

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes; that brings out my feelings on the matter. No one wants to see someone with a large family put out of a house, but these people are left no alternative in some cases. In some instances large amounts of rent are owing—even up to £120 and £130. Some of the people who owe these amounts have articles on time payment. For instance, they are buying cars or fridges, or such like.

The Hon. H. C. Simpson: The particular instance you mentioned, is he unemployed?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, he is, but he has been a bad tenant all the time. The situation really concerns me. I do not want to see the Commission being hard on these people, but there is the necessity to take some action because the officers of the Commission are giving attention to the problem. They want to see the Commission keep its head above water, and it can only do that if it gets the rents that accrue to it each week. It amounts to the fact that when, for instance, rebates are given to pensioners, the other people have to continue to pay rents in order that those rebates may be granted.

I think that, to the best of my ability, I have covered most of the points raised by members. If there is any matter which I have omitted, and the honourable member concerned would communicate with me personally or by letter, I shall certainly have pleasure in looking into the problem for him.

**Question put and passed; the Address adopted.**

#### *Presentation of Address*

On motion by the Minister for Mines, resolved:

That the Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor by the President and such members as may desire to accompany him.

### **BILLS (2)—FIRST READING**

1, Cattle Trespass, Fencing, and Impounding Act Amendment.

Introduced by the Hon. A. L. Loton.

2, Child Welfare Act Amendment.

Introduced by the Hon. L. A. Logan, (Minister for Local Government).

### **ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL**

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (Suburban—Minister for Mines). I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till 2.30 p.m. tomorrow.

**Question put and passed.**

*House adjourned at 11.3 p.m.*

## **Legislative Assembly**

Wednesday, the 5th August, 1959

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

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE.

1. *This question was postponed.*

## SALE OF TV SETS

*Inquiry re W. J. Lucas*

2. Mr. HAWKE asked the Minister for Labour:

(1) Will he advise why the Director of Investigation, under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, has not yet initiated an inquiry into the suspension from membership of W. J. Lucas from the appropriate association for the trade of television sets to the public?

(2) Will he also advise when the Director is likely to commence the necessary investigation?

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) A preliminary investigation has been commenced.  
(2) Answered by (No. 1).

## GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS

*Inheritance from Previous Administration.*

3. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

In connection with the commitments, stated to be approximately £28,000,000, which the present Government inherited from the previous Government, will he state

the main details of the amounts chargeable, during the current financial year, to—

- (a) The Consolidated Revenue Fund;  
(b) the General Loan Fund;  
(c) the Trust Funds?

Mr. BRAND replied:

The survey of the State's commitments embraced transactions on the Consolidated Revenue Fund, the General Loan Fund, and Trust Funds. The list of commitments supporting the £28,000,000 was laid on the Table of the House on the 8th July, 1959, and referred to works commitments against the General Loan Fund only. Of this total, £11,940,468 is in respect of the current financial year, the main details of which are as follows:—

	£
Railways ....	1,424,970
Public Works ....	5,173,425
North-West ....	810,934
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage ....	1,810,000
Mines ....	39,218
Agriculture ....	179,400
Fisheries ....	6,360
Industrial Development ....	194,057
Other State Undertakings ....	1,481,800
Sundries ....	820,304
	<hr/> £11,940,468

4. *This question was postponed.*

## MIDLAND JUNCTION HIGH SCHOOL

*Change of Name*

5. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Government has decided to change the name of the Midland Junction High School to Governor Stirling Senior High School?  
(2) Is it also correct that the Parents and Citizens' Association has been asked to keep the proposed change of name a secret?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) Yes.  
(2) No; but it was suggested that a public announcement be made at the time of the official opening of the school.

**HAZELMERE***Land for School and Date of Erection*

6. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Education Department any land for school purposes at Hazelmere?
- (2) Has any consideration been given to building—
  - (a) an infants' school;
  - (b) a primary school in the Hazelmere area?
- (3) When is it considered a school will be erected in this area?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes; but it is considered that Hazelmere is adequately catered for at the present time.
- (3) This will depend on the growth of population in the Hazelmere area.

**"C" CLASS HOSPITALS***Number and Departmental Policy*

7. Dr. HENN asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many "C" class hospitals are in the metropolitan area?
- (2) Will the department do everything possible to assist more of these hospitals to be made available while the present shortage of hospital beds exists in the metropolitan area?
- (3) Has the department any control in preventing chronic cases from being transferred from "C" class hospitals to hospitals where the inmates are unable to collect their hospital benefits?
- (4) If not, could not some Act or regulation be brought down to prevent such transfers as referred to in No. (3) which are a hardship on pensioners and others enjoying hospital benefits?

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

- (1) Thirty-seven.
- (2) Sympathetic consideration and advice are given to all applications for a license of premises as "C" class hospitals, but certain essential hospital standards must be maintained.
- (3) and (4) This is a matter for co-operation between the private doctor, the patient, and the hospital concerned.

**MANGANESE***Tonnage of Deposits*

8. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines: What is the approximate tonnage and average grade of the present known manganese deposits in—

- (a) the Pilbara area;
- (b) other areas?

Mr. BRAND replied:

Herewith approximate tonnages and grades of known manganese deposits as requested.

*Pilbara Area*

Grade—30-39.9%, 40-44.9%, 45-49.9%, plus 50%.

Tonnage—2,775,100, 2,602,050,  
761,050, 183,650

*Other parts of the State*

Grade—30-39.9%, 40-44.9%, 45-49.9%, plus 50%.

Tonnage—460,800, 216,000, 76,000,  
Nil.

9. This question was postponed.

**KALGOORLIE EXPRESS***Accommodation on the 7th and 8th August*

10. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is it anticipated that bookings on the express ex Kalgoorlie on Friday, the 7th August, and ex Perth on the 8th August, because of the interstate football fixture to be played in Perth on Saturday, the 8th August, will be heavier than usual?
- (2) If so, will he ensure that, if necessary, extra accommodation is made available on these trains?

Mr. PERKINS (for Mr. Court) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes; extra accommodation has already been arranged.

**LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTIONS***Alternative Method of Counting Votes*

11. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) With a view to the redrafting of the Local Government Bill, has he given any consideration to recommending an alternative method of the counting of votes at local authority elections to fill vacancies when there are more candidates than vacancies, to replace the provision embodied in the Municipal Corporations Act, under which it is quite possible for one group or

"block" acquiring a small majority of the votes cast to obtain all the representation, and another group in the minority to receive no representation at all?

- (2) If not, will he give the matter his consideration?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Although the matter has been given consideration, no decision has been reached. However, the matter will be discussed with the committee engaged in redrafting the Local Government Bill.

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

## GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES

### *Proposed Dissipation*

12. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Is it the policy of the present Government to give favourable consideration to practices which have obtained for a considerable period, *vide* his answer to item No. 9 (*Votes and Proceedings* No. 12)?
- (2) If the answer is in the affirmative, will he explain why the Government does not apply this policy in the matter of the proposed dissipation of the P.W.D. organisation and State trading instrumentalities?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) It depends what the practice is.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).

## CIVILIAN LAND SETTLEMENT

### *Hay River-Denmark Area*

13. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Will there be 70 farms in the Hay River-Denmark land settlement scheme?
- (2) If so, what will be the average acreage of farms in that area?
- (3) Have applications been called for farms in the Hay River-Denmark civilian land settlement scheme?
- (4) Has consideration been given to having a farmer, or farmers, from that area appointed to the Allocation Board?
- (5) If the answer to No. (4) is "no," will he give consideration to the suggestion?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) No land settlement scheme in the Hay River-Denmark area is envisaged at present. However, consideration will be given to approximately 80 blocks in this area being

made available for selection when the survey has been completed. It is planned to release these blocks from time to time in sufficient numbers to satisfy the current demand.

- (2) Six hundred acres.
- (3) No.
- (4) No.
- (5) Yes.

## FOREST RESERVE

### *Land Between Hay River and Mt. Barker Road*

14. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Forests:

- (1) What acreages of land are held by the Forests Department between Hay River and Mt. Barker Road?
- (2) For what purpose is the land held?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Nil. (Assuming the question refers to the area between the Albany-Mt. Barker Road and Hay River).
- (2) Answered by No. (1).

## PRISONERS' REHABILITATION

### *Payment of Allowance on Release*

15. Mr. EVANS asked the Chief Secretary: What weekly rate of allowance is made to persons serving terms of imprisonment to ensure that on release such persons have some money in their possession so as to rehabilitate themselves?

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

1st-class worker .... 11s. per week.  
2nd-class worker .... 10s. per week.  
3rd-class worker .... 3s. per week.  
These rates are provided for in the prison regulations.

## RESERVOIRS

### *Conditions on Trout Fishing*

16. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Have any new conditions recently been imposed on trout fishing in water reservoirs?
- (2) If so, what are these conditions?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) No. Metropolitan Water Supply By-law No. 34 prohibits fishing on catchment areas.
- (2) Trout fishermen on the Serpentine catchment have been informed of the provisions of the by-laws in relation to fishing in the waters of the pipe head dam.

**NURSING PROFESSION***Arbitration Court Review*

17. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will there be any difficulty in the recruitment of trainee nurses, when nine to five hospital typists are in receipt of only fourpence less than fully-trained staff nurses on shift work?
- (2) Is there disparity of responsibility between the duties of hospital typists and staff nurses, when the staff nurse is responsible for a ward of 30 or more patients, the supervision of juniors, and the administration and care of dangerous drugs?
- (3) Will he instruct the Secretary for Labour not to oppose in the Arbitration Court substantial salary increases, and so correct the anomalies outlined above?

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

- (1), (2), & (3) Recruitment of trainee staff has been maintained at a satisfactory level, and the comparison to which the honourable member refers does not reflect the general situation. The assessment of salary rates for the whole of the nursing profession is now under review by the Arbitration Court, and the evidence by the Royal Australian Nursing Federation and the Secretary for Labour has been completed. The Secretary for Labour has not opposed appropriate increases but, on the contrary, has been complimented by the Court on his approach to the nurses' claims.

**BROOME SCHOOL***New Classrooms*

18. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has he seen in the *Northern Times* of the 23rd July, 1959, the article under the heading, "Broome P. and C. concerned over classroom"?
- (2) If so, what action has he taken in this matter?
- (3) If not, will he have inquiries made and advise me of the action taken?

Mr. WATTS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).
- (3) It is intended that two additional rooms will be erected at the Broome School during the current financial year. It is expected that tenders will be called towards the end of October.

**RAILWAY ROAD BUSES***Arrival Times at Country Centres*

19. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What are the respective scheduled times of arrival of the railway road transport at the following points on a Friday:—  
Mollerin;  
Beacon;  
Wialki?
- (2) What were the actual times of arrival at each place on the following dates:—  
the 31st July;  
the 24th July;  
the 17th July;  
the 10th July?

Mr. PERKINS (for Mr. Court) replied:

- (1) Scheduled times of arrival—  
Mollerin, 9.30 a.m.;  
Beacon, 10.35 a.m.;  
Wialki, 12.05 p.m.
- (2) The 31st July—  
Mollerin, 2.21 p.m.;  
Beacon, 6.15 p.m.;  
Wialki, 9.50 p.m.  
Motor truck departed Koorda 4½ hours late, due to late arrival of the train.  
The 24th, the 17th, and the 10th July—

Intermediate times not recorded, but due to late arrival of the train the motor truck departed Koorda 3 hours 5 minutes, 4½ hours, and 5½ hours late respectively.

Owing to the amount of work required to be performed by the train on Fridays from Northam to Wyalkatchem and Mukinbudin, late running has resulted. The matter was already under investigation and as a result an extra train is being run on Thursday, the 6th August, to relieve the normal service of some of the work. An inspector has also been detailed to watch the train and motor truck working on the 6th and the 7th August, following which the service will be reviewed.

**CROSSWALK***Establishment in Hay Street near Outram Street*

20. Mr. HEAL asked the Minister for Transport:

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

Mr. PERKINS replied:

- (1) On the basis of pedestrian and vehicular counts made nearby on the intersection at Colin Street and Hay Street, it is doubtful whether the warrant for a cross-walk would be met at Outram Street.

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

## BETTING ROYAL COMMISSION

### *Remuneration of Lawyers*

21. Mr. HEAL asked the Premier:

- (1) Is it a fact that all the lawyers appearing at the betting inquiry are being paid at the rate of £10 per hour whilst the Commission is sitting and also at the rate of £10 per hour for work performed outside of sitting hours.
- (2) If not, would he undertake to inform the House of the rates being paid to the lawyers concerned?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) and (2) I have no knowledge of the amounts paid to lawyers appearing before the Royal Commission. This is a matter for the parties concerned. (See Part VI of the Legal Practitioners Act).

## AMALGAMATED COLLIERIES

### *Road to Serve New Mine*

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

- (1) Has Amalgamated Collieries of W.A. Ltd. made application for a road to be built to its proposed new mine, adjacent to the Leases Nos. 206, 227 and 228 held by Western Collieries of W.A. Ltd?
- (2) If so, is it the intention of the Government to build the road?
- (3) If the answer is in the affirmative, when?
- (4) If in the negative, why?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Amalgamated Collieries of W.A. Ltd. has made application for both road and rail facilities.
- (2), (3), and (4) This matter is at present under consideration.

## GLEN EAGLE LAND

### *Bulldozing and Clearing*

23. Mr. OWEN asked the Minister for Forests:

- (1) For what purposes have the many small areas of forest land adjacent to the Albany Highway near Glen Eagle been bulldozed and partially cleared?

- (2) What has been the average cost per acre to have this clearing done?
- (3) What additional costs per acre would be incurred if these lands are to be established as pine plantations?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) For experimental planting of pines and other species on small areas of poor quality jarrah forest badly affected by die-back.
- (2) £15 per acre.
- (3) £6 per acre.

## CLOUD-SEEDING TECHNIQUE

### *Approach to C.S.I.R.O.*

24. Mr. OWEN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

In view of the many apparently favourable indications and forecasts for rain that have failed to develop this season and the consequent low level of the storage reservoirs in the hills, which will necessitate water restrictions next summer, will he ask the Premier to approach the C.S.I.R.O. requesting that organisation to carry out trials with its cloud-seeding technique in an endeavour to precipitate heavy rains over the water catchment areas before the normal rainy season ends?

Mr. WILD replied:

Inquiries are being made by the Water Supply Department concerning this matter.

## DENTAL TECHNICIANS

### *Examination of Proposed Legislation*

25. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Health:

With reference to a headline in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* of Wednesday, the 1st July, "Health Minister gets teeth into Bill," has he yet examined the measure put forward to him for consideration, in the interests of dental technicians?

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

This matter is still under consideration.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by Mr. I. W. Manning, leave of absence for two weeks granted to Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Cottesloe) on the ground of ill-health.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY***Tenth Day—Conclusion*

Debate resumed from the 30th July.

**MR. LEWIS (Moore)** [4.45]: May I commence my modest contribution to this Address-in-reply, Sir, by adding my congratulations to those of earlier speakers on your accession to the exalted office of Speaker of this House. I have no doubt that you will continue to maintain the high standard set by your predecessor.

By turning over the record that has been played so frequently in recent debates, I want to say how very proud I am to be associated with this side of the House, and in support of the present Government. Wherever I go around the country and in the city, I hear on all sides that this Government has adopted a refreshing down-to-earth policy.

Hon. members: Hear, hear!

The **SPEAKER**: Order!

**Mr. LEWIS**: From the "Hear, hears" from the Opposition side, I know they agree.

**Mr. Hawke**: They were boos!

**Mr. LEWIS**: On all sides we hear that there is a new look about this Government. Up to a few months ago people used to say that it did not matter what Government was in power because the same policy, more or less, was adopted. Therefore it did not matter whether the Labour or Liberal-Country Party was in power because everything went along much the same as it did before. It has come as a refreshing surprise to many people—and it is said that this has proved the old theory to be wrong—to find that we now have a Government which seems to be dealing with matters in a practical way.

**Mr. Graham**: Sacking workers deliberately!

**Mr. Hawke**: Wait till the Government puts up the railway freights!

**Mr. LEWIS**: I have listened to every speaker on this Address-in-reply, and many remarks made by members of the Opposition have reminded me of the days when I used to go to see the circus. In the afternoon preceding the opening we would see the labourers around the circus with their bare chests and brawny arms, driving in the tent pegs, with heavy mallets, to hold down the big top. I could not help but think that the same performance was carried out by members of the Opposition, commencing with the Leader of the Opposition who set the tempo. Instead of driving the pegs that hold the tent down, however, they tried to drive in a wedge to separate the members of this Government. But the wedge seems to have become sadly blunted over the years and the result of it all has been exactly nil.

We have had the spectacle of the Leader of the Opposition devoting quite some considerable space in *Hansard* to flirting with your affections, Mr. Speaker—if I might put it that way.

**Mr. Hawke**: That is more than the Country Party did a few weeks ago.

**Mr. LEWIS**: I cannot help but feel that in the old days the Leader of the Opposition must have been a Romeo of no mean order.

**Mr. Graham**: He still is.

**Mr. LEWIS**: The Leader of the Opposition concluded on that note by saying that your half-nod showed that you approved of his remarks. I think it was a half-nod, not of approval, but of amusement. The Leader of the Opposition turned his attention then to the member for Avon Valley, who was much wider awake on that occasion than he is now; and he did not neglect the Independents.

We, on this side of the House, are quite happy with this partnership and feel that it is going along very well indeed. The fact that there is a partnership shows that there is a difference of opinion, in some measure, on the objectives to be attained or the methods by which they should be attained. If there were not that difference of opinion, there would be no excuse for the continued existence of the Liberal Party, because its members would all be at one with the Country Party.

However, we respect the fact that there is a partnership, and know that it will continue so long as either of the parties to it considers it in the best interests of this State. I believe that, like many other partnerships of a similar nature that have existed in this State and in the Federal sphere, this one is in for a long and fruitful existence.

**Mr. Graham**: This was what could be called a shotgun marriage.

**Mr. LEWIS**: In reviewing the Speech with which His Excellency opened this Parliament, we appreciate the fact that with so many subjects touched on there could only be limited space allotted to each one; but I feel that there are a couple of matters that should be mentioned. In regard to the wool clip which, as we know, is Australia's biggest item of export—amounting to some £290,000,000 per annum—I would point out that it received exactly two lines of space in His Excellency's Speech.

For the information of honourable members who might get the impression that the wool industry is fairly buoyant at present and able to battle along reasonably well, I might mention that I made some inquiries as to the price per lb. received for wool in Western Australia over the last three years.

Those figures show that for the year ended June, 1957, the average price per lb. received for wool in this State was 73.92d. For the year ended June, 1958, the price was 60.39d.; for the year ended June, 1959,

the average price was 45.7d. per lb., and that was quite a considerable reduction—a 25 per cent. reduction on the price received in the previous year. There was some slight increase in the last sale in June of this year, when the price was 49.11d. per lb.

We know that the wool industry is meeting with increasing competition from synthetics, the manufacturers of which are spending millions of pounds per year on research, compared with which the wool-grower spends a meagre sum of about one farthing per lb., which is totally inadequate, despite the fact that it is supplemented by Federal Government funds. I consider there is a field there in which the wool-grower could spend much more money, in defence of his own industry; and there is no doubt that it has to be defended against the severe competition of synthetics.

We know that the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation has done and is doing considerable research into the problem of producing better woollen fabrics; and of recent months the Australian Wool Bureau has also shown a livelier interest in wool promotion. Here I wish to pay tribute to the work done this year by the Country Women's Association in Western Australia. This is the only State in the Commonwealth where, up to date, that organisation has embarked on a wool promotion campaign and has organised competitions, at least in the agricultural areas throughout the State, to encourage the use of wool. I hope that example will be followed by similar bodies in the other States, and that a similar programme will be followed in this State next year.

We must redouble our efforts in regard to wool promotion. I feel that there is a great field for research, not only into the production of wool, but also into the manufacture of woollen goods; because we have to make the price cheaper, from the time the manufacturer receives the wool until the fabric appears on the customer's back. There is too great a difference between the price received by the wool-grower and what the customer has to pay for the manufactured article.

Mr. Evans: Blame the Liberals; the middlemen.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not altogether blame the middleman. I think there is a considerable need for technical advice in this regard; and, just as the woolgrower has received and will continue to receive such advice, so I believe it is necessary that the manufacturer should have it. I do not think he is making such a great deal of money out of the wool that he handles; but we must see that the money he does receive is used to better advantage, so that the consumer may be enabled to buy woollen goods at a lower price than obtains today.

His Excellency also made reference to last year's crop, and said that the excellent growing conditions during 1958 resulted in record yields of wheat, oats, and barley. That is all the Speech says about cereals. I have here some figures which I will supply to the House. They show that for the year 1955-56 this State delivered to the sidings 49,500,000 bushels of wheat. In 1956-57, that fell to 28,250,000 bushels; and in 1957-58, the figure went to 29,250,000. In 1958-59, a record harvest of 53,250,000 bushels of wheat was delivered.

It is interesting to look at the figures for oats, where the delivery was 6,000,000 bushels in 1955-1956; 2,000,000 bushels in 1956-57; 2,500,000 bushels in 1957-58; and 10,500,000 bushels in 1958-59. The figures for barley in those years, respectively, were 2,500,000 bushels, 1,500,000 bushels, and 1,250,000 bushels; and, last season, 3,250,000 bushels. From these three grains this State, last harvest, received altogether a record quantity of 67,000,000 bushels. While it is unfortunately true that much of our wheat is still in store, because sales have been very difficult to achieve, all of our oats and barley—despite the fact that 13,750,000 bushels were received—have been satisfactory disposed of.

That speaks volumes for the quality of the grain—in the case of oats it is second to none in Australia, being eagerly sought after by our European customers—and reflects credit on the selling authorities. In this State the Trustees of the Wheat Pool have the selling of the oats, and are also the managers for the barley.

The performance of that body in disposing of our crop has been the envy of similar organisations in the Eastern States. In those States, on the last information I received, almost half of the barley crop remains unsold; whereas the growers in Western Australia will receive satisfactory prices. Prices are now on the down-grade, but fortunately the whole of our crop has already been sold. Unfortunately it has not all been delivered, owing to shipping difficulties and other reasons, and will not be delivered until later this year.

A forecast of a 15 per cent. increase in the acreage of this season's forthcoming crop was also made in the Governor's Speech. However, I doubt whether that increase will be made owing to the ravages of web-worm, red-legged earth mite, and lucerne flea. They do not affect the wheat crops so much.

Mr. Rowberry: What about the basic wage?

Mr. LEWIS: That will not affect the crops that have been put in, either; but the dry season may affect a number of men who can earn the basic wage, if the harvest is far below the average.

Mr. Brady: What about bank finance?



Mr. LEWIS: I do not think bank finance will be forthcoming unless one deserves it. Because we had an expected carry-over at the end of November of 24,000,000 bushels of wheat, the storage position in this State could become rather sticky if the anticipated acreage is sown; and even allowing for the expected yield to be reduced to 15 bushels an acre—remembering that it was 18.4 bushels per acre last season—we could have a total yield of 50,000,000 bushels. If we add to that some 10,000,000 bushels of oats and barley, the storage facilities will be rather strained. There again the total production of oats and barley will depend on the feed position. It does not follow that the acreage sown this season will produce the same crop as was grown last season.

With the anticipated receipt of 50,000,000 bushels of wheat, making a total of 60,000,000 bushels, and with a carry-over of 24,000,000 bushels, we will have 84,000,000 bushels to be stored somewhere during this coming harvest. Our bulk-storage facilities at the moment are capable of storing only 60,000,000 bushels after allowing, perhaps for some elbow room to handle each of those separate grains. Therefore, Co-operative Bulk Handling Pty. Ltd. will have to deal with the problem of finding additional storage facilities either with or without some other assistance.

Before I leave the production of cereals, there is one other problem that calls for increasing financial assistance: that is, soil research. As members know, for several years the growers of grain have contributed  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. a bushel towards the cost of soil research. They have shown their willingness and eagerness to do something that will ultimately benefit themselves.

This question of soil research and, more recently, research into soil microbiology, means that more finance—more speedy finance—than has obtained in the past will be required if this State is to save itself considerable economic loss. In many of our new areas settlers have large tracts of light soil, and there are many problems of clover mortality. The settlers are even finding difficulty in getting clover to germinate in some instances, and this calls for research into the bacteria that are in the soil.

As the member for Murray mentioned the other evening, there are some beneficial worms, and there are some that are not so beneficial; and evidently the same applies to the bacteria that are in the soil. Research must be conducted so as to ascertain which bacteria are beneficial and which are not. Investigations should also be made into the sprays that are being used at present and those that will be used in the future to increase the fertility of our soils to overcome this mortality problem.

In that regard, Professor Underwood, at the Institute of Agriculture of Western Australian University, is doing a wonderful

job. In fact, for some years he has performed excellent work in evolving, for example, improved strains of legumes and other grasses; and he is continuing his research at the University into soil problems. However, more rooms and more buildings are needed so that this work may be continued; and despite the research that has already been done from the money obtained from the  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. a bushel collected from the growers, more finance is needed, and I would urge the Government to contribute generously towards the cost of this work at the University.

I am quite satisfied that any money spent in that direction will be returned many-fold as the result of extra primary production from this State. In addition to the  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. a bushel that is levied upon the growers, the Wheat Pool has contributed a sum of £5,000 for that research to be continued. I have mentioned that for the purpose of demonstrating how eager the growers themselves are to make their contributions towards the cost of this worthy cause.

There are one or two other matters concerning my electorate on which I would like to speak. The housing problem is still acute in many of our country towns. Local business people are finding great difficulty in attracting sufficient labour from the city and other places to those towns because naturally the first question the prospective employee asks is: What about accommodation? And when the only accommodation offering is the local hotel—where there is a local hotel—the potential employee is not at all interested.

Schoolteachers, also, are faced with this problem of accommodation. Whilst it has been the practice over the years to supply a house for the headmaster, in most cases his assistants are not provided with accommodation. The ordinary teacher has always had great difficulty in finding suitable accommodation in a country town. The hotel is too expensive, and private board is not easy to get, particularly when houses are in short supply. Therefore, I again urge the Government to give attention to this question of providing houses, wherever possible, for schoolteachers in country centres.

Further, where there is an electricity supply in the town, early consideration should be given to having the lines connected to the teacher's quarters. In some towns the schoolteacher is the only resident who does not enjoy the benefit of electricity. Often he has to do his great volume of homework with the aid of a kerosene lamp; and in this year of 1959, such lighting is entirely inadequate and unsuitable.

With the member for Victoria Park and the member for Claremont, I have been nominated as a member of the Road Safety Council. I would therefore point out that if any honourable member has any worthwhile suggestion to put forward with a view

to reducing the heavy loss of life that occurs on our roads—I understand about 180 persons every year are killed on our roads, and about another 4,000 are injured—I would be only too pleased—as I know the other two members would be, too—to pass that suggestion on to the Road Safety Council.

Mr. Brady: A few overways and a few subways in the eastern suburbs would be very handy.

Mr. LEWIS: The other evening I heard the honourable member's remarks concerning the provision of crosswalks, and I can assure him that these matters have already been discussed by the Road Safety Council. It has not discussed that particular question, but crosswalks generally. I think all members have been supplied with this booklet I have in front of me; and I commend it to them for their consideration and perusal, because there is a great deal of information contained in it. In the list of causes of accidents mentioned in this booklet, the poor man's motorcar—that is, the push-cycle—rates high.

The statistics in that booklet show that one in every 16 road fatalities is a push-cyclist. Any honourable member who has occasion to cross the Causeway during the peak hour cannot but be impressed with the abandon with which push-cyclists wend their way in and out of motorcars in their endeavour to get ahead whilst going over the Causeway. Many of them run the risk of losing their lives, because it is a very hazardous performance on their part.

I have also noticed a great lack of tail lights or reflectors on most of the cycles I have seen going over the Causeway. As one who has to travel to Midland Junction frequently, on my way home, I have always had to watch out for those cycles which do not have adequate tail lights. If the riders could only see the tail end of their cycles in the same way as the motorists see them, I am sure they would exercise more care and fit more suitable and more adequate tail lights to their machines.

Earlier, this debate on the Address-in-reply was punctuated by talk on the subject of contract work versus day labour, and I have noticed a great tendency to discredit private enterprise. So much emphasis is placed on the worker. I have been intrigued by the term "worker", and I have sought some legal definition of it. However, the only definition that I can find is: "One who is employed for hire or reward." In other words, an employee. At the risk of raising the wrath of members opposite, I would say that the terms are not necessarily synonymous. We know that there are workers among employees, and we know that there are good workers and bad workers, just as there are good employers and bad employers. This tendency to discredit private enterprise reminds me that this State has been developed on private enterprise right from the

first time the early settlers stepped ashore in this State and were thrown on their own resources.

Mr. Evans: Not because of it, but in spite of it.

Mr. LEWIS: No. I would say that they went out as prospectors and farmers, and have set up factories and conducted the little shops on the corners. Very often they are one-man shows. They have demonstrated their initiative, have exhibited great courage, have worked hard, have saved, and have become efficient. They have then put their savings back into their farms and their businesses, and have progressed.

Mr. Rowberry: They do not object to their way of life.

Mr. LEWIS: As the member for Warren has just interjected, they have no objection to their way of life. I have often felt that way about it before. The man who serves in the little corner shop, and the dairy farmer who works seven days a week, probably work harder than any other worker. However, because of their hard work and the savings they make, they develop and grow; and the one gets another shop, and the other improves and extends his property. The man who gets another shop may even turn his business into a company. Then, of course, he is regarded as a capitalist. I do not know why that is.

It would seem that from the very minute a man develops and starts to employ labour, he is one that should be discredited and should not belong in the community. To me it seems all wrong that there should be a discrimination between labour and capital; employer and employee; and producer and consumer, because each is complementary to the other.

While we may have the worker who does not give of his best; and while we may also have the businessman who exploits the public, I think they are rather the exceptions. Unless we continue with that system of private enterprise; and unless we encourage people to go out and develop the country, give them some incentive to greater efficiency, and encourage them to put their savings back into the development of their businesses, and so increase employment, the country will go backward, and will become the kind of police State that we know exists in some other countries of the world. Men must be given the incentive to work and to save if we are to achieve our ends.

Mr. Bickerton: Do you agree that Government work is necessary to assist private enterprise?

Mr. LEWIS: I believe that Government financial assistance is often a good thing. For example, I consider that the financial assistance given by the Government to Chamberlain Industries was a very good thing indeed, because at the time there was

a dire shortage of tractors and other implements. So this assistance was a step in the right direction. Being a new member, I do not know which Government it was that assisted that industry; nor do I know its political complexion. But whichever Government it was, it certainly did a very good job in rendering this assistance, no matter what its political colour.

Mr. Graham: What do you think of Government assistance for workers who are unemployed?

Mr. LEWIS: I cannot understand why, in this country, single people should be content to remain unemployed for very long, because I feel that if a single man in this country is unemployed, then it is a reflection on his desire to get out and do something for himself.

Mr. Graham: That is a shocking condemnation of honest workers!

Mr. LEWIS: I am not saying that they are dishonest at all; some of them may be as honest as the day is long. I merely say they lack initiative.

Mr. Bickerton: They may not possess initiative through no fault of their own.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not say it is their fault for having been thrown out of work; but in the transition from day labour to contract work, just as in the transition from war to peace, or vice versa—in fact in any big social revolution—there must be some disorganisation.

Mr. Graham: Why not help those unfortunates who suffer during the change?

Mr. LEWIS: I think we are going to help them.

Mr. Graham: But you are not. You have taken the 17s. 6d. a week from them.

Mr. LEWIS: I would refer the member for East Perth to the answer given to a question asked about school desks and tables, where it was shown that this State would save about £35,773 13s. 4d. which, on my calculation, is a saving of 35 per cent. on the quote supplied by the State Engineering Works. That amount could very well be expended on some public building. Indeed, I would be very happy if it were spent on the erection of extra classrooms in my electorate. That would create employment.

Mr. Graham: What happens meanwhile?

Mr. LEWIS: There is not a lot of information given us by the respective Ministers. There are a number of men who have been thrown out of work, and who have no prospect of being employed immediately.

Mr. Graham: There are more than a thousand of these people.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not know whether that is more than there were previously.

Mr. Graham: But they were getting 17s. 6d. before.

Mr. Bickerton: The Government has obligations other than merely saving money.

Mr. LEWIS: If I were a single man and I were in receipt of a benefit payment of £3 5s. a week, to which was added the sum of 17s. 6d., I would consider the amount to be most inadequate. I would get out and get myself some work, even if it meant leaving the city.

Mr. Moir: Where would you go?

Mr. LEWIS: To the country.

Mr. Moir: What would you do?

Mr. LEWIS: I have a lot of work available for a man who is not afraid of it, and who is prepared to swing an axe. The acid test in this question of day labour and contract work is: How many members of the Opposition, if they were having a house built, would have that house constructed by day labour? How many of them would call tenders?

Mr. Graham: The applicants of the Housing Commission preferred day labour.

Mr. Moir: I can show you a good job done by day labour on my house.

Mr. LEWIS: I do not think there would be too many members of the Opposition who would employ day labour if they were having a house built.

Mr. Bickerton: That is hardly the case that applies to the Government, because the average person is not able to supervise the work; whereas the Government has the necessary technical staff for this purpose.

Mr. Roberts: That was not a bad speech.

Mr. Bickerton: I got away with it.

Mr. LEWIS: I do think we should try to get away from this class attitude of considering that everything done by private enterprise is—

Mr. Graham: You had better talk to your Ministers.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. LEWIS: —necessarily to the detriment of the employee. As I said earlier, I think this Government is dealing with these matters, but there is a little bit of slack that has to be taken up. I believe, however, that the Ministers concerned will meet the problem just as humanely as it would have been met by a Government of a different complexion.

MR. TOMS (Maylands) [5.22]: Though I regret the events which led up to it, I must, along with other members, add my congratulations to you, Sir, for having attained the position you now hold. I have every confidence that you will carry out the task of Speaker of this House with dignity, and with satisfaction to all members, even though you and I perhaps have not agreed as to just to what extent one

should stick to the point. Nevertheless, I am happy to see you there, Sir. I would also like to add my congratulations to the Chairman of Committees (the member for Bunbury), despite the nasty things he may say about me outside the Chamber.

Mr. Roberts: The very friendly things I say about you.

Mr. TOMS: I would also offer my congratulations to the Premier and his Cabinet Ministers. Their task is not an enviable one, and I do trust that sane reason will prevail in regard to their governmental activities as has prevailed in the past.

While the Minister for Works is here, and the evening is early, I would like to take the opportunity of bringing to his notice a few of the works which I feel should be done in my electorate. For some time now the Perth Road Board, and the citizens of Maylands in the Caledonian Avenue area, have been pressing for a small drainage system starting, say, at Joseph Street and going down to the river. Over a period of five years, two figures have been quoted for the job, and the cost has increased from £30,000 to £40,000. That is according to the last price I obtained.

I hope the Government will see its way clear to carry out this job. It is only a small work, but it will take in a rather large basin; and, as a matter of fact, would extend as far as Bayswater. The Bayswater Road Board cannot carry out effective drainage operations in some sections of the district until such time as the Caledonian Avenue drain is put down in Maylands. When it is completed, this drain will also remove a problem that exists at the back of the East Maylands primary school at the moment.

There is a large swamp in this vicinity, with innumerable rushes. This has been a menace to the people in that area; because, when the plants are drying out, the seeds have a tendency to float around; and it so happens that that is the time of year which most people choose to paint their houses. These seeds that float around constitute a great nuisance, because they adhere to the freshly-painted walls and disfigure the painted area. I live a quarter of a mile from this swamp, and I have also had the experience of these seeds sticking to any wall that I might have painted at the time. I ask that that job be given earnest consideration. It is only a small one, and the sooner it is done the cheaper it will be. As I have said, in five years the cost has increased by 33 per cent.

Another matter to which I would like the Minister for Works to give attention is the dredging of the Swan River. In the files of the Bayswater Road Board, for the year 1951, can be seen letters to the effect that the dredge would be up the Swan River in that year. It is now

1959 and there is no sign of a dredge there yet. I know the member for Guildford-Midland and the member for Middle Swan will bear me out when I say that in some places around Bassendean and Bayswater there are sections of the river where one would have no difficulty whatever in walking across, because the river is silted up to such an extent. It is that which causes the flooding we experience in a heavy winter. When the area around the Causeway was dredged, it did assist to a degree.

Members know that recently there has been considerable talk about tourism. I feel that we must connect that with our Swan River. When I came down from the Goldfields in 1920, no matter which part of the river one traversed, one would always find sand underfoot. Today, however, one finds only mud. If that is allowed to continue, we will lose one of our tourist attractions.

The member for Guildford-Midland showed me a booklet of a small dredge which could be loaded on to a truck and carted around. If the Minister for Works is at all interested, I will borrow that booklet from the member for Guildford-Midland, as the information therein might help to overcome these dredging difficulties. There is a lot of low country along the river, and this dredging could be used to build up the land along its banks.

Another matter which is of vital importance is the necessity for widening the Garratt Road bridge. When the bridge was first sited it saved Brisbane and Wunderlich many thousands of pounds by permitting them easy access across the river. With the increase in traffic, that bridge has become far too narrow. Recently the pipeline from Serpentine through to Mt. Yokine has been placed alongside the bridge, and I see that provision has apparently been made for the widening of the bridge. The last time it was widened I thought it was rather a cheap job. The 4 ft. footway, across which people used to walk, was reduced to 3 ft. and the bridge was only widened 1 ft.

Mr. O'Connor: How long ago was that?

Mr. TOMS: It was about eight years ago.

Mr. J. Hegney: It wants to be double the width now.

Mr. TOMS: When that footbridge was widened, I submitted to the Main Roads Department that instead of having the present 4 ft. footway, a cantilever be erected on the side of the bridge, on which people could walk. This would have obviated the necessity for the widening of the bridge at the present time. It is impossible for a truck of any size to pass at the moment. In fact, it is dangerous. Therefore, I suggest that this particular job should be given a high priority, particularly as traffic in that area has increased. Whilst speaking on that matter, I trust that an article which appeared in the Press

on the 16th July, 1959, and which stated that the future is south of the river is not correct, as members north of the river would be most concerned, particularly if that was a statement of policy. In that case, the north will be forgotten. But I do not think that is intended.

Mr. Wild: It was only a paper opinion.

Mr. TOMS: I am glad to have that assurance from the Minister. I would like to bring a rather serious matter under the notice of the Minister in charge of traffic matters in the hope that he may be able to do something about it. If he can, the people of Maylands will be very pleased as it will alleviate a problem at Sixth Avenue and Guildford Road. There happens to be a crosswalk which is situated on the top of a rise, and motorcars from the Maylands side are right at the crosswalk before the drivers can see the marking. About half a dozen kiddies from the Blind School use that crosswalk each day in the morning, at lunch time, and at night, in the process of receiving their education.

These kiddies are frightened at the present time. Whilst it may be that the new crosswalk regulation is intended to mean one thing, there is a hesitancy on the part of both driver and pedestrian at the present time. The children at the Blind School are finding the position very difficult, and the schoolteacher has asked me to see if something can be done to relieve the problem. If the Minister could look at the file, I think he would find that in 1947 a suggestion was made for a buzzer type of warning to be installed at these intersections. I do not know the exact date, but I could let the Minister know if he wishes. I consider something like that is necessary.

At the next avenue there is another crosswalk, which is patrolled by a policeman each morning and night on account of the children who are using it; and I think it would be better to shift the policeman from Seventh Avenue to Sixth Avenue, as it is situated between the infants' school and the main school. I hope the Minister will be able to look at this problem which is confronting those people at the present time.

Mr. Perkins: If you will give me that in writing, I promise to have a look at it.

Mr. TOMS: I will do that. There is another problem in one part of the district which has developed tremendously over the last few years: I refer to the Morley Park area. It was only last year that two schoolrooms were added to the school; but the increase in population, with its resultant steady flow of children to the school, is now making the position rather acute. I would be pleased if the Minister for Education would reply to a letter written by the Morley Park Parents and

Citizens' Association on the 2nd April, 1959, addressed to Mr. Stooke, Chief Administrative Officer, Education Department. It reads as follows:—

I have been advised by the members of the above association to contact you regarding the urgent need for additional classrooms at the Morley Park School.

As you are aware there is a large building project on the way in this fast growing district and the enrolment figures have increased considerably, resulting in present accommodation being already overcrowded, and unless we are granted extra rooms in the near future many children will be forced to return to the "cloak room" or the local hall.

The parents of the children concerned are very much against either of these substitutes having to be used for the purpose of classrooms, some children already having had the first three, in some cases four, years in the "cloak room."

In the letter, mention was also made of the hall, which is the old Morley Park Progress Hall. This hall is not lined, and is in a very bad condition for school purposes. It is used in connection with other activities, and often the teachers have to clean the hall before they can proceed with their classes in the morning. For a number of years the cloakroom has been used as a classroom, and I regard this as a very bad step. The teachers at one time had a small room, which they used as a staff room; but this amenity is now denied them. The only staff room available at Morley Park is a small partitioned part of the corridor in which they have their morning tea and lunch. The area is a fast-growing one; and, at its present rate of development, at least two more classrooms are needed.

In passing, I would point out that at the present time a £98,000 hotel is being built on the corner of Wellington and Walter Roads; there is a drive-in theatre—another £100,000 worth; and Boans Limited have a block between the drive-in theatre and the hotel site where it is anticipated a store will be built in the near future. This indicates the growth of the area, and I hope that the Minister will give consideration to the request I have made for additional classrooms.

I now desire to speak on a matter which has been rather controversial since this Government took office, and which was referred to by the member for Moore, who has just resumed his seat. I speak of day labour. As members know, the Minister for Works stated that the Public Works Department and private enterprise could work side by side. I wish he had meant what he said, because the policy which has been adopted will, in effect, give the opposite result.

Apparently the object of the Government is the total abolition of the day-labour staff, with the exception of maintenance gangs which are employed by the Public Works Department. I am not prepared to say that every private enterprise builder is unscrupulous, because I know there are many who are very good. However, among those who are operating now, there is a type which is no credit to the trade or the State. I refer particularly to the builder who has come into the trade since the open slather—if I might term it so—was introduced some years ago, when all one needed to become a conditional builder were two references as to character, irrespective of ability to carry out building work. As a matter of fact, female conditional builders were registered during that period. I do not know whether you, Mr. Speaker, would be happy to have a pastrycook, who was registered at that time as a conditional builder, supervising your work.

The most dangerous aspect of the trade at the present time is sub-contracting. This is taking the place of day labour, despite the fact that some very good builders would like to continue that policy. Sub-contracting is forcing prices down and compelling men to work longer hours than are provided for in awards, because prices are being chopped, with a resultant reduction in the standard of work.

I have heard it said in this Chamber that the standard of work will be the same. I say to the farmer, "You may know all about farming"; I say to the accountant, "You may know all about accountancy"; but as far as building is concerned, I do not think there are many representatives of that trade on the other side of the Chamber. It is a trade which has been built up over the years by tradesmen who have been proud of their craft and by tradesmen who were satisfied to do a good job. The member for Moore said that the relations between the worker and the employer could perhaps be brightened.

I know that in pre-war days—even in tendering times—the Public Works Department had a very efficient staff, as it has had for the last 30 years. If one had a job with a contractor one could be assured of a reasonably permanent job. Today, as most members know, some builders are scratching and finding it very difficult to make a living. One firm, which was quite big in pre-war days, has just gone bankrupt, and the men concerned will have to engage in sub-contracting.

Most builders take a pride in their work; and instead of there being an open slather, I consider that more thought should have been given to admitting competent builders into the guild. Standards are breaking down, and one of the worst features is that no apprentices will be taken

on. Sub-contracting will force the reasonable builder to refrain from engaging men for any length of time, because he will not have a continuity of work. Under these circumstances he will not employ the same ratio of apprentices as in days gone by.

The result will be that in a few years' time, when we have further development—from the way things are moving, we will have a boom about 1965—the State will find itself without tradesmen. Last year the figures in regard to carpenters' apprentices fell from 762 to 683, and half of the 683 are in either their fourth or their fifth year. Members can see that this trade will die out, and replacements will not be available when we need them. I will not want for a house, because if I wish to build another house, I will be quite capable of building it and of doing proper work. But other people who want a good job done will be battling to get it.

When the Minister for Industrial Development was quoting figures from the Commonwealth Employment Bureau, in regard to building tradesmen, he stated that the trade was improving. I give an emphatic denial to that assertion, because the figures deteriorated in June. The Minister mentioned the increase in the number of carpenters unemployed, despite the fact that there have been 126 resignations from the Carpenters' Union since the 1st July. These men are not getting out of the union or away from the trade because they want to. At the present time there is insecurity in the building industry.

Only yesterday morning I had a ring from a young fellow who works in a Government department. He has been there for some years. He asked me whether I would supply him with a reference. I said, "Are you looking for another job?" He said, "Yes. I am getting out of this game; there is nothing in it." He has had the building game. What applies to carpenters, applies equally to bricklayers and other building tradesmen. So, even though it has been said that a prophet is without honour in his own country, I warn the Government that if it continues with its present policy, the time will come when this State will be looking for tradesmen and they will not be available.

Before I conclude, I wish to touch on one other matter; and this is of particular interest to me because for some time I have wondered from just where the Liberal Party got its funds. A businessman approached me, and he said that during the day the chief finance officer of the Liberal Party had been to see him. This officer told him many things in regard to the finances of the Liberal Party, and he also indicated—I know that big businessmen in Perth will be pleased to hear this—that the majority of the business people contributed to the party's funds.

He went on to say, "Now we expect that you, as a young company, will contribute, because the Labour Party gets its contributions from the unions." As a matter of fact the man to whom I was speaking indicated to me that the Liberal Party officer had used the words that this company "had to" contribute. The reply which the businessman gave was, "I have come from behind the iron curtain. I have heard these words 'have to' too many times, and I do not like them." He suggested that if the chief finance officer wrote to the company, he would put the matter before his board and see what could be done.

He said to the finance officer, "You have indicated that £50 is the first year's subscription. I take it the rest will taper off afterwards." The officer said, "No; it could be more. It could grow to £500 a year."

I have here a letter to the man about whom I am speaking. The letter is headed, "The Liberal and Country League of Western Australia (Inc.)," in very small print. Underneath this heading is a sub-heading, "The Western Australian Division of the Liberal Party of Australia." The letter states—

I wish to thank you for the courtesy of your interview yesterday afternoon. As I pointed out during our conversation, our records do not show your company as ever having assisted the Liberal Party financially in this State, and as most recognised firms in the city do assist, you will at once appreciate the responsibility of business people in this regard, and will no doubt wish to bring this to the notice of your board.

In this year in Western Australia, the Liberal Party has been successful in gaining four more Liberal representatives in the Federal Parliament, and gaining the Treasury benches by gaining six seats in the State Parliament.

This has not been achieved other than by a whole time activity by the party over the three previous years. It is imperative that we now set ourselves the target of retaining these successes over the next six years, at least, to achieve a steady policy of expansion of free enterprise in Western Australia.

Now we have concluded the end of a successful but costly financial year we are faced with the prospect of meeting the extraordinary call upon our resources. We trust you will place this letter before your board of directors, and would appreciate a recommendation from you that your company make a contribution of £50 for the

1959-60 financial year. Trusting your early advices will be of a favourable nature. With compliments,

Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd.) G. M. Harrington,  
Chief Finance Officer.

Mr. Nalder: A very good letter.

Sir Ross McLarty: A very ancient letter, is it not?

Mr. TOMS: No; it is not, as a matter of fact.

Mr. I. W. Manning: What is the date of it?

Mr. TOMS: It is dated 1959. Members opposite do not have to go back further than this year in their records.

Mr. Rowberry: It must have been written subsequent to the election.

Mr. TOMS: It was written after the election. Now that I have read the letter, I am a bit inclined to hand it to Labour Party officers, because they may be able to go to some of these big businessmen in the town.

Sir Ross McLarty: They have done it frequently in the past.

Mr. TOMS: As the big businessmen are prepared to contribute to the Liberal Party funds, they might be prepared to contribute to the funds of the people who keep them in business; namely, the workers who earn the money and help to keep business going.

I am a little bit the way of the member for Moore who said that there should be better employer-employee relationships; but there has to be some give-and-take on both sides. Since the war, conditions have altered considerably. At the conclusion of hostilities, the housing position was terribly bad, and private enterprise could not cope with it. That is why the day-labour force had to be built up; and it is to credit of the ex-Minister for Housing that the problem was overcome to a substantial degree.

I do not think that the members of the Government deny that in those times private enterprise picked its mark; it took the jobs it wanted. As a matter of fact, about 1947 a builder from South Perth dropped on my table some plans of a four-roomed brick cottage and said, "What do you think I got for that job?" I mentioned a figure; and he said, "No. I got enough out of the job to have a trip to England and back." He made that trip, and stayed five months in England.

That shows how good things were at the time. So long as a builder could get the materials to carry out his contracts, the prices and profits were there. The private builders were not interested in competing with the State Housing Commission. It is only in later years that tenders have been made for State Housing

Commission jobs; and I can say that the State Housing Commission builders have been glad to work alongside the private contractors.

Before it is too late, I ask the Government to give earnest consideration to amending its policy of indiscriminate sacking of day-labour workers until such time as those workers can be absorbed completely by private industry. I have heard that a letter was written to the Employers' Federation; to the Master Builders' Association; and others, asking that the Government's policy be assisted. But, as I indicated when speaking to an amendment on the Address-in-reply that has not been done.

Inasmuch as a private contractor will put his men off for two or three days in order to absorb some of these day-labour men, and will then dispense with the day-labour men and re-employ his own workers, some "trading in men" is going on at the present time. If that is supposed to be playing the game, then I have a different opinion. We cannot hope to establish confidence in a team when such things are occurring.

If the Government has any sense of justice, I appeal to it to give consideration to some of the things I have mentioned today so that the rapid deterioration in the present position can be arrested, and these people given a reasonable chance of obtaining steady employment.

**MR. W. HEGNEY** (Mt. Hawthorn) [5.57]: Because of the seriousness of the industrial position in this State, I feel impelled to make some remarks. At the outset, I say that when I consider the Government should be commended, it will be commended; and when I consider that it should be condemned, it will be condemned. I am not hasty to utter words of condemnation, but I regret that this afternoon my remarks will fall in the latter category. I was rather amused at the member for Moore when he said he was proud to be in the partnership with the Liberal Party. I have no grievance with the member for Moore because of his pride.

**Mr. J. Hegney:** He is satisfied.

**Mr. W. HEGNEY:** Nor have I a grievance with the honourable member because of his being a partner with the Liberal Party; but I suggest that if he consults the Leader of the Country Party he will get the views of that honourable gentleman in regard to the partnership; or, rather, in regard to the proposed amalgamation.

The Leader of the Country Party, who holds an honoured position in the Government, will not have a bar of an amalgamation, because he does not trust the Liberal Party too far. One of my colleagues said that the marriage recently entered into was one of convenience. I have no grievance with the Government being one

of coalition; but I want to tell the Government that it cannot hoodwink all the people of the State. A number of people in Western Australia realise that there was a compromise between the two parties. As a matter of fact, the Country Party could have demanded any price it liked in regard to the constitution of the Government which now adorns the Treasury Bench.

Had the Country Party desired six or seven ministerial portfolios, it would have got them; and men of the ability of the member for Narrogin, and the member for Mt. Marshall, would have had a place in the existing Ministry. That is the position as a number of people in Western Australia saw it. There is no need for anyone to accuse the members of the Opposition of trying to drive a wedge into the ranks of the Government.

**Sir Ross McLarty:** You would not do that!

**Mr. W. HEGNEY:** No; there is no necessity to.

**Mr. Nalder:** Why not write a book about it? It would be most interesting.

**Mr. Owen:** Why not compose a song about it?

**Mr. W. HEGNEY:** The interjection by the member for Darling Range has reminded me of something. I heard the honourable member, and the Leader of the Country Party in a duet, a monologue, or whatever else it could be called, on the wireless during the election campaign. Apparently the member for Darling Range had said something to the Leader of the Country Party; and he went on, "Now Arthur, what do you think about that?" And the Leader of the Country Party would say, "Well Ray, I think this"; and so it went on. The member for Darling Range would not want his party to amalgamate with the Liberal Party, and neither would the member for Katanning.

I have made those introductory remarks to indicate that members of the Government are not misleading the Opposition, or a substantial proportion of the people of Western Australia. Every Government sooner or later has to answer for the promises it makes. I am one of those who refuse to make a lot of wild and woolly promises; because if one does, one has to walk on the other side of the street when the promises are not fulfilled, sooner than face one's friends. In my opinion it is better to be forthright and straightforward.

I am not blaming members of the Government individually for deliberately misleading the public; but everyone who has read the election advertisements of the Liberal Party in the Daily Press will realise, on examination—and it would not need a very careful examination to see it—that in most of the advertisements there was a promise of some sort. If one



examined the matter further one would find, however, that there was some condition attached to it.

As an example, let us take the North-West. The Minister for Railways went to the North-West, and there were a number of reports regarding the promises he made while there about what he proposed to do. The Minister for Works also went there; and he proposed that this, that, and the other thing would be done. But we all know that any action taken in the North-West depends on the amount of money available to the Government; and so it is useless for the Government by propaganda, or more often "impropaganda", to try to mislead the people of the State.

I think it is better at all times for the Government to indicate just what difficulties confront it—and there will be many difficulties confronting the Government from time to time. I know that when I was Minister for Education people criticised me. Members who are now on the Government side of the House criticised me on many occasions, because we were unable to provide all the classrooms and all the teachers necessary in the interests of education in Western Australia, on the basis of a maximum of 40 children for each teacher in a primary school, and 30 in a secondary school. Members of the present Government know why I could not do all that was asked. The present Minister for Education has told representatives of parents and citizens' associations throughout the State that the activities of the department will be governed by the amount of money available. We all know it.

Mr. Nalder: You know it off by heart.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: And so will the honourable member before very long. The Premier made a statement about different organisations approaching the Government for increased financial assistance; and he said, "They all want assistance." A pertinent interjection was made to the effect that the Commonwealth should provide more money; but the Premier more or less ridiculed the idea by saying, "There you are! The Commonwealth again!" But when the Premier came back from the Loan Council he indicated that he intended to make representations for special grants.

Mr. Brand: I said that it was the easiest thing out to say that you want more money.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: It is necessary to continue to say to the Commonwealth, "We want more money!"—

Mr. Brand: We will.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: —because the money that the State receives is subject to audit and rigid control on the part of responsible Treasury officers. The Estimates run

the scrutiny of Parliament each year, and I will deal particularly with education. The Minister for Education, and the Government, want millions of pounds to meet all the needs of education in this State. We need millions, but we do not receive the requisite amount.

I am not going to criticise this Government because it is not able to get sufficient money to provide all the accommodation and all the teachers necessary to maintain not only the present intake but also the future intake into our schools and training colleges. I understand there are just over 1,200 in the training colleges now, and it will be necessary in the future to step up the intake. Because of this, any Government is perfectly entitled to make enthusiastic representations to the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Government is the custodian of our defence; it deals with international affairs; it is in charge of the C.S.I.R.O.; and from time to time it wants an increased number of technicians and scientists for essential work in this country. Where will those people come from? They will come from those children who attend our schools. They are State citizens and Commonwealth citizens; but the State is charged with the responsibility of providing them with a foundation and giving them the necessary primary and secondary education, and even University education.

So I think the State is entitled to ask the Commonwealth to provide it with adequate finance to ensure that every child in the State receives an education sufficient to meet the needs of our complex future; and I think we would all agree that our young boys and girls have a very complicated future in front of them and will find it difficult to take their place in society. The days when the school-leaving age can remain at 14 years, and all a boy needs to learn are the three R's, have gone. I would be quite happy, and I know all members on this side would be only too happy, to help the Government to impress upon the Commonwealth the necessity of providing additional finance to meet the needs of education in Western Australia.

Mr. Fletcher: Hear, hear!

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I do not propose to go into details in regard to the matter, but the Premier and the Government will know what has to be done to provide multi-storey accommodation in the northern part of the city for the purpose of expanding our technical education facilities. Extra equipment has to be provided, and teachers have to be obtained to encourage our young people to participate in technical education after they leave their primary schools. All this will cost a huge sum of money; and anything that the Government can do in the way of obtaining finance for this work will receive my wholehearted support.

I said I was concerned with the industrial position, and I wish to supplement the remarks of previous speakers from this side about the employment position and the Government's actions up to date. As I understand the situation, from replies to questions and statements made by responsible members of the Government, it is proposed to reduce the building construction section of the day-labour organisation in the Public Works Department by 20 men each week, so that within 12 to 15 months there will be only maintenance gangs left. I hope the Premier will have regard for the matters mentioned by the member for Maylands and others.

The Public Works Department, the State Engineering Works, and the Railway Department are three Government departments which in the past have absorbed a number of our youths by taking them on as apprentices when they left school. I shall not quote any figures this afternoon. Suffice it to say that the State Engineering Works, the Public Works Department, and the Railway Department have turned out a large number of fine tradesmen over many years. The Public Works Department has trained building tradesmen, and the State Engineering Works and the Railway Department have trained boys in fitting and turning, car and wagon building, and so forth.

If the Government's present policy is to be followed in the enthusiastic way that the Government apparently intends, there will be a decreasing number of apprentices in this State in the next few years, and that will mean fewer building tradesmen, and fitters and turners to meet the needs of what I hope will be an expanding economy.

Mr. Brand: How do they get on in the other States where they do not have such a public works system?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: They have public works systems in the other States.

Mr. Brand: The New South Wales public works system is nothing compared with ours.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Of course they have a public works system.

Mr. Brand: Yes; but not as big as ours is.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: They have a State railway system too.

Mr. Brand: And so have we.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: If the Government continues to follow its present policy, large numbers of tradesmen will have their services dispensed with; and consequently the intake of apprentices—potential tradesmen—will be less. That is a false policy. The Public Works Department has built up an efficient day-labour organisation; and I know that at times the Principal Architect has called for tenders for a number of jobs in country towns—new police stations, schools, additional classrooms, renovations

and repairs, and so on. But under the Government's policy there will be a dearth of tradesmen in this country.

The member for Moore is not here; but I am sure he will know that the State Engineering Works, which are certainly not showing a deficit, were at one time called the State Implement Works. As far as I know, the State Implement Works were established by a Labour Government because farmers' representatives had complained about prices farmers had to pay private companies for their implements.

Mr. Brand: They never finished paying for the State Implement Works. It cost plenty of money.

Mr. Mann: Yes; he is on the wrong track.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: No I am not. The State Engineering Works were originally known as the State Implement Works.

Mr. Mann: They were originally established by a Labour Government.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: Yes; and in earlier years the State Saw Mills were established for the same reason.

Mr. Mann: But they are members of the combine.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I am not talking about combines or monopolies. I am pointing out why these instrumentalities were set up. The State Implement Works were established and were successful.

Mr. Brand: They were not.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: They were; and a number of tradesmen were trained there; and a number would have been trained in the future had it not been for the Government's policy.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I believe that, if the Government proceeds in its policy of retrenchment, the tendency in this State will be to reduce the number of tradesmen in years to come; because the Railway Department, the State Engineering Works, and the Public Works Department are three large training agencies for apprentices. Some people say there are many apprentices and tradesmen in England and Scotland who are available. From recent research I learnt that the tendency in Britain is for the tradesmen to remain where they are, because their conditions have improved in recent times. What is more, the British Government is discouraging tradesmen from leaving the country.

I do not criticise the private employers or private industry, because they serve a necessary and useful function in the community. There is this to be said, and I agree with the remarks of the member for Maylands: When these tradesmen are

diverted to private industry, the employers in the building trade, who now pay their tradesmen on the award rates, will more and more foster the sub-contracting of work. Where sub-contracting or piecework exists, the provisions of the award are overcome. I know the employer will hesitate, in those circumstances, to take on the requisite number of apprentices.

Mr. Mann: How is it that America gets on, taking a broad view?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I am dealing with Western Australia. The honourable member did not deal with America when he made his speech.

Mr. Mann: I am trying to help you.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The honourable member is wasting his time and mine. The tendency in this State will be for sub-contractors and pieceworkers to take the place of the workers now engaged under industrial awards, and for the apprenticeship system to be severely reduced, because the sub-contractors will have neither the time nor the inclination to train apprentices.

As a member of the Post-War Reconstruction Training Committee from its inception in 1944, I have much knowledge of the ex-servicemen who were trained in this State under that scheme. They were trained under a modified apprenticeship system by the tradesmen here, and they were able to take their place alongside the most highly-skilled tradesmen in the Eastern States.

Young men from the Midland Junction Workshops and the State Engineering Works have gone to the other States of the Commonwealth and have experienced no trouble in obtaining employment. I make those remarks to indicate that the standard of apprenticeship training in this State compares more than favourably with the standard in every other State.

I now refer to some comments made by the member for Stirling in answer to my question regarding the policy of the Government in disposing of State trading concerns. When the McLarty-Watts Government was in office for six years it did not dispose of any of these concerns; on the contrary, it extended one.

Mr. Mann: It should have disposed of them.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: The honourable member was a member of that Government for six years, but nothing was done in that regard. Recently members of this Government announced that certain principles would be followed in the disposal of State trading concerns. They did not indicate which concerns would be disposed of, but they did say in general outline that the principles which would be followed would be those enumerated in the answer

to my question in this House. On the 7th July I asked the Premier the following question:—

I would draw the Premier's attention to a report on page 10 of the *Daily News* of the 15th June, 1959, under the heading of "Premier Brand on Whispering Campaign." The Premier said—

The State Government has not sold its sawmills nor has it opened any negotiations to do so.

We stick to our policy speech. We have already taken action over the State hotels. The three principles which we have enumerated regarding the State enterprises are:—"A fair and reasonable price; the protection of existing employees; the continuation of the enterprise within the economy of the State."

Would the Premier be good enough to explain concisely what he means by "the protection of existing employees and the continuation of the enterprise within the economy of the State"?

The Premier enumerated three principles—a fair and reasonable price; the protection of existing employees; and the continuation of the enterprise within the economy of the State.

I shall deal with the last principle first. Will the Government indicate that, if it should dispose of any State trading concern, it will insist on the continuation of that undertaking within the economy of the State; or will some plausible promise be arrived at between the parties in regard to the continuation of employment?

The second principle dealt with by the Premier was the protection of existing employees. Will the Government ensure the continuity of employment of all the employees in any undertaking which is disposed of? I suggest it is more likely that when the contract of sale is finalised, the purchaser will treat the employees under the industrial conditions contained in the award of the industry in question; that is, the employer will have the right to dismiss the employees on a day's or a week's notice as the case may be.

Are we to understand from these principles that the Government will not dispose of any concerns unless an assurance is given by the purchaser that the undertaking will be continued within the economy of the State, and that every employee will continue in his employment?

I now deal with the first principle: that is, a fair and reasonable price. At what stage will that price be determined? In reply to a question of mine the member for Stirling indicated that the interpretation of these principles is patent to any normal person. I suggest that these matters are too vague for the public, and that they should be clearer and in unequivocal terms.

What is a fair and reasonable price for the State Engineering Works? It would be considerable. A fair and reasonable price for the Wyndham Meat Works would be of great magnitude. A fair and reasonable price for the State Building Supplies and other concerns would also be very considerable.

As a result of this policy announced by the Government, there is much restlessness and uncertainty among the workers in State trading concerns who fear that they may be dismissed periodically. There is no doubt that the economic strength of these State trading concerns will be greatly undermined, and in due course a fair and reasonable price will not be hard to be determined! I do not think it would be fair to the people of this State to have these undertakings dissipated in strength and then put up for sale. The Government should indicate what undertakings it proposes to sell.

If the Wyndham Meat Works were suggested, the member for Murray would be the first to protest and the first to request that those works remain under the control of the Government. What is the reason for maintaining the State Shipping Service? It is not carried on for the purpose of making a profit. It is carried on in the interests of the people of the North-West, and it gives a public service.

The Government knows that any losses incurred by the State Shipping Service are recouped from the Commonwealth Government through the agency of the Grants Commission. The Government should make its position clear in the interests of the workers concerned. A great number of people in this State are very unsettled at the way things are going.

I now refer to what has been called a mandate from the people. I have no quarrel with the Government claiming a mandate. The meaning of "mandate" is an order to proceed and do something. From my point of view the Government has not a very strong mandate, but it has been constitutionally elected to govern this State for three years. However, it makes much of having been given a mandate.

When members of the Government were on this side of the House they did not support the Government which had a mandate. The Labour Government was elected in 1953; and in that year it introduced, among other measures, a Bill to extend the activities of the State Government Insurance Office. The Bill passed this House, but received short shift in another place. Every one of us knows that each year since 1953, when the Labour Government was elected; and each year since 1956, when the Labour Government was re-elected, it had a mandate from the people to extend the activities of the State Insurance Office. Each year it was defeated in another place.

The Government also introduced a Bill of an industrial nature designed to benefit workers who became injured during the course of their employment. On only one occasion was the Government able to increase the benefits under the Workers' Compensation Act. Yet this Government talks about a mandate! It has now to rely on the support of two Independents in this House. All that it is constitutionally entitled to do is to govern the State. When the Labour Government was elected in 1953 and re-elected in 1956 in unmistakable terms, it had a mandate to extend the policy in the two matters I enumerated, but was frustrated in another place.

I come now to the conclusion of my remarks by dealing with the Constitution of the State. It is interesting to know that in this State there are two Chambers. One—the Assembly—has 50 members; and any person who is otherwise qualified, is of the full age of 21, and has been a citizen of the State for six months, is entitled to hold a seat in this Chamber if he is elected. That position obtains in the other States of the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth itself—both in the House of Representatives and in the Senate.

The franchise is on an adult basis. Every person of the full age of 21 is entitled to be a member of either House where questions of war, defence, international affairs, and other matters of importance are dealt with under the Commonwealth Constitution. Yet, in this State, with regard to the second Chamber—known as the Legislative Council, and constituted since 1832—one has to be of the ripe old age of 30 before one can hold a seat there.

We have endeavoured to alter that basis. I believe that there should be adult franchise for the people of Western Australia. There is a property qualification for another place. Some people may jump in and interject, "Well, people should have a stake in the country; and if they have not, they should not be entitled to vote." I will give an illustration. If tomorrow my honoured friend the member for Murray elected to sell his real estate and put the money into the bank or into bonds, and he had no property, he would cease to be entitled to be on the Legislative Council roll.

Mr. May: I doubt whether he is now.

Mr. W. Hegney: The same would apply to any other honourable member.

Mr. Roberts: He is still paying the requisite £17.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: He may not be. I just make that point to indicate that the time has come—and is overdue—for an amendment of the Constitution of Western Australia. If one examines the Constitution of South Australia and Tasmania, it is found that the restrictions are very similar to those obtaining in Western Australia. Yet, in regard to the Commonwealth Parliament, one has only to be of the age of 21.

A Liberal Government—not a Labour Government, but a Liberal Government if my reading of history is correct—abolished the second Chamber in New Zealand. Some 38 years ago in Queensland, a Labour Government abolished the second Chamber in that State. In 1929, when the Moore Government took office, it did not resuscitate the Legislative Council; and it was defeated in 1932.

Mr. Roberts: What party has control of the Legislative Council in New South Wales?

Mr. W. HEGNEY: I am glad the honourable member made that interjection, because it reminds me that the least that could be done would be for a referendum to be taken of the people of Western Australia on the question of the continuance or abolition of another place. That is what the Premier of New South Wales announced to his people in his recent policy speech.

Mr. Bovell: It took them 70 years to do so.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: In Britain, the home of the Mother of Parliaments, there was a time when the House of Lords had the right of veto; and it did not matter what legislation the House of Commons passed, or how many times it was passed, it could be vetoed by the House of Lords. In 1911, by the British Parliament Act of that year, the authority and power of the House of Lords were restricted; and now, if the House of Commons passes legislation three times in succession, it does not matter what the House of Lords does with it, because it becomes law. I think the people of Western Australia are entitled to have both Houses of Parliament elected on a franchise basis such as obtains under the Commonwealth Constitution. In conclusion, I was very interested in what the member for Leederville said—

Mr. Bovell: This is the second conclusion.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: —on the matter of the Supply Bill. He discussed the pros and cons of a large hospital compared with a small one; and he referred to Osborne Park, which is in the Mt. Hawthorn electorate. The ex-Minister for Health indicated earlier this year that a start would be made in April on the construction of a hospital in Osborne Park.

Recently I asked questions here on this subject; and there seems to be a delay because of the fact that it is proposed to acquire some additional property facing Balcatta Beach Road. I presume, with all due respect to the member for Leederville, that it will be remembered that the Public Health Department and the medical fraternity advised the Minister that a hospital of the kind visualised for Osborne Park was necessary. Therefore I hope it will be proceeded with.

The only other matter I wish to mention in regard to Mt. Hawthorn is that a high school has been built there, as well as in a number of other places. I am not going into the matter of the consideration of high schools in various parts of the State on this occasion; but a modern high school has been built at Tuart Hill midway between Scarborough and Mt. Lawley where also there are high schools. The people of the Tuart Hill district are expecting and anxious, that the Tuart Hill High School will be raised to the status of a senior high school. I hope that shortly the Minister for Education will be in a position to announce that the Tuart Hill High School will be raised to that status.

The other evening the Premier made reference to certain institutions and organisations going to him as Premier and Treasurer for additional grants. I made reference to this matter earlier, and would like to reiterate that anything that the Treasurer or Government does in regard to assisting these organisations will be money well spent. I will enumerate one or two.

Everyone is familiar with the activities of the St. John Ambulance Association. It is doing a remarkable job. Doctors are associated with it in an honorary capacity and put a lot of time into it. In Osborne Park the association is training a number of cadets to qualify as first-aid men and women. With the aid of the Lotteries Commission, and the Government and local authorities, it has built a wonderful hall, and the work is expanding.

While it is true that the Treasurer may sometimes adopt a hesitant attitude, it must be realised that these organisations are administered and operated by public-spirited citizens who are looking for no reward other than that of performing some service to less fortunately situated brothers and sisters in the community. Therefore, I hope that when approaches are made to the Treasurer by organisations like the St. John Ambulance Association, or the Maimed & Limbless Association, the Slow Learning Children's Group, and the native missions, the Government—through the Treasurer—will lend a sympathetic ear and do everything possible to ensure at least a continuance of the financial assistance which has been rendered to these organisations over a period of years.

MR. MAY (Collie) [7.55]: In making my contribution to the Address-in-reply debate, Mr. Speaker, I offer you my congratulations on your elevation to high office. I also wish to offer my congratulations to the Government, the Premier, and his supporters, and hope that their life here will be merry but short. I would also like to tender my congratulations to the member for Bunbury on his appointment as Chairman of Committees. I feel sure, from his attitude in the Chamber before

he took that position, that he will do justice to it and to members during the time he occupies that chair.

The other evening, the member for Wembley Beaches opened his remarks by saying that it was usual for members, when speaking on the Address-in-reply, to consider their electorates and talk about their grievances, etc. But I take a different view. I feel that the Speech by His Excellency covers such a wide field that it gives members a chance to show that they take an interest in the whole of the State and not only their immediate electorates.

It gives them a great opportunity of indicating what they have seen in their travels and what they think should be done in order to advance the interests of the State in general. Members' individual needs as far as their electorates are concerned are much better dealt with on the Estimates.

The first matter mentioned in His Excellency's Speech dealt with wheat. Wheat is one of the most important items of primary production in this State and should be given a great deal more attention than it is receiving at the moment. It is estimated that this year the acreage will show a 15 per cent. increase on that of last year; and if that is so, it will bring into production no fewer than 5½ million acres of land. That, of course, covers wheat, barley, oats, and every other primary product that one could think of. The Australian estimate for this year's wheat is 183,000,000 bushels; and, of that amount, it is estimated that Western Australia's share will be 48,000,000 bushels.

I come to the point of concern in regard to Western Australia's estimate. At present we are going through a very dry period at a time when the wheat needs the rain that so far has failed to materialise. I would say that unless considerable rain falls in the wheatbelt within the next week, the estimated production in this State for the coming harvest will be greatly reduced.

It is interesting to note that in 1901, when the first wheat was grown to any extent in this State, production for the year totalled 775,000 bushels. In 1957 the wheat yield of this State had risen to 33,000,000 bushels, an average of 11.2 bushels per acre. Those figures are worth studying, if we are to realise just how our wheat production has expanded. Now we are up against a difficulty in finding a market for our wheat. Having read the reports of the Western Australian representative on the Wheat Board, in regard to sales of wheat, one wonders why one week the report states that the outlook for the sale of wheat is gloomy; while the following week the report is to the effect that sales for the current month have been in line with those of the corresponding period in the previous year.

I am convinced that greater efforts should be made to explore every possible avenue for the disposal of our surplus wheat. Nearly two years ago I was privileged, through the goodwill of members of both Houses of Parliament, to visit Pakistan, India, and Ceylon. Although the trip was most interesting, I was disappointed and saddened by what I saw. In Pakistan there was an enormous influx of Muslims who had been turned out of India in 1947 when that country became independent, with the result that Pakistan, a country which already had to contend with millions of people who lacked homes or employment and who did not know where their next meal was coming from, had to bear the burden of this huge increase in population.

Members can imagine what took place in Pakistan, in view of the huge number of people there with no means of obtaining a livelihood. Wherever one went one saw these people, with no homes or visible means of existence; yet we, in this country, cannot get rid of our wheat. The same situation, but to an even more marked degree, was seen in India. In Calcutta it was estimated that every day, when the sun went down, there were 2,000,000 people in the city with nowhere to go for the night, nothing to eat, and no prospects in life.

No matter what street in Calcutta one walked down at night, one had to step over people; because all they could do, when darkness fell, was to lie down wherever they happened to be, and spend the night in that way. It is terrible to think that there are millions of people in this world in dire need of food to support them; while we in this country, and the people of many other countries, do not know what to do with our surplus wheat.

I wish now to make reference to the Colombo Plan, of which Australia is a member. Two years ago, when I visited the countries I have mentioned, we were supplying under the Colombo Plan about £9,000,000 in kind: farm machinery and other implements and commodities. That was only a small proportion of the total funds being spent under that plan in those three countries. While there, I saw farm and other machinery lying on the wharves at Karachi, Calcutta, and Bombay—machinery bought with money supplied under the Colombo Plan. Yet that machinery was absolutely useless because, particularly in Pakistan and India, some of the people were eking out a living by tilling the ground in the old-fashioned way; and, when I asked why they did not put this machinery to use, the answer was: "No, there are too many unemployed now; and if we use this machinery it will put still more people out of employment—people who will starve."

Whoever was responsible for the allocation of assistance to those three countries under the Colombo Plan was going the

wrong way about it. I believe that most of the money being spent there was being largely wasted. It must be remembered that of every 10 babies born in India, eight die of malnutrition; yet the population of that country is increasing by millions every year. Facts such as those give some idea of the position that exists in those Asian countries, which are in such dire need of immediate assistance if their people are to be kept alive.

I feel that this is a subject that has not been dealt with fully by any Federal or State member of Parliament; probably because most of them have not had the opportunity I had to see the situation as I saw it during my visit to those countries two years ago. Whoever is responsible for the allocation and spending of the funds under the Colombo Plan, should examine the position to ensure that the expenditure is meeting the most urgent needs of the people of those countries. I felt extremely sorry for the people I saw in India, Pakistan, and Ceylon during my trip; and I felt particularly sorry for the children.

On one occasion we arrived late at night at Bombay, having travelled by plane all day. We reached our hotel at about 11 p.m., and were given something to eat. About midnight I went out on to the footpath to have a smoke. There were very few people walking about at that time of night, although there were a great many trying to sleep on the footpaths. I felt a tug on the leg of my trousers; and, looking down, I saw a little girl of about six years of age, with nothing on but a loincloth. Most of the people there speak English; and so I asked her, "What do you want?", and she replied, "Mr., I am so hungry." That is typical of the condition of the populations of Pakistan, and India in particular, and exemplifies the urgent need for some relief to be given to those people.

Unless people see it for themselves, they cannot realise what the position in those countries is like. I feel it is a blot on our democracy that we should allow such circumstances to continue. I know the argument often is that India fought for its independence and was given self-government long before it was ready to govern. That may be true; but those millions of children to whom I have referred were not to blame; and somebody should take heed of the situation and offer them relief—possibly in the way I have mentioned, by supplying foodstuffs instead of machinery which they cannot use.

In Karachi, Colombo Plan money was being used in the erection of a big ship-building yard, at a cost of millions of pounds. Having regard to the condition of the world shipbuilding industry at the present time, I doubt very much whether one ship will ever be built in those yards. In India one sees huge buildings being erected with Colombo Plan money. I asked Dr. Nehru, the Premier of India, "Why do you

build these great buildings when you have no use for them?"; and he replied, "It has to be done for what we call the prestige of India." When one goes to New York, London, or any great city of the world one sees such buildings; and so it is felt that the prestige of India must be maintained and these huge structures erected, although there is nobody to use them.

During a conference in Delhi, we stayed at a great hotel which had been built under the impression—at that time—that the United Nations would make its headquarters there. As we now know, the headquarters of the United Nations was finally located in New York; and this tremendous building remains in Delhi. They tried to use it as a tourist centre; but the number of tourists available is such that the building is more than half empty all the time. I am convinced that some control should be instituted over the spending of money being supplied by various countries under the Colombo Plan.

Reverting to the question of wheat, we know that America has been giving wheat to various countries. America has been supplying wheat to Italy. Italy is a wheat-growing country; and the wheat being supplied by America as a gift is being used by the Italians for local consumption, while their own wheat crop is sold on the overseas market. There is something very wrong there; but that is what is happening at present.

While on the subject of Asian countries it is interesting to see what is happening in China. In *The West Australian* of the 27th July, we read—

The barrack-type peoples, communes into which Communist China herded the bulk of its 50,000,000 peasants are in trouble. The project has been modified but not abandoned.

Hungry peasants have stormed State granaries, attacked military grain convoys and assassinated Government and party officials. Neutral observers felt the reports, which could not be corroborated, presented a fair picture of the developing crisis in China.

We, in Australia, have wheat that we do not know what to do with and there are other countries in the same position. Yet we find that the people of China are suffering from starvation, and the same remarks can be applied to Pakistan and India. What efforts have been made to sell our surplus wheat? Many opinions have been expressed on this question, and I draw attention to what was said by Mr. G. D. Barwick, General President of the New South Wales Wheat Growers' Association. His remarks are as follows:—

#### SELL WHEAT ON CREDIT—PRESIDENT

Sydney, Tues.—The Commonwealth Government should agree to sell wheat to Eastern countries on an extended

credit basis, general president D. G. Barwick, of the N.S.W. Wheat and Wool Growers' Association said today.

If this were not done, America would give the Eastern countries wheat, which could mean lost markets for years.

In his report to the Association's 30th annual general conference, he said the credit plan was the only way the Australian Wheat Board could increase sales.

America was faced with the greatest marketing problem ever, because of their subsidisation policy on farm products.

America could not greatly alter this policy—it would mean bankruptcy of the wheat industry.

Australia must never let wheat stocks build up in this country comparable with those in America.

"Wheat is a perishable commodity. It costs money to store it and it naturally lessens in value—all at the wheatgrowers' expense," Mr. Barwick said.

Even as recently as last Monday, the third of this month, there were efforts made to give our wheat away. In *The West Australian*, dated the 3rd August, 1959, the following report appeared:—

#### EXPERT: GIVE WHEAT AWAY

Melbourne, Sun: A leading Melbourne economist and geographer today advocated a give-away policy for Australian wheat surpluses which would cost the nation an extra 1 per cent. a year in income tax.

Putting his scheme, the senior tutor in economic geography at Melbourne University, E. J. Donath, said that Australia should send 10,000,000 free bushels of wheat to India and Pakistan every year.

These gifts would help to feed millions of undernourished people and get rid of some of Australia's wheat surpluses.

"My suggestion could be financed by a 1 per cent. increase in income tax," he said.

Mr. Donath said that never before had there been so much wheat stored in the world. In 1953 the United States had 600,000,000 bushels of wheat in store. This figure had now more than doubled and it was costing the American Government £450,000,000 a year in storage fees.

In Australia £2,000,000 was being spent to provide more wheat storage silos in New South Wales and Western Australia.

By the end of this year the Commonwealth would have 70,000,000 bushels of wheat stored, enough to

meet total home consumption for a year even if no more wheat was grown. There was little likelihood of these surpluses disappearing in the near future.

There were several reasons for the surpluses. One was the increased world wheat-growing acreages—now 500,000,000 acres, 80,000,000 acres more than before the war.

Increased efficiency in production methods also had considerable influence and policies of agricultural protectionism in many countries, particularly European countries, trying to become self-sufficient in grain production.

Those are the opinions of two experts who have been thinking along the same lines as I; namely, that we should get rid of our surplus wheat under some scheme. Last year the grower was paid what is termed the cost of production for the wheat that was stored in the silos at the railway sidings. According to a recent Press report no more payments will be made on that wheat until November, 1960. If a farmer can afford to wait for over a year for any amount over the cost of production of wheat, surely this country can afford to use the surplus wheat in some way; and one of the ways it could use it would be to send it to the countries that badly need it in order to keep their people alive.

If that were done the farmers would obtain, by some way or another, a return for the wheat exported to those countries, which will not always be suffering from their present depression. Of sheer necessity the people in those places will find some solution whereby they will provide food for themselves. In the meantime, however, we must take definite steps to give this problem some deep thought so that we may help any country that needs help and at the same time prevent a surplus of wheat which, in any case, if it is not sold overseas, will be destroyed by weevils or other pests—and someone will have to make up the difference the farmers are entitled to over and above the cost of production.

I hope my suggestion will bear some fruit, and that those people who occupy positions of authority in the wheat industry and who are more closely associated with the problem than I am will do something to alleviate the plight of those unfortunate people who are starving, and at the same time will prevent any over-production of wheat in this country. It will be a tragedy if the wheatgrowers of Australia are forced to restrict their acreages in the future. It would be wrong to restrict wheatgrowing when there are so many countries which need wheat, and when it only requires some thought to offset the needs of one country against the over-production of another.



Wool was the next matter that was referred to in His Excellency's Speech. I know of no other commodity that fluctuates in price as does wool. Many people have advanced schemes to stabilise the price of wool, bearing in mind what the grower should receive over and above the cost of production. Following a study of this question, and having regard to the information I have been able to gather, I am of the opinion that there is something happening between the time the grower produces the wool and the time the consumer buys it in the form of the manufactured article, which is causing this fluctuation in price from year to year. Until some method is devised whereby the grower will obtain a reasonable price for his product and the consumer will be able to buy his woollen requirements at a fair price, we will continue to have this unsatisfactory position in the wool industry.

Undoubtedly the production of wheat and wool has kept the economy of Australia in the last few years fairly stable; but unless we take some steps to ensure that the price of both wheat and wool are placed on a firm footing, we are going to strike trouble with the production of those two commodities. It is a question that needs careful thought and if any matter should be inquired into by a Royal Commission, it is this one.

The demand for land has also been referred to in the Speech made by His Excellency. I hope the Minister for Lands will take cognisance of what I am going to say. If any future Government intends to build, in Western Australia, dams similar to the type and size of the Wellington Dam, there will be little land left for primary production of any sort. I say this because an enormous tract of land has been reserved to provide a run-off for the water that is impounded by the Wellington Dam and also to ensure its purity. As members know, this water is pumped great distances to supply the needs of farmers along the Great Southern line.

However, unless our engineers can devise some other means whereby the water stored at Wellington Dam or in any future dam is kept free of any pollution, millions of acres of land in the South-Western portion of this State will be denied to would-be settlers. If our engineers cannot suggest some solution to this problem, in my opinion they are not worth their salt; because similar problems have been solved in other countries.

Suppose, for example, similar action was taken in England to ensure the purity of any water impounded in that country. The result would be that there would be no producers left in England because the whole of the land suitable for production would be reserved to ensure the purity of any water stored.

For many years people have been brought to this State as a result of our immigration policy; and after producing for quite a period, they have had to cease their activities because the Government desired to ensure the purity of water dammed up by Canning Dam, Mundaring Weir, and the Wellington Dam.

Surely the Government can take steps to make sure that any water that is stored in these catchments is kept pure by some other means. From Boyup Brook, across to Darkan, and almost across to Harvey, large tracts of land have been reserved; and nobody can buy 2d. worth of land in those areas. The excuse given to people who have applied for land in those parts is that the areas have been closed off to ensure the purity of the water that runs into Wellington Dam.

The position became so bad that when anyone applied for land in that area the Forests Department officials got tired of telling such applicants that they could not get the land because of the timber that was on it; and when they were asked the question: "What about the land on which there is no timber?" they replied, "Provided such land is not required to ensure the purity of the water, you can have it."

A member of the Forests Department is also a member of the Water Supply Committee. When giving consideration to any application for land great care is taken that it is not granted. It is said that these are the people who are supposed to know. Things have come to a very sorry pass when the only thing our engineers can think of is to put people off the land with a view to safeguarding it for water-purity purposes. If we erect another half-dozen dams of the size of Canning Dam, Wellington Dam, and Mundaring Weir, there will be no land left in this State; it will all be taken for water catchment areas. What a situation we would then find ourselves in!

I notice from His Excellency the Governor's Speech that the demand for land has been maintained, and that great interest is still being shown by applicants from the Eastern States who desire to settle in Western Australia; and additional areas are being classified and designed for subdivision. I do not know whether that means land in the never-never, or whether it means land at present under the control of the Forests Department.

I have no quarrel with the Forests Department. I agree that all our marketable timber should be protected; and that land on which it is growing should also be protected and conserved. My complaint is that every block of land that becomes forfeited by somebody dying, or for some other reason, reverts to the Crown; and the Forests Department immediately takes over that land. In some cases these blocks of land have been cleared for a number

of years. There are no trees on them at all; and previously they were under cultivation.

That is the situation in which we find ourselves today. The original purpose of the establishment of the Forests Department was, in my opinion at any rate, to conserve the forests of this State. I do not think it is any part of its function to deal with land that has no timber on it. If members were in the South-West they would probably have a much better conception of the situation which exists. Let us take the area of Collie as an example. We had hoped that when the production of coal was on the decline, the people who became surplus as a result of that decline in the use of coal—people who were working in the industry—would be allowed to take up land around the district. If they had been allowed to do that, they would have been able to produce a living for themselves. But what do we find? From memory I cannot recall one application made by a selector being granted for land between Boyup Brook, Collie, and Darkan, either southward or westward. In Muja there are flats—large tracts of country without a tree on them. But if anybody applies for some of that land, he will not meet with any success.

Mr. Nalder: What are they holding it for?

Mr. MAY: I believe that the Forests Department, and those in charge of it, have come to the stage of thinking that if they allow anybody on to the land among the forests it will immediately prove a menace to those forests. That attitude is quite wrong, because nobody takes greater care about bush fires than does the farmer who has established himself among the State forests in the South-West. Every possible means has been adopted by the Forests Department to maintain and hold any land that it has—whether it has timber on it or not.

There is a system in operation that any land forfeited is returned to the Crown—whether that land has been cleared or not. In most cases the Lands Department cannot do anything with it, and it is immediately accepted by the Forests Department, and added to the State forests. What I say is perfectly true, and the Minister for Forests should know what is going on.

Unless this Government, or any other Government, is prepared to confine the activities of the Forests Department to the purpose for which it was brought into being—namely, the conservation of the forests of this State—we will get nowhere. One can go out in any direction from the Wellington Dam, and one will find the best land in the State. It has the finest chocolate soil; yet it has been bought back by the Government for water-catchment purposes. The only thing the department seems to think of in regard to water purity is to take over all

the land for miles around for water-catchment purposes. If our engineers cannot think further than that in relation to water conservation, they are not worth their salt.

I understand that some alteration is to be made by the present Government in the granting of land. I hope consideration will be given to that aspect, because there is a considerable amount of land in this State which could be used to the advantage of both the individual and the State itself. I know there are many people in my electorate who are just waiting for a chance to take up land. They are prepared to take up this land and work it.

But whenever this argument crops up—and I have had several such arguments with the Forests Department and the Lands Department—we are reminded of the number of acres of virgin country already set apart, but not used. I would say that the Government of the State—no matter what its political complexion—has the remedy in its own hands. If these people who have been granted land are not using it, then it should be taken away from them.

In the South-West portion of the State there are areas with an assured rainfall. There is no doubt about the rainfall at all; and there is no doubt about the class of land either, because it is the best land in this State. But unless we can take advantage of those conditions and make this land available to people who are prepared to work it, we will be doing a disservice to the State.

There is one other matter which I wish to mention, and which I do not think has been dealt with at any great length. I refer to automation and atomic energy in industry. This subject has been brought to my notice more particularly as a result of the decline in the use of coal. As far as I am able to ascertain, no thought is being given—in Australia at any rate—to what is likely to happen as a result of automation and the use of atomic power.

We know that the unemployment situation is bad. I know that it was worse in the first stages of the depression; but I do not think it needs much imagination to realise what would happen in this country if automation, and the use of atomic power came to us overnight. I do not think it will come to us overnight; but what are we doing in anticipation of that time arriving? We are doing nothing at all.

At the moment if a man becomes unemployed as a result of the inroads of mechanisation, he applies for unemployment relief. Rather than pay these people unemployment relief—and most of them are averse to accepting the money—would it not be better to pay them at least the basic wage and arrange for them to do some productive work? That would be far better than paying a married man £6 2s. 6d. a week for which he does nothing.

There are a few among the unemployed who approve of being paid that amount for doing nothing, but they would be the great minority. The majority of them—I would say at least 90 per cent. of them—would prefer to do something in return for the money. It would be a much better proposition for the Commonwealth Government to pay these men the basic wage and say, "You are going to do enough work to warrant the payment of that basic wage." The people would be much happier, and the country would derive the benefit of the work done by those people.

There is no doubt that automation and atomic power will eventually come; but we have given no thought to the matter at all. What is going to happen to the people who will be thrown out of employment as a result of this contingency? The matter requires some very deep thinking, and it is time we turned our minds to it. If we do not do so, we will find that more than half of the population of this country will be on the dole, and that does not bear thinking about. The authorities should prepare themselves for this eventuality.

The position has arisen in a small way in Collie as a result of mechanisation; and it has also arisen in other industries. How much greater will be our difficulty if universal automation and universal atomic power become an everyday feature? I know that the owners of establishments will benefit, and I do not mind that. But we must consider those who will be put out of employment as a result of this happening.

Sir Ross McLarty: Is it not a world problem?

Mr. MAY: It is; but we are not concerned so much with that, as with the problem in our own country. Can any member tell me whether thought has been given to this matter? It must arise. If we wait for it to happen we will have a position similar to that which existed in Pakistan; and I hope that will never occur in Australia.

Unless we are prepared to devote some of our time to the situation which must arise as a result of these new ideas, this will be a very bad country in which to live. We should set an example, even though automation and atomic power have not hit us very hard yet. Do we know what is occurring in this regard in other countries? Of course we do not! Will we be prepared? Of course not! That will be the position unless we do something now. I say to the people whose responsibility it is, that they should make provision for the future and give some thought to the problem so that a catastrophe to the people of this country will, to some extent, be avoided.

There is little more I wish to say tonight. I know it is usual for me to deal with the coal industry when speaking in this Chamber; but I will discuss that when

the Estimates are being considered. I did not speak about the dairying industry, because I think the situation is well known. However, I was amazed with regard to two applications I submitted to the Milk Board for a license to produce milk, as I was told that this State is over-producing. This is amazing when one thinks of all the uses to which milk can be put.

A man who lives at Muja, on a good dairy farm, made provision for refrigeration with a view to supplying the demands of the Collie district with table cream. An agent at Collie was prepared to take all the cream that this man could supply in order to distribute it to the residents of Collie and surrounding districts. However, I have been told that so far a license has not been granted. The agent at Collie said he could take and sell 50 gallons of milk a day from this dairy farmer. This would avoid the bringing of 50 gallons of milk per day from, I think, Burekup or Brunswick Junction.

The most sensible thing to do is to sell one's produce as near as possible to the point of production, but in this case a license was not approved. I am not blaming the Milk Board; it is the system under which we work. However, I was amazed to learn that the population of this State was being over-supplied with milk. I cannot see why that should be. Surely with our export trade in butter, this State should be able to get rid of all the milk it produces. I cannot understand it, but perhaps I am not as fully acquainted with the position as I should be.

Mr. Nalder: They certainly could take all the cream.

Mr. MAY: I had a letter yesterday from the Milk Board telling me it could not see its way clear to grant a license for this man to supply the people in the Collie district with table cream. Our thinking should be on a larger scale. A product should go to the market nearest to where it is produced. I do not know whether the Milk Board comes within the province of the Minister for Agriculture, but I am not blaming the board. If there is no market for the milk, the board cannot do very much about it; but I do know that this man could supply Collie with table cream if he could get a license.

I hope something will be done to enable him to supply this cream as he has spent quite a deal of money putting his farm in order and equipping it with the necessary refrigeration. I understand that a license is not granted unless one has this amenity in regard to the production and treatment of cream. I think a license should be granted to a man who has a ready market for all the cream he can produce on his property.

These things should be given minute consideration. Sometimes, we are inclined to think too far afield and overlook the fact that something we are trying to sell

outside our State can be disposed of on the home market to the benefit of the producer. That is all I wish to say at the moment. I will deal with other matters when the Estimates are under consideration.

**MR. I. W. MANNING** (Harvey) [8.58]: I take this opportunity to discuss one or two matters. But first of all, along with other speakers, I offer my congratulations to you, Sir, on your appointment to the high office which you now hold in this Assembly. I trust your occupation of the Chair will be a long and pleasant one.

I think this Assembly would be disappointed if I did not rise to speak of the problems in the milk industry. The principal problem at the moment is that of maintaining the quality of milk. This is a real problem because no-one knows just what is the cause of the falling-off in quality, and what steps should be taken to correct the trouble. For a number of years, prosecutions have been launched against dairymen for selling milk below the required standard; that is—3.2 per cent. butterfat, and 8.5 per cent. solids other than fat.

The dairyman supplying the milk would not know, when he sent the milk forward, that it was below the required standard. He would have no criminal intentions, and he would not in any way be neglectful of his responsibility to supply good-quality milk. Therefore, prosecuting a person when the milk is found to be below standard achieves nothing. These prosecutions have gone on for a number of years; and very many dairymen—good, honest farmers—have been prosecuted without anything being achieved.

One of the very objectionable features of the prosecution is the activity of the health officers of the local authorities in the metropolitan area. Normally, it is accepted that the sampling and testing of milk—the dairyman's milk—is carried out by the Milk Board; but we find that in many instances when the milk reaches the metropolitan area in the farmer's can it is sampled and tested by the health authorities before it is accepted by the milk treatment depots. The farmer may send forward 5-gallon, 10-gallon, or even more than 10-gallon cans of milk; and if one of these cans is found to be below the required standard, the farmer is prosecuted.

This is a most unfortunate state of affairs, because the farmer feels he is being victimised and that the health authorities are putting the boots into him, if these prosecutions have taken place at the instigation of the Milk Board. Some knowledge is gained by the Milk Board of a variation in the quality of a particular farmer's milk. I have no quarrel in regard to the strict control of the quality of milk which is offered to the retailer

and the consumer; but I think it is very wrong that the health authorities should sample and test the milk of the individual farmer.

I believe it would be a better scheme if the health authorities devoted their attention to the sampling and testing of milk after it leaves the treatment plants and is offered to the retailer and the consumer; and if the sampling and testing of milk before it reaches the treatment depots were done solely by the Milk Board or officers of the Agricultural Department.

It is my intention to put forward some recommendations for the consideration of the Minister and his departmental officers in regard to milk. They are as follows:—

- (1) That where there is no question of adulteration, prosecutions for under-standard milk be deferred pending further research into this problem.
- (2) That in lieu of prosecution, under-standard milk be diverted to the manufacturer.
- (3) That the sampling of milk prior to testing be undertaken solely by the officers of the Milk Board.
- (4) That all testing of whole-milk be carried out at the Agricultural Department by qualified technical officers of that department.
- (5) That the Department of Health and the health officers of local authorities be permitted to sample milk only when it is offered to the retailer.
- (6) That a committee of four persons be set up to direct research into the problem of milk quality, comprising one representative of the Milk Board, one from the Agricultural Department, one technical expert, and one farmer.
- (7) That the practicability of payment on quality be closely investigated.

The great need is for research. Therefore, first and foremost must come the establishment of satisfactory testing laboratories at the Department of Agriculture, staffed with suitably qualified technical officers to undertake that work. Then, and only then, can we give consideration to payment on quality. We in this State believe that our milk industry—its methods, production, purchase, distribution, and sales—is second to none in the Commonwealth. However, problems do exist, and I suggest that there is room for improvement.

An improvement may be achieved by payment on the basis of quality. The changes involved would need to be closely studied before any alteration were made; because what is, from a distribution point of view, a satisfactory industry, could quite easily be upset.

With the light winter we are having, and the approach of summer, and because of the extent to which milk production relies on the supply of irrigation water, we may have to face further problems. I suggest to the Minister and his department that they exercise great care in order to see that they do not go beyond the accepted bounds of the wholemilk zone, for the purchase of milk.

Great care should also be taken to see that the quota system on which the industry is based is retained. Nothing should be done to upset the quota system, because it ensures the continuity of supply throughout the 12 months of the year. The summer production of milk is not the only problem we face. In some areas the winter production also is quite a problem. The quota system has proved to be a good one; and when changes are suggested, we should be careful to see that the quota system is not altered.

I turn now to another subject in which from two points of view, I am interested: establishment of botanical gardens in the metropolitan area. One reason is that we have in King's Park a reserve of native flora which is something that we should preserve and extend. King's Park could well be used for the introduction of many species of native flora which are not to be found there today. Also, from the point of view of tourist attraction, King's Park—it is undeniably a tourist attraction now—could be improved.

In King's Park we have something which no other capital city in the world has. It is unique; and in this way it is an attraction to tourists. If we look at King's Park from the tourist-attraction point of view we realise that the cultivation of native flora there is something well worth while. Much has been written about the value of establishing botanical gardens, and of improving the foreshore in the vicinity of the Narrows Bridge. I urge the Government to have a close look at the possibility of effecting improvements in this area, which is a potential beauty spot. We want to attract tourists, and the making of improvements is one way by which we can attract them. If we do what I have suggested, we will preserve something that is unique.

In the planting of trees in the vicinity of the Narrows Bridge, I recommend that as much attention as possible be given to planting those that are native to the area. I am sure that many of the native trees that grow in the bushland of Western Australia could be encouraged to grow satisfactorily around the foreshore near the Narrows Bridge. I have a good opinion of our native trees, and I do not think that in this area we should plant imported trees, because people come here to see Western Australia and our native flora. At every opportunity we should encourage the growing of our own trees.

**MR. ANDREW** (Victoria Park) [9.5]: Although I have spoken two or three times this session, I thought I would wait until I made my Address-in-reply speech before I congratulated you, Sir, on attaining the important office of Speaker of the Assembly. I have already congratulated you privately, and I know that you will carry out the duties of your office with credit to the Assembly and also to yourself.

We have heard a number of speeches tonight, and some rather provocative suggestions were made in a couple of them. The member for Collie spoke of automation, and so on. That is a big subject which opens up quite an avenue for people to explore. When the hon. member was speaking, I was reminded of a question that a woman put to me quite a few years ago. This woman was talking about machinery and the problem of automatic machines taking the place of working people. I said, "People only work today because they need to produce the means of life. If they can produce the means of life without working, the necessity to work is done away with." She said, "How are people to get purchasing power?" I said, "They can only get purchasing power today by working for it, or by way of profits. When those conditions alter, people will have to be given claims to goods; in other words purchasing power." I am not going further with that subject, because it is too wide to be dealt with now.

Over the air on Sunday night, and in the Press yesterday and this morning, there were headlines about what the Minister for the North-West had to say in regard to the development of the North. He said that the Commonwealth Government would have to give assistance to Western Australia for the purpose of developing that huge territory. What the Minister stated is an opinion that has been voiced for many years. I remember that about three years ago I used the subject as a theme for a talk in this House. I spoke about the fact that, although Western Australia comprised one-third of the area of Australia, it had only 7 per cent. of the population; and the population of this State is to be found mainly in the South-West corner.

The people who comprise the population of Western Australia are charged with the responsibility of the development of the whole of the State; and it is an utter impossibility for them to carry that responsibility. The Minister for the North-West said that we will have to get Commonwealth assistance. We have known that for many years, and I agree with what he said. But the other evening, when someone spoke about asking the Commonwealth Government for financial assistance, the Premier said we could not always be going to the Commonwealth Government.

I agree with the Minister for the North-West that if Western Australia is to be developed at the speed at which it should be developed, much of the responsibility must be borne by the Commonwealth Government, which should be prepared to accept it. The amount of money that the Federal Government is spending in the Eastern States is much more than it is spending in Western Australia. Therefore the disparity that now exists between this State and the Eastern States is becoming greater instead of getting less. I hope the Minister for the North-West will go ahead with what he suggested, and that this Government can prevail upon the Federal Government to help in the development of Western Australia—particularly the North-West portion—by making some millions of pounds available annually for the purpose.

Another matter I wish to touch on, briefly, is finance. This subject was debated last evening. Prior to the debate taking place, the Premier made the statement in the Press that the interest bill for last month was £70,000 more than for the same month in the previous year. I asked the Premier what were the amounts of borrowings for 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, and 1959; the interest paid for those years, and the percentage that the interest bore to revenue. In some years the interest paid by Western Australia was more than 30 per cent. of the revenue. With the inflationary trend, that ratio has started to decline.

Any business, body, or company, can keep going by borrowing money. Gill attempted to run his business that way, and he could have kept going for the next 10 or 20 years provided the borrowed money kept coming in. I am afraid this State is in somewhat the same category as was Mr. Gill, inasmuch as the extra interest which we have to pay out of revenue each year comes to between £700,000 and £900,000. This is a tremendous sum to be paid out of revenue. Like the member for Collie, who spoke of automation, I am putting that forward as a thought for members to ponder on.

Some provocative statements were made tonight by the member for Moore. I think he must have had a very sheltered life because he seems to think it is quite easy for unemployed people to find jobs. Apparently he has never been in the position of having to look for a job, and not being able to find one. I have been in that category. What the hon. member said reminds me of a friend of mine—this occurred some years ago—who was a prepossessing fellow, and who had plenty of front and a fair amount of intelligence. On several occasions he got out of employment, but he was one of those chaps who would hop in and get a job. He would take on anything. He even took on lumping at Albany.

We were talking about unemployment one day; and he said, "I do not understand these people. Why can't they be like me and hop in and get a job?" I said, "Well, George, you are not seeing the full picture, because you are youngish; you have a good front; you can approach people." I have known of instances where men have queued up for a job, and this man has gone right past them and got the job.

Eventually the time came when he could not get a job, notwithstanding the fact that he would take anything. When I was speaking to him he said, "I will do anything, but I cannot get a job." I said, "I do not want to remind you of what you said some years ago." He said, "I was young and inexperienced then." I think the member for Moore is a bit inexperienced too, because if only half-a-dozen jobs are available, and 50 apply for them, 44 of those chaps must go without a job.

Again, the honourable member said that he would employ a man who could use the axe. Not everyone is used to working with the axe. Some young people are not used to the axe, and there are plenty of chaps, 50 years of age and older, who want jobs, but who could not take a job where the axe had to be used. I suggest to the member for Moore that he look into these matters a little more fully before he makes a statement that there is no reason why any single man should be out of work.

He also congratulated the Government and said what a good Government it was. He said he had met a number of people who supported him in that contention. I want to know what for. As yet the Government has done nothing to prove that it is a good Government. It has a very good Press, because *The West Australian* is really the unofficial journal of this Government, but most of the matters on which the Government has been given publicity were inaugurated by the previous Government. This Government has yet to prove that it can accomplish what the Labour Government did during its term of office.

Most of the major works in this State have been started by Labour Governments. When the previous Labour Government went out of office, and the McLarty-Watts Government took over, it was kept busy opening the Perth Hospital, the new Causeway, and other works which had been started by the Labour Government. In a month or so this Government will be opening the Narrows Bridge, the Serpentine Dam, and other works started by the Hawke Government. The speech of the member for Moore, as I said, was most provocative.

Mr. Lewis: If I had not made the speech, you would have had nothing to say.

Mr. ANDREW: The honourable member is quite entitled to say what he likes, and I would be the last one to deny him that

privilege; but I also have the right to have a shot at him about it. The honourable member spoke about private enterprise, and what it has done for the man on the land. I would remind him that those on the land comprise one body of men who have in many cases been helped by socialistic legislation and socialistic organisations—I refer to the Agricultural Bank, and land settlement and soldier settlement schemes. All these things are socialistic in their application, because they help the man who helps himself.

Mr. Lewis: Haven't they helped the State too?

Mr. ANDREW: That is not the argument. I am saying that much of the assistance given to the man on the land was not given by private enterprise but by socialistic legislation. Once anybody gets assistance from the State he is accepting socialism to that degree. I would also remind the honourable member, who was booming private enterprise, that the previous member for Moore was a director of Co-Operative Bulk Handling Ltd., and I heard him say on one occasion that he was proud of the organisation. That organisation is socialistic in its conception and in its practice. Although the late honourable member said that he did not believe in socialism, he was very proud to be a member of what really is a socialistic organisation.

Mr. Lewis: I do not think it is socialistic.

Mr. ANDREW: It is a co-operative, and socialism is based on co-operation—co-operation for the benefit of the people. In other words, we do not believe people should fight one another economically, but we believe that they should co-operate economically; whereas private enterprise is based on the most base motives—greed and selfishness. I will not go any further into that subject because it is too big to be discussed in this debate.

On opening day I asked the Premier the following question:—

- (1) Is it not unethical and also in bad taste to bring politics into public functions?
- (2) If so, why did he, when speaking at the opening of the University College appeal, at which I was present, state that one of the reasons why the appeal had a greater chance of success was because we now have a new Government in Western Australia?

The Premier replied—

In the first place, the member for Victoria Park should be the last one to talk about bringing politics into anything.

He went on further—

I made that statement facetiously, and if it was taken up by anybody there as being serious I humbly apologise to the Leader of the Opposition.

If the Premier had replied to the question with the second sentence only, and let it go at that, I would have been quite happy—and I think everyone else would have been—to accept his assurance. But it appears that the Premier has a habit of doing these things. I happened to be at a civic reception to the delegates to the R.S.L. Congress: I was representing the Leader of the Opposition, and Mr. Brand was there as Premier.

On that occasion he made a remark which I thought was right out of place: it was in regard to an item on the agenda dealing with Anzac Day. The R.S.L. delegates were divided on the question, and up to that time it had not been discussed. The Premier said, "I advise you to hold Anzac Day as it is"; in other words, "What you have you hold". Again the Premier was bringing into a public function something which he had no right to discuss. I thought he would know better, because he is a man holding a responsible position.

Mr. Craig: As a member of the League he is entitled to have his say.

Mr. ANDREW: Had he been at the conference he would have had a right to say what he liked, but he was speaking as Premier of the State at a civic reception; and he had no more right to discuss a subject like that than I had. It was in bad taste.

Mr. O'Neil: Is it a political matter?

Mr. ANDREW: I now come back to the first part of the Premier's reply where he said—

In the first place, the member for Victoria Park should be the last one to talk about bringing politics into anything.

If the Premier implied that I have on occasions brought politics forward at a public function, and he could prove it, I would resign my seat. It is an untruth; either it is a deliberate untruth, or else the Premier is so irresponsible that he says something not caring whether it is the truth or not. I had hoped that the Premier's reply would have been in the form of the second paragraph because then everyone would be happy.

A great deal of dissatisfaction has been expressed by members of Parliament on various occasions about the Press. In my opinion the Press is responsible to the people in the areas in which it circulates. We have a daily Press in Western Australia; and if it does its job as it should do, it would cover the news and disseminate that news through its columns in a fair and impartial manner. It should be fair to all sections of the community, because it has a responsibility as the Press of the State.

Some people talk about the freedom of the Press. Personally I would like to know what they mean by that phrase. If by "freedom of the Press" people mean that the Press disseminates the news according

to its value, and with justice to all people, I would say that that is correct. But today the phrase "freedom of the Press" means freedom of the Press-owners, because they are the only ones who can say what will or will not go into the Press.

I believe the Press should pay greater attention to real freedom by being fair to all sections of the community. We must recognise that the Press has very great power because it can influence so many people. In my opinion an organisation could put a full-page advertisement in the daily newspaper, but it would not have as much influence on the ordinary man in the street as a two-column headline. Information which is put in the paper as news has much greater value than if it is put in the paper in the form of an advertisement. The Press can also colour the news as it wishes; and the term "freedom of the Press"—so glibly used these days by a number of people, particularly those in the conservative parts of the community—is an incorrect one, because the Press could be and is influenced greatly by its management.

The managing editor of a newspaper could be anything. He could be unbalanced or biased; he could be a neurotic, a cupboard drinker, and a most irresponsible person; but he would still have the say. We of the Labour Party have suffered greatly because of the Press. Some time last year I wrote a letter to the Press in answer to one which was written by a person named Groom, a member of a shipping firm, regarding a boat called the *Halimar* bought by the previous Government. I suppose that person had about 10 inches of space in the daily paper and the letter was not a very good one; in fact, it was rather abusive.

I compiled a letter in reply; and I rang up the then Minister, because I did not want to cut across any action that he might be taking in regard to it. I asked him about the letter and read it to him over the phone. He said that it was quite a good letter, and told me to go ahead and send it to the paper. The letter would have taken up about seven or eight inches of space but the Press cut it down to about 1½ inches and published one paragraph which, when read on its own, was very damaging to the Labour Party.

I would like to mention something else that the Press can do. Since this Government has been in office it has cancelled an old regulation and gazetted a new one in reference to crosswalks. As far as I can ascertain, the new regulation gives a pedestrian on a crosswalk the same right of way as did the previous regulation. I asked the Minister whether a successful prosecution could be launched under the new regulation against a motorist who did not give way to a pedestrian on a crosswalk, as had been the case under the old regulation. The answer was "Yes."

As the member for Moore said, both he and I represent our respective parties on the National Safety Council. It is the opinion of that body that the new regulation is just as efficient as the old, except that the new cleaned up an anomaly in the old. The following appeared in Kirwan Ward's column of the *Daily News*:—

Well, friends, I sincerely hope I'm wrong about this, but it seems to me that the new crosswalk deal is going to work out exactly as if the regulation had been framed by that carefree (and car-free) legislator, old man Rafferty himself.

On the 25th June the following was reported in the same column of that newspaper—

It's vital that all traffic rules should be absolutely cut-and-dried beyond any possible misunderstanding. But even after yesterday's pronouncements, this crosswalk thing is badly confused and confusing.

According to the information we have received from the authorities, there is no difference between the old and the new regulations, except in one small particular, which is not of very great importance. When this matter was discussed at the National Safety Council, it was mentioned that the Press had confused the people, and that the people had some confidence when using the crosswalks prior to the introduction of the new regulation; but because of articles appearing in the Press the people became confused and afraid to use the crosswalks.

One member of the National Safety Council, a well-known person in this State, said that the newspapers were to blame for the confusion which exists in regard to the use of crosswalks. He said, "I told my wife she had as much right on the crosswalk as before, but I could not convince her. That was the result of the influence of the Press."

I also want to refer to another matter which concerns the Press. The career of the Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, depended largely on the support of the Press. But as he is getting to the age when he does not care much, even he attacked the Press, as illustrated in the following article in the newspapers:—

He devoted the remainder of his speech to a strong attack on newspapers for "whipping up" opposition to the report and to a spirited defence of the recommendations in the report.

Further on he said—

There has been this classical contest between members of Parliament who have been elected by the people to sit in Parliament and administer the government and those who, elected by nobody except themselves, undertake to assume control of the affairs of the country.



That is what I have been trying to impress upon members. There is no doubt the Press does attempt to take control of the affairs of this country. In this very Parliament some Country Party members who supported certain legislation introduced by the previous Government were vilified by the Press. The Press apparently does not believe in freedom. If *The West Australian* believed in freedom, it would offer freedom to its newsgagents.

A newsagent in Victoria Park said to me on one occasion, "I paid thousands of pounds for this business, but I cannot put a price on it or sell it to whom I please. I have to sell it to a person approved by and through the agency of *The West Australian*. This newspaper talks about freedom, but it does not give freedom in that respect.

I have no objection to the newspaper contending, in regard to its agencies, "We must have the right to approve of the person taking over any of our agencies, and we must have the right to approve of the price at which that agency is to be sold." However, it has exercised that right over the whole business, including the other goods and lines carried by an agency. The owner could not sell, except at a price fixed by *The West Australian*.

Recently I was nominated to the National Safety Council by members on this side of the House. I was appointed because I have always been interested in traffic matters. I would like to touch on a number of them. I shall take these matters up with the National Safety Council to try to obtain results.

I have advocated that a guide or instruction be given to motorists relating to the correct use of the Causeway. I can make a number of suggestions which will improve the flow of traffic. Today it seems that Rafferty rules apply and motorists cut across one side to the other; I am referring to the rotaries. Today many motorists do not go around the rotary except along the inside island. I hope to take that matter up with the National Safety Council.

I now refer to traffic lights and I address my remarks to the Minister in charge of traffic. I contend that the amber light should be dispensed with. At present the red light shows in one direction while the green shows in another, but five seconds before the red light turns to green the amber light comes on. The amber light should be regarded as a red light, and a motorist approaching the crossing should halt when the amber light appears.

It seems to be the practice at present for people to regard the amber light as a five-second warning, during which time they can cross an intersection. On two occasions I nearly met with an accident when some motorist continued after the amber light showed. Some members may be confused and think that I am suggesting that the traffic light should turn directly from red

to green; but that is not the case. My suggestion is that, instead of the green light turning to amber it should turn to red; then we would have both the red lights showing for five seconds before the green light came on.

Mr. J. Hegney: That would prevent people from beating the gun.

Mr. ANDREW: Yes. I raised one matter with the previous Minister for Works and suggested the installation of a clover leaf system at the end of the Causeway; but he did not agree. The amount of traffic using the Causeway is very heavy, and any motorist who can avoid going home about 5 p.m. does so and waits until later to cross the Causeway. At present it takes 1½ hours to clear the peak traffic.

I asked a question in this House, but I was assured there was no need for the installation of a clover leaf system. I was told that the Narrows Bridge would ultimately take half the traffic. That may be the case; but the volume of traffic in the metropolitan area doubles every eight to nine years, so in that time the traffic will become just as heavy as it is today. In 16 years the volume of traffic using the Causeway and the Narrows Bridge would be double the amount of traffic today. I suggest the Government should give serious consideration to this matter.

I was glad to hear the Minister for Works referring to development south of the river. The member for Maylands mentioned earlier this evening that he hoped the Government would not concentrate only south of the river, but also include north of the river. The area south of the river has been sadly neglected over the years. We need many essential requirements south of the river.

Mr. J. Hegney: Such as a million pound hotel.

Mr. ANDREW: When the new traffic office was built in Victoria Park to cater for residents south of the river, I said to the Commissioner of Police at that time, "I do not think you have built this office large enough. You should realise there is about one-fifth of the population living south of the river in a 20-mile square." He said he had not realised that; otherwise he would have built that office larger. That traffic office was completed two or three years ago, but it is becoming overcrowded today. In general, that is what will apply south of the river.

I was interested to hear the statement of the member for Canning that a major hospital should be built south of the river. There is no hospital of any consequence in that area. Our complaint is that when the powers that be decide to build something, they think in terms of this side of the river. That was why I was surprised to hear the member for Maylands speaking as he did. The land which is chosen for a hospital site is not in Victoria Park; it is on

the boundary of Victoria Park, Beeloo, and Canning. That would cater for a large area.

Such a hospital will be a major centre for the treatment of serious cases from the South-West, which is the most thickly-populated part of the State. I urge the Public Health Department and the Minister for Health to give serious consideration to the establishment of this hospital as soon as possible.

Previously I have referred to the beautification of the riverfront, south of the Causeway. We all know that the Causeway is the gateway to Perth. When I made approaches regarding this matter, the previous Minister stated that the dredge was being used elsewhere. I see now that dredging for the Narrows Bridge project has been completed, and a dredge has not been used there for some time. So a dredge should now be available for dredging the river, building up the banks, and beautifying the riverfront west of the Causeway.

Perth is really a beautiful city. I know one young woman who was born here but did not think much of the beauty of her home city. She travelled to Europe, and then the United States of America. Subsequently she wrote a letter to her mother in which she said—

I did not realise that Perth was the city beautiful. There is only one city I have seen which compares very well with Perth, and that is San Francisco. That is ever so much larger and is built on seven hills. I had to leave Perth and travel around before I realised how beautiful Perth is.

I am submitting that illustration in support of my statement that we can make Perth very beautiful by giving attention to those parts on the other side of the river which I have already mentioned.

There are several other matters about which I could speak tonight. I have taken up with the Minister for Local Government the matter of zoning, and ward representation on the Perth City Council for Victoria Park; but I do not seem to be getting very far very quickly. However, I will take those matters up personally with the Minister instead of dealing with them at the present moment.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

Motion put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—19.

Mr. Andrew	Mr. Kelly
Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Lawrence
Mr. Brady	Mr. Muir
Mr. Evans	Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Rhatigan
Mr. Hall	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Sewell
Mr. J. Hegney	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. W. Hegney	Mr. Toms
Mr. Jamieson	

(Teller.)

Noes—22.

Mr. Bovell	Mr. W. A. Manning
Mr. Brand	Sir Ross McLarty
Mr. Burt	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Cornell	Mr. Nimmo
Mr. Craig	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Crommellin	Mr. O'Neill
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Guthrie	Mr. Roberts
Dr. Henn	Mr. Watts
Mr. Lewis	Mr. Wild
Mr. Mann	Mr. I. W. Manning

(Teller.)

Pairs.

Noes.

Ayes.	
Mr. Heal	Mr. Court
Mr. Graham	Mr. Hutchinson
Mr. Norton	Mr. Owen

Majority against—3.

Motion thus negatived.

MR. J. HEGNEY (Middle Swan) [9.50]: I propose to use the Address-in-reply debate for the purpose of commenting on a statement made by the Attorney-General when he was replying to the second reading debate on the Royal Commissioners' Powers Act Amendment Bill. I would like to quote the statement which appears, as follows, on page 507 of *Hansard* No. 4:—

A great deal was said last night in regard to Mr. Jamieson. As I said a little earlier on, I had given the matter no thought for many weeks until last Thursday, because I was as disinclined as the Leader of the Opposition to believe, for one moment, that members of this House anywhere in respect of their opinion for or against any matter had been corrupted. I am still of the opinion that that is most unlikely, but I would say this in regard to the statements made by that person at the time, that they were made, as it happened, in the presence of a very responsible member of this House who told us of that fact on Thursday night last. I refer to the former Speaker, the member for Middle Swan.

The SPEAKER: I must draw the attention of the honourable member to Standing Order No. 26 which reads as follows:—

No Member shall allude to any debate of the same Session, upon a Question or Bill not being then under discussion except by the indulgence of the House for personal explanations.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I would say that I was unable to reply to the matter referred to by the Attorney-General because it would not have been relevant to the debate. He said that I, as Speaker of this House, attended a meeting at the racecourse, and that it was competent for me to take action as Speaker in regard to the libellous statements made.

I doubt whether the Solicitor-General gave any advice on this matter, but I want to inform the honourable gentleman that, as Speaker of this House, I could not take action because Parliament had been dissolved as at the 31st January, and this meeting took place on the racecourse on

the 5th February. Parliament was dead and had no function at all. It could not be called together by the Government or anybody else.

The statement was made that I—as the Speaker, and member for Middle Swan—should have taken certain action, and he then quoted the relevant section from the Criminal Code. You, Sir, in your capacity as Speaker, will find that you cannot function without the direction and authority of this House. You will find you are responsible to Parliament, as I was responsible to Parliament; and it would have been for Parliament to take action.

But, as Parliament had ceased to exist by the effluxion of time, no action could be taken. If the honourable member would like to refer to page 172 of the Constitution, he will find the following:—

Every Legislative Assembly shall exist and continue for three years, from the day of the first meeting thereof and no longer; subject, nevertheless, to being sooner prorogued or dissolved by the Governor.

Provided that, subject as aforesaid—

- (a) whenever any Legislative Assembly would expire by the effluxion of time between the last day of August of any year and the first day of February next hereafter, such Legislative Assembly shall continue up to and including the day next preceding such first day of February and no longer;

Therefore, the previous Parliament of this country ceased to exist on the 31st day of January, and the strictures made by the Attorney-General were made to bolster up his case, and had no foundation whatever. I feel pretty certain that if he took that matter back to the Solicitor-General and consulted him, he would advise him accordingly.

Therefore, in trying to suggest that I could have taken action to look after those members of Parliament is all just moonshine. However, I must emphasise that I took the only action that was available to me at the time. I vigorously protested against the suggestions at the meeting that any member of Parliament had accepted bribes. My name was mentioned, and I was invited to say something.

There were two members of the Liberal Party present, both of whom are in the Cabinet today; and neither of them made any protest whatever in connection with this matter. The Leader of the House in another place (Mr. Griffith) came out to the platform uninvited—primarily, I suggest, for the purpose of obtaining political advantage over me, as the member for the district. He indicated on the platform that he was representing his Leader, and that if Mr. Brand was returned, his party would look after the racing interests.

But he never made one protest in regard to the allegation that members of Parliament had accepted bribes.

Mr. Bovell: Isn't that in Mr. Griffith's province?

Mr. J. HEGNEY: It may be in his province, but I am pointing out that he was not invited to speak. He saw the opportunity of getting a political advantage at the time and took it. He was quite within his rights from the political angle. As the election was to follow very shortly—within a matter of a few weeks—I suppose he found it very useful. However, the fact is that events marched on.

Mr. Brand: Is it a fact that he was not invited to speak at all?

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I say frankly that he was not invited to speak. As I went back, he walked out to the platform, which was in the middle of the arena. He had been sitting in the grandstand with Mr. Ross Hutchinson and Mr. Murray. I suggest he came out for the purpose of gaining political advantage.

Mr. Brand: I understood he was invited.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I was there and know the facts. Mr. Griffith made no reference whatever to the vile charges made against all members of Parliament. I denied vehemently that any member had received a bribe. The sum of £200 was mentioned; and speaking for myself, I said that I had not received £200, and that so far as other members were concerned I did not believe they would be so low or miserable as to accept £200 as was alleged.

Mr. Bovell: Who mentioned £200?

Mr. J. HEGNEY: It was mentioned at the racecourse.

Mr. Bovell: Who said it?

Mr. J. HEGNEY: The man in question—Mr. Jamieson. There was a report in the paper on the 6th February dealing with the passing of the S.P. Bill. I would point out, before proceeding to that article, that a reference was made to the constitution of the 21st Parliament. This is the 23rd Parliament. It was about six years ago that the division on the debate took place on the S.P. Bill in this House. Therefore, the reference was being made to the members of that Parliament, and not the last one to go out. Consequently, even if Parliament had been sitting, I doubt whether any action could have been taken against Jamieson for the statements he had made. It was a matter purely for the court and for any honourable member to take action in that way.

However, he stated that, when the Bill went through, he had heard a lot of rumours; and one of them was that a lot of money was paid to politicians at that time. He said that the amount concerned was £200. I denied having received £200; but the honourable Mr. Griffith, the present Leader of the Government in another

place, mounted the platform and made no reference to the allegations. He did not deny, on behalf of Parliament, that members had received such a sum: Do not forget that he was a member of another place at the time when the Bill concerned passed through there and was supported by members of the Liberal Party. I repeat that at that meeting he took no action to vindicate the honour of members—

Mr. Lewis: He thought the statement beneath contempt.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: Mr. Jamieson also said that a lot of S.P. bookmakers had paid a lot of money to receive licenses. As members know, the chairman of the Betting Control Board demanded a retraction from Mr. Jamieson; and it was very quickly given. The position developed, and the Liberal Party decided to seek candidates. It was said that the racing interests wanted some activity; and I understand they got up a petition for the purpose of inviting some prominent racing person to stand against me in the Middle Swan electorate.

I understand that applications were called for candidates, and a number were received. The man who ultimately became the candidate was known throughout the Rivervale and Belmont districts as, in essence, a Labour supporter. There were two other candidates, who were members of the Liberal Party and who applied for endorsement; yet the Liberal Party executive passed over them, and ultimately endorsed Mr. Wilson, the erstwhile supporter of the Labour movement, as their Liberal candidate. But I am certain that at those two meetings Mr. Wilson had no intention of being a candidate. He was chairman of several meetings that were held.

Much has been said about a mandate for a Royal Commission in connection with racing, betting, and so on. The Liberal Party candidate for Middle Swan never referred to racing; and it was never an issue in that electorate so far as the propositions advanced by the candidates were concerned. He sought to keep as far away from that question as possible. It was unfortunate that the newspapers, in introducing Mr. Wilson to the electors, referred to him as a bookmaker who was to oppose the Speaker; and a part-time on-course doubles bookmaker, who was to be the Liberal candidate at the election.

I repeat that the question of racing, as such, was not ventilated by way of propaganda or in any other way during that election. I have no doubt that the racing interests voted against me, as it was their prerogative to do; but no pamphlets were got out on racing, for distribution to the Middle Swan electorate, and it was not an issue. However, other propaganda was circulated, and I will refer to it. I had the audacity to say that I had represented the electorate for 26 years—as I had—and in the last few days of the campaign, the Liberal Party, under the authority of Mr.

Ockerby, its organiser or secretary, distributed a leaflet. In order to indicate that the election was not fought on the racing issue, but on domestic issues, I will refer to this pamphlet, which read—

Electors of Middle Swan, your present Labour member makes a proud boast that he has represented you for 26 years. Are you proud of his achievements on your behalf? Has he fixed the cement dust nuisance? No! Has he fought for sewerage in your area? No! Do you know that your international airport at Guildford is not sewered? Would you be satisfied if you employed a man for 26 years who produced the same results as your present Labour member? Your electorate has suffered six long languid successive years of socialistic stagnation. Your present member states he is strongly opposed to Communism, although he is tied to the Labour policy of socialisation. Communism develops from socialism. The Liberal Party not only opposes Communism; but vigorously opposes the Labour Government's policy of socialism. Middle Swan has been in a state of political inactivity for far too long.

There was no truth at all in those statements; because I made strenuous representations to the previous Government—the Labour Government—particularly in connection with the cement dust nuisance; and in that regard there has been a considerable improvement. The Attorney-General knows that when he was Minister for Industrial Development, in a former Government, I brought down a private member's Bill which sought to include, under the Health Act, power to control such nuisances. I was advised that the power should be included in the Factories and Shops Act; but subsequently I was advised by the Parliamentary Draftsman that the Health Act was a stronger statute, and that it should be amended to include this power.

I did not mind which Act was amended; so long as some provision was placed in the law so that the people or a local authority could invoke the law and have something done to abate a nuisance of that kind. However, the present Attorney-General sponsored a Bill for the purpose, because he could see that the problem would arise not only in connection with cement dust, but also in regard to other industrial activities in this State. He realised that there should be some power in the law to deal with this vexed question.

In the last days of that session the Government Bill was passed by both Houses of the Parliament; and the Bill which I had sponsored passed through this Chamber by a majority, but was defeated by certain Suburban Province members in another place.

There was later a change of Government, and my brother became Minister for Labour. As member for Middle Swan, I set out immediately to have the law invoked; and, to his credit, the then Minister for Labour called a conference of the management of the cement works, the local authorities, and the Perth City Council; and we discussed the question. The management stated its case, and it was decided to adjourn for three months to give the company the opportunity to put into operation some of the things it said it would do. There were a number of conferences over a period of about two years. No doubt the management had its difficulties; but it spent a lot of money in trying to arrest that nuisance, and a considerable improvement took place.

Despite what the company did during that period, there are still times when, through mechanical mishaps and so on, dust is spread abroad. Many members of the Belmont Park Road Board think that the cement works at Rivervale should be removed. The chairman and a number of members of that board have urged that the industry be removed from Rivervale. I made that suggestion to Mr. Sewell, the manager of the company, at the first conference that was held; because, as I said, in the light of town planning development and the aesthetic beauty of the City of Perth, situated on the Swan River, I felt that the time would come when, with the co-operation of the Government, the industry would have to be transferred to some other part of the State less thickly populated than the present site.

The former Minister for Labour did all he could, and set up an expert committee to advise him in connection with the matter. He took all reasonable and proper action to minimise the nuisance. After the election, the Belmont Park Road Board wrote direct to the present Minister for Labour who, on the 30th May, 1959, replied, saying—

Dear Sir,

With further reference to your letter of the 22nd April, concerning the offensive smell and dust emanating from the cement works at Rivervale. I have to advise that I have carefully examined the file and had further reports prepared for me and it seems, as you say, that the dust problem is much reduced now that production has declined at the works.

Despite the fact that every effort is being made scientifically to discover and assess any condition giving rise to complaint, it seems that it will be impossible to entirely eliminate some objectionable smell at certain times, unless the plant were closed down entirely.

It appears to me that as this is an industrial area it is unreasonable to expect that all such discomfort can be

entirely eliminated and the best my officers can do is to take every possible step to try to keep it to an absolute minimum.

Yours faithfully,

C. C. Perkins,  
Minister for Labour.

That answers the question raised in the pamphlet regarding cement dust. An expert committee, of which Mr. Hood was a member, and of which a doctor from the Public Health Department and Mr. Warman, of the Factories and Shops Department, are members, was set up. There is still a complaint that is due to the hot oil, at the first combustion stage, giving off an offensive smell about which people complain bitterly. No matter what Government is in power, I believe the time will come when it will have to consult with the company and see that this industry does not expand any more, as it will ultimately have to be removed from the present site.

As depreciation takes place, the company should endeavour to ensure that this industry is removed to another location more suitable and far removed from a residential area. A strange feature surrounding this particular matter is that the strongest objections have emanated from those people who are not members of my electorate. Therefore, if this suggestion were put into effect it would remove the object of their complaints. However, I think I have shown that the statement set out in the pamphlet did not have much application.

I now wish to discuss housing—a most important question. Recently I read in an issue of the *Daily News* dated the 10th July, 1959, a report of an address that was given by Professor Copland on the question of finance to be made available for housing. I thought it was an excellent article because there is no doubt that his remarks apply to our own State as well as to other States of Australia. This newspaper article reads as follows:—

#### NEW HOMES URGED

Melbourne, Fri: Sir Douglas Copland last night urged formation of a national housing mortgage bank.

"It should be as simple to buy a home on time payment as it is to buy a TV set," he said.

Sir Douglas, who is director of the Australian Administrative College at Mt. Eliza, was speaking to the Victorian Institute of Builders.

He said that Australia was building about 70,000 houses a year. But there was need for 85,000, increasing by five per cent each year.

The purpose of a national housing mortgage bank would be to stimulate house-building by providing finance at a reasonable rate of interest—about four per cent.

The money market in recent years had fostered time payment and the unit fixed trusts to the exclusion of housing loans.

Both time payment and unit fixed trusts worked on as much as eight per cent interest.

"You cannot build a nation on eight per cent," Sir Douglas said. "It just won't work."

#### Expansion Frontier

He said that the big financial houses of Australia should be made to allocate a reasonable proportion of their funds annually for home building.

The building industry was the "frontier of national expansion."

The refusal of governments to realise the importance of building homes had been the greatest blot on our economic statesmanship in the past decade.

In 1953, the building industry accounted for 9.1 per cent of the total work force.

In 1958, it accounted for only 8.9 per cent.

If we had been doing the job of developing this country properly it would be now up to 10 per cent compared with 1953.

No intelligent community should deny a young man and his wife the opportunity to buy a home.

No investment was safer.

That article is worthy of being reprinted and recorded in *Hansard* because undoubtedly Sir Douglas Copland's remarks are very sound indeed. There is great need for more homes to be built. The Housing Commission has a waiting list which will not be met for 2½ years. When one makes representation to that Commission on behalf of those who are seeking homes, one is told that there is that great lag. Not much increase has been made in the money that was made available under the Commonwealth-State rental scheme. Consequently, as pointed out by Professor Copland, more money should be spent on home-building to ensure that young couples intending to marry will have the opportunity to obtain a decent home at a reasonable rate of interest, namely, 4 per cent.

The only way a home-seeker can obtain a home at such a low rate of interest is if he is eligible to apply for one under the provisions of the War Service Homes Act. Under the State Housing Act the rate of interest on money made available for home-building is 5½ per cent. There is no doubt that too much money is being invested in hire-purchase schemes, fixed trusts, and other credit schemes where high rates of interest are offered. As the Leader of the Opposition said the other evening, the burden of hire-purchase and credit

systems will ultimately have its effect on the economy of this country, although it may not be felt for 10 or 20 years.

If more money were spent on home-building, it would benefit all concerned and perhaps less money would be available for hire-purchase schemes. I have read through the Speech made by His Excellency but I have been unable to find any reference to industrial relationships in this State. For example, there is no reference to the introduction of any amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act to bring that Act up to the standard of the legislation that is operating in the Eastern States of Australia.

I recall the member for Mt. Hawthorn referring to the fact that members in another place have repeatedly rejected legislation that was introduced by the previous Government to amend the Workers' Compensation Act.

I have noticed from the Speech made by His Excellency that it is the object of the State Government Insurance Office this year to operate within the confines of the present legislation and to assist further with loan money for private persons seeking housing finance, and for semi-Government and local authorities. Credit for that should go to the late Hon. Jack Willcock. He was always anxious to find money to build workers' homes; because, at the end of the depression it was most difficult to obtain the necessary finance. He sought to obtain money at a low rate of interest so that these homes could be made available. As a result, he was responsible for providing that the money which was not being used by the Superannuation Board should be diverted to financing the building of these workers' homes.

Another item referred to in His Excellency's Speech was dealt with as follows:—

Legislation will be placed before you to repeal the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Control Act and to substitute a measure along the lines recommended by the Royal Commission on Restrictive Trade Practices.

The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Control Act was introduced to protect the consumers of this State, and any person could complain to the Commissioner who was appointed under the Act about any restrictive trade practices. Whilst this Government is in office I am sure the activities of the Commissioner who was appointed by the previous Government will diminish and not much action will be taken under the provisions of the Act.

The only reference to industrial matters recently was that the Minister for Labour had visited Eastern Australia only a short time ago to attend a conference that had been held to discuss safety in industry. In the Speech made by His Excellency the following appears:—

Industrial safety will receive special consideration and a service to assist and educate employers and employees

in this matter is being instituted. No industrial dispute has marred Western Australia's splendid record of industrial peace.

Since I have been a member of this House frequent attempts have been made to introduce amendments to the legislation which governs safety in industry, but attempts have always been made in another place to whittle down those amendments. I can tell the Minister for Labour that he may have some difficulty with any amendments that he may introduce that will lay down certain conditions appertaining to both employees and employers in industry.

Mr. Perkins: It wants a little less legislation and a little more co-operation to achieve our end.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: We will see how much we will achieve by co-operation. Over the years it has been evident that the representatives of the trade union movement have been continually pleading for safety to be exercised to protect the lives and the limbs of all workers in industry by making it compulsory for safety precautions to be taken and safety gear to be provided. However, I will be interested to hear what the Minister has to say on this question as time goes on; and if the suggestions he puts forward are worth while I can assure him that he will receive my support.

Mr. Perkins: I do not intend to go around waving a big stick. I can assure you of that.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: Nobody is asking the Minister to do that, but he should make some attempt to improve safety in industry. Reverting to my remarks that apparently no attempt is to be made to amend the Workers' Compensation Act, I can well remember the late Alex McCallum, who was Minister for Labour in the Labour Government that held office in 1933, amending the legislation to provide that workers should be covered by compensation whilst travelling to and from their place of employment. Since that time further attempts have been made by Labour Ministers to insert such a provision in the Workers' Compensation Act but always, and without any justification, they have been objected to in another place by those members constituting an anti-Labour force.

Mr. W. Hegney: It has been opposed here too, don't forget!

Mr. J. HEGNEY: Yes, I know that such amendments have been strongly opposed by those members who are now sitting on the opposite side of the House, regardless of the fact that such a provision already exists in the statutes of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. If the Government of the day did not have a mandate to insert a provision such as this in the Workers' Compensation Act I could understand it, but in this case it has a mandate

to implement such a suggestion in the same way as it has a mandate to implement many other suggestions it will place before the House in the next few weeks.

The member for Maylands referred to the need to improve the Swan River north of the Causeway. As the member for Middle Swan I have advocated the dredging and the deepening of the river and the building of embankments to improve the beauty of the Swan River. This State now has in its possession a report that was made by Professor Stephenson, an eminent town planner. I have had the opportunity to see many rivers in other parts of the world, but I have never seen one that is cleaner than our own Swan River. It therefore behoves us to preserve its beauty by cleaning it up, improving it, and preserving it for posterity.

There is a need for a dredge to operate north of the Causeway so that a certain amount of work could be done each year. A definite programme could be laid down to improve the Swan River as far as Guildford and Midland Junction. Years ago, when I was a boy, the river was used by many organisations in Midland Junction. I refer particularly to the Midland Junction Workshops. Also, people were frequently conveyed by launch from Guildford to Bayswater to a picnic ground further up the river, just as a novelty, and as a change from going into the city of Perth. In those days boats could move up and down the river; but today, because of the fact that it is so dreadfully silted up, it is impossible to go through by boat. It would greatly improve the development of our State if this were done, and we should endeavour to do whatever is possible by way of dredging the Swan River.

What happened on the other side—the Perth side of the causeway? Dredging took place, and the river embankment was built up; and we all know how clean it is today. The dredging has improved that area immeasurably, and a good deal of reclamation has taken place. I remember a former Leader of the Opposition complaining about men working on the dredge, and saying it was not productive work. For him to have said that it was not productive work, particularly when one considers the aesthetic effect it has on the beauty of our city—which is second to none in the Commonwealth—was, of course, quite incorrect.

The question of widening bridges was also mentioned. Reference was made to the Garratt Road bridge, which joins my electorate, between Bayswater and Belmont, to those on the highway. This bridge is due for widening. The Garratt Road bridge was built in 1932; but since that time the vehicles on the highway have multiplied out of all proportion. In many cases the vehicles have got longer and wider. So many of them are going across the Garratt Road bridge that at times

damage is done to the railings, and there is always the attendant danger of an accident taking place.

There is no doubt that an urgent need exists for the widening of that bridge. It is actually an arterial road for vehicles and other forms of transport coming from Kalamunda and from the Eastern suburbs. They go across the Garratt Road bridge and on to Grand Promenade and Mt. Yokine and other suburbs in that direction; and in doing this, it is possible for them to avoid going through Perth. When the Premier was referring to the naming of the new bridge at the Narrows, he said he had in mind the building of several more bridges.

Mr. Brand: I did not say that. I said there would be more crossings on the Swan River built in the future.

Mr. J. HEGNEY. I thought that the Labour Government had just about finished the building of the Narrows Bridge, and that it would be insufficient for the vehicles plying on the highway. There should certainly be more crossings on the river. Under the Stephenson Plan it is proposed to build a bridge over the river at East Perth. I know that a survey has been made with a view to building a bridge to join the by-pass road further north of the Garratt Road bridge. But that is a few years off.

Another project is what is called the Gosnells-Beechborough Highway. But the authorities have run into trouble there, because the Commonwealth Government will not play ball, as that Government needs the area for runways for the Boeing jets. The Main Roads Department will have difficulty now in securing sufficient land in that locality. It will not be possible for the department to obtain that land, and it will probably resume it from more populated centres. This will be very bad indeed; though it looks as if it will be inevitable when the time comes.

I was rather interested in the criticism made by the member for Moore of what is called the day-labour system. I was interested because I happened to work under the honourable member's father, who was a very able inspector in the Midland Junction Workshops. I would say that there were opportunities outside the workshops in those days where he could have sought employment—in engineering establishments and other places—but he decided to seek his employment where there was plenty of scope and where the day-labour system operated. There was probably more scope for him there in the trade he followed, and he subsequently became chief boiler inspector in Midland Junction. He was a most able inspector.

I was a very young man, apprenticed at the time I knew him. But it is interesting to see that he followed Government employment from his very first days. His son, on the other hand, does not seem to

think that day labour has much in the way of inducement for him. However, that is the difference between father and son. One seeks work where he can find good employment and prospects on the day-labour system, while the other follows another avocation altogether.

I do not intend to delay the House much longer, but I would like to hark back for a moment to the question of education. I mentioned the difficulties confronting the State in its endeavours to raise the school-leaving age. The next time he attends a conference of Premiers, I trust the Treasurer will follow up the work done by his predecessor, the present Leader of the Opposition. The previous Premier did make an attempt to get the Commonwealth Government to set up a commission for the purpose of doing the same type of work as is done by the University Commission in relation to the University.

The authorities went into the question of the need for financing the universities thoroughly; and when the Murray Commission report was made available to the Commonwealth Government it was adopted practically in toto by that Government. I think the time has arrived when the Commonwealth should appoint a commission for the purpose of going into the needs of primary, secondary, and technical education. I suggest to the Premier that, when he gets the opportunity at a subsequent Premiers' Conference, he should raise that matter. I understand other Premiers have done so; but it looks as though we must be pretty persistent in order to convince the Commonwealth Government that it should help with more moneys so far as education is concerned. That money cannot be devoted to a better purpose than the educating of the young men and women of our country. I have covered all I wanted to say; but if I have omitted anything, I will mention it at a later sitting.

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

**MR. RHATIGAN** (Kimberley) [10.40]: I would first like to congratulate the member for Blackwood who has been elected to the high position of Speaker of this House. I wish him every success during his term of office. I have listened to his speeches with interest during my term in this House, and know him to be a fearless debater. I trust his term of office will be a happy and successful one, as I feel it will.

Mr. Evans: Also a short one!

**MR. RHATIGAN:** My congratulations also go to the Premier and his Ministers on their having succeeded to the Government bench. I feel sure that the people of Western Australia will think as did the people of the North, and accordingly the term of office of this Government will not



be extended for very long. However, I extend to the Government my congratulations, and I trust that it will be its policy to emulate that of the Hawke Government in assisting the people of the North. When I say that, I am particularly concerned with the people in my own electorate.

With the shortage of loan funds, the Hawke Government has done a mighty job for the people of the North. It has provided schools, hospitals, and public amenities, which have never been known before. I did not wish to refer again to the period of stagnation we had for six years during the McLarty-Watts Government—commonly known as the L.C.L. I think it was supported by a couple of black crows at the back. I trust we will not go back to those days, and I hope the present Government will carry on the good work started by the Hawke Government.

There are many suggestions put up nowadays for the advancement of the Kimberleys. It appears to me that my electorate has become what could be termed a glamour electorate. We have had various politicians visiting the area, and we even had the Press up there last year, together with a few politicians. They wore sombrero hats—great wide hats worn by the drovers, and by people in films. What benefit that will be to the people of the North I do not know. At present I understand that the Minister for the North-West is doing a quick tour with a few Federal politicians.

Mr. Jamieson: Has he a hat like that?

Mr. RHATIGAN: I have no objection to politicians—irrespective of their political colour—visiting the North. I think it is a great thing. But they should visit the North in the dry months of the year; namely December to March. I will commend to the Premier that he authorise, as Treasurer—

Mr. Cornell: Another issue of hats!

Mr. RHATIGAN: —transport by road. He should provide transport facilities which are used by shearers when they travel to the North; perhaps he could provide a truck which would enable members to see the North as it really is, so that the Premier will know that when we make requests for subsidies for perishables and other things, we do really require those facilities. Members should visit the North in a truck and experience the conditions under which the people in that area live. If they become bogged and stuck in a creek, that will not matter for a few days, because Parliament will not be in session. I suggest that the Minister for the North-West accompany the Premier on this trip.

Mr. Brand: How do the members of the North-West get around? Do they get around by truck?

Mr. RHATIGAN: Yes; I get around by truck. I trust consideration will be given to that matter. It is unfortunate that members representing the North-West have to spend the hot months of the year visiting their electorates and the wet time of the year in Perth shivering in the cold in order to attend Parliament. I suggest to the Premier that he either hold two sessions a year or shift Parliament to the North.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Roberts): The member for Kimberley will get on much better if he addresses the Chair.

Mr. RHATIGAN: I give full marks to *The West Australian*, despite remarks which have been made by some of my colleagues. I refer to an article published in *The West Australian* of the 3rd August, which is headed, "W.A.-Federal Partnership Plan for N.W." In this article, written by John Graham, Mr. Court is reported as saying, among other things—

People who live in the Kimberleys are sick of hearing about the potential of this country. They want to see it turned into reality.

I quite agree with the Minister for the North-West. In *The West Australian* dated the 23rd April, 1957, there is an editorial headed, "Loyalty Begins at Home in Federal Politics." I do not know whether members desire me to read the article.

Mr. Nalder: It is very interesting. Go on!

[*The Speaker resumed the Chair*]

Mr. RHATIGAN: Very well. It reads as follows:—

When politicians are elected to the Federal Parliament they are expected to help and fortify the people of the State who put them there. It would be wrong for them to conceive that once they became citizens of Canberra they ceased to be citizens of their places of origin.

These are elementary facts, so plain that normally they would hardly be worth stating. But members representing Western Australia in the Federal Parliament on the Government side seem to have forgotten all about them.

The Broome pearling business is the latest example. We are told by Senator Paltridge, Mr. Freeth and Mr. Cleaver that it is a good thing for us to allow the Japs to prey on our natural resources because of "our bid for trade with Japan."

These gentlemen say that, pending an international court's decision as to whether the Japanese should or should not be allowed to come in, we should let them in. That means we concede the damages pending the:

hearing of the case. Yet our representatives at Canberra, including at least two men who have been legally trained, applauded it.

Mr. Nalder: Who wrote that?

Mr. RHATIGAN: *The West Australian*.

Mr. Nalder: You quoted the writer of the previous article.

Mr. RHATIGAN: This is an editorial. I think the Minister is lax since he went over East.

Mr. Nalder: You wait and see!

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. RHATIGAN: The editorial continues—

It may be that, as a result of the Prime Minister's globe-trotting, the Japanese have forgiven us for opposing their cynical and brutish assault on our part of the world during the second world war. But we ignore all the elements of Christian history if we kowtow to them now.

The Prime Minister spent one night in my electorate and three nights in Western Australia during his globe-trotting tour, which is referred to in this article. To continue—

Mr. Kelly, a State Minister, has expressed the Western Australian point of view very well. Government members of the Federal Parliament have nothing to say in favour of their State.

Note that! To continue—

They are concerned only with the struggle for favour which goes on at Canberra.

Note that! Continuing—

That is a sad thing to say, but there is no contrary evidence.

Mr. Lewis: Is that in the leading article too?

Mr. RHATIGAN: Yes. If there is any contrary evidence I will be happy to hear it, because I have a leaning towards *The West Australian*. The editorial goes on to say—

Canberra's policy of contempt for Western Australia has reached a stage at which Western Australia's members should be putting on their thinking (or acting) caps.

Mr. Lewis: You would not believe anything *The West Australian* published?

Mr. RHATIGAN: I believe in this. To continue—

The Hawke Government has made some mistakes here, but it has not shown—

Mr. Brand: They let their heads go then.

Mr. RHATIGAN: I will read that again—

The Hawke Government has made some mistakes here, but it has not

shown the arrogance and ignorance about distant parts of Australia which characterise the Canberra crowd.

Mr. Lewis: Was not Menzies the first Prime Minister to visit your electorate?

Mr. Toms: Well, he has been everywhere else.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. RHATIGAN: It was a fleeting visit. To continue with the editorial:—

Federal Government parliamentarians should square up to this question: are they looking for personal advancement or for the welfare of the country and the community?

What I have just read out was quoted from a leading article published in *The West Australian* of the 23rd April, 1957. No truer article was ever published. If politicians went to the North by an overland route through difficult conditions, they would realise what people there have to put up with. These conditions cannot be seen from an aeroplane or from a ship. If given the amenities, the North would be worth living in.

I have several articles here: "State Will Go Ahead With Ord River Plan," "Minister Returns With New Plans for North," "Movement in the North," "Mr. Court Says: N.W. Trip Invaluable," and "Wild to Seek Big Changes in N.W. Work."

I made my first speech on the floor of this House from where the member for Murchison is sitting at this moment. We have had enough lip service; we want positive, realistic action. What are we getting? Just lip service. I have asked a couple of questions in this House, but I have not received a satisfactory reply. I would like to know what the Government intends to do.

Mr. Hawke: That is the question.

Mr. RHATIGAN: Mr. Peter Browne said in the *Northern Times* on the 21st May:—

The two and a half million pounds Federal grant for the development of the North-West will not materially help the Kimberleys.

I disagree with Mr. Browne, as it will materially help. Personally, I am grateful to the Commonwealth Government for contributing that amount of money, which has now been increased to £5,000,000. It is a start. I would suggest that a committee be formed consisting of five members on which there should be a representative of the Commonwealth Government, although not as chairman. This committee should have the say as to how and where the money shall be spent. I was happy to hear what the Minister for the North-West had to say about the expenditure of that money on the Ord River. I think that is one of the vital steps towards populating the North. There are several places that could be dammed with beneficial results.

I would also suggest that people in the North on wages be granted complete freedom from taxation. Proportional benefits could be granted up to 50 per cent. provided that the money was put back into the properties. We are all aware of the million acre properties which are held at the moment in the Kimberley area.

We have a firm known as Vesty Bros.—I think they call themselves the Australian Investment Agency, or something like that—which owns seven stations in my electorate, consisting of 1,000,000 acres each. During the last few years they have improved domestic living conditions, but I do not know of any fresh blood having been imported into their stock. They have bought up and absorbed small properties, and I can name these places. They are as follows:—

Stuart Creek Station  
Gordon Downs Station  
Flora Valley Station  
Nicholson Station

Turner Station  
Ord River Station  
Spring Creek Station

The portion of Mistake Creek Station which is in W.A.

These people have not put any new blood into their stock whatsoever. They have improved their homesteads because the old ones were eaten down by white ants. However, they have done nothing by way of increasing their herds. A lot of their holdings are not being utilised. I understand they have an office in Perth, although I think they may have one somewhere in Melbourne from where they receive instructions and advice. I could go back to 1954 when I quoted the expenditure which was allowed to the Perth office and the Eastern States office, but I will not quote it again because that figure could have increased.

These people are known as Vesty Bros.; and in my opinion—I am not far out—they have just plundered the land in the North. I would suggest that the registered office of the people who own these properties should be at their station and not in St. George's Terrace or elsewhere.

The directors of these vast and rich companies should spend at least six months of the year on their properties. These people are living in London and they could not care less about their properties so long as a dividend is coming in. I emphasise once again, that the registered office of these companies should be on their properties and not in St. George's Terrace, Perth. But I agree with the member for Pilbara—he is my next-door neighbour—in his advocacy that the Department of the North-West be set up in the North.

In his speech the other night the member for Subiaco advocated alterations in the administration of the law in the North. I can assure the honourable member that despite his remarks about the magistrates

who may have come up through the Crown Law Department, we in the North are getting complete justice and are quite happy with the set-up. There are no requests from there for solicitors. The magistrates who have come up through the Crown Law Department have done a mighty job in the North and have carried the burden through the years. Some of them have been up there for five or six years; and while I realise that it was not his intention to cast any reflection on them, I can assure the honourable member that at least the people in the Kimberleys are happy about the way the laws of the State are being administered by the magistrates.

The only other matter I wish to refer to briefly concerns the all-important question of natives. I had a cutting, but I am unable to lay my hands on it at the moment, in which Mr. Hasluck said that he was amazed at the difference in the various State laws regarding natives. It has taken him a long while to realise the difference which exists in the various State laws. I was almost going to sleep when I looked across and saw the Minister for Native Welfare going to sleep. He is not a bit interested in this subject; but I suggest an effort should be made, on behalf of these human beings, to have the laws in the various States brought into line.

At times we have half-caste drovers in charge of at least 700 cattle coming to the Wyndham Meatworks. They have white men working under them; and while they are in the Northern Territory droving cattle they are entitled to go to a hotel and have a drink. But as soon as they cross the border to bring the cattle to the Wyndham Meatworks they are not allowed in a hotel, although the white men who are working under them enjoy this privilege. They ask these half-caste drovers to have a drink with them, but they are not permitted to enter the hotels. I am very glad that the Minister has awakened, because this is an important subject.

The average price of the cattle driven to the Wyndham Meatworks is £25 a head, so members can realise the importance of the jobs these half-castes have. They can get a drink in the Northern Territory, but as soon as they cross the border into Western Australia they are disfranchised because of the Act. Can the Minister tell me whether that is right?

Mr. Hawke: The Minister is silent.

Mr. Perkins: I am rather interested to hear what you did about it when you were a member of the Government.

Mr. Hawke: You voted against the Bill we introduced.

Mr. Perkins: What did you do when you were over here?

Mr. RHATIGAN: I asked the Minister some questions the other day, but the Minister's answer was a straight-out "No". I

asked whether he had given thought to the suggestion I made in this House regarding the abolition of the Department of Native Welfare. The Minister did not say that he would give it consideration.

Mr. Perkins: I meant what I said.

Mr. RHATIGAN: The Minister said, "No". Apparently he does not intend to do anything about it.

Mr. Perkins: Why don't you be a bit responsible? When you see this speech, after you have had time to cool down, you will wonder what you said.

Mr. RHATIGAN: The Minister would not know; he has been asleep.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will address the Chair and stop these exchanges across the Chamber.

Mr. RHATIGAN: You were not in the Chair when I first started to speak tonight, Mr. Speaker, but I wish to congratulate you and thank you once again. I know by your actions to date that we can be assured of impartial judgment on your part.

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [11.6]: I wish to deal with a few items that have caused me some concern in recent days, and I shall discuss firstly the recent prosecution of a person for having contravened the provisions of the Transport Act. The other night I asked several questions on this matter, and I received answers that were quite appropriate considering the remarks of the magistrate who had heard the case. The Attorney-General's answer was quite correct. He said that the judiciary, which includes magistrates, is independent and it would not be proper for a member of the executive to instruct a member of the judiciary how he should conduct his court, or what statement he should or should not make therein. He went on to say he would bring the question and the reply to the notice of the magistrate concerned.

I realise the situation; but it was the only way I could have the matter aired, and it was the only way that I could express resentment that a person in public trust, like a magistrate, should have taken unto himself the right to criticise the laws of the land. We all know that magistrates are there to uphold the laws and not to query whether the laws are right or wrong. What made it worse was the fact that during the same week that the case was heard in court the magistrate, who is quite well known, said that as there was only one train a week and the inspector had stated that he had no clues as to how many trains a week went to Dwellingup, he would have to convict this man Weston because he did not have a license; but, the magistrate said, he had his fullest sympathy. Weston was the name of the man charged.

During the same week, Weekly Notice No. 30, was issued for the week ended Saturday, the 1st August, 1959—for the information of the staff only—by the new Commissioner of Railways whom this Government has appointed. On the front page of that weekly notice was a reminder which was headed "A Little at a Time." Under it the following appeared:—

Illegal road haulage can appear in many forms. One of these is the carriage of small items in the boots of cars by some country Hotel-keepers and Storekeepers.

A case of spirits or a parcel of merchandise may seem unimportant, but the loss of freight on such items is considerable.

Help to eliminate such activities by being on the alert and reporting any suspected illegal road movements.

We have the position of a Commissioner who, in good faith, has come to Western Australia to improve the railway system and its financial position; and yet we find that, despite the fact that he is making an attempt to encourage the workers in his department to bring to the notice of the inspectors any haulage breaches that are taking place, the magistrate who presides over the case is loth to take action.

One can imagine the reaction that would result when a magistrate adopts such an attitude when these cases are heard before him, especially among the people who are being asked to report such incidents. They would naturally say, "It is too silly. We go to the trouble to assist the Commissioner and then the magistrate hearing the case says it is not justified."

No doubt all members of this Chamber are aware of the circumstances of the case. The person charged was carrying oxy-acetylene equipment—admittedly to his own garage—in his car; but while people such as he are enjoying reasonable railway freights on all goods conveyed to country centres, they must expect to have certain restrictions imposed on them. Such a person deserves every condemnation of the court if caught committing a breach of the Act, and he should not be semi-exonerated by the magistrate in whose opinion the charge is not warranted.

It is damaging to the prestige of the railways for that man to state in court that there was only one train a week to Dwellingup when, in fact, there were nine transport services a week to that particular town, either by train or by road bus, because anyone who sought to send a parcel to Dwellingup by rail would naturally think that there was only one service to that centre every week and he would therefore seek other ways by which he could have his parcel sent. Therefore, it should be made quite clear to the general public that there are, in fact, many more services than one a week to that town.

On several occasions I have raised with the Minister for Education the problem of providing school accommodation for children in the Cloverdale district. Following my representations I eventually received a letter from the Minister advising me, last December I think it was, that the site which had been selected was adjacent to the Belmont High School. How the authorities concerned could finally arrive at a decision such as that is beyond my comprehension. There are many more suitable sites available than those on the western end of the housing development in the Cloverdale area.

At one time a school site was reserved at the corner of Hardy Road and Cue Street of some 14 acres. However, due to town planning in that area, development was limited and it was felt that it would be more desirable to swap the site selected for one chosen by the Education Department. It is now found that this site is on semi-swampy land alongside the Belmont High School and well away from the majority of the houses in the district. This will mean that the children will have to travel a greater distance to attend that school. Another bad feature of this school being built at the extreme end of the district is that the adjacent schools are overcrowded and houses are still being built in close proximity to those schools. Therefore, it must be expected that more children will be sent to them; and they cannot, in all fairness, be asked to travel  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to this proposed new school.

I would suggest that the Minister make a further inspection of the district so that he may realise the blunder the department has made in selecting a schoolsite in more or less an industrial area rather than a site which is more central and among the majority of the houses already built in that district. If this were done it would also relieve the overcrowding of the Belmont and Belmont primary schools. As the Minister knows, overcrowding in a primary school does not tend towards good handling of the scholars and good management of the school generally.

I am indebted to the committee of residents of Tullamarine—a district in Victoria—for some very interesting and well-prepared information concerning airports that are used by jet aircraft. Members will recall that some time last year the then Premier attempted, whilst there was an examination being made, to ascertain whether, instead of the present Guildford airport being extended so that jet aircraft could be accommodated, inquiries should be made to find out whether the Gnarup pine forest region at Wanneroo would be more suitable. Members will also recall that representation was made to a Minister of the Commonwealth Government; and he, being a Western Australian could, without much trouble, have had the position clarified because he was well aware of the conditions that prevailed in this State.

He could have had an airport for jet aircraft established on the Lake Gnangara site.

The main complaint in Tullamarine seems to be—as it is in Perth—that built-up areas being in close proximity to the airport would result in the health of the people and the well-being of the district generally being detrimentally affected by the jet aircraft that use that airport. I will now read the letter which I received from Mr. W. B. Murphy, the secretary of that residents' committee, dated the 19th January, 1959. It is as follows:—

Dear Sir,

You will know that there is a move to build a jet airport at Tullamarine, only 11 miles from the centre of Melbourne. The residents of the district appointed a committee to draw up a case against the proposal. A mass of evidence has been brought together concerning the operations of jet aircraft that we regard as startling in its character. It carries an important warning for all centres of population likely to be served by this form of transport.

It is because of this that our committee was instructed by a recent meeting of the residents of Tullamarine and the neighbouring districts of Broadmeadows and Keilor to address a copy of their submission on the matter to all parties who may be interested therein. We understand that your electorate is in the neighbourhood of a potential jet aerodrome. We believe, therefore, you will find the submission of intense interest.

This report, which these people have gone to a considerable amount of trouble to draw up, contains some startling disclosures. One of the most amazing is that it has been the experience in other countries of the world that jet aircraft using such airports as Idlewild in New York and the London Airport, even after they have been granted permission to use the airports, are forced to use the strips that extend over the sea except in urgent circumstances. It would seem that the Boeing 707 is the principal offender because of the amount of noise it creates and it is forced to use the strips, to leave or enter the airport by way of the sea, because of the disturbance the noise creates to the inhabitants of those densely built-up areas.

I understand one strip at Guildford, known as the 17 degree strip, will prove a nuisance to the housing in East Belmont, Cloverdale, Kewdale, and further on to the more densely-populated areas of Carlisle and Victoria Park. Experiments with these aircraft have shown just how bad the effect of their noise is; and under the heading of, "Piercing Thunder" we find the following report:—

The noise of jets is of a particularly harrowing nature. In the words of an American editorial—"Unless you have

heard the piercing thunder of a multi-engine jet plane, you cannot fully comprehend just how noisy one of these high-powered planes really can be.—Planes with conventional piston-driven engines will seem like the sweet sounds of a string quartet when compared to the roar of those gigantic jets."

Quite apart from that, they create trailing exhaust clouds that cause considerable trouble to the aircraft operating in Australia at present. No doubt members will have seen pictures in the Press of jets taking off from Melbourne and Kingsford Airports in the Eastern States. They no doubt have seen them leaving behind a considerable amount of trailing cloud which was reported on by various people concerned, depending whether they were for or against the airport company, as being cinder clouds or clouds of carbonised gaseous material that have emanated from the fumes of these particular planes.

So quite apart from the question of noise, we have a further problem which will be most apparent to those people living in close proximity to the particular area. Worse than that, the experiments with these planes have shown that even up to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles of the point of roll-off—that is from the end of the strip where the take-off is to commence—there is a high decibel reading which is more than human beings can stand without interference with their normal living standards.

In relation to this high decibel reading I would like to read the following report:—

The University of Chicago, in a study of neighbourhood tolerance of noise, came to the decision that from 87 decibels and higher people begin to complain. At that stage conversation is difficult and it is annoying to people. Consequently, it has been assumed that if noise can be kept to the level of 87 decibels it will be acceptable to airport neighbourhoods. Official tests at Seattle on July 18 last with a fully-laden Boeing 707 showed, however, that at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the start-of-roll the Boeing passed overhead at only about 850 ft. and the overall decibel reading was 102.

Attempts have been made to apply silencers to these aircraft, but it was found that every silencer fitted has cut down, by some percentage, the power from the jet craft. As a consequence, these silencers are not very popular with the manufacturers or the pilots, because they realise that at take-off, at least, they must have all the power possible to provide a reasonable take-off. Indeed, when one cuts down the power, it will be necessary to have a much longer strip to enable the aircraft to take off. It would also mean using more

fuel in any standard flight to such an extent that if the performance of the aircraft were to be cut by several per cent. it would not be possible to run these aircraft economically.

It has been said fairly authoritatively that most airlines these days, having due regard for the tremendous price of aircraft, run at a very close margin, and any interference with that margin would make the craft most uneconomical to run, and they would have to be discarded by the firms concerned. Any jet airport which is to be used in the circumstances in which Guildford must be used—if it is to become a jet port—will receive a considerable number of aircraft, and more and more will come through as jets are used on overseas services.

This will be so because of the economy of servicing these craft at Guildford rather than at Darwin. It is thought that before long 43 square miles could be affected by aircraft entering and taking off—allowing for expansion of the airport—as has been the experience in other airports built up on the same basis. That has become apparent in the housing areas I have mentioned. The war service homes section studies very keenly any proposal for building homes in those areas. That section relies on the information which is available to it, and on what has occurred in other districts and what could occur to people living in homes which are in close proximity to jet airports.

If the airport is to take up such a huge portion of land and make the surrounding district uncomfortable to live in, there is more reason for this Government to make further representation to the Minister for Air—who happens to be a Western Australian and should have the consideration of the people at heart to some degree—to see if some action could not be taken to shift this airport before it is too late.

There is plenty of land in this State. The airport should not be situated at Gnangara if it is to interfere with the air force station at Pearce. South of Perth there are thousands of acres of land, only about 11 miles from the city; there is open country where jet aircraft can take off and pass over industrial areas and the sea, without causing any disturbance to residences.

Mr. Fletcher: You mean fly over Fremantle.

Mr. JAMIESON: Possibly further south. Reasonably fast motor transport can take passengers from the airport to the city. There is another danger associated with this matter. Jet aircraft are becoming so huge and carry such great quantities of fuel that, should an accident occur at take-off, we could imagine the extent of the disaster. Accidents do occur on some occasions in spite of the great care taken. We need only cast our minds back to the

accident to the MacRobertson-Miller aircraft, "Fitzroy" which nearly caused a disaster to the temporary housing camp at Guildford.

If we were to have aircraft taking off at the 17 degree strip, there would be much concern. I am not so concerned if the aircraft take off north or if they use the other strip, because when they reach the houses from those strips they would be fairly high in the air.

They pass over the river through the territory of Middle Swan. In the northern extremity they pass over the Helena River flats, at which stage they are very high. To the south when aircraft take off they are in the immediate proximity of houses and thickly-populated centres. Should a jet airliner crash on take-off, with a full load of fuel, untold damage to the passengers in the aircraft as well as to the people on the ground would be done. The latter should not be subjected to any risk, if by a move on the part of the Government these airliners can be placed far enough away to avoid any such disaster.

There are some interesting statistics relating to the report in question. One which is of particular interest concerns suppressors. It reads—

**Suppressors Mean Loss of Power—  
Severe Economic Problem.**

Suppression of noise in aircraft means loss of horsepower or thrust. Giving evidence before a special sub-committee of the United States Senate Appropriations Committee, Mr. W. B. Davis, Director of the Office of Flying Operations and Air Worthiness, said, "The manufacturers of the aircraft have agreed they can sacrifice between one and two per cent. of that power at take-off and that is the limit to which they can go and still have a paying or efficient aircraft. Now, for instance, a one per cent. loss of power means this to jet transport —

You increase the take-off distance by 2 per cent.

You decrease the climb performance by about 4 per cent.

You decrease the range of the aircraft by 5 per cent.

"—A 5 per cent. reduction in range or payload, you can take it either way, on a 3,000-mile flight, would cut off 150 miles, which is the distance to an alternative airport, or you can take off that amount of payload, so that it is a very severe economic problem."

I suggest that the Premier and his colleagues do all in their power to remove the jet airport from the proximity of the city. If the 17 degree runway is extended, the aircraft will fly very nearly over the top of the Premier's residence. The report which I have read should be considered by those who have the welfare of this State

in their hands. Should trouble arise at a later stage they are the ones who will have to bear the brunt of it.

I wish to refer to some other problems, of a controversial nature, which concern me. Earlier in the session we were wondering what was the cause of the transfer of Mr. Bond from the position of Under Treasurer to that of Public Service Commissioner, and for the transfer of the Public Service Commissioner to the position of under Treasurer. Due to a Dorothy Dix question asked by the member for Subiaco, or the member for Leederville, concerning the amount spent by the Government on alleged Labour Party advertisements, a file was placed on the Table of the House.

Dr. Henn: It was asked by me.

Mr. JAMIESON: Examining the file, it becomes abundantly clear that this officer made the fatal mistake in effect of trying to stop a man fighting in the ring with his hands tied behind his back, by drawing to the attention of the Government of the day that the State trading concerns were being unfairly treated by the advertisements appearing in the Press at that time over the signature of a person named Carter, who purported to be the director of the W.A. Trade Bureau.

Any fair-minded person would agree that when a business or undertaking was attacked—and it was attacked in regard to administration, as distinct from a party-political matter—in all justice it was entitled to defend itself in some way. By drawing attention to the fact that this was an unfair attack, this officer did a great service to this State.

While there is nothing on the file before this House dealing with his transfer, it could be presumed very clearly that the Government thought he was not a good officer to be retained in his existing position because he had some sympathy at least with the State trading concerns, which have been doing a reasonably good job.

Mr. Cornell: Have you ever bowled a wide?

Mr. JAMIESON: Another matter that is of great interest is the contract of engagement of one Mr. W. W. Mitchell as Public Relations Officer to the Government of Western Australia. It is pleasing to note clause 7 of the agreement, because it gives an indication for which the public—and the workers of this State—have been waiting for a long time. It is the Government's attitude in regard to basic wage adjustments. It can be appreciated that if the Government did not agree with basic wage adjustments, it would not write anything into the contract dealing with them. Rather, it would say that it was far better to pay an extra £50 per year than write such a clause into the agreement because it was repugnant and against its policy.

However, the Government has agreed to basic wage adjustments as granted by the Arbitration Court and has written this into the agreement in clause 7. The agreement is paper 129 laid upon the Table of the House; and clause 7 reads as follows:—

When and as often as during the currency of this Agreement there is an increase or decrease in the weekly amount of the basic wage for the metropolitan area (as defined by the Court of Arbitration) then as from the date hereinafter mentioned in this clause double the amount of that weekly increase or decrease (as the case may require) shall be added to or subtracted from the fortnightly instalments of salary which were payable hereunder to the Officer immediately prior to the date when the declaration or amendment (as the case may be) of the basic wage in respect of that increase or decrease became operative.

The agreement is signed by the Premier, so it would indicate that he concurs in it. As there is provision for a basic wage adjustment, at least the workers of the State will know where they stand as regards the attitude of the Government in connection with the rise and fall in the basic wage. That having been cleared up to the satisfaction of the public, I am sure they would greatly appreciate the Government's making a full and complete statement on the matter rather than confining it to the contract of Mr. Mitchell.

Recently, there has been quite an amount of publicity in respect to hospitals being built in the metropolitan area; and particularly those on the west side of the city. While this is becoming an annual cry from my particular point of view, I feel it is high time that the Government recognised that the south side of the river—or the eastern side of the city—deserves some early consideration regarding the provision of a decent hospital. With the exception of the small hospital in the South Perth community centre which, in fact, has practically been provided by various Governments over the years, and the St. John's Hospital at Belmont, there is nothing for the people in that area where the population is quickly growing and where there are quite a number of housing settlements.

In answer to a question, the Minister for Health told me recently that the Government is still trying to secure the Edward Millen Home from the Commonwealth as a stopgap hospital. I suggest these stopgap hospitals are not a very economical proposition in the best of times. Considerable alterations would have to be made to turn it into a general hospital; and after that, it would be a stopgap all right—it would stop for some considerable time. A site has been selected on the north-east corner of the Collier pine plantation and

there is no logical reason—except for finance—why an early start should not be made on the provision of a hospital in this area.

In regard to other matters in the district associated with hospitalisation, there is an ambulance centre and many people are spending a considerable amount of time and money for this purpose. This ambulance centre is near the junction of Albany and Welshpool Roads, in Norman Street; and the sooner a hospital can be placed there to be used in connection with this facility, the better it will be for the populace in this area.

It is no good their seeing money spent in the western territories where there are considerable hospitals. The St. John of God Hospital at Subiaco—a private hospital—is of considerable size and is able to take care of a number of patients from the surrounding districts; but once one has to bring patients over the Causeway there is not only the difficulty of transportation in time of emergency but there is the problem of relatives who wish to visit a patient in hospital. It must also be realised that a family person cannot be away from home for very long; and, when one considers the considerable amount to be paid in fares, it becomes quite a burden to such persons who have to visit people in hospital.

At this stage I would like to say a few words about naturalisation ceremonies, although they do not come under the auspices of the State Government. I intend to refer to the actions of various people regularly attending the ceremonies. I have been attending them in various municipalities and road districts over the past seven years since I have been in parliamentary life, and it was not until the advent of one Richard Cleaver to the Federal seat of Swan that we saw an attempt to make political capital out of the naturalisation ceremony itself. This reached a very high peak—almost unbelievably so—at the last ceremony on the south side of the river when this righteous gentleman enclosed his propaganda within the Bible which is handed out by the local authority.

When it comes to that, I feel that politics are reaching a very low ebb. The other political representatives of the district are just as entitled to have such means made available to them. It would be just too silly if the member for Canning and myself and six Legislative councillors were to enclose their political pamphlets in the Bible. There would be very little religious matter for people to read after they finished with all we had to say.

Mr. Cornell: Where would you put yours? In the book of Revelation?

Mr. JAMIESON: Yes. I consider that this matter is worth ventilating because the position has reached such a stage that these ceremonies, originally intended to be



formally conducted by the local governing bodies, have become political football arenas. It does not stop at the distribution of the literature. The speeches that are made when such persons as Richard Cleaver are present, are of considerable duration and very political.

Frankly, when I follow him, I am political. I do not deny that fact. The same applies to any other member who might be speaking. I do not think he should be allowed to get away with it. Why should he use the opportunity for political gain? If he is going to make a three-quarter hour speech on Liberal policy lines to the multitude present, I am going to tell them about the Labour Party; and so is my colleague from Middle Swan when speaking on our behalf. It is something which deserves very close scrutiny.

Mr. Bovell: I have attended a number of naturalisation ceremonies and nothing like that has occurred.

Mr. JAMIESON: He is the only one who is involved in this matter.

Mr. Brand: Is this a road board or council?

Mr. J. Hegney: Road board.

Mr. JAMIESON: A couple of road boards.

Mr. J. Hegney: The Belmont Road Board puts it in the Bible. It is not fair. It turns it into a political football match. That is what it does.

Mr. JAMIESON: A couple of nights ago we heard from the member for Claremont some criticism of the set-up at Rottnest. While not wishing to take up the cudgels on behalf of those people, to any great extent, as my colleague here from Merredin-Yilgarn has already done so, I would like to indicate to all those concerned that this particular accusation is untrue.

I am not referring to the office staff, because there seems to be somewhat of a cloud over them at present, and I know nothing of their activities. But so far as the manual workers, and those who perform the duties around the island are concerned, I have been there on a number of occasions during the off-season and have not been known to them. I have walked freely around and gone along my merry way, and I have seen nothing of this alleged lazy, lackadaisical attitude exhibited by those workers. As a matter of fact, I had thought that they were rather well employed; because when the truck drivers were not employed in their particular capacity, they were assisting the carpenters and others in the building and re-erection of the cottages transferred there from the mainland.

Therefore, I would say that before anyone makes sweeping statements in regard to the people not doing a decent day's work since they have been there, he should ascertain clearly the facts and have a wander around without being heralded, and his coming to the island

being known. In that way he would be able to see for himself what was happening. I would like to touch briefly on the—

Mr. W. Hegney: Crows!

Mr. JAMIESON: No. They have gone. I want to touch briefly on the Health Department and its attitude with respect to water levels in subdivisions in various parts of the metropolitan area. In Cannington, as members know, we have a very low-lying and level area of ground which is suitable, because of the number of houses already there, only for housing purposes.

Never in this area has there been any trouble with septic sewerage systems or drainage systems. Yet, due to the recommendations from the Health Department the subdivisions are constantly refused. This area cannot be used for any other particular purpose than for housing, as there are so many houses there at present. Perhaps there are certain areas where the limit of the 2 ft. 6 in. water-table might be maintained; but I suggest to the Minister for Health that his department review its particular objection in so far as the areas like Cannington are concerned.

Cannington has never been worried with flooding; and it is not likely to be, because of the number of lateral drains there, and because the area is very flat. Although, after a heavy downfall, there is a considerable amount of water around, it will in an hour or so, have gone on its merry way to the Canning River. If the department is holding back for that particular reason, it is unnecessarily holding back considerable development in a central ward of the Canning Road Board. The situation deserves a very thorough investigation in regard to its specific plight instead of being penalised by an overall refusal to allow subdivisions where sub-surface water comes within 2 ft. 6 in. of the surface.

We saw some reports the other day of the Country Party conference at which various views were given on the advisability of the standardisation of the railway gauge from Kalgoorlie to Fremantle. I feel that until we achieve that standardisation of gauge and make Fremantle a terminal port—an idea that one of the Country Party Ministers at the conference disliked—we will be unable to gain a decent share of industrial development that normally surrounds a big port. A number of industries will be lost to this State. If we view the Sydney scene, which is the site of a terminal point on the eastern side of Australia, we must realise that it is vital that we convert Fremantle into a terminal point. In that way we would surely progress.

Earlier, the member for Victoria Park mentioned something of the freedom of the Press. I would like to make a few comments about this matter. Of course,

in this State, the Press is not free. Indeed, it is tied to one particular point of view.

While that might be all right for the shareholders of *The West Australian* and of *Western Press*, the time will come when the attitude of these people in representing only one side of the case will be resented by the public in no uncertain manner. We cannot have freedom, without freedom of the Press; and freedom of the Press means what it says, and not the interpretation which *The West Australian* and *Western Press* wish to place on it—freedom to do whatever they want to do. All they want to do is to represent cases, of either a political or general nature, from one point of view only, and not in the public interest.

A similar state of affairs exists throughout the Commonwealth at present; but one of these days the people concerned will regret the fact that they were not prepared to allow the public of this country a free and untrammelled Press, instead of dictating their own line in regard to the life of the community in general, in an endeavour to run the country their own way, and in accordance with the plans laid down by the boards of directors and the vested interests concerned.

**THE SPEAKER:** The honourable member has five minutes to go.

Sir Ross McLarty: We do not want intimidation of the Press by Parliament.

Mr. JAMIESON: Unfortunately, we get intimidation of Parliament by the Press.

Mr. J. HEGNEY: I move—

That the honourable member's time be extended.

**THE SPEAKER:** His time is not up. He has another five minutes to go.

Mr. JAMIESON: Another question to which I desire to refer is the attempt by the Liberal Party to disenrol a number of electors in the East Perth and West Perth electorates before the election. In view of the close result of the election, it is obvious what they were trying to do. It was simply a political attempt to disenrol a number of electors—a number of whom made it abundantly clear in court why they had not been home when political canvassers called—so as to denude the roll of voters who normally support the Labour Party.

In the East Perth electorate there were very few of them, if any, in the avenues and the Queen's Crescent area of Mt. Lawley, into which the East Perth electorate extends, or in the more illustrious side of the West Perth electorate. All the electors concerned were in the areas which gave Labour reasonable support at the previous election. Fortunately, those two seats were retained by Labour, if only by

reasonably narrow margins. But had those several hundred electors been disenrolled, the election would have had a different result, and the Liberal Government would have had a real mandate. In fact, I doubt whether the Country Party would have been in it. At all events, the attempt did not come off; and I say shame on the people who instigated such a move right on the eve of an election.

In recent times we have read in the Press reports of a man named Thornton coming to this State. The first I saw of it was on the files of the *News Weekly*. Then the member for Bunbury asked some questions in this House; and it was realised that somewhere amongst us was a person named Thornton, reputed to be a leading light in Communist circles in the Eastern States. That may or may not be the reason why, on the night of Tuesday, the 7th July, security police were present in this Chamber. We have reached a pretty pass if this Parliament is to be subject to the activities of security police. I agree that on the night in question there were a considerable number of people in the galleries; and possibly there should have been more uniformed police in attendance, as the conduct of some of the crowd in the gallery was not that which is customary.

I believe that uniformed police could have kept those people quiet and in order. I believe that the presence of security police was more likely to cause disruption; because people who are angered resent it when someone in plainclothes intervenes—

**THE SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

Mr. TOMS: I move—

That the honourable member's time be extended.

**Motion put and passed.**

**THE SPEAKER:** The honourable member may proceed.

Mr. JAMIESON: I consider that the Communist Party Dissolution Bill, and the referendum associated with it, made it abundantly clear that the people of Australia respect political freedom; and so I see no reason why we should not tolerate anyone who wishes to enter these precincts, so long as he behaves and obeys the rules set down by you, Mr. Speaker, and the others who control Parliament House. In those circumstances I think we should allow anyone into the galleries—whether it is Mr. Thornton or even Krushchev himself—if he wants to come.

However, we have reached the stage where the security police have been given authority to come here on one occasion; and I feel personal resentment at the fact that in any Parliament in which I have sat such authority should have been given. I do not think it likely that anyone will

try to do away with members of Parliament by machine-gun fire or something such as is seen in South African countries; but I would remind the Government that should such a thing occur, because of the position of the entrance to the public gallery, it would not be the Government side which would be the focal point, but members of the Opposition.

I hope we shall never see security police in these precincts again by your authority, Mr. Speaker, or that of anyone else. Security police may be necessary for certain reasons in the community—although that may be debatable—but I suggest that if we keep this House free of them we will be preserving a true democracy, and making this Chamber a place where people can expect to hear their representatives speak in a free and untrammelled manner.

That we must have some sort of discipline is obvious; and if on future occasions we have a good crowd in the gallery, I feel certain that the Commissioner of Police would, at short notice, be able to provide additional uniformed policemen to help control that crowd.

Mr. LAWRENCE: I move—

That the debate be adjourned.

Motion put and a division taken with the following result:—

**Ayes—19.**

Mr. Andrew  
Mr. Bickerton  
Mr. Brady  
Mr. Evans  
Mr. Fletcher  
Mr. Hall  
Mr. Hawke  
Mr. J. Hegney  
Mr. W. Hegney  
Mr. Jamieson

Mr. Kelly  
Mr. Lawrence  
Mr. Moir  
Mr. Nulsen  
Mr. Rhatigan  
Mr. Rowberry  
Mr. Toms  
Mr. Tonkin  
Mr. May

(Teller.)

**Noes—22.**

Mr. Bovell  
Mr. Brand  
Mr. Burt  
Mr. Cornell  
Mr. Craig  
Mr. Crommellin  
Mr. Grayden  
Mr. Guthrie  
Dr. Henn  
Mr. Lewis  
Mr. Mann

Mr. W. A. Manning  
Sir Ross McLarty  
Mr. Nalder  
Mr. Nimmo  
Mr. O'Connor  
Mr. O'Neill  
Mr. Perkins  
Mr. Roberts  
Mr. Watts  
Mr. Wild  
Mr. I. W. Manning

(Teller.)

**Pairs.**

**Ayes.**

Mr. Heal  
Mr. Graham  
Mr. Norton

**Noes.**

Mr. Court  
Mr. Hutchinson  
Mr. Owen

Majority against—3.

Motion thus negatived.

MR. LAWRENCE (South Fremantle) [12.15 a.m.]: May I take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, of congratulating you on your elevation to your present position; and may I ask you to pass on my congratulations to your wife on having such a good husband! I congratulate the Premier, in his absence, and the Ministers of the Crown, not so much for the good job they are doing, but in the hope that they will do a good job in the future. I should also like to send my best wishes, along with the good

wishes of members of both sides of the House and yours, too, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister for Health, who I believe at the moment is in Hollywood Hospital. I hope some message will be sent to him hoping for his early and full recovery.

I do not wish to be parochial in my attitude while speaking on this debate; but at times one must be parochial, and I should like firstly to refer to those extremely good colours, red and white.

Mr. Hawke: Hear, hear!

Mr. LAWRENCE: I am pleased to hear the acclaim of the House. I have even espoused the cause of South Fremantle by purchasing a new motorcar—through the Treasury, of course—and having it painted red and white.

Mr. Nalder: Up and down or round and round?

Mr. LAWRENCE: Round and round.

Mr. Brand: No. East Fremantle's colours run round and round.

Mr. LAWRENCE: Perhaps we are of different religions. However, I would point out that my biro pen is even coloured red and white.

Mr. Hawke: Does it write red and white?

Mr. LAWRENCE: It is very right. We all know the views of the Leader of the Opposition in regard to football in his own electorate. I think we are kindred souls.

Mr. Hawke: What a team and what a patron!

Mr. LAWRENCE: I hope that both our teams, especially mine, will finish on top this year; and when I say that, I do not want the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to take umbrage. I trust that you, Sir, will have a long—perhaps one should not say that—and happy time in your position as the august leader of this House. Anything I can do to help you I know will be reciprocated in the help that you will give me and other members.

I am not very happy about the present position in this State; I feel that it has become economically unsound over the last six months, as one can see if one surveys the whole situation. I find that unemployment is rife; and such a position never arose while the Hawke Government was in office. The South Fremantle electorate has extended considerably. It is probably one of the largest electorates in the metropolitan area. For instance 1,312 new homes were erected by the State Housing Commission in Willagee during the regime of the Hawke Government. Also, some 800 homes have been built to comprise Baker's estate. The number of war service homes built in my electorate has also been considerable.

However, people who seek to build their own homes are now finding it difficult to obtain the necessary finance. Banks are

apparently less inclined to lend money to those people who are anxious to help themselves. I cannot understand why that is so unless it is because the banks consider that the economy of the State is not as sound as it was a few months ago.

Mr. O'Connor: A considerable amount of money has been coming from outside the State for home-building.

Mr. LAWRENCE: Does the honourable member mean that money is being brought into the State apart from that which is raised in the State itself?

Mr. O'Connor: Yes.

Mr. LAWRENCE: That has been the position under the short regime of the Liberal-Country Party Government to date. I do not know why money is being made available by interests from outside the State when the Hawke Government was able to find money from within the State for home-building. That Government did not seek outside capital except for the development of industry.

Mr. O'Connor: You never caught up with the need for houses, did you?

Mr. LAWRENCE: When the member for East Perth became the Minister for Housing the lag was overtaken. No-one can deny that.

Mr. Lewis: Not to a very great degree.

Mr. LAWRENCE: I disagree. In some places there were more houses available than there were requests for accommodation.

Mr. W. Manning: In Collie, for instance.

Mr. LAWRENCE: There may have been a few vacant houses in Collie which would probably would have been due to its shifting population.

Mr. May: When was that?

Mr. LAWRENCE: The member for Collie has now interjected; and I presume that at a later stage he will put some questions on the notice paper in regard to that matter. I was under the impression that Collie was well provided with homes, and I did not think that there were many vacant houses at that centre.

Mr. May: It has a good member.

Mr. LAWRENCE: There is no doubt about that. Let us look at how things stood when the Hawke Government was in office compared with how they stand now with the Brand-Watts Government in power. Whilst the State was being administered by the Hawke Government—I am sure it will not be long before it resumes office—many necessary and important public works were given precedence. Among those that were commenced was the Narrows Bridge; and also many main roads were built and others were extended under the previous Administration.

However, I am more interested in industrial peace. Today we find that certain employment factions are somewhat disturbed. I cannot understand why. Whilst the Labour Government was in power we were able to resolve our labour problems, but apparently today they are not capable of being resolved by the Government. Today, workers generally are showing some unrest because the employment market for workers is not good.

That brings me back to consider shipping, which is the lifeline of this State and Australia as a whole because we are dependent upon the ships for the transport of our goods overseas and for the importing of many of our necessities.

As we are principally a primary-producing State, we must export; and as Australia is a continent, ships must visit our ports to transport our products overseas. However, I feel that the shipping position in recent months has deteriorated to a great extent. On reading a newspaper article the other day, I noticed that our exports have diminished to some degree. I cannot quote that article for the information of members because I have not got it with me at the moment. Whilst the previous Labour Government was in office the export trade figures showed an increase; but today they are declining, and I wonder why. I can find no answer to this question.

I will now become parochial and speak of the industries that have been established in South Fremantle. The number of new industries that were established in my electorate under the Hawke Government was tremendous. They stretch from Fremantle to Rockingham, and that is no small area. To my mind those industries will bring a great deal of revenue to the coffers of the State. It is also interesting to note that many people follow agricultural pursuits in the South Fremantle district, such as market gardening, etc.

Mr. Nalder: How is the onion crop progressing?

Mr. LAWRENCE: It is quite good. The rain has not been as solid as we would have wished it to be, but the crop is quite all right as far as I can ascertain. As I said before, I do not wish to be parochial; but industry has been helped considerably in that area. The Onion Marketing Board has introduced certain legislation which I think is working quite well. It is inevitable that some people should like it while others do not. But one must put one's political views to one side; and irrespective of one's party beliefs, one must calmly and simply follow the whole progress of the unit in which one is interested. Personally, I am not interested in a single unit such as my electorate alone. I am interested not only in Western Australia, but in the whole of Australia; and, therefore, to take it one step further, in the whole of the world.

One other matter to which I wish to refer—and this will interest the Attorney-General—is that of juvenile crime in this State. It is very difficult for me to understand this feature of our living; but one has only to pick up the daily newspaper to read of the number of young people who have been arraigned before both the Children's Court and the Criminal Court for offences which in some cases are unforgivable. Why is this so? Is it because of our standard of education? Is it something that is denied to the children of the State? Is it something which they assimilate through wrong education, and by the viewing of films which are not good for them? And there are many such films. I think it is important to realise just why these children commit such crimes.

Some of them come from good homes; they get plenty to eat; they are allowed to the pictures once a week, as long as they chop the wood, and do the washing occasionally. I cannot understand, therefore, why they commit these crimes; and the Minister might take some steps to see how the matter can be rectified. I do not see how it can be totally eliminated, but we could do something to help these young people.

In my own electorate I have had considerable assistance from the Treasury Department inasmuch as there are two police boys' clubs established in that area, and we are very happy with them. I have checked with the local constabulary; and I find that they, too, are very pleased with the set-up, because they feel that it has helped to reduce the incidence of crime to some degree.

Mr. Nalder: Is the percentage of juvenile crime in Western Australia any worse than it is in any other part of the Commonwealth?

Mr. LAWRENCE: No; and I do not want to draw a comparison between one State and another. But to my way of thinking there should be no crime among juveniles. We are probably on a par with other States of the Commonwealth, but I still think that we can decrease this incidence of juvenile crime; and the only way that can be done is by establishing further centres and youth clubs such as those to which I have referred. They would help considerably in keeping young girls and boys off the streets. I am certain that youth clubs are the answer to our problem. They would certainly help these young people to expend their energy in good clean sport rather than in crime.

I would now like to touch on one other point in relation to the waterfront. As I see it, the quantity of shipping is, to some degree, falling off. That must be apparent, especially to members from the country areas. If our exports fall away, that will not augur well for people in the country areas; and, having regard to the

fact that some of the areas in my electorate are farming areas, I hope the Government will see its way clear to giving some further assistance to those farmers.

The final point I wish to make is that I think some long view should be taken of banking facilities, and credit being given to people who are prepared to settle on the land. We all know that when people settle on the land they produce the wealth of the country. With those few remarks I once again congratulate you, Sir; and I trust the Government as it stands—not for very long, I hope—will do the right thing.

**THE HON. D. BRAND** (Greenough—Premier) [12.40]: I do not propose to make any reply at this stage, except to take the opportunity of thanking members for their good wishes, and of officially conveying to you, Mr. Speaker, our very good wishes for a long and happy experience in the Chair. The debate on the Address-in-reply has gone on for a long time, and there have been moves to amend it. Opportunity was taken to place emphasis on problems which the Opposition cared to place before the House. It is not my intention at this stage to reply to the very many questions and matters which have been raised by members here. In order that the motion may be passed, and in order that the legislative programme may proceed tomorrow, I support the motion.

Question put and passed; the Address adopted.

## BILLS (17)—FIRST READING

1. Museum.
2. Art Gallery.  
Introduced by Mr. Watts (Minister for Education).
3. Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund.
4. Filled Milk.  
Introduced by Mr. Nalder (Minister for Agriculture).
5. Parliament House Site Permanent Reserve (A 1162) Act Amendment.  
Introduced by Mr. Wild (Minister for Works).
6. Fire Brigades Act Amendment.  
Introduced by Mr. Brand (Premier) for Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Chief Secretary).
7. Police Act Amendment.  
Introduced by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Police).
8. Justices Act Amendment.  
Introduced by Mr. Watts (Attorney-General).
9. Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act Amendment.
10. Fatal Accidents.
11. Money Lenders Act Amendment.  
Introduced by Mr. Watts (Attorney-General).

12. Industry (Advances) Act Amendment.  
Introduced by Mr. Brand (Treasurer).
13. Tourist.  
Introduced by Mr. Brand (Minister for Tourists).
14. Traffic Act Amendment.  
Introduced by Mr. Perkins (Minister for Transport).
15. Railways Classification Board Act Amendment.  
Introduced by Mr. Perkins for Mr. Court (Minister for Railways).
16. Health Act Amendment.  
Introduced by Mr. Brand for Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Health).
17. State Concerns (Prevention of Disposal).  
Introduced by Mr. Hawke.

### ROYAL COMMISSIONERS' POWERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

#### *Returned*

Returned from the Council without amendment.

*House adjourned at 12.59 a.m. (Thursday).*

## Legislative Council

Thursday, the 6th August, 1959

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

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### MINERALS

#### *Government Drilling Programme*

1. The Hon. J. D. TEAHAN (for the Hon. J. J. Garrigan) asked the Minister for Mines:
  - (1) What amount of money has been allocated by the Government this financial year for drilling throughout the State for gold and other minerals?
  - (2) How many drills does the Government possess?
  - (3) In what areas are these working at the present time?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Allocations are in the process of being decided. It is not my intention to evade answering this question, but the allocations of the loan funds are in the process of being determined, and I will not know in the immediate future what amount will be made available to the department.
- (2) Seven diamond drills, one rotary drill, and two percussion drills are owned by the Mines Department.
- (3) Ord River (2), Coolgardie (1), Day Dawn (1), Fremantle Bridge (1), Talling Peak (1), Badgingarra (2). Two machines are undergoing overhaul.

### STATE HOUSING COMMISSION

#### *Bunbury Staff*

2. The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON asked the Minister for Mines:  
Would the Minister please supply a list of the staff at the Bunbury office of the State Housing Commission showing their official titles and their particular duties?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Clerk-collector, Mr. J. G. Gibson: Responsible for Bunbury office; all Bunbury rent collections, banking and returns, etc., to Head Office. Duties include tenancy and arrears investigation and inquiries installation of tenants, maintenance complaints and generally act as Commission's agent.

Junior clerk, Miss V. Stockins: Attends to office inquiries during absence of clerk-collector, answers telephone, and generally assists in the office.

The supervisors also based at Bunbury Office are—Mr. S. Major and Mr. R. Leitch (supervisors Grade 1). Mr. Major is responsible for the whole of the lower South-West, and the Bunbury area in particular. Mr. Leitch, under Mr.