chamber. They concern partly the Country Party, and partly the Liberal Party. I think it is perfectly obvious that any political party putting advertisements in a paper prior to an election, is concerned with one party only; and there is therefore no need for it to mention any other organisations, even though, as happened at the last general election, the two parties in opposition to that which was then in power, worked amicably together and thus gained the numerical strength to enable them to form a Government.

I think it is to the credit of those two great parties—which when it is all boiled down have policies which are practically identical—that they were able to conduct a successful political campaign which enabled them to win the Government and to form a Cabinet between themselves. It is to their credit that they have started their task as they have. I feel sure they will continue to work peacefully together, and that they will do a considerable amount of good for this State of ours. When certain people last year, and in previous years, tried to say things obviously designed to drive a wedge between the two parties, they were not very successful. That was deplorable, and certainly not to their credit; and I feel sure it has had absolutely no effect so far as the public is concerned.

When we hear references in this Chamber to the fact that certain things would not be acceptable to the country members, we must bear in mind that in the Legislative Assembly, where the bulk of the work of Government is done, the Liberal Party has the majority of the

members who represent country electorates. Accordingly I hope that members will get away from that sort of talk. If we are going to indulge in things of that nature, when the opportunity presents itself, the debates will fall on to a personal basis; and this would be entirely wrong.

I notice from a paper which I had delivered to me this afternoon—the current issue of *The News Weekly*—an article headed, "A.L.P. Journal Advocates United Front with Reds." Some of the reading in that article is alarming. I could produce many other newspaper articles which would also be alarming, but I feel it is not the right place to do it. I feel the public, generally, has ample opportunity through the Press of all types, and through other media, of securing information on political parties; they have the opportunity to express themselves when elections come around so that they can, from time to time, place in power the political party, or parties, which they think are then best suited to run the country. I do consider that we should endeavour to uphold the dignity of this Chamber, as was stressed by Dr. Hislop, so that we may better do our job for Western Australia.

In relation to this question of doing our job in this House, I would like to say that in my opinion full use is not being made of the brainpower available here. By those words I mean that, apart from the time we spend here in debates, there is much more that can be done by members in this Chamber. We have here persons—regardless of political colour—who have a peculiar knowledge of one type or another, and who are suited to do jobs of one type or another, but who are not given the opportunity to do them.

During the short time I have been a member, I have conducted research into two particular subjects. I spent a considerable amount of time and money travelling around Australia inquiring into the iron and steel industry. After I conducted that research I prepared notes which, I think, have been used in the right quarters. I hope to be able to keep myself up to date on that industry, and to contribute further information later.

A couple of years ago I inquired into the sugar industry of Australia, together with the many industries allied with it. In undertaking that research, I went as far north as Cairns in Queensland and took the opportunity of comparing the Queensland coast with the north coast of Western Australia. Many other members could do things of that nature; but it behoves the Government of the day to give a lead to individual members by making certain requests of them, and by giving them encouragement to carry out such work.

In this connection I feel that Mr. Wise again struck a strong note when he referred to the development of the North-West.

I am not speaking of that aspect merely because it is fashionable to do so—to use Mr. MacKinnon's expression—but because, in my opinion, it is the urgent thing to do. From my own observations of our North-West, and of Queensland, I feel we must adopt a policy of populate or perish. I have not had the opportunity of any visual education so far as the Northern Territory is concerned, so I cannot speak with any authority of that area. The question is one of extreme urgency; it is one that is beyond party politics; and on that score I agree wholeheartedly with Mr. Wise.

No effort should be spared by members of any political party to solve that problem. Big money will be required for the development of the North-West, and big populations will also be required there. But before big money can be made available, either by private individuals or by Governments, there must be the fullest possible research made into the various problems associated with the spending of that money. We must all try to play our part. There is no doubt that there is considerable wealth in our North-West; and, although it may not return an immediate monetary gain to this State, as suggested by Mr. MacKinnon, I feel there are sufficient prospects to enable a rapid expansion, once a determined move is made on certain of the initial aspects of general expansion.

Accordingly, I hope something will be done. There are many other things we can do in the same vein throughout the State. To me the North-West presents an urgent problem, particularly when we have so many millions of coloured people immediately north of Australia looking at us so longingly. By the same token, however, I do appreciate that there are problems associated with the goldmining industry which also warrant attention. I am well aware of the problems in the South-West of the State which urgently require attention; and I am aware of the fact that there are many problems associated with the metropolitan area which require similar attention.

This work need not be confined to the members of the particular area concerned, but, as was suggested by Mr. Wise, all members should be encouraged to travel over the State as much as possible, to help them appreciate the different problems at first hand; because there is no education like visual education. The Government should take steps in that direction very quickly.

I feel strongly on the point that it is the prerogative of the public of Western Australia to select whoever they might require to represent them in this Chamber, but I think that once elected here, it behoves members to try to forget party politics; we should try to pull together for the betterment of the State. I support the Bill.

THE HON. H. K. WATSON (Metropolitan) [8.29]: The introduction of the Supply Bill appears to affect different members in different ways. It impels me to burden the House for a few moments with certain aspects of finance; it impelled Mr. MacKinnon to take us on a Cook's tour of the South-West; and it impelled Mr. Murray to dissect the Conservator of Forests and his policy. It appeared to have affected Mr. Wise in an entirely different manner. He seemed to step down from his usual and estimable role of elder statesman and, with a bundle of 1950 election advertisements in one hand, and the apple of discord in the other, he proceeded to assume the role of marriage guidance counsellor to the Government.

I feel, though, that he made one unpardonable mistake, because a marriage guidance counsellor does not thrust his views upon a married couple whether they be happily or unhappily married; he invariably waits until asked for advice, and I notice by—

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I am not in that role.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: —tonight's paper that the marriage guidance counsellor will have to take an oath that whatever information is given to him by unhappy partners, will not be disclosed by him.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I shall do that if I am in that role at any time.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: I would like to say to the Leader of the House, and his colleague, not to be disturbed by the coaxing or cajoling of Mr. Wise, and that if they do receive a good offer for the meat works—£1,000,000 or whatever may be its fair value—

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: £2,500,000.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: —I would say, "Go ahead and sell it by all means." I am quite sure that the proceeds could be used to good advantage in the North. If Mr. Wise does not want them in the North, Mr. MacKinnon could have them in the South-West.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Thank you.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: And if neither of them wants the proceeds, I could use them in the metropolitan area.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: I could do with some on the Goldfields.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Would you have any say?

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: However, before Mr. Wise concluded his speech he made his usual contribution which was worthy of consideration of all members; and he reminded us of the history of supply. He reminded us of the time when the king was the executive and the House of Commons acted as the check on the executive, which was at that time the monarch. Since then, however, we seem

to have gone the full circle. Today we find that the executive controls the Assembly; the executive is part and parcel of the Assembly and depends upon the Assembly. So that, in effect, today it is this House which really acts as the buffer between the executive and the people.

Since almost every Bill that is brought down is either to lay tax upon the people or to place some control upon them, I feel we might well consider the question of removing from our Constitution a clog which has been there ever since it was created; and for this House, inasmuch as it does act as a buffer between the executive and the people, to have the same say in regard to money Bills as it has in regard to any other Bill. I do feel that we could well consider the question of bringing our Constitution up to date in that respect. I know there would be the usual protest of this being a House elected on an undemocratic franchise.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: It suits you all right.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: I am returned to this House by an electorate which has 40,000 voters on the roll, and I submit that that presents a more democratic front than, say, that of the member for Pilbara in another place, who is returned by 500 persons.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: It does not—

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: To return to the subject about which I would like to speak for a few moments, the Supply Bill does serve to remind us that something like £15,000,000 is being voted for a quarter's Supply. Our revenue and expenditure runs at the rate of £60,000,000 a year, plus £20,000,000 for loan expenditure. It is a pretty sobering thought to remember that in 1950, the expenditure was only £25,000,000, and in 1955 it was £45,000,000. Today, as I have said, it is £60,000,000, and of that amount, we find that from £30,000,000 to £40,000,000 in this State is raised by income tax.

The point I wish to make is that income tax is by far the principal means of taxation; and for my part I am one of those who have always maintained that the State should have control of its own taxation, including income tax. But the fact remains that since 1942, I think it was, we have had uniform income tax, and we have to face the fact that inasmuch as the Commonwealth is the sole collector of income tax, we must look to the Commonwealth to see that this State and the people of this State obtain their full share of Commonwealth revenue.

The other night I suggested that in just the same way as there is no stamp duty and no probate duty in Canberra, so in Western Australia there should be no stamp or probate duty. One of the answers that were offered in reply to that view was

that the State should exercise its sovereign right to tax, and that any further dependence on the Commonwealth would still further diminish the State's reliance upon its own taxing powers; and that that would be undesirable.

Inasmuch as the Commonwealth has in the main, taken from the States the right to tax, I certainly do not subscribe to the principle that the State Government, in order to demonstrate its right to tax, should try to tax the shirts off the backs of the people by probate or stamp duty. The proposition which I submitted the other night was not designed primarily to better the position of the State Treasury, but to better the position of the citizens. It was designed to leave the State Treasury in no better or worse a position than it is in today.

It is no answer to say that the Commonwealth would not make us the requisite grant; or that, if it could, it would have to raise the revenue somewhere else. I am not convinced that the Commonwealth revenue, as buoyant as it is, could not make the States an extra grant sufficient to enable them and their citizens to enjoy the same privileges as the citizens of Canberra in the way of not having to pay stamp and probate duty.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Can you tell us how to make it do that?

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: In his Budget speech tonight, Mr. Holt (the Federal Treasurer), uttered a truism when he said that an idea must be gained of the overall amount to be raised, and that then the most practical means by which it could be raised must be evolved.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: And most of the easy means, too.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: Taxation may be increased on some things and reduced on others. That is my proposition. I feel that rather than our State having to impose stamp and probate duty, the equivalent amount should come from the Commonwealth even if the Commonwealth has to raise the money, say, by a slight increase in income tax, or an increase in postage or telephone rates. It would be more convenient and more equitable, as far as we are concerned, to have it raised that way than to have the people taxed by what I maintain are two unfair and illogical taxes.

Tonight, the Federal Treasurer announced a 5 per cent. cut in income tax. If, in lieu of making that cut which involves about £22,000,000, he had decided that probate and stamp duty in the States should be abolished and the amount lost to the States made available from the £22,000,000, I think there would have been a lot to commend his decision.

I think it would have a lot to commend it; because, in the same speech, the Federal Treasurer said that the States this year are receiving £35,000,000 more than they

received last year. We have to face up to the fact that, whether it is a Federal Treasurer or a State Treasurer, he will always find means of spending all the revenue he can collect, and perhaps even a little more than that.

I think it behoves the ordinary private member of Parliament—not excluding members of this House—to protest from time to time against the exaction of taxation which is unfair and inequitable. It is no answer to say—as was said the other night—that there is no equity about a tax. Of course there is no equity about a tax; but that is no reason why one should look for the most inequitable system of taxation available and apply it. If, for example, a State had to raise £30,000 for some particular purpose, would it not be more fair and equitable that 300,000 persons should have to pay 2s. each, than that 1,000 persons—who happened to buy homes—should have to pay £30 each by way of a stamp duty, simply because they bought homes?

I submit that a 2s. per year increase in income tax would achieve the same purpose as extracting—and it is being extracted—£30,000 stamp duty from, perhaps, 1,000 persons who buy homes. One does not miss the extra few shillings in income tax, or even the extra penny postage charge that has been imposed, or an extra penny per telephone call—

The Hon. L. A. Logan: And how much on trunk line calls?

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: The Minister will have to read his paper in the morning to ascertain that. I feel that the time has arrived when the abolition of stamp duty and probate duty requires very serious consideration. The imposing of stamp duty on the purchase of a home is simply the taxing of struggling young couples, in the main.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: And they don't even get a vote in the ballot box.

The Hon. H. K. WATSON: Yes, they do. What encouragement is there to the businessman or farmer to expand his business or develop his farm—respectively—if the existence of probate duty simply means that he is building up a real financial problem for his family to face when he dies? Instead of fooling around—it is only fooling around—with stamp duty and probate duty, which represent a negligible proportion of the revenue of the State, we should see to it that this money is provided by way of income taxation or some general tax over the whole community. I will go further—this may seem a radical suggestion—and say that the revenue of local governing authorities should likewise come out of the general funds; and should not be particularised as it is today.

It is no answer to say, as the Treasury has suggested, that, if carried to its logical conclusion, my proposal would lead to

greater financial dependence of the States of the Commonwealth—which is not desirable. I suggest that that is begging the question; because the fact remains that today we are 90 per cent. dependent on the Commonwealth in a financial sense; and, although that position is one which I deplore, we would not lose any more prestige by being 100 per cent. dependent on the Commonwealth for our finance. It is no answer to my proposition to say that it would not be of any assistance to the State or its citizens if it were adopted.

The fact remains that in Canberra there is no stamp duty and no State probate duty; and I refuse to believe that if the same conditions obtained in Western Australia they could be said not to be of benefit to the State. I suggest that they would be of benefit to the citizens of this State and to the State and the Treasury; because they would certainly attract people and industries to Western Australia. I therefore inform the Minister that I was unimpressed by the reply to my proposal which he was good enough to deliver earlier in the session. I propose to continue my advocacy of the points I have raised; because I feel that serious thought should be given to them, with a determination to adjust the inequities of which I have spoken, as only in that way will they be overcome. I support the second reading.

THE HON. G. BENNETTS (South-East) [8.51]: There are three matters which come to my mind and which I feel I should mention this evening. I will deal first with the question of water supplies, as water is the most urgent requirement of this State today. We can see what has taken place in New South Wales, in connection with the Snowy River scheme; and the Commonwealth Government has now seen fit to come to the support of our State Government in the matter of the provision of water supplies in our far North.

Since I have been in this House I have always stressed the importance of the development of our North-West; and the conservation of the waters of rivers such as the Ord, Ashburton, Gascoyne, and others. The development of that part of the State is an urgent and vital matter, in view of the vast populations which face us now in countries such as Japan, Indonesia, and elsewhere in the near North. In today's issue of *The West Australian* there was mention by an American writer of the fact that Japan still has its eyes on our vast, comparatively unpopulated country. It is therefore a step in the right direction if we begin to develop our North-West by the provision of water supplies and good roads. If railways cannot be provided for that part of the State, we must ensure the provision of good roads and the expansion of the shipping service. However, water is the first essential.

After having been occupied for so many years, this State still lacks adequate water supplies in many areas. In my own electorate there is urgent need for increased water supplies to meet the growing population and development. The water supply at Norseman is no longer adequate to cater for the increased population of the area and the development of the mines there. I would also mention that land has been taken up, from Esperance right through to Coolgardie, for pastoral and other pursuits, yet the water main running from Coolgardie to Norseman has been down for many years. We know that piping has only a certain life and, although three booster stations have been installed to improve the supply of water to Norseman, in view of the age of the pipes, many bursts in the main will result, as time goes by, owing to the increased pressure.

At a deputation to the Minister for Water Supplies the other day, we suggested that if a 14,000,000 gallon reservoir were built at Norseman it would meet the needs of that centre for some considerable time. Norseman is a progressive town, and the workers there are at present subscribing weekly, out of their pay envelopes, to provide a water supply with which to grass an oval, in order to keep the young people in the town and prevent them drifting to the metropolitan area, as they now are, in search of the amenities provided there.

Many citizens of Norseman are subscribing to a fund to assist the Government to provide the water supply which I have mentioned. I asked a question in this House today in relation to the supply of water at Esperance, as that is a vital question at the present time. I do not know how we are going to secure increased supplies of water there, as it is difficult country in which to obtain potable water. The subterranean water in that area is brackish and suitable only for certain requirements. I can only repeat that it is necessary to spend very large sums of money on the development of water supplies throughout this State.

As I mentioned last year, at a deputation to the then Minister for Water Supplies at Merredin, many farmers in a dry season have to bring their trucks a long way and wait sometimes from eight to ten hours before they can fill their tanks with the water that is necessary to keep their stock alive. If we are to bring this State into full production, water is the first essential; and I hope that the present Government will consider making available extra money this year for water conservation. One suggestion which I would put forward is that help should be given to farmers and others to provide rock catchments. I believe the engineers have said that such catchments are not payable; but I understand that one farmer

at Narembreen has put in his own rock catchment; and that it is very successful.

I feel sure that, if subsidised by the Government, a great many farmers would put in their own rock catchments; and in that way conserve much of the water that is now going to waste each year. That would, with a consequent saving of expense, save the Government the necessity of installing pumping stations and enlarging pipe lines.

I hope the Government will not be hoodwinked by the committee which is running the Empire Games, into spending large sums of money on projects that will not be of any value to the State; but which will be constructed at the expense of the water supplies that are so vital to the development of Western Australia. Dr. Hislop mentioned hostels for school children and University students. There are two sides to the question of hostels.

When a child is forced to live in one of these school hostels so that he may receive an adequate education, he loses the love of the parents he leaves behind in the outback centre from whence he came. Every child is entitled to the love of his parents, but, unfortunately, if such a child remains in the bush at centres such as those along the Trans.-line his education will not be complete. The Commonwealth Commissioner of Railways is a man with great foresight, and should any vacancy occur in the railways he gives preference to the children of officers who are stationed in outback centres. It has been noticed, however, that many of the children filling those vacancies have been found lacking in knowledge on many educational subjects.

Several of the schools situated along the Trans.-line are in charge of one teacher, and quite often that teacher has not long left the Teachers' Training College. He is given the task of teaching half-a-dozen grades, and, as a result, the children suffer because he is so handicapped. I do not blame the teachers because they, too, must sacrifice a great deal when they are appointed to schools in these isolated parts. In addition, the population that is scattered along the Trans.-line, is made up mainly of foreigners, and any young teacher would find difficulty in understanding them; and also in teaching their children.

In spite of this, the teachers who are in charge of the schools beyond Kalgoorlie are doing a wonderful job but, in my opinion, they are working under great difficulties. On the Goldfields at the moment there is a committee which is advocating the establishment of a school hostel in Kalgoorlie so that children from Leonora, Laverton and along the Trans.-line can be

accommodated, and taught, in the Kalgoorlie schools which have a high educational standard. In addition, those children who are so inclined may take advantage of the subjects they are taught at the technical school, and the Kalgoorlie School of Mines.

I therefore hope the Government will make some money available for the establishment of a school hostel, because the children in the outlying parts of the Goldfields deserve all the education possible. I understand that approximately £5,500,000 was spent on education during the financial year of 1956-57, but I also notice that a much greater figure has been spent on education in other States. This would indicate that it is time this State increased its education vote.

In his speech, Dr. Hislop referred to the shortage of nursing staff in country hospitals. The health of the people of the State is most important; in my opinion it is next in line with the provision of adequate water supplies. When the present Cabinet was formed, I was amazed when neither Dr. Hislop nor Dr. Henn was appointed as Minister for Health because, in my opinion, they each have all the necessary qualifications to hold such an important portfolio.

The training scheme for nurses today has been found to be unsuitable, despite the fact that it is costing the State thousands of pounds to train these young girls. In many cases the nurses are lost to the profession shortly after they graduate. They leave the hospital in which they are engaged, to become married; and although their training is not entirely lost to the State—they put it to good use by making good wives and competent mothers—the main result is that many of our country hospitals are suffering through lack of staff. I will point out, however, that many nurses after they marry, render their services to country hospitals should vacancies occur.

The Hon. L. C. Diver: They are found in many of our country hospitals.

The Hon. G. BENNETTS: Yes, they are. What is more, they do not get much credit for the services they render because they often fill the breach after a nurse suddenly leaves a country hospital; and, as a result, many a housewife who acts as a nurse in these instances makes a slave of herself because she still has to look after her husband and children.

During his speech on the Address-in-reply debate, Dr. Hislop referred to the export of beef and mutton from this State to America; and there is no doubt that his words have come true, because large quantities of this meat are being exported at the present time. On one occasion Dr. Hislop visited America and returned to this House to make a remarkable report on hospitals,

the training of nurses, and many other important matters. Despite this, I have never heard any mention made of Dr. Hislop's report. In my opinion, if any member goes to the expense of visiting other countries or other States and returns to Western Australia to present valuable information before the House, the reports that are made should be closely investigated to ascertain whether any of the valuable data can be used for the benefit of the State. No report by any honourable member should be disregarded merely because he belongs to a certain political party. On the contrary, it should be closely perused to see whether any good can come from it. The members of this House are here to put up suggestions for the benefit and the welfare of the people of this State, and when such suggestions are made it is up to the Government to take some notice of them.

I regret that I was not present when Mr. Wise made his speech on the North-West. I am sure that it was an excellent address, because he makes a practice of advertising the advantages that can be gained by developing that district. He takes every advantage of any opportunity that presents itself to visit those parts. The other members of this House are not afforded the same chances to visit the North-West although, in my early days, I travelled through it on horseback. Nevertheless, I am certain that that district, whilst it is represented by Mr. Wise, is in capable hands; and I hope the Government will act as soon as possible to increase the population of the North so that Western Australia may be protected against the Asiatic hordes that threaten the north of Australia today.

THE HON. L. C. DIVER (Central) [9.10]: I do not propose to take up much of the time of the House in speaking to the Supply Bill. I preface my remarks by congratulating both the Ministers on being appointed to their new posts, and I trust that their stay in office will be long and will prove of benefit to the State and to themselves. I also extend my congratulations to Mr. Ron Thompson, the newly-elected member for the West Province. I trust that his stay in the Legislative Council will be of long duration, and that his representation will be of benefit to his province and to the State.

I am hopeful that, during the course of this session, I will be able to make my contribution to each Bill that is introduced to this House. I have heard a great deal of talk of this great State of ours, and what should be done to assist its progress. Yet no solution seems to be forthcoming to the metropolitan and outer-suburban transport problem, despite the fact that the Government is proposing to spend thousands of pounds to advertise the beauties of the State in an endeavour to

attract tourists. The first duty of the Government is to improve the amenities and facilities available to our people before making the State attractive for others.

There are three political parties in this State, and two of them have endeavoured, each by its own particular method, to improve the transport system throughout the State. Those parties have told us that they advocate decentralisation, because it is only by this means that we can develop this wonderful State. However, how are we to achieve that? The policy that has been followed in regard to our transport system is tending to centralise our population.

Any men or women who wish to live in the urban areas surrounding the city, because land is cheap, can perhaps, in their spare time, produce something that will make their homes self-sufficient. They may also wish to raise their children in better surroundings and under better conditions, than they would enjoy in the city. However, such people are not encouraged to live on the fringe of the metropolitan area because of the poor transport system that we have to offer.

We cannot run a passenger service to suit them. Only the other day, strong protests about the transport system were made at a meeting held at Kalamunda. I am far from being convinced that party politics did not play some part at that meeting. Some 400 people who attended complained bitterly about the Kalamunda bus service, and I am sure that many of them support the policies followed by the Liberal and Labour Parties.

They complained bitterly because, in the reduction of the bus services, the policy of those political parties was being implemented. It is beyond my comprehension why those people on polling day did not realise what they were doing, and why they did not tell the respective candidates what was expected of them. That instance is typical of the shortcomings of the metropolitan transport system.

I do not contend that the Government should run large buses to serve five or six passengers. Surely we have enough intelligence, and surely we are practical enough to introduce subsidised taxi services, which can be used to supplement the bus services, and as feeder services. We should not leave this matter for the local people to deal with. Most of them have not the time to organise these transport arrangements. They are only working people, and their spare time is taken up with home duties, and with travelling to and from work. The Government should cater for the travelling public in the outlying districts by providing supplementary services.

I trust that the Minister for Transport will take as great an interest in the question of outer suburban transport services,

as he will in the restoration of certain railway services. It is high time that those railway services were restored. I understand the Government intends to do something shortly; but I consider "shortly" is too long a time to wait. The Government should take some action now.

Another matter I wish to deal with concerns the wholemilk industry, and what is known as the solids-not-fat content. A deplorable position exists in Western Australia where two authorities determine whether milk is of the satisfactory standard. One is the Milk Board, and the other is the Perth City Council, through its health section. It is about time that the determination of the quality of milk was handed wholly and solely to the Milk Board.

It can be proved beyond any shadow of doubt that the genuine product of the cow is, up to a given time, quite satisfactory under analysis—even satisfactory to the Perth City Council health inspectors. Perhaps, during one milking, the standard of the solids-not-fat content may fall short of the requirement under the Health Act. The producer can then be prosecuted and fined. There have been many such prosecutions. Men have been penalised because the natural product of the animal was below standard on one occasion.

I have read quite a number of works on the subject of the standard of milk. We find that what takes place in this State far exceeds what is required in Great Britain. The authorities in that country have conducted a great deal of research into the quality of milk; but nowhere are prosecutions taken against the producer when the animal fails to give a product which sizes up to the requirements of the law.

Firstly, the authorities in Great Britain endeavour to educate the farmer as to the correct feeding. If subsequent tests prove that the animal has not the capacity, under the correct feeding programme, to produce the required standard of milk, the producer is then advised to dispose of the animal. If he fails to do so, his registration is suspended for a period, after which he is allowed to return to the industry.

He is then expected to stock the right type of cattle on his farm and to practise the correct methods of husbandry. Up to this stage, the producer is not prosecuted. If, subsequently, the producer does not procure the right type of cattle and does not adopt the correct husbandry methods, and he fails to produce milk of the required standard, he is deregistered and advised to turn his efforts to other occupations. I consider that to be the right approach.

This State is the only place in the world where producers are prosecuted for under-standard milk; that is, when the milk has

not been tampered with. When it is, a simple test can be made to determine whether water has been added. We should not protect individuals who do that; we should protect only the genuine producers.

The problem of under-standard milk is more common in this State than in other parts of the world. I am told that in the autumn of 1958, of all samples of milk taken in the milk-producing areas 98 per cent. were sub-standard as regards solids-not-fat content; yet that milk passed the Milk Board. It was only as a result of the advent of the big milk tankers that the milk reached anywhere near the required standard. In the case of the small producers at Armadale or Wanneroo, whose milk is transported to the depot in small containers by carriers, samples can be taken. They become sitting shots for the inspectors of the Perth City Council.

I appeal to the Minister and to the Government to give this matter their consideration. Everyone of us knows that at times there are certain deficiencies in milk produced all along the coast of Western Australia. The law should be framed so that when the Milk Board determines that milk has reached the required standard, the Perth City Council inspectors cannot prosecute. In one prosecution, the producer was fined only a nominal amount; but the total penalty, including costs, was £50.

The Hon. R. C. Mattiske: Are the standards here different from those in England?

The Hon. L. C. DIVER: They are substantially the same.

The Hon. J. M. A. Cunningham: How would it be to pay according to quality instead of quantity?

The Hon. L. C. DIVER: The main trouble here is that milk is not based on quality. I am told that the milk depots here purchase no cream from producers. Their total cream sales are derived from over-proof milk, or milk which exceeds the minimum requirements.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: That was the point raised by Dr. Hislop.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: An illegal trade in cream is operating.

The Hon. L. C. DIVER: Yes. If the health inspectors were as severe in that respect as they are towards some unfortunate producers, their time would be better utilised.

The Hon. J. M. A. Cunningham: That would not affect the solids-not-fat content.

The Hon. L. C. DIVER: No. As everybody knows, cream is the fat content of the milk. The solids-not-fat content is composed of bone meal property, and all those solid content ingredients in the milk.

Last session I was tinkering with the idea of introducing a measure along the lines I have just mentioned. When I got

before departmental circles, I found that, to put it mildly, there was to be a little resistance. I need not refer to some of the language used to put me off. I know the Minister for Agriculture will have an uphill battle to get what is required. The suggestion put to me by experienced and scientific men in this State was that milk be purchased on quality. By that means the problem would be overcome substantially.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: That is the only answer.

The Hon. L. C. DIVER: It is. The department contends it is difficult to get all milk sampled. But what happens in the case of cream? In the factories a test is made of milk when it is sent in. I, myself, have gone into a laboratory, and have seen the trays of milk being sampled. I was assured that samples could be taken to determine the standard or quality. The person taking the samples could have thousands of them on trays, each numbered to represent the different producers. He could turn his attention elsewhere while the vaporising tests were made.

Eventually something must be done along these lines. On behalf of the producers who today are being prosecuted and convicted for producing milk under the required solids-not-fat standard, I appeal to the Government to make a move to prevent the Perth City Council health inspectors from making prosecutions.

I hope the Department of Agriculture will do its level best to see that the standard of milk is raised. It will have a tremendous battle—all its scientists know that—but it is something which can be done. That is all I wish to say at this juncture.

Sitting suspended from 9.32 to 9.54 p.m.

THE HON. F. D. WILLMOTT (South-West) [9.54]: The introduction of the Bill impels me to seize the opportunity to pass a few remarks on land settlement in Western Australia. We know that pressure has been built up by the Press; by some members of the public; and by some politicians, urging the Government of this State to introduce a civilian land settlement scheme similar to the war service land settlement scheme. I can only hope that the Government will not introduce such a scheme at this point of time.

I am not trying to deny that the war service land settlement scheme has done a good job in many directions, because it has. But in regard to that scheme there are many difficulties to be overcome; many anomalies to be solved; and many complaints from the settlers to be dealt with. Some of these complaints are genuine, but I believe that many are not.

One reason, more than any other, that has caused dissatisfaction, is the initial mistake which was made when the war

service land settlement scheme was commenced. By this I mean that owing to pressure by the R.S.L., by the Press, and by politicians, to put men on to farms early in the scheme, a mistake was made. Early in the scheme we heard this outcry: "The scheme has been going for so long, why are there not more men on the farms?" The Government was compelled by pressure to put men on to the farms, long before the farms were ready to take them. That, I believe, was the basic mistake, and one of the main reasons for the anomalies that exist today.

At the commencement of the scheme, the Commonwealth Government stated that certain standards would apply to certain types of farms. For example, a dairy farm was to be brought to a 40-cow standard; a fat lamb farm was to be brought to the capacity of 900 ewes; and so on. Had the farms been brought somewhere near those standards before the men were put on them, many of the difficulties, dissatisfaction, and disappointments, that were subsequently experienced, would have been avoided. Furthermore, I believe that many farms at present in the course of development by the war service land settlement scheme, will eventually be made available to civilians.

I say this because many applicants for farms have been waiting for 10 or 12 years; and, although the fact has not yet been ascertained by the department, I believe that when the time comes for these people to take up their farms, many of them will no longer want to do so; because, if a man is in a reasonably secure job, he will—particularly if he is 10 or 12 years older than when he made his application—think twice before he leaves his job to take up a war service land settlement farm. I particularly mention this, because farm incomes are now on the decrease. Today there is not the scramble that there was 10 years ago for uninitiated persons to go farming; or anything like it.

Another matter which will have some bearing on war service applicants not wanting the farms, is the tremendous amount of publicity that has been given to the shortcomings of the war service land settlement scheme, and the small amount that has been given to its achievements.

So I believe that if at any stage, new land settlement schemes are to be introduced, we must devise an arrangement whereby less responsibility is accepted by the Government and more responsibility is pushed on to the individual farmer. I believe that land development will not cease if, when war service land settlement closes up, no civilian scheme is introduced. I believe that land development will continue—

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It must continue.

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT: —because there are plenty of private people—in particular, sons of existing farmers—who are just crying out for an opportunity to develop some land; and the land is not there. In regard to this question, I would like to quote a few extracts from a letter I received only today; and this is typical of dozens of such letters that I receive from time to time.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: If you go to the Land Board you will see hundreds of them.

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT: This will bring out the point I am trying to make. This man has asked me for assistance in regard to an application he has made in his own and his sons' names. He says—

I have been wondering if it would be best if the boys applied separately as they are of age and do not possess any land. I have five boys in this age group and none of them are landowners.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: What are their ages?

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT: He says they are of an age to take up land, which would mean that they are over 16. Further on he has this to say in regard to the land he now holds—

This block is all under pasture, orchard and potatoes with the exception of approximately two acres left for shade and another one acre of bog.

It is obvious that that farmer has no land for further development, and he has five sons who are breaking their necks to get hold of land to develop.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: There is plenty at Esperance.

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT: He goes on to say that there is not sufficient land on the property to support them all; and that if the block he is applying for could be granted to him they would be prepared to start improving it immediately. That is only one of many letters that I have received; and I know other members have received them, too, from people who are desperately requiring land. They have the wherewithal and the knowledge, and in many cases they have the money to develop land.

Unfortunately, in a large part of this State, because of the blanket control imposed by the Forests Department, which has been referred to so often in this Chamber by South-West members—particularly Mr. Murray—people are more or less debarred from obtaining any land.

Another point is that some war service land settlement farms will become available to private settlers; in fact, some farms have become available because the department has stated that the properties are surplus to the scheme. In most cases, if one inquired as to why those properties were surplus, one would find that it was

because they were not an economic proposition. They have not been brought to what the department considers an economic standard; and consequently the department is glad to get rid of them rather than be forced to spend money to bring them to an economic standard. A number of such properties are being offered to private individuals.

That brings me to the main reason why I believe the Government would be unwise to introduce a civilian land settlement scheme at this point of time. A large number of existing farms are in an uneconomic state. They are of no benefit to the State in that condition, and there is not sufficient money available to develop them. We all know that the farmers who have these uneconomic farms cannot get money from the banks to develop their properties, the reason being that the banks prefer to put their money into more profitable ventures, such as hire-purchase. That is not unnatural, as banks are business concerns. Yet bankers have tried to tell me on many occasions that they have the money available if people will only apply for it.

They have, but under terms which would be totally useless for the development of land. To develop a property in the timber areas, a farmer would need to have terms of 30 years, and not 10 years, which is about the maximum the banks will allow these days.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It is three or four generations away.

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT: It would take terms of repayment of 30 to 35 years to bring these under-developed farms to an economic standard; and, of course, many of the war service land settlement farms which are being put on to the market are adding to the number of uneconomic farms in this State. So we need to think in terms of making money available to bring these farms up to a reasonable standard before we talk of opening up more land, because there are plenty of private people who are quite willing to open up the land, if they can get it.

We know that the Commonwealth Government is at present having an inquiry held into the dairy farms throughout Australia. I would not need to be a prophet to forecast the result of that inquiry; the position will not be a happy one. But what is the use of holding such an inquiry unless the Government intends to do something about altering the position of those properties which are now in such a bad economic state? I think it is far more urgent to bring the uneconomic farms to a reasonable standard before we try to use Government money to develop another land settlement scheme.

I would now like to have something to say about the dairy improvement scheme which has been operating in this State at two pilot areas in Northcliffe and Margaret

River. Recently I spent several days in each of those areas having a careful look at the scheme. I believe that this improvement scheme, although it is confined to two pilot areas, is already developing many of the faults which have become apparent in the war service land settlement scheme. I think I would be right in saying that this was one of the best-thought-out schemes we have seen in this State; but one thing which was not taken into consideration was the effect of human nature.

As a rule, if an individual farmer makes a mistake, he is quite philosophical about it. He will write it off as experience and make up his mind that he will not repeat that mistake. But if the Government is handling the job, and it makes a mistake, even though it be only a small one, it grows in the mind of the individual to the dimensions of a major disaster, even though in actual fact the result of that mistake on the economy of the farms involved would be negligible.

That brings me back to the remark I passed earlier: that we have to put more responsibility on to the individual and less on to the Government. In this dairy scheme, all sorts of complaints are made, some of which are genuine. When I examined them I found that mainly they were brought about because of a basic mistake made when introducing the scheme; and, in my opinion, that basic mistake was in telling the farmers that no matter what the clearing costs were—and at that stage it was stated that the clearing would be done with the farmers' assistance and the land brought to the seed-bed stage—they would be charged no more than £12 an acre.

That figure of £12 was ridiculously low. In the early stages of the scheme, the bulldozing was done by various contractors, mainly on an hourly basis. In most cases the work was well done; but it was obvious to anyone who had had any experience of bulldozing that it was proving too expensive. So it was decided to call tenders; and in both areas the bulldozing work was taken over by one contractor, with disastrous results.

Firstly, they were not able to cover the whole area which was supposed to be done while the weather was good. The operators were working in bad weather, when the ground was wet. Secondly, all the work was done on a contract basis, and not on the hourly basis, with the result that some of the work was particularly bad.

That led to immediate complaints by the people who were having the work done. Farmer A started to complain because Farmer B's work was twice as costly as his; and he said that he was helping to pay for the work done for Farmer B. Another complaint was that when the contractor came on to the farm to do the work and the farmer tried to interfere and complain about the bad work being done, he was told,

"You have nothing to do with this. I am taking my orders from the representative of the Rural & Industries Bank, so you just jump in the lake." The farmer had absolutely no control over the work being done on his property.

That is similar to the type of complaint one receives from the people engaged under the war service land settlement scheme; and after a time it results in the farmer getting the idea in his mind, and saying to himself, "All right, the whole thing is the Government's job; I wipe my hands of it." These people then try to step into the Government for everything they can. They leave the Government to remedy the mistakes, whether they are made by themselves, or by the officers of the Government. That is what has happened in the war service land settlement scheme; and that is what is happening to the settlers—in far too many cases—who are in the dairy improvement scheme.

This dairy scheme is in the pilot areas only. I saw an announcement in the Press last week which said that the Minister for Lands had decided to continue the scheme in the pilot areas. I agree wholeheartedly that it is necessary to complete the scheme in the pilot areas, now that it has been started; but I hope it will not be extended outside those pilot areas, because I am quite sure that the sort of thing that has grown up—and is growing up—within the pilot areas will be intensified greatly if it is extended.

Accordingly, if any schemes are to be started in the future, I think we must devise some system which will throw a great deal more responsibility on the individual, and a great deal less on the Government. This will have the result of our being able to avoid the types—the unsuccessful types, largely—who took advantage of the war service land settlement scheme. I am referring to the men—and there were a number of them—who accepted the conditions of the war service land settlement scheme without any intention of ever staying on their farms. They decided to stay there just as long as they could squeeze something out of the Government. That, of course, had a detrimental effect on the genuine farmer under the scheme. If the responsibility for the work on any farm is thrown on to the individual, rather than accepted by the Government, we will avoid the types to whom I have referred, because they would not take it on if theirs was the responsibility from the word "go."

I hope the present Government will not be pressurised into starting any civilian land settlement scheme similar to the war service land settlement scheme.

On motion by the Hon. H. C. Strickland, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.19 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 11th August, 1959

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