

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 22nd July, 1959

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY, SEVENTH DAY :

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

EXAMINATION PAPERS

Tenders for Printing

1A. Mr. HEAL asked the Treasurer:

- Is it a fact that examination papers for the Junior and Leaving Certificates have been taken from the Government Printing Office and are now being printed in a commercial printing office?
- If so, what were the quotes from—
(i) the Government Printer;
(ii) the successful tenderer?
- Are security measures at commercial printing offices comparable with those taken at the Government Printing office?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- Yes.
- In the past, examination papers have been printed by a private concern. Last year the Government Printer advised that he would be able to produce the papers at a cheaper rate. However, despite a lower number of papers, the final cost was in excess of that charged by the private concern. Consequently the Public Examinations Board decided to place the work with the same firm which previously did the work.
- The Public Examinations Board is satisfied with the security measures taken by the private concern.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Tenders for Departmental Work

1B. Mr. HEAL asked the Treasurer:

Has the Government Printer the right, and is he invited, to tender for all work to be done for Government or semi-Government Departments?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Current practice is for departments to obtain quotes from printing houses, including the Government Printing Office.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Printing

1C. Mr. HEAL asked the Treasurer:

Has any Minister been in touch with commercial printing offices with regard to the printing of the Telephone Directory?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Not that I am aware.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Retrenchments

2. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Railways:

As approximately four men were retrenched by the Railway Department at Leighton during the week ended the 4th July, and approximately six men during the week ended the 11th July, will he justify his answer to my question of the 9th July, that no men have been retrenched, nor are any retrenchments pending?

Mr. COURT replied:

No men have been retrenched from Leighton works. The work of a gang employed on fettling works following relaying independent of the Leighton works was completed on the 10th July, 1959. On this account four men were paid off at Claremont during the week ended the 4th July, 1959, and six men were paid off during the week ended the 11th July, 1959. During those two weeks three men left this gang of their own accord. These men were temporary workers employed under A.W.U. conditions for this particular work.

MECKERING SHOWGROUND

Size of Water Pipe

3. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Has a decision yet been made as to the size of the water pipe required for the servicing of the Agricultural Showground at Meckering?
- (2) If not, when is the decision likely to be made?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) At an early date.

SALE OF T.V. SETS

Inquiry re Mr. W. J. Lucas

4. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Has the Director of Investigation under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act yet made any inquiry regarding the suspension from membership of W. J. Lucas by the appropriate association, because of Mr. Lucas's determination to sell television sets to the public at a price less than the one decided upon by the association?
- (2) If so, will he lay a copy of the Director's report upon the Table of the House?
- (3) If not, when is the Director likely to commence the making of an investigation, in view of the importance of this matter to the public?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) No inquiry has been made.
- (2) Answered by No. (1)
- (3) There has been no approach to the Director either by W. J. Lucas or any person on his behalf.

5. *This question was postponed.*

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Cost of Office and Typist

6. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

What is the estimated cost per annum to the Government of making available a Government office for use by Mr. W. W. Mitchell, and the provision of a typist to assist him in his work, together with any other expenses which the Government is likely to incur as a result of Mr. Mitchell's appointment, not including the salary of £2,500 per year?

Mr. BRAND replied:

The only annual cost incurred so far in relation to Mr. Mitchell's work is for the provision of a typist at £704 per annum and the rental of a telephone. Mr. Mitchell's duties will be to promote the advancement of Western Australia through the field of public relations and expenses incurred will be money well spent in the interests of the State. If the previous Government had done a little more in these matters, the State would not be so far behind at the present.

LABOUR GOVERNMENT

Commitments Inherited in 1953

7. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

What was the total estimated cost of the works to which the Labour Government was committed as a result of decisions made by the McLarty-Watts Government in 1953?

Mr. BRAND replied:

No records are available which would enable the supply of the desired information.

UNEMPLOYED

Numbers Registered and Receiving Relief

8. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

(1) What was the number of registered unemployed persons in Western Australia on the following dates:—

- (a) The 28th February, 1959.
- (b) The 31st March, 1959.
- (c) The 30th April, 1959.
- (d) The 31st May, 1959.
- (e) The 30th June, 1959.

(2) What was the number of persons receiving unemployment relief in Western Australia on the following dates:—

- (a) The 28th February, 1959.
- (b) The 31st March, 1959.
- (c) The 30th April, 1959.
- (d) The 31st May, 1959.
- (e) The 30th June, 1959.

Mr. BRAND replied:

(1) and (2) Official unemployment figures for each month are taken up to the end of the week closest to the end of the month.

As I am sure the hon. member will be interested in the figures for comparable periods of last year, these have been included.

Number of registered unemployed persons in W.A. on the following dates—

(a) 27th February, 1959	7,328	1958	6,022
(b) 27th March, 1959	6,810	1958	5,163
(c) 1st May, 1959	6,132	1958	5,588
(d) 29th May, 1959	5,972	1958	5,735
(e) 26th June, 1959	6,074	1958	6,308

Number of persons receiving unemployment relief in W.A. on the following dates—

(a) 27th February, 1959	2,914	1958	2,142
(b) 27th March, 1959	2,850	1958	2,018
(c) 1st May, 1959	2,551	1958	2,225
(d) 29th May, 1959	2,674	1958	2,543
(e) 26th June, 1959	2,939	1958	3,005

It will be seen that while the number of registered unemployed persons last year increased by 1,145 between the end of March and the end of June, this year for the corresponding period there has been a decrease of 736.

While last year the number receiving unemployment benefit increased by 987 between the end of March and the end of June, the increase for the corresponding period this year has been only 89.

TRANSPORT OF COMMODITIES

Subsidies from Board

9. Mr. NORTON asked the Premier:

How does he reconcile his answer to my question on the 7th July, in which he stated that "miscellaneous"

class goods freights were the only ones subsidised by the Transport Board, with the answer given by the Minister for Transport to my question on the 8th July, part of which reads:—

In other areas the seasonal subsidy covers grain and fertiliser only but the arrangement of freight schedules for regular services has the effect of spreading the subsidy over all commodities?

Mr. BRAND replied:

The hon. member's question of the 7th July refers specifically to areas "where rail services had ceased," and the reply was given accordingly. The reply given by the Minister for Transport on the 8th July confirms it, but adds that in "other areas" the subsidy on regular services is spread over all commodities.

STATE ENGINEERING WORKS

Profits

10. Mr. EVANS asked the Premier:

What profit has been made by the State Engineering Works during the past five financial years?

Mr. BRAND replied:

The profits appropriated to the Treasury by the State Engineering Works for the five years to the 30th June, 1958, are as follows:—

Year	£
1953-54	26,007
1954-55	43,996
1955-56	60,155
1956-57	65,242
1957-58	98,355

GWALIA HOTEL

Date of Erection

11. Mr. EVANS asked the Chief Secretary:

In what year was the State hotel at Gwalia erected?

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

In 1903.

MINE WORKERS' RELIEF ACT

Registration of A. Jurinovich

12. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Has he received a letter from me re the registration of A. Jurinovich of Kalgoorlie under section 50 of the Mine Workers' Relief Act?
- (2) Would he please indicate whether favourable consideration could be given to this case?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It is regretted that the hon. member's letter was not formally acknowledged, but the matter was immediately acted upon on receipt of this letter. Arrangements are being made by the Mines Medical Officer to again examine Mr. Jurinovich, and consideration will then be given to his request for registration under section 50.

BONELESS BEEF

Number of Export Licenses, etc.

13. Mr. KELLY asked the Premier:

- (1) How many licenses have been issued permitting the export of boneless beef?
- (2) From what ports are these operating?
- (3) What was the total poundage of exports during the years ended 1957 and 1958 and to date for 1959?
- (4) What was the value?
- (5) Can he indicate the totals of each grade of beef exported?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Certain of the statistics requested can only be obtained from the Australian Meat Board in Sydney, but the information available in Western Australia is as follows:—

- (1) There are approximately 20 licensed exporting firms operating in Western Australia in the export of beef of all classes, including boneless.
- (2) Fremantle, Albany, Wyndham, Broome.
- (3) Total tonnages of beef, all classes—

Year ended	Tons
June, 1957	6,516
June, 1958	7,006
June, 1959	11,194*

*(This is subject to revision; it is an estimate).

Specific boneless figures are not available.

- (4) Not available in Western Australia.
- (5) Only limited information is available. In 1958 the approximate percentages from Australia to the United Kingdom were as follows—

1st and 2nd quality	75%
Other quality	25%

In 1959 approximate percentages from Australia to the United States of America were—

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 3rd and MX Boneless quality | 95% |
| Other quality | 5% |

Mr. Hawke: The boneless beef on the Government side could well be exported.

CRAYFISH

Details of Southern Survey

14. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) What progress has been made with the survey which the Commonwealth Government agreed to carry out in southern waters on crayfish (*Jasus Lalandii*)?
- (2) What type of vessel is being used?
- (3) Has it snap freeze facilities?
- (4) If so what holding capacity?
- (5) In the event of considerable catches being made, will these be processed; and if so, is it the intention of the Development Trust to market the catch?
- (6) Will the proceeds be credited to the Trust Account?
- (7) If he is not in possession of information sought in Nos. (5) and (6), will he ascertain the intentions of the Trust in these matters?
- (8) Will the State Fisheries Department have observers located on the survey vessel?
- (9) How long is it anticipated the survey will occupy?

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

- (1) The survey has been in progress since the 7th June, 1959.
- (2) The 66-ft. crayfish processing vessel *Bluefin*.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) 28,000 lb.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) See previous answers.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) Twelve months.

WAR SERVICE LAND SETTLEMENT

Rocky Gully Clearing

15. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is he in receipt of a report from surveyor Henderson covering the alleged inadequate clearing claim of the Rocky Gully war service land settlement?
- (2) If so will he cause same to be laid on the Table of the House?

Mr. BOVELL (for Mr. Nalder) replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).

CIVILIAN LAND SETTLEMENT

Adoption of Scheme

16. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has the Government reached any firm decision regarding the adoption of a civilian land settlement scheme?

- (2) If the matter is under consideration, when can we anticipate an announcement of the Government's intentions in the matter?

Mr. BOVELL (for Mr. Nalder) replied:

Commonwealth financial assistance will be necessary before civilian land settlement can be successfully implemented. An appraisal of existing settlers' financial difficulties is under consideration, and a firm decision will be made when reliable information on this problem is obtained.

STATE ENGINEERING WORKS

Dismissals Since the 30th June

17. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) How many employees have been sacked or given notice of dismissal from the State Engineering Works since the 30th June last?
- (2) What trades were affected and what is the number of tradesmen in each category?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) 28.
- (2) 2 boilermakers,
2 carpenters,
1 wood machinist,
1 blacksmith,
2 painters,
1 fitter,
19 general labourers.

SCHOOL DESKS AND SEATS

Particulars of Tenders

18. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Who was the successful tenderer, and at what price, for the supply of school desks and seats in respect of tenders which closed this month?
- (2) What price was tendered by the State Engineering Works?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) The matter is now before the Tender Board and finality will not be reached until its meeting tomorrow.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).

FREMANTLE RAILWAY BRIDGE

Views on Siting

19. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Were the views of the new Commissioner of Railways obtained by the Government before it made the decision to site the proposed new railway bridge adjacent to the existing road bridge?

- (2) Were such views in favour of or in opposition to the Government's proposal?

- (3) Has he changed the views which he had on this subject in October, 1954?

- (4) If so, what are the reasons for his altered opinion?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) He was not opposed to the change. His view was that the question of the development of the existing harbour was not for him to decide. He was concerned only with the practicability of crossing the river and the location near the traffic bridge is considered satisfactory.

- (3) Yes, and with a full appreciation of the need to undertake outer harbour development at a later date in the light of future industrial developments.

- (4) Amongst other reasons—

(a) The decision of the Hawke Government in respect of bulk-handling extensions at North Wharf and railway works at Leighton to service such bulk-handling extensions.

(b) An acknowledgment that the best and quickest harbour development could be made from finances likely to be available if the new railway bridge is located near the traffic bridge rather than confine the present harbour to the old railway bridge limits.

(c) Many of the considerations which the hon. member gave to the House in 1954.

RURAL AND INDUSTRIES BANK

New Building at Esperance

20. Mr. NULSEN asked the Minister for Lands:

When will a start be made to build the new Rural and Industries Bank at Esperance?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

A contract was let to commence on the 13th April, 1959, for completion on the 30th August, 1959. Work is claimed to be 2% started. Action is being taken to expedite construction.

ESPERANCE HARBOUR

Ships' Arrivals and Dues

21. Mr. NULSEN asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) How many ships called at the port of Esperance during the period January, 1957-58; and from June, 1958, to June, 1959?

- (2) What was the total amount of harbour dues received by the Railway Department for the two periods in question, indicating both periods separately?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) (a) Period the 1st January, 1957 to the 31st December, 1957—10 ships.
(No ships in January, 1958.)
(b) Period the 1st June, 1958 to the 31st May, 1959—24 ships.
(No ships in June, 1959.)
(2) Harbour dues (excluding wharf haulage)—
(a) £748 7s. 11d.
(b) £2,018 18s.

22. *This question was postponed.*

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

Enrolments at the 30th June

23. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Attorney-General:

- (1) What were the total electoral enrolment figures for—
(a) the metropolitan area;
(b) the rural, mining, and pastoral areas;
(c) the North-West;
at the 30th June, 1959?
(2) What were the enrolments at the 30th June, 1959, for each of the 50 Legislative Assembly electorates?

Mr. BRAND (for Mr. Watts) replied:

- (1) Total enrolment at the 30th June, 1959:
- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------|
| (a) Metropolitan area | 221,919 |
| (b) Agricultural, mining, and pastoral areas | 136,182 |
| (c) North-West area | 4,452 |
| Total | 362,553 |

- (2) Metropolitan area:
- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Beeloo | 13,103 |
| Canning | 14,201 |
| Claremont | 9,471 |
| Cottesloe | 9,270 |
| East Perth | 7,977 |
| Fremantle | 9,028 |
| Guildford-Midland | 9,886 |
| Leederville | 9,299 |
| Maylands | 10,036 |
| Melville | 12,000 |
| Middle Swan | 10,893 |
| Mt. Hawthorn | 10,842 |
| Mt. Lawley | 12,459 |
| Nedlands | 9,316 |
| North Perth | 8,362 |
| South Fremantle | 11,694 |
| South Perth | 10,169 |
| Subiaco | 9,107 |
| Victoria Park | 10,443 |
| Wembley Beaches | 16,608 |
| West Perth | 7,755 |
| Total | 221,919 |

North-West Area:

Gascoyne	1,721
Kimberley	1,409
Pilbara	1,322

Total 4,452

Agricultural, Mining, and Pastoral Areas:

Albany	6,076
Avon Valley	4,899
Blackwood	4,845
Boulder	4,342
Bunbury	6,613
Collie	4,930
Dale	6,408
Darling Range	5,212
Eyre	4,455
Geraldton	6,043
Greenough	4,505
Harvey	5,331
Kalgoorlie	4,729
Katanning	5,306
Merredin-Yilgarn	5,339
Moore	4,723
Mt. Marshall	5,023
Murchison—	
Cue	1,523
Hannans	2,523
Murray	4,046
Narrogin	5,189
Norham	5,704
Northam	5,527
Roe	5,239
Stirling	5,642
Toodyay	5,084
Vasse	5,622
Warren	5,350
Total	136,182

Quotas

24. Mr. OLDFIELD asked the Attorney-General:

- (1) Which electorates exceeded their quotas by more than 20 per cent. at the 30th June, 1959?
(2) Which electorates fell short of their quotas by more than 20 per cent. at the 30th June, 1959?
(3) What was the quota at the 30th June, 1959, for—
(a) metropolitan area;
(b) rural, mining, and pastoral areas?
(4) Under the Electoral Districts Act, 1947, how many seats would—
(a) metropolitan area;
(b) rural, mining, and pastoral areas
be entitled to, and the quotas obtained under the formula, if a redistribution of seats were effected on present figures?

Mr. BRAND (for Mr. Watts) replied:

- (1) Beeloo, Canning, Melville, Mt. Lawley, South Fremantle, Wembley Beaches, Bunbury, and Dale.

- (2) Murchison.
- (3) The quotas as at the 30th June, 1959, were those fixed by the Electoral Commissioners at the proclaimed date for the 1955 redistribution; namely:—

- (a) Metropolitan area 9,369
 (b) Agricultural, mining,
 and pastoral areas 5,070

- (4) On present figures, numbers of districts and quotas under existing formula:—

	Districts	Quota
(a) Metropolitan area	22	10,087
(b) Agricultural, mining, and pastoral areas	25	5,447

MR. ERNEST THORNTON

Communist Activities in Western Australia

25. Mr. ROBERTS asked the Premier:

- (1) Is the Government aware that a leading Australian Communist, Mr. Ernest Thornton, has been in the State for some time?
- (2) If so—
- (a) how long has he been in the State;
- (b) is it known how long this extreme Communist of international fame will be in this State;
- (c) does the Government know the purpose or reasons why the visit is being made;
- (d) what areas or centres has Mr. Thornton visited so far;
- (e) has the visit resulted in an increase in Communist activities within the State?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Government has no detailed knowledge of Mr. Thornton's movements, but it is apparent that there has recently been increased activity by well-known local Communists.

BETTING CONTROL BOARD

Counsel at Betting Inquiry

26. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Has the Betting Control Board made representation to the Government to have counsel made available to appear on its behalf before the Royal Commission?
- (2) If so, what was the reason for the refusal of such a request?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) Having in mind that this inquiry is a fact-finding commission rather than a court of law, the board resolved to request permission of the Royal Commissioner to permit the board's Chairman, the Hon. H. H. Styants, to appear as counsel for the board. This has not yet been refused, it being under consideration by the Royal Commissioner.
- (2) Permission was sought and given by the Minister in charge of the Betting Control Board to the above request.

CROSSWALKS

Count at Jewell Street, East Perth

27. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Transport:

Will he supply particulars of the "conflict" count relating to the pedestrian crosswalk in Jewell Street, East Perth, near the Plant Workshops depot?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

The maximum conflict occurred on a week-day between 7.30 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. The product of the conflicting 100 pedestrians and 1,250 vehicles in both directions was 125,000.

EAST PERTH HOMES

Evictions

28. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Transport:

Regarding the area north of Kensington Street, East Perth, between Jewell Street and Trafalgar Road—

- (1) Has any action been taken to evict persons in occupation of homes in the area?
- (2) If not, when is such action likely?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) Notice of eviction has been served on the occupants of five residences at the Trafalgar Road end of the area mentioned.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Transfer of Work to Private Firms

29. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier:

- (1) Have any instructions been given regarding printing to be done, or not to be done, or tenders to be called for work previously done by the Government Printing Office?
- (2) If so, what is the nature of same?

- (3) Will he list the printing jobs previously done by the Government Printing Office which have been given to outside firms by his Government?
- (4) What is the difference in cost in each case?
- (5) Were tenders called for all this work?
- (6) Was the Government Printing Office given an opportunity to tender?
- (7) What is the approximate value of the work already taken from the Government Printing Office?
- (8) What other work is intended, or is likely to be taken from the Government Printing Office?
- (9) What effect will all this have on the number of persons employed in the Government Printing Office?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A circular to Ministers.
- (3) This information is not available.
- (4) to (7) Answered by No. (3).
- (8) This will depend on the ability of the Government Printer to compete with outside firms.
- (9) The impact on the staff at the Government Printing Office, as the result of work being carried out by outside firms, cannot be assessed at this stage.

COAL

Use for Road Making

30. Mr. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is he aware the Curtiss-Wright Corporation in the United States is testing new material for road making from coal?
- (2) Will he communicate with the C.S.I.R.O., the University of Sydney in New South Wales, and the Australian Coal Association (Research) Limited, in order to ascertain any information these bodies may have obtained in connection with this matter?
- (3) Is he aware that 12½-mile sections of highways in Pennsylvania are to be paved with the new material for full-scale testing?
- (4) Does he know that laboratory tests suggest that the coal-based binder's advantages over present black top paving materials are: water, jet-fuels, gasoline, or lubricating oils do not affect it adversely; it has a high temperature resistance and will not soften excessively under jet-blast conditions, and will not harden appreciably?

- (5) Will he take every step possible to ascertain full details of this new process from coal, in order to ascertain whether coal from Western Australian will conform with the results achieved elsewhere?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1), (3), and (4) Some Press reference to items mentioned in these questions has been noted.
- (2) Yes.
- (5) Yes. Action is being initiated by the Commonwealth Government towards a review of coal research in relation to Australian coals, and the Minister for Mines has asked that Collie coal be included in this. All such matters as above will, it is anticipated, be examined.

Price of Ewington Open-cut and Deep-Mine Products

31. Mr. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Why has Amalgamated Collieries of W.A. Ltd., increased the price of Ewington deep-mine coal by 1s. 1½d. per ton, when there has been no increase of wages, costs, etc. and productivity has increased from 3.998 tons output per man shift to 4.047 tons output per man shift?
- (2) Did the Government instrumentalities or private consumers demand a reduction in the price of Ewington open-cut coal from £2 12s. 2d. per ton to £2 8s. 7d. per ton?
- (3) Could it be a mere coincidence that the amount lost as a result of such demand is equal to the amount gained as a result of the increase in price of Ewington deep-mine coal?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) There have been increases in basic wage, certain wage rates, workers' compensation premiums and other costs, in the mining industry. Amalgamated Collieries of W.A. Ltd. have been paid increases as a result of the above variations, and these have been calculated in the terms of the existing contract with the company which commenced on the 16th September, 1957.
- (2) In the case of Government instrumentalities—No. No information is available as to the price paid by private consumers.
- (3) The "mere coincidence" referred to by the hon. member is not understood, as any increase in price is as a result of the agreement made during the term of office of the previous Government.

ALBANY HOSPITAL*Dismissal of Building Tradesmen*

32. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) How does he reconcile the answers which he gave me on Wednesday, the 8th July, to questions asked by me concerning the dismissal of tradesmen from the Albany hospital job with the contents of the letter of the 2nd July from the Under Secretary for Works to the Secretary of the Building Trades Association?
- (2) How many employees have been given notice of dismissal from this job since the present Government assumed office?
- (3) How many of such employees are residents of Albany?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) The answer given on Wednesday, the 8th July, that no employees had been dismissed from the Albany Regional Hospital since November, 1958, is correct. Six men (three from Albany and three from the metropolitan area) received notice of retrenchment on the 9th July. The above does not conflict with the letter of the 2nd July from the Under Secretary for Works to the Secretary of the Building Trades Association.
- (2) 12.
- (3) 9.

NORTH-WEST RESIDENTS*Payment of Fares for Medical Treatment*

33. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Premier:

Will he give an assurance that he will continue the practice of the previous Government in paying the fares each way of people in the north who require medical treatment in the south, which treatment is not available to them in the north?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Yes, on the understanding that the existing practice still continues by which the District Medical officer certifies that the specialist treatment required is necessary.

VIOLET VALLEY*Particulars of Lease.*

34. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) Who is the lessee of the former native reserve known as Violet Valley?
- (2) Has the lessee carried out the terms of the lease?
- (3) When does the lease expire?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) East Kimberley Pastoral Pty. Ltd.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The 29th December, 1962.

NATIVE WELFARE DEPARTMENT*Abolition*

35. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

Has he given consideration to my suggestion put forward in this House for the abolition of the Department of Native Welfare, and the setting up of a department to cater for those in need of assistance, irrespective of colour or circumstances?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

No.

RURAL AND INDUSTRIES BANK*Loans and Advances*

36. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Lands:

Of the amount owing to the Rural and Industries Bank on the 31st March, in loans and advances, how much was owing by—

- (a) primary producers;
- (b) Government guarantee borrowers;
- (c) other borrowing customers?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

In accordance with usual banking practice, it is not customary to publish detailed figures for individual banks. However, the information as at the 30th June, 1959, will be made available to the hon. member at the Minister's office.

WATER SUPPLIES*Letter to Mr. W. D. Couper re Reticulation.*

37. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Referring to the letter written by the Under Secretary for Water Supplies to Mr. W. D. Couper, and dated the 22nd October, 1958, (File P.W.W.S. 869/56), is the reticulation of water as set out in the plan attached to that letter to be adhered to?
- (2) If so, when is the work of detailed reticulation expected to commence?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Departmental proposals incorporating the reticulation as set out in the plan referred to will be exhibited in the district shortly. Subject to no objections being received, the plan will be adhered to.
- (2) During the second half of the 1959-60 financial year.

COMPREHENSIVE WATER SCHEME*Doodlakine Zones*

38. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) When is it proposed to commence the work under the Comprehensive Water Scheme in the—
 - (a) North Doodlakine zone;
 - (b) South Doodlakine zone?
- (2) How long will the work planned for these two zones take to complete?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) (a) During the second half of the financial year 1959-60.
- (b) During the first half of the financial year 1959-60.
- (2) (a) North Doodlakine Zone—six months.
- (b) South Doodlakine Zone—18 months to two years, depending on availability of finance.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**STATE BRICKWORKS***Tenders in Eastern States' Newspapers*

1. Mr. TOMS asked the Minister for Works:

Is it true, or only a rumour, that tenders have been called in the Eastern States' newspapers for the State Brickworks?

Mr. WILD replied:

I have no knowledge of it.

COKING OF COLLIE COAL*Report on the Lurgi Process*

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

- (1) Has the long-awaited report from the Lurgi Corporation in regard to the coking of Collie coal been received?
- (2) If so, will he be good enough to supply me with a copy?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) The report has been received and is under consideration at present.
- (2) A copy cannot be released until that consideration has been completed.

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

When the matter has been investigated, will the Minister see that I get a copy of the report?

Mr. COURT replied:

I am not prepared to say a definite "Yes" at the moment; but the hon. member can be assured that if it is in the interests of the State for it to be released, it certainly will be made public.

STATE ENGINEERING WORKS*Dismissals Since the 30th June*

4. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

Will he check the replies he gave to question No. 17 on today's notice paper and advise me tomorrow whether he wishes to amend his answer, or whether he will still adhere to the replies given today?

Mr. WILD replied:

I will have the figures checked. But I think the hon. member will appreciate that figures such as these are provided by departmental officers, and obviously the Minister is completely in their hands. However, I will have the replies checked.

Mr. Tonkin: Thank you.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE*Transfer of Work to Private Firms*

5. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Premier:

- (1) Adverting to the replies given to question No. 29 on the notice paper today, is he really serious when he informs me that information is not available as to what work has been taken from the Government Printing Office, what the cost will be, or whether tenders were called prior to its being made available to other concerns, and the other information sought?

- (2) If this information is not readily available, will he take steps to obtain it? If I were permitted I could make some rather caustic comment—

Mr. Brand: Well make it!

Mr. GRAHAM:—on the reply given by the Premier in respect of this all-important matter.

Mr. BRAND replied:

I am not impressed by the threats of the member for East Perth.

Mr. Graham: It was not a threat.

Mr. BRAND: I have given the House the information conveyed to me, and I have no reason to disbelieve it. If the honourable member desires specific answers to specific questions, he can put them on the notice paper, and I will have the matter investigated.

Mr. Graham: You mean put them on the notice paper again.

Mr. BRAND: The hon. member should ask the questions he wants answered.

COOLBINIA BUSES

Reasons for Re-routing

6. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Transport:

In today's *Daily News* there is an item which reads:—

The Coolbinia Parents and Citizens' Association has won its fight over the proposed new No. 19 bus route.

Further on it states—

It had originally been intended that the route would be

Along certain streets which are named in the report. It then goes on—

Because Coolbinia Parents and Citizens' Association considered the proposed route a real hazard for school children, it sent a deputation to Transport Minister Perkins.

The Association had tried without result to have the Metropolitan Transport Trust alter its decision on the proposed route.

Beside that, about three lines from the Premier's policy speech, as reported in *The West Australian* on the 4th March last, I read—

Liberal Party policy, said Mr. Brand, included these major objectives: Prevention of political interference with the Metropolitan Transport Trust.

I am not making a speech, but I must say this in order that the question may be clear. I am aware that this is a service operated by the Tramway Department, but I am also aware that the Metropolitan Transport Trust is working in close liaison with that department. I would ask the Minister for Transport how he reconciles his interference and his decision with that of the Metropolitan Transport Trust, in view of the statement in the Premier's policy speech, where he said non-political interference was a major matter? Secondly, is the Minister aware that the Parents & Citizens' Association referred the matter of danger to school children to the National Safety Council which resolved, unanimously, that there was no substance in their fears?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

As well as being Minister for Transport, I am also Minister for traffic, and a great many other things besides. As the member for East Perth knows, the Metropolitan Transport Trust has not taken over this particular route as yet. In any case, I have been trying to carry on the policy whereby, wherever possible, the same policy is adopted for the

Tramway Department routes as is adopted for the routes run by the Metropolitan Transport Trust. The situation at Mt. Lawley was put to me very forcibly by the Coolbinia Parents & Citizens' Association, that if the tramway buses followed the route down Bradford Street, a dangerous hazard would be created opposite the Coolbinia School; and, in response to their request, I agreed to examine the position on the spot.

All this action was taken in collaboration with the manager of the Tramway Department (Mr. Thomas) who came out with me and examined the position at the site. After examining the position carefully, opposite the Coolbinia School, I agreed that I would have the matter checked by the metropolitan traffic police, in so far as it related to the safety angle. The Commissioner of Police reported to me that, after careful examination by his officers, he considered there was a dangerous hazard on the west side of the Coolbinia School, where there is a very sharp hill. He also mentioned that in their opinion the position is a very dangerous one, because not only do buses travel on that route, but other vehicles do so as well. Accordingly, after further examination of the position, and in consultation with the Transport Board, the Tramway Department agreed to re-route the buses.

I may also mention for the information of the House that I have furnished this report to the Perth Road Board, and have notified that body of the extremely dangerous hazard on the west side of the Coolbinia School; and I am very hopeful that the Perth Road Board will regard the matter as one of urgency, and that it will take the top off this particular hill where the dangerous hazard exists. Once that action is taken, it will then be possible for the Tramway Department to operate the route it originally agreed on.

Mr. Graham: I thought that was done to oblige Mr. Barrass.

STATE BRICKWORKS

Tenders in Eastern States' Papers.

7. Mr. TOMS asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

Is it true, or rumour only, that in the Eastern States' papers tenders are being called for the State Brickworks?

Mr. COURT replied:

I have no knowledge of any Eastern States' advertisements to that effect. It is entirely rumour if there is any claim that tenders have been called for the State Brickworks.

EXAMINATION PAPERS

Tenders for Printing

8. Mr. HEAL asked the Premier:

This afternoon I asked the Premier the following in question No. 1A (b) on the notice paper:—

If so, what were the quotes from—

- (i) Government Printer?
- (ii) successful tenderer?

I cannot find his answer to that part of my question. It is possible it has been overlooked. Will the Premier undertake to supply me with that information?

Mr. BRAND replied:

I will refer the hon. member's query for further investigation.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Seventh Day

Debate resumed from the previous day.

MR. GUTHRIE (Subiaco) [5.7]: Might I, in common with other members, add my congratulations to you, Sir, on your elevation to the Chair? As you know, you and I have been associated over a long while, and it does give me great personal pleasure to take my seat at a time when you have the honour of presiding over the House. I sincerely trust your tenure of office will be a very pleasant and happy one. I would like to thank the Leader of the Opposition for his congratulations to the new members. I appreciate that he is unable to give his political congratulations, but I thank him for his kindly thought.

I represent a very old-established community which has not a great number of problems. It does not want a great number of schools; in fact, it is getting to the stage where the schools are too big for its requirements, and it is slowly having them fleeced away. It does not have other major problems. Those that exist I have taken up with the Ministers concerned; and they are, at the moment, under consideration. Accordingly, I do not intend to embarrass the Ministers concerned by referring to the matters with which they are dealing.

There is one matter, however, which is of general interest, and to which I would like to pay some attention. It has caused a lot of difficulty over a long period of years—and extreme difficulty to the public at large. I refer to the trouble the public have in trying to trace regulations and proclamations, and all quasi legislation, that is passed under the authority of an Act of Parliament. The Commonwealth publishes, every year, a volume known as the Commonwealth Statutory Rules. This is indexed, and it is possible to turn up all regulations which are in force, and which have the force of law.

Unfortunately, however, that is not so in this State. I appreciate that with regard to the Commonwealth, the regulations and by-laws are passed by the Government

itself; whereas in this State they are passed by local governing authorities and various other boards and statutory authorities.

No doubt, if they were all got together in one volume it would make an immense tome. But I think that perhaps a start could be made by publishing an index of regulations and by-laws very much along the lines of the index that appears at the back of our statutes. Members in this House might well recall some years ago that the predecessor of the member for East Perth caused quite considerable confusion to the Melville Road Board when he exercised his right by presenting ls. and demanding a copy of every regulation and by-law that had been passed. There was some trouble about it, and I think the Act was amended.

That is the problem with which we find ourselves faced. Quite often one has to go to the particular authority itself to ask it what the law is in its district, and sometimes it is not possible or practicable to do so. There was a case some 10 to 12 years ago in which I was personally involved. We made three requests to the local governing department, and we were told that the Sussex Road Board—as it then existed—had not passed a certain proclamation under the Road Districts Act. Subsequently it turned out that it had. That led to a great deal of expense being incurred, and a great deal of time being wasted, because there was no record in Perth that the proclamation in question had been passed.

I would like the Government to draw the matter to the attention of the Attorney-General, to see whether this fault cannot be corrected for the general benefit of the community. After all, if laws are in force, they should be readily and easily available. That is all I wish to say on that point.

Seeing that this House somewhat graciously—or ungraciously, depending on how one looks at it—adjourned over the last week for the legal convention, I suppose I should make some remark as to the great benefit that accrued both to the State and to the community as a result of it. The first benefit derived is one which is very dear to the heart of the Premier; namely, that of tourism. About 300 visitors came to this State, and they were all very impressed indeed with what they saw.

They were graced by magnificent weather; and even though we tried to tell them that it was not the normal type of weather for the third week in July, they still think that it was wonderful; and no doubt they will go back to their respective States and tell others that the best time to visit Perth is in mid-July. If they do so, however, they might not be so well off in the future. They did, nevertheless, enjoy themselves. As a Perth resident one does not have to visit hotels in this State to see what facilities are available. On this occasion, however, I had to do so in order to entertain our guests.

I must say that I was amazed at the improvement in the general standard of the hotels in the metropolitan area over the last ten years. My impression, and that of the visitors, was that we should have no fear that we cannot provide all the necessary facilities for visitors in the metropolitan area.

It may be of interest to the Minister for Railways to know that the 80-odd visitors who went on the Reso tour were extremely impressed; they considered it was one of the finest holidays they had had. They were also very impressed by the service they received from the railway officials who manned the train. Indeed, so impressed were they that they took the hat around and made a present of £40 to the train crew.

It may interest the member for Albany to know that before these people left they expressed distinct disappointment that the Reso tour did not include Albany. It was amazing to meet the number of people from the Eastern States who had heard of Albany; and we were extremely glad to know that that was so. When they returned, however, they were not interested in Albany so much; they thought that the Bunbury area was "tops." However, that is enough by way of facetiousness. Two lessons arose out of this convention.

One was the restatement of the basic functions of the legal profession in the community, and the other was the necessity for law reform. I will deal with these two subjects separately, taking first of all the basic purpose of the legal profession. Let me digress for a moment. When I talk of the legal profession, I mean the profession as a whole—the judiciary, the bar, and the solicitors; the entire profession—not merely those who practise law in private work and in Government departments.

It was stated—first of all, I think, by His Excellency the Governor, and also by Sir Edward Pearce, in the most inspiring address that some members had the pleasure of hearing in Winthrop Hall—that the purpose of the profession is the protection of the principle of ensuring that justice is meted out to all and sundry. These principles have been built up over centuries by the development of what is known as the common law of England, going back to the days—as was said by one of the speakers: I think Sir Edward Pearce—of the Magna Carta.

There has been a modern tendency, and one to be deplored, to turn back on those centuries of development and to start to create some of the things that in the days of Henry the Eighth and earlier monarchs were completely swept away. I refer in particular to the modern tendency to establish administrative tribunals which are not courts of law. They are not very often presided over by men who are trained in the administration of justice; and these men are not even required to administer

the law with what we are proud to call British justice. These tribunals are very often presided over by laymen, and they very often meet in camera. I would like to point out that this meeting in camera is a very dangerous thing. It is removing one of the bulwarks of the British system of justice.

The first purpose of a court meeting in public is, as has been so often stated—and very clearly by the Chief Justice of Australia—that not only must justice be done, but justice must appear to be done. That is not lip service. In other words, Her Majesty the Queen's subjects are entitled to visit her courts and see justice is carried out in accordance with her law.

If a court meets in public, the witnesses who go before it are required to give their evidence in public in the presence of the Press. When they go into the witness box they know full well that anybody can listen to them and the Press may report them. That has the distinct effect of making them stick to the straight line of truth. There is no doubt about it. If they meet in camera; and no Press is present; and nobody is there to hear what they say, there could be a tendency towards perjury being committed. Consequently, this Parliament should remember that fact when it has before it legislation which provides that courts and tribunals may meet in private.

Another tendency in modern legislation is to provide that counsel shall not be entitled to appear: I mean members of the legal profession. It must be remembered that members of the profession are specifically trained in court procedure and in the administration of justice. They are trained in the art of examination and of cross-examination; and if evidence is to be tested to its full, it stands to reason that any witness should be prepared to stand up to the acid test of a skilled cross-examination. If that is not allowed, justice can often go astray.

Another thing in legislation that I equally deplore, is the provision that court procedure may be ignored by a court; and furthermore that even the rules of evidence may be ignored. The rules of evidence in this State are governed by the Evidence Act of 1906, but that is only a codification of the law. The rules of evidence were part of the common law many centuries before this State passed its Evidence Act. All we did in this Parliament in 1906 was to codify these rules and embody them in a statute. They were developed by judges after many centuries of experience.

I will give one small instance where the abandonment of the rules of evidence permits hearsay. It means that anyone in the community may repeat what somebody else has told him and that person can say, "I do not know whether it is true or not"; and if cross-examined can say, on being

cross-examined, "I can only repeat what I was told. I cannot swear to what has happened."

That is one of the essential advantages of keeping to the rules of evidence. If I remember correctly, the Workers' Compensation Act has such provisions; and there are many other statutes which provide that courts or tribunals are not bound by the rules of evidence or the laws of court procedure.

One of the papers at the convention by Mr. Whitlam, a member of the Federal Parliament, raised this question of administrative tribunals. He stated that successive Commonwealth Governments in 58 years have successfully built up 50 administrative tribunals. He did not say so at the conference, but I do know that many members of the Federal Parliament are seriously considering a separate Commonwealth judiciary. They are trying to do away with these tribunals in order to get back to the court to ensure that justice is maintained.

To give an analogy, I would mention an incident which I experienced some years ago of a Commonwealth tribunal acting under the National Health Act. It was a committee set up under the National Health Act, and a certain professional man in this city was summoned to appear before that tribunal to answer certain charges laid against him. The punishment that could be inflicted upon him would be to remove his right to practise, so far as the National Health Act was concerned.

Because this offence occurred under the Commonwealth Health Act, he appeared before a tribunal presided over by members of the medical profession. I visited the Commonwealth Health Department and asked if he would be entitled to be represented by counsel. The answer given to me was, "no," and when the summons was actually served it bore the note in the handwriting of the chairman of the tribunal, "You will not be allowed to be represented by counsel, and you will not be allowed to be accompanied by any person."

This is not justice; and it is dangerous, because tribunals could have an inexperienced chairman, and the person before the tribunal could become tongue-tied through nervousness. This particular man was convicted by that tribunal and was compelled to answer its questions, and the Commonwealth was not required to prove its case.

It was a matter of the onus of proof, of which we heard so much some years ago. That sort of thing could happen; and I remind members that we must not put the clock back to the dark ages, and create Star Chamber courts. This is not a solitary complaint; it is the modern tendency.

I will now turn to another subject arising out of the administration of justice in this State and the basic principles of pro-

tecting the subject and the liberty of the subject. We must make sure that we always have an independent judiciary—a judiciary which is imbued with a spirit of fighting for the rights of the individual. I cannot help but comment that in this State today 60 per cent. of the judges of the Supreme Court are men who have served in the service of the Crown for a long while. In many cases they have had little experience in private practice. That is something which we should think about, because we will create in this community what I might term a pet judiciary if we are not careful.

The Crown Law Department today receives students straight from university. It trains them and promotes them to high office in the service of the Crown without their ever having practised outside a Government department. In fact, under the provisions of the Legal Practitioners Act, these men are not even entitled to go into private practice until they have served in a lawyer's office for 12 months. However, they unfortunately obtain high positions in the service of the Crown and can even sit on the Supreme Court bench. That could be dangerous in a corporate state; and when we reach that stage, we might have to go to the Government for our defence counsel and prosecuting counsel.

We have read of these things happening in Europe, and I urge the Government to make sure that appointments to the judiciary in future are made from men with long experience in fighting for the liberty of the people. I cast no aspersions on the present members on the bench. I do not want it to be thought that I am attacking them; I am attacking what I consider to be a dangerous principle, which is slowly developing in this State. I can say with complete confidence that it has not happened in any other State in the Commonwealth of Australia.

I wish now to turn briefly to the service which the legal profession is giving to Western Australia today. When one considers its part in protecting the rights of the individual, I regret to say that its service is an extremely poor one, and it is steadily getting worse. In this State, there are only 215 lawyers as against, I think, 2,500 in the city of Sydney. Twenty-five years ago there were between Perth and Kalgoorlie, five lawyers practising at Northam; there were two at Kellerberrin; two at Merredin; and two at Southern Cross. Today, there are three at Northam, and there is not another lawyer until Kalgoorlie. I think there might be one occasionally at Kellerberrin and one occasionally at Merredin.

In the north between Perth and Geraldton there are no lawyers, whereas there used to be practitioners at Mullewa, Moora, Dalwallinu, and Carnamah. There are now no lawyers practising north of Geraldton. There used to be lawyers there, but there

are none now. Members may say that this is not a matter of great concern, but I would point out that in a magistrate's court in any of these areas, a person is posed with the problem of defending himself or of obtaining legal representation from Perth.

Some two or three years ago only three people graduated in law from the University of Western Australia, and only one went into private practice; whereas in pre-war days the output was something like eight or nine each year. Members might ask, "Why?" I could quote a variety of reasons, one of which is that this profession involves a lot of hard work, and there is little money in it. The average income of a lawyer in Western Australia—leaving out men who are elderly, and young men coming up—is less than £2,000 per year.

That is what people expect a lawyer to try to live on; and it is no wonder that parents decide that it is not worth it. I do not suggest that there are no lawyers who earn more than that; but the average lawyer in this city is earning less than £2,000 per year. That has been reported on by the Commissioner of Taxation on more than one occasion. The situation is that there will be fewer and fewer members of the profession available; fewer and fewer people available to defend those who may be arraigned by the State for some offence, either large or small.

To turn now to another aspect of the administration of justice in this State, I would point out that one-half of the population of Western Australia today gets one brand of justice; and the other half, another brand. The people who live in the metropolitan area, if unfortunate enough to be arraigned for any indictable offence, can rest assured that they will receive trial by judge and jury; but the other half of Western Australia has very little chance of such trial by judge and jury, unless the case is brought to the metropolitan area and heard in Perth. Failing that, such people are invariably tried by magistrates holding the commission of the Supreme Court.

In country areas we have the ridiculous situation of a magistrate, who has never practised at all in the criminal jurisdiction, presiding over a trial and being expected to direct a jury correctly and to deal with the case according to the basic principles of law. It has always been a basic statement of British law that every man will be tried by a judge and jury if he so wishes; and that applies to half the population of this State, but not to the other half.

This question calls for some consideration by the Government, as to whether steps should be taken to ensure that the provisions of the Supreme Court Act, with regard to judges going on circuit, are enforced; or whether we should introduce into this State a provision, as they have

in the other States, for country courts, thus enabling the full jurisdiction to go to all parts of the State and not merely to one small portion of it.

So much for the basic principles of law and the protection of the individual which arose, as I said, from the considerations of the recent legal convention. I will now turn to the subject of law reform. Some two years ago, at a legal convention held in the Eastern States, there was a paper prepared by Professor Shatwell—I think—of the Melbourne University, and on this occasion Dr. Goodhart, the master of the University College, Oxford, presented a paper criticising Professor Shatwell's paper; and out of that arose a discussion from which it became obvious that law reform in the British Commonwealth is dealt with on a somewhat haphazard basis.

In this State we have no statutory law reform committee at all, but in the other States, and in Great Britain apparently, there are governmental committees which are presided over by a judge or by the Attorney-General, with representatives of the legal profession and of the law school. In this State the only law reform work and research undertaken is done by a voluntary committee of the Law Society. That society is a non-political body, and does not concern itself at all with matters that might have any political aspects or political bias. The net result is that the only matters which come before that committee are such as might be said to be innocuous from the political point of view.

I would suggest, for the consideration of this House and of the Government, that it is time that Parliament took a hand in this matter and that we should, perhaps through this House, set up something in the nature of a law reform committee, upon which people representing the University—for their value in research—and the Crown Law Department, and the legal profession should sit. On that committee also should sit, I feel, lay members of Parliament, who could advise that body on the political aspects and expediency of any particular matter that came before it.

I feel that it is a duty of Parliament to do that. I was somewhat astounded the other day, when in the law library at the Supreme Court, to find that there was an officer going through the statutes to determine those that should be repealed—an officer without a great deal of experience—and what he could achieve I would not know, because it would seem to me to be a task for a committee of experienced people.

To give an example of how we lag behind the rest of the world in the question of law reform generally, I would point out that in dealing with the powers of trustees we have to rely largely on a statute passed in 1873 and known as Lord Cranworth's Act; notwithstanding the fact that that Act was repealed in England in 1881

and replaced by the Conveyancing Act, which in turn was repealed in 1925 and replaced by the Law of Property Act. In spite of that, we still boggle on with an Act passed 86 years ago, which was recognised in England eight years later as being antiquated. Those are the sorts of things which could be investigated by such a committee.

Another subject in which we could lead the world, if we wished to do so—because judges throughout the British Commonwealth have made many suggestions that it should be the subject of legislative action, although no Parliament has ever taken it up—is the question of injuries to users of the road when a motor vehicle or any other vehicle collides with domestic animals on the road. I know that some of the farmer members of this House might be horrified at the thought of the present position being changed; but it is a fact that if a motor vehicle comes around a blind corner of the road and runs into a cow, the occupants of the vehicle being killed, there is no cause of action whatsoever against the farmer who allowed the cow to stray on to the road. The question of negligence does not arise and there is just no cause of action at all.

I realise the difficulty of proving negligence, but I feel that it is wrong that such people should be left entirely without remedies. If I had a pet tiger in my home and let it out on the road and it caused any damage, that would be a horse of a different colour, or a tiger of a different colour, because the tiger is deemed, from its nature, to be fierce, and I would be responsible for what it might do if it escaped. But I am not responsible for my horse, unless it is a horse that is known to be naturally vicious or dangerous.

It is also somewhat noteworthy that the law of the land goes to this extent: that if my cow escapes to my neighbour's field and eats his cauliflowers I can be liable; but if it is responsible for the death of people on the road, I am not liable; and that is the sort of thing which I think should be investigated. That is the type of thing where a voluntary, non-political committee would not take action, because it would appreciate that any action would meet with some opposition from agriculturists. Consequently a committee with a political bias would be necessary to investigate such a subject. That is all I wish to say about the legal convention and any lessons which we learned and which could be of benefit to the community at large from the legal point of view.

I wish now to turn to a different subject; that of juveniles and juvenile delinquency; and I feel that this question presents two types of problems. Firstly, we have the actual delinquents—children who are at present delinquents—and secondly, we have the potential delinquents—ordinary children who may become delinquents. Let me

deal first with the actual delinquents, because they are reaching somewhat alarming figures. I, in common, no doubt, with most other members in this House, listened with considerable interest to the policy speech of the then Premier and present Leader of the Opposition, back in March; and I think I am correct in saying that he stated that the children of today were very different from their predecessors. At that stage I agreed with him in that regard, and during the course of my own election campaign I repeated that statement.

Since that time, however, I have had opportunity of studying a white paper produced by the Secretary of State for Home Affairs in England, and presented to the Parliament of Westminster in February of this year. It is entitled "Penal Practice in a Changing Society with aspects of future development in England and Wales." It deals largely with the penal laws, prisons, etc., but it has, as appendix A, a very startling graph which shows that, in the years from 1938 to 1957, there has been a steady increase in the number of indictable offences committed by the community, with the exception of the hardened criminals—the class of 30 years of age and over.

The figures for all other classes have increased considerably, and the worst offenders—I will pause here for a moment, to state that these are figures for indictable offences which, if committed by adults, could be tried only before a superior court, by a judge and jury, and could not be dealt with by magistrates. They do not include figures for offences such as staying away from school, riding bikes on the footpath, and things of that nature, but consist of offences which come under the Criminal Code.

The greatest category of criminal offenders in Great Britain today consists of children between the ages of 14 and 17 years. The second greatest class, until recently, were the children between 8 and 14 years of age. The third class, until recently, and now the second class, is youths between 17 and 21 years of age. Then we come to the class of between 21 and 30 years and, a very bad last, adults over the age of 30 years.

There are 10 times as many indictable offences committed in England today by children between 14 and 17 years of age as are committed by adults over the age of 30. In other words, the good old Bill Sykes, and Dr. Crippen and company are being left behind in the crime race by the children; and particularly in regard to serious offences. That makes me wonder. We are proposing in this State, as I understand it, to commence to adopt the system of dealing with delinquents which has been in force in England for something like 10 years or more. We are starting to establish a Borstal Institute, such as they have there; and that system has produced this alarming increase in the figures which I have quoted.

I would suggest to the Government that it is time now to pause and make sure that we are following the right track. It is useless for us just to string along 10 years behind England, if results are not being obtained there. I am told—but I have not any means of checking it—that those alarming increases in the figures are probably also borne out by statistics in this State. However, I have not seen any such statistics and so I cannot say with certainty what the position is.

What is to be done about the actual delinquents is something which I do not know; but I must say, without wishing to appear callous, that I feel that those who have got to the stage of being criminals are in a different category and there is not a great deal which can be done about them. However, I think there is a great deal which we can do about the potential delinquent—the child who today is an ordinary child, but one who might become a delinquent. There has been a deal of research done into this subject and sometimes I wonder whether it is research of the right order.

I sometimes wonder, where a broken home produces a delinquent whether, by going to look at broken homes, we would be on the right track. I wonder whether we would pick up anything by research on broken homes, or whether we would not get better results by looking into happy homes and trying to discover why they are happy homes, and then comparing them with the unhappy homes. I wonder whether in that way we might not get a more exact result.

The same can be said for investigations into homes where both Mum and Dad go out to work. If the research is centred around and made into homes that have proved to be a failure and where both parents go out to work; or if the investigations are made into a series of homes where there has been trouble, and then those investigations are turned upon a series of homes where there has been complete success in the family life; and if we compare the results of those investigations one against the other and pick the distinction, then I feel that we will get something more definite and accurate from the findings.

It is somewhat noteworthy that many writers these days say that lack of parental control, with the weakening of the prestige of the father in the home and the mother going out to work, are the chief causes of the development of delinquency. Therefore, it would seem that any move towards an improvement in this situation must include the education of the parent; must include some system whereby the parents can be helped to solve their problems.

However, it will have to be borne in mind that of the 24 hours in a day, the average young child spends about 14 in bed, and about half the remainder of that time he

spends at school; and the other half, at home. Consequently, the school influence cannot be ignored or under-estimated. In fact, it can, with some value, be over-emphasised. I feel that for many years in this State, we have made a great mistake in not developing to a greater extent the sports grounds in our primary schools.

As I understand the position, successive Governments have been willing to provide sports grounds for secondary schools and high schools, but they have never accepted the proposition that they should provide sports grounds for primary schools.

The position has been that if the members of parents and citizens' associations are willing to take off their coats and work to establish such a sports ground the department will subsidise their efforts with some financial assistance; but in many cases there is not enough ground on which to establish sporting facilities in primary schools. Therefore, if our educational policy is to keep pace with our policy on child welfare, one of the first steps that we will have to take is to grant primary schools sufficient ground on which to develop and establish suitable sports grounds.

The Subiaco Central School, which has been in existence over 50 years, has ample ground; but, even today, it has not a football playing field. The Thomas Street State school—as the member for West Perth well knows—has now no ground at all on which to provide playing facilities; but even when it did have some, there was no playing field within the precincts of that school. There was no provision for a sports ground within the boundary of the school premises where inter-school competitions could be held between various players, with their own school-fellows looking on.

If this had been possible, it would have encouraged the school children to stay longer at school after lessons had finished in order to take part in various sports and would have proved beneficial, especially to those children whose parents were not at home when they finished school. Their engaging in various sports would have kept them occupied in a healthy activity.

Therefore, if the Government made greater provision of sports grounds in the various primary schools it would do more towards lessening child delinquency than if we continue along the road we have been following. The day may not be far distant when the annual expenditure on child welfare in this State will exceed £1,000,000 if we do not, in some way or other, endeavour to arrest the drift.

In the view of many experts and writers on this subject, there is great value in the establishment of youth centres for the prevention of child delinquency. I have always had great doubts about this point of view. I have always felt that the establishment of youth centres relieves the parents of some of their responsibility; it gives them an opportunity to send their children to the youth centres and not to

worry about them. Nevertheless, people who are more expert than I am on this subject, place great reliance on the value of youth centres.

One of the great weaknesses of youth centres that are established today is that too many people in the one community are trying to establish too many centres, and there are too few instructors available to run them; too many people paddling in the one pond. To me, it would seem that one of the answers to the problem would be for someone in each suburb to take the lead in an endeavour to bring together all the organisations connected with youth and try to establish one decent youth centre.

I would think that the people who should be asked to come together for that purpose would be representatives of local authorities, the churches, the police, and any other interested youth body. Ordinary citizens and headmasters of schools could also be approached with the object of trying to establish one decent youth centre with sufficient instructors and sufficient children. I have had considerable experience in dealing with youths, both through Legacy and through various church organisations with which I have been associated. In my opinion the first great problem that has to be overcome is to get sufficient youths to make a centre a success; and, having done that, to recruit sufficient instructors.

There are not enough enthusiasts to go around to run all the youth organisations we are trying to establish in this community. I would strongly urge individual members of Parliament to convene meetings in their electorates with the object of trying to foster a community interest in one decent organisation to do the job properly. If we do that, we will start to go forward. As long as we have people who say, "We will not let our children go to the Police Boys' Club" because they do not approve of that organisation; or other people who say they will not let their children attend a youth club run by a church because of their religious bias, we will never have success with our youth organisations. With the exception of the Police Boys' Clubs they will all fail; and even many of the Police Boys' Clubs have to struggle. This could be avoided if all these youth clubs were welded into one great organisation.

The answer to many of the suggestions I have put forward tonight undoubtedly will be, "There is a lack of money." That is true. However, I feel that in this State and in the other States of the Commonwealth there is a greater basic principle at stake than the granting of more money by the Commonwealth Government. In my view we have drifted away from the basic principles of federation and the reason why the federation was established.

It must be remembered that the federal system of Australia is totally different from that of the United States of America. The federal system of that country

emerged from war; central government came first, and the federation came afterwards. However, in Australia the six responsible States established themselves first, and then established the Commonwealth; and we have reached the stage now where we have a responsible and a sovereign Commonwealth Government.

However, I query whether we have responsible government and sovereign government in the State. To my mind it is entirely wrong that the Commonwealth should be able to determine what the States should spend. It is obvious that the Commonwealth can do everything well because it has more money than it needs. Yet the States have to go short. That is one of the great problems that face any Government and Australia as a whole.

It is no use producing a formula on the break-up of figures. A formula based on basic functions and basic powers has to be worked out, whereby the Commonwealth is compelled to live within a reasonable income with the States and the States are also compelled to live within their fair shares by exercising responsible government.

It may be thought that I have rambled all over the place in my speech tonight. Up to a point that is so; but I tie those subjects together in one proposition that I now put to the House. I feel that greater use could be made of members of Parliament to investigate many of these problems. There could be parliamentary committees formed—preferably all-party parliamentary committees. I completely reject any thought of a parliamentary committee being formed which would sit in judgment on the day-to-day actions of the Government. That would be entirely wrong. We often read in the Press of what happens in regard to such committees that sit in judgment on the United States Congress.

I would suggest that, arising out of the matters I have mentioned tonight, a parliamentary committee on law reform would be one that could well be established. It would be of immense value to the members of the committee, and it would mean that when Bills came before this House for its consideration there would be members who had sat on that particular committee who were expert on the particular problem.

I would also suggest the formation of a second committee to inquire into the problems of youth and education and to think on long-range terms; to indulge in the necessary research and the collecting of the required information, so that when these problems come before the House there will be enough members well acquainted with the subject; and, furthermore, they could submit to the Government long-range plans which might be accepted or rejected by it.

Finally, I think it would be quite in place if something in the nature of a constitutional committee were formed to see if it

is possible to work out constitutional amendments which would return the States to their proper place in the sun instead of their being subservient to the Commonwealth as they are rapidly becoming today.

I apologise for having talked so long and for having been so verbose. I did not intend to talk about the law convention that was held in Perth because I did not think that Parliament was going to adjourn; but I thought that Parliament having done that I should give the House the benefits of the lessons I have learned. I thank the House for its consideration.

MR. NULSEN (Eyre) [5.57]: Firstly, I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on assuming the very high office that you now hold; and I am certain that you will treat members impartially and justly. I have already noticed that, to date, you have been most impartial, and also extremely lenient; and I think that you should be commended for adopting such an attitude. It creates in members a little more confidence, and I am sure that they feel they are not being bullied by the occupant of the Speaker's Chair.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank sincerely all those officers with whom I have worked as a Minister in past years. In the first instance I offer my thanks to the officers of the Crown Law Department, because they have always been extremely co-operative, from the Crown Solicitor right down to those officers who are on the lower rungs of the ladder. I pay a tribute to the Under Secretary of the Crown Law Department because he came to that department quite green. It is a coincidence that his name is Green, but I wish to say that he has done a splendid job. He has taken a keen interest in the activities of the department and he has travelled all over the State to see at first hand the problems with which he has to deal. Although he was not my first choice for the position, I readily admit that he has performed his duties in an excellent manner.

I would also like the House to know that Mr. Shillington, the Commissioner of Titles, is a very able and silent worker. He seems to have the respect of all those with whom he works; not only the Minister and his fellow officers, but also the public generally. The Registrar of Titles (Mr. Buchanan) is an extremely fine officer.

Regarding the Electoral Department, some members of Parliament—and many people outside—think that the Chief Electoral Officer has very little to do. In fact, he has a very great responsibility, and his duties are not easy. He has to put up with abuse from some people who do not understand the law. They have accused him of incompetence. Of course, we always find such types of people. Mr. Wheeler, an officer of this department, is also very capable.

The Public Trust Office is a "baby" of mine in which I have taken a very keen interest. It had been suggested that the Public Trustee should be a legal practitioner, but I did not agree. In consequence, Mr. Glynn was appointed, and he has carried out his duties very ably. Mr. Glover, his assistant, is also very capable, as is the legal adviser attached to the department. They are all very obliging.

I recommend people, wanting wills to be made out, to approach the Public Trust Office. No fee is charged for the making of a will, and people will find that this office is just as efficient as any similar private organisation.

Mr. Tonkin: The Government will possibly close that office down and hand it over to private enterprise.

Mr. Brand: You said that. I did not.

Mr. Tonkin: It is a wonder the Government has not made a start in this direction.

Mr. NULSEN: I hope the Government will not close down that office. I would be very disturbed if it did. Regarding the Licensing Court, I was glad to hear the comments of the member for Subiaco, who said that the hotels in this State compare very favourably with those in the Eastern States. In this State I have found that the hotels in the country compare very favourably with those in the metropolitan area. The two in Norseman are equivalent in standard to a number of hotels in the city. All in all, the Licensing Court has performed its functions admirably.

Mr. Wauhop, the ex-chairman of the Licensing Court, took a very keen interest in his work, for which he is to be commended. The present chairman (Mr. Hunt) is also very keenly interested in his work, and often he travels around the State on inspections of the hotels. Being a businessman, he finds, at times, that it is difficult to enforce the licensing laws, because some hotels are not in a position financially to comply with all the requirements. But, wherever possible, the licensing law is enforced. Consequently no complaint can be made against the Licensing Court. **Mr. McEwan,** the secretary of that Court, is a very able officer, and I want to compliment him on the fine work he does, and on his patience.

A very important department is the Public Health Department. I have worked with its officers for many years, and I must express my thanks to them for their co-operation in carrying out all the duties of that important organisation. **Dr. Henzell,** the Commissioner of Health, is a very capable and hard worker, and this State is fortunate in having his services. One cannot find many people who are more obliging than Mr. Devereux, the Under Secretary of the Public Health Department. He is a valuable officer holding an important position. Another officer, **Mr. H. R. Smith,** is in charge of the

hospitals; he is a good administrator and a very fine officer. He accompanied me on a tour of the North-West two or three years ago, and I found his advice of very great assistance in all matters.

Dr. Gibson, who is in charge of the Infant Health Centre in this State, is to be complimented for her energy and enthusiasm in the discharge of her duties. Mr. Griffith, the administrator of the Royal Perth Hospital, was appointed to his post from England. Members might recall that I objected on one occasion to the appointment of someone from England to a position in one of the hospitals. I objected because there were people in this country who were capable of filling the position. In particular I want to compliment Mr. Griffith on the good work he did in connection with the appeal for the establishment of a Medical School in this State. The appeal was a great success.

I want to make a few comments on the Electoral Districts Act, because much has been said in recent weeks about the action of the previous Government. I would point out that I asked for a report from the Chief Electoral Officer, in accordance with section 12 of the Act; and on receipt of it, I discovered there were 10 electorates out of balance. I felt something should be done to rectify that. The matter was submitted to Cabinet at the time, and it was pointed out that there had been an increase in the population of this State since 1954-59, and there was an increase of 30,576 on the electoral rolls. I was alarmed to learn that of this increase, 26,226 were in the metropolitan electorates, leaving an increase of only 3,697 in the agricultural, mining, and pastoral electorates, and 650 for the North-West.

Many complaints were made about the action of the Government at the time. In fact, it did nothing illegal or unethical. I cannot see any impropriety on the part of the previous Government. It acted under the law—one which had been enacted by the McLarty-Watts Government. For those reasons the complaints were unjustified. What the previous Government did was perfectly correct.

The present Government has a redress in its own hands. It has a majority in this Assembly and also in another place. The Government could veto any act of its predecessor. We, as members of the previous Government, carried out our duties as we saw fit, and personally I can see nothing wrong in the steps we took.

Mr. Tonkin: There is nothing wrong in carrying out the law; but there is something wrong in not permitting the law to be carried out.

Mr. NULSEN: I now pass on to my own electorate. The future of Esperance is assured. It has progressed beyond the pioneering stage. The development of grazing and pastoral land is beyond all conception, and much progress has been made

in the last 20 years. The district has produced the greatest yield of oats for the whole State. Some farmers stripped 77 bushels of oats per acre, whilst 15 bushels still remained on the ground. On that occasion the yield was 90 bushels per acre.

The sheep and cattle being raised in the district are all doing very well. It is claimed, and I agree, that the land will carry three sheep to the acre. Quite a number of the farmers have cut 4½ tons of hay, clover, Wimmera rye grass and oats mixed per acre. As the research station has only been established since 1949, these yields were wonderful. The research station is achieving great success in educating the farmers on the methods to be used for the cultivation of their land.

There is another great potential in the Esperance district—and I hope the Premier will take notice of it—and that is the tourist attraction. We have a very fine harbour and beach, while there are hundreds of islands offshore. Tourists would be very interested in these attractions. Furthermore, the climate is also very suitable.

Mr. J. Hegney: There are plenty of fish and seal.

Mr. NULSEN: The hon. member has visited the district, so he can speak from experience. At present the Mallee is having a pretty tough time, because of lack of rainfall. If finishing rains should fall, the season will not be so bad for the settlers.

Norseman is the second most important goldfield in Australia today. I left that town some years ago, because of the lack of development or progress. As a matter of fact, at the time I owned almost half of Norseman, but my possessions did not amount to a great deal. The Western Mining Corporation is doing much for the district. Through the efforts of the late Mr. Phil Collier, ex-Premier of the State, a water supply from Mundaring Weir was provided. At present the town has a population of approximately 3,000 people.

That town had a problem in obtaining a water supply. To give an outline of the position in the early days, the Western Mining Corporation promised to spend between £500,000 and £750,000 in developing the goldmining industry if the Government would provide a water supply. The proposal was turned down by the Minister of the day. The Minister stated then that if the town had had a sufficiently large population he would have recommended the provision of a water scheme; but as it had not a large population, he did not want to speculate with public funds.

An approach was then made to the late Mr. Philip Collier. He did give serious consideration to the matter. After the company had implemented its proposals, and made a contribution towards the cost, scheme water was provided. By accident

I found that Norseman was to be served by a 10-inch water main up to 27 miles from Coolgardie, and from there in an 8-inch main into Norseman. I argued that this was too small and suggested the main should be 12 inches. I pointed out no extra cost would be involved in providing a 12-inch main, except for the additional cost of the larger size piping.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. NULSEN: I was dealing with the pipeline between Coolgardie and Norseman. We now find that it is too small. There are two boosters on it, but there is no real reserve of water at Norseman in case of an accident at any time. We are now seeking to have a fairly big reservoir constructed at Norseman so that a certain amount of water can be conserved in case of emergency.

Mr. Brand: Has that pipe been increased in size over recent years?

Mr. NULSEN: No. It should never have been the size it is; it should have been a 12-inch pipeline all the way to Norseman instead of being a 10-inch line to Spargoville, and an 8-inch line from there on. At times our experts are very economical, but their economies work out expensively for the people.

Mr. Brand: They plan for tomorrow instead of the day after tomorrow.

Mr. NULSEN: Yes. I am hoping that the Premier's good Government will agree to what the previous Minister (Mr. Tonkin) promised us; namely, to give us extra conservation if possible, and if the finance is available. The pipeline is there and it has done a wonderful job; but I think our experts did make a mistake at the time.

Looking at the matter from a common-sense point of view—not being an engineer—I advocated at the time that a 12-inch main should be provided. My argument was that it would not cost much more to put in a 12-inch main than to put in the one which we have, because the men were working and the extra excavation would not have amounted to very much.

I hope that about this time next year—or earlier—we will have a black road from Fremantle to Esperance. If we do, it will be a great boon to the people travelling to Esperance; and it will help Esperance considerably from the tourist point of view. If we can get a black road—we should have had it years ago—between Norseman and Port Augusta, we will have a big inflow of traffic from the Eastern States; and later we could have a black road along the coast and then to Ravenshorpe, Albany, and so on. Such a road would pay dividends.

I will leave that portion of the State and deal with Coolgardie. Unfortunately, Coolgardie is having a lean time now; but it has possibilities. I remember the time when Norseman was down and out; there

was nothing there at all. The mine managers who were there said that Norseman was finished. But the Western Mining Corporation came along; and by spending a good bit of money, and doing quite a deal of exploratory work, it brought Norseman to the position of being the second best goldfield in the State. I do not see any reason why, in time, Coolgardie should not be the same.

Coolgardie was discovered in 1892, and a lot of gold has been won from there; but no-one can tell me that all the gold has cut out. Today it is just a matter of locating the gold, the same as the Western Mining Corporation did at Norseman. I feel there will be a time when Coolgardie will come again.

I am not going to say anything about Kalgoorlie, although my electorate includes part of Kalgoorlie. I think that mining in Kalgoorlie will be pretty stable for many years to come.

A portion of my electorate runs along the Trans.-line to the South Australian border. Along that line the tea-and-sugar train takes provisions such as meat, and so on, to the people working there. The provisions arrive in splendid order, as the food is kept in refrigerated cars. The people can get sweets, cool drinks, and practically anything else they desire. The only thing that is not carried in the cool chamber is intoxicating liquor—although a few people do get a case or two at odd times.

Generally speaking, the settlers have accommodation equal to that in the metropolitan area. Mr. Hannaberry, the Commonwealth Commissioner of Railways, has been very good to those people. They have nice houses which are equipped with refrigerators for which they pay only 2s a week. The houses also have wire doors, and water is laid on.

The people working on the Trans.-line receive very fair treatment; and, of course, they are entitled to it. Mr. Hannaberry is an excellent man who is kind, sympathetic, and efficient. He gets more efficiency from his men than do most people, by working and co-operating with them. They, in turn, co-operate with him, and he is thought well of by all with whom he comes in contact—even those working in very ordinary positions.

Infant health nurses go out along the Trans.-line every two months; and when they do they contact all the children and mothers, and attend to the adults if necessary. Dr. Gibson is an excellent doctor, and she does her best for those people. I can assure members that when the coach goes out with Dr. Gibson and the infant health sister, all the people are very pleased. In consequence of these things, we have greater contentment along that line than we have had for many years.

I want to thank the member for Leederville (Dr. Henn) for his sympathetic expressions in regard to mentally incurable children. They have always been a great problem and I have felt very sorry for them; and for the mothers—and fathers, too. I had a deputation—only one in connection with these children—and it was the most pathetic deputation I received in my life!

I know two or three people in the back country who have mentally incurable children. I am acquainted with one married woman who has a child whom she has been carrying around all her life. The boy is now 18 or 19 years of age, and she still looks after him. I said to her, "Why not send him to Claremont, where they have a good set-up in every way?" But there is a misunderstanding in this regard. It is felt there is a stigma attached to being sent to Claremont; people will not send their children there.

As Dr. Henn explained so clearly the other night, some resentment is still felt in regard to sending to Claremont a person who is mentally unbalanced. People do not like to send anyone to such an institution if it is possible to avoid doing so. In consequence, those people who are so unfortunate as to have a mentally incurable child try to hide the fact; and, of course, they live in misery all their lives.

However, we have in Belmont a nice home, which is in excellent condition, and where the children are looked after well. The mothers who send their children there are far more satisfied than they ever were before. I hope that this Government will—I am sure it will—foster that place. There is room for an extension in this regard, and I am sure that we will soon have more such homes. There are quite a number of children who are not in that place but who could go there; and they would be well looked after.

I want to give credit to the Hon. Ruby Hutchison, M.L.C., who works very hard in connection with this matter; and, being a mother, she realises what the position is. Anyone can have a mentally incurable child—you, I, or anyone else; it is just a matter of one's luck! It is not hereditary, from what I can learn; and it is not the fault of the father or the mother. Probably there might be some chance of a baby being hurt while being born; but not being a medical person, I do not know much about that aspect. An accident, however, could occur then. As I said before, the most careful person—the best of us—could have a mentally incurable child; I feel it is up to us all to do what we can to help those so afflicted.

Leaving that topic, I shall touch on another question; I do not know whether the matter has been dealt with in the House before; but I consider that ultimately

something should be done in regard to it. I say that the State is too big for any one Government. We must, if possible, decentralise; but at the present time decentralisation is just a word without any meaning to us.

Western Australia has been developed on the basis of centralisation, and we cannot avoid centralisation while we have such a huge State, consisting of 975,920 square miles. When we compare the population of the smaller States with the population of the larger States, we find that the smaller the State, the greater the population per square mile.

This State consists of 32.8 per cent. of the area of the whole of Australia, and we have only 7.2 per cent. of the population of Australia. Western Australia is 57 times larger than Tasmania; three times larger than New South Wales; 11 times larger than Victoria; about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the size of Queensland; and twice the size of South Australia. I have not gone into decimals or fractions, but have just taken the whole numbers in making these comparisons.

I want to make a comparison between the small States and the large States. Tasmania has over 13 persons to the square mile; New South Wales more than 11; Victoria, over 30; Queensland, not quite two; and South Australia, about two. If the population per square mile in Western Australia were the same as that in Tasmania, our population would be over 12,000,000 persons. On the same basis, New South Wales would have a population of 10,000,000; Victoria, over 29,000,000; Queensland, over 2,000,000; and South Australia, over 2,000,000.

The population of Western Australia, at the 31st December, 1957, was only 700,214; and over half of that number reside in the metropolitan area. Until such time as Western Australia is broken up into smaller States, we will have no chance of increasing our population. Centralisation has been the foundation on which this State has been built, and the metropolitan growth is a menace to security.

We should have a better distribution of our population. Australia is extremely vulnerable while a large portion of its population is concentrated in a few capital cities, and the bulk of our strategic industries, and power stations, are confined to crowded metropolitan centres. That is bad enough, but more important is the fact that the inland portion of this State is a forgotten part. Western Australia comprises 32.8 per cent. of the total area of Australia, and yet the population is only 7.2 per cent. If we do not develop and use our arable land, what will happen? We will not be able to hold either our State or the Commonwealth. Therefore members should give serious consideration to the possibility of splitting Western Australia into two or three States.

Esperance was a forgotten town, and I have been battling for it for over 30 years. Despite that, nobody has taken any interest in it. Why? Because all our efforts have been concentrated in the metropolitan area. I can remember in 1900—I must admit I was not very old at the time—the goldfields wanted either separation or federation, because they were not pleased with the treatment they were receiving from those in control in the metropolitan area. I am not blaming any Government, and I am not reflecting on any Government; but I am looking to the future—I am looking to posterity—and we will have to do something if we want to hold this huge State of ours. We have the potential, but there is no incentive.

There is a beautiful port at Esperance. I suppose it is equal to any port in Australia. The climate is lovely, and there is no question about the district's potential. In 1938 we had a Royal Commission inquiring into the possibility of settling the light lands of Western Australia. I happened to be a member of that Commission, and Sir Charles Latham was chairman. We travelled far and wide throughout the State in the course of our inquiries; and I suggested to him, at one stage, that we should go to Esperance. He will admit, if anyone asks him, that he said, "We would be only wasting our time." Before the word "time" he used an adjective which I could not mention as the Speaker would call me to order.

However, eventually, he agreed to have a look at the area. The report he wrote about its possibilities was even better than I could have written. In 1929 or 1930, a man named J. K. Dixon took up land in the Esperance district and proved conclusively to the people in the Mallee country, where I was in business at the time—I also owned a farm, and a hotel, and had other odd interests—that the potential of Esperance was far greater than the potential of the Mallee. He showed us some wheat samples, clover, and tangier peas that he had grown there. I was a little doubtful about it; but, as I happened to be Chairman of the Dundas Road Board at the time, and as I took a keen interest in the district generally, I went to have a look at the place myself and found that what he had told us was correct.

Later, a company under the management of Mr. Helms started a pine plantation at Esperance. Mr Helms had a 20-acre plot for experimental purposes, and he told me that the potential of the district was great. He said, "You can tell anybody in this country that so long as they put super on the ground, and do the work as it should be done, this country will carry two sheep to the acre." At one time the *Daily News* stated that the member for Kanowna—as I then was—had, firstly, Esperance on the brain; and, secondly, water on the brain. I can remember that my wife took exception to the paper saying that I had water

on the brain, but she did not have anything to say about my having Esperance on the brain.

It has been proved conclusively that Esperance is an up-and-coming place. Even if our Government, when it was in office, had wanted to stop Esperance from going ahead, it could not have done so. Nor could the present Government do so, because that country is advancing rapidly; and what was said about the district 20 years ago is proving to be correct. If Esperance were situated within 50 or 100 miles of the metropolitan area, no-one would be able to buy the land at a price less than £10 an acre; but, because of the distance from the metropolitan area, we were glad to get rid of it at 2s. an acre.

As I stated previously, this State is too big. Mr. de Burgh, whom many members would know, used to write articles about the possibilities of Esperance. He was a great friend of Mr. Helms and visited Esperance on many occasions. Despite all the articles he wrote, nobody took any notice of Esperance in those days. It merely proves that despite the potential we have in the State, certain districts have not received the complete consideration to which they have been entitled.

Within 6,000 miles of Darwin at least 1,340,000,000 people are congregated in a small area. They are land-hungry. What are they going to say to us if we do not do anything about working the land we have in this State? In the whole of Australia we have only 10,000,000 people; yet the area of this country is nearly equal to that of the United States of America. But look at the population of the United States! In Western Australia we have a little over 700,000 people—not one person to the square mile.

I know the Wiluna area very well. When I was young, it used to be called Lakeway, and at that time the possibilities of the district were enormous. The same applies to Laverton. In those districts there is plenty of underground water which could be used for irrigation—good, potable water—but owing to financial stringency, the railway services to Wiluna and Laverton had to be suspended. I do not suppose we can blame the people of Western Australia for that; but, as the member for Subiaco said this evening, we do not get sufficient money to develop the States of Australia and to enable us to do the necessary work.

How would any member here react if he lived under congested conditions, trying to exist on a handful of rice a day, while his next-door neighbour was surrounded by empty acres and yet boasted continually of his high living standard? I think that under those circumstances any member here would say, "If you don't work your land, and you don't want it, why not let us have it? We are land-hungry and we must do something about it." In Australia, we have only a little over three persons to the

square mile, and yet there are other countries, not far from us, where there are hundreds of people to the square mile. These people are not going to continue under their present conditions if we do not do something about developing and settling our vast areas.

This State is too big for any one Government to carry out the necessary developmental work. As members would know, New South Wales is approximately one-third the size of Western Australia; there are 309,433 square miles in New South Wales and 975,920 square miles in Western Australia. The people of New South Wales are trying to have their State split up, and they have just about arrived at a decision where New England will become a separate State. That is a very rich portion of New South Wales, and it has a large population.

I suppose Queensland is one of the best developed States in Australia, mainly because of its port zoning system. A little over one-third of the population lives in Brisbane; but in Perth over one-half lives in the metropolitan area, even though the State is much larger than Queensland. It seems to me that decentralisation is a myth; we are just giving lip service to it. This State has been based and founded on the promises of decentralisation, but nothing has been done about it. I advocate decentralisation, and have done so for years, without result. The member for Murchison has had the same experience. He realises the position in Wiluna and the surrounding area.

In the United States of America the people woke up to the position some time ago; and in 1861 the country was split into 11 States. Fifty years after that, they had 23 States and now the number has been increased to 50. Had that country not been split up, the population would have been much lower than it is today. I believe that Western Australia should be divided, for a start, into three States because we have too much forgotten inland. People know nothing about it, and care even less. I would venture to suggest that half the people in the metropolitan area would not even know that Wiluna used to be called Lakeway.

The member for Murchison would know Mr. Finch and the work he has done around Wiluna. He mentioned him in his Address-in-reply speech. Such men should be fortified, not mortified. But under our system the people in the country are more or less mortified, because they are not recognised for the work they have done. They are certainly not recognised by Her Majesty in so far as receiving titles or honours is concerned, in recognition of their wonderful services in developing the State.

As I have already said, so far as this State is concerned, decentralisation is only a myth. Between March, 1954, and 1959, we had an increase in the electoral rolls of

30,576 persons. I mention this only to show that even in regard to our electoral rolls we find that the majority of the increase came from the metropolitan area. There were 26,226 from the metropolitan area, and only 3,697 from the agricultural, mining, and pastoral areas. But we did not even get that, because it might be said that Dale, and also Darling Range—with all due respect—are metropolitan constituencies.

Mr. Wild: Very fine places.

Mr. NULSEN: They are within the environs of Perth. I am not speaking in a derogatory manner with respect to the members for those constituencies, but I think it must be admitted that they come within the metropolitan zone. The quota must be reduced. Darling Range was not in excess of its quota; nevertheless it was in the metropolitan zone.

We must also give consideration to the rapid increase in the population of the world. According to the Demographic Year Book for 1957, the world's population was 2,737,000,000. There has been a rapid increase in the population. It has increased by 47,000,000 yearly, and by the end of the century we will have double the present population of the world. That would mean there would be 5,474,000,000 people in the world. Mankind is increasing much faster than is the food supply; and if we do not do something in regard to decentralisation, how are we going to hold Australia, or Western Australia for that matter?

The division of our State into smaller states is not against the policy of the Labour Government. I do not think it is contrary to the policy of any political organisation. If it is not possible for us to populate this country of ours fairly quickly, I think we should see whether we cannot negotiate with England to take over 300,000 or 400,000 square miles of this area. If we were able to secure a contract with England to permit her to take over and develop a portion of this country under our laws and subject to conditional purchase, it would be a wonderful thing both from the point of view of England, and for the future of Australia. If England is not in a position to carry out this development, then I suggest we should approach some other friendly nation, such as the United States.

Mr. Bickerton: You would not suggest that parliamentary representatives be cut down in any way?

Mr. NULSEN: I do not suggest that. I will not tackle the North-West. I will leave the hon. member to do that later, but I feel that he will probably look for segregation. The North-West is getting a fair crack of the whip. If the people in the back country around Wiluna, Esperance, and other places were encouraged and given recognition for their efforts, we would be far more advanced than we are at present. The potentialities of the North-West are very

great indeed. If they had a state of their own and could concentrate on its development, I am sure they would be further ahead than they are now.

I know that members will say, "How are you going to do this?" That has, of course, to be worked out; but I do not see any insurmountable problems. It could be done. We should do something for the sake of posterity; for the sake of our children, and for the sake of their children's children; because if we do not do so, we cannot remain in charge of Australia. We will be a mixed race, and a coloured one.

For my part I cannot blame our neighbours, who are starving for land, looking in our direction while we do not develop the land we possess. We all know that there are thousands of square miles in our North-West without one person to the square mile on them; and yet we find our neighbours with not nearly as much land, but with thousands of people to the square mile.

At present we find the Government of Queensland seeking to create new states in order that it might promote decentralisation and stimulate development. The present Nicklin Government has already committed itself in regard to splitting up Queensland.

Mr. Tonkin: Do you think he will do it?

Mr. NULSEN: I think he will try. We cannot develop Western Australia from the metropolitan area.

Mr. Brand: Hear, hear!

Mr. NULSEN: I am positive about that. We cannot develop Australia unless we give a greater incentive to the people who live in the country.

The SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member has another five minutes to go.

Mr. NULSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our aim should be decentralisation. I feel that, so far as New England is concerned, it will not be very long before the work done in regard to splitting up New South Wales which is only one-third of Western Australia, will mean that New England will be another state of New South Wales. It will help New South Wales considerably.

Decentralisation would help us immeasurably, because the people in the country would receive a greater incentive, and I am sure the population would increase rapidly. Before I close, I would like to read a letter which I received from a Mr. Finch of Wiluna. He has done excellent work, and he has been battling. His letter reads as follows:—

I am glad to have your invitation to express an opinion on the future of irrigation here. My opinion is that the future of irrigation could be of great advantage to the State provided the projects are intelligently conceived. Hit or miss projects on a big scale could be disastrous.

From the information gleaned from the air survey and subsequent land use survey, as yet only partly completed, by C.S.I.R.O., it is apparent that there are a great many aquifers which can be used. Since this survey only covered a small portion of the State which has similar characteristics—namely from Leonora on the south to Nullagine on the north, and from the Indian Ocean to the S.A. border—it takes little imagination to realise the potential as being enormous. However, the development of this area suffers from one great disability. It would have to be developed as a great number of relatively small projects. And despite the fact that a great number of small projects over a big area could have much greater stability and productivity than one big one, like the Ord Dam, I have not the slightest doubt which of the two most politicians and engineers would fall for—the big one. The politician likes a nice compact heap of people. The engineer likes a project which is big, can be photographed, written up and publicised as one enormous project.

I have, over some 20 years, spent a lot of money and personal effort on this one project. Much of it has been a dead loss because it has been necessary to accumulate the required knowledge. Until the last three years I had no assistance from anyone. During these last three years the C.S.I.R.O. has taken an interest, mainly due to the representations of one man, an ordinary citizen. They have helped with experimental grasses, and have now completed a hydrological survey—that is, have completed the field work of it, the work has yet to be correlated and written up, which will take several months more.

Quite frankly, Mr. Nulsen, I am thoroughly disgusted with the State Government and departmental attitude toward the potential, and problems, of the "forgotten inland."

That was written by a man with considerable experience; by a gentleman with a lot of knowledge. I feel, too—and quite a number of people feel—that the inland of this State is forgotten, because we have a concentration of people, of industries—and of everything that is of no real value towards populating the country—in other parts of the State, with the exception of a few fair-sized towns; and, by comparison, they have not got very much. This is only food for thought; and I intend at the next session, in 1960, to move a motion whereby fair consideration and debate can be given to more states for Western Australia, to help develop it and hold it.

MR. CROMMELIN (Claremont) [8.14]: May I add my congratulations to you, Sir, on your elevation to the Speaker's Chair. I would like to bring a few matters before the House. Some of them I have discussed before; but at this stage they look like bearing fruit. First, I would like to say a few words with regard to the new crosswalk regulations. I do not propose to discuss them at length, but want to say that the old regulation was impracticable if carried out to the letter of the law; while the new regulation, if there is fair co-operation between the pedestrians and the motorists, will work reasonably well. In peak periods in the city block, however, it will never be carried out properly without police supervision.

In the main highways and in the metropolitan area—other than the city block—provided the pedestrian and the motorist show reasonable thought to each other, I think it is practicable; and for those who offend, whether they be pedestrians or motorists, the penalties should be severe enough to make them think.

For the last two years at least, I have been referring to the lighting in the highways of the metropolitan area. About a month ago I received a letter from the Minister for Works reminding me of this fact and informing me that it was the intention of the Government in the near future to alter the legislation so that funds can be made available to have a better standard of highway lighting.

I hope that most members of the House have had an opportunity of inspecting the new lights at Fremantle and on the Fremantle-Canning Highway and in Beaufort Street. These lights have reached such a stage that they are now very close to the standard lighting required by the association throughout Australia: that is, 100 lumens per lineal foot. This has been achieved by the use of mercury vapour lamps set at a regulation height of 28ft. and spaced as near to 100ft. apart as possible. It has been possible to adjust the colour so that the light is very distinct.

The point which interests me about this new lighting is that, by some means or other, it appears to block out the glare of approaching car headlights. I trust that in a few years' time, when these lights are general, motorists will be permitted to drive without their headlights burning at all. That brings forth another suggestion in regard to crosswalks at night. We have read a lot in the paper about the flood-lighting of crosswalks and about all sorts of devices to make them stand out at night.

From my observations, the new type of lighting is pretty near perfect for crosswalks, provided that the poles can be put very close to the crosswalks. Under these lights figures are very distinct. However, I wonder whether it is possible by the use of some other type of light—perhaps the

sodium light, which gives a yellow-brown light—to ensure that as a person approaches a crosswalk he will see a different coloured light, which would make the crosswalk very distinctive.

No doubt the Deputy Leader of the Opposition noticed the roads in London when he was there last year. Instead of having double lines down the highways, they have a device which is a very heavy type of rubber with cat's eyes which makes it very easy to see if one is crossing over the line at night. If it were possible to have these installed on the laneways at a distance of 150ft. from the crosswalks it would indicate very clearly to every motorist that when he entered a cat's-eyes section he would be approaching a crosswalk. This device will take a lot of punishment; but normally would not be crossed by the vehicles. It would be a great help to the motorists—more so than to the pedestrians—but pedestrians would know that it existed for their protection.

Last Sunday week I went for a drive on the Canning Highway. As members know, there is a strip down the middle of that highway which makes a tremendous difference. The main section over which I drive more than anywhere else is Stirling Highway, and I am firmly convinced that a strip could be placed on that highway between Broadway and the police station at Swanbourne. If that is too expensive to carry out, I suggest in all places where there is a bus stop the Main Roads Board should give consideration to providing a small island half-way across the road to give some measure of confidence to elderly people who have to cross the highway. When traffic is heavy these people are apt to become flustered. A device such as that would be a great help if it were installed in places where it is practicable.

I had a letter from one of my Parents & Citizens' Associations two days ago. The Mt. Claremont branch had approached the Metropolitan Transport Trust to see whether it could get a bus service for the children from Mt. Claremont to go to the Hollywood High School, and was informed that it was not practicable at present because these buses were required for the children during peak periods.

I assume that every member in this Chamber has had trouble in getting bus services to arrive at schools on time. What concerns me in this respect is that Mt. Claremont has just received a bus service which proceeds on the northern side of the railway line through Shenton Park; and the children—being children—get off at the bus stop close to the Hollywood High School, and then proceed to cross the railway line and walk to the high school. By doing this they save about 450 yards.

I understand that, to a certain extent, the headmasters of these schools feel responsible for the safety of the children; but it would be asking too much to have

them send down one of the staff a distance of 440 yards every morning to insist that the children do not cross the railway line. I hope, as was suggested by the Mt. Claremont Parents' and Citizen's Association, that it will be possible to put the starting time at the school back 15 minutes, because the time factor is a general problem for bus services in the metropolitan area.

Another subject I would like to mention is that of police, but not in a critical way. Earlier tonight, we heard the member for Subiaco suggesting that the problem of child delinquency was a very big one. Last year, as a matter of interest—because I felt that the sight of a policeman on duty at night gave a feeling of security to many people and was a deterrent to a man or woman who had intentions of wrongdoing—I asked some questions of the then Minister for Police in order to find out how many police were available for work in the city area. I actually referred to the City of Perth.

I was told that in the City of Perth three sergeants and eight constables were available. I was reasonably satisfied, because I assumed that three sergeants and eight constables walking around the city block would be sufficient. However, a little while ago I was reading the *Police News*, which is a magazine that circulates amongst the police, and noted a letter addressed to the editor, signed with the nom de plume of "Vigilant" which reads as follows:—

re SHORTAGE OF STAFF

I read with interest the Commissioner's reply to the Union regarding an increase in strength, and that if the Union could put up a strong case then he would present it to the Minister.

No stronger case could be put up, other than to invite the Minister to witness the number of Police Constables available to do beat duty at Central, and if he stood at the Central gates as they went out it would probably be an eye-opener.

This matter was raised in the House last year, by Mr. Crommelin, and the official answer to his query was definitely misleading and merely pulling the wool over his eyes as to the true position that there were sufficient men available to give the public the protection they were entitled to.

The rapid growth of night-watch services and escorting firms is merely evidence of the failure of the Government to provide sufficient Police to protect life and property.

That was about March of this year. After reading this, I thought I would have another go; and once again I asked how many foot police were actually on night beat in the City of Perth area after 11 p.m. on certain days? The answer was framed in the following way:— The number of

foot police on night duty at central station was in this particular case—the 11th June—five sergeants and eight constables. I learned enough to realise that the five sergeants and eight police who were on duty at the central station were the total number of staff at the station itself, and they had to draw out of these five sergeants and eight police the total number that would be available for night beat.

In all sincerity, I suggest that a total of 13 in the City of Perth—the City of Perth covers a very large area—is not sufficient if they are expected to patrol and keep order. It is just absolutely impossible for them to do so. Perth is not an unlawful city to any great extent; but if a member went into the city tonight, or any other night, how many policemen would he see? As I said before, one does not have confidence if one does not see policemen around.

And so I wondered what was to happen in the near future, when I read recently in the Press that the working hours of the force are to be reduced to 40 per week. I understand that there are more and more police schools being held; but a reduction of hours from 44 to 40 per week means that a greater number of officers will be required; and so I hope the force will be increased until it is evident to the public, and to any who are likely to create disturbances, that there are sufficient police to make their presence felt.

Mr. J. Hegney: Haven't the police mobile patrols, with vans in which they move about?

Mr. CROMMELIN: Yes. They have on duty each night three police cars and two vans, and in an emergency a further 12 cars can be brought into use.

Mr. J. Hegney: Where are they located?

Mr. CROMMELIN: At the central station.

Mr. J. Hegney: What about Victoria Park, Midland Junction, and other outlying suburbs?

Mr. CROMMELIN: These are prowl cars. I recall that when the Leader of the Opposition was speaking during the election, I was present one night and saw one of those prowl cars passing. Even with mobile patrols the number of police on night duty is not great; but, as this is a very lawful city, they seem to be getting away with it. I am concerned with the moral effect on the people; because when they see a police officer on duty they know his presence is a deterrent to crime.

The same position applies in regard to suburban police stations, where the amount of work to be done is terrific; because as well as acting as policemen, those officers have to attend to traffic accidents, and so on. In the Claremont area alone there were 700 cases with which they had to deal last year. If one is unfortunate

enough to be caught for speeding or some other offence, unless one pleads guilty a police officer has to serve a summons; and, if the fine is not paid, a further summons has to be served to recover the money, and that must involve a great deal of work.

I have wondered whether at suburban stations the traffic duty could not be allocated to one particular officer, instead of all of them doing it from time to time on a roster system. The number of petty crimes being committed in the metropolitan area is increasing. I refer to such offences as breaking and entering, stealing laundry, and so on. In the Claremont district last year there were 100 cases of that kind; but in three months of this year there were 100 cases, and that is a great increase.

Mr. Hall: If the number of unemployed increases there will be no laundry at all left on the lines.

Mr. CROMMELIN: When so much of the time of the police is occupied with traffic matters and so on, those on duty at the Claremont station simply have not the time to enforce the parking regulations in that district.

I will now put forward a few suggestions, and perhaps some criticism also, regarding the possibility of attracting tourists to this State. When a Government attempts to develop its State as a tourist State it needs many natural attractions, as well as an immense amount of money for publicity.

I feel that tourists in this State fall into three categories. First of all there are the local inhabitants, who know the State; then there are visitors from the other States; and, thirdly, overseas visitors. To deal first with the first category—residents of the State who know that each year they will have two or three weeks holiday—I would say that usually they know beforehand where they are going and where they wish to stay. Their choice may vary from year to year; but, as residents of this State and possibly of the metropolitan area, they know the type of place they wish to visit and the sort of accommodation they desire.

It is a pleasure to travel over most of the roads of the State today, and the work done by the Main Roads Department in the last nine years is something of which we should all be proud; but there are some roads that still make travelling difficult. I like to go to Walpole for my holidays, and I would like to see the macadam road between Shannon River and Walpole completed. Being a poor man, I have only a Morris Minor car, and so I go all the way to Albany in order to avoid that 60 miles of bad road.

Travelling by that route I have, of course, the opportunity of spending a few days in Albany, which is a very pleasant place. The average person who visits the South-West, whether Bunbury, Busselton, Augusta,

Walpole, Bremer Bay, or somewhere else, does so with the hope that while there he will be able to do some fishing. He even tries to teach his wife to fish; and the children, of course, love fishing. Such people like to feel that, when they get to their destination, they have a chance of catching a few fish.

This is a problem which deserves serious consideration by the Government. Walpole and Nornalup Inlet are protected areas where no netting is allowed, although I would not say none is done there; but at Denmark, Augusta, and other places at times there are no fish to be had.

I understand that at Denmark, in particular, there are at present eight or nine men licensed to fish; and I am informed that none of them does it for a living. I believe it is only a part-time way for them to earn a little extra money. I believe that if the Brookes, Denmark, and Augusta estuaries were closed to netting for two years, there would be a great increase in the number of fish to be had there.

Mr. Rowberry: You mean close them to netting?

Mr. CROMMELIN: Yes, because we must think of our own people first in regard to that aspect of tourism.

Mr. J. Hegney: You would be interfering with private enterprise.

Mr. CROMMELIN: I do not think so. Private enterprise is the right of any man to go there and try to catch some fish. At Walpole, in May, in 10 days one could not catch half a dozen fish per day.

Mr. J. Hegney: Someone must have caught them.

Mr. CROMMELIN: Yes, but not on the end of a line. A great deal of publicity has been given of late to Rottnest Island. I have been going there for holidays for a number of years, and in my opinion it has not improved at all in the last few years. A little while ago I asked the Minister in charge of the Rottnest Board of Control some questions relating to finance and to the improvements that had been made on the island.

I asked how many residences had been built on the island from 1952 to 1958, and was informed that the number was 16—in six years—which surely is not a great number. I asked how much money had been spent in an endeavour to secure water supplies which are so necessary there, and was informed that £32,000 had been spent in six years. That is a considerable sum of money, but I do not know whether the supply of water there will ever be sufficient. There is a tremendous amount of water available on Garden Island, from the bores; but I do not know what it would cost to run a pipeline from there to Rottnest Island. The cost would be great, but if water is not to be made available at Rottnest it can never be fully developed as a tourist resort.

I asked what was the rent of the cottages; and, at today's values they are expensive. But on the other hand, many people can get into them. I asked if showers and baths were provided, and the answer was that there were showers or baths provided in all the cottages, flats, or permanent dwellings; and in the other residences, bath tubs. Fancy that, in 1958, as the only means of ablution in the bungalows there.

I asked how far it was from the settlement to the swimming basin, and the answer was that the distance is three-quarters of a mile. I asked if there were any toilet facilities available for men and women at the basin, and the answer was in the negative, although it is three-quarters of a mile from the settlement.

I do not know whether any member here has sailed from Fremantle to Rottnest in a yacht. I suppose some have. But imagine sailing across there on a very wet day and pulling the boat up on the beach, and then finding that there is nowhere on the island where you can have a shower and change, unless you go to the hostel, where you are not really allowed if you are not paying board or rent. Surely it would be reasonable to install an ablution block where people from yachts or boats could have a shower and the use of a towel, even if a small fee were charged.

Mr. J. Hegney: Who is Minister in charge of Rottnest Island now?

Mr. CROMMELIN: He is sitting in front of me. The present situation has prevailed for years. These improvements cannot be made in three months. The Labour Government had six years in which to do something. In the last two or three weeks I have known fellow club members, who go over there week after week, to report that the conditions at Rottnest Island in the last few weeks have been frightening. I have been told that the staff there have never done an honest day's work for years.

Mr. Jamieson: That is not altogether true.

Mr. CROMMELIN: I did not say whether it was true or not. I am merely stating that those are the reports I have heard about the island.

Mr. J. Hegney: You say the same things about us; but they are only reports.

Mr. CROMMELIN: The hon. member says worse than that about the members on this side of the House. I was of the opinion that the licensing hours of any hotel were from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Mr. Brand: You mean from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Mr. CROMMELIN: Yes. That is right; I am looking ahead. I understand that the hotel at Rottnest is open at any time of the day. Who is responsible for seeing that the hotel complies with the licensing

laws? Is there an officer there who stipulates that the hotel shall close at such-and-such a time, or is it left to the discretion of the publican? We cannot blame people for becoming drunk on Rottnest Island if there is no-one there to keep a check on hotel licensing hours.

Mr. Rowberry: What is one to do if there is no water on the island?

Mr. CROMMELIN: Rumours such as those do not do the island or the State any good. Furthermore, I understand that only recently some auditors had to be sent to Rottnest to investigate the administration of that island. If that is true, it is a very serious allegation to make against the board members and members of the staff.

Mr. Brand: Not members of the board.

Mr. CROMMELIN: I withdraw that remark. I meant serious allegations against members of the staff. If such reports are true, it would appear that there are serious defalcations in the money affairs of Rottnest Island. Recently tenders were called for the leasing of a grocery store on Rottnest over a period of years. The tenders that were received varied considerably. One offered £10 a week; another, £19 a week; and a third, £24 a week.

Mr. Heal: Which tender was accepted?

Mr. CROMMELIN: The highest one, I presume. If the highest tender is accepted, the man who pays £24 a week rental for the lease of that shop is going to make certain that he is recompensed; he would have to. Consequently anyone who takes his family to Rottnest and hires a cottage will have to pay fantastic prices for any provisions he requires. I suggest that some arrangement could be entered into whereby people could go to Rottnest and be able to buy their necessities at a reasonable figure.

Mr. Jamieson: I think you are on the wrong side of the House.

Mr. CROMMELIN: No I am not. I am merely trying to offer some suggestion as to what should be provided there. If that were done, I am sure that the tourist trade in this State would improve, especially in regard to the attraction of tourists to Rottnest. On the back of the notice which is handed to all tenants of cottages at Rottnest is set out a list of the goods in the cottage. A very important and most necessary item which is not supplied is an ice-chest. If one wants an ice-chest it has to be hired from a man on the island, and one has to pay up to 7s. 6d. a week for such hire. An ice-chest cannot be obtained from the Board of Control.

Cooking in the cottage is done on a wood-stove. Surely the time has come when either the electricity output on the island should be increased to make provision for electric stoves, or the cottages should be fitted with the Kleenheat system of fuel!

Surely the mother of any family holidaying at Rottnest is entitled to some modern means of cooking in order to make her stay on the island as pleasant as that of her husband and children!

I have listed several suggestions for the improvement of facilities on Rottnest Island. I put the provision of a suitable water supply down as a No. 1 priority. Also, ablutions and shower facilities should be increased in some form or other. In regard to accommodation, the number of small-unit buildings—either small cottages or bungalows—should be increased. Gas facilities should be provided to replace the doubtful supplies of wood which are now used as fuel in the wood stoves.

The facilities for sanitation at present existing on the island should be improved and increased. This applies also to ablution facilities. In regard to the provision of commodities on the island, trading competition is desirable to avoid existing monopolies. Either the roads on the island should be widened, or separate bicycle paths should be provided. An improvement is required in the bus transport, because there is no cover on existing buses, and the type now used is inadequate for round-the-island tours.

The Basin is the chief attraction for swimmers, with Longreach Bay as their second preference. The changing and ablution facilities at the Basin should be modernised, and a good path from the settlement and thence around the coast to Longreach Bay should be laid down. Further, changing and ablution facilities should be provided at Longreach Bay. Attention could then be given to similar facilities at Geordie Bay and other bays on the north side of the island where the best swimming is available.

Shopping facilities could also be improved; because, at the moment, this presents a very big problem. An opportunity could be given to a company, on the basis of an 100-year lease, to provide new types of houses. Such a move would possibly save the Government a great deal of money provided the company which was granted the lease was reputable and the rents were reasonable.

A combined administration building should be constructed, together with a public hall erected on a suitable central site. After all is said and done, the standard of entertainment in the Rottnest Hall is not as good as it might be if a more suitable structure were provided. Generally, some attention should be paid to the requirements of the ordinary family. Most men who visit the island with their families are desirous of going out in a dinghy to fish, or to engage in rock-fishing. Also, the woman of the house requires comfort in the dwelling she occupies and agreeable swimming facilities for herself and children.

Teenagers need accessible and decent swimming and beach amenities, with better facilities for dancing and pictures. As I have said, showers and ablution blocks are badly needed for launch owners and yachtsmen. I do not suggest the erection of any private buildings or any plan for a second "Surfers' Paradise". The simplicity of Rottnest is its unique and attractive feature.

The representation on the Board of Control should be by people who know and continue to experience all angles and phases of island life, particularly in relation to the domestic sphere. I have heard some people say that Rottnest should be turned into a second Hayman Island. I have not visited that island, but I know that the people of Melbourne and Sydney go there to avoid the winter months in their cities. However, I cannot visualise tourists coming from Melbourne to Rottnest Island in the summer time, because they could attend their own beaches during that period of the year and they would not want to travel as far as Rottnest to enjoy swimming or other tourist features.

If there is any desire on the part of some people to create a Hayman Island, surely there is greater opportunity to do so along our North-West coast! I cannot think of any better place to establish such a luxury resort than either Cossack or Point Samson.

Mr. Bickerton: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sewell: What about the Abrolhos Islands?

Mr. CROMMELIN: I would not recommend the Abrolhos Islands for the creation of such a tourist resort. At Cossack or Point Samson, tourists would have an opportunity to fish for oysters; and for the man who wants to shoot there would be ample opportunity not only to hunt game but also to do a lot of good by killing many kangaroos in the surrounding district. Further, there would be a wonderful attraction in a drive to Wittenoom Gorge by which means people could see all types of animal and bird life. The Government should therefore endeavour to encourage some private individual to establish a luxury resort at some point along the North-West coast.

If it were possible to obtain some ships which could be used to conduct cruises from Fremantle to some such place, I am sure that they would prove very successful. After a ship had berthed at the tourist resort, bus facilities provided by private enterprise could be waiting to carry the tourists to surrounding attractions. Also, provision could be made for the tourists to fish from boats or off the jetties if they desired to do so. If such a move were made, I am sure that any ship travelling to a North-West luxury resort would be filled to capacity all the time. I

venture to suggest that people from Adelaide and Melbourne would come here if those facilities were provided.

Tourists from New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia only travel to Hayman Island and other tourist resorts in Queensland because of the excellent facilities that are offering there. It might be suggested that the attractions of such a place would be beyond the means of many people in this State. Nevertheless that is the sort of tourist resort we need to encourage people from the Eastern States and from other parts of the world, and it is those people who have money to burn when on holiday.

Anyone who has been for a trip to Roebourne and along the north coast knows what the weather is like in those parts. Whilst travelling there one does not suffer from extreme heat; and with such climatic conditions, I think the establishment of a luxury tourist resort along that coast would prove to be a great attraction to tourists and of great benefit to Western Australia.

To induce tourists to come to this State we must have natural attractions. Let us be frank about this. We have a natural attraction in our good climate. We have wildflowers against which none in the world can compete, and we have luxuriant timber growth well worth seeing.

A resident of Melbourne or Sydney could, in the winter time, go to Mt. Kosciuszko or Mt. Buffalo for ski-ing. Today, more and more of the young people are being attracted to winter sport. This State cannot offer such attractions; therefore we must produce man-made attractions.

The member for Subiaco said that many of the delegates to the recent legal convention held in this State appreciated the standard of the hotels to be found in the metropolitan as well as the country areas. I agree with them. But surely we must offer the tourist more than good hotels! The standard of restaurants and the food served in them compares very favourably with the standards in the other States and overseas. The standards in this State have improved vastly in the last few years.

However, there is no reason why our restaurants should be deprived of the right to sell liquor, provided they maintain a high standard of food. Many restaurants in the Eastern States have that right and the same should apply here. Unless we give some thought to amending the liquor laws of this State we will be at a disadvantage compared with the other States.

Many of us have lived in this State all our lives; we all realise that we cannot entertain visitors except by going to the cinema, a drive-in, or the Playhouse; and we have not even a night club with a floor show.

Mr. Rowberry: There is Rottneest.

Mr. CROMMELIN: One does not visit Rottneest at night.

Mr. Rowberry: A person can get a drink there.

Mr. CROMMELIN: One does not have to go to Rottneest to do that. One can join a club and drink until 11 o'clock at night.

Mr. Jamieson: That is still within the recognised hours.

Mr. CROMMELIN: I hope the Government will take some steps to attract more tourists to this State, and that some of the suggestions I have made will bear fruit. Unless the Government is prepared to spend a vast sum of money on improving our beaches, and our natural and other attractions, we cannot expect to induce tourists to come here. It is my sincere hope that the Government will take action in this respect.

MR. BICKERTON (Pilbara) [9.31]: Previously during this session of Parliament I have risen to speak. On that occasion I omitted to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation, and I would like to do so now. In the way in which you handled one or two ticklish problems since this session commenced, you did a very good job.

I would like to congratulate the Government on its victory at the recent elections. It must, however, be somewhat irksome to the Government that its victory was not more absolute. I do not consider that the debate on the Address-in-reply should be for the purpose of indulging in election post mortems, but I know nothing against it.

As a comparatively new member of Parliament, I would like to make a few observations gained while I have been sitting, watching, and thinking here. I may have the distinction of being one of the few members, if not the only one, who entered this House without knowing, within a month of my election, any member here. It can be assumed that I came into this House without what might be termed the usual bias of one member against another.

I have been a member of the Australian Labor Party for quite a long time. It is possible that I may possess a party bias. In making my observations in the time that I have been here, I have tried to be impartial. One of my observations during the last session of Parliament was that the strength was on the Government benches. I give that opinion taking into consideration what I have said: that possibly I may have a party bias.

I saw the previous Opposition as a body which operated as a whole through necessity. Its members appeared to be a number of separate cogs operating in the one machine, more for the purpose of utilising the same reservoir of oil. From time to time those cogs seemed to mesh. Then on other occasions, when the wheels turned around to the spots where they

were denuded of teeth as a result of what I consider to be internal battles, they appeared to spin on their own axles, until they once again meshed with what sounded like the usual groan of reconciliation.

From my observation post during the last session of this House I saw the Leader of the Opposition, whom I consider to be a pretty sincere person. I felt that he truly believed in the opinion he held and in the course he was following. I also felt he bore the signs of a man who realised that everyone on the same side of the House did not exactly see eye to eye with him.

Moving across to the other portion of the Opposition, my eyes rested from time to time on the Leader of the Country Party, now the Attorney-General. I consider this man to be a mature politician and a very astute gentleman; one who in my opinion prefers long-range politics to impromptu battles. However, I felt that he and his deputy acted in accordance with the wishes of their political party. The remainder of the Opposition consisted of two Independents, quite good chaps in themselves, neither of whom to my way of thinking wanted to be Independent, but had to be, by force of circumstances.

Mr. Cornell: One nearly was not.

Mr. BICKERTON: That is correct. They formed themselves into a party of two, neither of whom wanted to be the leader. So I gained the general impression that the Liberal Party was at war with the Country Party; that the Country Party was somewhat at war with the Liberal Party; that the Independents were at war with both those parties, and vice versa.

Is it any wonder, then, that when I went North after Parliament had risen, I not only felt that a change of Government was unlikely, but also that any change would not be in the best interests of Western Australia? From the odd newspapers I managed to obtain, I gathered there was a political battle royal going on in this State's metropolis.

The sound of private chartered aircraft flying overhead and landing in my electorate, plus woolpacks of literature, made me realise that the battle had been carried into the northern extremities of the State. I also gathered from my newspapers that there were two parties. There was a "goody-goody" party and a "baddy-baddy" party. One can understand my confusion when one realises that as I left this House there were no fewer than four political parties—the Liberal Party, the Country Party, the Independent Party, and the Labour Party—within the House; and one party outside—the D.L.P.

One can understand my confusion being increased when one realises that I gathered from my newspapers that the party which, in my opinion, was the best for Western Australia, had been branded the "baddies." The other parties had apparently got together and had been branded

the "goodies." So I summed up the position in this way: The other parties apparently got together, whether married or otherwise I do not know. What had appeared to me earlier would result in a political miscarriage, had apparently developed into quite a normal pregnancy. I, along with many others, awaited the birth of this political progeny.

It will be interesting to note whether its likenesses are predominantly Liberal Party; whether they are predominantly Country Party; or whether they are predominantly Independents. I hope for the sake of the parents concerned in this matter that they are able to rear this baby which they hastily conceived.

Mr. Roberts: As the years roll on you will realise what a bonny baby it is.

Mr. Jamieson: It has not turned out good for the member for Mt. Lawley.

Mr. BICKERTON: Much discussion has taken place regarding the industrial side of our State and the necessity for improved industries from the point of view of creating employment. Our State is not one which could be called a young State, when considered in terms of foundation as part of the Commonwealth, but I consider it is young from an industrial point of view, and particularly in respect of industrial promotion. I feel that the potential of our State—from an industrial point of view—has been barely scratched. This is no fault of the potential but of the promotion of the potential by ourselves.

Mr Roberts: Whom do you blame in the last six years?

Mr. BICKERTON: I am not speaking so much with the idea of blaming anyone in particular as of putting before the House my views on a matter which I consider is important to the State. In the past, much of our industrial trouble and industrial development has been brought about by our geographical isolation. This naturally diminishes as the medium of transportation improves, and as population increases.

Recently a mission from this State went overseas with the object of encouraging industry to come to Western Australia. In my opinion that mission did much good. I have gathered from the views of some members opposite that they do not agree with me on this. It is possible that they have more information at their disposal than I have, but I would not like to think that the reason for their observations was a bias against any particular member or members of the mission; nor would I like to think that their bias was brought about by the fact that the mission was formed at a time when a Government of an opposing political colour to the present one was in office.

I sincerely think that matters of this nature—where the State is concerned—should be above party politics. Every

effort should be made to obtain industries for this State. I trust that anything that was started by the previous Government, with a view to influencing industries to come to our State, will be carried on by the present Government. I also hope that further trade missions will be started by the present Government. I would not like the Government, when seeking industries for this State, to overlook the possibilities in the rest of Australia. After all, Australia is a large continent and does not lack large business undertakings, or men with ability to establish industries.

I understand it is the Government's intention to establish tourist offices in other States. Perhaps it would also consider establishing business and industrial advisory centres, the object of which would be to acquaint business people and others in the Eastern States with the potential of Western Australia, and the advantages that could accrue from an investment here.

Mr. Brand: That is our objective.

Mr. BICKERTON: I am pleased to hear the Premier say that, because I do think there are many people in the Eastern States—I have met many of them here—who do not realise the opportunities that exist for industry in Western Australia. I suggest to the Premier that the object of whatever centres may be established in the other States would not be for the officers appointed to those centres to sit and wait for someone to come along and inquire about the possibility of settlement here, or the location of industry here, but for those officers to go out and sell the State.

Mr. Brand: I could not agree with you more.

Mr. BICKERTON: And also to sell the resources we have.

Mr. Brand: I think we should have people there to tell them about our primary industrial potential, also.

Mr. BICKERTON: While I may have given the impression that I was dealing with secondary industries, I was really referring to industry, generally. Foreign countries near our North have also been mentioned as some of our best potential customers. I believe they could be. If the Government, with the information it has at its disposal, agrees with this, then I think we should do everything in our power to sell more to those people who live to the north of us. If this means a display ship, let us have it! It is possible we could use one of our own State ships in an off season; or when the new ship comes on the line, we could load it with Western Australian products and literally go "sale-about."

If inquiries prove that the taxpayer has a reasonable chance of getting back some of his money as a result of sending a display ship to the north of Australia, then let us send one by all means. Our local

industries may be prepared to defray some of the cost in exchange for being permitted to have their own representatives on board. In that way we would at least make a positive start on a project that could develop into something much bigger.

When we discuss matters of isolation, and areas that suffer as a result, we automatically look to our North-West—and rightly so—as an area suffering most from isolation, low population, and lack of transportation, or costly transportation. This area is a great challenge to any Government, and it is a great challenge to Australia as a whole. I doubt whether we have men with minds big enough to appreciate and comprehend the task of developing the North-West to the stage where it will be a reasonable proposition from the point of view of the country's economy.

The method of development of Australia, since its foundation, as I see it, has been mainly by the efforts of individuals and groups of individuals, assisted by democratic Governments. That assistance has varied in accordance with the difference of establishment after foundation, and in accordance with the type of area where the development has taken place. It has been given on a sliding scale right up to the present time where we still have a large part of Australia in an undeveloped state owing to isolation.

Naturally the areas that were developed first, and were developed successfully, were invariably the more fertile ones, close to the markets. So we have many of our areas now that do not fall into that category, and they are in an undeveloped state, as they have been ever since foundation, and they are placed in the "too-hard" basket. It appears that they have remained there right up to the present time.

The best way to give assistance to the North-West is a debatable point, and we have had many different opinions on the subject from many people. As a result, I sometimes think we have too many departments which have some say in the way in which this area should be developed.

When I refer to the lack of development in the North-West, I in no way detract from the efforts of those who, over the years, have endeavoured to do their best to bring these areas up to their present state of productivity. Many of these people have gone right to the full extent of their resources; and some, no doubt, have gone beyond that point.

If it is agreed that Government assistance, or assistance by elected administrators, is required, I think, from the North-West point of view, we should reckon that 10 times the amount of assistance is required in that area as would be necessary in a more fertile area that

was reasonably productive, and was in a satisfactory climate. As an example, if we had in the South-West a town with a population of 1,000 people, and the powers that be considered those people wanted a Government water service, then I would say that 100 people in the North-West would warrant the same priority.

Mr. Cornell: That is a good argument for reopening the railways.

Mr. BICKERTON: In fact I would say that if those 1,000 people were to abandon their area, it would be easier to replace them in the area that they abandoned in the South-West, than it would be to replace 100 people in the area where, to say the least, the living conditions are somewhat atrocious.

I have used the example of a water scheme, but the same principle applies to such other matters as labour, primary and secondary industries, public utilities generally, and so on. The basic difference in the outlook of people in the North-West and people in the more fortunate areas of the State is this: People elsewhere say, "Get the population and we will supply the money to give the facilities and assist with production, and assist people to establish themselves." The people in the North-West say, "Give us the facilities and assistance to produce, and we will get the population."

So it boils down to the old argument: Which comes first, the chicken or the egg? That is the way it has been going on for many years. I have said before in the House, and I repeat it, that whilst we need urgently any additional industries we can get for the North-West, it should be our job to give immediate assistance to what is already there. The mining industry—particularly copper, manganese, and asbestos mining—can be greatly assisted through the provision of improved harbour facilities and all-weather roads.

The other main industry, the pastoral industry, can be assisted immediately with increased vermin control and money for fencing, restocking, the provision of water supplies, and water conservation. Neither of those industries has sat on its tail. As I said before, many of the people have gone to the limit of their resources; and some have even gone beyond it. Both industries have placed before this Government, only recently in some cases, many concrete proposals; they have pointed out ways and means by which their area and their industries can be assisted.

Both the Premier and the Minister for the North-West went through my electorate during the election campaign, rather hastily perhaps; but regardless of the purpose of their visit at the time, they must have gained some impression, or many impressions, of the difficulties which are confronting the people who live in the area. Since the elections, the Minister for the North-West, the Minister for Works, the

Minister for Local Government, and the Minister for Mines, and one other whom I cannot call to mind at the moment—

Mr. Norton: Housing.

Mr. BICKERTON: Yes; but he is the Minister for Mines, too. Those Ministers have been to the area and they must have gained a good deal of knowledge from their visits; they must have seen ways and means by which the people there could be assisted.

There is one thing, however, about which I am not particularly keen. With six different Ministers, all facing a somewhat similar problem, we may get six different ideas through six different departments, with six different outlooks. I believe there could be a degree of wrangling between the departments, particularly as regards finance. If that happened, the North-West could suffer as a result.

We have what is known as a Department for the North-West. To my knowledge that department consists of a Minister for the North-West, a liaison officer, and maybe two or three typists; but as far as I know it has very little real power. It is my considered opinion, whether it is right or wrong, that the North-West should be under the control of the Department for the North-West. By that means we could obtain a policy which would be direct and consistent. At least until the North-West develops to the stage where, with increased accessibility, or ease of accessibility, the usual departments which control other parts of the State—

Mr. Court: You know that we have already announced our intention of reorganising completely the administration of the North-West.

Mr. BICKERTON: I have not heard anything official, although I do recall reading in the paper at one stage something to that effect. To my knowledge nothing has been said about it in the House, and nothing has been said to the local members about it.

Mr. Brand: It does not have to come to the House.

Mr. Tonkin: Quite a lot of things have been announced which won't occur, of course.

Mr. Court: The Premier has announced it and it will be carried out.

Mr. Brand: It won't be like a lot of things which were supposed to have been done over the last six years.

Mr. Tonkin: What about the price of electricity?

Mr. BICKERTON: I have no objection to the Premier acting on any of my suggestions.

Mr. Brand: Something will be done about the announcement that was made.

Mr. BICKERTON: I only hope that some of the things the Premier says he intends to do will fall into line with some of the

matters I have mentioned; in that case they will be of assistance to the North, and I sincerely hope that my proposals are sufficiently close to the Premier's ideas that they will be considered by the Government.

One of the first suggestions I would make is that all State Government money and Commonwealth grants for the North-West should be channelled through the Department of the North-West, which should be the department controlling the expenditure for that area. All sections of Government departments operating in the North-West should be under the control of the Department for the North-West, with the possible exception of the Mines Department. If that department is excluded I suggest, for the sake of co-operation, that a senior liaison officer be attached by the Mines Department to the Department of the North-West.

Mr. Brand: Would this department be situated in the North-West?

Mr. BICKERTON: Since I have been in this House I have learned the answers to a few questions and one of them is, "I am coming to that in a minute."

Mr. Brand: Good. I just thought you might miss that one out.

Mr. BICKERTON: There is one way in which my proposals might easily clash with anything the Government might have in its mind. All my proposals would be subject to the condition that a change of control would be achieved without any reduction in the present labour force in the North-West. The third point I have in mind is that the offices for the department, and the administrators of it, should be stationed in the North-West.

Mr. Brand: What part of the North-West?

Mr. BICKERTON: We will come to that later. The Department of the North-West should have attached to it a research branch with technical officers to enable it to carry out research into matters concerning the North-West. As examples, I instance fodder conservation, station management, mining research, and a special hydrological section, if possible, in order to provide water supplies, because I believe there is water in the area. Also, if possible, one or more officers from the C.S.I.R.O. should be attached to the department, as well as a senior officer responsible for liaison with the road boards. In my opinion it would be necessary for such officer to attend at least one meeting of every road board in the area once in each 12 months.

The fifth point is that the Minister for the North-West should hold only the one portfolio, because I consider that the supervision of an administration which controls half of the State should be sufficient

to keep him occupied. The Department of the North-West should have its own aircraft to be used by the Minister and his senior officers. I believe it is necessary to have an aircraft to enable them adequately to cover the area. Furthermore, the Minister should spend no less than three months each year in the North-West; if he can manage it he should spend more time but certainly no less.

In its first year of operation as a newly-formed department, I would like to see it draw up for submission to the appropriate authorities proposals concerning the following matters:—

- (1) Tax relief.
- (2) Cost of living adjustments, including rent.
- (3) Improved harbour facilities and all-weather roads.
- (4) Abolition of the fuel tax.
- (5) Registration reduction on all vehicles operating above the 26th parallel.

That is with the object of reducing transport costs.

- (6) Reduction or abolition of sales tax on goods purchased for use above the 26th parallel, particularly such goods as refrigerators and air-conditioning units.
- (7) At least a 50 per cent. reduction in the rates for telegraphic and telephonic communication and postage.

Those matters are extremely important to the people up there because the only method of communication many of them have is the telegram or letter. The cost of communications is of great concern to many of the business people, particularly carters and mining organisations. Now that a telephone service is being installed, I think some consideration should be given to those who live in these outback towns.

I would also suggest that air fares be subsidised so that the wives and families of residents in the area could visit the metropolitan area once per annum. At present we have a system which operates on the State ships, and I certainly would not like to see it discontinued. But if it is not possible for people to obtain accommodation on the boats, or they want to get to the metropolitan area quickly, the subsidy I mentioned in regard to air fares should be paid.

There is one other factor which I think should be given some consideration. The qualifying period for such things as long service leave, superannuation, and industrial benefits generally could be cut by 25 per cent. where the time is served north of the 26th parallel; in other words, 12 months' North-West service should be counted as 15 months' service elsewhere.

The same principle should apply when calculating seniority in Government departments, or when calculating the period of residence necessary for naturalisation purposes.

It is extremely difficult to get workers to go north to work for either the Government or private organisations. Therefore, some incentive should be given to them and to those who are already there. I realise that on all these matters I have generalised. I could have been specific on some of them, but I did not have the time to go into a long detailed account, giving all the figures that would be necessary in each case. All I am endeavouring to do is to make the North-West a better place to live in, and to ensure that when the money is allotted there is not a continuous wrangling between the various departments as to how it shall be spent. I do not know whether it goes on now, because I have had no experience of Government departments; but I am assuming that it might, and in such case a central control might be wise. If some people think that by a central control various departments would lose their authority, then it is possible that a period of time could be placed on the experiments to at least see if we could not carry on the progress that has been taking place recently. We could at least see that the many projects started by the previous Government for the North-West are continued.

Mr. Brand: Where do you suggest the headquarters for the northern areas should go?

Mr. BICKERTON: To be truthful I had not pinpointed a town, but I would suggest a central position that would cover the electorates of the North-West. I see no reason why it could not be Port Hedland. I do not lay that down as a hard-and-fast rule, but it seems to me one place that would serve the purpose.

Mr. Brand: That is a problem we must face when setting up a development authority. We must know where it should go.

Mr. BICKERTON: If that is the only problem the Premier has, and if the decision were left to me, I would make it for him and say, Port Hedland. I would like to make passing reference to a matter to which I have already referred to in this House; namely, that of water. I truly believe that is the answer to most of our problems in the North-West. It is not impossible to secure water provided that the organisation is put into it, and a certain amount of money set aside to obtain it. To my mind there has been no prospective boring done to any degree at all. In fact in my electorate I do not know where there has been one really deep bore put down. The Public Works Department had drilling machines there—I think they were the Southern Cross drop drills—but they were ineffective for the type of boring I had in mind. I would like to see the Government go into this matter more carefully.

I will not elaborate on that now, because I have put before the Minister for Mines certain proposals for a drilling plant for the mining industry. The matter of water has also been brought before the notice of the Minister concerned on a recent visit to the North-West. I emphasise the fact, however, that if money is made available to prospect for this water, from there on private organisations could carry on and develop their own resources.

I will leave it at that. I sincerely hope the Premier and the responsible Ministers will take some notice of what I have said. I realise this area is a liability to them; and I also realise that they have little chance, perhaps, of getting a return from their efforts, politically or otherwise. Nevertheless it could be quite a consolation to this Government, in its declining years perhaps, to look back and say, "At least we tried, even though we did not gain personally in any shape or form."

Mr. Court: Before you leave that phase of your talk, will you tell us how you got on when you submitted all these projects regarding pastoral and mining administration to the previous Government?

Mr. BICKERTON: I do not mind telling the Minister at all. I do not know the purpose of his query; whether it is the usual old thing of trying to say, "Why did not the other fellow do it?"

Mr. Tonkin: It is.

Mr. Court: We are just curious.

Mr. BICKERTON: I think the Minister for the North-West should bear in mind that I have been the member for this area for a little more than 12 months. It is reasonable therefore to assume that it would take me that time to formulate submissions. I was only there 12 months prior to the change of Government. The Minister will also know that probably amongst the first people to see him after he took office were myself and Mr. Willesee M.L.C., member of the Upper House for the North-West. We asked him if he would carry on where we left off with the previous Government with the proposals that we put forward on the North-West.

He agreed to take over where the previous Minister left off. I assure the Minister for the North-West that I received the greatest co-operation from the previous Government, and as I told him before, both the other Ministers were prepared to go into this matter, much the same as the Government has done. So I sincerely hope the present Government will at least do not less than the previous Labour Government.

Mr. Court: We will certainly do much more.

Mr. BICKERTON: I am very pleased to have the assurance of the Minister for the North-West.

Mr. Tonkin: Just one more boast.

Mr. BICKERTON: I am not a greedy type of person. I cannot be expected to hope for too much; but I do hope that this Government will do no less than the previous Government has done. I can assure the Government—and I think I can speak on behalf of the other members for the North-West—that it will certainly receive 100 per cent. co-operation from the North-West members in anything that it may do which is considered to be for the betterment of the North-West. We also sincerely hope that the present Government will accept whatever assistance we can give to make amends for the lack of attention given to this area by previous Liberal Governments.

Sir Ross McLarty: Nonsense!

Mr. Court: You seem to have forgotten six years during which the Labour Government was in office.

Mr. BICKERTON: I do sincerely hope that some consideration will be given to these matters I have put forward.

MR. GRAYDEN (South Perth) [9.53]: I had not intended to speak on the Address-in-reply, mainly because the number of matters affecting South Perth which I wanted to bring to the notice of the House could more effectively be dealt with on the Supply Bill, which is shortly to be introduced. However, tonight the member for the South-East Province gave an address and showed some films dealing with natives in his district, and I think some attention should be directed to certain aspects of his address, and also to other matters which have arisen since the last session of this Parliament and which affect natives generally.

A few days ago I asked the Minister for Native Welfare if he would lay on the Table of the House a file dealing with a recent police expedition to the Warburton native reserve. He very kindly agreed to lay that file on the Table of the House. Members might recall that it is not long ago now that an overseas mining company which had its head office in South Australia was granted a prospecting area in excess of 4,000,000 acres in the centre of this great Western Australian Warburton native reserve.

When it was granted that prospecting area it gave all sorts of assurances. All sorts of assurances were required of it that there would be no interference with the natives in that area. There was quite a lot of criticism at the time, because most people who had any experience at all with the natives knew that we could not take a great mining company and put it in the centre of a huge reserve, the inhabitants of which had had very little contact,

if any, with civilisation, without certain disruptions taking place in their way of life.

Now we find that after some years of prospecting, the mining company concerned has decided to leave the reserve and to virtually abandon the camp which it constructed there. It had a cottage for the manager who resided there. It had sheds for the employees; a mess hut, a garage and those sorts of buildings. Apparently when it left, it left no caretaker and, in consequence, some of the natives on the reserve broke into the camp. Immediately the mining company wrote to the Commissioner of Native Welfare in the following terms:—

C.N.W. from H. A. Laine Officer-in-charge South Western Mining Ltd. c/o Price, Waterhouse & Co., 12 King William St. Adelaide. 11/2/59.

We wish to advise your Department of recent acts of vandalism and theft by aborigines in your state at our field exploration camps, Wingellina and Blackstone Range, near the South Australian border. It was understood from your telephone conversation yesterday that your Department would investigate the matter and bring it to the attention of the Commissioner of Police.

As reported to us by our responsible representatives at Wingellina, aborigines have during January forced entry to all buildings at the Blackstone Range camp and have damaged, destroyed, or stolen goods therefrom belonging to the Company.

On January 20th an armed loitering aborigine known as Nugget was advised to leave the vicinity of the staff quarters at Wingellina, and his disappearance that evening coincided with the theft of two horses belonging to the staff. Four days later on January the 24th, buildings at Wingellina were forcibly entered and an unknown quantity of foodstuffs taken. An accurate estimate of the total value of goods stolen is not available at this time, but the property damage in itself would probably exceed £50.

This company therefore requests an investigation into the damage and theft of goods and property belonging to the Company and its employees.

In accordance with your suggestion the South Australian Aborigines Department has been notified of the incidents referred to above, and of our request for an investigation.

That letter was written by the officer in charge of the mining company to our Commissioner of Native Welfare. He referred the matter to the Police Depart-

ment. It subsequently went back to the Native Welfare Department, and there is a minute or letter on the file by Mr. McLarty the district officer who wrote as follows:—

The time for "showing the flag" patrols is past and the most effective deterrent to further lawlessness appears to be positive police action against the reported offenders. This is a police matter and I do not consider that a Native Welfare Officer should actively take part in a Police Investigation of this nature. His task would be to represent the natives when they are before the court.

Then it went back to the Police Department and subsequently a report was called from Sergeant Anderson of Kalgoorlie. He interviewed Dr. Berndt and his wife from the University who had recently returned from that area. His report on the file reads as follows:—

Dr. Berndt arrived at Blackstone late on the afternoon of the 14/2/59. He found the camp deserted. It appeared to have been deserted for several weeks. The house previously occupied by Mr. P. Lane, the manager of the mining company, was wide open. All furnishings had been left in the house. Ashtrays, coathangers, etc. were still there. Curtains were left at the windows. Nearby a store constructed of masonite with louvred windows had the door securely locked and bolted, but entrance had been gained by someone smashing the glass louvres from the windows. The store had apparently been left fully stocked, as there were still dozens of tins of a variety of foods remaining on the shelves and scattered over the floor. There were also packets of custard powder and jars of peanut butter stacked and scattered about. There was a box against the window to allow easy access. Nearby was the mess and kitchen. The door was open and the usual utensils were scattered around, some outside the building.

Another hut, made of hessian, had been left open on the side although the door was closed. The opening appeared to have been left for ventilation. Potatoes and onions were stacked and rotting on the shelves. Two cartons of toilet paper were on the floor.

There were 14 refrigerators left at the camp. Many of these had remains of rotting food left in them.

The bore which had supplied water to the camp had been sealed off. The water tanks at the camp had apparently been left securely covered and locked. The tanks had been pierced and were all dry.

Dr. Berndt left that particular camp and went on to Wingellina. His experiences at Wingellina Camp were described by Sgt. Anderson in a report to this effect—

Dr. Berndt left on the morning of the 15/2/59 and went to Wingellina Camp which is situated 47 miles East and is in Western Australia within about two or three miles of the border.

On arrival it was found that the men were absent. They had been at the camp earlier in the morning. Fowls were there in a coop. Tools, lamps, foodstuffs, etc. were lying around in the open. Wastage was apparent everywhere.

All buildings were open, including the store. The floor of the store was littered with spilt sugar and other materials and foodstuffs and was a teeming mass of large black ants. Outside the store were cases of tinned foods and even cartons of coconut. The tins were rusting. The whole scene was one of neglect and wastage.

Then, Sgt. Anderson added these words—

Although some of the natives were from around the missions, a large number of them were purely nomadic, wholly and solely dependent on bush food which they hunted themselves. These natives were attracted to the mining camp and given white man's food, for which they naturally acquired a taste.

Judging by the wanton waste which is apparent at the present time at Wingellina where there are still two men in attendance, it is apparent that the same wastage occurred at Blackstone towards the end of the occupation of that camp.

This waste would be noticed by the natives in the area and it is only logical to assume that as soon as the camp was left unattended that they helped themselves to the food that was left.

I consider that this mining company has done untold harm to the natives in this area by teaching them to be thieves. Years ago I have left my pack bags containing food for many days unattended and have been miles away from them. They have been observed by the natives who walked around them but they were never touched.

Later on more police action was taken. A police officer was sent from Laverton to the area concerned and his report confirmed that of Sgt. Anderson in regard to the wastage on the part of the mining company. This sort of thing was happening in the centre of the Warburton Reserve, a place where in bad times natives die of thirst and starvation. Yet this mining company, after disrupting the lives

of the natives for many years, walked out and abandoned the camp with the shelves literally stacked with food. Natives came to the camp expecting to find whites as many of them had worked there, and they were encouraged to visit the camp by the mining company. This camp was completely deserted. Members can easily realise that native families with young children after walking 20 miles or more to the camp would naturally help themselves. Sgt. Anderson said somewhere in the report that, in similar circumstances, he would do the same.

The mining company locked the water tanks and sealed off the bore; yet we heard much about this bore when it was put there as to how beneficial it would be for the natives.

Mr. Evans: Did they leave the refrigerators stocked with food?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Yes. As soon as the natives broke into the mining camp, the company sent a letter to the Commissioner of Police requesting police action. The astonishing thing about this is that we are prepared to send a police patrol, on the request of the company over 1,500 miles in all to try to apprehend the people concerned. It is an extraordinary thing that the police could be sent out there in the circumstances. Because of the wanton action of the mining company a large part of the native reserve is going to be denied to the natives in that area.

What concerns me most is not the fact that we sent the police patrol out, but that nothing is done when something happens on the reserve and a patrol should be sent out.

We know from a Public Health Department investigation of the area that 77 per cent. of the natives on the reserve are suffering from the eye disease known as trachoma which, in the secondary stage, leads to blindness. Would we send a medical party out to treat them now? Of course not! A report was submitted and it is on the files of the Medical Department—probably it has been there for three years. However, we have never sent anyone out to treat the trachoma which was disclosed in the report.

We know from that report that 25 per cent. of the natives are suffering from yaws, a disease which, in the secondary stage, causes the flesh to rot from the bones. We have never sent anyone out to treat yaws. Yet, in the early stages it can be treated with two injections of penicillin. In the case of trachoma, a 14-day course of tablets taken early is sufficient to treat the disease. Whilst we refrain from sending out people who can give some treatment to the natives concerned, we are prepared to send out a police expedition to apprehend people who take food which has been abandoned. Therefore, I criticise the attitude which allows us to do this.

These things are happening all the time in Western Australia. We have had instance after instance. Members will recall the survey party that went from Balfour Downs Station 200 miles to Lake Disappointment and found 20 or 30 natives. The flesh was rotting from the nose and knees of one woman, and her bones were exposed. We did not send a police expedition 200 miles to assist. Unfortunately there were two young children in the party. In 1957 on the Canning Stock Route we left a native so hopelessly crippled that he had to be carried by other natives.

The airline pilot who reported that incident pointed out that many of the natives in the party were in an emaciated condition, particularly the very young and the very old. These things are happening continuously, but we do not send anyone out to do anything about it. Yet we are prepared to send out a police expedition of the kind I have referred to tonight.

Another matter I wish to mention concerning natives deals with the address given to us tonight during the tea adjournment by a member in another place.

Apparently, during the recess, the member for the South-East Province with missionaries or one missionary from the Cundeelee Mission went along the Transline and at a spot not far from Naretha they went north-east for a distance of 250 miles and came to an area where it was previously believed there were no natives.

Members may recall that when it was proposed to test the atom bomb north of Woomera, an officer from the rocket range was sent to Cundeelee and he traversed much the same route as this expedition. The officer reported that he contacted two aged blind women who had been deserted—they have undoubtedly since died because the water holes would have dried up—and that there were no other natives in the area.

Later on, the previous Minister for Native Welfare and the then member for North Perth and myself went on a deputation to the Minister for Supply at Canberra in respect of the natives of the Warburton Reserve. I think the former Minister for Native Welfare would confirm that the Minister for Supply gave us an unequivocal assurance that there were no natives in the area visited by the member for the South-East Province. He said that the area had been thoroughly searched by helicopter. We pointed out how useless it was to try to locate natives from the air. However, the assurance was given that the area had been thoroughly searched by helicopter.

It was therefore of some interest to learn from the member for the South-East Province that there are a large number of natives in the area. About three expeditions were made during the recess;

and they are still being made by the missionaries at Cundeelee. Each time they go out they bring in a number of natives from that area.

One of the significant things about the address given to us by the member for the South-East Province was that the adult natives were not in an emaciated condition, as the season had apparently been a good one. The adults were in good condition, but this did not apply to the children. After the members of this expedition left the Trans.-line, they apparently provided water every 12 or 15 miles, together with a small amount of flour so that the natives they contacted could follow the route back to the Trans.-line. From there, they would be taken on the train to Cundeelee Mission. In other words, the natives had a walk of 250 miles from where they were contacted to the Trans.-line.

The member for the South-East Province, when telling us about this tonight, mentioned there was a great deal of wailing among the children when they got to the Trans.-line because they came from sandy country north of the Nullabor. In crossing the stony Nullabor their feet were cut to ribbons. This happened in the last few weeks; and it is happening now. These expeditions are going out and natives and little children of two, three, or four years of age are required to walk 250 miles, the last 100 miles or more being across the Nullabor.

And when they reach the line their feet are literally cut to ribbons. The hon. member representing the South-East Province disclosed that the condition of the children was such that, when the first party reached Cundeelee, two of the children died; and after the second trip other children died. It is an extraordinary thing that, in this year 1959, when an expedition goes out to a point only 250 miles north of the Trans.-line and contacts natives, among whom there are very small children, the natives are expected to walk back to the railway line. Surely that need not continue!

Apparently these expeditions are still going out and the natives are still being required to walk back that 250 miles. Surely, now that we know that at this moment children, so emaciated that they cannot survive the walk, are undertaking the trip, we could send a vehicle out to bring them in! It is not far east of that point that we have the Woomera Rocket Range, where there are thousands of vehicles any one of which, on a request being made to the Commonwealth Government, would surely be made available to bring these people back to the Trans.-line!

It is fantastic that we should still ask children to undertake that trip, with their feet cut to ribbons, when we know that some of them will die on the track, or afterwards. Yet this typical of our attitude towards the aborigines in Western

Australia. I understand that some action has been taken and that there is a move afoot to build a landing strip in that area. I hope that will be done; because then the Flying Doctor will be able to visit the area once or twice a year and treat natives who require treatment, or take them back to Kalgoorlie, should that be necessary.

The hon. member representing the South-East Province also pointed out that there is no permanent water supply in the area, so that would be a logical spot for the Government to put down a bore. This is a matter requiring urgent attention; because it is incredible that this sort of thing should be happening at the present day in Western Australia, particularly when so many instances of this kind have been brought to light in this House in the last few years.

The question of our treatment of the aborigines in this State requires a fundamental change of attitude on our part. It is a problem which can be likened to a huge edifice, the walls of which will crumble as soon as we bring to bear a Christian approach to all the issues that arise from day to day. A few days ago the Commonwealth Government apparently made sweeping changes in respect of the social service benefits available to natives. That action will have a tremendous effect and will probably halve the native problem in this State; but it seems to me that we, in this House, should go out of our way to make the Christian feelings which prompted the Commonwealth Government to grant those benefits but the dim red dawn of the better understanding which is so obviously required of us, as a Christian people in our relationship with the aborigines in Western Australia.

On motion by Mr. Nimmo, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 10.20 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 23rd July, 1959

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The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.