

studied. The honourable Mr. Watson suggested that as this is a commercial enterprise, it should be controlled from a commercial aspect and not by the police. I would say, generally speaking, he is quite right. However, I think he said also that the nature of the business was one reason why the control should be left to the police; and I quite agree.

He also raised the question of inspection at a place other than the yard, which comes under clause 23. I do not think it was ever intended that this could be done under clause 22. However, clause 23 states that the vehicle cannot be sold unless such work is done. But under clause 22 a police officer can take it out.

The Hon. H. K. Watson: But that suggests that only a police officer can do so.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: No. Clause 22 reads—

22. Every licence holder shall permit a member of the Police Force, at all reasonable hours, to enter upon the premises in respect of which the licence is issued, with such persons as he may require to assist him, and there to examine any used motor vehicle; and where, in the opinion of the member of the Police Force, it is necessary to road-test any such vehicle, the licence holder shall permit him, or such other person as the member of the Police Force may nominate, to remove the vehicle from the premises and drive it, for that purpose.

I do not think it was ever intended, but under this clause I think it would be feasible for an owner to ask the police to let him drive the vehicle somewhere else for inspection. However, I will have that matter inquired into and cleared up if necessary.

They were the main points raised. I do not intend to deal with the Bill in Committee today as I want to obtain some information on several points brought forward. I hope to have some notes available on Tuesday. I thank honourable members for their remarks in the debate on the Bill and I commend it to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

House adjourned at 5.22 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 22nd October, 1964

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The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

DRUG PARNATE

Sale over the Counter in Western Australia

1. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Health:

As a spokesman for the Pharmaceutical Service Guild is reported in *The West Australian*, of the 26th February, 1964, as stating that the anti-depression drug, parnate, could be bought over the counter in Western Australian pharmacies—

(a) does this situation prevail today?

(b) If so, why, in view of Press report of date above that the drug had been declared unsafe in America after 15 people had died from strokes attributed entirely, or in part, to the drug mentioned?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(a) No.

(b) Answered by (a).

CIGARETTE SMOKING: LINK WITH LUNG CANCER

Educational Campaign and Prevention of Advertising

2. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) As he is quoted in *The West Australian* of the 18th February, 1964, as stating that State Health Ministers meeting in Melbourne had agreed to ask the Federal Government to assist in an Australia-wide campaign to educate the public in the subject of the link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer, will he state the nature of this State's participation in such a campaign among, in particular, our young people?
- (2) If such a campaign has been commenced, will he endeavour to prevent the sabotage of such a campaign by seeking means of preventing seductive TV advertising of different brands of cigarettes?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The dangers of cigarette smoking are repeatedly dealt with in the three-year obligatory course in health education in the high schools.

A programme is being developed for primary schools.

- (2) This is a matter for the Commonwealth Government to whom approaches have been made on the subject.

PUBLIC SERVANTS

Number in Western Australia

3. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Premier: What were the numbers of public servants per 1,000 head of population in Western Australia for the following years:—

1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, and as at the present time?

Mr. BRAND replied:

1920	.....	5.46
1930	.....	4.84
1940	.....	4.21
1950	.....	5.64
1960	.....	6.52
1/7/1964	.....	7.23

BENGER SCHOOL

Provision of Septic Toilets

4. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Education:

What progress has been made towards the provision of septic toilets at the Benger School?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Estimates are now being taken out following the receipt of a final report on the pump and motor.

MORNINGTON MILL SCHOOL*Installation of Septic Toilets*

5. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Education:

When is it anticipated that construction will commence on the septic toilets at the Mornington Mill School?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

It is anticipated that tenders will be called in February, 1965, for new toilets.

Mr. Tonkin: Why not have them ready for the school opening?

PRISON IN BUNBURY AREA*Site and Type*

6. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Chief Secretary:

(1) Has a firm decision been made on the selection of a site for a new prison in the Bunbury area?

(2) If so, what is the location of the site selected?

(3) Will the prison be constructed as a maximum security gaol or as a rehabilitation centre?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) and (2) Because of doubts raised in the matter of town planning in the Bunbury area arising from the changing scene, it has now been determined that a more suitable site should be sought.

(3) Both categories.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE OFFICES*Adequacy of Lighting*

7. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Works:

(1) What is the degree of lighting regarded as essential or a minimum in offices?

(2) Have tests been carried out in members' offices?

(3) If so, with what result?

(4) Is it considered that spotlights or table lamps provide an adequate or efficient supplementary light?

(5) Will he arrange for urgent action to be taken in order to remove the decorative but highly inappropriate chandeliers from those offices at present equipped with them?

(6) If not, why not?

Mr. WILD replied:

(1) Standards Association Code CA. 30-1957 specifies a minimum requirement of 10 lumens per square ft. for office work (reading and writing).

(2) Yes.

(3) General room illumination 5 to 8 lumens per sq. ft. (depending on the room in question). Desk illumination—30 lumens per sq. ft.

(4) It is generally accepted that table lamps provide an adequate form of supplementary lighting. This is confirmed by the relevant clauses of the S.A.A. Lighting Code.

(5) On the 8th June, 1964, the Premier directed that the chandeliers be replaced. This has not yet been done as investigations are proceeding to ascertain the correct type of luminaire for the purpose. It is expected that investigations will be completed within a fortnight.

(6) Answered by (5).

ARBITRATION COURT*Present Employment of Former Members*

8. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier:

(1) Are the men who respectively represented the trade unions and the employers' organisations on the State Arbitration Court bench before it was abolished still employed by the Government?

(2) If so, what duties have they carried out since the new industrial commission was appointed?

(3) What duties are they engaged upon at the present time?

(4) For what additional period of time are they to be continued in government employment?

Mr. BRAND replied:

(1) No.

(2) to (4) Answered by (1).

9. and 10. These questions were postponed.

EGGS*Imports from Eastern States*

11. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) How many dozens of eggs were imported from the Eastern States during the year 1963-64?

(2) Are all eggs imported from the Eastern States disposed of by the W.A. Egg Marketing Board?

(3) Has the W.A. Egg Marketing Board any jurisdiction relative to the disposal of all eggs imported into W.A.?

(4) With the advent of the standard gauge railway does the W.A. Egg Marketing Board anticipate a greater influx of eggs from the Eastern States?

Protection of Local Producers

- (5) If so, what action is contemplated with a view to protecting the poultry growers of W.A.?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) No eggs were imported into Western Australia by the Western Australian Egg Marketing Board during the year 1963-1964 and, so far as is known, no eggs were imported into the State by persons other than the board for sale in the South-West Land Division, to which area the Marketing of Eggs Act, 1945-1960, is limited.
- (2) In 1961, to meet an unprecedented shortage on the local market, the Western Australian Egg Marketing Board purchased for sale in Western Australia a limited quantity of eggs from the Victorian Egg and Egg Pulp Marketing Board.
- (3) No, having regard to the provisions of section 92 of the Commonwealth Constitution, but any imported eggs which might be offered for sale on the local market would have to conform to the requirements of the Agricultural Products Act as to grade and quality.
- (4) Not necessarily.
- (5) The Western Australian Egg Marketing Board, with the support of the State Government, has agreed to a scheme prepared by the Council of Egg Marketing Authorities of Australia for the stabilisation for the first time of the egg industry on a national basis. When the necessary legislation is passed by the Commonwealth Parliament, it will no longer be profitable for eggs to be sold interstate and outside State orderly marketing schemes.

CIVIL DEFENCE*Underground Hospitals*

12. Mr. HALL asked the Premier:

- (1) As the matter of civil defence is now being accelerated and being brought into top-line efficiency, what planning and provision has the Government in mind with respect to underground hospitalisation services in the metropolitan and country areas?
- (2) If no provision has been made by way of planning will he undertake to have engineering surveys made, as to the possibility and practicability of establishing underground hospitalisation in the hills adjacent to Perth and the possibilities of excavating

mountains in the Albany-Mt. Barker area for the same purpose?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) and (2) It would appear that the provision of underground hospitalisation services in metropolitan and country areas is quite impracticable, but in any event the general subject matter of civil defence in respect of hospitals is under review by the Public Health Department and the civil defence authorities at the present time.

**SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS
AT ALBANY***Enrolments*

13. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What are the enrolment figures for the Albany High School for the years 1962-63 and 1963-64 and the prospective figures for the year 1964-65?
- (2) What are the enrolment figures for the same years for the Albany Primary School, Spencer Park Primary School, Lockyer Primary School, and the Albany Infants' School?
- (3) Can he supply enrolment figures for the years as mentioned relevant to private schools in the Albany area, Christian Brothers' College, St. Joseph's School, Dutch School?
- (4) Can he supply enrolment figures and applicants for enrolment at the Albany Kindergarten and the Blinky Bill Kindergarten, Albany, for the same years?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) to (4)

	1962	1963	1964	Predicted 1965
Albany Senior High	987	1,021	1,032	1,120
Albany Primary	362	400	353	380
Spencer Park	309	299	437	460
Lockyer Primary	673	674	649	670
Albany Infants	381	356	350	350
C.B.C.	175	170	Not yet avail- able	Not known
St. Joseph's High	70	70	"	"
St. Joseph's Primary	220	221	"	"
Dutch Reformed	52	52	"	"
Albany Kindergarten	59	59	"	"
Blinky Bill Kindergarten		60	"	"

OYSTER FARMING*Research into Establishment at Albany*

14. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Fisheries:

As it is the claimed intention of the Government to promote and assist in the decentralisation of industry, will he undertake to approach the Treasurer to make

finance available for the purpose of bringing to Albany certified oyster farmers for the purpose of studying tides and movements of oyster spat in that area, with a view to establishing oyster farming in the Albany area?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Some years ago a quantity of Japanese oyster spat was flown to Australia by C.S.I.R.O. and laid down in Oyster Harbour as an experiment. The experiment failed. It is believed, following investigations that have been made, that further experimentation would be a waste of time. The practice of farming oysters in Australia is virtually restricted to New South Wales, where an oyster which is entirely different from the native Western Australian oyster is grown. Experienced New South Wales oyster farmers are conversant only with conditions applying in that State, and would not, it is considered, be able to make any worth-while contribution even if brought to Western Australia to advise.

Mr. Hall: I had better not send them a copy of that answer.

15. *This question was postponed.*

BUNBURY REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Trained Nurses and Nursing Aides to be Employed

16. Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) What number of—
 - (a) trained nurses;
 - (b) nursing aides,
 will be employed at the Bunbury Regional Hospital in the first year of operation?
- (2) If the numbers given to (a) and (b) in (1) are not the maximum, what will the maximum numbers be and when is it anticipated that the maximum may be reached?
- (3) Will preference for these positions be given to applicants who reside in the area served by the hospital?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) and (2)—

Approximate Nursing Establishments for Bunbury Regional Hospital

60 Bed Average to Start		(Minimum Requirements)	
(a) Trained	20		
(b) Aides and Trainees	32	52	
	—		

70 Bed Average

(a) Trained	21	
(b) Aides and Trainees	36	57
	—	

90 Bed Average

(a) Trained	23	
(b) Aides and Trainees	41	64
	—	

(3) Yes.

Natural Vegetation, Lawn, and Landscape Garden

17. Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) With regard to the site on which the Bunbury Regional Hospital is being built, will any of the natural vegetation remain on the site? If so, which areas?
- (2) How much of the site will be laid down in lawn and landscape garden?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes—principally at the rear of the hospital.
- (2) There will probably be approximately half of the site laid down in lawns and gardens, with the balance of the site being landscaped by the planting of groves of trees.

MAGNETIC AND RADIOMETRIC SURVEY IN LEONORA AND MENZIES AREA

Availability of Results

18. Mr. BURT asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is he aware that a magnetic and radiometric survey is being undertaken by the Bureau of Mineral Resources in an area of approximately 12,500 square miles around Leonora and Menzies?
- (2) Is the Geological Survey Department of this State co-operating in this undertaking?
- (3) Will the bureau make available the results of its investigations to—
 - (a) the Geological Survey of W.A.;
 - (b) mining companies which might be interested in further exploration and development of likely prospects located by the survey?

Mr. CRAIG (for Mr. Bovell) replied:

- (1) Yes, at the request of the Mines Department as part of a continuing programme of aero-magnetic surveys of the goldfields.
- (2) Yes.

- (3) (a) and (b) The aero-magnetic maps will be published and made available to the public. Nine such maps of the goldfields have already been published and are available.

DATES

Production in Australia

19. Mr. BURT asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Are dates grown commercially anywhere in Australia?
- (2) If so, where?
- (3) Would consideration be given to planting date palms at the department's experimental area in Wiluna?

Quantity Imported

- (4) What quantity of good quality table dates is imported to Australia annually?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) and (2) There is no record of commercial date production in Australia. Small experimental plantings were made by the Queensland Department of Agriculture in the late 1930s and a private plantation was established at Alice Springs in the 1950s.
- (3) The Western Australian Department of Agriculture imported selected varieties from overseas several years ago and these are under test at Carnarvon. This is of necessity a long-term project but when the imported material has passed quarantine and replant material is available, consideration will be given to making the planting at Wiluna.
- (4) Published statistics show that date importations into Australia over the past four years were as follows:—

	lb.
1960-61	8,631,025
1961-62	7,759,841
1962-63	8,180,566
1963-64	9,333,392

FREEWAY RUN-ON AND RUN-OFF ROADS

Resurfacing

20. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it intended to resurface the "run-on" and "run-off" freeway roads to bring them to the same level as the main roadway following its resurfacing earlier this year?
- (2) If so, when will this work be done?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) No, not in the immediate future.
- (2) Answered by (1).

MOUNTS BAY ROAD

Deviation around Brewery: Reference to Town Planning Commissioner

21. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) Was the proposal of the Perth City Council for a deviation of Mounts Bay Road around the river side of the brewery referred to the Commissioner of Town Planning?
- (2) Was it given approval, tentative or otherwise?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) In so far as the suggested deviation is indicated in the Metropolitan Region Scheme, it may be regarded as having been agreed to in principle by M.R.P.A., with details of design and possible alternative solutions remaining open for further study in the future.

Capacity to Handle Increased Traffic

22. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) In connection with the planning of the Mitchell Freeway and related traffic interchange, was any thought given to Mounts Bay Road and the increased volumes of traffic it might be called upon to accommodate?
- (2) Have there been any consultations between officers of the Main Roads Department and the Perth City Council with reference to the capacity of Mounts Bay Road and its ability to provide for the expected increases in traffic flows?
- (3) What part, if any, did the Main Roads Department play in the planning of the deviation of Mounts Bay Road around the river side of the brewery, which scheme was approved in principle by the Perth City Council in July, 1961?
- (4) Has the Main Roads Department been asked to assist the proposals financially and/or has it agreed to do so?
- (5) If the Main Roads Department has not, so far, been at all concerned about Mounts Bay Road and its capacity, for how much longer is this state of unconcern expected to continue?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes—informal discussions from time to time.

- (3) The Main Roads Department prepared rough preliminary sketches when these proposals were first mooted, and these sketches were discussed informally with officers of the Perth City Council. In correspondence the council has dealt with the Town Planning Commissioner.

(4) No.

- (5) The Main Roads Department is already concerned about the capacity of Mounts Bay Road. However, the preparation of detailed designs to improve capacity is not yet of first priority.

STATE ENGINEERING WORKS

Transfer of Machines to Private Enterprise

23. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) When will it definitely be known to him which machines out of the forging shop of the State Engineering Works have been sold to Doncaster-Hadfield for transfer to Bassendean?
- (2) Is it a fact that one particular machine in the forging shop has a value considerably in excess of the £10,000 which the Government is to receive for such machines as are taken by Doncaster-Hadfield together with the area of land being made available?
- (3) Is there any possibility that this machine will be taken by Doncaster-Hadfield?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) The 9th November, 1964.
- (2) No. It should also be noted that the price of £10,000 does not include the land. This is being made available for a further consideration of £5,400.
- (3) See answer to (2).

MOUNTS BAY ROAD

Deviation around Brewery: Reference to Swan River Conservation Board

24. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Was the proposal of the Perth City Council for a deviation of Mounts Bay Road around the river side of the brewery and which the council approved in principle in July, 1961, ever referred to the Swan River Conservation Board for approval?
- (2) If "Yes", what decision was made by the board?
- (3) What area of the Swan River would have to be reclaimed to enable the proposal to be carried out?

Mr. WILD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The scheme was approved in principle.
- (3) As only sketch plans have been prepared of the proposals, and in the absence of a proper survey, no thought has been given to any area of reclamation.

STATE SHIPPING SERVICE

Additional Cargo Vessel for North-West Coast

25. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) Has he approached the Treasurer and Cabinet for the construction of an additional passenger cargo ship of a larger tonnage than those now operating on the north-west coast, and so replace the old "D"-class ships and avoid the necessity to charter cargo ships?
- (2) If not, will he give his reasons?
- (3) If so, will he furnish details?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) The whole question of the future type of vessel to be operated on our coast is under examination. This is not something that can be decided immediately because many factors, including developments that are currently taking place and in prospect for the future, have to be taken into account. In the meantime, the needs of the north are kept carefully under consideration to see that special requirements are met with charter tonnage where necessary.

MURESK AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Principal's Period in Office and Date of Retirement

26. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) How long has the present principal been in charge of Muresk Agricultural College?
- (2) What are the qualifications of the principal?
- (3) At what date is the principal due for retirement?
- (4) How many students were in occupation at Muresk when the present principal was first appointed?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Since the 30th September, 1938.
- (2) Bachelor of Science (Agriculture). Diploma of Education. Member of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science.
- (3) The 10th July, 1966.
- (4) 38.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

PYRITES AT KOOLYANOBING

Deposit and Position of B.H.P.

Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

On Tuesday last I asked some questions relating to pyrites deposits at Koolyanobing, one of which was this:—

If pyrites were, in fact, found at Koolyanobing, would B.H.P. Ltd. have any rights in respect thereof?

The reply given was—

Yes. Clause 8(8) of the schedule to the B.H.P. Integrated Steel Works Agreement Act, 1960, sets out the company's rights regarding pyrites in their leases.

I have examined clause 8 of the schedule, and reducing it to non-legal jargon it provides that if and when pyrites are discovered, B.H.P. shall have certain rights. As it has been established that pyrites deposits existed there before the contract with B.H.P. Ltd. was entered into, do those rights ensue to that company?

Mr. CRAIG (for Mr. Bovell) replied: I shall refer this question to the Minister concerned.

BILLS (2): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Chevron-Hilton Hotel Agreement Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Brand (Treasurer), and read a first time.

2. Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Cornell, and read a first time.

POISONS BILL

Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Health) [2.36 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This is the first of four related measures which will be placed before this Chamber in the immediate future. Hitherto the control of poisons has been achieved under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, administered by the Pharmaceutical Council. This legislation was enacted in times when poisons were few in number, and included classical murder vehicles such as arsenic. This and similar poisons were, of course, available only through chemists.

Today the situation is completely changed, and we have a vast array of poisons in industry, in agriculture, and used in and about the home. Although the Pharmaceutical Council has carried out its duties in a highly efficient and ethical manner, it is realised that the problems of today require a controlling body composed of wider skills and experience.

This Bill now proposes to vest control of poisons in the Public Health Department; and administrative responsibility will be vested in the Commissioner of Public Health, but policy will be formulated by a widely representative advisory committee.

This proposed legislation, and the proposal generally for setting up a poisons advisory committee, so denude the existing Pharmacies and Poisons Act that it has been decided to introduce a new pharmacy Act. The Bill will be placed before honourable members later this afternoon.

A further measure which is necessitated by the Bill before us is an amendment of the Police Act so far as it relates to narcotic drugs; and the Bill for that purpose will be introduced immediately after this one. By courtesy of the Minister for Police I am introducing this legislation as it fits in with the pattern of the four Bills to which I have referred.

Part I of the Poisons Bill—clauses 1 to 7—deals with definitions and normal machinery provisions. Part II—clauses 8 to 19—provides for the appointment of a 12-man advisory committee. Two members, the Commissioner of Public Health and the Government Analyst, are appointed *ex officio*. The other 10 members are—

A pharmacologist nominated by the Senate of the University;

A medical practitioner specialising in occupational health nominated by the Minister;

Two medical practitioners nominated by the Australian Medical Association;

An officer of the Department of Agriculture nominated by the Minister for Agriculture;

Two nominees of the Chamber of Manufactures, one of whom will represent wholesalers;

A veterinary surgeon;

A nominee of the Pharmaceutical Council;

A nominee of the Pharmaceutical Service Guild.

This advisory committee will therefore contain expert representatives of all major interests concerned with the nature, marketing, and usage of poisons. The functions of the committee are wide, and are specified in clause 19 of the Bill.

Part III of the Bill contains three divisions. Division 1 prescribes eight schedules into which poisons will be grouped according to their degree of danger and the nature and extent of precautions which are required for their use. In brief, the grouping is as follows:—

Schedule 1—Substances extremely dangerous to humans, to be supplied only through pharmacists.

Schedule 2—Dangerous poisons which may be supplied by pharmacists or specially licensed persons five miles or more from a pharmacy.

Schedule 3—Medicinal poisons to be sold only by pharmacists.

Schedule 4—Substances or preparations which may be supplied only by pharmacists and only when prescribed by a medical practitioner, dentist, or veterinary surgeon.

Schedule 5—Substances which can be harmful and which require precautions in labelling or packing. No restriction will be placed on the sale of these substances, and sellers will not require a license.

Schedule 6—These poisons may be sold by licensed storekeepers. They include a wide range of potentially dangerous substances which are in common use in industry and agriculture.

Schedule 7—This is a group of highly dangerous poisons requiring special care in handling and use. They include the more potent pest destroyers.

Schedule 8—This group is confined to drugs with addiction-producing characteristics. They are to be subject to the pattern of control specified in the several international conventions on narcotic control. This is at present achieved under the Police Act.

The substances which it is proposed to list in each of these schedules are specified in Appendix A of the Bill. This grouping of poisons and hazardous substances in schedules closely conforms to the recommendations of the Uniform Poisons Schedules Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Most other States have introduced similar legislation. The main departure in this Bill is the clear separation of hazardous substances from poisons. Other States are showing interest in the Western Australian approach, and it could be that true uniformity will be achieved on the basis proposed in this Bill.

Clause 22 gives power to prohibit the sale, supply, or use of any poison. This power is similar to power now contained in the Health Act in connection with harmful medicinal preparations. The power seldom needs to be exercised, but

the tragic circumstances leading to the banning of thalidomide will in all probability be fresh in members' memories.

Division 2—clauses 23-30—deals with the licensing of persons to manufacture or sell poisons. The overall effect of these clauses is similar to provisions which now apply under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, but the licensing power is extended to manufacturing. This is because control and licensing of narcotics manufacture is to be deleted from the Police Act and will be dealt with in future under this legislation.

Division 3—clauses 31-40—deals with two aspects of poisons control. Firstly, conditions are prescribed for retail and wholesale dealing in poisons. The poisons to which these provisions directly relate will be specified in regulations in line with regulations now in force. The second aspect is entirely new. It deals with precautions which will apply in future to the introduction of new drugs. Its purpose is to avoid a repetition of the thalidomide episode which shocked the world.

The proposal is based on a scheme devised by the Commonwealth and State health authorities, but which requires the force of State law to give it authority. Before any new drug will be permitted to be sold or used, the manufacturer or distributor will be required to apply for it to be placed on one of the schedules. Full information will be required on the composition and characteristics of the new product. It will be necessary for the applicant to demonstrate that it has been amply tested to ascertain if it is safe to use for the purposes intended. The Commonwealth will enter the picture through the Commonwealth Drug Evaluation Committee. This expert body will have the services of scientific laboratories which will assist the States in testing and evaluating new drugs.

Clauses 41 to 45 deal with the manufacture and supply of narcotic drugs. The provisions of this Bill will not lessen the powers of the police to control illegal trafficking in narcotics. It will, however, relate the authorised manufacture and legitimate supply of narcotics to the comprehensive system of poisons control proposed under this legislation and outlined in the schedules.

Part V of the Bill—clauses 46-51—specifies a number of precautions which are aimed at the prevention of accidental poisoning. Containers must be labelled. Containers similar to those used for poisons must not be used for the sale of food or beverages. Poisons must not be sold by hawkers or from automatic machines.

Part VI—clauses 52-64—contains supplementary provisions. In particular it authorises officers to enter premises, make

searches, and seize poisons when in possession of a warrant granted by a magistrate. The liability of vendors and their servants for compliance with the Act is specified.

Clause 64 specifies the matters in respect of which regulations may be made. These are wide, but, as specified in clause 19, are to be exercised on the advice of the advisory committee. It is anticipated that regulations, when made, will closely follow those now in force under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, but would necessarily relate to the wider field of powers conferred by this Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Norton.

POISONS BILL

Message: Appropriation

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

POLICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

(No. 2)

Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Health) [2.50 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is introduced by me under an arrangement with the Minister for Police because it relates to the Poisons Bill which I have already introduced; and although the Bill occupies some four printed pages, its provisions and aims are simple.

As it stands, the Police Act specifies the list of narcotic drugs to which it relates. Each time there has been a change, fresh proclamations have been prepared. The main purpose of clause 3 of the Bill is to provide that in future all narcotics listed in the eighth schedule of the Poisons Act will be subject to police authority when dealing with illegal possession or supply of these drugs. Any changes to the eighth schedule of the Poisons Act will automatically apply to the Police Act.

Several other small amendments to section 94A of the Police Act are purely consequential, as is the alteration to section 94B proposed by clause 4 of the Bill. Clause 5 re-enacts section 94C of the Police Act in amended form. All licenses to sell or manufacture narcotics will be dealt with under the Poisons Act. Previous reference to these matters in section 94C of the Police Act have therefore been omitted. Clause 6 simply deletes surplus wording and adjusts reference to the date of the Act.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Norton.

PHARMACY BILL

Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Health) [2.55 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The deletion of certain parts of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act which relate to poisons control and which are now placed in the new poisons legislation leaves that Act in an untidy state. This Bill, therefore, proposes to re-enact our existing laws, which deal with the practice of pharmacy and the supervision of the profession. At the same time advantage is being taken of the opportunity to incorporate several modifications, most of which are sought by the Pharmaceutical Council.

Part I of the Bill comprises introductory provisions and definitions, and there is no significant departure from the present law in these matters. Part III deals with the establishment of the controlling body to be known as the "Pharmaceutical Council of Western Australia." The council has come to be known by, and has used, this title for many years although its official title has been "The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Western Australia."

Clause 10 provides for the election of a deputy president, as well as a president. The council feels that this will assist its operations. Power is given to the council to summon and examine witnesses when an inquiry is being made into a complaint against a pharmacist.

Part III reflects the changes in pharmaceutical training already adopted in Western Australia. The apprenticeship system terminated in 1963. All future students will be required to undergo at least 2,000 hours formal instruction under suitably qualified instructors.

A new feature of the Bill is the requirement that all premises used as pharmacies must be licensed. This is a measure now adopted or under consideration by other States, and is a suggestion that originates from the profession. A few pharmacies are ill-equipped and maintained and should therefore be kept to a desirable standard.

The council is conscious of the need for cleanliness and proper facilities in pharmacies, and proposes to lay down standards along the lines now prescribed in Queensland. This move will not entail the shouldering of an onerous burden by pharmacy proprietors, and it will be a protection for the public and an endorsement of the great majority of pharmacists who are jealous of their professional standards.

Part IV deals with the practice of pharmacy. Several amendments have been incorporated. Firstly, the council is empowered to register a pharmacist to practise subject to conditions. A foreign

person with satisfactory qualifications may have insufficient command of the English language, and this could lead to all sorts of problems. A pharmacist may have received treatment for a nervous disorder. In either case the council might decide that the public would be best served if such a person worked under supervision for a period.

A minor change authorises the removal of the name of a pharmacist from the register if he fails to reregister and does not respond within three months of written notice being sent to his last address. The existing waiting period is six months.

Two features are incorporated in clause 32 which are new. Firstly, the council is authorised to deal with a pharmacist for professional carelessness or incompetence. Under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act the council could take action for minor and major offences, but the intermediate offences which could be ascribed to carelessness or incompetence were not subject to its jurisdiction. Secondly, the council is empowered to deal with pharmacists who engage in unethical or improper advertising. Regulations will be made specifying prohibited forms of advertising, as is the case with other professions. Again it is anticipated that the pattern followed by the Queensland authorities will serve as a base. The council will be authorised to fine an offending pharmacist up to £20 as an alternative to other penalties which it has been empowered to impose. There is a right of appeal against the findings of the council.

Clause 36 of the Bill contains a change. Hitherto the right to own pharmacies has been reserved to registered pharmacists, companies which operated pharmacies prior to 1937, and to Friendly Societies supplying medicine to members and, since 1956, to the public.

The restriction on the operation of pharmacies by companies was introduced to prevent the introduction of chain store operators whose only interest in the field was the prospect of profitable investment. This restriction has proved to be a wise move as it has permitted the attraction of a good class of student to the profession and has maintained high professional standards. At the same time, this policy has meant that many individual pharmacists can make a living. It is pointed out also that a doctor cannot operate a pharmacy. This is all intended to ensure high ethical standards in the conduct of pharmacies, and also the individual management of pharmacies; in short, to avoid chain store or company-operated pharmaceutical businesses.

It is now proposed to restrict the operations of friendly societies pharmacies by confining their operations to the premises they now occupy, without in any way interfering with the rights and privileges of existing members and dispensaries. In a complementary amendment to the Friendly Societies Act, the operations of

two of these pharmacies which were opened with doubt as to their legality, will be validated and a further concession is proposed which will have the effect of permitting the new pharmacies to trade with the public generally. At present, six of the 10 friendly society pharmacies have the right to trade as open chemist shops. The other four have not. They will be given the same rights as the others.

There are several reasons for this proposal. Basically it is necessary to protect the practice of pharmacy from the inroads of company interests and chain store dispensaries, and to retain the individuality of the pharmacy retail business. I think it must be reported that the Commonwealth Government was so disturbed at the trend which developed in the friendly society dispensary movement—I do not refer to the friendly society movement, but the dispensary movement—that it amended the National Health Act, with effect from April of this year, to terminate certain privileges formerly enjoyed.

A system is now developing in the dispensaries which neither the Commonwealth nor the State could agree to. It was never anticipated that these dispensaries would be used to compete unfairly with the good order and individual management of retail pharmacy and strike contrariwise against the whole principle of pharmacy legislation.

The existing law permits a pharmacist to employ three unqualified persons to each qualified pharmacist to assist in dispensing medicines. It is considered that one qualified pharmacist cannot adequately supervise three unqualified assistants. With the termination of the apprenticeship system, which provided partly trained assistants, the position is worsened. Clause 39 of the Bill, therefore, fixes the ratio at two assistants to each pharmacist.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Davies.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Chief Secretary) [3.5 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill provides for the amendment of the Friendly Societies Act in several respects. Firstly, friendly societies have been authorised to establish homes for aged or distressed members since the turn of the century. It is now usual for such homes to have a hospital wing to care for sick residents. Friendly societies have asked that the additional authority to establish hospitals be written into the Act, and this is proposed in clause 3 of the Bill.

A further amendment included in this clause is a proposal to increase the total sum for which a member may be covered for benefits. At present it is £500, but the Bill increases the limit to £3,000. Similar action has already been taken in several other States.

Clause 4 deals with what might be termed a complicated situation involving friendly society pharmacies. In the existing Act pharmacies operating at the 31st October, 1956, are entitled to carry on with any member of the general public the business and trade ordinarily carried on by a pharmaceutical and dispensing chemist and druggist. Prior to 1956, these dispensaries were limited to the dispensing of medicines to members and their dependants only.

At that time, 1956, Parliament passed a Bill to give open trading rights to all dispensaries operating as at the 31st October, 1956, on the understanding that there would be no new dispensaries opened. That is quite clearly stated in *Hansard* of that time. There was a good deal of debate on the matter, but eventually Parliament did agree to a proposal which prior to then had been the subject of amending Bills which were rejected by Parliament for some years. However, since 1956, despite the tenor of the debate and the understanding in Parliament at that time, other dispensaries have opened—two, apparently without legal authority.

It is proposed by this Bill to validate their opening and also to remove doubts as to the legality of the existing registration of all dispensaries registered under section 8 of the Act. This registration, I understand, should have been made under section 7. In all, four additional dispensaries have been opened since 1956. In respect of all four dispensaries, and in addition to the validation of the two already mentioned, it is proposed by the Bill to provide them with open trading rights as applying to the six opened as at 1956. This is a very substantial concession. In another measure—that is, the Pharmacy Bill, which I just introduced—friendly societies are to be limited to operating the pharmacies they now own.

In view of the arrangements that have been made by virtue of the Pharmacy Bill, which was recently introduced, and the amendments being made to this legislation it would be unreal, under the circumstances which exist, to continue the restriction on four of these shops to trading with members only when the other six have open trading rights. The date of operation of this concession is fixed at the 24th April, 1964, as this coincides with the date chosen by the Commonwealth Government to terminate certain privileges that were previously enjoyed by these pharmacies. These proposals are dealt with in clauses 4 and 5 of the Bill.

Each friendly society operates under a set of rules which are lodged with the Registrar of Friendly Societies. Any society may amend its rules. It is felt that there is a need to ensure that any rule or amendment conforms to the scope and intention of the Friendly Societies Act. Clause 6 therefore provides that the Minister's approval shall be obtained before rules are registered. Clause 7 is complementary to the amendment dealt with in clause 3.

Finally the Bill provides for the repeal of the Friendly Societies Act Amendment Act of 1930. This Act was passed to allow lodges to waive fees of distressed members during the depression years. It is of no value today as each lodge has a benevolent fund from which funds are available to deal with individual cases of distress. Furthermore, because of the peculiar drafting of the amendment, the principal Act cannot be reprinted to incorporate its provisions. For these reasons it has been decided to repeal the amendment Act.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Davies.

NATIVES (CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

MR. LEWIS (Moore—Minister for Native Welfare) [3.12 p.m.] : I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Last month the honourable member for Swan moved in the House that regulation 3A made under the Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act be amended to provide for a certificate of citizenship to issue automatically to children whose names appear on the certificate of citizenship of a responsible parent, when those children come of age. I think the motion is order of the day No. 39 on today's notice paper.

Prior to 1958 children whose names appeared on the certificate of a parent lost their citizenship rights when they turned 21. In 1958 an amendment to the Act rectified this anomaly. Unfortunately, however, Parliament neglected to provide natives (citizenship rights) boards with power to issue these people with a certificate in their own right. Citizenship is, of course, of little practical value to a native if he does not possess evidence of it.

This omission was not appreciated at the time and regulation 3A was promulgated, making it mandatory for a natives (citizenship rights) board to issue a certificate on application. Senior legal officers of the Crown Law Department have subsequently examined the position and are in agreement that regulation 3A is an assumption of power not authorised by the Act and consequently has no legal force. In fact it is their opinion that a certificate can only be issued in these instances when an applicant has satisfied the

board that he can fulfill the conditions required of an applicant who does not have citizenship rights.

The *Hansard* report of the debate on the 1958 amendment leaves no doubt that this was never the intention of Parliament but rather that a certificate should issue as a right to those who come within the ambit of that amendment when they turn 21. This Bill has therefore been brought down to give effect to the original intention of Parliament.

A new section will be inserted in the Act which will enable a child whose name appears on the certificate of a parent and who is not less than 21 years of age to apply for a separate certificate. Once the board is satisfied of his identity it shall issue a certificate without further inquiry.

The amendment also provides for the names of the children of whom he is the responsible parent to be entered on his certificate. Considerable thought has been given to the proposal of the honourable member for Swan that the certificate should issue automatically. However, it was concluded that this would involve too many difficulties, both administrative and practical.

In regard to the administrative aspect, the department does not keep a systematic record of the information which would be necessary for these certificates to issue automatically. A record would have to be kept of the name, age, and current address of each surviving child and whether a certificate had already been issued. This would involve considerable work which would be hard to justify, particularly in a department keen to devote as much of its resources as possible to field work where the tangible results are obtained.

From the practical point of view, at present before a certificate is valid it must contain a photograph of the holder. Should this requirement be dispensed with it is believed the certificate would lose much of its value since there would be no satisfactory means of identification. It is easy to imagine such certificates being used illegally by other than the holder.

Since it is accepted that a photograph is necessary for identification purposes, there must be some communication with the department by the native concerned. All of the necessary information then becomes immediately available and a certificate can immediately issue. The need for setting up a comprehensive record system is thus eliminated. Honourable members can be assured that formalities will be kept to a bare minimum.

I would point out that this amendment will have no material effect on the natives in the South-West Land Division who already have all the rights of full citizenship. The only restrictions applying throughout the rest of the State are those

pertaining to liquor, and when these are lifted the Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act will be redundant.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Hawke (Leader of the Opposition).

MORAWA-KOOLANOOKA HILLS RAILWAY BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed, from the 15th October, on the following motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Railways):—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

MR. SEWELL (Geraldton) [3.18 p.m.]: I rise to support the Bill introduced by the Minister for Railways. It is one which we expected this year and we hope that the work will be carried out at a very early date to allow the Western Mining Corporation to get on with its work in the Koolanooka Hills east of Morawa, and to commence mining the ore to be exported through Geraldton.

That company has an agreement with the Japanese firms to export something like 5,100,000 tons of iron ore. We all know that so far as Western Australia and Australia are concerned history has really been made with the first license issued by the Federal Government for the export of iron ore.

The line will be some 11 miles in length and, as we understand it at this stage—although unofficially—there are huge quantities of iron ore in the area that have not been mentioned before. We only trust that the company will be successful in its operations, because not only will this be of benefit to the district of Morawa-Greenough, and to the port of Geraldton, but it will be of distinct advantage to the prosperity of the State of Western Australia.

I have much pleasure in supporting this Bill to build a railway from Morawa to Koolanooka.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Railways), and transmitted to the Council.

POLICE ASSISTANCE COMPENSATION BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed, from the 15th October, on the following motion by Mr. Craig (Minister for Police):—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

MR. HAWKE (Northam—Leader of the Opposition) [3.23 p.m.]: I am sorry this Bill, has, in effect, been brought on suddenly by the postponement of the debate on Order of the Day No. 6, which deals with a Bill to amend the Workers' Compensation Act. Had Order of the Day No. 6 been brought on as it stands on the notice paper there would have been considerable debate in Committee on the clauses of that Bill and the measure now before us would have come on very much later in today's sitting. Unfortunately, because of the change in programming, the honourable member for Swan, who has studied this Bill and who would have taken up the debate, is not at present available.

Mr. Court: If you like it can be adjourned until a later stage of the sitting.

Mr. HAWKE: We would like the Committee stage to be adjourned. However, I propose to support the Bill in principle and would appreciate it if the Minister concerned would agree later on, after the second reading debate has been concluded and the second reading of the Bill carried, to have the Committee stage postponed until a later stage. I ask that because the honourable member for Swan may have some amendments or some suggestions in connection with the clauses which he would wish to put forward.

Mr. Court: If you so desire it can be adjourned.

Mr. HAWKE: No; I will continue. The principle contained in this Bill is that a person who suffers personal injury in any effort which he makes to assist a police officer, when that police officer is arresting someone, or is preserving the peace or trying to preserve the peace, will become entitled to compensation covering the personal injury which he has suffered. There is a qualification in regard to any claim, the qualification being that any such person has to be requested to assist by a police officer or has to give assistance in circumstances from which he could have reasonably inferred he would have been requested to give assistance if the police officer had been aware of those circumstances and had been able to request him to assist.

Clearly, the first requirement is that a police constable must request a civilian to assist him in making an arrest, or in trying to maintain peace and good order. The second requirement appears to me to be almost unlimited, even though the wording of it would appear to place some restriction in regard to any assistance which a civilian might offer. Looking carefully at the second requirement I am not able to envisage a situation in which a civilian would go to the assistance of a police officer and suffer personal injury and then not be entitled to compensation in respect of the injury suffered.

I would like the Minister to have a careful look at that part of the Bill, which is paragraph (b) of subclause (1) of clause 5. I would appreciate it very much indeed if, either in reply to the second reading or later on in the day in the Committee stage, he could indicate to us any situation in which a person would go to the assistance of the police, even if not requested to do so, and who subsequently would suffer personal injury and then not be entitled to claim and to receive compensation.

My own view on the point is that any person, irrespective of the circumstances, who would go to the assistance of a police officer and assist that officer in arresting a person, or who would assist that officer in maintaining peace and good order or in restoring peace and good order, and who suffered personal injury should, without any question or shadow of doubt, be entitled to make a claim for compensation and be paid compensation. I should think there would not be justification for any restriction in relation to making a claim for and being paid compensation in any situation of that kind.

The Bill goes further and lays it down that the dependants of a civilian injured in such a situation as we are dealing with mainly in this Bill are entitled to be paid compensation which, of course, is reasonable and proper.

The compensation here referred to—that is, covering every situation which the Bill sets out to provide—shall be paid by the Minister for Police without imposing any personal liability upon the occupant of the office of Minister for Police, and shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act.

The Bill gives power to the Governor to make compensation for loss of property or for damage to property; and this, of course, is very proper in the circumstances. It is easy to understand that a civilian going to the assistance of a police officer, particularly if a brawl is taking place, would suffer damage to clothing and might even suffer damage to other personal property including, for instance, a wrist watch and other possessions.

The amount of compensation to be paid shall not exceed, in the case of a claim by a person, any amount as may be prescribed; and in the case of a claim by a number of persons arising out of the same incident, such amount as may be prescribed. Obviously this leaves with the Governor, or with the Executive Council, the full responsibility of laying down the exact amount of compensation which may be claimed by any civilian who is entitled to make a claim.

Further on in the Bill it is provided that the Workers' Compensation Board, as set up under the Workers' Compensation Act, shall have exclusive jurisdiction

to determine any question relating to compensation. I think this provision is wise in the circumstances, because the members of the Workers' Compensation Board are experienced in matters of this kind and they could quite expertly determine any question which might be submitted to them.

The Bill also contains a very important provision in the fact that power is given for proceedings to be taken against what is termed a wrongdoer; to recover from such wrongdoer any amount of compensation which may have to be paid out to a civilian or to civilians because of some breach of the peace which the wrongdoer might be held to have been responsible for creating.

The Bill proposes to give power to the State Government Insurance Office to issue policies of insurance for compensation to be paid under this proposed law. As far as I can understand this provision, the Bill proposes to give the State Government Insurance Office a monopoly covering the issue of insurance policies under this measure.

The proposals contained in this Bill are, I think, necessary and praiseworthy. It is fair, reasonable, and just in every way that a civilian who does go to the assistance of a police officer, in an endeavour to assist him to make an arrest, to maintain order, or to restore order, should not, as a result of suffering personal injury or property loss in such a situation, have out of his own resources to pay doctors' bills and hospital bills and to suddenly have to spend additional money on the purchase of new clothing or perhaps a new wrist watch, or whatever it might be.

Civilians who assist the police in that sort of situation seem to me to become, in effect, unofficial special constables. Obviously no civilian would go to the assistance of a police officer in any situation if he considered the officer was quite capable, without assistance from a civilian, of handling the situation. A civilian would only go into action in a situation such as is envisaged in this proposed law where the civilian was fully convinced that a police officer was not, because of circumstances, capable of handling the situation.

So there is, in point of merit and in point of justice, every reason why a civilian suffering personal injury or loss of personal belongings in those circumstances should be entitled to claim for and receive full monetary compensation. Therefore I offer my support to the second reading.

MR. CRAIG (Toodyay—Minister for Police) [3.37 p.m.]: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his support of this Bill, which I am handling on behalf of the Minister for Justice in another place. I will agree to have the Bill moved into

Committee, and we can report progress and await the return of the honourable member for Swan at a later stage of the sitting or on another occasion.

The main point raised by the Leader of the Opposition concerns the provision of compensation for persons who volunteer to assist police officers. In other words, the Bill provides that compensation shall be paid to those persons who assist police officers after they have been called upon to do so. But it does not provide for instances where persons assist police officers without being asked to do so.

Mr. Hawke: It does to some extent.

Mr. CRAIG: That is so; but it does not specifically refer to it along those lines. However, I feel that in such cases a person would be covered; but at the same time it should be dealt with more specifically in the Bill. That matter can be discussed with the Minister for Justice.

There is only one fault with the suggestion as far as I can see. The Leader of the Opposition referred to occasions when a brawl might be taking place; and the police who are handling the matter might feel that they can do so without the necessity for calling upon a civilian. But some person might feel that it is obligatory on him to help, and in the course of assisting the police that person might be injured, although he was not asked to assist. That is a point which can be overcome, in any case.

Mr. Hawke: It could be that a person assisting the brawler might suffer injury and might subsequently claim that he was assisting the police.

Mr. CRAIG: Anyhow, I can discuss this particular point with the Minister for Justice.

The main purpose of the Bill, of course, is to cover personal injury to individuals, and the payment of compensation for any damage to property that may occur. Perhaps some members may feel it should go further and cover injury that is suffered by a bystander who is not even assisting the police in any way, but who, as a result of the efforts of the police and the people who are called upon to assist them, could be injured. I am given to understand that that aspect is under consideration now by the Attorneys-General and Ministers for Justice of the various States.

Mr. Jamieson: What would be the position of a man who is hurt while wrestling with the man the police are trying to arrest?

Mr. CRAIG: He would be a bystander and he is more or less on a par with the person who is not asked to assist the police.

Mr. Jamieson: You must agree that it is a desirable action on the part of a citizen.

Mr. CRAIG: That is so. The honourable member is making an example of the point I am trying to bring before the House. I thank the Leader of the Opposition again, and I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. I. W. Manning) in the Chair; Mr. Craig (Minister for Police) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 3 put and passed.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, at a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Mr. Craig (Minister for Police).

Sitting suspended from 3.44 to 4.5 p.m.

FREMANTLE BUFFALO CLUB (INCORPORATED) (PRIVATE) BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Council's Message

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Assembly.

SUITORS' FUND BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed, from the 15th October, on the following motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development):—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

MR. TONKIN (Melville—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.7 p.m.]: If this Bill becomes an Act it will be a step in the direction of achieving a measure of social justice, and for that reason it is to be applauded, because it is aimed at doing justice where, without it, justice would not be done.

When a person is obliged to go to law he should think very carefully about the matter, because a case does not rest on the first decision. For that reason people who are well endowed with the goods of this world have a tremendous advantage over poorer persons; because a person with a very big income need not worry about the number of stages in law which he can follow right through to the Privy Council, if he is prepared to go that far to get the final decision.

Another person in poorer circumstances, who is quite confident he would win in the hearing in the first court, has to face the possibility and probability—if he were

to take on somebody more powerful than himself—of a number of appeals which could involve him in the payment of sums completely beyond his resources. In these circumstances many people hesitate to go to law, even though their cause is just and they are reasonably certain to get a decision in their favour; because they have not the financial resources to carry them through in the event of the persons against whom they desire to proceed carrying the cases to other courts.

The underlying principle of this legislation is that, with certain limitations, which I shall mention later, when a person is obliged, because of the process of the law, to go into further court actions through no fault of his own, and where he cannot avoid such actions, then his costs up to a total £500 will be paid on his behalf out of a fund to be established.

Some of the circumstances could be where an action is commenced, proceeds a certain distance, and the judge becomes ill. The case cannot proceed, and in those circumstances it is very unfair that the litigants should be obliged to pay the costs up to that stage, and then embark upon a fresh action. In another instance, the judge hearing the case may die during the proceedings, in which event the proceedings become null and void, and a fresh action is necessary. It is not the fault of either the complainant or respondent that extra expense is incurred, so it is not unreasonable to establish some fund from which the costs of both parties to the action can be met.

I repeat that the underlying principle of the Bill is that when further court actions are involved which cannot be avoided, either because of the circumstances I have mentioned or a necessity to clarify the law, then provided a certificate of indemnity is issued by the court an amount from the suitors' fund shall be paid to reimburse the applicant and respondent for the costs already incurred and paid.

Where a respondent fails to follow the judgment and meet the costs of the successful applicant, then those costs shall be met from the fund on behalf of the respondent, and any claim by the respondent would be reduced by the amount so paid. That is only fair and proper. To enable this process to function money must be made available to meet the costs involved. It is proposed to establish the suitors' fund by making a levy upon certain processes and documents which are issued from time to time for action to be taken in various courts. The sum fixed upon is 1s. initially, which might be altered by regulation to a maximum of 2s. per document.

In principle one cannot be quite happy with this type of taxation. It could very well transpire that none of the persons who pay money into the fund will benefit

from it. They may only have recourse to one or two processes, and may have no occasion to go to law subsequently in actions for which money has to be paid. Therefore they may never benefit from the fund.

It is a type of insurance, of course, so that if people are caught up in the set of circumstances I have mentioned, this will be available to them for the purpose. It is on the same principle as that on which we pay into the hospital and medical benefit fund. Some of us may never require to go to hospital, or see a doctor; but that does not deter us from paying into the fund, because we realise that should we be obliged to go into hospital for any great period of time, the very high cost involved might impose a serious strain on our resources. Therefore it is better to pay a comparatively small but regular amount as a guarantee that if we are unfortunate enough to go to hospital, funds will be forthcoming to enable us to pay the cost.

That is the idea behind this: that if a levy is made on those people who have to issue documents out of the court or use the legal processes, although they may never benefit from the fund, they pay an insurance when they are dealing with the courts in order that a fund may be built up from which they may benefit. I suppose the fairest method would be to impose a tax on the whole of the community in order that a fund might be built up out of Consolidated Revenue; and then, for those persons who are obliged to go to law—and I think there are very few who deliberately go there; most try to avoid going if they can—money would be available to pay the cost in certain circumstances.

This does not apply to the ordinary court action, but only where they have to go to another court for a decision, or another trial is necessary. As I have said, a judge might feel ill or a question of law might have to be decided, and so another interpretation is obtained. The *Law Reports* are full of cases where a decision is given in one court and an appeal is then made to a higher court, and an opposite decision is given. Another appeal is made to a higher court still and an opposite decision to that is given. I often think it becomes a case of who has the last guess.

If a person has sufficient money to see his way through all those actions, he may ultimately come out on top. There are some cases where a man takes an action and succeeds in it, but an appeal is lodged and he is then obliged to go to another court. If he loses in that other court then he is involved in the payment of the costs of both actions, and the whole thing might hinge on an interpretation of the law. If the judge in the first case had interpreted the law correctly, then there would have been no need for the second action.

Under those circumstances it is unfair that the person who succeeded in the first action because of the mistake of a judge should be obliged to go into another action, and then pay the costs of both, because he would have been quite content in losing the decision in the first court. It is to meet circumstances like that that this fund is to be established.

As the Minister pointed out, this legislation already operates in New South Wales and Victoria. I understand that New South Wales started it off, and therefore for that State it was completely experimental. It is still in operation and seems to have worked satisfactorily. The Minister has informed us that this Bill has the blessing of the Law Reform Committee, although that committee would have preferred, instead of this sectional levy on those who are using the processes of the court, money to be made available from Consolidated Revenue. The committee's argument is that the insurance is available for all people who may at some time or other go to law, and therefore it is not fair to levy only a section. I think there is a good deal to be said for that argument.

Of course, there is another aspect, too. A company with a share capital of £100,000 cannot benefit ever under this legislation. It is specifically debarred. Nevertheless, it will have to make a financial contribution each time it uses the processes which are stipulated as being liable to this levy. I suppose one need not shed many tears over companies with £100,000 capital, and the impost upon them will not be a great deal. No doubt they will recover it in some other way.

However, as a matter of principle, it cannot be defended because a charge is being levied in order to do something, but a section of the people upon whom the charge is levied cannot hope to benefit from it. This section is excluded from benefit. As a general principle, that could not be worse. But, I repeat, one need not cry very much over the exclusion of companies with £100,000 capital, because they are well capable of looking after themselves. I have no doubt they will find means to recoup this extra expenditure, and I do not anticipate their profits will fall.

So one aim of this legislation is to assist those litigants who are in circumstances which require an appeal to a higher court, which appeal might have been avoided under different circumstances. It will therefore be of very real benefit—there is not the slightest doubt about that—in the cases which the fund is entitled to cover.

No-one will be able to receive payment from this suitor's fund unless the court issues a certificate of indemnity. That

will be the requirement of reimbursement; and so, if the court does not consider that the circumstances are such as to justify reimbursement of costs from the suitors' fund, it will not issue the certificate of indemnity. Therefore the fund is safeguarded and there is no likelihood of any injustice being done to any party.

I think it is necessary to set a limit in order that the fund will be sufficient to go around; because the situation could arise where, in a very big case, one or two parties might take most of the money out of the fund, so that there would be very little left for others who wished to take advantage of it. Although provision is made for the Government to make up any shortage for the time being, nevertheless it is undesirable that any unlimited amount should be drawn. I do not think that is ever the case with funds of this nature. It is necessary to impose a limit to ensure the solvency of the fund. Therefore I think that is a necessary provision.

I would like to see the principle extended. Of course it is a little different from the basic principle here. Some people cannot undertake a case initially because they have very meagre funds. But they are not destitute. They would hardly qualify for assistance under the Poor Persons Legal Assistance Act. Therefore they are in a sort of no man's land. They cannot get assistance from a fund to enable them to take a case to the court, however strong it may be; and they have not sufficient money themselves to do it. Therefore they just put up with the injustice, and that's that.

I would like at some time or other to see an extension of this idea of helping litigants who have a sound case to have it determined in the court. I would like to see some financial assistance made available to them. I suppose the way to meet that would be to appoint a sort of public solicitor, paid by the Crown. Just as the Crown Law Department is available to the Government to initiate and defend actions, so if a solicitor were paid by the Government he could be available to assist persons in difficulty when such persons are unable themselves to pay high costs. I think it would be a definite advantage.

However, except for the fact that it has some relation to the basic principle of this Bill I must admit it is not really relevant, because the Bill does not propose to do anything of this kind.

The idea in this Bill is a good one; and, when passed, the measure will bring us into line with two of the standard States—New South Wales and Victoria. Adequate safeguards are provided against any imposition on the fund and therefore it is a step in the direction of achieving social justice. I support the Bill.

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) [4.27 p.m.]: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for his very detailed analysis of the Bill as he sees it and for his support of the legislation. I have noted his reference to his desire that at some appropriate time the principle should be extended so that machinery might be provided whereby people who could not be classed as poor or indigent, could have access to litigation if they had a sound case, but could not now initiate litigation for fear of the potential loss involved.

I cannot see how such a scheme could be worked out, but it may be that the introduction of the principle we are trying to establish in our Statute book could pave the way to some scheme which, by degrees, would gradually overcome the difficulty that does exist in some of these cases.

I know the type of situation to which the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was referring. It is a nicety of judgment on the part of people who might have a reasonable amount of wealth behind them, but not a lot, and they do not feel like risking their financial stability on something that may depend on the interpretation of the law. I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development), and transmitted to the Council.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE SITE PERMANENT RESERVE (A↑1162) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed, from the 15th October, on the following motion by Mr. Wild (Minister for Works):—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

MR. TONKIN (Melville—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.34 p.m.]: There is not a great deal to be said about the Bill, which is a necessary one. The Government has indicated that it can see the termination of the period during which the site will require to be occupied because the new buildings are in course of erection. When they are completed their utilisation will leave the buildings which are now on the Parliament House site free to be demolished; and it is therefore implied that they will be demolished at that time.

In the circumstances, permission for the buildings to remain cannot reasonably be withheld, and to legalise the position it is necessary to pass this Bill. I therefore give it my support.

MR. JAMIESON (Beeloo) [4.35 p.m.]: The only comment I wish to make is that we had an assurance from the Premier and the Minister that when any action affecting the Parliament House site was contemplated the House Committee would be acquainted before such action was taken. That assurance was given because of the arguments that arose previously over this matter; but notice was given on this occasion.

While I agree this is not a vital issue, surely after that understanding had been entered into, the House Committee should have received notification of what was proposed! I suggest the Minister could put a note on the file: "Any action please refer to the House Committee," or something like that, because the first thing the House Committee members knew of this matter was when the Minister gave notice of it in the House. It is only a matter of courtesy to notify the House Committee.

The breach is not a serious one, because we realise that an extension is necessary. Whilst it is reasonable to ask for the extension, it is also reasonable to expect that the undertaking that was given should be adhered to, so that the body which is more or less charged with the responsibility of looking after the reserve, may be acquainted with exactly what is going on.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Wild (Minister for Works), and transmitted to the Council.

STATE HOUSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed, from the 15th October, on the following motion by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Chief Secretary):—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

MR. HAWKE (Northam—Leader of the Opposition) [4.40 p.m.]: The Bill proposes to amend the State Housing Act in some important particulars. The Act is one which enables many people in the State who are anxious to become owners of houses to obtain financial assistance; and there is no doubt that the provisions of the principal Act have conferred upon a large number of people great benefits in relation to home ownership.

As I understand the measure before us, the proposal is to widen the field of those who will be eligible to make application for financial assistance for homes or houses of which they wish to become the owners. The existing limit in relation to annual income by way of salary or wages is to be raised fairly substantially. But whether the proposed increase goes as far as it should is, I think, open to argument, especially in view of the fact that wages and salaries these days, although they rise somewhat from time to time, are always met immediately by increases in the cost of living. In fact, I think it is even more correct to say that the cost-of-living increases are in almost every instance ahead of the wage and salary increases which take place. Therefore the value of any maximum figure put into this law begins to reduce, in effectiveness, almost as soon as the new maximum becomes available.

However, the proposal in the Bill is an improvement on what now exists in the parent law, and there seems no reason why the measure should not be supported to the extent that it makes provision for some increase in the present maximum.

MR. GRAHAM (Balcatta) [4.43 p.m.]: You have no idea, Mr. Speaker, how indebted I am to the Leader of the Opposition! The Bill, as was explained by the Minister when introducing it, is principally to raise the limit of assistance which can be granted to people in several categories. This becomes necessary largely on account of increased costs. I suggest it is indicative of what has been expressed from this side of the House on many occasions, that everything is increasing in price; yet we find this Government after—in its own words—more than five years of unparalleled prosperity and progress acknowledging 1s. 2d. as being the measure of that progress when applied to workers.

Of course this legislation applies to workers, and we know that it was originally the Workers' Homes Act. Whilst agreeing to the increased amounts, I hope and trust that neither the responsible Minister nor the commission will regard the measure as an indication by Parliament that more costly types of homes should be erected.

The Bill is an acknowledgment of the fact that the cost of erecting homes has increased; and whilst there is still a lag in the supply of houses for those of humble circumstance, I would prefer that the houses be moderate in design and cost in order to permit of a greater number of persons to enjoy the benefits which those who come within the ambit of the Act have available to them; or, to put it shortly, instead of—to use a figure—1,000 persons being assisted, that number be reduced to only 800 because of a decision to erect a more luxurious type of house.

I think that would be against the spirit and intention of the original legislation, and the thoughts of honourable members

generally, particularly those who from time to time are called upon to canvass the requirements of people who make approaches and have a housing need.

Perhaps there is no more that can usefully be said with application to the Bill although, of course, I venture to suggest practically anybody and everybody in this House could have a great deal to say with regard to the general matter of housing, the shortage which still exists, and the many hardships that are endured.

However, perhaps I should make at least one comment. Honourable members will recall that several years ago I protested most vehemently against the decision of this Government to increase the standard minimum deposit of £50 for a purchaser under the State Housing Act to a figure of £100, indicating that it was totally unnecessary. I pointed out, too, that the evidence on which allegedly the decision of the Government was made was palpably false. It appeared, on the surface, from the information supplied, to be a case, but only to those who did not have an intimate knowledge of the workings of the State Housing Commission; because the Government, through its Minister, took into account the small deposits paid by natives.

Because of the experience with those people, in association with others who paid small deposits, the Government convinced—or a more appropriate word would be “kidded”—itself that if there were a small deposit there was a greater risk of the account going bad; whereas, excluding natives, as the State Housing Commission's figures show, those who paid deposits of round about £50 had a better experience than those who paid deposits of £100, or in excess of that figure—why, I know not; but nevertheless the figures indicated that, and honourable members can turn back pages of *Hansard* and see the actual figures that were given upon analysis after they had been supplied to me by the Minister at that time.

Honourable members are aware that in other parts of Australia lesser deposits are required under their State Housing schemes; and, if I remember aright, within the last fortnight the Victorian Government has announced that it intends to sell houses through its State Housing Commission with no deposit. So once again we find that this Government, in conformity with its practice in so many instances, is going in the opposite direction from the rest of Australia. It is turning back the hands of time instead of moving them ever onwards. I expressed sentiments along those lines with regard to capital punishment, which, of course, we will not discuss at this moment. But there are so many instances of where this Government is old-fashioned and reactionary, even measured against conservative States in other parts of the Commonwealth.

Therefore, through the Chief Secretary, who is only the agent in this Chamber for the Minister for Housing, I would suggest that perhaps the Premier and the Chief Secretary might confer with the present Minister for Housing with a view to his trimming his policy in the opposite direction from that which he is taking at the present moment.

I think, too, that some greater emphasis might be given to the provision of rental houses. After all, rental houses may be purchased by the tenants if they so desire. The persons who wish to purchase homes initially can do so not only through the State Housing Act but also under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, the War Service Homes Act, through building societies, banks, insurance companies, and by special grants which are made to the R. & I. Bank by this Government.

All these spheres are open and scarcely anybody other than the State Housing Commission is building houses for rental purposes. As a matter of fact, if we exclude flats, I doubt whether anybody is building houses for rental purposes. Yet there is a need for houses in that category, and therefore it is the responsibility of the Government to provide them. What I am saying is in accordance with fact, because there is a waiting period of two to three times as long for a rental house as there is for a purchase home.

So let them be made available in greater quantities on a rental basis, with the understanding and the knowledge, of course, that any of the houses which are made available on a rental basis are available, if the tenant so desires, to be purchased on easy terms—and again I underline the word “easy”.

Let the Government have a look at what is taking place in other States. I think I am right in saying that in addition to Victoria there are one or two States—and if that be the case there would be three States in all—where it is possible for a person to purchase a home without any deposit being required. I know many honourable members on the other side of the House who have lost touch with the ordinary people in the community; because, apart from the deposit, there is a tremendous expense incurred in a family moving to new quarters. There is the cost of all the odds and ends in the way of light fittings, floor coverings, window treatments, and the rest of it, to say nothing of the stamp duty and fees generally that have to be paid. One can envisage, even without a deposit being required, an amount of £100 to £150 being essential in order to meet the inescapable costs involved in a family moving from one dwelling to another.

Having said that, and having gone into the position to a greater extent than originally was my intention, I conclude by

saying I have no objection to the Bill. However, I suggest to the Minister in charge in this Chamber that a close watch be kept on the State Housing Commission. I do not say that disrespectfully. But if it is possible to build houses of a greater financial cost, surely the officers of the Housing Commission are only human; and the architects would see a scope for what might be regarded as excesses or non-essentials—

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Such as flywire doors, and things like that.

Mr. GRAHAM: No; I am talking about architectural features—a bit of Toodyay stone here and something else there. It is not essential, but it could add £50 on to the cost of the house. Also, I would refer to wrought iron when there is no need for it, but it is used for purely decorative purposes.

If the Minister does that the Bill will allow more latitude with the higher figures that are set out in the Bill, and also it will cater for perhaps several years ahead, unless or until we get another spate of inflation in costs while the workers remain, comparatively speaking, on the same old wages and salaries as hitherto.

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Chief Secretary) [4.55 p.m.]: I thank the Leader of the Opposition and the honourable member for Balcatta for their contributions to the debate on this small Bill. However, I think that much of what the honourable member for Balcatta had to say was more than a touch outside the scope of the Bill, as he freely admitted when he spoke in rather general terms on housing. I will see that a copy of his speech is delivered to the Minister for Housing, who will be given an opportunity of commenting on it.

Whether this Bill goes far enough is a matter for individual thought and appreciation, but it is for the purpose of endeavouring to maintain the high level of home ownership that has been developed in this State in recent times. I think it is desirable to keep to this ideal of home ownership, although I have no doubt it is necessary to build a substantial number of homes which provide rental accommodation. The honourable member for Balcatta has developed his point, but I think that this little Bill does perform a useful function.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Chief Secretary), and transmitted to the Council.

JUDGES' SALARIES AND PENSIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) [5 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

In doing so, I explain the purpose of this Bill is to amend the Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act with a view to bringing the judicial salaries payable in this State more into line with those payable in the other states of the Commonwealth.

Judges' salaries in this State were increased as from the 1st July, 1962, for a similar reason, though it may be considered that such increase was somewhat delayed, having regard to substantial increases granted in other States two years earlier.

Almost immediately following the 1962 rise in judicial salaries in this State, increases were made in New South Wales retrospective to the 1st January, 1962, in Victoria, Queensland, and South Australia retrospective to the 1st July, 1963, and also in Tasmania last year.

A review of the Australia-wide judicial salaries, which was made last March, disclosed that the Chief Justice in Victoria was paid a salary of £7,800; in New South Wales, £7,750; in Queensland and South Australia, £7,000; and in Tasmania and Western Australia, £6,400. Comparative salaries paid to puisne judges were £7,050, £7,000, £6,400, £6,250, with Tasmania and Western Australia standing at £5,600.

These salaries represented an increase consequent to 1963 legislation of £550 in Victoria for the Chief Justice, and £575 for the puisne judges; £500 in New South Wales, £600 in Queensland for the Chief Justice, and £500 for the puisne judges; £750 in South Australia, and £1,200 in Tasmania for the Chief Justice with £1,000 for the puisne judges.

The foregoing is a clear indication of the present position. Actually, the salaries of the Supreme Court judges in this State are now, with those in Tasmania, the lowest in Australia.

Governments of the past have been inclined to have regard for the average of the salaries paid by all the States to their judges and, by following this practice, an amount of £7,000 per annum is regarded as a proper salary for the Chief Justice of Western Australia, with £6,350 per annum for the senior puisne judge, and £6,200 per annum for the puisne judges.

Under the Act as it stands at present, there is provision for adjustments to salary rates by multiples of £20 as and when the basic wage varies to this extent from the 1st July, 1962.

Mr. Graham: Will they get the 's. 2d. which you agreed to?

Mr. COURT: Just listen and be a little respectful if that is possible! I know the honourable member finds it difficult in the case of judges.

Mr. Graham: This represents a £2,000 increase to them since you have been in the Government.

Mr. COURT: We will be interested to hear the honourable member's objections if he has any. Their honours, the judges, have asked that this section be deleted. Perhaps that satisfies the honourable member. I think he might have jeered a little too soon.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Hawke (Leader of the Opposition).

JUDGES' SALARIES AND PENSIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Message: Appropriation

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

OFFENDERS PROBATION AND PAROLE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) [5.6 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill has already been passed in another place. There are two main amendments in the measure, which contains only four clauses, and I shall refer to the last first. This clause amends paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 47 by giving the Parole Board a discretionary power to release a prisoner with less than 12 months remaining to be served on parole, if he has already served at least one half of the term of imprisonment to which he was sentenced. No prisoner may, because of the existing provisions in paragraph (b), be eligible for release on parole unless there remains 12 months at least of the prison term to be served.

The Minister for Justice, when looking into the matter, became aware that, under the existing provisions in the Act, a prisoner, with 12 months still to be served, was eligible for consideration of parole by the board; but technically, if he had one day less than 12 months to serve, he was ineligible. The Minister considered that, in some circumstances, hardship could be inflicted as a result of this provision and, being anxious to resolve the situation by providing the board with the desirable discretionary power, introduced this Bill in order that the board might be able to consider the case of such a person.

The Parole Board came into operation officially on the 1st October and is proceeding with its task of fixing the minimum

sentence of persons who have more than 12 months to serve. Progress is being made in respect of the administration of that portion of the Act; and on the passing of the measure, the board will be enabled to give consideration to extending the parole provisions of the Act to prisoners with less than 12 months still to be served.

The other main provision in the Act will enable a child who was sentenced, under the Child Welfare Act, to a period of imprisonment prior to reaching the age of 18 years, to become eligible for parole, because during his term of imprisonment he may have reached his 18th birthday. The Act at present does not contain any provision to enable the board to deal with such a case.

The provision in clause 2 of the Bill will rectify the position and has been introduced into this measure by the appropriate Ministers for Justice and Child Welfare in collaboration, as it seems obvious that a young person in this category could be a most suitable type of prisoner to be considered for parole.

It must be understood clearly, however, that eligibility for consideration for parole does not necessarily mean parole will be granted by the board. That is left to the discretion of the board. The important feature is that the Parole Board will now be able to deal with these cases.

There is already a probation system operating for juveniles within the Child Welfare Department, so it is not necessary to bring them within the scope of the probation section of the Offenders Probation and Parole Act.

A reference in passing could be made to clause 3, though in truth the amendment contained in that clause merely corrects a mistake made in the drafting of the original Bill introduced into Parliament last year when the word "committed" was inserted instead of the word "commuted." Further explanation of this clause is hardly warranted, as it will be obvious to anyone reading the context that the word "committed" would not apply.

When it was before another place this matter received favourable comment from the Leader of the Opposition in that place and from others who supported the measure. It is considered to be a desirable amendment to the Offenders' Probation and Parole Act to remove some anomalies that have been discovered since the original Act has come into operation.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. H. May.

LOAN ESTIMATES, 1964-65

In Committee

Resumed from the 17th September, the Chairman of Committees (Mr. I. W. Manning) in the Chair.

Vote: Railways, £4,700,000—

MR. HAWKE (Northam—Leader of the Opposition) [5.11 p.m.]: Some of the things which I might normally have said in connection with the Loan Estimates have already been expressed by me in connection with the Consolidated Revenue Estimates. The Loan Estimates programme is naturally very important, because the proposals set down in that programme for attention during the financial year play a very important part in the State's development when the proposals are carried through to completion. They commence to play a vital part in such fields as the conservation and reticulation of water; the provision of better roads; the development of harbours, and in a hundred and one other directions in which those works when completed assist production, transportation, and development.

When introducing these Estimates the Treasurer told us that Western Australia did receive an allocation of £27,084,000 from the total Loan Council programme for all Australia for the current financial year. This allocation to our State exceeds by approximately £1,600,000 the total amount which was available last year. Of the total amount available this financial year a sum of £3,600,000 has been set aside for the building of houses in Western Australia under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement.

The Treasurer gave us some information as to expenditure in the last financial year in connection with roads, particularly under the heading of the matching grants scheme; and further information regarding the outlook in connection with road development during the current financial year. He told us the State was being hard-pressed all the time to take full advantage of the matching grants which are made available by the Commonwealth Government to the States.

Under this scheme the Commonwealth Government is prepared to make a certain amount of money available outside of the ordinary Commonwealth Aid Roads Agreement, provided each State concerned is able to match that maximum amount of money pound for pound. In any State where the Government is not able to match the maximum amount, then only such amount as the State is able to match is made available by the Commonwealth Government. The Treasurer advised us that he is making provision in this financial year's loan expenditure for an amount of £250,000 to enable Western Australia to have the opportunity of obtaining the full amount which the Commonwealth would be prepared to make available to us under this heading.

I quite agree it is essential in a State such as Western Australia for us to get the maximum amount available for use upon

our roads. We certainly get a very large amount of petrol tax money paid to us under the normal Commonwealth Aid Roads Agreement. However, as our State is vast in area; and as our population is thinly spread over great areas, except in the Perth metropolitan area, we need tremendous lengths of roadways; and when roads in any area are brought up to modern standards there is always the problem ahead of bringing other roads in the State up to modern standards and of maintaining the whole road system, whether it be at modern standards, or portion of it at some standards below the rest.

I heard with interest, and have since read with interest, what the Treasurer had to say in connection with water supplies within the State and particularly in relation to the comprehensive water supply scheme. Last financial year, nearly £500,000 was spent on the comprehensive water supply scheme and £806,000 in the country areas and town water supplies. I take it for granted this amount of £500,000 spent last year on the comprehensive water supply scheme was entirely from State funds. I think that would be correct because, as far as I am aware, the Commonwealth at the present time is not subsidising expenditure by the State on this scheme.

We have been told on a number of occasions over the last several months that representations have been made by the State Government to the Commonwealth Government for the purpose of trying to convince the Commonwealth Government of both the wisdom and the necessity of making more Commonwealth money available for use on that part of the comprehensive water supply scheme which has yet to be put in hand and completed in this State. It is true many people in towns and in rural areas have already benefited greatly from the very large proportion of the comprehensive water supply scheme which has been completed. However, there is much still to be achieved in connection with this scheme; and it would be a fair proposition for the Commonwealth Government to come in again on a pound for pound basis with Western Australia to speed up the rate at which this scheme can be extended.

This financial year it is proposed to expend from State loan funds upon this scheme £535,000. Honourable members can see that if the Commonwealth Government would come in on a pound for pound basis by way of subsidy, over £1,000,000 would be expended this financial year on the scheme and the rate of progress, of course, would be doubled.

Under the heading of sewerage, I would point out in the town of Northam the town council—with assistance at the time from the Commonwealth Government and some, I think, from the then State Government—put in a sewerage scheme of its

own. The reason why the Commonwealth and State Governments gave financial assistance at that time was that unemployment was widespread way back in 1933 or 1934; and consequently the people at Northam were very fortunate to get a modern sewerage scheme and a deep drainage scheme at about quarter of the actual cost; that is to say, a quarter of the actual cost to the local ratepayers, the Commonwealth and State Governments making up the balance.

With the growth and development which has taken place at Northam over the last 15 or 20 years, more particularly in the last 10 years; and the extension of the housing areas, the existing sewerage system is inadequate and many of the residents up there are not able to be provided with sewerage facilities, because the connecting mains have not been put down.

This means the residents concerned have to put in septic tanks, and these are not satisfactory in the type of soil which exists at Northam. The result is, that in the wintertime all sorts of problems arise in relation to the disposal of the effluent; and on occasions, a hazard to health develops and the situation becomes most unsatisfactory. I would hope the Government would, as soon as practicable, make a large sum of loan money available for the extension of the sewerage scheme at Northam, which now is owned and operated by the Public Works Department.

I would think, in view of the residential development which is taking place at Northam, such extensions of the sewerage scheme would be profitable to the department. Therefore there appears to be no financial problem involved, except the problem of finding a reasonable amount of loan funds with which to have the necessary pipe-laying activities carried out.

The Health Department, some considerable time ago, approved of the construction of a regional hospital at Northam and plans are in the process of being prepared. The first step to be taken to achieve this regional hospital for Northam is the building of new nurses' quarters on a scale which will be adequate to the requirements of the regional hospital when it is finally built and in operation. I would hope here, too, that the target date for the commencement of work on the proposed regional hospital at Northam would be changed so as to enable a commencement of this important work to be made sooner than is at present proposed.

The only other subject I wish to discuss at this stage in connection with these Estimates has relation to the Metropolitan Perth Passenger Transport Trust which operates in the Perth metropolitan area. As we all know, this trust developed out of a situation in which passenger transport services in the metropolitan area had, in many areas, become most unsatisfactory. Some passenger transport services at that time, including one or two of the

major ones, were owned and operated by private companies. Some of the private companies—not those operating the major activities—found they were not able to carry on satisfactorily. They were either losing money on their actual operations, or they were not putting into reserve sufficient money to enable them to replace with modern buses the old buses which they were still operating and which were fast reaching a stage where it would be dangerous to operate them any further.

As a result of representations which were made to the then Government, action was taken to create a situation, if it could be created, in which all of the private interests in passenger transport services in the metropolitan area would be combined and co-ordinated under the one ownership and under the one management; and finally Parliament agreed to a Bill which was introduced, the purpose of which was to set up the Metropolitan Perth Passenger Transport Trust; and subsequently that trust was set up and commenced operations.

I think the management of this trust is still up against the same problem as beset the operators of the private passenger transport services prior to the trust being established. The major difficulty of the private operators was that the number of motorcars upon the road was increasing and many owners of motorcars who have to travel from their homes to their places of work were making arrangements with other men in the vicinity, or other women, who had also to go to the same area to work; and the one car in many instances was taking not only the owner to work, but taking two, three, and four other persons to work and returning them back home in the late afternoon.

This naturally meant that the privately owned transport services, and those passenger services which at that time were owned by a Government instrumentality, were finding support for their services inadequate to their needs, as expressed in the financial sense. This situation still exists. I think it is probably getting worse, despite the increase in the population in the metropolitan area. Frequently complaints come to me about the bus services on a number of routes, and particularly in the districts which are not as densely populated as some others. People come to me and say, "We have to wait an hour for a bus," or "We have to wait for two hours at certain periods of the day, or for even longer periods at certain times of the day."

I suppose those of us who have the convenience of motorcar transport cannot quite appreciate the problems of, or fully sympathise with, people who are not in that situation. Those of us who have our own car transport are able to make our own arrangements. We make our own timetables. We go when it suits us and we come back when it suits us, so to speak.

The person who has to wait at the bus stop for a bus, who is not in possession of a timetable and wants to get into Perth at, say, four o'clock in the afternoon or at nine o'clock at night, and who just misses a bus and has to wait for an hour or two hours would, I should imagine, generate intense feelings of dissatisfaction and disgust towards those whose job it is to manage and operate these passenger transport services.

At the same time I think we have to realise the difficulties of the management. Obviously no management of a passenger transport service can operate what would, in effect, be a taxi service at a bus fare rate. In other words, the passenger transport authority cannot be expected to run buses to meet every intending passenger's absolute convenience. If that were to be the rule of the road, then to enable the management to achieve financial stability existing bus fares, would have to go up perhaps 1,000 per cent. or more to pay for the very great additional cost which would be involved in running the buses many times more frequently than is possible at the existing bus fares.

Whether the situation can readily be improved, or even steadily improved, I am not in a position to say, because the necessary information is not available to me. However, the Treasurer did tell us the trust last year spent £555,000 on capital works. But this, so far as I could gather, would not increase the number of buses on the road and would not have any effect upon bus timetables.

Most of this expenditure, if not all of it, had to do with capital expenditure on buildings, and all the rest of it. However, the Treasurer went on to tell us the trust is modernising the bus fleet as quickly as finance will allow with the object of reducing costs and attracting more people to public transport. He said 50 new buses for general service and eight buses for use in road-rail co-ordination are to be purchased during the current financial year.

I would hope continual consideration would be given to this problem—because it is a problem—and I think a transport service, whether it is publicly owned or privately owned, has to have the goodwill of the travelling public, and it has to establish a right relationship between management and the public who provide its revenues by travelling on its buses.

I should think the experts employed by the trust in regard to the routing and re-routing of buses, and in regard to timetables, would know of all the complaints and protests which come in; and they would, whenever it was reasonable, financially possible, and mechanically practicable, try as far as possible to meet those complaints and provide a better service.

However, as I have already said, I thoroughly realise the difficulties which the trust and its staff have in connection with this matter. It does not provide a taxi-car service and it cannot, on every request and at everyone's convenience, provide a bus wherever a thousand and one persons spread around the metropolitan area might want a bus at a particular time.

I am not sure whether there is adequate circulation of timetables to passengers. I should think that in the event of timetables being readily available to passengers a great deal of the waiting at bus stops could and should be eliminated. For instance, I cannot imagine any bus traveller being foolish enough to go to a bus stop five minutes after a bus has gone in accordance with the timetable, knowing that there will not be another bus over that route for another hour or two hours, or whatever the period might be.

So I would like some information at some stage about the availability of timetables. I should think if they were freely available, and if bus travellers who obtained them appreciated the value of them, a great deal of this long period of waiting at bus stops should be eliminated, and with that elimination a considerable amount of dissatisfaction, complaint, and protest should disappear.

MR. HALL (Albany) [5.37 p.m.]: I have a few words to say on the Loan Estimates. I hope the Minister for Works will take notice of the minute figure which I see on page 4 of the Loan Estimates concerning public works. For the Albany Harbour works I notice that the expenditure in 1963-64 was £3,486; and we have the gigantic amount—tremendous amount—of £500 included in the Loan Estimates for 1964-65.

I recently lodged a petition on behalf of the residents of Festing Street, Albany, associated with a prayer for something to be done to alleviate the situation and take the pressure off that particular street, not only for the residents of that street but also for those residents abutting it. Apparently, judging by the figure in the Loan Estimates, the prayer and petition have gone completely unheeded.

The prolific growth of the Albany district makes it absolutely essential that the foreshore road associated with the Albany Harbour works development plan be proceeded with forthwith. There are many reasons for my thinking on that particular score.

Prior to my lodging the petition in this House for the consideration of the Government, heavy transport hauliers were using York Street as a traffic venue to get to the Albany Harbour with their heavy grain loads, their wool, or whatever produce they had. Also associated with that

particular road—York Street—we found that importers of cattle who send their cattle into Albany for slaughter were also using this main thoroughfare through the centre of the town whenever they transported their cattle to Borthwick's meat works.

The object was to use Festing Street as a temporary expedient to alleviate the pressure from York Street. However, that did not come to pass because of the gradients and the hazardous condition of the road at that particular time. We can agree that to some extent an attempt was made to try to use Festing Street as the main arterial road for the Albany Harbour Board.

The alteration of York Street and the introduction of the roundabout has disqualified the use of that street for the purpose of heavy hauliers, and all other heavy transport. Consequently, Festing Street is in full use night and day.

A petition was presented in this House in the hope that the Government would see fit to build a foreshore road and so divert the heavy haulage traffic from Festing Street. The right route would be along the foreshore of Albany. The plan for Albany lacks this foreshore amenity, so there is a complete breakdown in the Estimates before the House this evening.

A measly sum of £500 is to be spent on developing Albany Harbour. One is staggered when one considers the expenditure over the last three or four years. If we compare that outlay with the money expended on other ports throughout Western Australia, we will see how insignificant; how small; how minute is this £500. If we look at the statistical report on Albany we notice that, for the year 1950-51, the port handled 59 vessels. Skipping a few years and coming to 1957-58, we find the number increased to 124. In 1963-64 there was a further increase to 149 vessels. I ask the Minister for Works: Is the amount of £500 in keeping with the usage of the port?

Recently, we had the experience of a committee investigating the reason for the loss of trade, especially with regard to Eastern States cargo. The report of that committee was a feature in the country edition of *The West Australian*. The report pointed out that the amenities in the metropolitan area were so great that it suited the people to bring their particular imports to this State through the port of Fremantle and then transport them by either road or rail.

If that is allowed to continue I shudder to think of the future of the outports of Western Australia. I mentioned the surcharge of £2 3s. 9d. recently imposed on galvanised iron and galvanised piping which is shipped through Albany. All the outports of Western Australia suffer this

humiliation and hardship, and the hardship has to be borne by the people who live in the districts surrounding the outports.

Referring to Albany's counterpart, Bunbury, I notice that the extract of titanium from Laporte Industries was road-freighted to Fremantle. That commodity should have been exported through the port of Bunbury. That is another case of an imposition on an outport. Also, we find that chemicals used for processing by Laporte Industries are shipped through Fremantle and road-freighted to Bunbury.

Mr. Williams: Do you know the tonnage?

Mr. HALL: I do not know the tonnage, but the inference there is that this cargo is not being handled by the port of Bunbury. Our outports will be in dire straits within a few years unless we knuckle down and change the policy which is being indicated to us.

I would like to mention a few of the figures regarding tonnages shipped through the port of Albany at the moment and compare them with the figures for 1963. Rock phosphate imported during 1963 totalled 77,609 tons, and the comparative figure for 1964 is 91,682 tons. Crude sulphur imported during 1963 totalled 18,776 tons, and the figure dropped in 1964 to 16,336 tons. Regarding jute, the production for 1964 was less than that for 1963. Wheat exported during 1963 totalled 153,347 tons and in 1964 it totalled 266,599 tons. Barley for 1963 totalled 25,025 tons compared with 22,298 tons for 1964.

The point I am driving at is that most of these commodities are in no way payable to the harbour board. The board receives no duty for the export of grain. The commodities shipped through Albany are chiefly grain, meat, fruit, canned fish, woollen goods, potatoes, and rolled oats, a product of the flourmill.

The following table shows the tonnages of wheat, barley, and oats shipped from Albany from 1960 to 1964:—

Year	Wheat	Barley	Oats
1960	155,764	46,588	....
1961	263,659	34,135	....
1962	237,741	28,613	76,669
1963	153,347	25,025	40,150
1964	266,599	22,298	33,035

Recently I asked the Minister for Works the following question:—

- (1) What were the financial results of operating the ports and harbours of Albany, Bunbury, and Fremantle after allowing for interest payments on capital, for the years 1961-62, 1962-63, and 1963-64?

Allow me to read the answer to that part of the question first. It was as follows:—

(1)—

Albany:			
1961-62	Loss	£25,131	
1962-63	Loss	£28,561	
1963-64	Loss	£31,966	

The figures for Bunbury were as follows:—

1961-62	Loss	£4,657
1962-63	Loss	£4,865
1963-64	Loss	£9,050

For Fremantle the figures were as follows:—

1961-62	Loss	£142,804
1962-63	Loss	£81,642
1963-64	Profit	£45,809

I draw honourable members' attention to the fact that with most of the articles shipped through the port of Albany there is no compensating payment to the harbour authorities, as I have already mentioned. In Albany, although we suffer from hardships, and are not getting the full revenue for the commodities that are shipped through the port, we have our port established on a sound basis. I feel sure the Australian Wheat Board will have to make some adjustment and provide the port authorities with some form of compensation for the commodities handled on behalf of the State, and one could even say on behalf of the Commonwealth. For that handling the port authorities receive no remuneration.

Another point I would like to stress is the fact that the Albany Harbour Board pays its interest and sinking fund dues; whereas, according to the Auditor-General's report, the Bunbury port authorities are failing to do so. As regards the loan capital, the figures for interest are as follows:—

Year ended 30th June	Amount Charged	Amount Paid	Balance Out- standing
	£	£	£
1960	74,203	40,000	34,203
1961	75,149	79,952	30,000
1962	82,716	57,716	55,000
1963	86,622	51,622	90,000
1964	86,168	51,168	125,000

With reference to sinking fund the figures are as follows:—

Year ended 30th June	Amount Charged	Amount Paid	Balance Out- Standing
	£	£	£
1960	10,198	10,198	....
1961	11,084	11,084	....
1962	11,837	11,837	....
1963	12,842	12,842	....
1964	13,459	13,459	....

When we take into account the sums expended on other ports, and the ways they are compensated, and we compare that with the loan, sinking fund, and interest payments made by the Albany Harbour Board, it makes one wonder how any Minister could expend only a measly £500 on harbour development at Albany.

This question of harbour development ties up with the potential for agricultural development in the Albany zone, and I should like to refer to answers given to questions I asked on this subject this session. The number of active holdings in the Albany zone in 1950-51, was 1,891. In 1961-62 the number had increased to 2,818, and in 1962-63, there were 3,064. In 1950-51 the number of cleared acres of land

was 1,491,081; in 1961-62, that figure had risen to 3,190,160; and in 1962-63 it had increased still further to 3,403,774.

The number of acres under crop was 263,912 in 1950-51; 518,662 in 1961-62; and 568,335 in 1962-63. Without wearying honourable members any further with statistics, I think the figures I have quoted clearly show the significant growth of the Albany zone, and prove that the area is being opened up and primary production is increasing. This naturally will have an effect upon the tonnages shipped through the port of Albany and the development of the harbour must keep pace with the agricultural development in that district. Despite the small amount that has been spent on harbour development in recent times the Harbour Board is being faced with added costs which militate against future expansion.

Mr. Brand: Doesn't the port take the cargoes now? Isn't it able to cope?

Mr. HALL: I have made reference to that. The harbour is not being developed in line with the development and the increase in primary production that is taking place in this area.

Mr. Wild: Is it big enough to meet present needs?

Mr. HALL: Apparently the Minister has missed the point, although he should be well aware of the master plan for development of the harbour and the inner ring road pattern. It will not be long, with the development of agriculture in that area, increased pastures, and greater primary production from land that is being opened up, before primary producers there will be looking for avenues for export.

Bigger ships are being built these days and the shipping companies are wanting modern shore facilities provided with a fast turnaround. Because they are providing bigger ships, capable of carrying greater tonnages, the companies are looking for maximum protection for their vessels. It is of no use the Premier talking in the past tense and saying, "You have an old jetty; that will do." The Government must remember that this district is going ahead; there has been a tremendous growth in the Albany zone.

I think the Minister for Works should have another look at the comprehensive plan that has been drawn up, and also the plan put forward by Mr. Tydeman; because I visualise we will have to look to the southern side of the harbour for future development. I envisage reclamation and dredging work and the establishment of piers and wharves on that side of the harbour.

Mr. Wild: Before we make any decision about future harbours can you tell me how your secession movement is going?

Mr. HALL: I would say that is going along quite all right. As I said to the Premier last night, it is only a matter of time before the State will lend itself to a division. The amount spent by the Government on harbour development in Albany is an indication of the thinking of the Government and of its attitude towards Albany. The development within the State, and the planning within the State, indicate the need for the establishment of a State within the State. Town planning will advise the Government that that is so.

Mr. Brand: I thought your party's idea was federation. You will be getting the sack.

Mr. HALL: When we visualise all the development that is taking place in that area, and we realise that only £500 has been spent on development of the Albany Harbour, we can see how much the Government thinks of Albany. Is it any wonder that the people there talk about secession, suppression, or anything else one likes to mention!

Mr. Brand: How would you solve the problem?

Mr. Rowberry: Now you have started something!

Mr. HALL: I am quite happy about the interjections.

Mr. Brand: Did you read this morning's paper where it said that Albany was getting less ships?

Mr. Nalder: Yes; that information was in the paper this morning.

Mr. HALL: I would say the Minister for Industrial Development was making reference to the imports of Eastern States cargoes and not to the number of ships—less interstate cargo. It has been channelled through the metropolitan area to the detriment of the outports. This is to the benefit of centralisation and the centralised investing interests who are dictating the policy of the present Government. That is not denied, and if the Government keeps that up it will not get very far.

The Deputy Premier should be aware of the fact that his leader in the Federal House said that we must decentralise. He must adopt that principle and therefore he should push for the development of these far-flung areas.

Mr. Nalder: That is what the Government is doing.

Mr. Graham: Where?

Mr. HALL: Do not let us make any errors about this. The Government had better keep that in mind.

So we come to the point of harbour development and the interwoven pattern of the road system. How can we afford to have a decent foreshore when we have

before the House a petition praying for something to be done as a result of the "rumble and the grumble." The residents of that area have the safety of themselves and their children to consider, and they are entitled to a diversion road which could be used by these large motor vehicles which at the moment are going past their door. This excessive haulage by motor vehicles is only in keeping with the increased production in the agricultural zone. Statistics will prove that.

We hear those reports all the time and we could quote statistics for hours to prove it. The Minister for Agriculture knows very well that the traffic is consistent with the way the area is opening up; and, as a result, we are seeking many improvements in the district.

Mr. Brand: We are developing the country too rapidly.

Mr. HALL: One can see the expenditure that is proposed for the development of the harbour at Geraldton for the export of iron ore. Unfortunately, the expenditure is all in the one place. The Premier should realise that with every shovelful of ore exported out of the State another man will be put out of employment. That cannot be disputed. When the Labor Government was in office, the present Deputy Leader of the Opposition endeavoured to have the iron ore processed within the State and by this means employment would have been created, instead of being discouraged by the ore being sent out of the State to be processed overseas.

Further, by spending money on this harbour development, wheat, wool, and other primary products are being neglected. If the money were expended on the development of the Geraldton Harbour or the Esperance Harbour to cope with the export of our primary produce, I would support such a proposal; but to spend the money on a harbour which is to be used for the export of iron ore is not warranted at the present time. The Premier knows he will have to pay a royalty, anyhow; so although he is gaining on the one hand, he is losing on the other.

Mr. Brand: What about the mineral sands at Albany?

Mr. HALL: The development of Albany Harbour will only be in keeping with the other development agreed to by the Government. It is of no use spending money on the development and maintenance of roads only to find complete congestion in the harbour. A few moments ago reference was made to the loss of shipping in the Albany Harbour. I can only reiterate: If proper facilities and mechanical cranes are not provided, how can the Government ever hope to make progress in other directions? Further, the high rate charged not only by the railways, but also by the people who handle the freight at the other

end all add up to additional charges to the people residing in decentralised areas. It is causing concern to many people to watch this traffic being channelled into other directions and this trend will continue so long as the Government bows to those people who have vested interests.

I have not a great deal of time at present to say what we want to do at Albany, but the annual Estimates will provide an opportunity for these matters to be debated. I appeal to the Minister to give serious thought to the development of the Albany Harbour for the benefit of the people engaged in primary production in the hinterland. By that I mean there should be complete co-ordination of all forms of transport.

What is needed is some reclamation at the southern portion of the harbour—which would not involve a great deal of expenditure—to accommodate more shipping; the establishment of an airport; and the construction of a second channel through Vancouver Point to enable a faster turnaround of shipping. If this work were performed, in association with the construction of a wharf with modern port facilities in lee of the south side of the harbour, this could lead to proper co-ordination of the three main transport systems.

At present the population of Albany is approximately 40,000 people, but with further development of the agricultural areas and with the increased strength of industries, I do not think it will be long before we will have a population approaching 60,000, with satellite towns consisting of 8,000, 9,000, or 14,000 people, so that we can gain commercial or industrial strength.

Mr. Oldfield: Is Tom the Cheap Grocer down there yet?

Mr. HALL: Yes; he is there. Fishing is another industry that could be further developed at Albany. Unfortunately, the Minister is not present in the Chamber, but this afternoon I asked him the following question:—

As it is the claimed intention of the Government to promote and assist in the decentralisation of industry, will he undertake to approach the Treasurer to make finance available for the purpose of bringing to Albany certified oyster farmers for the purpose of studying tides and movements of oyster spat in that area, with a view to establishing oyster farming in the Albany area?

I have studied this subject since 1947 and, in my opinion, the following reply by the Minister seems to be rather repetitious:—

Some years ago a quantity of Japanese oyster spat was flown to Australia by C.S.I.R.O. and laid down in Oyster Harbour as an experiment. The experiment failed. It is believed,

following investigations that have been made, that further experimentation would be a waste of time.

The practice of farming oysters in Australia is virtually restricted to New South Wales, where an oyster which is entirely different from the native Western Australian oyster is grown.

Experienced New South Wales oyster farmers are conversant only with conditions applying in that State, and would not, it is considered, be able to make any worthwhile contribution even if brought to Western Australia to advise.

Honourable members can visualise how ridiculous it would be for oyster farmers in this State to tell the oyster farmers in New South Wales what they know about this type of farming. It is ridiculous to make reference to 1947, because so many changes have been made since then. With the extensive clearing which has taken place in the hinterland of Albany the rivers have become slightly more saline. There is no doubt that fresh water causes oysters to deteriorate sooner than anything else.

The Fisheries Department has not given any consideration to incorporating the knowledge of experts in oyster farming. They have sent them no information at all even though these people have indicated their willingness to come here and make a study of the tides and to do a geological survey provided their expenses were met. The department said we could breed from our own oyster spat without importing oysters from Albany; but when oysters are bred in uncultured conditions the growth is naturally not good. Yet we get this reply from the Fisheries Department, which professes to know everything there is to be known about oyster culture. The truth is it has not even looked at the position. We know what it knows; but what we do not know is what it does not know.

I think I can say without any fear of contradiction that I have done more research into this matter of oyster farming than the Fisheries Department has ever done. The mortality rate was particularly high in 1947, because the oysters were weeks at sea; they were kept alive in wet bags. If we had imported them from Japan they would have been in Albany that same night. When an oyster is in a state of infancy the farming methods employed must be clean and hygienic; otherwise they will not survive. Here we have an industry ready to go; and yet we find from the Minister's figures the nature of imports that are made into Australia; and we wonder how we are going to stop this!

If we do not cultivate the land under the sea, we will suffer the same fate as we have suffered with our agricultural land, which has lacked so much in the way of trace elements and the like. The Fisheries

Department is no help to this industry in Australia at all. That department, together with the Department of Industrial Development, should get down to some practical thinking, because every oyster we use in this State is imported. We are suffering a tremendous loss by not cultivating and exporting this commodity.

Mr. Brand: Do you think oysters would grow at Bunbury?

Mr. HALL: I would not like to hazard a guess. Experiments have been carried out in the Swan River, but there they had the bad luck to run into the greatest flood period for many years. A portion of these oysters will still probably be found, but generally speaking they have been destroyed by fresh water. I could talk on this subject for many hours, but I would now like to move on to harbour development.

There should be a complete plan for harbour development, and for a foreshore road to meet modern conditions. A channel should be cut to Vancouver Ledge, with an airstrip adjacent to wharfage facilities. A co-ordinated plan should be worked out for the entire area. If we look at the completed plan and the development around the catchment area we will find that the whole scheme has stagnated because of a lack of finance. The necessary amenities must be provided to enable this area to carry out the type of work that is done at the port of Fremantle.

It is of no use talking about the agreement that one firm makes to ship from the port of Fremantle. The cost factor at Albany is a very serious consideration. There is a surcharge on all types of pipes, whether galvanised or otherwise, and on other freights. There are a lot of mythical freight charges which we do not see, and which we cannot trace. It is very difficult indeed to try to reduce these charges.

I hope my comments will bear some fruit and that the Treasurer and his Cabinet Ministers will review the situation in regard to this measly £500 that has been set aside for harbour development. Here we have £500 set aside for the development of the finest harbour in Western Australia!

MR. ROWBERRY (Warren) [6.14 p.m.]: I would like to say a few words on the Loan Estimates, although I have no harbour; nor do I represent a harbour. At the same time I must make it clear that I do not harbour a grudge against the honourable member.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. ROWBERRY: Unlike the previous speaker, I have no harbours in my electorate, and I hold no grudge because of that.

Mr. W. Hegney: What about Windy Harbour?

Mr. ROWBERRY: That is not a commercial harbour. In the Warren area the bulk of the timber required in the timber industry is cut. Firstly I wish to deal with the subject of timber and forests. I notice in the Loan Estimates for 1964-65 the amount allocated is £25,000 less than was expended last year, when £175,000 was spent.

In introducing the Loan Estimates the Treasurer stated the loan funds for forests were largely expended on expansion of pine forests; and that last year 2,600 acres of additional pine forests were planted. That brought the total acreage to 39,000. This year it is estimated the acreage will be extended by another 3,600 acres.

I cannot see that the pine forests can be extended to the requisite acreage, in view of the reduction in timber royalties. As the Minister for Forests is not in the Chamber, I ask the Treasurer how this State can hope to extend its pine forests at the requisite rate if the loan funds for that purpose are reduced.

I realise £187,136 more was expended under the forest improvement and reforestation fund in 1963-64 than in the previous year. In the 1963-64 period £1,128,402 was expended on reforestation. This fund is largely built up from royalties on timber, and the money from this source was reduced considerably in the periods 1962-63 and 1963-64 by the failure of the Hawker Siddeley company to cut the permissible intake. This resulted in decreased royalties into the trust fund to the extent of about £46,000.

I wonder what the Government intends to do to compel that company to live up to its obligations, not only in exploiting the forest wealth of this State, but also in contributing to the expansion of the pine forests, if this State is to be successful in establishing a paper pulp industry in the Warren electorate, which would be the logical place for such an industry.

I have before me a journal which I receive periodically from the W.A. branch of the Timber Development Association of Australia. One article under the heading of "Australian Timber Industry" is of interest, and I shall quote some parts of it for the record. It states—

The Australian timber industry is now more buoyant than at any time since the credit squeeze in 1960-61. The satisfactory position of the industry in the current financial year has been reflected in the rise in prices and the marked tightening of supplies. Demand in all the major markets has been high and difficulty has been experienced in meeting this demand, and the problems for the industry during the remainder of this year will no doubt come from the side of supply.

This is connected with the failure of the Hawker Siddeley company to cut its permissible intake.

Right next door to that company are other timber firms which are suffering from a lack of logs. Those firms would cut more timber if it were available. Because the timber lease in Pemberton is tied up with the Hawker Siddeley company, and because that company is cutting only about 50 per cent. of its permissible intake, the other timber firms are deprived of access to timber on the land held under lease. If the Hawker Siddeley company will not fulfil its obligation under the lease, the lease should be relet to timber-milling firms which are capable of cutting and willing to cut the additional timber.

The Government has been informed by the Hawker Siddeley company that it intended to carry out various improvements, but it has done practically nothing to fulfil its promises, except to sack the employees. The article goes on to say—

By the end of 1963 most sawmillers were operating at the capacity set by available log supplies, and at some mills a shortage of labour was also limiting production.

Regarding the shortage of labour we heard the answer of the Minister for Forests to a question, indicating that the industry had started to employ women, and that it was intending to employ more. One would imagine from the statement that all people who were in the timber industry had been re-employed and there was a shortage of manpower and, because of that, it was necessary to fall back on woman power. Here we have the reason for this; and I will read to the Committee an article which comes from an impartial source. It is possible honourable members may believe this, even if they do not believe me. The article reads—

The scarcity of labour is reported to have resulted from two main causes: the unwillingness of many of the men who were discharged during the recession of 1960-61 to re-enter the industry, and the inability of millers to attract workers by paying over-award payments because of the small margin between costs and prices.

So we can see the reason for women being employed is not that there were not enough men available, but the fact that men were sacked during the recession, which was brought about by man-made means. The recession was imposed upon Australia in a mistaken idea about economy.

Mr. H. May: It was not a mistake.

Mr. ROWBERRY: It was an absolute mistake both in its implementation and the conception of the idea—

Mr. H. May: It was completely engineered.

Mr. ROWBERRY: —and, in my opinion, still is. I hope at a later date to explain fully that the idea that cutting down on costs, cutting down on wages, and cutting down on credit is going to get us anywhere is just so much hooey. The article goes on—

The dominating feature of the Australian timber industry is its incapacity to fulfil local consumer demand. Over the period from 1958-59 to 1962-63 20 per cent. of Australia's timber requirements have had to be supplied from overseas. Australia is not rich in timber resources, the total forest area having been estimated at about five per cent. of the total land area. Of this only two per cent., or 37 million acres, is classified as accessible forest area, a very low figure by comparison with North America. As a result cutting is generally limited to quotas allowed by State forest authorities.

Even there, we cannot get people like Hawker Siddeley who take up the leases to cut their quota. Continuing—

While local forests during recent years have supplied 80 per cent. of the Australian demand, there are indications that in future years imports will have to play a still larger part. In fact the Forestry and Timber Bureau have estimated that with the increase in the population the level of demand for sawn timber in Australia by 1970 would be 2,000m. super ft. of which Australian forests would supply 1,400m. super ft. The remaining 600m. super ft., 30 per cent. of the total required, would have to be imported.

So honourable members can see there is a very good case, not for reducing the grant to the Forests Department, but for a much greater grant being made. The article goes on—

There is an urgent need for Australia to expand its timber output. Imports of timber and other forestry products are a big drain on Australia's international reserves, in 1962-63 totalling nearly £90m. As imports form in future years a higher proportion of total supplies on the Australian market, the import bill will increase. On indicated trends the cost of imports of forestry products could be about £400m. in 35 years' time unless action is taken in Australia soon to greatly increase future production. Although planting is now taking place, mainly of softwoods, at the rate of 25,000 acres a year—that is for Australia—a threefold increase in annual plantings is needed at an annual cost of between £2m. and £3m. if the enormous demands towards the end of this century are to be met. Such

an investment would lead to timber growth with an annual import replacement potential of at least £200m.

Here we have a very serious situation. I remember that two or three years ago the Leader of the Opposition and myself put a proposition to the Treasurer of the State that he increase the grant to the Forests Department so that the men who had been discharged from the timber mill at Pemberton—the second shift—could be employed by the Forests Department for a period in planting pine forest. This would have had a two-fold effect: it would have taken up the slack during the recession years after the second shift had been discharged at Pemberton; and it would have built up the plantings of pine forest. This would also have had the effect of going at least a little way along the road towards that three-fold increase mentioned in the article. Instead of that, the Treasurer said it could not be done. I maintain that was also a mistake.

It would have been an investment, not only in manpower, but in the actual development of our forest resources. It could have been that had these men been retained around the timber industry, they would have been available now when the markets and the timber industry are buoyant. They would have been available for re-employment. One can see how short-sighted policies can be, simply for the sake of saving a few million pounds at the time; money which could be paid back one-hundred-fold in the years to come. Continuing with the article—

Timber is coming more and more under competition from other materials such as brick, concrete and plaster in house framing, steel girders in engineering construction, concrete for flooring, fibrous cement and brick for exterior cladding, card-board for case manufacture and concrete for sleepers. The recent increase in tariffs on timber imports, together with higher freight rates and higher prices in country of shipment should help to place the local producer in a much better competitive position against imports than has been the case for many years.

It is gratifying to know that the timber millers of Australia were induced to see what was required to protect the industry. However, they appeared to be unresponsive to the idea, when it was put to them at a conference at Manjimup some six years ago, that an increase in tariff on imported timber was what our industry needed. I do not know whether it was hunger during the 1960-61 depression that made them see the light, or whether it was that good counsel prevailed and they eventually brought pressure to bear upon the Federal Government, where it would do the most good. So now we have protection for the industry which employs so many of our men.

In tonight's *Daily News* appears an article concerning statements made by Sir Aubrey Burke about Hawker Siddeley. If honourable members were not blinded by the attractive picture on the same page, I hope their attention was directed towards this article. Sir Aubrey is reported as having said—

When it was bought by Hawker Siddeley, State Building Supplies was "overloaded" with staff.

What gave him the idea that the State Building Supplies had been bought? I do not know. He is probably labouring under that impression, but I am going to meet the gentleman tomorrow night, I hope, and I may be able to disillusion him on that point.

Mr. W. Hegney: You are going to meet Sir Aubrey?

Mr. ROWBERRY: Yes.

Mr. W. Hegney: Good!

Mr. ROWBERRY: I am to have the honour of having cocktails with him tomorrow night, God willing, and all other things being equal. The article continues—

This was said today by Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies chairman Sir Aubrey Burke. He reached Perth last night and left early today by road to see the company's activities in the Manjimup timber areas.

He answered criticisms of Hawker Siddeley's sackings in the timber-and-brick production side of the business by saying that the concern had to be re-organised.

"It was overloaded and we plan to make it a paying proposition," he said. "Our aim is expansion. There is expensive plant going in in both timber and brick production.

"The efficiency of an organisation is not measured by the number of people it employs."

The efficiency of the organisation might not be measured by the number of people it employs, but the amount of benefit which the State will derive from the exploitation of the timber by Hawker Siddeley will depend upon the number of people employed. Possibly, apart from the royalties, it will be the only benefit the State will derive from the exploitation of the timber by Hawker Siddeley.

There is one other matter I want to touch on in this debate, and that concerns water supplies. I wish to thank the Minister for Water Supplies—this will be a surprise to him—and the Treasurer and the Government, for having, after six weary years of hammering, supplied a reticulated water scheme for Northcliffe. A sum has been placed on the Estimates for this project.

I do not know what made the Minister change his mind from a standpipe water supply. I do not know whether it was what I said during the Address-in-Reply debate to the effect that if such a system were adopted we would be returning to the village pump stage. However, I am very pleased to know that at last Northcliffe will benefit from a reticulated scheme. The next thing the town wants is to be connected to the nearest S.E.C. supply. Then the people in Northcliffe might be able to enjoy the same amenities—they are regarded as necessities these days—as their brothers and sisters enjoy in the more densely populated areas.

We should not approach this question from the point of view of cost. It is useless to give lip service to decentralisation. It is useless to conduct seminars to gain ideas as to how we can encourage people to stay in the country if we do nothing about it. If we want people to stay in the country we have to give them exactly the same opportunities for education, and we must supply them with water and electricity so that housewives can have hot water to the sink and bath and anywhere else it is needed in the house. They must also be provided with an inside toilet.

The member for Albany laboured the question of electricity supplies last night. I should not really say he laboured the point. He made the point very well that if any one or any group of people is to receive facilities such as electricity and water, those people in the far-flung areas of the State should be the first to be considered. No thought of expense should prevent these people from enjoying such amenities. It is only a matter of a few years before the debts incurred now will be paid back. In the meantime, opportunities for employment would have been created because small industries could be built up to cater for our young people who leave school. In that way we would retain the population in the country. The provision of electricity, water supplies, educational facilities, and recreational facilities should be given first priority in the country.

I would say again that I am pleased the Minister and the Government have made provision for a water supply at Northcliffe. It will give great heart to the people who have stuck it out under very adverse conditions over the years. It will also allow the baker and other such people to carry on their activities efficiently.

I believe the Minister went down there recently and stayed at the very fine hotel in the town. That hotel is connected with a chain of tourist buses which tour the area. It is one in a group from Perth through the south through Manjimup, Northcliffe, Walpole, Denmark, Nornalup, to Albany. The Minister must have been

impressed by the quality of the beer and the lack of water with which to wash the drinking glasses.

It could be that was the reason why we have this provision in the Loan Estimates. It could be that the hammering of the member for the district has at last produced results; rather like the lady in the Old Testament who waited upon the king day after day until eventually he had to listen to her. Anyhow, I am grateful, on behalf of the people of Northcliffe, that at last we have a promised water supply. I only hope the Minister for Electricity is listening and will pay attention to the petition we presented to him recently; and that he will do the same thing for Northcliffe so far as electricity is concerned.

MR. W. A. MANNING (Narrogin) [8.2 p.m.]: I should like to say a few words on the Loan Estimates. I will not delay the House long, as there is only one point that I wish to raise, but it is an important one. I am sorry the Minister for Education is not in his place.

Mr. Tonkin: Don't tell me you are going to criticise the Government!

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I am not too sure who is responsible for spending the money that was allocated. Whether it is the Minister for the department or the Treasurer, I am not too sure; but I should like to draw the attention of honourable members to a couple of statements which appear in the *Official Year Book of Western Australia* for 1962. On page 224 appears this statement—

Although secondary industry in Western Australia has become increasingly important in recent years, the State's economy is still predominantly dependent on primary production . . .

On page 310 there is a similar statement. It reads as follows:—

It will be apparent from an examination of the table on page 319 that Western Australia continues to be dependent for a very large part of its export income on the products of its primary industries . . .

I turned to page 319 and found some of the latest items. The following are the values of the principal exports in Australian pounds: Wheat, £24,000,000; wool, £39,000,000; and meat, £6,000,000. Those are just two or three of our export items. I recently asked the Minister for Education a few questions. I asked him if he were aware of the annual value of agricultural products in this State and of the number of acres of new land which were being developed each year. He replied, "Yes"; so he is quite aware of the state of affairs I have read from the official year book.

I also asked him whether he considered the situation demanded an urgent and progressive programme for training future

farmers. To that question he replied, "Yes"; that it did demand a programme of training. He added to that affirmative that such a programme was in operation. Well, we will find out how it is in operation, because in the Loan Estimates the largest single item for any department is for school buildings, etc. The figure is £3,153,417. That is the largest item of any. The next largest is railways, £2,600,000 odd; and hospital buildings, £2,287,000. So there is something over £3,000,000 for the Education Department to spend on new buildings.

The Minister has admitted the annual value of products, the opening up of new land, and the need for education; and out of that £3,000,000 he has allotted the terrific sum of £19,000 for practical agricultural education right throughout the State. Well, it is really magnificent to find that we have £19,000 to spend throughout the State!

Mr. Tonkin: Move to reduce the vote by £1 as a protest, and I will support you.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: No doubt the honourable member would.

Mr. W. Hegney: That's what the Victorian Country Party might do, if it hasn't already done it.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I should like to mention here that the Minister for Lands has told us frequently how we are opening up 1,000,000 acres every year, which is a very good achievement.

Mr. Brand: Hear, hear!

Mr. W. A. MANNING: If we work it out on this figure of £19,000 and relate it only to the new land which is to be opened up, it equals the terrific sum of 4d. per acre. That is taking into account only the new land that is to be opened up; but what about the land that has already been opened up? All we can afford out of the whole Loan Budget, and out of £3,000,000 odd for the Minister for Education, is £19,000 for one year!

We have established the fact that this is our most important industry; namely, primary production in general and agricultural production in particular. Agricultural production brings in something like 80 per cent. of our total income from exports; yet in our desire to provide education for our future farmers, and for the development of the land in this State, we find that for 1964-65 £19,000 will be spent in a whole year—not per week—on agricultural education.

Extra loan funds could be spent anywhere; but I am particularly interested in the Narrogin School of Agriculture, because every year we turn down applicants for agricultural training. The school will take at the present time exactly 104 students; and with the addition of a further dormitory for 48, the figure could be raised to 152, which would be the maximum capacity for the school.

Mr. Lewis: How many have we turned down?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I am not concerned with that. You have turned down numbers every year.

Mr. Lewis: You said that the school could take more.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: It could take more if it had the dormitory accommodation. Young people apply, and are being turned down every year, as the Minister knows. It is useless for them to apply most of the time, because they simply cannot get in. I asked the Minister how old was one of the dormitories. There is a very old portion where the boys can put their feet through the floor quite easily. When it rains the water comes down on the boys—and this is only one section. I asked the Minister when it was built. He said it was taken over by the Education Department in 1921. He did not know how old it was then. It was fairly old when the department took it over in 1921. That now makes it 43 years old, plus the years when it was not in the hands of the department.

The buildings are disgraceful. But that is only one side of the problem. If those buildings were replaced, we could accommodate only the same number of boys as we have at present. It is desired to build the number up to 150, and we really require another two dormitories.

I asked the Minister a question about facilities. I asked whether it is a fact that facilities are available for the training of about 150 students at the agricultural wing of the Narrogin Agricultural Senior High School, apart from dormitories. The Minister said "Yes."

We have everything there. We have the masters; we have the sheds; we have the acres; we have the machinery; and we have the classrooms. Everything is there except dormitories. What an economic proposition this is! We are provided with everything except a place for the boys to sleep.

We are denying these boys the opportunity for education. The Minister is saying that he cannot afford dormitories, and so we are wasting one-third of the capacity of what we have there, apart from dormitories. I cannot see that there is any economic reason for this situation. I really cannot understand why, dependent as we are upon agricultural production, we can find only £19,000 out of £3,000,000 odd for the year for agricultural training, and I—

Mr. Molr: Who is responsible for that?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I raised the question at the beginning of my speech whether each Minister was responsible for the allocation of his loan funds or whether

the responsibility was placed on the Treasurer. I do not know who finally decides how the money is to be allocated. I guess the Minister for Agriculture is interested in agriculture. I do not know whether any other Ministers are directly interested. But I do know that some figures must have been left off the front of the £19,000; because if a couple more figures were added to the front it would make it more in keeping with the income we receive from our agricultural production.

I thought I should say something about this because in my view a terrible mistake has been made somewhere. Who made it I do not know; but I am concerned that a mistake has been made. That is why I speak this evening.

MR. TONKIN (Melville—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [8.11 p.m.]: I am sure you, Mr. Chairman, will recall that when the Bill was introduced for changing the metropolitan water supply from government control to control by a board, the major argument was that less loan money would be required by that department. The memories of some honourable members might not be as good as those of others; and, so that there can be no misunderstanding, let us refresh our minds in order that we shall know what exactly was said on that occasion. I quote from *Hansard* No. 1, 1963, page 844. The Minister for Works said—

In a fast developing State, and particularly in the metropolitan area, the provision of loan funds is always a source of worry, not only to the Government of the day, but to the respective departments . . .

Then he went on to say—

. . . with the passage of this Bill and the means whereby the Metropolitan Water Supply Department can borrow from outside sources, there will be a greater amount available for other departments to build extra schools, hospitals, etc.

On page 845 he said—

Last year loan funds obtained from the Treasury for the Metropolitan Water Supply Department amounted to £2,410,700. Members will therefore see that if this or any lesser amount could be obtained from the public by way of borrowings, it would release for other Government departments, such as those erecting schools, hospitals, etc., a considerable amount of money.

Finally he said—

This, in the view of the Government, is one of the main reasons—quite apart from the reasons referred to earlier—for the substitution of a board for a straightout Government department. I commend this Bill to the House for its approbation.

The Minister had the support of the Premier in that point of view, and I quote from *Hansard* No. 1, of 1963, page 1205 where the Premier is reported as having said—

I wonder why it was not acceptable as a genuine move designed to get more loan money for other departments and other works, apart from the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department.

On page 1206 the Premier said—

On the other hand, not only will we gain the advantage of the new money, but, from time to time, certain sums of money will be released from the loan fund and we will spend them on the various departments which demand the money.

I am sorry the honourable member for Narrogin is not listening to this because here is a source from which he could have obtained some of the money that he wants. The Premier went on to say—

There may be some difficulties in this regard, but from the point of view of raising loan moneys; from the point of view of moving the accounts from the Government's accounts; and from the angle of putting the authority on a business-like basis, I think there is a very strong and favourable argument.

So the primary purpose of putting the metropolitan water supply system under the control of a board was, we were told by the Government, that it would require less loan moneys and there would be more available for other departments.

Now let us have a look at the situation. On page 3 of the papers which the Premier presented we find a summary of the estimates of expenditure. Last year the expenditure from loan funds—no wonder the Premier is leaving; I knew he would not be able to stand it—was £2,449,998. But what is the estimate for this current year? Not less, as we were told it would be, so that more money would be made available for other departments, but more. And how much more? It has gone from £2,449,000 to £2,800,000; it has gone from 10.15 per cent. of the total loan funds for all departments to 11 per cent. of the total funds for all departments.

That is another example of how much notice we can take of what members of the Government tell us in support of the legislation they introduce. The primary purpose of that move, we were told, was to save loan funds—to make more loan funds available for other departments. It sounds all right; but when it comes to actual practice what do we find? The very opposite. Do you know, Mr. Chairman that the sum of £2,800,000 of loan funds for the metropolitan water supply is the largest amount of loan funds ever provided in the State's history for that department? If members will look at the returns provided by the

Premier, at page 13, they will find the general loan fund expenditure from 1954-55 to 1963-64, and I propose to read the figures. They are as follows:—

Year.	£
1954-55	1,648,166
1955-56	1,316,700
1956-57	1,720,989
1957-58	2,031,421
1958-59	2,421,197
1959-60	2,423,896
1960-61	2,472,342
1961-62	2,557,132
1962-63	2,410,693
1963-64	2,449,998
1964-65 (Estimate)	2,800,000

So there it is! This is a move designed primarily to relieve the burden on the Treasury for the expenditure of loan funds, and yet we have a figure which is the highest estimated provision of loan funds in the history of the State.

How can honourable members be expected to place much reliance on the information which is given when Bills are introduced and, what is more, is used as an argument as to why those Bills should be passed? What is the explanation? Is the position as we said it would be; namely, that this supposedly large supply of loan funds was not available when the department tried to raise the money, and it has found itself in serious competition with the State Electricity Commission, the Fremantle Harbour Trust, and like authorities? Because, if the loan funds were available and the board has neglected an attempt to borrow any and has relied upon the Treasury, the Bill was passed under false pretences.

It is not a fair and reasonable proposition to come here and put up an argument in support of a Bill, and then for us to find it is never put into practice.

Mr. Wild: We have made a start.

Mr. TONKIN: Yes, the Minister must have! A fine start by reaching a record figure!

Mr. Wild: We have an expanding population and costs are going up.

Mr. TONKIN: The Minister says they have made a start. Will the Minister say what the start is, and what is being paid for the money borrowed?

Mr. Wild: I do not know exactly what the amount is, but it is approximately £100,000.

Mr. TONKIN: I also desire to draw attention to something which I think requires explanation. I notice that the loan expenditure for the State Housing Commission in 1963-64 was £1,691,000, and the estimated expenditure for 1964-65 is some £50,000. What has gone wrong here? Does this mean a substantial reduction in the house-building programme of the State Housing Commission? Because, if it does, the situation is going to be serious.

There is already a substantial lag in the provision of homes, and if the amount of loan funds from the Treasurer is going to be cut by an amount as great as £1,500,000 someone is going to suffer very considerably. I would like to have the explanation for that. It is possible, of course, that the money is being obtained from another source.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I believe that is true.

Mr. TONKIN: I want to know. This believing in something is wearing a bit thin with me. I want something more definite than that. It may be that the Minister for Industrial Development has grabbed a great deal of it, because I see the expenditure of his department for last year was £64,352 and the anticipated expenditure for this year is £200,000. Maybe this is going to be another gift such as was given to Air Beef.

Mr. Court: Now, now!

Mr. TONKIN: That is a possibility. The Minister has set the precedent and he will continue doing it.

Mr. Court: You keep on turning up all these tidily-winking things.

Mr. TONKIN: These matters cannot be lost sight of.

Mr. Court: It would have to be something more than that.

Mr. TONKIN: It cannot be excused or explained.

Mr. Court: It has been explained.

Mr. TONKIN: It has never been explained satisfactorily. How can the Minister explain giving away profit which was never earned. The Minister knows that.

Mr. Court: It was not given away, either.

Mr. TONKIN: Yes; it was given away.

Mr. Court: It was a proper adjustment, and your Government should have faced up to it when it was in office. Somebody has to clean these things up.

Mr. TONKIN: It was given away, and somebody should do something about it: but that does not cut any ice with the Minister. I should like some explanation of this. One would expect that when papers are put before Parliament for the information of honourable members, an attempt would be made to give honourable members some information!

I refer to page 12 of the Loan Estimates. Item No. 56 refers to roads and bridges, on which £250,000 is to be spent this year, but on which nothing was spent last year. I point out that it is a most unusual practice for a department, having the income the Main Roads Department has—and it has oodles of money—to be given another £250,000 of loan funds by the Government, which is so short of funds that dormitories cannot be provided for an agricultural school in the district represented by the honourable member for Narrogin.

Mr. W. Hegney: He was complaining about that five years ago.

Mr. TONKIN: Last year no money was provided from the Treasurer's loan funds for roads and bridges, but it is estimated that £250,000 will be expended this financial year. Naturally, Mr. Chairman, I would do as you would do—I would turn to the opposite page for an explanation; and this is it!

That page has the item "Road work." Do you know what the £250,000 is for, Mr. Chairman? Of course you do! It is for road work! The heading is "Roads and Bridges." I would not expect to find under the heading "Roads and Bridges" an explanation for the expenditure of £250,000 on the establishment of oysters at Albany, or £250,000 for some development in the Kimberley!

It is obvious that the £250,000 is to build roads. But we get the grand enlightenment that it is £250,000—which is £250,000 in excess of nothing provided last year—for all road works. That is a great help! The Government is going to spend £250,000 of loan funds when it is short of money for the construction of hospitals, and short of money for the building of dormitories at the Narrogin Agricultural High School. Nevertheless, it has £250,000 to spend on roads; and members should not ask where those roads are, because the Treasurer does not want to tell us.

I should like some explanation of this because, in that bald way, it is not satisfactory to me to approve that expenditure. I want to know what it is to be used for. I assume it is to be used on roads and bridges essentially. That is shown in the column. But that does not take me any further. Will members representing country constituencies be satisfied if this £250,000 is going to be spent on roads and bridges in the metropolitan area? Because that is a possibility. If I were a country member and was clamouring for classrooms to be added to schools in my electorate, or for the building of houses in some townsite; or, if I were still in the teaching profession and had been asking the Government ever since it had been in office to provide teachers' accommodation in country districts, I would not be satisfied to find an item of £250,000 for roads and bridges anywhere without knowing more about it.

So I think we are entitled to know more than is contained in this bald statement. We are entitled to know why that money is to be provided for roads and bridges when there was nothing expended last year, and we are entitled to know where the Government proposes to spend it. If it is—as I am guessing it is—in order to permit the State to qualify to apply for more matching money from the Commonwealth, we should know where it is to be spent so that we can satisfy ourselves

whether it is a reasonable proposition. It could be more economic to use that £250,000 for other essential works and forgo the matching money which is available, rather than spend this £250,000 in order to qualify in matching money.

I do not want to be misunderstood. I am not saying it would be more economic, because I have not the information to enable me to make that assertion. But it could be, and it would have to be examined in order to satisfy one properly that it is the right thing to do. It does not always pay to borrow money just because it is available—a lot of people have gone on the rocks following that course of action. There are other factors that must be taken into consideration.

I am not at all satisfied that this provision of £250,000 from loan moneys already short is wise administration.

Mr. Court: The Treasurer explained when he introduced the Estimates that that was necessary.

Mr. TONKIN: The Minister must have heard it. Why was it necessary?

Mr. Court: It is in accordance with the matching money and the Commonwealth road grant money. You would have to read his speech. He gave detailed information about housing money and as to why the figures are different in two years. There is a greater total sum being spent this year than last year, but it is coming from a number of sources. There will be more houses.

Mr. TONKIN: If that is the position I would not quarrel with it, so long as the State Housing Commission is not being reduced in financial ability to handle the problem, which is still a very serious one. That was my fear in connection with the matter.

Mr. Court: It is set out on page 1030 of the Treasurer's speech.

Mr. TONKIN: There is one other reference I desire to make. I shall refer to it again later in the general debate on the Estimates; but in the debate on the Metropolitan Water Supply Department, when it was being turned over to a board, the Leader of the Opposition raised the question whether the change would still enable Parliament to discuss the operations of the department. The Treasurer said that the change would make no difference. I would like to quote the Treasurer's own words from page 1205 of *Hansard* of 1963. This is what he said—

The Leader of the Opposition has said that the line taken by members opposite is that of being opposed to the Water Supply Department accounts being removed from the accounts of the Treasury, because those accounts should come before

this House for an airing and for debate. I have no doubt that this will still be so.

I have had a look in the Estimates and there is no vote. My recollection of past procedure in this Chamber is that whenever an honourable member has got up in Committee and attempted to carry on a discussion on something on which there is no vote he has been promptly sat down. I am going to see what happens when we reach this item on this occasion. Maybe this is another assurance that has gone a bit cockeyed.

I mention that because it will arise later. In the meantime you, Mr. Chairman, will have time to think about it, because it will be a problem for you. But keep in mind that the Treasurer said, "I have no doubt." So I am looking for that opportunity about which the Treasurer had no doubt.

MR. FLETCHER (Fremantle) [8.35 p.m.]: This debate does afford me an opportunity to refer to matters which affect my electorate and also the State as a whole. I was looking at the nature of my motion which was defeated here last week on the casting vote of the Speaker. In that motion I asked for more money from Federal sources, but despite my motion and my endeavours to get the Government to seek more moneys from Federal sources, that motion was defeated by the Government.

So the Government only has itself to blame if there is no prospect of more money being available for loan works. I submitted in argument that the money made available from Federal sources was not proportionate to the income tax paid by this State. I pointed out in my motion that the general public were enjoying amenities provided by local authorities; that single people were receiving sufficient income to pay income tax, but these single young people were not paying rates, and the community generally was enjoying the amenities provided by the local government ratepayers. It seemed reasonable to me that those who pay taxes through income tax should in this manner contribute towards the provision of the amenities that were enjoyed by everybody.

There would then be more money available for loans to lift the load off the local authority. If the Water Supply Department is asked to supply water mains or a water service to certain areas it says immediately there is insufficient money to install water supplies in those areas. In support of that assertion I will read correspondence dated the 14th October from the Water Supply Department to myself. It reads as follows:—

In reply to your letter dated the 4th August, 1964, and further to my letter of the 25th September, I have

to advise that a water main extension of 1,640 feet at a cost of £1,622 is required to serve the proposed site of the Swan Yacht Club and such extension would only serve four improved properties including the Swan Yacht Club.

The Minister is not present at the moment, but I would have liked him to hear this correspondence concerning his own department. To continue—

I regret, therefore, that I am unable to approve of this work unless the applicants or the City of Fremantle are prepared to meet the cost of laying the main.

Mr. Toms: Is that the only one you have like that?

Mr. FLETCHER: No; I have many of these. I thank the honourable member for that interjection. The people who are asking for service include not only the Swan Yacht Club, the rowing club, and Chrystal's Aquarama in that area, but also the navy league; and this is rather cavalier treatment of organisations such as those. If ever there was an affront, this is one. People are being asked to band together to pay for the pipeline extension that I requested of the Water Supply Department in my correspondence. I suggest this is the responsibility of the Government, and not that of the organisations I have referred to.

There are other examples of this treatment. Market gardeners contribute to the economy of the State, and home owners pay rates and taxes, but still they are being asked to pay for the cost of extensions. I realise that people living in remote areas, a mile or two from an existing water supply or electric main, cannot expect a service to be connected to serve one consumer; but I do know of one area within a quarter of a mile of the Cockburn Shire Council offices in which several people were asked to band together to pay the cost of installing a main—one which should be installed by the Water Supply Department.

Mr. W. A. Manning: That applies everywhere.

Mr. FLETCHER: That is not a very helpful interjection, if the honourable member is seeking to defend the Government. The excuse was made in the Press that the Commonwealth Government could not afford to make more finance available, because of the increase in defence expenditure. Frequently I wonder: defence against whom—against Indonesia or China? I suggest those countries are too preoccupied in trying to feed their own people, and invading Australia would create more problems for them. However, electoral advantage on a Federal basis can be gained by telling the taxpayers that millions of pounds are being spent to defend us against our northern neighbours.

I suggest our northern neighbours have too many economic problems to overcome without acquiring ours.

There is a Senate election pending, and that sort of propaganda has electoral advantage. We are told we will have to be patient for more money to be provided from the loan funds, because more is required for defence. The Premier will recall that before the last war the propaganda was that Australia was likely to be invaded by the yellow peril. Let me refer to an article which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 19th October dealing with Japanese emigration. It states—

Lure of Brazil

For the past 12 years the Japanese Government has been actively encouraging emigration—mainly to South America, where countries such as Brazil put no numerical limitations on the number of immigrants they will accept from Japan.

As a result of all its industrious urging, the Government has managed to persuade a scant 60,000 young men and women to venture out from their overcrowded native land, 45,000 of them having established themselves in Brazil.

To lure this many, Japan has offered would-be emigrants free instruction in the language of the country they are going to, free instruction in farming techniques, their entire fares advanced (repayable over ten years), loans to buy land (repayable over 12 years at 12 per cent. interest) and loans to buy houses (on the same terms as the money to buy land.)

I quote that article to show how invalid is the assertion that Australia is likely to be invaded by the millions to its north.

Mr. Crommelin: What has that got to do with the Loan Estimates?

Mr. FLETCHER: I have just told the honourable member how that is connected with the loan funds.

Mr. Crommelin: It has nothing to do with the Loan Estimates.

Mr. FLETCHER: It has. If the honourable member will be patient enough to listen I shall tell him. We are told that money is being used on defence to protect Australia from people who are not likely to invade us. I read that article to indicate that it is unlikely. I would point out that 20 years ago we were told of the threat of the yellow peril, and we are still being warned today. Public money is being used for defence, at the expense of works which should be undertaken through loan funds.

Mr. Court: You cannot—

Mr. FLETCHER: I am not interested in what the Minister for Industrial Development or in what the Federal Tory

Government is alleging; that is, saving us from a fate worse than death by spending the people's money on defence.

Mr. Court: Your Federal leader does not reckon we are spending enough on defence.

Mr. FLETCHER: The Chairman will call me to order if I am not in order. I am sure he is satisfied with my explanation that the loan funds available to the States are detrimentally affected in the manner I have suggested. I can give a number of illustrations. Honourable members will recall a report in the newspaper last year or the previous year which indicated that there was a surplus of £23,000,000 in the Federal defence vote. I ask the Minister for Health—

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order! The honourable member must address the Chair.

Mr. FLETCHER: Through you, Mr. Chairman, I ask the Minister for Health what he could do with £23,000,000, what the Minister for Industrial Development, or any other Minister, could do with that amount, if it was available in our loan funds for carrying out development?

Mr. Crommelin: The member for Narraggin could do with £23,000,000 being spent there.

Mr. FLETCHER: I hope honourable members are now satisfied that I was on the beam in my remarks and criticism when I said that money could be used for more worth-while purposes than defence. At the time of the newspaper report to which I have just referred, the various armed services rushed frantically around to dispose of the £23,000,000 surplus. It could dispose of that money in Western Australia for worth-while purposes, irrespective of what Government was in office. It might interest people to learn that the defence vote has been increased again this year, and as a consequence there is less money available in the loan funds for the States.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: What do you think of the desire of the honourable member for Albany to build underground hospitals?

Mr. FLETCHER: The Minister is being frivolous. I have some material here with which I shall worry the Minister presently. The public mind is pressed into accepting the wastage of public money on alleged defence, and there is little I can do to influence the public mind in the manner I wish. To do that electorally at the hustings is almost tantamount to political suicide, and it would be used against our party. In this Chamber we can speak fearlessly and critically on these issues if we feel inclined to do so.

The other evening I pointed out that public money had been spent on less worth-while projects than in assisting to provide schools and other amenities which

would give our children some advantage. Unfortunately the public is not aware that the defence vote for one year could do a great deal of good in meeting the requirements mentioned by the honourable member for Narrogin.

Turning to page 3 of the Loan Estimates the expenditure on housing in 1963-64 amounted to £1,691,000, but the amount estimated for 1964-65 is only £50,000. According to my calculations there is a reduction of £1,641,000.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Other sources are being used, and more houses will be built this year than last year.

Mr. FLETCHER: I have no doubt the Minister will reply later to my remarks. I hope he will be able to give a satisfactory answer.

The expenditure on fisheries last year was £301, while for this year it is £15,000. So the Minister has evidently obtained a greater allocation for that portion of his portfolio. I hope it is indicative of benefit to that industry—

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: That is for the building of vessels.

Mr. FLETCHER: —particularly when one has regard for the amount of dollars earned from the industry, which advantages the State. On page 4 of the Estimates I notice "Fremantle-North Fremantle—New River Bridge construction and associated works including land resumption." Expenditure for last year was £413,566, while for this year it is £99,018. I placed an arrow against that item, to be critical of private enterprise in that the contractor got into financial difficulties in the building of that bridge. Despite that fact, this Government lauds private enterprise and is critical of government enterprise.

Another item around which I placed a circle concerns Bunbury. The honourable member for Bunbury may wonder at my entering into his area, but under the heading "Rail access to land-backed wharf," I noticed the expenditure for 1963-64 was £7,699, but for this year it is nil. Why? I heard a question asked by the honourable member for Victoria Park. He was astute enough to see what the prospects would be if no railway access was made available to this wharf. The members of the union he previously represented as secretary would be likely as a consequence to suffer; and if road access is made available to that wharf and used to cart the freight on and off the wharf, there will be a diminution in the number of railway staff required.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson interjected.

Mr. FLETCHER: The Minister for Health will have an opportunity to reply if he wishes to do so. At the moment I am addressing my remarks to the Minister for Railways. There is no estimate for 1964-65.

Mr. Court: Rail access has been arranged.

Mr. FLETCHER: I hope it will be ultimately arranged.

Mr. Court: It has been; not may be.

Mr. FLETCHER: Another heading is, "Standardisation of Gauge." Much of the amount provided will go to Hawker Siddeley for sleepers. Expenditure for 1963-64 was £1,095,508, while for 1964-65 the estimate is £1,171,785. The Hawker Siddeley group took over the State Building Supplies, for which it paid an inadequate amount. The undertaking was given away at a bargain price. Here I will undertake to interpret the notations I have made in the column. I interpret them to this effect: One contract for the standard gauge sleepers for the Kalgoorlie-Fremantle section would probably recoup to Hawker Siddeley more than the price it paid for the State Building Supplies.

Mr. Court: Hawker Siddeley has no monopoly on standard gauge sleepers.

Mr. FLETCHER: The Minister may say that, but it would be a reasonable assumption that the firm will sublet contracts down through subcontractors and that it will have the contract.

Mr. Court: It may not even get it.

Mr. FLETCHER: Item 14 is "Improvements to Harbours and Rivers." Expenditure in 1963-64 was £182,998, while the estimate for 1964-65 is £161,500, and it is to be spent on continued construction of the Fremantle fishing boat harbour. Here I would like to say to the Minister that, according to the fishermen who use it, the harbour will never be completed until one groyne overlaps the other. I do not know whether the Minister understands what I mean, but I can express it better by gesticulation than by word. Until one groyne overlaps the other, the fishing boat harbour will, according to what the fishermen in the area have told me, be open to the prevailing wind and prevailing sea. I make that known to the Minister for Fisheries.

I had better return to the Loan Estimates and refer to an item coming within the portfolio of the Minister for Health. I will now read an article which I submitted to our splendid Labor paper the *Western Sun* on a matter concerning hospitals.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Delete the word "splendid."

Mr. Oldfield: It has been reprinted in *Today*, hasn't it?

Mr. FLETCHER: I think the Minister will retract that statement if he listens to this article. It is an article for the *Western Sun* of August, 1964, by Mr. H. A. Fletcher, M.L.A., headed "Care and Supervision of Geriatric and Other Patients."

I will read the article at speed and *Hansard* can have this copy. I say that as I know there are many honourable members who are anxious to get away. I can read my case quicker than I can explain it. The article is as follows:—

My Parliamentary Question of 27th October, 1962, to the Minister for Health, as under:—

- (1) Will he have a survey undertaken of geriatric patients now in Royal Perth, Fremantle and suburban government hospitals who could be cared for in their homes, subject to the supervision of local general practitioners and visited daily or when necessary, by a trained nurse?
- (2) If the patients are in excess of the ability of the Silver Chain to cope, will he investigate the economics of paying hourly award rates to suburban trained nurses for visits as suggested in (1)?
- (3) Will he request the Public Health Department to ascertain from the Nursing Federation, union or other source, the names and addresses of trained nurses in the suburban area who might be pleased to co-operate with suggestions on a part-time basis?

was prompted by the thought of an untapped source of nursing skill acquired after years of training, now latent in suburbia and throughout the State.

The Minister's reply to my third question: "Yes, if the need arises", motivates this article; for I believe the need is now more urgent than in 1962, and will so continue with population increase and life expectancy.

Having in mind the numbers of nurses trained in relation to the numbers now so engaged, one realises that many thousands of qualified people could be used to public and personal advantage in the care of the sick generally, and the aged in particular.

Surely there exists in almost every suburban street and in every country town, trained nurses who are widowed, have kiddies and husbands at school or at work, or for other reasons have hours of time on their hands—time which, under supervision of the family or local doctor—could be devoted to expert care of the not so seriously ill, including bedridden and home-confined aged patients.

The Silver Chain and Bush Nursing Association already does this type of work, but only reach the few of the many cases known to us all.

Private "C" class hospitals have lately mushroomed into existence to cater at a price for the aged and/or incapacitated patients who were and are occupying expensive Government Hospital beds to the exclusion of patients often needing urgent surgical or medical hospitalisation.

I am sure the Minister is listening to the case I am submitting.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: There is a lot of sense in what you say.

Mr. FLETCHER: Continuing—

The alternative for such potential "C" class patients is to return to families who lack the assurance, knowledge and inclination to cope with patients needing hypodermic injections, enemas, bathing, lifting, handling or other expert treatment at home or in bed.

Suburban or country doctors could refer one or more of such or similar cases, on part-time nursing award basis to local trained nurses throughout the State.

The Public Health Department, paying for and supervising such a scheme, could surely save in having to provide less hospital beds, buildings and administration for this increasing proportion of our hospital or institutional patients or inmates.

Many other benefits readily occur to mind including aged patients would not have to be prematurely relegated, with family remorse, to the impersonal care of an institution to die prematurely through the lack of will to live away from the familiar surroundings of perhaps a lifetime.

Further benefits of such a scheme could be in surgical and medical cases being released earlier from hospital, resulting in an improved bed patient ratio.

Many more juvenile patients could perhaps be nursed at home under the reassuring part-time care of trained supervision.

Local hospitals could provide transport where physio or other therapy is required. Red Cross and other social workers could be referred to suitable patients in their own home.

The resultant increase in those so employed would increase spending power, and as a consequence demand for goods and services with resultant benefit to employment and our State economy generally.

It behoves the present Government, or better still, a future Labor Government, to investigate the relative cost of such a scheme in comparison with the inevitable increasing costs for hospital buildings and their administration.

The freedom of choice still remains to those who will say that hospitals should be provided for all.

My case is for those who—subject to the conditions mentioned—neither wish or need to be in hospital or an institution other than when really necessary.

I read that article prior to making reference to Press cuttings which are based on the same subject. On the 19th October, 1962, the following article appeared in *The West Australian*:—

Doctors to Discuss G.P. Training

Western Australian family doctors this weekend will discuss the possibility of setting up a general practitioner unit at a Perth teaching hospital.

The doctors will hold a two-day postgraduate seminar at Caves House, Yallingup, under the auspices of the W.A. Faculty of the Australian College of General Practitioners.

The doctors will also discuss:

Care of the aged . . .

Another paragraph reads—

"We all know cases of the elderly couple living a happy, if somewhat retracted, life together," the spokesman said. "This will continue until one of them is confined to bed with a minor illness.

"Even with the very valuable Silver Chain nursing services and with the help of Meals on Wheels, the extra duties are often enough to start the well partner on the way to the inevitable crack-up."

From 1962, we come to an article in *The West Australian* on the 20th October, 1964, reading as follows:—

Hospital Accommodation

Metropolitan hospital accommodation warrants a full-scale debate when the Legislative Assembly deals with the Loan Estimates.

And this is the opportunity. To continue—

In August the administrator of the Royal Perth Hospital, Mr. Joseph Griffith, described the hospital's bed situation as desperate. Health Minister Hutchinson promptly replied that an attempt was being made to put pressure on the Government. He went on to say that any emergency could be dealt with and that the R.P.H. bed shortage was a chronic complaint shared by similar hospitals.

The Minister did not succeed in subduing the hospital, which has now complained of badly overcrowded wards.

Only the sick and the experts can adjudicate in an argument such as this and because hospital needs are State-wide, extending far beyond the

demands on the R.P.H., the experts find it hard to agree. The Government cannot be fairly accused of indifference; the question is whether it is earmarking enough money for hospital building in city and country and giving the work the right priority. Hospitals are being erected at Geraldton and Bunbury and another is to be built at Bentley. Last year, taking into account a big increase in C-class accommodation, there were 5,296 general and maternity beds in Perth compared with 2,206 in 1950.

Yet complaints of a shortage persist and they are not confined to the R.P.H. In a rapidly expanding State with a high standard of social services, the Government has to spend limited loan funds over an enormous field. Apart from country needs, the main question to be answered is whether development of the proposed Hollywood medical centre should be expedited to relieve the demand on the R.P.H. and other city Hospitals.

Here are the other newspaper cuttings. On the 15th October in *The West Australian* is the heading, "R.P.H. Handicapped by Overcrowding." Another, appearing on the 20th May this year, is, "Wastage of Trained Nurses Surveyed." This heading demonstrates that there is an untapped source as stated in my article in the *Western Sun*. These nurses are available throughout the suburbs and country, as suggested in my article, and, under the supervision of the local general practitioners they could care for the aged. In practically every street resides a trained nurse who would be happy to allocate two or three hours of her time under G.P. supervision.

I have here—although I will not read it in view of the time—correspondence from Professor Saint, who wrote to congratulate me on the article. I am not saying that to enhance my prestige as an editorial writer, but merely to state the facts. Furthermore, the principal of the Hospital Benefit Fund—I cannot recall his name at the moment—rang me and made reference to the article. I said that I was delighted he contributed to such a progressive paper as the *Western Sun*. He asked me what prospect there was of such a scheme being implemented.

Professor Saint made reference to a Dr. Lefroy, I think it was. He said that he has such a scheme in mind. I hope it will come to fruition; because, as I have said, I do think our objective should be to keep aged patients out of hospitals and under the type of supervision I have mentioned in order to save loan money being expended on hospitals that need not be occupied by the type of patient I have mentioned. There is more I could say on that subject, but in view of the fact that we have had two very late nights—or early mornings—I will

carry on briefly with other material. I just overheard the conversation in the front bench.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order! The honourable member must address the Chair.

Mr. FLETCHER: I must on occasion have a quick glance at my notes. Unfortunately the Premier is not present at the moment, but the other evening when I was speaking, I mentioned taxpayers' money being used for less worth-while purposes than the case I was submitting. The Premier interjected while I was speaking—very rudely and quite out of order—to the effect that it was being used for worth-while purposes in supporting State undertakings. I do not think there are many copies of the Commonwealth Grants Commission's 31st report available in this State, but I have one here, and paragraph 244 reads as follows:—

In Western Australia the State enterprises, viz., Wyndham Meatworks, Western Australian Meat Export Works, the Wundowie charcoal-iron industry and the State Implement and Engineering Works all achieved profits, after meeting debt charges.

Is the Minister for Industrial Development listening?

Mr. Court: Yes.

Mr. FLETCHER: To continue—

These profits are payable to Consolidated Revenue Fund. In the nineteen years ending 30th June, 1963, profits of the State Engineering Works amounting to £584,300 had been paid into Consolidated Revenue.

Mr. Tonkin: The Minister for Industrial Development is doing his best to see they do not make any profits from now on.

Mr. FLETCHER: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for his interjection. That is exactly what I was coming to presently. I am saying that to rebut the interjection of the Premier who said that money was being used to support the charcoal iron industry at Wundowie.

A public utility which is paying money into Consolidated Revenue! Was the Premier implying that State enterprises should be disposed of to private enterprise so that instead of the profit going into Consolidated Revenue it would go into the pockets of private shareholders? Is he suggesting that? Or is the Minister for Industrial Development attempting the same thing when he gives away the forging plant at the State Engineering Works—which was acquired with taxpayers' money—to private enterprise?

In case the Minister thinks he is getting away with it scot-free, I will read the reaction of a correspondent whose letter appeared in *The West Australian* on the 29th September, 1964. The correspondent's name is B. Finlay. This is the

reaction of an employee of the State Engineering Works. He puts the case clearly, which saves me the trouble. He wrote as follows:—

As an employee of the State Engineering Works for many years, closely linked with its forging section, I feel the report on the new forging firm to be set up at Bassendean is misleading.

It is true that the forging equipment to be transferred is old and the public would get the impression from the report that it was obsolete. This is not true.

Here is an employee of the State Engineering Works stating the case. His letter continues—

Big engineering firms in W.A., without exception, have had material supplied and forged to this very day. Much credit is due to those handling the equipment to have turned out such big forgings for our State's growth.

It seems strange that a big English forging firm, invited here by the State Government with big concessions, should start an industry with equipment taken from the State Engineering Works which is 40 years old.

Then there comes the heading "Competition," under which he says—

To us at the S.E.W. it appears that our machines are being taken away not to be used but in order that we would be unable to compete with Doncaster Hadfields and Co. in the forging field.

To say that the transfer of the machines "would not greatly affect the operations of the works" also is misleading. The State Shipping Service, the Harbour Trust, plant engineers, the S.E.C., the Harbour and Light Department, the Public Works Department and a host of engineering works, large and small, would suffer if the S.E.W. were unable to make forgings.

All of these have breakdowns and need forgings. Our machine shop would have to rely on and wait, with dire consequences, for the Bassendean firm to make forgings available.

If the Brand Government is so opposed to State concerns, why is it prepared to become a junior partner in a private firm?

I am sure I speak for most S.E.W. employees in saying that the works should be expanded and modernised to be able to take its part in the expansion of our State.

We feel that the public should protest at the giving away of this valuable people's asset.

I received further correspondence on this subject. No doubt the Minister also received this correspondence, and I hope he has taken notice of it. The wording at the top is "State Engineering Works Leighton." It reads as follows:—

A message to all citizens concerned with the development of Fremantle and the surrounding districts.

To whom it may concern:

Dear Sir,

The employees of the State Engineering Works wish to place before you the facts associated with the Government's intention to establish a Forging Industry in this State, and the ultimate effect it must have upon the development of the Fremantle districts.

I am the member for the district and it is my obligation to be critical of the Government, not only on behalf of those whom I represent but also on behalf of the taxpayers of Western Australia who are having their assets taken away from them and given to private enterprise. They are being given away the same as a State undertaking was given to Hawker Siddeley at a fraction of its original cost.

Mr. Court: Of course they're not being given away!

Mr. FLETCHER: This illustrates that if I do not challenge the Minister's interjections I find, on the tail-end of a good case which I have submitted, he tries to negate my good case with some puerile and inane and untrue interjections. This letter continues—

These Works have a proud record in assisting with your maintenance and production problems in the past particularly with urgent breakdown repairs, hence our dismay to hear the forging section of these Works is to be sacrificed to a new firm who will operate at Bassendean some twenty miles from Port activities.

Let me interpolate here that those things mentioned by the employee of the State Engineering Works were done to my own personal knowledge, because I once worked there. The next paragraph of the letter reads—

The rapidly expanding industries in the Fremantle area, along with the increasing amount of shipping, will in future be deprived of this important phase of engineering so vital in maintaining efficient progress: while the possibility of those facilities being once again called upon for defence requirements has evidently been given little or no consideration.

In placing these facts before you who are so vitally concerned we trust every effort will be made even at this

late stage, to prevent this valuable section of heavy industry being removed from the Fremantle district.

Authorised by the Works Committee on behalf of every employee of the State Engineering Works.

The Government asserts its belief in competitive free enterprise, and yet it destroys the very competition which could exist between the forging plant of the State Engineering Works and the forging plant of its friends that it is setting up at Bassendean. I say that in doing what it is doing the Government is destroying any prospect of competition.

Here is another matter about which I am concerned. According to the Minister's statement the company will be acquiring the staff of the forging plant. On what conditions? Men in Government employ receive better long service leave than men in private industry. What happens when State Engineering Works' men change their jobs to another where they have to wait for 15 years before they can receive long service leave? Is the Minister making notes on that? He cannot honestly say that when they change their employment from conditions which they enjoy at the moment and go to private enterprise they will be advantaged in regard to long service leave entitlement.

It is reasonable to assume that employees have established their homes in the vicinity of the State Engineering Works and have put a lifetime of savings into those homes. Those men will now be faced with extensive travelling to the Bassendean area. Will there be any compensation for that? Of course there will not!

I notice that the Minister is making notes. In reply he will say that the Government has a paltry 16 per cent. interest in this new firm to be set up at Bassendean. I have read that rubbish in the Press. It will have a 16 per cent. interest in comparison with 100 per cent. interest it had in the forging plant at the State Engineering Works—which was purchased by our taxpayer parents; I repeat, by taxpayers' money. The Minister made the assertion that the plant was old and obsolete. If it was obsolete it would not be taken from the State Engineering Works and given to the Government's friends.

Mr. Court: It will have a 16 per cent. interest in a much bigger thing than the present concern.

Mr. FLETCHER: I was speaking earlier about the charcoal iron and steel industry. In doing so I missed a point which was brought to my notice by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The Minister for Works was aware of our collaboration. I want to read certain figures dealing with business undertakings and appearing

on page 29 of the *Index to Returns of the Consolidated Revenue Fund Estimates for 1964-65*. I should have read this during my remarks on the charcoal iron and steel industry; so I will read it now. In 1959-60 the profit was £50,543. I am getting a more intelligent hearing from members on my own side of the House than I am from Ministers on the front bench.

Mr. W. Hegney: You always will.

An honourable member: It's not surprising!

Mr. FLETCHER: Is the Minister for Industrial Development listening to these figures? Because I shall want an answer!

Mr. Court: I'm listening; but you are interjecting yourself so often that I can't keep up with what you are saying.

Mr. FLETCHER: I am endeavouring to present a forceful case to show the sort of thing our people are suffering because of the Government they have inflicted upon themselves.

Mr. H. May: Don't let them bother you!

Mr. FLETCHER: I have already quoted the profit for the year 1959-60. It was £50,543. In 1960-61 the profit was £71,880; in 1961-62 it was £64,193; in 1962-63 there was a dramatic drop to £16,780, in comparison with a previous peak of £71,880. But the next year, 1963-64, was even more alarming to those on this side of the House. The Minister knows what I am on to; I can tell by his expression. In the year 1963-64 there was not a profit, but a loss of £13,809. On behalf of the taxpayers whose money purchased the plant, I want to know why there was a loss. Is this Government attempting the same tactics there as it is attempting with the State Engineering Works?

Mr. Court: Are you going to give us—

Mr. FLETCHER: You can have your say later. Is the Government endeavouring to run this public undertaking into a condition where it will become easy meat for B.H.P.? At the moment only a very limited pig iron tonnage is produced there, but apparently even that limited amount is not to be allowed to stay outside the monopoly of B.H.P.

Mr. Court: Are you going to give us a list showing the losses at Wundowie under your Government's regime compared with the profits we have made?

Mr. FLETCHER: I am interested in the figures for this undertaking during the time this Government has been in power. The Minister's Government acquired a profitable concern in 1959. Never mind what our Government did! Our Government installed the plant, and it is reasonable to assume that in the initial stages it would be more expensive to run, and conceivably there would be some losses. I am not concerned if a public undertaking merely runs at cost, and its

expenditure is balanced out by its returns. I do not mind that at all, because I do not want to see any profit made from a Government undertaking. I merely want it to run so that it can cover its expenditure. However, I do not want it to run at the loss demonstrated by the figures for 1963-64.

I will be watching the situation next year to see whether there is any further decline. I suspect that the Government could be running these works down in the same way as it is endeavouring to do with the plant and equipment at the State Engineering Works. It is the job of those on this side of the House to see that the taxpayers' money is cared for, and I am endeavouring to do that.

Mr. Court: It would be an interesting exercise if you went back and read out how much we wrote off from the accumulated losses during your regime.

Mr. FLETCHER: The Minister, by his disorderly interjection, is attempting to cancel out the case I have put forward.

Mr. Nalder: You said he was not taking an interest in what you were saying.

Mr. FLETCHER: No; because he was too busy trying to think up a suitable but untrue reply.

Mr. Court: It is not untrue. You know a very big write-off took place.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order! We will have one speech at a time.

Mr. FLETCHER: While talking on the Loan Estimates I want to be critical of certain matters which concern my electorate, and the first relates to the Fremantle Prison. I do not ask questions in this Chamber in an idle fashion; usually I am attempting to glean information that I can use later, if necessary, as evidence against the Government. I should like to quote a question I asked on the 19th August; and I quote from the *Votes and Proceedings* of that day—

Mr. Fletcher, pursuant to notice, asked the Chief Secretary—

Will he at the first opportunity accompany Federal Loan Council officials on a visit to Fremantle Gaol, with a view to pointing out the overcrowding and other existing disabilities in an endeavour to stress the need to finance a new gaol in an area conducive to prisoner rehabilitation?

Mr. Hutchinson replied—

There is no need for the visit as referred to by the honourable member. Our gaol requirements are being progressively attended to, having regard to other Government priorities requiring the expenditure of Loan Funds.

The Minister then went on to tell me about the opening of the Karnet Rehabilitation Centre, the expansion of the Pardelup Prison Farm, the proposed starting

of a new gaol at Albany, and the planning of new gaols for Bunbury and Geraldton.

The Minister was quite right in assuming that sometimes I direct questions at him so that I can hurl the information I receive back at him later on. My motive in asking the question in this case was to get rid of the gaol at Fremantle. Every year I make statements in this House with that object in view—to have the Fremantle Prison removed from the Fremantle area.

In the early part of his reply the Minister said there was no need for him to accompany Federal Loan Council officials on a visit to Fremantle gaol, but I would say there is every justification for such a visit. The Loan Council officials who made such a visit could be nothing else but impressed with the need for the pulling down of the gaol and the building of a new one in an area, as I said in my question, more conducive to prisoner rehabilitation.

Unfortunately the Minister for Police is not here at the moment, but—still on the question of prisons and police—I asked a question on the 3rd September, 1964, and I quote from the *Votes and Proceedings* of that date—

6.—Vice at Fremantle—Eradication Measures.

Mr. Fletcher, pursuant to notice, asked the Minister for Police,—

- (1) Is he aware of Wednesday, 2nd September, 1964, Press reference to—

(a) concern expressed by clergy and social workers that Fremantle milk bars and coffee shops are used by prostitutes to the moral detriment of the youth of that area;

(b) that 98 unmarried teenage girls were delivered of babies at a certain Fremantle maternity hospital;

(c) that a club for sexual perverts is operating in Fremantle?

- (2) In view of the above assertions, will he assist those attempting vice eradication in the Fremantle locality by methods including—

(a) increasing the numbers of Fremantle mobile women police;

(b) creation of a Fremantle police vice squad;

(c) considerably increasing the strength of Fremantle Mounted Traffic Police,

to control the speeding and other traffic transgressions and general behaviour of Fremantle young people in cars and on motorbikes?

Mr. Craig replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) (a) No. This matter has been investigated and there is no evidence to support the allegations made in the press article in question.

(b) Answered by (a).

(c) The strength of the Traffic Police in the metropolitan area is continually under review, and both Fremantle Traffic Police and general Police strength were increased during August, 1964.

The Minister said that the suggestion of vice at Fremantle was exaggerated. I received a letter over the signature of "Worried Mother," and in that letter this lady mentioned a certain establishment in Fremantle. I would be subject to libel if I even mentioned the name here, but the police could take an interest in it and I am prepared to make the name of the establishment known privately to the Minister for Police.

There is another matter that concerns me. In my question I asked the Minister whether more traffic police would be made available to the Fremantle traffic police section. As in other places, there are a number of young people in the Fremantle area and many of them drive fast cars and motorbikes. They annoy the local citizens by racing around the town in various vehicles and on their bikes. It causes concern to the people in Fremantle.

The staff under Sergeant Kennedy at the Fremantle station are doing a remarkable job, particularly in view of the limited number of staff available. As a matter of fact, the staff is totally inadequate, and more loan money should be made available to assist in this direction. It would be money well spent.

If more traffic police were appointed to that district, greater efforts could be made to stamp out the traffic breaches and other acts of misbehaviour that are committed by youths in cars in the Fremantle area and in other adjacent suburbs. If more loan money were made available for that desirable purpose the State would benefit accordingly.

Another need which warrants the expenditure of loan funds in the Fremantle area is office accommodation for police staff. The police traffic office near the Fremantle Trades Hill is almost bursting at the seams. In fact, some members of the staff are now being housed in

rooms which previously were living quarters situated in the vicinity of the Fremantle police court. In consequence this has created a shortage of living accommodation in that vicinity, and therefore loan funds could be spent to advantage on the provision of more office space for the police staff.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Crommelin): The honourable member has four minutes left.

Mr. FLETCHER: I will not be able to avail myself of those four minutes, Mr. Acting Chairman, because I could not adequately deal within that time with the next item I have listed. However, I may be able to get a further opportunity during the debate on the general estimates. I thank the Committee for its patient hearing. Some of my remarks were perhaps a little controversial, but I am of the opinion that the members of this House should make known their requests for the proper expenditure of loan moneys to ensure that they are used to the best advantage of the community.

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Health) [9.32 p.m.]: The honourable member for Fremantle, with the remarks he has made, and with the assistance of a subleading article from *The West Australian*, which he quoted to the Committee, has provoked me into giving a general summary of the hospital situation in this State and, in particular, what has been done over the past five years with loan funds allocated to the Medical Department.

Firstly, no other Government in the history of Western Australia has done so much towards providing additional hospital accommodation and improving existing accommodation throughout the length and breadth of the State.

Mr. Tonkin: And no other Government has had so much money to do it with!

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: It all depends on how the money is expended, and money changes in value from one period to another; and what I say stands.

Mr. Tonkin: What I say stands, too.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: In the north-west and in the Kimberleys additional hospital accommodation has been provided, and a new hospital has been constructed at Port Hedland. A new wing has been added to the Wyndham Hospital, and to the Broome Hospital, and further additions are in the course of being constructed at the Broome Hospital. Improvements are being effected to the hospital at Wyndham and a new hospital is to be built at Onslow. In addition, new hospitals are being constructed at centres all over the State.

However, perhaps more important than the actual construction of new hospitals has been the lifting of the general standard of hospitals in Western Australia. I

say, without fear of successful contradiction, that the standard of hospital accommodation in this State has grown out of all proportion compared to the progress that has been made in other States of the Commonwealth within the last five years.

Mr. Fletcher: I was not criticising the Minister; I was merely trying to show him how he could save money.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I can assure the honourable member that I am not criticising him, either. I agree with much of what he has said, and many of the questions he has asked are well founded and quite constructive. I will try to return to the theme I was developing. The standards of hospitals have been greatly improved. This applies more particularly in the country than perhaps in the metropolitan area; but a great deal, nevertheless, has been achieved in the hospital of the City of Perth.

The regional hospital plan which the previous Government virtually commenced is still being put into operation and, currently, this Government is constructing two multi-storey hospitals—one at Bunbury and another at Geraldton. They are important and necessary buildings which will give status to the towns they will grace. It is hoped that shortly a commencement will be made—within 18 months or two years—on a new regional hospital at Northam. It was expected that the first section of that hospital would be started this financial year, the initial construction being the nurses' quarters. This hospital is part of a plan for the construction of other regional hospitals which will follow in the near future.

Mr. Rowberry: When was that plan conceived?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I have already given the previous Government credit for putting this new hospital system in train. I do not know why the honourable member seems to be anxious for me to repeat myself by making silly interjections. A new plan has been drawn to provide, in the metropolitan area, for a system of peripheral hospitals; that is, hospitals that are to be constructed around the perimeter of the metropolis. Since this Government has been in office a delightful new hospital has been erected at Osborne Park. This hospital is now functioning extremely well. A new general wing has been added to the Swan Hospital at Midland Junction, and a completely new hospital has been constructed in the Armadale-Kelmscott district.

Further, substantial improvements have been made to the hospital at Fremantle. A tremendous amount of money has been spent on that hospital in the last five or six years. This is mainly because it is on the outskirts of the metropolitan region. A new hospital will shortly be commenced in the suburb of Bentley, which will be called the Bentley Hospital.

This hospital will be incorporated in the pattern of peripheral hospitals, although it is not on the perimeter.

Mr. D. G. May: When will that hospital be commenced?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I hope that tenders will be called within the month, and that work will be started before long. It has always been very difficult to try to get any definite date of commencement of the construction of a hospital. It is fairly difficult even to get the date of its completion, although it is easier to get this date than it is to get the commencing date.

On quite a few occasions I have been off the target when giving the date when a hospital shall commence. I apologise for that; but it has been due to matters beyond my control. Generally, the change in date has been due to difficulties faced by the contractor, in not being able to start the building on the date that was first anticipated.

The hospitals to which I have referred are important in the scheme of things and for medical administration in the metropolitan area. This is mainly because they assist, primarily, the general practitioner and the people to whom he renders his services in the metropolitan area. It gives them a handy hospital reasonably close to their patients, where they can hospitalise patients as required; and in the case of team surgery or team effort to correct illnesses, this of course is a good thing.

A great deal of work has been done in other hospitals such as the King Edward Memorial Hospital, and this has reached the stage of becoming, in layman's language, a complete women's hospital; one where all women's diseases associated with obstetrics, gynaecology, and so on can be dealt with. This was not so previously. A great deal of work has been done there. A lot of money has been spent by the Princess Margaret Hospital, and recently the Treasurer approved an idea for the construction of a multi-storey addition to the Princess Margaret Hospital.

I come now to the Royal Perth Hospital, and to certain criticisms that have been made of, perhaps, myself as Minister, and the department, for not having done more to try to alleviate what has been termed severe and critical overcrowding at that hospital. I would point out that a great deal has been done to try to overcome this overcrowding; and I refer more particularly to the fact that within recent years it has been possible to effect a change at the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital where a substantial number of beds have been released for general cases. As time has gone on we have been able to allocate more and more beds at the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, and this has had the material effect of assisting with overcrowding problems in Royal Perth; because it must be remembered

that there is a very close liaison between the two hospitals. Anybody who knows will readily appreciate that this is so because of the medical school flavour of these hospitals.

The Hawthorn Hospital is largely used now by the Royal Perth Hospital for overflow patients. A substantial new wing has been added at the Mt. Henry Home where the number of beds has been increased to 70 for the type of patient who is taken from Royal Perth Hospital. Instead of the long-stay patients being kept at Royal Perth they can be treated at the Mt. Henry Home.

A completely new block has been added at the Shenton Park Annexe of Royal Perth Hospital for the treatment of paraplegics. All these new buildings are well worth while seeing, and if honourable members would only go round and have a look at them they would see the amount of work that has been done. All this work has been done to try to ease the overcrowding at Royal Perth Hospital.

In addition to the hospitals to which I have referred, others like the Swan Hospital, the Armadale-Kelmscott Hospital, and the Osborne Park Hospital, all play their part in relieving the situation. The building at Bentley will further help to relieve the overcrowding situation.

I would point out, however, that the Royal Perth Hospital is built on an area of land on which it should never have been erected, as it now turns out; because there is insufficient room for expansion. In recent years we have spent a good deal of money acquiring land round about the Royal Perth Hospital.

Mr. Graham: I think it was placed where it is largely as a result of pressure from medical practitioners, because it is central.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: That might be so. The honourable member knows just how much pressure can be brought to bear on governments and on Ministers. They are torn by pressures in many ways when making their decisions.

Mr. Tonkin: Whether it be buildings or fluoride.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I believe the decision I made on fluoride was the right one, while the honourable member who has just interjected believes it was not. That, of course, is his prerogative. I said that a substantial amount of money had been spent in acquiring land around the Royal Perth Hospital area to provide for nurses' quarters, residential medical officers' quarters, and other facilities. These are the necessary features, the concomitants, of a well-equipped hospital. The cost of setting up a hospital, whether it be the building or the provision of beds, is sky high. It is not only the provision of beds that is so expensive but the manifold services that go with such a provision.

The Royal Perth Hospital Board has over a period of time had a list of priorities of work required to be done and of the moneys it required from our loan funds in order that its services might be improved and the hospital accommodation made better, and so on. As the hospital bed question cannot be improved at Royal Perth Hospital, it must be improved at Shenton Park Annexe. When the hospital board drew up its list of priorities it listed bed accommodation as fifth. It is only in recent times that the officers of my department were able to change the priority of this bed accommodation.

Accordingly I do not think it is quite fair for the hospital board to be hotly critical of overcrowding in its hospital, when the board itself has listed its own priorities, and has listed bed accommodation down the list. As a result of representation by my own officers this priority was altered, and the next step that will be taken to assist Royal Perth Hospital directly will be the provision of 70 or 80 beds at the Shenton Park Annexe.

On this particular point I would say once again what I said at the beginning; namely, that no other government has ever done so much for hospital services in this State as has the present Government. The honourable member for Fremantle is most constructive in many of his suggestions, although I will not say that I agree with everything he says. He did, however, mention a scheme for hospitalisation of people, and for treatment of them in their own homes rather than in hospitals. This scheme is gradually being developed in Western Australia. It is the best possible way of treating certain types of illnesses, and of treating geriatrics.

The appointment of Dr. Lefroy as Physician Superintendent of Geriatrics indicates the earnestness of the Government in its endeavours to develop a sound scheme for the care of geriatrics. As a practical way of demonstrating the Government's interest, and the degree of advancement it has made, I would point out that the Government increased substantially its assistance to the wonderful Silver Chain nursing organisation; and it has also converted the South Terrace School at Fremantle into a day hospital. Its establishment is a great step forward. This is a hospital to which geriatrics, the sick, and the aged people can be brought for treatment and then returned home. Those people can still live within the community and yet receive rehabilitation and treatment. The system of establishing day hospitals for the treatment of geriatrics and day patients will grow.

To fit in with the general pattern of that scheme it is hoped to develop gradually a health visitors' service. It is based on widening the Infant Health Service which has done so much excellent work

for the children of this State. The idea of the Infant Health Service will be broadened, so that a health visitors' service will be established, properly run and maintained, and developed to care for illnesses of people within their homes, as far as possible, rather than put them into valuable hospital beds.

I am glad of this opportunity to air some views on the hospitals of Western Australia, and on the development of a health visitors' service. I assure honourable members that I can talk about very many more things, but the few facts that I have given demonstrate what has been done with the loan funds in the last 5½ years by the Medical Department under my control.

MR. W. HEGNEY (Mt. Hawthorn) [9.53 p.m.]: I wish to refer to a few matters of local interest affecting my electorate. I would like to mention the Hawthorn Hospital; I do so not in a critical manner, because I have been in touch with the Under-Secretary for Health on this matter. That hospital is used by the Royal Perth Hospital.

The Hawthorn Hospital has accommodation for approximately 29 beds, 15 of which have been taken over by the Royal Perth Hospital. I was asked to pay a visit recently by one of the doctors who frequently visits his patients there. Repairs and renovations are needed, and I discussed this aspect with the Under-Secretary for Health, as a result of which he undertook certain inquiries. He has since assured me that quite a sum of money will be spent on the Hawthorn Hospital in the 1964-65 financial year.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I am afraid I cannot give you the details.

Mr. W. HEGNEY: In looking through the items in the Loan Estimates for 1964-65 I did not see any relating to the Hawthorn Hospital. That does not seem to be important, because the Loan Estimates contain only the main items of expenditure. As the Public Health Department has made some reference to the expenditure of money on the Hawthorn Hospital during this financial year, there is no need for concern.

I now wish to refer to the provision of a gymnasium and school hall at the Tuart Hill High School. Some time ago I asked a question of the Minister for Education on this matter, and he indicated that owing to other pressing needs the construction of a gymnasium would have to be deferred. In 1958 the then Minister for Education approved of the construction of a gymnasium, and the people of the district were assured it would be constructed; but up to date it has not been built.

The Minister for Education introduced a Bill two or three weeks ago relating to youth welfare, and from the figures supplied to me I found there were between 14,000 and 16,000 juveniles in Tuart Hill, Osborne Park, Balcatta, and Joondanna. There is no large hall in the district where the youths can gather.

It has been urged very strongly that two gymnasiums should be provided at the Tuart Hill High School—one for the use of boys and one for the use of girls. These halls could also be used as the meeting places for the young people of the district. The Minister for Education should give further consideration to this matter.

The next subject to which I wish to refer is the provision of deep sewerage for the Glendalough-Osborne Park area. I hope I am not transgressing on the territory of the honourable member for Balcatta. I am dealing with the area to the north of Mongers Lake, which is the southern boundary of the Mt. Hawthorn electorate, up to Scarborough Beach Road. This area embraces the institution known as Little Sisters of the Poor, which looks after approximately 160 elderly people at the present time. Including the staff there are 200 people in that institution.

Over the years a number of wells were sunk in the grounds of that institution for the provision of a septic system. It is recognised that a deep sewerage scheme is required. An item appeared in the Loan Estimates of last year for this work, but the programme fell behind. I do not blame the Minister or his departmental officers for the delay.

In the Loan Estimates for this year there is a reference again to sewerage, and the estimate for the work under the Metropolitan Water Supply Department is £2,800,000. These are some of the items covered by that expenditure:—

Continuation of South of Swan River sewerage scheme; Armadale Sewerage—1st stage; Belmont Industrial Area Sewerage—1st stage; Glendalough and Adjacent Areas 1st stage; and Minor sewer extensions.

I do not expect the Minister to reply tonight and indicate when the work will be started, but I would like the Acting Premier to convey very earnestly to the Minister for Works the fact that I will be making representations in some form or other with a view to ensuring that a start will be made during the current financial year on this Glendalough scheme.

The next matter I wish to voice is of great concern to the people in the Joondanna district, which forms an appreciable part of the Mt. Hawthorn electorate. I recollect that last year when the Minister introduced the Bill to switch the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and

Drainage Department over to control by a board, I made reference to the position that might arise. I said that one of the first things a board would do would be to increase the total amount payable by rate-payers, and that the Government would get out from under. The Minister said that would not be so, but I have received quite a number of protests recently, some on a personal basis, and many telephone calls. I have also had a representative petition sent to me by one of the residents on behalf of a number of others and, in turn, I rightly passed it on to the Minister for his consideration.

It appears that in part of the area outside the Mt. Hawthorn electorate a drainage scheme is to be inaugurated; and in connection with that I propose to read questions I asked the Minister some time ago, together with his replies. The questions were asked on the 17th September, and will be found in *Votes and Proceedings* No. 21 of that date on page 218. They are as follows:—

DRAINAGE OF JOONDANNA DISTRICT

Reason for Increase in Rates

13. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is he aware that the metropolitan water supply authority has increased the amount payable to the board by residents in Joondanna district?
- (2) Is he aware that an additional charge in the form of a drainage rate of 4d. in the pound on annual valuation has been levied on residents in this district?
- (3) What is the reason for imposing the additional charge?
- (4) In view of his assurance that the establishment of a water supply board would not mean increased charges or payments to property owners, will he take action to have the additional charges cancelled?
- (5) If not, why not?

The Minister replied as follows:—

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) The construction of a pumping station and rising main for purposes of main drainage within the area rated.
- (4) No.
- (5) See (3).

I know the board imposes rates for drainage, but many of the people whom I have interviewed are perturbed at the fact they are going to receive no benefit whatsoever from the construction of this main drain. They have been assessed on the basis referred to in the question, and

in many cases they will pay from £2 10s. to £3 per year extra, apart from the water rates they have paid.

The central point here is an area known as Dog Swamp. It is not in the Mt. Hawthorn electorate, but it is proposed to establish pumping stations there. Already part of the area is being reclaimed, and I understand—I am open to correction—that the Perth Shire Council will use part of the resumed area as a park or reserve and that another part of the reclaimed area may be used for building purposes. I have ascertained there are approximately 1,320 residents or ratepayers in the Joon-danna district who had this rate imposed upon them and I have been asked to represent their position and protest to the Government at the imposition of the rate to which I have already referred.

I know that once a department imposes a rate there is very little chance of its being cancelled, but the people expect some redress and the only way I know they can get it under the Act is by paying their rates and lodging an appeal. But surely the people of a particular district should receive some advice, apart from that made available in the *Government Gazette*, when there is an impending increase in rates! It is a matter of grave concern to these people that the first intimation they receive is when they go to the letter-box and get their rate notice with the increased charges. I hope that the Acting Premier will make representation to the Minister; but in due course I will personally follow up my written representations with a further request to the Minister to see if something cannot be done in regard to the particular point I have been discussing.

I said I was not going to refer to more than three matters. I do not propose to touch on any other items at this stage; but I may, during the course of the debate on the general Estimates, have a few words to say. I now propose to resume my seat as I understand the honourable member for Avon would like to address the Committee.

MR. GAYFER (Avon) [10.8 p.m.]: I did not intend to speak at this stage on the Loan Estimates, but I have been prompted to do so after listening to the speech of the honourable member for Fremantle and in particular to that portion in which he touched on geriatrics; and after listening to the reply by the Minister for Health when he touched on the research being made by the Health Department, and in particular when he mentioned Dr. Lefroy who, I understand, is permanently attached to the department in connection with geriatrics in general throughout the State. I was interested in the comments of both honourable members in respect of the Silver Chain nursing organisation, the assistance given

to it, the extra expenditure on the Fremantle day hospital, and the proposed help to be provided in homes, which will work on the same principle as the infant health clinic home visits.

It is most intriguing to hear of the different types of services that are available in the closely-settled areas. In the country, geriatrics have been a problem for many years. When people grow old—and they get old in the country just as they do in the city—it would just about finish them off if they were pushed off to the city and put into a home. They have been born and bred in the country and some of them do not have any real dependants. In addition, some have unfortunately not accrued enough capital to retire into the town and consequently they grow old on their farms with nobody to care for them.

We know that in the prospecting districts of the State the miners grow old in the shanties that are in some mining towns; and this seems to be very unfortunate, because people who have pioneered and contributed through their lifework to the country's welfare must feel like outcasts when they reach old age, especially if they have no dependants.

Mr. Rhatigan: That is applicable to the Kimberley area also.

Mr. GAYFER: Perhaps so. I was up through the Kimberleys last year. It is applicable all over Western Australia and, possibly, the whole of Australia as well. I am not saying I know the perfect solution to this in the country by any means.

Mr. Fletcher: In my article—

Mr. GAYFER: The honourable member for Fremantle has dealt with his article. I am giving the speech now. I agree with the Minister for Health in regard to the situation in hospitals now. In my area particularly they have never looked better. I have five hospitals in my electorate and every one of them has had a face lift or is in the process of being renovated. I represent the oldest part of the State's agricultural areas and in York, a completely new hospital was opened last year. This may have been the work of my predecessor or a previous Government; but that does not matter. It is the result of the work of the Health Department, in my opinion, and that hospital cost £150,000 or £170,000 and is a magnificent show.

The hospital at Corrigin and that at Quairading have had a face lift, as has also the "C"-class hospital at Brookton. A new £200,000 hospital has been promised for Beverley. We have also been supplied with new nurses' quarters. In general I have no complaint whatever with the way the Public Health Department has looked after us as far as direct hospital needs are concerned.

However, I am a little worried about the geriatric side of it. It would seem to me that it could be possible for a ward to be added to every hospital in the country. Every hospital has to cater for so many patients in order to serve the district should an epidemic break out or a maximum number of beds be required all at the one time. Therefore, a hospital in an average country town is usually one of about 12 beds. Most times, only about three or four beds are in use but the same staff is required as well as the same kitchen and laundry facilities.

That is why I suggest that if another wing were added—one which provided sunny rooms—the older people in the district could be catered for, thus leaving the hospital beds vacant for hospital cases. These old folk would be well looked after and would have the advantage of the facilities available. Some people would want to know what would happen when there was a rush on the beds and the hospital was full and the staff depleted. Perhaps in those circumstances a country home nursing service, or something similar to the Silver Chain service could be established. The women in the country are not averse to helping at such times and I am sure they would give their time to such work. However, instead of having to go from house to house they would just attend the hospital and this special ward where all the facilities would be available. In this way I feel that the one hospital kitchen would serve two purposes. It would serve the sick and also the aged folk.

I know that if a shire council or a religious body or other organisation, or even a group of people, get together to raise money, for every pound raised the Lotteries Commission will donate a pound, as also will the Government, towards the provision of aged people's quarters. However, that does not provide the help and assistance that is required when they are looking after themselves. Therefore, if when country hospitals were planned—and I know Dr. Lefroy is looking into the question of geriatrics in the country—provision could be made for an extra ward, this would adequately cater for the old folk.

I make those few comments for the Minister's consideration. I do not want to delve any deeper into the Loan Estimates at this stage.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr. Norton.

House adjourned at 10.17 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 27th October, 1964

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The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.