

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 24th April, 1979

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

THE LATE SIR DAVID BRAND

Condolence: Motion

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Leader of the House) [4.32 p.m.]: I seek leave of the House to move, without notice, a motion in relation to the death of the Hon. Sir David Brand.

Leave granted.

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Leader of the House) [4.33 p.m.]: I move—

That this House expresses its deep regret at the death of the Honourable Sir David Brand, K.C.M.G., a former member of the Legislative Assembly for the Greenough Electorate, and a former Premier of the State, and places on record its appreciation for his long and meritorious public service, and tenders its profound sympathy to his widow and the members of his family in their bereavement.

The sudden death of the Hon. Sir David Brand, KCMG, on Sunday, the 12th April last, can be regarded as a sad personal loss not only to his wife and family, his many friends, and his colleagues, but also to the people of Western Australia in general. I seek the indulgence of the House to pay tribute to this great Western Australian and to express profound sympathy to his wife and family in their bereavement.

Much has already been said on the passing of this man, whose fine personal attributes matched his distinguished political achievements—a man whose human qualities touched everyone who knew him, a man whose name is assured of a high place in the State's history. On any judgment, Sir David Brand would have to rate as one of the greatest sons this State has produced. We regard his loss as not only premature but also as a sad blow to Western Australia.

The fact that Sir David elected to spend 35 years of his life in politics allowed him to give full scope to those very special gifts with which he was endowed. He was of inestimable benefit to Western Australia in particular and Australia in general. To work with him was a delight. He had a natural faculty that made those alongside him

go the extra mile. I regard myself as being particularly fortunate in having shared six years of Cabinet life with Sir David as Premier.

When one looks at his achievements as a politician it is easy to see why he will be remembered as one of Western Australia's great Premiers. He was elected to the 18th Parliament as the member for Greenough on the 27th October, 1945. He resigned almost 30 years later, on the 21st August, 1975. He was appointed Honorary Minister for Housing, Forests, and Local Government, on the 7th October, 1949. On the 6th April, 1950, he was appointed Minister for Works, Water Supplies, and Housing. Seven years later, on the 1st March, 1957, he became Leader of the Opposition. On the 2nd April, 1959, he started his record term as Premier for 11 years, 11 months, and one day. He was also Treasurer and Minister for Tourism. He was the Leader of the Opposition from the 3rd March, 1971, to the 5th June, 1972. He was created a KCMG in 1969.

As you can see, Mr President, Sir David had a very imposing record, not only as a Premier but also as a member of Parliament.

We extend to Lady Brand and her family our utmost sympathy, and trust they will find some consolation in the knowledge that their sadness is shared by all. For me it was a very sad personal loss, because I had for Sir David Brand not just the admiration one shares for a very gifted and talented leader but a deep and abiding affection.

THE HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the Opposition) [4.36 p.m.]: It does not give me pleasure to second the motion moved by the Leader of the House, because it is a sad occasion. I knew the motion was coming forward and in the first instance it was my intention to write something down. Then I thought perhaps it would be better just to reflect for a few moments on a man who gave a great deal to this State.

I first met David Brand before I came near this Parliament—in fact, before I ever thought I would be here. As a matter of fact, at the time I first met him, I would have thought I would be a backslider if I ever came here. However, that is history. No man really knows what is in front of him.

When I met David Brand, before he was knighted, one of the things that impressed me was his sincerity and the fact that he was very forthright. He was a very easy person to speak to. He could get his point over without resorting to threats, hysteria, or extreme language. I admired

him for that. I also admired him because he was a man above all else.

When I came into Parliament we assumed Government and he was the Leader of the Opposition. I renewed my acquaintance with him—it was not a great acquaintance but he certainly had not forgotten me—and I used to enjoy introducing people to him. When he went out of Parliament it was my pleasure on a number of occasions to have a talk with him, sometimes in my own office at the end of the passage. One could always learn something from him. I did not agree with his political philosophy—I would be a hypocrite if I said I did—but I admired him as a man and I think his passing is a great loss.

I want to make one observation; that in view of the fact that politics is a very complicated business today, with the great pressures which are brought to bear particularly on leaders, not only of the national or Federal Government but also of the State Governments, I firmly believe Dave Brand was its victim.

He gave unsparingly of himself almost 24 hours a day for nearly 12 years. In my very small role as Leader of the Opposition in the upper House I find it sometimes very very difficult to fulfil commitments outside this Chamber—something which many people in the community do not appreciate. I know that Sir David did not spare himself one little bit in fulfilling his role as he saw it; and whether he saw it differently from me is of no consequence. The fact is that he was required to be where he was and the toll was very hard upon him.

I think people should take note of that, because it is a popular pastime to shoot arrows into those who give some service to the community no matter what side of the coin they represent or whether it be service on councils, committees, voluntary organisations, or in Parliament. People should note that there is a price to pay. If I am correct, Sir David was only 66 years of age, which is not all that old these days. Into his 12 years as Premier probably he compressed almost a lifetime of effort.

I am, indeed, very sorry to see his passing. I was very happy to attend the church service, but it was my great regret that I could not attend the funeral due to another commitment. It is not every funeral that one wishes to attend; sometimes one attends as a duty. However, I want to place on record that I really wanted to attend Sir David's funeral and it is my regret that I could not do so.

On behalf of my party I say we regret his passing as a man. We offer our condolences to Lady Brand and her family.

THE HON. M. McALEER (Upper West) [4.42 p.m.]: As one who represents the Upper West Province, which includes the Greenough electorate, as one who is a member of his old electorate, and as one who has been associated with Sir David Brand during all my political life, I would particularly like to speak to this motion.

In the Greenough electorate most people of my generation, and certainly those who are younger, would have no personal recollection of a member for Greenough before Sir David Brand. Certainly very few of us came into contact with a Premier of Western Australia before he became Premier. He made a unique place for himself both as a member and as a Premier.

Sir David's genuine interest in people and their welfare was striking, and there would not be one person who met him who could forget him. He was friendly and approachable and had a great gift of, once having met a person, being able to recall that person on the next occasion he met him, even though many years later. This was an endearing trait which emphasised his great concern for people, which transcended mere party politics. I think the lack of political bitterness in our region can be traced largely to his influence.

Sir David Brand belonged to Greenough in a very personal way. He used to claim Dongara, Northampton, and Mullewa as his home towns, and those towns quarrelled for the honour of being his birthplace. He was able to claim them as his home towns because he lived in them as a boy. In fact he was born in Dongara, and lived there after his marriage to Lady Brand before becoming a member of Parliament, but he established a personal relationship with every district throughout the Greenough electorate. Indeed, there was not one district which could not rightly feel it had a special claim to his attention and interest, whether it was Morawa, Coorow, Eneabba, or Yuna.

He took a special interest throughout his career—even during his time as Premier—in the people and their family happenings, in their comings and goings, in business and farming, and in local government.

A great Australian and a great Western Australian, Sir David Brand was also a great representative of Greenough. There is not a single district which cannot point to roads, bridges, schools, or a hospital which it does not owe to representations made by David Brand.

The great years of land development made a particular impact in the electorate of Greenough. The difficulties that occurred in farming in the 1960s do not invalidate the worth of the work that was done then, and the land that was opened up at that time has become a permanent part of the primary resources of this State. It is easy to forget that at the time the Brand coalition Government came to power in 1959 land was probably the only large known resource this State had.

Sir David Brand's achievements have been widely acknowledged, but I think the most moving acknowledgment and recognition he received was during his short years in retirement. He was invited all over the State. He had a constant stream of engagements in Perth, and he was the most sought after guest for every function throughout the Greenough electorate.

Perhaps it is not strange that, just as he made his first policy speech as leader of the Liberal Party at the beginning of a successful campaign in 1959 at Dongara, so he also made his last public appearance at the Dongara races on Easter Saturday, when he presented his own cup to the winner. It was, in a sense, his last gift to people whom he had supported through good times and bad times and who in turn supported him and gave him wholehearted affection.

The personal appreciation of Sir David Brand in the Greenough electorate is tremendous. It unites the electorate in a very special way in the sympathy of its people for Lady Brand and her family.

THE HON. H. W. GAYFER (Central)
[4.47 p.m.]: I join with others in their remarks of respect concerning the late Hon. Sir David Brand. I worked with Sir David for 12 years in the Assembly, and I knew the man very well.

I recall when I first came to this place, still bearing the battle scars of an election, I wondered exactly who was friend and who was foe in the House. As one of the Ministers on the front bench will recall, I went to my first combined party meeting and raised a certain matter. I did not realise then that when one becomes part of a coalition team one must realise that the first job is to get the work done, and that a coalition is made up of compromise and many other things.

I knew none of that at the time. Indeed, it was Sir David Brand who pointed this out to me very forcibly at the first meeting I attended. I was not a very turbulent type, but I well remember raising an issue and being chopped off in midstream by Sir David who told me that if I liked I could talk to him in his office later. It was, indeed, a kindly piece of advice that he gave me when I saw him

later. That advice concerned a subject that I now know particularly well: co-operation of one with the other.

I learnt more than merely to appreciate David. I suppose it may be wrong for a man to say that he loved another man, but when one absolutely admires a person more than anybody else he works with—even though not necessarily agreeing with the policies of that person, but knowing full well what he was trying to achieve and the clever way he was going about it and the humane manner in which he treated everyone—then perhaps that encompasses my feelings towards Sir David.

No-one was more upset than I when I found I was unable to attend his funeral. When Mr Lewis rang me to tell me when the funeral was I found I had to attend a meeting up north which could not be cancelled, and I was quite upset.

The late Sir David Brand stayed at our farm when he was in the area. Everybody is welcome at our place, but Sir David had a nice way of dropping in, enjoying his dinner, and perhaps staying a little longer, finishing by staying for the night.

He was a great man. He was a man none of us will ever forget. I do not believe I have ever heard a word said against Sir David Brand. I certainly never said a word against him. The members of our party never said a word against him. Although there were times when we had to disagree with him most strongly, we always had the feeling of being upset at having disagreed with him. Nevertheless, disagreement was the name of the game.

Sir David and Lady Doris Brand were a great team. I think it is the great team of Sir David and Lady Brand that we will remember most of all. They were a great couple. Now the team is broken up. However, Lady Brand will continue in her own inimitable style—a style that has endeared her to a lot of people. Like her, we will miss her companion.

I believe there will not be anybody who will quite take the place of Sir David Brand. I remember the way he used to come into this House and speak to the messengers outside. In fact, since he retired, I have seen him sitting in the office at the front door, talking to the messengers. He would walk along and enter the offices of members, no matter who they were, and just say, "Good day," to them.

I think the death of Sir David Brand is a great pity. He was a great man, a terrific person, and a great statesman. There is no doubt about that.

I support the motion.

THE HON. D. W. COOLEY (North-East Metropolitan) [4.53 p.m.]: Of all the members on our side of the House. I think I would probably have known Sir David Brand as well as anybody else. When my daughter-in-law rang me and advised me of his passing, a great sadness descended upon me.

I was the President of the Trades and Labor Council for seven years of Sir David's premiership, and for several years when he was the Leader of the Opposition. During that time, we conversed quite frequently. I did not know Sir David in his private life, but in his official life I well knew the type of person he was.

On many occasions I had the privilege of receiving invitations to functions that were sent to me singly, and sometimes with my wife, over the name of Sir David. At many of those functions I would possibly have been the only person present who believed in my political philosophy. However, on those occasions Sir David never failed to speak to me and my wife, if she was there, and make us feel comfortable. That is one of the matters for which I remember Sir David.

The second matter for which I remember Sir David was when I sat in the Speaker's Gallery during a major industrial dispute. I was in that gallery with an executive member of the Trades and Labor Council, who was a well-known communist. Sir David, who was the Leader of the Opposition at the time, left his seat, came into the gallery, greeted us with our Christian names and sat between the two of us. He tried to find out from us, at first hand, what we thought was the basis of the problem.

The third matter for which I remember Sir David—and it will always be dear to my heart—happened at the opening of the bus station in Wellington Street. I had been endorsed by the Labor Party for the seat I now hold. Sir David congratulated me and said, "Well, Don, if the seat has to be Labor, I am glad it is you." I thought that was a very nice gesture. That came from a man who had a natural affinity with people who came from humble beginnings.

The State lost a great asset when Sir David Brand retired from the position of leader of his party and when he left his seat in Parliament. The State is very much worse off for not having Sir David at this time.

Although I have conveyed to Lady Brand in a very small way the deepest sympathy from my wife and myself, I do wish to have it recorded here that I feel the deepest regret at the passing of Sir David Brand.

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. Clive Griffiths): I would like to endorse the remarks of the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, and other honourable members who have spoken to this motion.

My family and I considered it a very great privilege to have ranked among those who were closely associated with the late Sir David Brand. One of the great milestones in my life was the opportunity that I had to serve as one of Sir David's team during the final six years of his record term as the Premier of Western Australia.

I am sure that Lady Brand and her family are well aware of the deep respect that we, as members of this House, had for Sir David. They would be aware of the sincerity which we extend on this vote of sympathy.

Honourable members, I would ask you to carry this motion and pay tribute to Sir David Brand by standing in silence.

Question passed, members standing.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Report: Tabling

THE PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths): I have the following paper to lay on the Table of the House: the Legislative Review and Advisory Committee report relating to the by-laws of the Town of Canning.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

JUSTICES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Attorney General) [5.13 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

There are two matters contained in the Bill which is now before the House. The first concerns the acceptance of written pleas of guilty which can be tendered in Courts of Petty Sessions.

Magistrates have, by long-standing custom, accepted pleas of guilty by endorsement of a summons or by letter as an indication of the defendant's intention. There are no statutory provisions to sanction this action, and the amendment proposed in the Bill will give legal standing to this custom.

The ability of a defendant to signify his admission of guilt in writing instead of by

personal attendance at court in response to a summons, is seen primarily as being convenient to the defendant and, secondly, to any witnessess who might otherwise be called.

Safeguards are, however, provided. Even although a defendant may have made an endorsed plea of guilty, no sentence of imprisonment may be imposed on him in such circumstances in his absence.

Further, section 136A of the Justices Act provides machinery for the review of a decision made in the absence of a defendant, so that any person convicted in his absence would not be unduly disadvantaged.

The second matter is to rectify a minor omission which occurred when the Justices Act was amended in 1977. The purpose of that amendment was to make Family Court judges and certain acting judges justices of the peace.

However, in the course of drafting that particular amendment, the previous reference in the Act to members of the Executive Council was overlooked. Clause 3 of the Bill will rectify that omission and back date its provisions to the 7th November, 1977.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Grace Vaughan.

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF
(Metropolitan—Attorney General) [5.15 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

In introducing this Bill, it would seem appropriate that I should give members some appreciation and background to how this proposed Act came into existence.

A stipendiary magistrate (Mr Terry Syddall) had for some time been undertaking a personal and private study of Aboriginal tribal law.

In 1970, after being posted to Broome, he introduced the practice of inviting tribal elders to sit with him in the court room while Aboriginal defendants were being dealt with. The whole idea of this was to enable the elders to see at first hand how the law operated.

In the event of the defendant being convicted of an offence, he would outline to the elders the various options available to the court by way of penalty and then ask them which penalty they considered the most appropriate.

Although Magistrate Syddall made the final decision in accordance with the law, the practice which he developed no doubt laid the groundwork for what was eventually to follow.

In 1973, Magistrate Syddall left the Broome district but, at his own request, was transferred back there at the end of 1976.

In 1977, with Magistrate Syddall's concurrence, the Government requested him to conduct an inquiry on its behalf into aspects of Aboriginal tribal law and as to whether a plan could be formulated to improve the understanding of the law by Aboriginal communities.

For this purpose, arrangements were made to detach him from his regular magisterial duties, and an anthropologist from the Community Welfare Department (Mr Mikael Capelle) was seconded to assist him.

It was regarded as important that Magistrate Syddall's inquiry should be essentially a practical rather than a theoretical exercise and be related particularly to local communities and Aborigines in the Kimberley area.

It was thought that any decisions resulting from the inquiry could be extended later to other areas of the State if necessary and this principle is, in fact, embodied in the Bill now before the House. Essentially, however, the studies were directed to the Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley area.

As work progressed and discussions were held with the Aboriginal people, the idea began to develop that a way could be found to increase both the responsibility for and control over Aboriginal people by their own community leaders using the institutions and services which are presently available to all Western Australian residents.

The idea met with more than a passing interest and, consequently, meetings were held with various community groups in the Kimberley area to discuss the subject.

From these meetings, two points stood out quite clearly: Firstly, the tribal Aborigines had very little understanding of the law which affected their lives and, secondly, many of them failed to distinguish between arrest and trial, charge and conviction.

They also recognised that abuse of alcohol was a prime cause of many of the social problems which had developed in their communities in recent years.

It became quite clear to Magistrate Syddall and Mr Capelle that by and large the communities in the Kimberley favoured having the power to

restrict, rather than prohibit, the use of alcohol within their communities. At present, there is no power for the communities to enforce either restriction or prohibition.

What is proposed in the Bill now before the House is that if the community makes a voluntary resolution to restrict or prohibit the use of alcohol, then provision can be made in the by-laws to enable their wish to be enforced. Whether they make that decision or not will be for the communities individually to decide and not the Government.

I would like to make it quite clear that the ordinary law of the land will continue to apply over the community areas; namely, the Criminal Code and the Police Act and other laws which govern the conduct of individuals towards one another.

These laws will, however, be supplemented so as to cover offences committed within the community area such as—

- the regulation of the bringing-in, sale and consumption and distribution of liquor;
- providing a punishment for drunkenness;
- the prohibition of disorderly conduct;
- the regulation of the use of motor vehicles; and
- associated matters.

It is also important to note that all persons in the community area will be affected, not only Aborigines, but also any other people who reside there, including visitors and, of course, intruders.

The proposals contained in the Aboriginal Communities Bill will be introduced on an experimental basis in the two Aboriginal communities at La Grange Mission and One Arm Point.

If the experiment succeeds, as I sincerely hope it will, then the possibility of extending the operation of the Bill to other interested communities can be considered. In this connection, it is pleasing to note that interest has already been expressed by other communities in the northern part of our State.

In essence, the proposals in the Bill are as follows—

- (1) To permit the council of an incorporated community body to make by-laws relating to the community lands. There must, of course, be adequate provision for consultation with the members of the community.

- (2) To provide penalties for a breach of a by-law by a fine or a term of imprisonment, or both, but with a maximum in each case.
- (3) To enable a court to order a person to pay compensation for damage done to the property of the community or any person not exceeding \$250.
- (4) To provide that by-laws made by the council of a community will apply only within the defined boundaries of that community.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Members will recall that previously I have ruled that it is out of order for members to read newspapers in the Chamber. I refresh the memory of members on that point. The Attorney General.

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF: Members will also note that money received by way of fines will be paid into a community fund, rather than to the Crown. The reasoning behind this is that, in these fairly isolated areas, persons who commit acts harmful to the community should make atonement to the community for their actions.

To successfully implement the proposals in the Bill, it has also been necessary to appoint certain members of the community as justices of the peace, bench clerks, and honorary probation and parole officers.

In addition, police aides will be stationed at Lombadina and La Grange, Legislation already exists to permit these appointments.

Over the past few months, those persons selected for appointment as justices of the peace have been undergoing a training programme conducted by Magistrate Syddall, during which time the magistrate has continued to preside in the normal way, but the justices have sat with him and gained experience.

In a similar manner, the bench clerks have had the opportunity to learn their duties. Honorary probation officers will be appointed and trained to assist in the process of ensuring the carrying out of community service orders or probation orders and in the rehabilitation of offenders.

Earlier on, I mentioned that Mr Syddall had found that many Kimberley Aboriginal people did not understand court proceedings and saw no distinction between arrest and trial, charge and conviction. To assist in their understanding of the court routine, Magistrate Syddall has produced a manual explaining the laying of a charge and court procedure; that is to say, what happens from the time an accused person is brought into the court until the trial is concluded.

This manual sets out in the form of a story what happens in the court and the parts played by justices and others, and was produced in a rather unusual way.

Mr Syddall wrote the first draft himself, in simple English, and this was then translated by members of the Fitzroy Crossing Mission into the Walmadjeri language.

This translation, which embodied the concepts from the point of view of the Aborigines, with emphasis on matters of significance for them, was then translated back into simple English.

The manual will be available in either the Walmadjeri language, which is felt to be the most commonly used language and the one which the majority of Kimberley Aborigines will understand, or in its simplified English translated form.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasise that this is an experiment in bringing an understanding of the law to the people in these two communities, and it is hoped that it will help them to help themselves in safeguarding the peace and harmony they desire in their communities.

It depends entirely on voluntary acceptance by the communities. I have personally visited a number of the communities and am satisfied that it will be well received.

I promised the communities that I would place the legislation before Parliament to help their genuine efforts to secure order and good conduct in their community areas.

The experiment has attracted widespread interest in law reform circles throughout Australia, and details of the proposals have been made available to the Commonwealth Law Reform Commission and the Northern Territory Government.

I sincerely commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Lyla Elliott.

PUBLIC NOTARIES BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF
(Metropolitan—Attorney General) [5.25 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

It is possibly not generally known by many people that public notaries play an important part in the life of the commercial community and others whose interests cross international boundary lines.

The history of public notaries goes back to earliest times. They had an important role in

trade and shipping. Appointments were first made by the Pope and later in England by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The latter still makes the appointments in many parts of the world, including some Australian States. Appointees were not always legal practitioners, but now they generally are.

In Western Australia since 1902 all appointments of public notaries have been made by the Full Court of the Supreme Court on the recommendation of the Chief Justice.

Notaries still have a significant role throughout the world particularly in relation to shipping and banking transactions, identification of persons, and attestation of documents having international significance. It is important that their role and functions be understood and their appointments adequately controlled.

The Bill now before the House sets out more clearly the requirements and manner of appointment of public notaries and provides for the continuation of those who are presently appointed.

It had been intended merely to amend the 1902 Public Notaries Act, but on the advice of Parliamentary Counsel it was decided that it would be preferable to repeal that Act and introduce a completely new Bill.

This Bill contains most of the features which were contained in the 1902 Act together with some important amendments to which I shall refer.

All of those persons who are presently appointed as public notaries can exercise their powers in any part of this State. What is now proposed is that there should be two separate categories of public notaries.

The first of these would be general public notaries who would be able to exercise their powers in identical fashion with those already in existence anywhere in Western Australia. It is proposed that all persons who are currently appointed as public notaries will become general public notaries under this new legislation and that any future appointments of practitioners who practise in the metropolitan area would also be general public notaries.

The second category would be district public notaries who may specify the magisterial district or districts for which they seek appointment and then exercise the same powers in such magisterial district or districts as defined under the Magisterial Districts Act. This will enable public notaries to be appointed more in relation to the needs of particular areas of the State.

In the event of a person applying to be appointed as either a general public notary or a district public notary, he must satisfy the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court that he meets the various requirements referred to in clause 7 of the Bill.

One of these is his competence to act as a notary; another is that there is a need for the appointment.

So as to assist the Chief Justice in his assessment of these and other requirements, it is considered desirable that some formal channel of advice should be available, and for this purpose it is proposed to give the Attorney General standing under the Act.

The Attorney General may report to the Chief Justice on request or intervene in any proceedings; and may consult any body of notaries established for such purposes. Discussions have taken place with notaries who are members of the Law Society and it has been arranged that the society will have available a small group or committee of public notaries for consultation with the Attorney General should this be required.

Members may also notice that the schedules which appeared in the 1902 Act concerning the certificates of the registrar and the fees payable on appointment have been omitted, but clause 17 of the Bill makes provision for these matters to be covered by rules of court.

In this way, the rules can be prescribed more conveniently and with greater flexibility.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. D. K. Dans (Leader of the Opposition).

CORONERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF
(Metropolitan—Attorney General) [5.30 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Coroners Act is an important and essential part of this State's legislation and it is just as important that it should operate efficiently and effectively.

Apart from some consequential amendments resulting from the Acts Amendment (Road Traffic) Act in 1974, no amendments have been made to the Coroners Act since 1960.

As a result of his considerable experience, the City Coroner (Mr W. G. Wickens) has made a number of suggestions which will improve the administration of this Act.

In addition to these proposals, there are several other important amendments proposed to cover inquests where a body is, for one reason or another, unable to be located or recovered, but death is suspected; and also an extension of the jurisdiction of the Coroner to meet problems that arise where the body of a deceased person lies in one State, but the cause of death occurred in another.

The power for the Attorney General to order such an inquest already exists in England in somewhat similar circumstances and was recently endorsed in a report by the committee on death certification and coroners in that country.

This proposal will also require an amendment to the registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act, and that will be dealt with separately.

The following amendments are proposed to overcome administrative difficulties which have become apparent as a result of experience over a number of years.

The first one, in clause 7, is to provide that an affidavit sworn outside the State may be sworn before any person authorised to take affidavits in the place where it is sworn.

Clause 17 deals with an inquest or inquests involving a number of medical practitioners such as a multiple road fatality accident, to give the Coroner the power to summon such practitioners without obliging him to do so where it is considered unnecessary.

Members will no doubt appreciate that in country areas particularly a practice has grown up over the years of notifying clerks of courts when a person dies. The clerks of courts do not make the decision as to whether a postmortem examination is necessary, but do draw attention to the necessary requirements of the Act.

It is proposed, in clause 19, to give these functions of the clerks legal sanction.

Clause 19 provides the power to order a postmortem examination will also be extended to an analysis of any part of the body or the contents thereof.

Members will also note that section 40 required that any direction to a medical practitioner to carry out a postmortem examination must be in writing before the termination of the inquest.

In practice, it is far more convenient for this to be done by telephone, and, in addition, the need may arise to order an examination after the termination of the inquest because of subsequent evidence. It is proposed in clause 19 of this Bill to empower the Coroner at any time to direct, not

necessarily in writing, that a postmortem examination be made. The regulations will contain a safeguard in order to prevent false instructions.

There has also been some doubt expressed about the application of the Justices Act to proceedings in a Coroner's Court, and it is now proposed to reenact in the Coroners Act section 77 of the Justices Act. Clause 20 will compel witnesses to answer questions which are considered necessary in the pursuit of justice, but also provide for the usual protection of persons who may otherwise incriminate themselves.

There are also occasions where the Coroner vacates his office for one reason or another when the inquest is only part heard. Circumstances can arise where it would be preferable for another Coroner to continue the inquiry rather than have the whole matter reheard, as happens at present.

This very much depends on the particulars of each case, but clause 21 contains an amendment to allow another Coroner to continue and this is felt to be a wise precautionary move to overcome any future problems.

At present, the Coroner has jurisdiction to conduct an inquest only where the body of the deceased is lying within the State. It is proposed, in clause 4, to increase his jurisdiction to cases where a person has died outside the State if that person was a State resident, or if death or the cause of death occurred within the State.

The matter of extended jurisdiction has been discussed at recent meetings of the Standing Committee of Attorneys General, and agreement has been reached for all States to have similar provisions included in their Acts where this is needed. In the case of the territories, this already exists.

It could happen that a person who has lived all his life in one State, goes to another State for some special treatment and subsequently dies.

As the law stands at present, the Coroner in the State of origin cannot hold an inquest although it may be considered desirable to do so in certain circumstances.

Most of the other amendments in this Bill deal with the suspected death of a person where, although the body has not been recovered, death is reasonably certain.

It should be pointed out that as the law now stands an inquest can be held only where there is a body. This often works great hardship on relatives and others as a death certificate cannot be obtained thereby impeding the winding-up of estates and the settlement of personal affairs; including sometimes problems of remarriage.

The law does not at present provide for an adequate resolution of these matters and it is felt that some amendment is long overdue. It is therefore proposed that the Coroner shall have the power to hold an inquest in certain cases where a person is missing or the body cannot be recovered or has been destroyed. In such events, the Attorney General can direct that the Coroner should hold an inquiry into the suspected death.

It should be emphasised at this point that death could not be presumed where any doubt exists, but there could be, and are, cases such as in mining accidents or drownings where, despite the absence of a body, death is certain.

Clause 7 provides that the Coroner, if satisfied, can certify that death has been established beyond reasonable doubt. In the event that death is not established to the Coroner's satisfaction, then the Coroner would be able to make a finding accordingly; that is, that death has not been established.

It is felt that the need for, firstly, the Attorney General to be reasonably satisfied that a person has died in such circumstances and, secondly, the Coroner after proper inquiry to be so satisfied will provide adequate safeguards for cases of "faked" deaths or amnesia.

There is a further amendment to which I should draw attention. It is considered appropriate that, where a person dies from an injury received in the course of his employment or by reason of an industrial disease, then a representative of that person's trade union should be permitted to appear in the Coroner's Court with the approval of a member of the deceased's family. The members of the family who may make such a request are referred to in the Bill and provision has also been made to cover the situation where there is no family or they cannot be contacted.

Finally, the existing definition of "building" which defines the place of employment has been changed to bring it into line with the "place" of employment in the new Machinery Safety Act.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Grace Vaughan.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF
(Metropolitan—Attorney General) [5.37 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

As mentioned during the second reading speech on the amendment to the Coroners Act, this Bill is complementary to the proposal to permit the Coroner to make a finding that, in cases of suspected death where a person is missing or the body cannot be found or is irrecoverable, the death has been established beyond reasonable doubt.

The amendments proposed to the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act will enable the Registrar General to register the death in the records of his office.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Grace Vaughan.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA (SWANLEIGH LAND AND ENDOWMENTS) BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF
(Metropolitan—Attorney General) [5.39 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is for a private Act of Parliament which has been requested by the Diocese of Perth in connection with certain lands and buildings which are known as Swanleigh.

Most members will be familiar with the work of the diocese over many years in caring for orphans and giving them a firm basis on which to build their future lives.

Since the end of World War II, the number of orphans admitted to Swanleigh has declined and they have been cared for in other ways, such as by placement in foster homes, or by adoption.

The diocese has recognised that an orphanage, as such, is no longer required and considers that it is, in fact, no longer desirable to house orphans in this type of institution.

The last orphans left the home in 1976 and the buildings at Swanleigh are now being used as a hostel to accommodate students attending Government educational institutions.

The land on which the hostel stands is subject to a trust that it be used for the purpose or purposes associated with an orphanage.

In addition, the diocese is holding funds accumulated over the years which have come from several sources, but which are all to be used only for purposes associated with orphans.

The Bill now before the House has four basic purposes—

Firstly, to allow the land and buildings at Swanleigh to be used for the purpose of a hostel for the accommodation of students attending Government educational institutions.

Secondly, to use the balance of the land as described in the second part of the schedule to the Bill, or the proceeds from any sales, for general ecclesiastical purposes.

Thirdly, to place the endowment moneys, currently held in trust for orphans, in trust for general child and family care purposes.

Fourthly, to make provision for the proceeds of the sale of land and buildings at Swanleigh as described in the first part of the schedule. If they are sold at some future time, the proceeds will be placed in trust for general child and family care purposes.

Under the provisions of clause 3 (1) (c), general child and family care purposes will include the care, maintenance, education and benefit of orphaned, neglected, and deprived children, and the counselling, help and care of families in difficulties.

It would be remiss of me if I did not express at this stage the appreciation of both this and previous Governments for the work the diocese has carried out in caring for orphans over such a long period of time.

Whilst there is no need for such an institution today, it would seem to be most appropriate that the lands and money marked for purposes associated with orphans should now be applied for the purposes indicated.

These purposes are not very far away from the original intentions of the trusts.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Lyla Elliott.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 11th April, on the following motion by the Hon. N. F. Moore—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency—

May it please Your Excellency: We the Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia

in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

THE HON. O. N. B. OLIVER (West) [5.42 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion so ably moved by the member for the Lower North Province, the Hon. Norman Moore.

I have noticed that some previous speakers have expressed scepticism about the comments of His Excellency in regard to the new wave of development that is coming to Western Australia. The Leader of the Opposition was one of the main sceptics, but I believe confidently that the present period could be likened to that in the United States when the great saying was, "Go West, young man."

Frankly, I am envious of the members representing the North Province, the Hon. John Tozer and the Hon. Bill Withers. Members opposite will note that we confidently expect an announcement will be made by November that the North-West Shelf gas project will go ahead, and we can visualise the income and development that will flow from that project. It will mean income not only from gas but also from oil development; and the construction of pipelines will bring associated opportunities for employment. This project will mean a great deal to the people who are unemployed at the present time, and especially to the unemployed youth.

A great challenge is facing Western Australia in regard to development in the north-west. As well as the North-West Shelf project, there will be development in other minerals such as diamonds and copper. As we move south, there will be increased bauxite mining and, as I have just been reminded by Mr Moore, the Yeelirrie project will go ahead; furthermore a joint venture fisheries development is planned, and there will be increased opportunities in the field of tourism.

I have spoken previously on the subject of tourism, and said that prior to the Liberal-Country Party coalition coming into power in 1959, and the great wave of development which occurred in the 1960s, if one were to arrange with Thomas Cook and Company or American Express to visit Australia, I am absolutely certain Western Australia would not have been included in the itinerary unless one specifically made such a request. In those days, a visit to Australia did not necessarily include a visit to Western Australia.

Quite the reverse is the situation now. The Government is giving tremendous leadership,

which Western Australians expect, and the rules and laws of our State are clearly and properly administered.

Therefore, I take exception to Federal shadow Ministers, particularly Mr Paul Keating, casting doubt over the potential of these projects and saying what will happen "if" the people on the Opposition benches in Canberra were ever returned to Government. The Leader of the Opposition spoke about a terrible decline in the workforce and quoted from a Liberal policy document about how many jobs were going to be created. By interjection I asked what he was quoting from and he replied, "The figures are back at the office, but they were produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics."

I have searched at great length to try to establish on what basis the Leader of the Opposition arrived at those figures. I have since discovered that he made the unfortunate error of quoting from the monthly summary produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics relating to the civilian labour force. The summary takes into account people who are self-employed, subcontractors, principals, and partners. The Leader of the Opposition quoted the figures for January. Unfortunately, however, it was the first time this information had been gathered for the month of January and seasonal factors operating right across Australia influenced the figures.

I wondered how the Leader of the Opposition could arrive at that figure, so I went back to the bureau and found that he was referring to figures relating to a very unusual month and, in fact, that the figures were collated only because the month was so unusual. I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that it is very unwise to quote such figures in isolation.

I well remember Mr Clohessy, who was Secretary of the Building Workers Industrial Union before he was removed for some unknown reason.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: He was not removed. How do you know he was removed?

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: He is a very unhappy man. Mr Ray Clohessy used to talk to me on certain issues.

The Hon. Grace Vaughan: What nonsense! He would not talk to you.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I do not know whether the Hon. Grace Vaughan has employed a private detective to follow me around for her to make such a statement. I can assure the honourable member that at least once in every four or five weeks I would spend a little time talking with Ray Clohessy. Quite often we would

meet socially. I have quite a deal of respect for Mr Clohessy and I believe that feeling is mutual.

The Hon. Grace Vaughan: That is really scandalous.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I reckon he is a nice bloke, don't you, Mr Oliver?

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: The Leader of the Opposition referred to the record of this Government, and I felt it appropriate I should examine the facts and figures, and put the record straight.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I hope you are not suggesting I told lies.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I am very glad Mr Dans is in the Chamber. I should like to quote from Catalogue No. 6213.0 produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Did you get that from the State statistician?

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. D. K. Dans: He made me tell him, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: Page 4 refers to civilian employees and defence forces. During the three-year period to which Mr Dans referred, Western Australia's civilian work force increased by 5.698 per cent, while not one other State in Australia could manage an increase in its work force of even 1 per cent. In fact, the Australian average was only .091 per cent. Even then, the figures relating to Western Australia are depressed, because beside them appears the notation "h". We are informed at the foot of the page that the figures were affected by an industrial dispute, in this case the strike in our power industry, which effectively reduced our civilian work force by 1 800 personnel. I have not adjusted those figures, but I would say they would be closer to a 6 per cent increase in our work force.

The Hon. Grace Vaughan: By what percentage did unemployment rise during the same period?

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: When this Government decided to go ahead with bauxite mining, the Opposition opposed it.

The Hon. Grace Vaughan: We still do.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: We were criticised for a project which will provide employment opportunities for the youth of this State. The Wagerup refinery is going ahead and, during the time it takes for the project to come on stream, a journal issued by the Department of Trade informs us that the United States of

America will have exhausted its own supplies of bauxite. By 1981, we are told, the United States will be dependent on other countries for its alumina requirements. This State will benefit from this Government's decision not to delay the project but to move ahead, and the people will thank this Government for the responsibility it has shown.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Yet a \$500 million refinery will be built in New South Wales.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: The Leader of the Opposition should not misquote figures in this House again.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Just a moment: Are you calling Mr Dans a liar?

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I am claiming Mr Dans misquoted the figures.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Not one of the figures was misquoted.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: If I am touching a tender nerve, I offer my apologies.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: You should not tell lies about other members.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I refer now to the construction industry. Over the past two or three months we have seen a rise not in the number of approvals—because they are not important during a low level of activity in the building industry—but in the commencement rate for new dwellings.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That will be fixed up very shortly by the rise in interest rates.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: It appears that it may not; I could not speculate on what will happen to interest rates. Members of the Press have been speculating for some time but their speculations generally are proved to be about 50 per cent wrong.

I am concerned that the number of loans approved for the purchase of established homes for 1978 was 825, almost treble that for 1977. So, the activity in the established home market has trebled in 12 months. However, finance approvals for the construction of new dwellings increased by only 12, from 265 to 277 dwellings.

I am concerned for the tradesmen, who have completed apprenticeships and technical training and who look for stability in their employment. I hope this imbalance between the number of approvals for established homes and the number for new dwellings does not continue next month. As it is, the number of approvals for the purchase of established homes in 1978 was a record; I just hope this trend is not repeated next month.

Another matter which concerns me is the growth of bureaucracy. We often talk about the dead hand of socialism, but I am starting to worry about the dead hand of Government. As members probably are aware, Canberra is a city of some 216 000 people, which boasts the highest average family income in the nation of \$18 000 per annum and the greatest number of cars per family. However, late last year, public servants threatened strike action because some of them were required to travel a mere 15 kilometres over the border into the neighbouring New South Wales town of Queanbeyan.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Would you say that was the growth of proletarian power?

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: No, it is the growth of bureaucracy.

I wish to refer now to a survey of 145 companies carried out by the public relations firm Eric White Associates, which is a very respectable source. In an article contained in *The Bulletin* of the 9th January, the following statement appears—

In a survey of 145 companies the PR firm Eric White Associates found management time in dealing with State and Federal regulatory bodies had doubled between 1971 and 1977 and staff time had trebled. Costs of monitoring and replying to regulatory agencies had increased by three or more times.

One questionnaire was "so out of touch with reality that no one could have answered it" complained a company. This does not only apply to business. Canberra bureaucrats demanded that farmers tell them how many miles their tractors had done. The answers indicated nothing. What is relevant about tractors is the hours they have done.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: That would be elementary to everybody but an academic.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: Mr Gayfer is so right. It is unbelievable to contemplate the frustrations, the lack of co-ordination, and the number of various State and Federal authorities with which private enterprise now must deal in what often is one of the smallest areas of a project.

A friend of mine in Victoria, who is involved in the packaging and marketing of milk, decided to undertake the construction of a temporary freezing plant of 20 000 cubic feet capacity for a period of approximately eight months. To gain approval for that required an approach to 11 regulatory bodies, which makes me wonder that such things are happening in Canberra and

Victoria, so what happens in Western Australia is a source of concern to me.

The Hon. Grace Vaughan: It all seems to be happening in the east and not in the west.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: The need to fill in all of these statistics has got out of hand completely. There does not seem to be any co-ordination whatsoever between the various bodies.

In 1974 I was co-opted into a committee of Cabinet to deal with the shortages of materials and labour in Western Australia. It was an era in which the State was expanding; the previous Labor Government had been defeated, and the Liberal-Country Party Government had to tackle the problem of shortages.

Sitting suspended from 6.01 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: Prior to the tea break I was referring to a committee formed to inquire into shortages in the area of labour and materials when the Brand Government came to office. When serving on the committee there was a requirement to gain information on the State's exports and imports. The committee was under the control of the Department of Industrial Development. At one of the committee's meetings I asked what items were in short supply due to exports, and requested that at the next meeting the information be made available. I expected a responsible well-paid officer of that department would have had that information available, but this was not so. At the next meeting we were told the information was confidential. I walked out of the Superannuation Building and went across to the Bureau of Statistics where I was able to get hold of a complete computer print-out which gave information about every stick of timber available within the State. It gave details of who was exporting timber, and so on.

If a public servant does not have the ability to get that information and hand it to such a committee, I am surprised. This is difficult to comprehend when the State statistician is also the Commonwealth statistician.

I note that the Government is pursuing the objective of qualifying and updating town planning and metropolitan region town planning. I commend the Government for this. I would like to quote from a Press statement by Mrs Craig, appealing for a complete re-appraisal of the "user pays" philosophy dated the 1st March, as follows—

The issue to be resolved is whether the standards imposed by Government, local government and semi-Government bodies were the standards the public expected, or whether they were standards imposed for the convenience of government.

Mrs Craig went on to say that her department and the Government as a whole would make a thorough study of the situation to see what could be done to ease the burden without abandoning standards which were clearly expected by the general public.

If the Government can bring some sanity to this sort of planning, it will have to be congratulated. When dealing with such matters one has to satisfy the requirements of various town planners. One has to deal with the Metropolitan Water Board or the country water supply authority as to whether or not a certain plan meets their requirements. One may then have to deal with the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority.

Just recently a town planning board publication arrived on my desk with information on how one should go about this sort of thing and how people could be advised and the manner in which they could pursue planning development. It had recommendations listed one to six, in a publication titled, "A Mansion or No House" subsidised by the Urban Development Institute of Australia. Having looked at it there seemed to me to be no relationship between the recommendations one to six. Six comes before one, four follows three, five should be the first, and three could be last. It is so complicated and complex that the various officers in the town planning area have either gone on long service leave or have retired before any project could reach fruition.

The other interesting fact relates to the committee inquiring into housing costs. The way we are going it seems we have Government by question mark. We have government by inquiries and this started during the period that the Whitlam Government was in office when it instituted so many inquiries.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You should have got rid of those bad habits.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I tried to ascertain how many inquiries there have been, but the task was impossible. However, there have been 28 inquiries commissioned over the last 12 years—either by Labor or Liberal-National Country Party Governments—into the Western Australian housing industry.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: It would be good to have parliamentary inquiries.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: The conclusions in the report of the Committee of Inquiry into Housing Costs, volume I stated that it was anxious to see a reduction in Government involvement and interference in the development of land. I will not mention all the recommendations, but recommendations one to six all concern administration involvement by Commonwealth, State and local bodies in the development of land. If this is not back-to-front thinking in attempting to combat rising land costs, then other members will have to tell me how they will work.

Another area of inefficiency is in our railway system. I will leave the honourable Mr McKenzie to his railways this evening when he makes his speech.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: I have already spoken.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: There is no way Mr McKenzie will not talk about railways again. However, I would like to relate experiences I had when travelling by train. It is truly amazing.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Very shortly you will be going to England by windjammer.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson interjected.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: Obviously when Mr Leeson used the *Prospector* train service there was a different clientele. I will come now to another form of bureaucracy which is absolutely stifling this country. A particular constituent of mine is in the business of furniture removals. Naturally there can be possibilities of loss and damage in the transport of furniture. Members can imagine if a contractor is given the task of carting certain goods either from one State to another or intrastate that the owner of the goods would be at the delivery point to make inspection.

If Mr Dans wished to move his goods he would be interested to see that the goods arrived without being damaged. This does not apply with public servants. The owner has no obligation to inspect the goods. The contractor has no right to be there when the goods arrive. He cannot get a release for 48 hours and during this period he is unaware of whether or not he has a claim for damages. It could be that after the 48 hours a person could find a scratch on a certain item which was not obvious prior to that time. One might think the agent would be brought into this; however, in no way is his interest protected. He is not allowed to inspect the goods. There is no way the assessor is able to inspect the goods of a person for whom the insurance premium has been paid. This is the way the bureaucracy handles this matter.

The functions of the tribunal are akin to judicial functions and the outcome of its decisions clearly affects the rights of the contractor. One would expect that the onus would lie with the Commonwealth or the State to prove negligence on the part of the contractor; however, that is not the case. The contractor is not advised of the date and place of the hearing.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That is, if a Commonwealth civil servant gets his furniture shifted?

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: That is right. This person is not given any correspondence relating to the claim. He is not permitted to make any verbal submissions to the tribunal and there is no right of appeal following the tribunal's decision. This is so whether or not the decision is unanimous. The decision of the tribunal could not be regarded as impartial as the tribunal is formed from within the department; in this case, the Department of Administrative Services.

I would like to state the rules of natural justice set forth in *Halsbury, Laws of England*, 3rd edition, volume 30, at page 718, which provides that all persons exercising judicial or quasi-judicial functions must have due regard to the dictates of natural justice. These require that the parties to the preceding shall be—

Duly notified when and where they may be heard.

Shall then be given the full opportunity to state their views.

The matters in dispute being decided honestly, impartially and without bias, by a tribunal, no member of which has any interest either pecuniary or otherwise in the matter.

The structure and the operation of this Government tribunal satisfies none of the principles of natural justice. It shows that the basic fundamentals of justice are thrown out the window, because bureaucrats are out of touch with reality.

Whenever there is criticism of the bureaucracy in the Federal sphere, Ministers draw on an unlimited stock of well-trodden phrases to praise the high standards, diligence, and excellence of departmental officers. Many of the people's representatives are subservient to the bureaucratic interests.

I will quote from *The Bulletin* of the 9th January, 1979, as follows—

We have had father, son and grandson, and in administrative terms, the people here are mentally inbred. If they had to go into

industry or commerce and make a living, they would be kicked to pieces.

There is here, a lack of sophistication and an elitism, a Brahminism, which needs to be well and truly broken up.

That statement was made in Canberra by the late Rex Connor in 1972.

I will give an example in the area of immigration, and it concerns a constituent in my province. I wrote a letter to the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs on the 24th January, of this year. I will quote only the relevant contents of the letter. It has to do with a group of children from Rhodesia who wished to obtain visitors' visas to Western Australia. The children of one family had already been here previously, and the father of the other family had also been here. My letter reads—

However, due to a degree of urgency in relation to a current request for visitors' visas, I am writing to you direct for advice rather than arranging for applications to be directed in the normal manner through Departmental Officers in Pretoria.

In this regard, I would appreciate your consideration to the granting of visitor's visas for a period of approximately six to twelve months for two (2) families of children, travelling of British passports, from Salisbury, Rhodesia, for which relevant information is attached.

Obviously, in view of the disturbed situation in Rhodesia at the present time, it would be desirable if the children could be removed temporarily to Australia.

Their grandparents, together with an aunt and uncle, both resident in Kalamunda, Perth, Western Australia, are prepared to accept full responsibility during their stay here until the current situation in Rhodesia has stabilised and they can rejoin their parents.

Departmental records will substantiate that the ... family visited Perth in December 1975 and ... in February 1978.

... is a qualified electrical engineer employed as Assistant Chief Engineer of the Municipality of Salisbury, and his brother-in-law ... the Deputy Chief Health Inspector, also with that authority.

In view of their employment, and the long service conditions applicable to their engagements, it is their intention to remain in Rhodesia irrespective of the administration

elected to government following the forthcoming April elections.

The eldest child, ... (aged 19 years) will most likely remain in Rhodesia; however, should he wish to visit Australia, he understandably would not seek work, but undertake additional tertiary education at no cost to the Australian taxpayer.

In conclusion, whilst appreciating that visitors' permits are processed promptly, the circumstances surrounding this application may require a policy decision, and in this regard, therefore, I look forward to your early and favourable consideration.

On the 5th February, I received a reply as follows—

In the absence of my colleague, the Hon. M. J. R. MacKellar, I am writing to thank you for your personal representations of 24 January, 1979 on behalf of ... and ... concerning their children visiting Australia.

I have arranged for enquiries to be made in regard to the matter raised and immediately these have been concluded the Minister will write to you.

Since then I have made a series of telephone calls but I received no satisfaction.

It seems to me that one type of letter from departments states that the matter is under consideration, and it probably means that the file is lost and the department is unable to make any decision. Next, one is advised—in a form of roneoed letter—that a decision will be made within a certain period. I presume that means the file has then been found.

I have previously spoken about technical training, and this matter was also mentioned in the Governor's Speech. I have commended the Government previously on the basis of the additional \$9 million which is to be spent. Recently, a job analysis survey by the Education Department Technical Education Division on surveying and cartography was brought to my attention. I have already stated that what is being taught must have relevance to the particular subject. What I have read in this document is unbelievable. It has no relevance to our educational system in Western Australia; it is really relevant to what may ultimately be taught. I have previously stated on many occasions that certain subjects are taught according to particular syllabuses. Then, after a period of four or five years one goes back to the past student to find out the relevance of the application and the implementation of the programme to his employment.

This survey contains something like 360 questions which are directed to various subjects and deal with most extraneous matters. What they have to do with a graduate surveyor is of little consequence.

The final matter I wish to discuss was also referred to in the Governor's Speech, and it deals with industrial relations. I understand members are aware that currently a full study is to be made of the current Industrial Arbitration Act in Western Australia. Also, there has been a review of workers' compensation by Mr Justice Dunn. I do not know whether or not members are aware that Western Australia—before Federation—was the first State to enact industrial arbitration legislation. The main aim of that legislation was to enable associations of employers to get together in order to advance working conditions. I think it was in 1898.

Over a period of some 80 years the legislation has been amended. In fact, when some amendments came off the press they were already out of date. However, within our industrial association of employees today exist people who are completely out of step with the rank and file of the trade union movement. I will speak to this matter later when legislation comes forward.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: What review are you referring to?

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I presume that if Mr Cooley had read the papers he would have known that a review was mentioned in the Governor's Speech to update the industrial arbitration legislation. I imagine that Mr Cooley, with his experience, will make a great contribution to it.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: We do not know what it is about yet.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I do not know what its contents are but I presume it will deal with the Industrial Arbitration Act.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Perhaps it will set up an industrial relations bureau similar to that in the Federal sphere.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: As I was saying, within the association of employers there is a certain section of the hierarchy which is out of touch with the rank and file of the unions. On many occasions I have referred to the McNairn Anderson reports. I do not intend to elaborate on those tonight, but I will draw on a document which was produced in 1977 by the Department of Economics of the University of Western Australia. The document refers to "Partners at Work", and is a survey of building workers, their union, and their employers.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Ray Clohessy's union.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: He held an executive position on the union at one time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. J. L. Williams): Order!

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: What is the date of the document?

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I have already quoted the date.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: You did not quote the date.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. J. L. Williams): Order! The Hon. Neil Oliver has quoted the date.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I said it was dated 1977. It is interesting to look at the document under the heading, "Union Membership and Involvement in Union Activities". The reasons which some people give for belonging to unions are unbelievable. The survey showed that 36 per cent belonged to unions because they thought unionism was compulsory; 22 per cent belonged because others did and it was expected of one; and 7 per cent had a firm belief in unionism.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: That is 121 per cent already.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: I did correct my first figure from 85 per cent to 36 per cent. To continue the results of the survey, 3 per cent belonged because of the protection workers get from the union; another 3 per cent belonged because of funeral benefits, etc.; and 1 per cent belonged for political reasons.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: That does not sound like a very authoritative document to me.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: It was compiled with the co-operation of the Building Workers Industrial Union.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I hope they correct that position.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: At page 88 of the document another table deals with "Reasons suggested to subjects likely to prevent them from attending union meetings". The table shows that 20 per cent considered that union meetings were boring.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: You come to this place, and it is boring.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: It is obvious I have not touched Mr Cooley's sensitive nerve otherwise he would bring this place to life. Returning to the table, 17 per cent gave a reason for not attending meetings as being that union

officials would go ahead and do what they liked, whether or not the person concerned went along. A total of 16 per cent suggested that officials always dominated meetings, and no-one listened to individual points of view; 12 per cent suggested that union officials had become too distant from rank and file, and that there was no way of communicating with them; and 12 per cent suggested that they were so satisfied with the work of the union there was really no need for them to attend. A total of 9 per cent suggested they did not like attending meetings at any time; 9 per cent suggested they would rather watch television; and 5 per cent suggested it was too far to go to a meeting.

I am saying quite frankly that the hierarchy is out of touch with the functions of the unions and their members.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Have you any statistics to show how much the shareholders have to do with that?

The ACTING PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. J. L. Williams): Order! The Hon. Neil Oliver.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: The executive is completely out of touch with the rank and file of the trade union movement. I commend this document to Opposition members, and I also commend to them the publication, "Management and Workers at the Crossroads".

I want to make it quite clear where I stand with regard to associations of employers and employees. I am of the opinion that if we have associations of employers we should have associations of employees. Why should there be any discrimination between the two? I also believe that at the point of hire, all things being equal, the preference should go to the member of the union. That is my stand and I want to make it quite clear to the Opposition.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: You are a much better fellow than I thought you were.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: Now here comes the "but". I would like to see these surveys coming up which show that the executives of unions are not out of touch with reality and with their rank and file members. Until that situation is reversed, how can we deal with people who are totally irresponsible? They stick their noses into every matter, other than employees' working conditions.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. J. L. Williams): Order! Members are making it very difficult for the *Hansard* reporter.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: Reference has been made to shareholders' meetings. I have not been present at BHP meetings but I know that company has some very unhappy shareholders, because the return on their money is about half the bond rate, and they give their directors and the chairman a very difficult time.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: And then that guy rolls up with all the proxy votes.

The Hon. O. N. B. OLIVER: The Hon. Don Cooley has had a tremendous amount of experience of unions and the industrial arbitration system, and if there were more people of his calibre I believe there would be no disputes. I look forward to the contribution he will make should this legislation come forward in the future.

People who are not of the calibre of Mr Cooley and who are not responsible towards the members of their unions should not have a double-headed penny; that is, if they want to be registered and become part of the industrial arbitration and conciliation system, they should abide by the law as everybody else does. If that comes to pass, I believe we will see responsibility in unionism; we will see responsible union executives, and we need not worry about whether or not unionism is compulsory. The union movement will gather members behind it.

On that basis I support the motion.

THE HON. A. A. LEWIS (Lower Central) [8.04 p.m.]: First of all, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Norman Moore on the speech he made in moving the Address-in-Reply. I think it was the best Address-in-Reply speech I have ever heard in this place. I do not mean any insult to other members who have moved the Address-in-Reply but his was a very good speech which was well put together and very thought-provoking—something this House needs.

I was a little horrified at what the previous speaker said about the bureaucracy and public servants. I have found the standard of public servants to be extremely high and I believe their attitude is one of giving good service. Perhaps the Public Service needs to be looked at, and perhaps it needs some redeployment.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: Another inquiry?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I would certainly not have another inquiry. Perhaps there is trouble with certain unions, and the task must be defined. But I believe the average public servant is an honest employee of the Government and does a very good job, particularly those in the higher echelons of the Public Service and some of the authorities. I dissociate myself from the previous speaker's remarks about the bureaucracy.

Ministers might do a lot of good if they stood on their "dig" occasionally, and I am sure the lower echelons of the Public Service would make a name for themselves if they stood on their "dig" and dealt with suggestions put to them in the way they should be dealt with. However, I think the majority of public servants are first-class people.

I find I would like to support all that the previous speaker said about Rhodesia and South Africa, and I would take it a little further. Let us cease to be wishy-washy. On the question of South Africa and Rhodesia, our present Federal Government is nearly as bad as the Whitlam Government.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Don't tell me you support South Africa?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Of course I do, because, but for a little bit of luck, there go Mr Cooley and I. Our forebears came to Australia; other people went to South Africa. South Africans are of the same stock. They are the same types of people as we are, and they are as honest and loyal to the Crown as we are. They have the same problems as we have. For instance, when the empire was at war, Rhodesia—

Several members interjected.

The ACTING PRESIDENT (the Hon. R. J. L. Williams): Order! I remind members that interjections make reporting very difficult. I am prepared to tolerate them so far and no further.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I will say I support apartheid.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You know what happened to the Federal Minister who said that. He was a Minister for only a day.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It was very interesting to hear the comments from the other side of the House. I wonder how many of those members have been to South Africa. I wonder how many of those who are crying "Shame" have even seen the situation there. Their silence brands them.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I do not support separate development and I do not support South Africa. That is one matter in which I am on side with Malcolm Fraser, the United Nations, and the United States.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: This country has the greatest apartheid in the world.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: We in this country support the greatest apartheid in the world—

The Hon. W. R. Withers: You are dead right.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: —started by the Whitlam Government.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Your own Premier would not even attend a meeting with the Prime Minister on land rights for Aborigines.

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Order! I will not remind members again about rowdy interjections. The Hon. A. A. Lewis.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr Acting President. As I was saying, the people of South Africa and Rhodesia are of the same stock as Australians.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: We had a war with the Afrikaaners. What is wrong with you?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Let me remind members opposite that Rhodesia had a higher percentage of troops supporting the old British Empire than any other country in the British Empire. So we, like dogs with our tails between our legs, turn against the people who fought a common enemy. Members opposite show themselves in their true colours when they wipe off Rhodesia and South Africa and talk about apartheid. They have never been there and do not understand the situation.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I did not hear the Governor speak about the problems of South Africa and Rhodesia. He spoke about the problems in this State.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I will link up what I am saying with the problems in this State. As Mr Withers said, this country has the greatest apartheid in the world.

The Hon. F. E. McKenzie: What are you doing about it? Give us a solution.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Let me say that one day—some of us are a little too old—we will realise how silly the Australian nation and successive Prime Ministers have been in rejecting South Africa and Rhodesia.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Every white country in the world rejects them, too.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is absolutely hypocritical. I will give an example. A gentleman in South Africa built a boat, put his family on it, sailed across the seas, and landed in Australia. It was a very good boat, too. Up to now, that gentleman has been refused Australian citizenship. Even worse, he has been told to leave the country.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: That is the Government you have in Canberra.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I could not agree more, but the previous Government set the pattern.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: How long has he been here?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: He has applied for permission to stay here and has been refused it.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: In Derby or Darwin he has no problems.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I could not think Mr Dans is dinkum. The point of my argument is that if one comes in a collapsed old boat, cannot speak the language, struggles off, has to be fumigated as one comes ashore, and has customs and immigration officers looking one up and down, one is accepted with open arms, even when one does not have enough money to keep going. But a person who sails out here—

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: I cannot understand why he wants to leave this marvellous country of South Africa.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: While Whitlam was in office I was thinking very seriously of migrating to South Africa.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I wish you had gone and stayed there!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is a magnificent country with magnificent people. I want to deal with Mr Dans' point about the war at the turn of the century. I had a relation who fought in it.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I was not in that war, I must admit.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: How long have you been in South Africa?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I have been there three times.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: For what periods of time?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Six or seven weeks.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Now you are an expert.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It gives me as much insight into South Africa as Mr Cooley has into BHP. He has never worked for that company. Do not give me that sort of argument. He opens his mouth where angels fear to tread.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I would like the Acting President to explain that little phrase to me.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Mr Acting President (the Hon. R. J. L. Williams), would you like me to sit down while you explain that phrase?

The Hon. D. K. Dans: "Open his mouth where angels fear to tread"!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Anything that he can bite.

Let us consider South Africa. On my last visit I noticed great changes had occurred since my previous visit 10 years earlier. The Bantu were better dressed, they were happier people, and they were responsible people in their work.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: How did their wages compare with those of white people?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I can tell Mr Cooley that.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Can you tell me where a white person can be treated by a black doctor, or where a black person can ride in a white ambulance?

The ACTING PRESIDENT: Order! I suggest that the Hon. D. W. Cooley allow the Hon. A. A. Lewis to make his own speech.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The interesting point was that the responsibility of the Bantu towards their work had improved greatly. The point I really want to make is that 10 years ago there was deep feeling between people of Dutch and British descent; far greater than the feeling between people of black and white descent.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Do you reckon that is why the Americans were spying on them?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Now people of Dutch, British, and Bantu descent are all welded together. There are a couple of hatreds. They have a hatred of Carter, and they have a hatred of Callaghan. They also have a hatred of Fraser.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: They are not too fond of Andrew Young, either.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is so. They do not want people to interfere with their country. They want to live their own lives and they are doing so particularly well. Bantu schools and hospitals are being developed. They are getting away from the old-fashioned idea of Mr Cooley, which is at least 10 or 12 years old to the best of my knowledge, because when I was in South Africa in 1969 one could ride anywhere one liked on a bus and the same ambulances brought in black and white people.

The Hon. Tom McNeil: Can you play football wherever you like?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: They are beginning to.

The Hon. Tom McNeil: I do not know about that.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Well, Mr McNeil can ask questions and ascertain for himself the way integration is proceeding. Let us look at our own situation—the Hon. Tom McNeil could well look at himself in this respect—and think about

whether we encourage our native people to play football.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Look at the South Fremantle Football Club.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is right. However, what percentage of Aborigines do we take in? Do we go to the missions and develop the sport of football? Like hell we do; we take away the good footballer and bring him to Perth and we forget about the rest. The South Africans do not do that; they go out and train all the people. They accept responsibility for all. So let members of this House reflect on what is being done and not be scathing about apartheid, because I believe the South Africans are doing a good job with a difficult problem. Certainly they are doing a far better job than the United States or the United Kingdom has ever done. However, I was led into that part of my speech by the Hon. Neil Oliver.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Did he mention South Africa?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Yes, and also Rhodesia. In respect of Rhodesia, I have in my electorate a husband and wife whose grandparents are in Rhodesia. The grandparents would like to see their grandchildren; they would like to visit them here for a month or two. Even that has been refused because the grandparents have Rhodesian passports.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That is a little tough.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is worse than that; it is shameful. It is about time the Federal Government reconsidered this matter.

May I now refer to the two "Ds". If some action does not take place in the next 12 months this Government will be branded the "two 'D' Government". I might even make the branding iron myself. It will not take much imagination on the part of members opposite or on this side to realise what are the two "Ds".

The first "D" has already been mentioned twice in this Address-in-Reply debate. It has been mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition and by the Hon. V. J. Ferry. It is the Dumbleyung Police Station. I do not make any threats in this place, but if we do not get a police station at Dumbleyung then Address-in-Reply and Budget debates will continue to contain at least one mention of the matter; I can assure the House of that. I must admit that the Minister for Police and Traffic has visited Dumbleyung and said he will do the best he can in the next Budget. The way members laugh when I mention the subject is a little horrifying in itself, because it is a serious matter.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: It is serious when you talk about a washing machine that nearly shakes the place to bits.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Not only does the washing machine almost shake the building to pieces, but also the salinity in the water, which was mentioned by Mrs Piesse, is causing the machine to be corroded; so with all that thumping and the salinity of the water, we are in big trouble.

The Government must consider priorities. I know we need lovely police complexes in Fremantle, Wanneroo, and Perth; and maybe Bunbury needs a courthouse. However, Dumbleyung must get a police complex this year. As I have told the House before, the police station is a transportable with the most expensive paving in this State. It cost \$400 for 21 slabs, laid by two men who came all the way from Narrogin. If we are prepared to waste that sort of money, let us get on with the job and provide the new complex.

The other "D" is, of course, that white ant-riddled, galvanised iron-coated hospital at Donnybrook. I will not bore the House by speaking at length on this matter. The Minister has seen the hospital; we even gave him a hard hat to wear, because the building is unsafe and we would not like a young Minister to be killed by falling timber.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: In the hospital?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Yes, in the hospital. The walls of the building are of corrugated galvanised iron; and this is in a so-called civilised community. I am sure no other member in this place has in his or her area a hospital which is so dilapidated in a community with such a record of development. Houses are being built rapidly in Donnybrook. People are commuting to Bunbury and the town is developing at a terrific rate. There is a need for a hospital.

It is amazing that, when I take Ministers to Dumbleyung and Donnybrook and show them the conditions about which I speak in the House, they never seem to write those gorgeous little notes saying that the matter is being looked into or that my remarks in the Address-in-Reply debate have been noted. Hopefully the Leader of the House will make sure I receive some response on this occasion.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: How far from Bunbury is Donnybrook?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is 25 miles away.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: If people commute from Donnybrook to Bunbury, would not the Bunbury

Regional Hospital be the appropriate hospital for them to use?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That may be so, but mothers in particular—because fathers do not have babies—like to have their babies in their own town with their own doctors.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: It must be a very hazardous business if the Minister has to wear a tin hat in a hospital.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is right, but women will continue to have babies in the Donnybrook Hospital—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Tin hats and all?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Yes, that is how rugged they are in my electorate. They are trying to keep up the bed average in an endeavour to get an unsympathetic Government to build a new hospital.

May I now move on to a subject that has been widely publicised in the last few weeks and months. I refer to salinity and clearing controls on certain river catchments. Let me commence by reading the following quotes made in a speech on the Bill which was introduced last year—

The Bill provides that anyone seeking to clear land in these four additional catchment areas will need to obtain a permit. The underlying need for this requirement probably is obvious to everybody; it is to enable a check to be made on the increasing salinity in our waterways.

In the case of the Wellington Dam catchment area, when the Government introduced the provision that a clearing permit would be necessary before clearing operations could take place, it was found a number of farmers already had taken in bulldozers and cleared fairly extensive areas, areas which were never properly cleared up and put down to pasture; a great deal of this cleared land was never put to the use for which it was intended.

... Indeed, the Opposition does not raise any objection with regard to any part of the Bill itself.

... Although there is no objection to the first portion, there is some little apprehension as to some of the results that could occur as a consequence of lack of consultation with the farmers in the areas of the four water catchments which are already listed. That is not a reservation; it is just a matter I refer to the House.

Those comments were made by the member for Warren in another place. However, the heat

increased and the water got fairly warm, as the Leader of the House knows because he attended meetings and heard what the people had to say about the Minister, the Government, and everything else.

In the *Warren-Blackwood Times* of the 4th April, it was reported that Mr H. D. Evans moved a motion in the State Parliament calling for a study into the State Government's controversial amendments. Members will recall that I have just read out some quotes from Mr Evans' speech on the matter. Then we had another article which said that a Labor move to debate the issue was defeated. That referred to the occasion when the Opposition tried to introduce the matter as an urgency motion.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Are you for or against the legislation?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am right behind it, because it is necessary. I do not like bans or controls being placed upon people's property; however it is essential to do so for the benefit of the majority of the people of the State.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Do you think it is the right thing to do?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am sure it is, and I think time will bear me out.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: He has made it clear at every public meeting that he thinks it is right.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Let me now quote the comments of other members who were a little frightened of the heat. One said—

This indicates a total absence of research before the legislation was introduced.

Those are the comments of the member for Warren, who was formerly the Minister for Lands and Forests. To the best of my knowledge, forestry research into salinity started in 1922. As a member of the Opposition in the other place, I was shown forestry research into salinity in the Perillup area.

Without taking into consideration what the Department of Agriculture had done, what the Public Works Department had done, what the CSIRO had done, and what his own department had done, the former Minister said that this indicated a total absence of research before the legislation was introduced. How could we believe that sort of statement?

The member for Warren said that the urgency had arisen because of the absence of research, and that the blame for this could be sheeted home to the Government. That is very interesting.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Are you not going to have another look at the legislation?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: No.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I would be opposed to having the regulations changed. In relation to the guidelines, I will deal with the aspect later. I realise this is an extremely difficult subject for city members to understand. However, by the time I have finished I hope the Leader of the Opposition can understand the whole of it.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I have been down to see the research into salinity by the Forests Department a long time ago; but that is not what we are talking about.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The member for Warren continued—

Conciliation has been denied them. This is one of the reasons for urgency.

He also said—

The individual farmers should not be required to accept the full loss which is incurred.

And further—

This matter is of grave concern to the farmers in this area; it is an unsettling thought to realise that individual farmers could be completely ruined because of the ban on clearing.

He continued—

If that young man is going to be simply handed a cheque for the land he cannot clear on the basis of its unimproved capital value there is no way he will be able to continue farming.

He also said—

Endeavours have been made to get the various Government departments to act harmoniously and in unison, but to date there is no indication as to whether there is to be an independent consultant, who he will be, what his qualifications will be, and whether he will be satisfactory.

These are fairly outrageous situations. Another member of the ALP, in trying to make political capital, went on to say—

I know of a farmer in the electorate of the Minister for Agriculture who is going broke.

He continued—

It is quite apparent from that statement that Mr Whittington has been deprived of sufficient finance to put his system into effect in the Wellington area.

And further—

I have objected to the Minister in relation to the plight of one farmer. Scrub has overgrown the farmer's pasture lands, but he cannot obtain a permit from the department to clear the scrub from his farm. Ultimately, the scrub will take over.

He also said—

Members of the Wellington Dam Catchment Area Committee were in attendance. They have asked me to support Mr H. D. Evans' motion because of the complete lack of action by the Government.

That member had been to one meeting of the Wellington Catchment Area Committee. That was when the Minister was meeting with the shire in Collie.

I have been attending nearly all the meetings. I receive the minutes of all of the meetings. There is no mention in the minutes which indicates that that member was asked to support the member for Warren's motion. I rang the president of that committee, and he said, "No, we haven't asked him to support it."

I believe that the Opposition in another place is trying to stir up the farmers. The Opposition is not going in and saying, "Well, let us have a look at your problem, and let us see what we can do with it." It has purposely gone out to stir up farmers. That is the typical ALP approach to any rural problem.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Let us get the facts right.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The typical ALP approach to anything to do with the bush is stir it up into a big pottage, and leave it for somebody else to clean up.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: You could not find a finer gentleman than the member for Warren.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Opposition says it is wooing rural votes.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: But we did not introduce the legislation.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Leader of the Opposition in another place is making weekly broadcasts, but unfortunately most of them are a fortnight or so out of date.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Honourable members will refrain from interjecting. Will the honourable member on his feet direct his comments to the Chair?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Certainly. I have not departed from directing my comments to the Chair.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: This has been a disgraceful personal attack.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is typical of the ALP. That is not a personal attack.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: The member is not even in the Chamber to defend himself.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If Mr Claughton wishes to talk about that sort of thing, I could quote numerous occasions on which certain members in another place attacked me when I was not present. I do not winge and whine about it. I will answer my critics when my time comes. I will answer them, as I have always, with practical knowledge of the subject and with common sense. Commonsense was not used in the original allegations against me. The referable dams issue was one of those where members opposite tried to stir up matters and failed. They will fail on this occasion.

Obviously, somebody has made statements which have been read to this House, and he then changed his mind because the going became a little tough. I would like to know what the policy of the Labor Party is in relation to salinity.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: You have copies of our platform.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I do not read the platform of the ALP. I am busy enough reading my own.

Opposition members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I believe that under the ALP policy the metropolitan area and country towns, such as Collie and Katanning, could expect to have reasonably potable water. I am not one of the people who damns the Labor Party. I think some of its policies, when they have been developed a little, could be quite good. Of course, political history in Australia is that the Labor Party has always been five or six years behind the Liberal Party in the formulation of policy.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Whether you like it or not, you have done the soft shoe shuffle on this Bill. You sat down with me at the Pastoralists and Graziers Association opening when the Premier said he would have another look at this, and you did not get up and challenge him.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You have your dancing shoes on tonight.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I do not need to have my dancing shoes on. My electorate contains most of the farmers who are facing these problems. Who do they come to? They come to Mrs Piesse

and myself, because they cannot go to the other people. The other people have changed their minds too often. It is disgusting to see that. One would think that a member of Parliament would try to do the best he could for his constituents.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That Bill slipped through here without proper research. Both sides should admit that.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley interjected.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Do I have to make it completely clear to the Hon. Desmond Dans and the Hon. Don Cooley that I support everything that was in that Bill? Do I have to make it completely clear—

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. member has to make it completely clear to the Chair only.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Could I make it completely clear to you, Sir—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Pretty difficult!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I regard that as a reflection on the Chair.

Could I make it completely clear to you, Sir, that I know a lot more about this subject than either of the two people who are yelling and shouting from the other side?

The Hon. D. W. Cooley interjected.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: There was no need for me to speak when the Bill was in the House. It was capably handled by the Hon. Robert Hetherington, who agreed with everything that was in it—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That is right.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: —and by the Hon. Winifred Piesse. There is no need to bore this House with repetition.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: Well, wind it up!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I will wind up in a minute. This is a subject that had been thoroughly researched, although the Leader of the Opposition in this place says that it had not—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I did not.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition read *Hansard* later.

The member for Warren has changed his views because electorally, at one stage, matters looked a little warm. That is a shocking thing for him to do. I would like to quote a little from the latest guidelines—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: There are some more guidelines now, not the original guidelines.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: One would think that an intelligent person like the Hon. Desmond Dans would have known that there was more than

one set of guidelines. When there is a progressive Government which cares for people, new guidelines will always be drawn up and implemented. That is the difference between an authoritarian Government, as is the desire of the Opposition, and the compassionate Government which is running this State at the moment.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: You know all about authoritarian Governments. We know you support the Rhodesian and South African Governments.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley interjected.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: When has not this Government, when presented with the serious problems confronting people such as cyclone "Alby", got off its tail and done things for people? When has the Government not been far ahead of the ALP in doing things for the small people of this world?

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Give us one instance.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: This Government has always shown itself to be a compassionate one. The Brand Government had always shown itself to be a compassionate Government.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: That is the sixth time you have made that speech this evening.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: We are not like a certain Premier on the other side who wanted workers' compensation because he became ill and left the job.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: You are getting a bit thick now.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If Mr Cooley wants to talk about these things, I will talk about them.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: What about Senator Greenwood?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Senator Ivor Greenwood died in office, and his widow was awarded an amount of money.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: In addition to a lump-sum payment from the superannuation fund, and weekly payments.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Federal Government has a requirement that that be done. If the Hon. Don Cooley had been in this place long enough, I would have taken him apart. He does not know what he is talking about. It is a poor situation for a Premier to resign, receive a golden handshake of \$205 000 or \$190 000, and then put in his claim for workers' compensation when he is also receiving an income from his cookery books.

I return to the guidelines on salinity. These guidelines are not intended to be rigid rules. They will be reviewed progressively on the basis of experience and the future results of research work. That means that the Government will keep the matter continually under review. That is what a good Government should do.

I have dealt with the problems of the people in these catchment areas. I have probably dealt with more of these problems than has any other member, because I have been involved in the situation a lot longer. I believe that the Government has not handled the situation as fast as it could. It has not acted as quickly as it could. The Government has worked on the problem, but it has not been as speedy in its movements, as an answer to my question this afternoon indicates.

The legal profession is involved in the conveyancing transaction when a property is transferred and this seems to take a long time. I am assured by people who are international experts that this State is amongst the most advanced countries in the world as far as salt control is concerned. We have heard outrageous statements made by some people as to what we have and have not done. I do not believe there is one simple solution to the problem. I believe there are some mechanical solutions, such as interceptor banks. I believe Mr Whittington's scheme can achieve a great deal as far as salt encroachment on the land is concerned; but I doubt whether it will do very much for stream salinity. As a matter of fact, I believe his scheme may even increase the salinity of streams.

It may be a good idea to use the Blackwood and Frankland Rivers as drains for salt. The Hon. W. M. Piesse made a Press statement about strip planting of trees and agro-forestry. I believe that has a place also. I do not think there is only one simple solution.

I have approached the Federal Treasurer, because some members may recall that the Apex Club of Western Australia took up the matter of tax deductions for salt-land reclamation at its State conference. I received a number of letters from the Minister who was helping the Treasurer, but I did not receive a letter from the Treasurer himself.

As you know, Sir, when I get the bit between my teeth I do not let a matter go. I wrote again to the Treasurer. I should like to quote fully from my latest letter, because I believe it sets out the matter in a better form than I am capable of doing off the cuff. The letter is addressed to the Treasurer and it reads as follows—

May I make my views known on the subject of income tax deductions in regard to salt affected land or land which could possibly become salt affected. One must remember that in this State alone, the area affected and removed from production has gone from 73 000 ha. to 163 000 ha. in the last fifteen years, and the problem is still growing.

When one considers the problem on a practical basis, there are many ways of implementing a control scheme. The engineering methods, interceptor banks and such like give a control on land reclamation, but not on stream salinity which is also important in a country so short of water.

The person that decides on this method can get a total deduction in the year of expenditure. Unfortunately the person who decides to reclaim by other methods, such as fencing off the area and planting salt tolerant species, is only allowed to claim over a period of ten years, and I believe is doing a job equal to the person who is putting in banks etc.

It would appear to me that owing to the problem being Australia wide and the fact that the losses to the economy are increasing steadily, every effort should be made to amend the law to allow all salt reclamation work as deduction in the year of expenditure. The problem is not just a simple one of agricultural production, but also one of water conservation for Australia's future urban and industry needs.

I would hope that yourself and Cabinet would give thought to this amendment as future generations will be needing both the water and the agricultural production. If there is any supplementary information you need, I will be only too willing to try and get it for you.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: What date was that letter written?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It was written on the 18th April.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: This year?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It was written this year, after I had received approximately 17 replies from the Minister assisting the Treasurer. I can give the member every one of those replies.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: You do not need to, because the deductions were approved in November. However, we shall leave it this time.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The deductions were approved for engineering methods only; not for fencing.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I hope the Federal Minister is not misleading you.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Every Federal member in this State received a letter and I hope that those who replied to me are not being misled also. Some excellent booklets have been produced on the problem of salinity and what to do about it. The Department of Agriculture, the CSIRO, and other organisations have carried out a great deal of work on this subject over the years. It is a pity that members who are jumping on the bandwagon do not go out and look at the research material which is available.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: That is right.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I should like now to turn to a small tourist matter in regard to the Perth Airport and the reception given to international travellers. I shall give one or two examples of it. I had to wait in a plane in Singapore for 1½ hours whilst passengers embarked. I arrived at Perth and was made to wait in the plane for 35 minutes so that we could be sprayed, because another plane had arrived at the same time. This is a little ludicrous. Surely two of the stewards could walk down the aisles of the plane, followed by the man from the Department of Public Health. This could be done when two planes arrive at Perth Airport at the same time.

I believe the porters at the airport should take a slightly different attitude to returning trollies for people wishing to remove their luggage. I do not wish to be racist, but a person of a particular nationality spat on a porter three weeks prior to my arriving at the airport. One man out of the thousands of people who travel through Perth Airport spat on a porter, and as a result, all the porters refused to return the trollies so that incoming passengers could remove their luggage. We are only courting trouble if, as a nation, we permit this sort of situation to occur at a time when we are trying to encourage tourism. I make passing reference to that matter only. I have spoken to the Federal Minister in relation to it and I believe he has taken note of the matter. I shall see whether the situation is any different next time I return to Perth.

About this time last year I was nearly laughed out of this House—

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Never!

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: Which time was that?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It must have been a gale of laughter.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: —by the innane sort of people who are interjecting at the present time. Whenever I am the first person to refer to a particular matter in this place, I am laughed out of the House, because they think I am crazy.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You said it, not I!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Here is the Leader of the Opposition interjecting. I should like tonight to refer to the situation in relation to cougars.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: The cougar is always good for a laugh.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is not good for a laugh from my point of view. The Leader of the Opposition has said that the cougar is good for a laugh. I am afraid I have gone beyond the laughing stage as far as cougars are concerned.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: Are you referring to "Coujars"?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am referring to mountain lions, cougars, call them what members like. These animals are killing sheep and cattle.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: Yes, the member for Collie told me about it.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The member for Collie found out about the matter in the last week or two only. When has he ever referred to the matter or written to the Minister about it? Twelve months ago I mentioned this matter in the House. The Leader of the House believes that there is no such animal in this area. He maintains it is a feral cat or a big bird, but it is not a cougar.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Dogs and cats.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is fascinating.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I will believe it when someone in Australia shoots a cougar or puma and brings it in for everyone to see.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I should like to see Mr Ferry bring in a cougar. Mrs Piesse and I will bring in a cougar and table it. We cannot do that, because of *Hansard*, but we will put it on the floor under the Leader of the House.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: I hope you will kill it first.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: With any luck we can put it there last! When you, Sir, see the casts of footprints and compare those casts with a beast of this type—

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: They are called "pug marks", are they not?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I thought the pug marks were what was put in the clay. I am

referring to the casts, not the pug marks. When members see the number of these cats, when 600 or 700 lambs are killed on one property, and when the Government does nothing about it, it is time to mention the matter in this House again. The Government has done nothing at all about the matter. It has treated it as a laughing matter. It has not, as was mentioned in a letter to one of my colleagues, put on a red alert. The Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and the APB should be examining what is killing the stock. I should like to quote from the *Collie Mail* of the 4th April. A public meeting was held and approximately 120 people attended. It can be seen that no-one is worried about the matter!

The people attending the meeting formed a committee and invited an American to come to the area. Last year I suggested the Government should provide the finance to bring in an American expert. The community has done this and I congratulate it on that. When the community is proved to be right I shall be very pleased to tell the Government about it, because it could have saved livestock valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars. More than one of these animals exist. I should like to quote a comment in relation to the screams of these animals. It reads as follows—

Their scream is indescribable, but for those who have heard it say that it is about 10 times louder than a tom cat, but "puts the shivers up your spine".

The Hon. D. K. Dans: It might be a giant tom.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I hope nobody here hears that noise, because if he does and if it is 10 times louder than the cry of a tom cat he will have a cougar very close to him.

The Hon. I. G. Pratt: Or a tiger by the tail.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: There have been many instances of claw marks on trees. Although it sounds humorous, this is a deadly serious matter. I have seen the way the farm animals are killed. I know most of the farmers, if not all of them. I know they are good bushmen. I know that if it was an ordinary dog killing sheep, these men would deal with the matter themselves. It is all very well for members to grin about this matter. However, it is costing this State at the moment approximately \$50 000 to \$60 000 per year in stock killed.

If the APB and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife cannot control such matters, they should admit it and accept the suggestion that we bring in someone from overseas to attend to the matter. I am heartily sick of the laughter and the suggestions that it is a feral cat. These people are

sane men and they are good bushmen. They are asked to lead the parties which look for children who are lost in the bush. The police ask for the help of these people when the State Emergency Service is alerted, and yet members laugh at them when they say such an animal is killing the stock.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: Have they tried using hunting dogs?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: They are training a pack of hunting dogs now. The normal dog turns with terror when he hears the screams of these animals.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: There is a certain breed of dog which can be brought in.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If the Hon. Gordon Masters recalls, I suggested last year that something along these lines be done. However, nothing has been done about the matter, so I shall continue to mention it.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: They would have to be quarantined for so long that they would forget what to do.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: Is there a particular breed?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Apparently the breed is not so important, but dogs can be trained to do it and a pack is being trained now. Perhaps during the next Address-in-Reply debate I will bring in a pack of dogs to help the Opposition.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: The Minister for Agriculture has come to listen to you.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I know he is here. I believe he is doing his best to sort out the problem. I do not think he realises what it is costing the State but he will realise it when he reads my speech.

I have been accused of many things, including being heartless for believing in apartheid. But I wonder what members of the Opposition think about the sentences imposed on people who extort money and leave bombs around. I am talking about the Collie bomber. I have the greatest sympathy for the man himself, but I believe three years and six months, which is the term he will serve unless he is given further remissions, is not an appropriate sentence for a man who has held a whole town to ransom.

Let us recapitulate. This man left what appeared to be a half carton of cans on the main steps of the Crown Hotel in Collie. Had it gone off in that position it would have killed everybody in the saloon bar, because it would have blown through the wall. A very brave policeman threw it outside and it did only \$7 000-worth of damage to the back of the hotel. Extortion calls followed,

which put the fear of God into every publican. The publicans had to evacuate their children; they had previously seen what this man had done with his bomb.

Our courts showed magnificent leniency, which I hope will be justified. I hope this man is never seen in court again after he is released. But he held a whole community to ransom and threatened people's lives. It was only a stroke of luck that the policeman moved the bomb. Had he waited for the bomb disposal squad, the explosion would have killed the children upstairs.

Yet in no way can I get an appeal against this sentence. I have approached the Attorney General, who has had advice from his department, and I believe he is very sincere. However, something must be done to protect the citizens in these communities. If a man can hold a whole town to ransom for as long as the Collie bomber did, we have in this society a malaise which must be cured by very harsh methods, and I do not believe three years and six months is a harsh sentence.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I probably agree with you, but I do not think you should use this time to criticise the courts, which are in possession of all the facts.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I do not like criticising the courts. I believe the court system should have been given another go and the Crown should have appealed. The Attorney General disagrees with me, and the only place where I can say what I think about the situation is here.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Should he have been given 10 years or should he have been shot?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Let us look at the four charges against him. One was inexplicably dropped by the Crown; the defence did not even know it was to be dropped. On another charge, the maximum sentence. On two other charges seven years each was the maximum sentence.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Isn't it a fact that had the media played a more responsible role the man would have been apprehended 10 or 11 days earlier?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That may well be so; I do not think we can make an assessment of it. But would it not still have been too long? The crimes would still have been committed.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: He would not have been wandering around for another 10 or 11 days.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: In that time he did not commit any crimes.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: You look more like Tom Hartrey every day, the way you are standing.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I take that as a compliment. If I could use words as well as the former member for Yilgarn-Dundas, I would be very well pleased. He was a superb orator.

I think this is a matter which should be brought to the notice of the House, because it is a matter which worries my constituents.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: How are you going to amend the law?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: We must rely on the judges, but I do not think they get down to the grass roots very often; they do not hear what the average person in the community thinks about these matters. So we in this place should mention what is happening in the community so that the judiciary will know what the average member of the community thinks. Should we be afraid to put forward our own opinions just because a judge makes a certain decision?

The Hon. D. K. Dans: No, I am not saying that. You are implying that if you speak long enough and loud enough you will influence the course of justice.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is not what I am trying to do. I am sorry if I have led the Leader of the Opposition to that conclusion. What I am trying to say is that the people of Collie felt that after being held to ransom for so long they should have seen some sterner treatment of that person. Perhaps it is an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth mentality.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: He may be a good member of the community in three years' time.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I hope he is.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: They used to send people out here for stealing a loaf of bread.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: We did not reform very many of them.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: We do not want that sort of harshness today. When I brought the matter up I said it was a difficult subject.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: If you do not abide by the umpire's decision, what other decision do you have?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The umpire's decision includes a right of appeal by the Crown.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Why didn't it appeal?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Attorney General or his department has reasons for not appealing, which I do not accept.

I wish to mention two or three further subjects. Firstly, I believe the State Housing Commission should start considering pensioner housing in some towns. Members may recall that when I first became a member of the other place the State Housing Commission had written off the town of Bridgetown, because the railway depot was to be closed. With the help of Mr McKenzie, Bridgetown is thriving, but we need some pensioner accommodation. I believe the State Housing Commission should make surveys of large country towns to see whether pensioner accommodation is needed. The needs of towns change. I leave it at that for the moment.

The next subject is one about which I have approached many Ministers for Transport and Police; that is, the 10 per cent deviation from axle loading which is allowed in the carting of livestock. Several members in this House know something about the matter, but I am sure there is no way they could judge the weight of stock over any specified axle to within 10 per cent. People are being pulled up by the heavy haulage squad and drivers and owners are being summonsed, because a truck they have loaded has been overweight on a specific axle.

Do we want to impose a further charge on the producer by insisting on underweight trucks? I do not believe it is possible to judge within 10 per cent. It may be possible to judge within 15 or 20 per cent, but in my opinion 10 per cent per axle with stock moving around in the compartments of a truck is not possible. I hope that in the future some Government will have the intelligence to say to the heavy haulage squad, "Give these drivers a go." They are saving the consumer money as the stock will get to slaughter cheaper, and they are saving the farmer money, because he will not have to pay for more truck space, and in that margin they are not damaging the roads one little bit. I think it is about time idiotic regulations of that sort were removed from the list.

While I am dealing with the RTA, I want to make some quick complaints about the RTA and the police. I give the example that the week before last the Boyup Brook Co-op had a monster sale, which was the first sale of this type that had been held in a small town for many years. We have heard of the problems the country shopkeeper has in trying to woo people into the town. Under new management, the Boyup Brook store tried a new way to encourage people. And so help me Bob, in came the RTA, looking for keys in the ignition, scuffed tyres, parking offences, and what-have-you. What would drive people out of a small town quicker? The only accidents of any consequence that I can recall happening at

Boyup Brook happened at 3 o'clock in the morning and the RTA was not there. Usually during the day drivers obey the rules, and in my opinion such action on the part of the Road Traffic Authority is overdoing it a bit.

I now turn to another matter that I have raised constantly, both in this House and in writing. I again make a plea for some way to pay fines and other fees in a police station which is not equipped with a cash register. Are members aware that one cannot pay a speeding fine or pay one's gun licence in such a police station? One can pay for a driver's licence and obtain a little receipt for the payment, but that is the only fee that such a police station will accept.

Many local authorities are equipped with cash registers, and they would be quite happy to accept this money and forward it to the department concerned. The person paying the money would receive a receipt with the cash register imprint on it.

The Treasury Department has never allowed local authorities to accept money on behalf of the RTA or the Police Force. Perhaps the Minister will realise that the person paying a speeding fine and the person licensing his gun are actually consumers, and it would assist these consumers to pay these moneys at the local shire office. I can see no sane reason for the refusal to allow this procedure to operate. However, I believe I have so far been knocked back 11 times in this regard.

I have a brief complaint I would like to direct to the Minister for Education. I wonder whether he is aware of the situation of female school teachers in GEHA accommodation in country and remote areas. Fortunately so far there has been no serious incident, although many of these young school teachers have been frightened by hooligans. On quite a number of occasions the people causing the nuisance could have been apprehended if the units had been equipped with a telephone. The girls would be far happier with a telephone and I do not think any of them would worry about a few extra dollars a week in rent.

I would like to move on to the town of Wagin, and perhaps Mrs Piesse will be a little annoyed with me for mentioning this matter, but I believe she will support my comments.

The Hon. W. M. Piesse: I am certainly not annoyed if you say something good about it.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Mrs Piesse was a councillor when this matter was first raised, and of course I am referring to the introduction of courses of a technical nature at Wagin. I would like to mention Councillor Ernie Hotker who has trained students in various aspects of farm

machinery. Other individuals have taken part in various vocational studies. From what I have heard it appears certain that some courses will be introduced at Wagin, and this has been brought about by the great efforts of the Wagin Shire Council, the Tractors Dealers Association, and, of course, that very well known organisation, the Farm Machinery Dealers Association. These courses will be of great benefit to the farmers, and if the courses develop in the proper way there will be operators' courses, farm mechanics' courses, and owners' courses. The Farm Machinery Dealers Association will have apprenticeship courses going on in certain centres, and so we could build up a complete centre in Wagin around farm machinery. This is the only country town where there is a farm machinery manufacturer. Pedericks has been established in Wagin for a long time, and it will be there for a long time to come. People have said, "Why not Merredin, Katanning, or Narrogin?" However, Wagin is the only town with an established farm machinery manufacturer, and so this would be the sensible choice. The Tractors Dealers Association and the Farm Machinery Dealers Association were unanimous on this point. I hope by the start of the 1980 school year this will be a growing and thriving course for the future.

I would like to mention briefly the subject of Tincurran wheat, and I would like my comments passed on to the Minister for Agriculture. If we are to release a species of wheat into certain areas, then let us ensure that Co-operative Bulk Handling—or some such organisation—will take it from those centres. It appears to me that the farmers in the Boyup Brook area are the best growers of this type of wheat, and so CBH ought to take it from them.

We have heard the knockers talk a great deal of nonsense about unemployment, whereas they should be concentrating on employment. Tonight we heard the Hon. Neil Oliver speak about the number of jobs created by this Government.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley interjected.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I would like the Hon. Don Cooley to take notes while I am talking, or perhaps he could look at *Hansard*. I would refer him also to a book entitled *Internal Migration in Australia* written by D. T. Rollin. I have here a map which appears in that book, but unfortunately I cannot have a map recorded in *Hansard*. This map shows the migration that has occurred in Australia, and we can see that many people from other States have come to Western Australia to seek work.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Our unemployment is the highest in Australia.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: This map shows clearly that our high level of unemployment has been caused by migration into the State.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: What about the people who leave the State?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The figures set out here show the net migration into the State, and it is the net migration that has created our whole problem. The trouble is that we cannot make people see when they will not look.

The Hon. O. N. B. Oliver: There are none so blind as those who do not see.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: There are 40 people looking for each job they can see in Western Australia.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: What about the immigration?

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Look, we are an Australian nation.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Why then does Mr Cooley say that our unemployment is the highest in Australia? Mr Cooley says one thing, and Mr Dans tries to get him out of it, but while getting him out of it he puts him in further. This is why the Opposition stays in opposition. Its members are not really concerned, and they do not look at the figures. I am glad that Mr Dans agrees.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Ha!

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: You are doing your best to avoid looking at figures.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I would like to comment on the magnificent job the Government has done in Collie and the way it is showing the lead in research, in exploration, and in new ideas. I suppose it hurts the Opposition, because its members never thought of doing these things.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: Oh come off it!

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: We had only 7 000 people unemployed when we were in Government.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: When I was a member in another place, I asked some questions of the Tonkin Government.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: The Liberal Government knocked off \$80 million of the State's money by handing it to the oil companies.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Mr Don Taylor is a very good friend of mine, and I asked him—

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I asked Mr Taylor why the Brand Government had left the steel rods

out at the end of the Muja power station, and Mr Taylor, being the honest man he is, said that it was to enable expansion. At that stage the Labor members were saying it was their Government which was extending the Muja power station, but Mr Don Taylor was honest enough to admit that the Brand Government had made allowances for this extension.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: How much would it cost to change Kwinana back to coal?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I would not have a clue. I do not live in Kwinana.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Don't you think we should change it?

The Hon. D. K. Dans: If you had listened to Mr T. H. Jones you would not have made it oil in the first place. That was a scandal—\$80 million.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: We have listened to Mr T. H. Jones on many occasions, and so did the Tonkin Government. We have listened to his statements about research. The member for Collie knows that no Government has undertaken much research in Collie, and no Premier has discussed what is going on in Collie with the miners' union—

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: That conflicts with the answers your Minister gave me.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley interjected.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I challenge either of the two members to go to the Collie Miners' Union and ask them which Premier has consulted with them more than any other Premier. I am sure that the answer will be Sir Charles Court. Our Premier never goes to Collie without meeting with union representatives.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Not long ago you had him out planting pine trees.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: There was 100 years' supply of coal, and yet you changed to oil.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: We do not make a fuss about such matters as the Labor Party does. The Premier has a quiet meeting with union representatives without politicians being present.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Without politicians?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Just the Premier and the union representatives.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I think that is a very fine thing, and I should commend him for it.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I thank the Leader of the Opposition, and I believe the Opposition should commend him for it.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I just said that.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: He made sure that the Collie Miners' Union—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: After all, he is the Premier of the State. He is supposed to go out among the people.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Not just supposed to—he does.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That is what I just said.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: I hope Mr T. H. Jones reads this speech.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Well, I do not think he will bother.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Neither do I.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: I do not think the Collie miners will bother either.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Legislation will be introduced shortly to see that Collie will be looked after for another 40 years. That legislation will be introduced by a Liberal Government. It has taken the imagination of a Liberal Party Government to do this.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I am very glad to hear you say that, because I heard a lot of tom toms around the place saying that they can land New South Wales and Queensland steaming coal in Fremantle cheaper than they can bring it from Collie. I hope they are wrong.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Maybe they are.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: We will have to reduce the price we pay to the Collie coalminers, won't we?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: New South Wales will continue to export its coal, and it may happen that we will have to become an importer. Under the present regime in New South Wales, the coalminers will generate enough industrial action to produce their coal, so we will take their coal willingly. We are one Australian nation; I think I heard the Leader of the Opposition say that a moment ago.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That is right.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Let the Eastern States contribute something to the gross earnings of the nation, as Western Australia is doing. It does not give me the horrors to think about taking a little bit of New South Wales coal.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: If I were a member representing that area, I would be horrified at the prospect.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: We know, and the people of Collie know, that because of the Liberal Government their future is secure. Collie has a 42-year contract. It is amazing to hear members opposite interject; they know that this

Government has taken this step for Collie and has gone ahead on behalf of Collie. Members of the Opposition are only screaming in the dark.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: See how many votes you get in Collie.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Mr Leeson may be very surprised. Does he realise that the people who represent Collie comprise one Labor member, two Liberals, and one National Country Party member? The member for Collie quivers whenever I go down to Collie. I think he probably votes for me, anyway.

This Government has been a progressive Government. It does not matter how much the Opposition knocks and screams.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: You are making pretty heavy weather in trying to convince the House of it.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: We do not worry about people like Mr Claughton; however, the more intelligent members of the Opposition I do worry about. Members have only to consider this Government's record over the years compared with the records of other Governments around Australia to know that we are on the right track, and that the Court Government is looking after all sections of the community. We are not horrified to help unions; in fact, I have given members one example.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: The Government is not giving you much help to catch that cougar!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Government is not helping me do many things; it is not helping me to get a new police station at Dumbleyung or Donnybrook; and, it is not helping me to catch the cougar.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: You are always knocking policemen.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am not always knocking policemen; I simply think that it is bad public relations for policemen to go into a small town which is having a monster sale to remove keys from cars, and to book people for having scuffed tyres, and so on. I think that shows a lack of common sense and good public relations.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: They have to uphold the law.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Everyone must uphold the law. I do not intend to be drawn into an argument about BHP.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: They were only doing their job, weren't they?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: They were, but there are times when policemen should show a little leniency.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Do you think we should bend the law?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If we sat in this place and rigidly adhered to the Standing Orders, we would not interject. Mr Cooley is bending the law by interjecting. Therefore he condones bending the law a little bit, just as I do.

I conclude on this note: This Government is doing an outstanding job. The people of Western Australia appreciate it is doing an outstanding job, and no amount of knocking from the Opposition will convince the public there is any alternative to the present Government.

I support the motion.

THE HON. R. T. LEESON (South-East) [9.34 p.m.]: I wish to raise a matter which, virtually, is a carryover of a Bill which went through this House last year to ratify an agreement concerning the Yeelirrie uranium plant in the north-west of the State. The Australian Labor Party's position on this matter has been expressed clearly both inside and outside this House.

However, a problem has arisen in that the agreement was drawn up in an open-ended fashion, allowing the company itself to decide through which region it would transport its freight.

As soon as the Bill to ratify the agreement passed through this House, the local governing bodies in my area—and, I believe, in other areas of the State—began preparing a case to present to the Government and to Western Mining Corporation to encourage them to use their particular region over which to transport freight to and from the project at Yeelirrie. I expressed reservations at the time this Bill was going through the House at the open-ended nature of this clause. What has happened in fact is that the Government has created a dog fight between two progressive areas of this State; namely, the Esperance-Goldfields area and the Geraldton region, for the privilege of being able to ship this much-needed freight through their particular areas.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: I thought the company was going to decide.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: The agreement gave the company an open-ended right to decide which area it wanted to use, and I said at the time this was quite wrong. It has misguided many people in my area and in the Esperance region—and, indeed, in the area represented by the member for

Lower North Province—into thinking the freight will be carted through their areas.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: Both come through my area.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Well, we have no need to worry about the member for Lower North Province; he is as sweet as a nut. I will worry only about the people in my area and the area the Minister for Lands represents. These regions are lobbying for the access route to be taken through their area.

The Goldfields-Esperance Regional Development Committee has discussed this matter at length, because it was always of the opinion that the freight was to come through that area. However, I was told six months ago by Western Mining Corporation officials that Geraldton was to be the venue. As members can see, what is happening is that a big dog fight has been started between two large areas of Western Australia. Perhaps this may have been the intention of the Government, to sidetrack people away from the agreement when it was originally before the House. People in my electorate were saying, "This is going to be a wonderful thing for Kalgoorlie." They did not realise that Yeelirrie was about 250 aerial miles north-west of Kalgoorlie and that, because the agreement was so open-ended, it was possible that Kalgoorlie may not form part of the route over which the freight will be transported.

At present, we have a standard gauge railway line of some 620 kilometres stretching from Esperance in the south to Leonora in the north. It cost many millions of dollars to construct, and at present very little freight is being transported over it.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: I hope you are not getting involved in the dog fight.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: I most certainly am going to support—

The Hon. N. F. Moore: You do not want yellow cake going through Kalgoorlie, do you?

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: I am talking about the estimated 150 000 tonnes of freight which must be transported to Yeelirrie. At the same time, why does the honourable member think I do not want yellow cake transported through Kalgoorlie? The Bill he supported provides for a pilot processing plant to be constructed at Kalgoorlie in the next six months.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: You do not like that, either.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: We have been forced to accept this pilot uranium plant, and the

yellow cake which goes with it, so I do not suppose a bit more yellow cake will make much difference.

I thought the member for Lower North Province would support my case, because Menzies and Leonora would benefit by the transport of freight through the region. At present, the standard gauge railway line is virtually a white elephant; I do not think there are two ounces of nickel a week being transported over that 620 kilometres of line. We are in the unfortunate situation where the salt operation at Lake Lefroy has just been closed down, and no salt is being transported on that line. So, virtually nothing is being transported on that line.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Do not forget the grain.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Yes, there is a little grain from Salmon Gums. However, it is a lot of standard gauge line for a small amount of wheat. This line should be put to use, and the equipment and whatever else is necessary at Yeelirrie should be freighted through this region.

It has been suggested that a bitumen road continuing through Leonora up to Leinster—which has quite a large nickel operation—could be utilised. In addition, there are other nickel operations which could be developed in the area if the price of nickel remains at its present level.

It is unfortunate that, at present, this line is not being used for the purpose it was originally constructed; namely, the cartage of nickel and other ores. I believe the civic leaders and other people in my electorate will put up a good case both to the Government and Western Mining Corporation to have the Esperance-Kalgoorlie-Leonora avenue used to transport freight to Yeelirrie. However, as members no doubt will be quick to point out, the Geraldton area probably will put up equally strong a case. Under the open-ended wording of the original agreement, Geraldton has as much right as the Kalgoorlie-Esperance region to lay claim to this freight traffic.

As I said, this is going to create a lot of fighting in these areas when, with a little forethought and guts on the part of the Government and WMC—they know what they are about—a lot of this could have been avoided. With that, I support the motion.

THE HON. M. McALEER (Upper West) [9.45 p.m.]: In supporting the motion I would like to congratulate the Hon. Norman Moore on the way he moved the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech. As usual, I listened with

interest to the member and I agree with the Hon. A. A. Lewis and other members, who have indicated that it was a very fine speech.

Mr Moore acknowledged in a very eloquent manner the contribution made by people in pastoral and farming areas to the settlement of this State. Like him I would like to see the 150th anniversary celebrations mark a permanent improvement in their situation.

I hear a great deal from members representing the south-west about how swingingly the 150th anniversary celebrations are going. Given the difference in population and distances involved, people in the Upper West Province are doing their best to celebrate this great year. It is difficult to choose among the many events that have taken place, but I would like to make mention of the reenactment of the landing of Lieutenant George Grey at Kalbarri, which was followed by a walk along the route taken by his party from Kalbarri to Geraldton. This journey was undertaken by school boys in the Geraldton area and taken up by other boys from the Dongara school who undertook a route from Chapman Valley to Irwin River. It was a great effort physically and it was of great interest, because they compared their observations with those in Grey's journal and added something to our knowledge of this event.

To the people in the northern wheat belt in the upper part of the province last year was a better year, but for most it was not a really good year. For some it was the third year of a drought. The Western Australian Government has been prepared to declare as drought affected the properties of some 150 people in the first instance, and then to reconsider the cases of other people who were inadvertently overlooked. There are as many again and perhaps double that number who are in the most difficult of circumstances.

There is a serious problem of high indebtedness as shown by the Federal Government's reluctance to make a further grant of \$200 000 to those who had already received \$40 000 over the previous two years. The problem has been made worse by the effects of cyclone "Hazel". The Western Australian Government supported drought-affected areas by representations to the Commonwealth, which were partially successful. The Federal Government has been prepared to grant people with higher indebtedness an extra \$20 000 if they live in what is known as normally safe areas. The drought relief committee has, in my experience, been very prompt in supporting cases brought to its attention. The Government was prompt in bringing relief to people affected by cyclone "Hazel". It was able to ease immediate worries of those people who had their

houses and business premises destroyed and others who had their sheds or farm buildings destroyed.

Three Government Ministers were almost immediately in the area and an emergency committee was set up. Shires were supplied with information covering disaster relief. They were able to supply people with forms and help the people fill in those forms to seek assistance. There was a great deal of enthusiasm shown by the shires.

At the same time Government instrumentalities pulled their weight and Westrail was able to supply tarpaulins to people with damaged roofs. The damaged buildings in the Mingenew and Northampton towns made them look like walking wounded. The PWD was prompt to assess damages to public buildings, especially schools, and repairs were carried out in miraculously quick time. The SEC had large problems to cope with, yet it was able to reconnect the towns and farms in very quick time. Telecom worked hard to put up broken telephone lines.

The spirit of the people in the area was superb. The towns were cleared of the debris and people who had themselves been hard hit were prepared to assist others. Many people had frightening experiences during the storm when houses were unroofed or crumpled. In the towns and on the farms some of the people were able to escape to safe quarters. Others were cut off by debris and fallen power lines or had nowhere to go when the air was full of flying iron. It is a wonder, and one we must be grateful for, that, to my knowledge, no-one was seriously hurt.

I would especially like to acknowledge the courage shown by so many people, and above all the courage shown by those who were already disastrously affected by drought and whose situation was greatly worsened by the cyclone. As members will realise, it was not just houses which were damaged; sheds and fences were also damaged, and even the paddocks themselves were in some cases destroyed, especially in light-land areas. Some paddocks were in such a state that it was impossible to drive vehicles on them.

Disaster relief may take care of the houses, but in some cases that will not help people to stay on their farms unless it is generous enough to enable them to put a crop in. There are many calls on the Government—that is, the taxpayer, or the community—to support this and that deserving causes, but I believe the victims of such a disaster really are worthy of help.

Although the past year has been difficult for many people in the towns and the country, signs

of improvement in both business and farm incomes and an overall steady upgrading of public facilities are evident. The improvement is due to the better seasons and prices and to the improved economic climate. It is also due to the measures taken by the Government to tide the people over such a difficult period, provide a sound base to work on, and quicken the provision of amenities and facilities.

For instance, people in Moora are very grateful that extensions to the hospital have been approved and the work commenced. A very important repair and renovation programme has been agreed to for the Morawa Hospital. Unfortunately there is still a delay with the extensions to the Three Springs Hospital. There is no immediate prospect of those projects being undertaken.

The Hon. N. F. Moore: Leonora has been fixed.

The Hon. M. McALEER: I am well aware of that and I am sorry that the Three Springs project was not next on the list as we hoped. The Minister called at Three Springs when doing a tour of hospitals in the Greenough area and he heard a strong case put by the people in the district; the residents of sundry shires. I hope this has encouraged him to try harder to speed up this very necessary project.

It is true that the Donnybrook Hospital is in a very sad state but it is only 25 miles from a larger centre. While Three Springs is 100 miles either north or south of a larger hospital it is 100 miles to Geraldton but 200 miles from Perth.

The Government has done well by the people in my province, and new schools have been erected at Kalbarri, Coomberdale, Wagrakine, Cervantes and Leeman.

There are only a few areas where water is a serious problem. Bindi Bindi has suffered much in the past, although many words have been spoken about its problems. However, its prospects have now improved in that it will be supplied with water from the Agaton scheme. People are pleased the Government has given it priority and is to make a submission to the Federal Government. The SEC has kept up its programmes and the number of unserved areas is diminishing.

When Geraldton was desperate for assistance the programme for provincial cultural centres was brought forward. A very big effort was made by the Government to assist the building industry in Geraldton and the contact for the Leonora hospital went to a Geraldton firm. Smaller areas have not been neglected. Both Badgingarra and Eneabba have social centres which, while assisted

by the Government, were due largely to the hard work done by the locals. These people raised large amounts of money.

Of course, problems remain, but overall the Government's record in the province is good and there is every reason to suppose it will press on and continue in this way.

The Leader of the Opposition released a Press statement in Geraldton a couple of weeks ago in which he called on the Government to undertake a major programme to upgrade community facilities in country areas. When I read this statement I felt grateful for his interest but thought it rather belated, because this is, in fact, what the Government has been doing since it came to office. I do not think even the ALP could claim to do everything at once. But I was very glad to know that Mr Davies was proposing discrimination in favour of country people. I expect that in line with this we will not be attacked by the ALP any longer about the one area where this favourable discrimination is clearly the case already; that is, the value of votes in country areas.

I hope it would not be ungrateful for me to suggest that the Labor Party would not be expounding its new-found interest in country areas if it had not at last decided to win some country electorates instead of continually complaining about how the party is disadvantaged by them.

Having said all this, there are some specific matters I would like to raise. The first is the hostel for the Morawa High School agricultural wing. As the Minister is well aware, the advisory committee for that agricultural wing has been trying to establish this on a proper basis; firstly, by proper utilisation of the farm which is attached to the school; secondly, by adequate programmes for the students; and, thirdly, as accommodation for students who live outside the Morawa district.

The first of these two objectives are well on the way to being accomplished, thanks to the advisory committee's work and to an enthusiastic principal. As well as this, 19 students are actually housed in a temporary hostel in the town. This is, in fact, the Western Mining Corporation men's quarters and mess which are rented by the advisory committee for \$5 000 a year. While this is satisfactory to a point, it is only a temporary measure, because the lease is on an annual basis, and Western Mining retains the right to the buildings; it will use them again if the iron ore is worked in the district in the future. It is also possible, I suppose, that Western Mining might remove the buildings elsewhere.

It is understood that the Education Department has committed itself to enlarging the Cunderdin Agricultural School Hostel, and that there are no funds currently available for Morawa. But the Morawa people are seeking acknowledgment of their agricultural hostel with the understanding that a building—even a small one—will be provided in the future, preferably on the farm.

The northern wheatbelt is different in character from the area around Cunderdin as far as farming is concerned. The distance to Cunderdin is considerable and I believe the need for the hostel has been established. If a permanent building were established, then it could be provided with facilities which would allow girls as well as young men to be accommodated. Already this year three girls have applied, but their applications had to be knocked back because the accommodation was not adequate.

The Morawa people support the project as is evidenced by the money spent on it and by the work they have done on it. It is also supported by the regional advisory committee which is backing it strongly. The committee would rather the Morawa project succeed than have all the facilities centralised in Geraldton. Specifically it would like the agricultural educational facility to be a regional facility centred at Morawa.

One could say a great deal about the different systems of regionalisation and decentralisation, but I believe that one way, among others, to stabilise the population in rural areas is to provide smaller country towns as well as regional towns with facilities when it can be demonstrated those facilities will be used. A school is an industry. It is valuable to a country town as an employer, for the money it puts into the community, and as an attraction to people to use the town as a business centre.

With the adjunct of the hostel, Morawa, which has survived the loss of the iron ore, would be in a better position to withstand the ups and downs of rural industries, and at the same time supply a real need to the northern area. I hope the Minister for Education will give the matter further consideration and not limit his interest to Cunderdin.

Still on the question of hostels, I refer to the need for a hostel for the Geraldton Technical School. Last week the Minister cautiously answered a question concerning the prospect of the establishment of the hostel. It was not a very encouraging reply. While it has always been proposed in a general way that there should be a hostel for the technical school, it was fair enough to delay its construction until the technical school

was well established. However, if the fine new technical school is to serve an area wider than the Geraldton town itself, obviously there is a need for accommodation to be provided.

It is well known—certainly in Geraldton—that Geraldton is a difficult town when it comes to finding single accommodation. In addition, a number of potential students would be fairly young and should not be tossed out to fend for themselves.

The principal of the technical school is keen to establish a catering course—a sort of hostel apprenticeship. He envisages that the hostel would be run by the catering students. I do not know whether this is practical, but the advisory committee and the principal are keen to establish the new technical school as a local institution with its own character, serving the regional interests which are agriculture, fishing, and building, and as an institution making a distinct contribution to the overall technical education of the State.

I understand that it is not possible to undertake a catering course outside Perth. The idea is supported by the regional development committee and deserves to be seriously examined. I hope the Minister will do this.

Before I leave the subject of education I would like to thank the Minister for the attention he has given to the Wanneroo High School. It is a source of satisfaction to all associated with it that the middle school will be ready by the second term and that planning is actively in hand for the fourth stage. I am aware that funding is crucial, but in view of the steady increase in the population of the area as well as the innovative nature of the school itself I hope that the Wanneroo High School will be high on the priority list for funds.

Before dealing with a small personal matter which has been irritating me for some time I would like to refer to the speech made by Mr Ron Leeson in which he dealt with Yeelirrie and the agreement. He blamed the Government for the fact that the agreement is open-ended. I think he said that it was misleading and had raised false hopes, but that in any event Esperance ought to be the port in order to make use of the railway. I am not unbiased, because I think Geraldton ought to be the port. I cannot really find fault with the Government, because it does not firmly bind Western Mining to one port or another when such a decision might well be against its economic interests.

I have spoken about the matter before, but I say again that Yeelirrie lies in the Greenough region and if we mean anything by regionalisation

then the resources of the region ought to be used to the benefit of the people. On the face of it, it would seem to me to be foolish to take the resources from one region to another simply in order to subsidise a railway line. In addition the Geraldton port, which has just had a fifth berth added, is extremely capable of handling the shipping which would result from the Yeelirrie project. The whole port, from the authority itself to those who work on the wharf, is anxious and willing to have this particular trade.

Like many country members I do a great deal of driving, and naturally some of it is at nighttime. Some time ago, after I had bought a new car, I was embarrassed when the drivers of oncoming cars either refused to dim their headlights or did so and then raised them again. In due course, I discovered that my headlights were too high and so I had them adjusted. Now I am not only embarrassed but annoyed that the same thing is occurring and that the lights of oncoming cars are just as bright as before. In many instances this is because their headlights, like those of my car, are obviously badly adjusted.

This may seem a small matter, but when one is driving at night and for a long time the situation becomes dangerous. I appeal to the RTA to caution motorists in this regard and insist that their headlights be examined.

There is one final small matter which slipped my memory before, and it deals with Cabinet's policy on air-conditioning of hospital staff buildings. I understand from the Minister that it is Cabinet's policy not to supply airconditioning to staff quarters situated below the 26th parallel. This policy applies also in regard to schools, and has caused a lot of anxiety. Nowadays air-conditioning has become what one might refer to as commonplace and therefore it is a great mistake on the part of Cabinet to persist with its policy which is far too rigid and does not take into account the number of places which have trying climates, and the buildings which are perhaps old and are not built with coolness in mind.

It is important to hospitals that their staff be happy and therefore Cabinet should reconsider its policy to make it more flexible and suitable to the conditions which obtain.

I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. W. M. Piesse.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Leader of the House) [10.11 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 26th April.
Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 10.12 p.m.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

FUNERAL FUNDS

Legislation and Registration

1. The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Attorney General:

- (1) Does legislation exist in this State covering the administration of funeral funds?
- (2) If so, what is it?
- (3) Is there any body or department with whom funeral funds must be registered?
- (4) Can the Minister inform me—
 - (a) how many of these funds exist in this State,
 - (b) the names of the funds,
 - (c) their assets?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) and (2) There is no legislation in this State dealing particularly with funeral funds.

The Friendly Societies Act, 1894-1975, permits a society to conduct a funeral fund for its members. Such societies are subject to the supervisory and audit provisions of the Act.

There is also the Superannuation, Sick, Death, Insurance, Guarantee and Endowment (Local Governing Bodies' Employees) Funds Act, 1947. This Act permits local authorities, boards under the Parks and Reserves Act, and the Road Traffic Authority to establish funds of the kind mentioned in the title of the Act. Funeral funds would probably be included. This Act provides that the provisions of the Act under which the bodies mentioned are constituted, relating to the keeping and audit of accounts, shall apply in respect of the funds mentioned.

- (3) Friendly societies are registered under the Friendly Societies Act which come under the jurisdiction of the Chief Secretary.

Under the Superannuation, Sick, Death, Insurance, Guarantee and Endowment (Local Governing Bodies' Employees) Funds Act, the bodies mentioned have to be approved by the Governor.

- (4) Not known.

ENERGY: SEC

After-hours Services

2. The Hon. TOM McNEIL, to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Is it a fact that the SEC is contemplating alterations to the after-hours services as they currently apply in country areas?
- (2) If so—
 - (a) What are the benefits to be derived from such alterations?
 - (b) Will consumers be disadvantaged in any way?
 - (c) Will the SEC running costs be curtailed if such alterations are implemented?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) The SEC is not contemplating a change in the level of services, but is proposing to change the manner in which the services are provided.
- (2) (a) Primarily, an improvement in efficiency of SEC operations in country areas and an easing of the burden placed on SEC employees in country areas in dealing with after-hours call outs.
- (b) No.
- (c) The changes are not expected to have any significant effect on the commission's overall running costs.

WATER SUPPLIES: CATCHMENT AREAS

*Land Clearing:**Denmark, Kent, and Warren Rivers*

3. The Hon. A. A. LEWIS, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that there is some criticism from landholders affected by clearing controls in the Kent, Warren, and Denmark Rivers catchments because of the delay in the payment of compensation?

- (2) Is this criticism warranted?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. Having regard for the need to assess properly the amount of compensation payable, there have been no undue delays. Eleven claims have been received and of these one has been settled by purchasing the property, two offers to purchase have been made but have not been accepted, five claims have been assessed and offers are being prepared, and the remaining three claims are being examined.
It is the Government's policy to expedite the settlement of claims and if the honourable member has a specific complaint it is suggested that he let me have details so that the matter can be followed up.

EDUCATION: SCHOOL

Mt. Tarcoola

4. The Hon. TOM McNEIL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Works:

Has the landscaping map been prepared for the Mt. Tarcoola Primary School in Geraldton and, if the answer is "Yes", would the Minister table the document?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

Yes. Plan is tabled.

The plan was tabled (see paper No. 148).

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

RECREATION

Youth, Sport and Recreation Committee

54. The Hon. R. Hetherington (for the Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON), to the Minister for Lands representing the Minister for Recreation:

Will the Minister advise the names of persons appointed to the Youth, Sport and Recreation Committee?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

Mr Henry W. Dettman—Chairman
Mr Ron F. Coffey
Professor John Bloomfield
Dr Dennis Ladbroke
Mrs Pat Barblett
Mr John Wood
Mr John Graham.

TRANSPORT: BUS

MTT: General Administration Expenditure

55. The Hon. F. E. McKENZIE, to the Minister for Lands representing the Minister for Transport:

Referring to question No. 29 on Tuesday, the 10th April, 1979, concerning General Administration Expenditure (Rail) as published in the MTT annual reports, will the Minister advise how much of the \$939 000 labour costs for the year ended the 30th June, 1977, is attributable to the salary of the Commissioner of Railways?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

As it is not practicable to identify the contribution to the suburban rail passenger services by administrative and other staff indirectly associated with the operations, these costs are recovered from the MTT on the basis of a percentage loading of 15 per cent applied to the directly allocable labour costs. It is therefore not possible to indicate how much of the commissioner's salary is included in the labour component of the administrative charge.

MINING

Herdsmen Lake: Katanning Holdings

56. The Hon. R. Hetherington (for the Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON), to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Mines:

Further to my question No. 20 of the 5th April, 1979, regarding the hearing of objections to mining on Herdsmen Lake—

- (1) Was this opportunity given in a Warden's Court hearing?
- (2) If so, when did this court sit?
- (3) If not, what was the nature of the opportunity provided?
- (4) Will the Minister advise on what date a Warden's Court will sit to hear the claim for a mining permit on Herdsmen Lake?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) Objections to applications for mining tenements on Herdsmen Lake will be heard in the Warden's Court on 16th May, 1979.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Answered by (1).

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Aboriginal Author's Play

57. The Hon. R. Hetherington (for the Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON), to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Has the Minister received a request for a grant to allow the play "Kullark" by Aboriginal author, Jack Davis, and produced by the National Theatre especially for the 150th celebrations, to have its season extended by six days in response to public demand?
- (2) If so—
 - (a) will he advise if the grant has been approved; and
 - (b) if not, for what reasons?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) No;
 - (b) the matter is to be considered by the 150th Anniversary Board.

EDUCATION

School: Mullaloo Heights

58. The Hon. R. Hetherington (for the Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON), to the Minister for Lands representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that no road has been constructed to permit parents vehicle access to the Mullaloo Heights primary school?

- (2) Will the Minister advise what is causing delay in construction of an access road?
- (3) Will the Minister advise when parents can expect a road to be constructed?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A sewer main has to be constructed in the road reserve before the road is built.
- (3) A temporary access road to the school has been provided already.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Wanneroo Shire

59. The Hon. R. Hetherington (for the Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON), to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Has a decision been made that will allow transfer to the Shire of Wanneroo of the site on which its new administrative building is being constructed?
- (2) If not, what matters have still to be resolved before this decision can be made?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

- (1) and (2) Negotiations between the Shire of Wanneroo and the corporation are proceeding. Outstanding matters relat-

ing to road construction, cost of services and the price of the site are expected to be resolved shortly.

ROAD

Beach Road-Marmion Avenue Intersection

60. The Hon. R. Hetherington (for the Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON), to the Minister for Lands representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Minister agreed to a design for the intersection of Marmion Avenue and Beach Road that will allow the Shire of Wanneroo and the City of Stirling to complete construction of Beach Road?
- (2) If not, what are the reasons still delaying a decision?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Marmion Avenue and Beach Road are the responsibility of the local authorities; namely, Stirling City Council and Wanneroo Shire Council.

These authorities have joint responsibility for the intersection in question and have differing views on how it should be treated.

The alternative designs are now being evaluated by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority.

- (2) Answered by (1).