

Mr. Court: What is this amendment? Is not it character assassination?

Mr. DAVIES: I do not think the Minister listened to the debate or the case put forward by the member for Pilbara and the Leader of the Opposition, because had he done so he would obviously have found exceedingly good grounds for our moving as we did. The Government gives the impression that it feels badly about it, but I would point out that only two speakers have risen to refute the amendment. If the Government really felt badly about this question one would have thought its Ministers would have been anxious to get to their feet and defend the Government.

Yet, as I have said, only two speakers have risen; indeed at one stage it looked as though we might have one speaker. We might just as well have had only one speaker, because the Minister for Railways did little to uphold the prestige of the House; his contribution was purely and simply character assassination.

Mr. O'Connor: It does not worry you that my own character has been assassinated.

Mr. DAVIES: The Minister was there to defend himself, not to assassinate members on this side.

Mr. Court: How puerile can you get?

Mr. DAVIES: The fact remains the Minister did not defend himself effectively. We are still waiting for the answer to the charges that have been made, and I think it is a matter for regret that questions are being treated in this manner.

Mr. O'Connor: Have you anything to say on the question of the T.A.B.?

Mr. DAVIES: I am not dealing with specific questions but with certain instances which have occurred to me over the years, which are on the file, and which have caused me some concern. These cases have made me feel that Ministers treat questions too lightly; that they do not realise we are trying to ferret out information on behalf of our electors.

I have reminded the House—and the Minister was not here at the time—that when the Opposition brought forward charges of this nature against the Minister for Police nobody on that side of the House stood up to defend him. They left the Minister for Police to flounder around by himself when the member for Beeloo said the Minister was incapable and incompetent.

This adds nothing to the prestige of the House. I only hope that in future far greater thought will be given to answers to questions which are asked, because for my part I am not at all happy with the cavalier fashion in which questions are often treated. They appear to be a source of annoyance to the Government and it seems it would be happy if they were not asked.

Although I am not entering into the debate on the King Bay question, I would like to express my concern and say that I feel the amendment is well founded.

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

Ayes—18

Mr. Bateman	Mr. Harman
Mr. Bertram	Mr. Jamieson
Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Lapham
Mr. Brady	Mr. McIver
Mr. Burke	Mr. Sewell
Mr. H. D. Evans	Mr. Taylor
Mr. T. D. Evans	Mr. Toms
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. Graham	Mr. Davies

(Teller)

Noes—22

Mr. Bovell	Mr. McPharlin
Mr. Brand	Mr. Mensaros
Mr. Cash	Mr. Mitchell
Mr. Court	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Dunn	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Gayfer	Mr. O'Neill
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Ridge
Dr. Henn	Mr. Runciman
Mr. Kitney	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Lewis	Mr. Young
Mr. W. A. Manning	Mr. I. W. Manning

(Teller)

Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Mr. Moir	Mr. Williams
Mr. Jones	Mr. Craig
Mr. May	Mr. Hutchinson
Mr. Norton	Mr. Rushton
Mr. Hall	Mr. Burt

Amendment thus negatived.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Mitchell.

House adjourned at 10.40 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 14th August, 1968

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

QUESTIONS (12): ON NOTICE

BALL POINT PENS

Use on Legal Documents

1. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON asked the Minister for Justice:
 - (1) Is it a fact that in all States, except Western Australia, ball point pens are acceptable for use on legal documents?
 - (2) Does any unusual, logical, and defensible reason exist for this State not to follow the practice already adopted in the other States?
 - (3) If not, will the Minister take steps to allow the use of ball point pens on legal documents in this State?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) I am unaware of the practice in other States.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) The use of some ball point pens is not considered desirable because of the tendency of the ink to fade.

ZONE "A" ALLOWANCE

Extension to Murchison-Eyre Electorate

2. The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND asked the Minister for Mines:

As persons living in many towns in the Murchison-Eyre electorate, such as Yalgoo to Meekatharra, Wiluna, Leonora, Laverton, Warburton Range, Menzies, and towns along the trans-Australian railway, are definitely worse off in amenities and living conditions than many of those living north of the twenty-sixth parallel who receive the benefit of the Zone "A" allowance, will the Minister suggest to the Government that the facts be brought to the notice of the Federal Treasurer, in order that the Zone "A" area be extended to include the towns mentioned above?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

A submission was made by the Government to the Federal Treasurer in October, 1965, seeking the extension of Zone "A" so as to include the towns listed. A reply from the Federal Treasurer indicated that the Government's submission would be taken into account when the zone allowance boundaries were next under review. There has been no further correspondence in the matter but it is apparent that the Commonwealth has not been prepared, to date, to vary the present boundaries.

TRAFFIC COUNT

Canavan Crescent, Manning

3. The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Mines:
 - (1) Has the Main Roads Department taken a traffic count in Canavan Crescent, Manning, during the last 12 months?
 - (2) If so, what traffic features were revealed?
 - (3) If not, will the department give consideration to taking a count as this street is now an important road link between Manning Road and Canning Highway?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) A 10 minute sample count only has been taken.
- (2) The daily traffic volume is more than 1,500 vehicles but less than 5,000.
- (3) Answered by (1) and (2).

MERREDIN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION

Acquisition of Land

4. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS asked the Minister for Mines:

In view of the scarcity of light land at the Merredin Agricultural Research Station, and the considerable advantages to be derived in agricultural research on light lands in the Merredin and other districts, will the Minister take steps to acquire two locations, comprising Locations 26890 and 20686, totalling 776 acres, which are for sale, and are adjacent to the Merredin experimental farm?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

This matter is being investigated and the honourable member will be advised in due course.

HOUSING

Calista: High Density Project

5. The Hon. C. E. GRIFFITHS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What is the total number and the type of housing units contained in the State Housing Commission higher density project in—
 - (a) Maydwell Way and Gawler Way, Calista; and
 - (b) Kenton Way and Clint Way, Calista?
- (2) What is the total land area in each case?
- (3) What is the ultimate total population to be housed in each project?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) There are 10 three-bedroom terrace units in three separate buildings.
- (b) There are 16 two-bedroom flats in two separate two-storied buildings.
- (2) (a) 1 acre 1 rood 23.3 perches.
- (b) 1 acre 1 rood 23.7 perches.
- (3) The premises are currently occupied by—
 - (a) 21 adults and 25 children.
 - (b) 32 adults and 19 children.
 Total—53 adults and 44 children. In no instance has the commission built up to the permissible limits of the G.R. 4 building code and all

buildings meet with the requirements of the model building by-laws and were approved by the local authority.

HEALTH

Organisms in Treated Sewerage Effluent

6. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON asked the Minister for Health:

With reference to the Presidential Address "Man—His Water Supplies and Health, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," reprinted from *The Journal of the Institution of Engineers, Australia*, Vol. 40, No. 4-5, April-May, 1968, and because research findings discussed in this paper give cause for alarm—

- (a) will the Health Department give an assurance that it is aware of the dangers arising from gastroenteritis and infectious hepatitis organisms surviving in sewerage effluent under normal treatment conditions;
- (b) is the department carrying out research to determine whether contamination of seafood by the abovenamed organisms is occurring in the vicinity of sewerage outlets?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Seafood samples are tested bacteriologically from time to time.

POISONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Names and Qualifications of Members

7. The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Health:

What are the names and qualifications of the members of the Poisons Advisory Committee established under the Poisons Act?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- E. R. Beech, M.B.B.S., M.R.C.P., M.R.A.C.P., F.F.A.R.A.C.S. Specialist Physician.
- R. C. Godfrey, M.B.B.S., M.R.C.P., M.R.A.C.P., F.R.S.H. Medical Director, Princess Margaret Hospital.
- D. D. Letham, M.B.B.S., M.R.A.C.P., D.P.H., F.A.C.M.A. Physician-in-Charge (Occupational Health), Department of Public Health.
- M. F. Lockett, M.B.B.S., M.D., M.R.C.P., Ph.D. Professor of Pharmacology, University of Western Australia.

D. J. Snow, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.H., F.A.C.M.A. Deputy Commissioner of Public Health.

L. W. Samuel, B.Sc., Ph.D., M.A.I.A.S., M.R.S.H., F.R.A.C.I., F.R.I.C. Director Government Chemical Laboratories.

C. F. Jenkins, M.A., Chief Division of Biological Services Department of Agriculture.

W. Bellinge, M.R.C.V.S. Veterinarian. (Veterinary Surgeons Board).

A. McWhinney, Ph.C., M.P.S. Pharmacist. (Pharmaceutical Council of W.A.).

G. Dallimore, Ph.C., M.P.S. Pharmacist. (Pharmaceutical Service Guild).

B. Bell, B.Sc., A.R.A.C.I. Chamber of Manufactures.

J. Kirkham, Chamber of Manufactures.

SCHOOLS IN WEST PROVINCE

Future Proposals

8. The Hon. F. R. WHITE asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) What additional classrooms, if any, are proposed for—

- (a) Kalamunda Primary School;
- (b) Carmel Primary School?

(2) Is a new primary school proposed for South Kalamunda?

(3) If the answer to (2) is "Yes"—

- (a) what is the location of the approved site;
- (b) what are the details of the construction proposed; and
- (c) when will pupils commence study in the new buildings?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) Kalamunda—4 classrooms.
- (b) Carmel—nil.
- (2) Not in this financial year.
- (3) Answered by (2).

KALGOORLIE DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Installation of Heating Appliances

9. The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN asked the Minister for Health:

Owing to the extreme cold weather experienced in Kalgoorlie during the winter months, will the Public Health Department give consideration to having heaters or heating appliances installed in bathrooms in the various wards at the Kalgoorlie District Hospital?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:
This matter will be investigated.

10. *This question was postponed until Tuesday, the 20th August.*

PRE-VOCATIONAL CENTRES*Availability and Publicity*

11. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) At what schools are pre-vocational centres established?
- (2) Have the communities where these schools are located been informed that the centres would be available for night classes if the Education Department is so requested?
- (3) If not, does the department intend to publicise this fact?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Belmont Senior High.
Bentley Senior High.
Mirrabooka Senior High (in course of construction).
John Forrest Senior High.
Hamilton Senior High.
- (2) The communities' needs for night classes are being satisfied through the use of the manual arts centres.
- (3) No.

VINE GROWING*Types, and Acreage at Mt. Barker*

12. The Hon. J. M. THOMSON asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) With reference to vine growing in the Mt. Barker district on the property of Mr. C. A. Pearse at Forrest Hill—
 - (a) what acreage is under vine;
 - (b) how old are these vines;
 - (c) what type of table wines will these vines ultimately produce;
 - (d) when is it anticipated that samples of wines produced from these vines will be available; and
 - (e) can the Minister provide any further information in relation to the progress of this property?
- (2) To what extent has this industry been developed on other properties in the Mt. Barker district?
- (3) Are there any similar properties being developed in the Albany district, and if so, to what extent can questions (1) (a) to (d) be applied?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) Five acres.
- (b) One year.
- (c) Light, dry table wines, viz., riesling and claret.
- (d) From the vintage in 1971 or 1972.

(e) The percentage strike of the cuttings planted last year was 70 per cent., which is considered reasonable.

Misses will be replanted with rooted vines this month.

(2) There has been no development.

(3) No.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SEVENTH DAY*Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 13th August, on the following motion by The Hon. F. R. White—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency:—

May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

THE HON. H. C. STRICKLAND (North)

[4.44 p.m.]: I offer my congratulations to you, Sir, on your re-election as President for another term. I am certain you will discharge your responsibilities and carry out your duties during the next six years as efficiently as you have done in the past. I also join with others in wishing you good health to enable you to do so. I regret the absence of my comrade (Mr. Heenan) who lost his seat; and I also have some sympathy for Mr. Robinson who lost his seat. However, I am pleased to welcome those who have replaced the two members I have mentioned. We all know the political wheel turns constantly and nobody can say just how long he is likely to remain in the Chamber, whether as a result of an election, or through ill-health; we have no control over these things. As somebody else said, we are a democracy and we can expect to have new members in the Chamber from time to time.

Since last year's session of Parliament I have been very perturbed at the continual loss of wages in respect of employees generally, and particularly those who are covered by arbitration court awards. The basic wage, which operated throughout Australia for very many years, and proved a satisfactory means for employers and employees to obtain some satisfaction in regard to their demands, requests, and representations, has been abolished. We could also say that under the arbitration system which operated when the basic wage was in existence, there was comparative peace in industry as compared with the past seven or eight months since the basic wage has been abolished.

An endeavour has been made to replace the basic wage with what is known as a total wage. That concept was born in the

Commonwealth Arbitration Court in 1965, when the Employers Federation, assisted and supported by the Liberal Party and Commonwealth Government advocates, was successful in inducing that court ultimately to supplant the basic wage with what I have said is termed a total wage.

Since the court delivered its judgment in December last year, after two years' hearing and many months of consideration, there have been serious repercussions in respect of the work value of employees in the metal trades industry. A decision handed down in December of last year was criticised not only by employers, but also by the Federal Minister for Labour and the Federal Treasurer on more than one occasion—both at the time and again quite recently.

The Federal Treasurer, attended a dinner of employers representing the metal trades and other manufacturing unions, at which Sir Richard Kirby was a guest, and during the Treasurer's speech he intimated there should be no more rises in wages and no more costs loaded onto industry.

Surely it is most unusual that Governments should set up tribunals of learned men to adjudicate on wage cases and then interfere with their judgments. They deliberately go out of their way to attempt to influence the courts. I think it is a pretty poor show; and all workers throughout the Commonwealth of Australia know very well they are not going to obtain a fair deal through the courts while there is a Liberal and Country Party Government in charge of the Treasury Bench.

There does not seem to be any doubt about that. History indicates that ever since the Labor Party more or less fell out of favour with the electors, through internal strife and the publicity given to that internal strife, the Liberal and Country Party coalition appears to be taking advantage of the situation—in a very extreme manner—to see that the low income earner is kept on that low income, and does not receive through the arbitration system what was initially intended to be a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. That cannot be denied.

During the course of the two years' hearing of the metal trades award by the Commonwealth Arbitration Court, the unions' advocate, (Mr. Bob Hawke), proved conclusively that the wage earner had fallen behind his entitlement. Mr. Hawke proved this by summoning before the court the members of what is known as the Vernon committee. They were subpoenaed to appear in the Commonwealth court, and Mr. Hawke finally got the members of that commission to admit that the wage earner throughout Australia had fallen something like 8 per cent. or 10 per cent. behind his entitlement.

The Vernon committee based its report on the gross national product, which is advanced as the yardstick. However, Mr. Hawke was able to subpoena the members of the committee to appear in the court and he proved through those members that the workers' wages had fallen behind. The members of the committee admitted this. The outcome of the hearing and the subsequent findings of the court resulted in an increase for metal trades employees generally from 10c to \$10, or thereabouts. The Arbitration Court handed down its judgment. The court did not direct, but suggested—by intimation more than anything else—that those employers who were paying over the award rates should absorb, or endeavour to absorb, the increase granted by the court.

It has always been understood that an Arbitration Court award is a minimum rate. It is the law that nobody must be paid below the rates fixed by the Arbitration Court. However, anybody can be paid above that rate and some employers are very pleased to pay above award rates. Some employers continued to pay above the award rate, but other employers endeavoured to absorb the increase in the overall payment. There we find the answer to what is known as the total wage.

The total wage, no doubt, was brought in to endeavour to overcome this position. I think every farmer in the House knows that for many years he has paid over-award rates for shearing. That has been going on for as long as I can remember—at least as far back as 1920—with regard to the shearing award.

Getting back to the Commonwealth award, the Arbitration Court found that it was in trouble. The award was to take effect as from the 22nd January, of this year, but the strife and turmoil which followed caused the court to sit again in February. On this occasion, it delivered a startling judgment. The court decreed that 70 per cent. of the awarded increase should be paid retrospective to, I think, the 22nd January of this year. However, the other 30 per cent. of the increase was to be deferred until the 6th of this month. That decision was most unjust and, of course, it caused more turmoil.

Between the time of handing down the decision in December, and early February this year, the court fined the metal trades unions in excess of \$100,000 for minor stoppages and breaches of the award, where some men refused to accept less than they were entitled to, and what they had been paid. However, the court did not stop there. In my opinion it penalised the workers twice because every worker had contributed—through his subscriptions to the union—towards the \$100,000 paid in fines. The court also decided that the workers would not receive 30 per cent. of

the increase because they had been naughty boys. Those workers were penalised for the same offence.

On the 6th of this month Sir Richard Kirby—and the other judges who sat with him—decided that the 30 per cent. could be paid as from the 21st of this month. Without taking any more evidence, the decision was reached that the 30 per cent. should be paid. Another cry came from the employers that they had not had an opportunity to present their case why the 30 per cent. should not be paid. That is an amazing thing! For two years the employers gave evidence as to why nothing should be paid, and when the court found that something should be paid, and gave a decision, they were still not satisfied.

It is high time the trade unions, through their industrial organisations, got to work and educated the wage earners—and salary earners because they are also taking some action, as will have been noticed through the Press—in these matters. The workers should be shown that many of them are electing the wrong members into Parliament—members of the wrong party. The workers will not get anywhere while the employers' representatives are governing the country. They are not in the race. They will have to wake up and elect men from the party which will look after them. There is only one party that will do that—the Labor Party.

So I take this opportunity to say something along these lines hoping that someone may one day read *Hansard* and learn a little about this matter.

The Industrial Arbitration Act in this State was amended in 1966, following a judgment delivered in November, 1965, by our court, when it unanimously agreed to continue to grant quarterly adjustments to the basic wage. The Government hinted—or made known the fact—that it disagreed with the granting of quarterly basic wage adjustments. The judgment of the Industrial Commission, sitting as a full court composed of Commissioners Schnaars, Kelly, and Cort, was unanimous and the wage was increased following rises in the cost of living.

I shall refer to the judgment which was in relation to Part VII of the Industrial Arbitration Act—basic wage, quarterly review. The judgment is dated the 16th November, 1965, and at page 10 the following appears:—

If quarterly adjustments are a greater contributing factor to price increases than the less frequent movements resulting from the Commonwealth determinations, then one might

expect that price movements in Western Australia over this period—

The commissioners were talking about an experience covering 15 years. To continue—

—would be greater than other States. However, such is not the case, as the following figures indicate—

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PRICES AS INDICATED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

	Consumer Price Index		
	Sept., 1960	Sept., 1965	Increase per cent.
Perth	89.7	130.0	36.5
Six Capitals	69.5	133.5	92.1
Sydney	69.2	131.8	90.5
Melbourne	69.6	135.6	94.8
Brisbane	70.4	138.3	96.4
Adelaide	69.8	130.7	87.2
Hobart	68.6	137.0	99.7

So it can be seen that the percentage increase in the consumer price index in Perth remained the lowest in Australia, despite the quarterly adjustments. The judgment then went on—

Prices have increased less in Western Australia, where quarterly adjustments have been fairly consistent, than they have in other States where, in line with Federal determinations, quarterly adjustments have been abolished, and have been less than in South Australia, where a form of price control has continuously applied.

Those figures are compiled by the Commonwealth Statistician. I think that judgment proved conclusively that the Industrial Commission in its granting of quarterly adjustments was acting on very sound bases and on the evidence placed before it.

However, apparently this Government decided that a stop must be put to the granting of quarterly adjustments so what did it do? In 1966, by a devious method—and I mean "devious" because it was done by a roundabout method—the Government abolished the basic wage and the quarterly adjustments that could be made to it. The Government knew very well what employers throughout Australia were doing; it knew the Commonwealth court would introduce a total wage. So what did the Brand-Nalder Government do? It tied the State basic wage to the Federal wage because it knew that the Federal wage, as a basic wage, would be abolished a few months later with the idea of introducing a total wage. So I think I am right in using the word "devious" in referring to what the State Government did on that occasion.

I realise the Government, because the elections were only 12 months away, would not want to abolish the basic wage straightout, and so it fastened the State wage to the Federal wage, well knowing what would happen in the Commonwealth sphere. We were told in this Chamber that it would be far better to have only one

basic wage instead of two, and some members, but not Labor Party members, fell for it. Labor Party members were opposed to the proposal whereas other members fell for the idea of having only one basic wage and, I suppose, to them it seemed a reasonable proposition instead of having two conflicting wage levels. No doubt the idea was to abolish the State basic wage, and quarterly adjustments, and tie that wage in with the Federal basic wage which the Government knew would soon be abolished in favour of a total wage.

So the workers were deceived—in fact they were absolutely robbed of something like \$1.50 or \$1.60. That is the figure so far because our wage is behind by that much, and had the industrial court been left alone the State basic wage, with the quarterly adjustments that would have been made, would have been \$1.60 greater than it is now.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It is \$1.60 a week less than would have been the case.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: That is so. Members will notice that through their unions the workers are struggling to maintain their equity in what is known as the gross national product, or to obtain their share of the wealth which they produce. Admittedly the investors are entitled to their share, but they would not get anything at all if it were not for the workers producing the goods.

The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson: What about the poor old farmers?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I will tell the honourable member about them a little later. The investors get along fairly well but always at the expense of workers. They are both entitled to live and the object of our democracy is to endeavour to spread the wealth as fairly as possible. We cannot have some people left behind, struggling, while others are more or less rolling in wealth. However, that is what is happening and it is something that we as Labor members have to try to rectify because we represent the workers. Unfortunately too many of them do not realise it and they fail to see what is happening to them.

Many members in this Chamber will recall, during the Hawke Government's regime, from 1953 to 1959, several occasions when we introduced legislation to give bank officers Saturdays off. But the legislation was always defeated in this House.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: What a howl there was about it.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: But what happened as soon as the Government changed? The present Government introduced legislation to provide for the banks to close on Saturdays, and in that instance it had robbed bank officers of Saturday leisure time for a number of

years. That is only one case and I could quote a large number to show what has happened over the years.

I would now like to touch on the Federal Budget and in this regard I want to mention the plight of the pensioners and the superannuated people who are still alive—but only just. How they struggle along on their paltry pensions, I do not know. I think every member in this House would realise how difficult it would be. People who are on the pension, or are receiving superannuation, have had no opportunity throughout their working lives to get off the labour market. Not everybody is lucky, or as lucky as many of us are, in being able to get off the labour market. In some cases when one does get off the labour market it is more by good luck than by good judgment. However, I repeat, those on the pension, or receiving superannuation, have been forced to work all their lives, and by the recent Federal Budget they were granted an increase in pension of \$1 per week; and the level at which they start paying tax has been lifted by another \$70 a year.

This is not of much benefit, particularly to old people who are unable to seek work to enable them to earn a little money over and above their pensions. From time to time we hear and read where Government members of the Federal Parliament have a great deal of sympathy for the pensioners. But they never give them any practical relief. Why do not these members stand up and demand from the Federal Government something for the pensioners? Why do they not practise what they preach? Unfortunately Federal members are prepared to let the pensioners go along on their meagre pensions.

But let us look at the anomalies in the Budget. A few moments ago somebody asked about the farmer. What about the farmer? Every pensioner is subject to a means test. He has to live within a limit, and how he does so, I would not know. He has to scrape along as best he can, but look at the position with the farmer! There is no means test on the super subsidy. I do not know whether the super subsidy should be provided, or whether it should not; but what is good for one section of the community should be good for the other, and the restrictions of the means test should be eased considerably in the case of pensioners and superannuated people.

I cannot see why a farmer who sold a bull for \$25,000—as was the case recently—should be eligible for the super subsidy. I cannot see why the farmer who was able to pay that amount for a bull should receive the super subsidy. I cannot see why farmers who are producing double the State average for wheat should be subsidised. By all means subsidise the man who is producing below the State

average; he needs to be subsidised. But why subsidise the man who is producing more than the State average?

We have American farmers like Art Linkletter, and others, including companies, who have big properties in the Esperance area. They are subsidised, even though they do not need it. They have that much money that they have to get it out of America and invest it somewhere else. Obviously there is no means test in those cases. The farmer is not badly off, and I will say this about the Country Party: With all due respect to you, Mr. President, the Country Party looks after the farmers. My word it does!

The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson: You should come down to my electorate.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I think the Country Party should be called the self-help party. It is doing very well. It is disappointing—

The Hon. L. A. Logan. We have to do that. If it were left to you we would not get anything at all.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: —to find that the poorer sections of the community are not being helped at all by the Budget proposals.

The Hon. E. C. House: The Government gets the super subsidy back in taxation.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: But the farmer is always howling about taxation, too. Why does the farmer need to be subsidised? He gets his cut. The Country Party looks after the farmers; and, as I said, the name should be changed to the self-help party.

I will change the subject and refer to the way aborigines vote. There has been a good deal of publicity and disputation and comment about the voting in the Kimberley electorate in the recent State elections, which were held in March of this year.

I was a scrutineer at Gogo Station on election day. My curiosity took me out there, because I wanted to observe how the natives voted. The year before they voted so well that there was not one informal vote. Prior to that I did have some experience with the way the natives voted. At the last Federal election I went to the leprosarium to see why they voted so well.

A great majority of the natives were bush natives. Three years previously I think about 112 voted, but there was not one informal vote. That was the occasion when Mr. Collard had been returned in the previous Federal election. There were two elections in between, and I think one was a Senate election. Anyway, these natives had voted three times previously.

On the day before the last Federal election I went to the leprosarium, and the manager asked me what I wanted to do. I said that I would just sit in to see how the natives voted, and why they were so

intelligent and were able to vote so well. I might say that at the time the team of management was different from the team which had been there three years previously. The manager asked me what I wanted to do. I said I would read the provisions in the Electoral Act. I told him that he had a copy and he could see what he could do, and that I would do what I could as a scrutineer. I said further that I would bring my authorisation to act in that capacity.

On election day the natives went through and voted. These people do not know very much about the matter, and they have to be herded together to go into the polling booth, with the gins going in first and the bucks following. The wives of two members of the management said, "We will give you some assistance by each handing out a card to every native voter—one a Liberal card, and one a Labor card. We will tell them to select one of the cards and pass it to the boss." These native voters have to give their names, because that is laid down in the Act, but most of them could not give their names.

None of the natives were refused ballot papers. They took the papers, and cast their votes at the ballot box. I was at the count, and I saw there were 53 informal votes. Some of the cards had pictures of alligators, others of birds, and yet others of snakes. They did not have the slightest idea of the way to mark the ballot paper. As a matter of fact, they did not understand English, but only a form of pidgin English.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: If they did not give their names how did the presiding officer know in respect of which name he should issue a ballot paper?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The presiding officer was the manager of the leprosarium, and he knew everyone by name. He said to me, "I will give them each a ballot paper, and see how they vote."

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: He would have to cross their names off the roll.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I could have persuaded the whole lot of them to vote Labor if I wanted to, as the Liberals persuaded them to vote their way on the first occasion when the contest was between Browne and Collard. I could have done the same thing, but I did not. That shows conclusively that these people should not be placed on the roll.

At Gogo Station there was a different set-up. The ballot was as well conducted as a ballot conducted anywhere else. The native voters came in, got their ballot papers, marked them, and put them into the box. That part of the proceedings was quite good. I could not find any complaint, in my capacity as scrutineer.

The Hon. J. Heitman: Did they give their names?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The assistant poll clerk did not ask the first two who came along, because they were fairly well educated and were known to that officer. I said to him, "The Act provides that a voter shall state his name. I want you to call out the number when a voter gives his name." I could not understand some of the names, and I needed the numbers in order to mark the names off my roll. That worked quite well. Each one had a Liberal "How-to-Vote" card with his name printed on the back. There is nothing wrong with that. There was perhaps something wrong in that some were mumbling their names. It was funny to see their reactions when they were asked their names.

The poll clerk was the wife of the school teacher, and the teacher was the presiding officer. When they were asked for their names, they mumbled something, and replied, "What is white fella's name?" It was absolutely ridiculous. Eventually they would put their cards down.

I looked at the cards, and in one instance I challenged the voter. I said that he had not given his name and I objected. I pointed out that if a voter did not give his name he could use somebody else's card. As a matter of fact that proved to be the case. I had a ring around this name. In this instance he was on the roll in the name of George Widdjoe. He had no idea at all. Only two male native voters and two female native voters had any idea of the procedure and could give their names.

The Liberal organisation did a marvelous job by printing the names on the back of the "How-to-Vote" cards. That was done not only with the natives at Gogo Station, but also with other natives who could not read or did not know what they were doing. There was the one case at Gogo Station where one native voter impersonated another. He would not do that without prior knowledge. Some Liberal organiser might have said, "That fellow is not here. Give this person his card." The native entitled to the vote might have been out in the bush and had no hope of getting in. That actually took place, and it is a fact.

How many others got through in the same way I do not know. I challenged only one male native voter, and one native woman who had come in from Cherrabun Station. Some natives from an adjoining station were over at Gogo Station to see their relatives. The manager told me they were from Cherrabun Station, and might be on the roll. One of them was; and she knew what she wanted. She gave her name as Patty Yungabun and on the roll her name appeared with these particulars, "Cherrabun Station, via Derby, domestic F."

Another native woman came along to vote. She was also from Cherrabun Station. I said to the teacher, "I cannot understand what name she is giving. Can you?" He said he could not understand either; so a native school girl of 12 or 13 years of age was called in. She was asked to talk to this woman who wanted to vote, in order to ascertain her name and whether she was on the roll. This school girl spoke both languages, but she could not find out the woman's name; so this woman could not vote.

When I had finished my business there 22 persons had voted. I checked with the poll clerk, and said that 22 persons had voted and I understood no more would come in to vote. I said that the rest of the natives were 40 or 50 miles out on the run, and would not get in, so there would not be any more votes at Gogo Station. There were only six or seven eligible voters left, and they included the overseer and his wife. The officers at the booth agreed with me, and then I left. Seven more votes were cast after I left.

These people have no idea of how to vote. I would say that only four of them understood what they were doing. I remarked to the presiding officer before I left, "There is no doubt that they know how to vote. I cannot tell how they voted, because they had their backs to me. I cannot say how they were able to distinguish anything, but they are well trained. I suppose you had something to do with it." He replied, "Yes, I taught them." I then inquired how he had taught them, and he told me that he started by teaching them to put a stroke against the picture of an orange or a banana, and he would teach them to vote by putting a stroke opposite the picture they wanted. I then said, "I suppose the ballot would go 50-50 each way?" I asked him whether he had familiarised them with the ballot paper, and he said, "Yes." Of course the natives were schooled so well that a very great majority of the votes were cast for Mr. Ridge.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Are you suggesting that he schooled them well in one direction only?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I would think so. I was informed that this person's wife is a relative of the Minister for Native Welfare. He would not do anything that I would not have done.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I would not care to pass any comment on that statement.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The Minister need not worry about that.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: To my mind that does not sound too good.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I shall refer to this later on. I say this type of person should not be on the roll at all. It is a matter of who controls them; and that is the way their votes are cast.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The fact remains the law says they must be on the roll.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The law does not provide they must be on the roll. If they have sufficient intelligence they can volunteer to be on the roll.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Who wanted them to be put on the roll?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: At Fitzroy Crossing the situation was a little different; but here again is an illustration of those in control being able to induce the uninformed, the unintelligent, and the mentally incapable natives to vote the way those in control want them to vote.

Three years before Mr. Rhatigan had a handsome majority at Fitzroy Crossing and there is no denying the fact that this was because there was a pastoralist in the area who was friendly disposed towards him. Last year that station property changed hands and at the recent election the pastoralist who had bought the other one out was friendly disposed towards the Liberal Party. It took some time, but he managed to induce those natives to change over from Mr. Rhatigan, whom they knew. They knew Mr. Rhatigan very well because he was born in the Kimberleys. Nevertheless, the natives were induced to change over because they were ignorant.

What those concerned did was this: They said to the natives, "You know big fella boss, Mr. Brand?" Mr. Brand had been up there. "You know big fella boss?" "Oh, yes!" "Well, big fella boss, he wants young man. Him don't want old fella any more; him want young man." So they voted for the young man.

They have no idea of political parties or for what they are voting; but they are able to be influenced—and they were. They all came in and those who could say their names did so, and those who could not, put down a card. One of the police constables was the presiding officer and a school teacher his assistant, and we had a scrutineer sitting alongside them. The natives all came in and did the one thing—the first 30 did, anyway. They were asked their names and some were able to reply; those who could not, put a card down on the table. They were given a ballot paper and were told to mark down the person they wanted. They would reply, "No, boss: you put him in." Each one would be asked whether he wanted Rhatigan or Ridge and he would reply, "Ridge, Ridge, Ridge."

Mr. Rhatigan received one vote out of the first 30. The reason we know this is because the scrutineer was sitting alongside the officer to see that the officer voted according to the wishes of the natives. That is what occurred and it explains again how the vote can swing one way or the other.

At Gogo they have never voted any way except against Labor, but we are not complaining about that to any great extent. I would not know about the situation at Mowanjumb and La Grange because I was in the bush. I did not interest myself in the matter, but I did hear tales and read bits about it. However, most of the black-fellows at Mowanjumb would be influenced—not all of them, but quite a few—by the Liberal Party because that party did organise things very well there.

I have here a statement from the assistant presiding officer at Mowanjumb, the Rev. John Francis Gordon Watts. Although the voting was certainly not carried out according to the book, it was carried out. For instance, in his statement the Rev. Watts said—

When a voter came to my table, I would recognize that person, announce their name, which they acknowledged.

Of course, that presiding officer could say any name—Tom Smith, for instance—and hand him a ballot paper. If our scrutineers had been awake to the situation, they could have said, "You cannot do that. You ask the voter his name." But they were not awake to that.

There was also a crippled fellow in a chair inside the polling booth advising those who required assistance. He was an aboriginal who could speak the language. I do not know whether we can do very much about that sort of thing. These natives are just not capable of exercising their right to vote.

From Mowanjumb the Liberal Party sent an educated native to Broome to organise the natives there; and I have certainly heard some tales from down there. They were pretty right, of course, but the situation is most unfair. I understand that some of the natives were promised a motorcar, a house, and all that sort of thing if the old fellow—Mr. Rhatigan—retired and the young fellow took over. Of course, most of the natives were living behind a sheet of iron in the sandhills, almost in the centre of Broome; and, naturally, these natives were induced to vote the way the Liberal Party desired.

If only the natives knew how much some of the Liberals despised them, they would never vote for them. This applies to most of the leading Liberals and one, in particular, in Broome. The native question is one which concerns everyone, and it concerned many of the business people in some of the north-west towns, until the natives were supplied with a few bob. Up to the payment of pensions and child endowment to natives, there was a great howl and demand that they be cleared out of the towns and away from the business section. It was suggested they should camp away from the sandhills, and so on. However, since they have had a little cash, there has been no hurry at all to get rid of them.

I was at a function last year which was also attended by several Liberals—and prominent ones. As a matter of fact, I got into a little strife with them because I could not help but overhear what they were saying—one was sitting next to me and the other opposite me. They were discussing the native question and their solution was that we should castrate them. I pointed out that Hitler wanted to exterminate all the Jews, and that their suggestion was shocking. As a matter of fact, Mr. Ridge drove me from that function to the hotel.

This sort of thing does happen, but the natives do not have enough intelligence to understand the situation. Some of them have, but not the uneducated natives who are on the roll. The Rev. Watts made quite a striking point in connection with the natives. He wound up his statement by almost saying they should not be on the roll, anyway. He said—

In the native language there is a term known as "RUMBID" which is the equivalent of "relative" in the European language only it covers a wider range of relatives, including "in-laws." People connected by "RUMBID" amongst the natives, are not permitted to face each other at any time. A "RUMBID" is always male and female.

Therefore such people will avoid each other and must do it according to their tribal law. In this way natives can be seen to go out of their way to by-pass each other as they are connected by "RUMBID." Even in a family group, through "RUMBID" connections, the members of that family affected, would not look at each other.

In a formal situation, if strangers, particularly white strangers are present, the native is apt to be reserved and keep their eyes averted from other people. Also this is brought about by the "RUMBID" situation.

A "RUMBID" is also not permitted to mention the name of another "RUMBID."

The present strength of the native voting, is contained amongst those natives of the age groups who still adhere to tribal laws and social customs. Younger natives have yet to attain the voting age, in my opinion, these younger natives will be more independent of tribal customs.

That is a fair summing up of the position. It is a fact that these people have no idea—no idea and no understanding at all—with regard to voting.

Let it be remembered that last year in Parliament a new section—51A—was inserted in the Electoral Act to give the

Chief Electoral Officer certain powers. The section reads as follows:—

51A. Where the Chief Electoral Officer is satisfied, that in consequence of physical incapacity, mental illness or mental disorder an elector is incapable of complying with the provisions of this Act relating to compulsory voting, the Chief Electoral Officer may remove the name of that elector from the roll.

The Minister will remember that when he introduced the Bill with that provision in it I suggested to him that he might consider including "mental incapacity" as well as "mental illness." He said he would take a look at it, and a week later—no doubt after he had discussed the matter with the other Ministers—I approached him and asked him whether he had made any decision about the proposal. He said, "Yes, I have. We would not touch it." I would think the Minister would have been influenced by the reaction from do-gooders concerned with taking away the vote from the aborigines. I would think that was the motive.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You can think what you like, but you know that was not the case. That section was put there for a specific reason.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: But the Minister recalls my request to him?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Outside the ambit of the Chamber, yes.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: To have a look at it?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Yes.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I am not saying anything bad.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I did not wait a week; I gave you an answer the same day.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: Oh, no! I remember, because I was a bit keen about it. The type of thing to which I have been referring should not occur. I have here the facts concerning an instance which occurred at Gogo. When I sat down at the table and the poll began, along came one chap who was not on the roll. He was a very old man and was mumbling somewhat. The presiding officer remarked to the effect that he was "round the bend." He did not use those exact words, but that is what he meant. He was senile.

On the table was a pile of enrolment cards, and the presiding officer said, "You come back later on, Charlie,"—or whatever his name was—"and I will fill it in for you." I said to him, "He is not on the roll?" The presiding officer said, "No, he is not on the roll. He is on the Federal roll." I said, "You have a pile of cards. Are you going to enrol him?" He said, "Yes." I said, "Do you know it is voluntary for a native to be enrolled, but

compulsory that he vote once he is enrolled? It is cruelty to dumb animals to do that! You have told me he is a bit gone in the head, but you will put him on the roll!" I have had a look at the roll since to see if he was enrolled, but could not find his name.

Not many pastoralists will put these natives on the roll. There was only Gogo and the adjoining stations. A number have been removed from the roll because they could not answer the correspondence as to why they had not voted. Only a few have enrolled around Fitzroy Crossing, Brooking Springs, and Jubilee Station. That, as members know, belongs to the McLarty family which does, of course, take an interest in voting. However, the great majority of stations do not enrol the natives because they say it is absolutely wrong and they should not have a vote.

Very wisely, in my opinion, the stations are not putting the natives on the roll unless they come and volunteer. If a man volunteers, he will be educated, and that is quite all right; because he will know what the word "volunteer" means. However, should enrolments continue in the present way, it is quite obvious the Labor Party will have to get to work and do some organising in the form of unions. If the Liberal Party is going to organise such people who do not know right from wrong, or one party from another, then the industrial movement will have to take steps to protect itself. I am hoping the Liberal organisation will not be so foolish as to put them on the roll. I have many good friends in the Kimberley area who do not support me at election time. They are very decent people and I would certainly not like to see them run up against any problems with their employment situation. However a dangerous position is arising. Members can see what is happening only a few miles away over the border in the Northern Territory. Whether a border will keep out this practice, I would not know; but I offer the thoughts for what they are worth.

In my opinion the Liberal organisation can thank the unintelligent vote for the election of the new member for Kimberley; because only by means of that vote was the Liberal organisation successful.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: What is the percentage of natives on the roll?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I do not know the percentage.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It makes a lot of difference to the statement you just made.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I ask the Minister to be patient for a moment.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That sort of snide suggestion does not become the member for the North Province.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: I asked a question.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Read out all the names.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: The Liberal Party could tell the Minister, because it printed a card for each one.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Good organising!

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I cannot tell the Minister, because I would not know. However I do know it shows that there were approximately 170 votes which represented the unintelligent vote, the uninformed vote, and the vote that could be swayed. If both the Labor Party and the Liberal Party broke even and received half each then, of course, Mr. Rhatigan would still be the member for Kimberley. Members can work those figures out for themselves.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: What did Mr. Rhatigan win by in 1965?

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: By 500-odd votes.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Do not forget that.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: What difference does that make? The Liberals made a great impression; nevertheless they would have lost but for the unintelligent vote.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You are making a snide suggestion.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I do not like being dragged into this kind of argument. We were told in Derby that Mr. Rhatigan would go down by 150 votes. Mr. Ridge and the Liberal organisation fully expected to win by something like that number of votes, and the Labor Party were prepared to admit that could be the case. As a matter of fact, in reality, Mr. Rhatigan won by six votes in Derby. Those things happen.

By way of a question I asked for the Gogo and La Grange figures. I did not get what I wanted. The answer given to me contained the information that these two boxes were mixed together. However, the Leader of the Opposition in another place (Mr. Tonkin) asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice—

(1) Who authorised the returning officer for Kimberley at the recent State general election to count together the votes from the polling places of Gogo Station and La Grange Mission?

(2) For what reason was this counting together done?

and Mr. Court replied—

(1) and (2) The returning officer decided to count together the votes

at the two polling places mentioned and has stated the reason for so doing as follows:—

When conducting the count, I considered that the votes recorded at any polling place, having under 30 votes recorded thereat, should be amalgamated with another polling place. This would then balance out the votes of any small section of the community.

I would not know what the Minister meant by the words, "balance out the votes of any small section of the community."

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: A pretty good idea, though!

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: This is done all over the State; it is not only done in the Kimberley.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: Because a thing is done once, it does not mean that it must be done that way always. Probably it is done for a reason, but I do not know what that reason is. These boxes were counted after the main count, when Mr. Ridge thought he was defeated. The boxes were counted on the Sunday.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: It is done to preserve secrecy.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: It is frequently done to preserve secrecy.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: That reason does not change the result. It would not matter if there were 30 or 300 votes in the box, and I will prove it to the Minister; it would not make a bit of difference.

In 1924 there were five candidates for the Kimberley seat to which Mr. Coverley was elected. One candidate was named Captain Gregory. He was known in Broome and was a master pearly, a very intelligent man, and a very fluent speaker. Dr. Hislop remembers Captain Gregory.

Over 200 people in Broome signed a petition for him to be elected to the seat when Mr. Durack retired and the seat became vacant. Captain Gregory took a lot of persuading because he did not want to stand for election. The petition was taken to Derby and another 60 or 70 signatures were added to it there. Finally, he was persuaded to stand. There were over 200 signatures on the petition, but the result of the poll was that Captain Gregory received 148 votes from Broome, and at Derby he did not receive one vote. At the declaration of the poll Captain Gregory said, "There are a lot of hypocrites in Broome, and I am not too sure who they are. There are quite a number in Derby, too, and I know every B—one of them."

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That probably gives you the answer to the question you asked a minute ago.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: One cannot be certain of any assessment in this game, I know. The Liberal Party expected to win by 150 votes in the Derby box, yet it lost by six.

In 1950, which was many years later, Mr. Butcher opposed Mr. Wise in the Gascoyne electorate during the first year of activity of the Liberal and Country League, as it was known. The Liberal and Country League formed a branch in Carnarvon and Mr. Butcher was elected President. There were over 200 financial members in the association. On polling day 170-odd members voted at Carnarvon and Mr. Butcher received 136 votes.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: Somebody must have influenced them.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I am just making the point that there is no purpose in presiding officers mixing the votes together—no use at all, whether it be 30 or 300 votes. Some people in the area are still persecuted if their political leanings are known, particularly by some of the private banks.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Rather than deal in innuendoes, you should make your accusations straightout.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I ask the Minister to listen to me.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I have been listening for the past three-quarters of an hour.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: Of course, we know the Minister would only think one way. He would not be allowed to think another way, otherwise he would not be a Minister.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You are thinking both ways.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I am saying it is a fallacy to try to protect people who really are cheats.

When Mr. Norton was elected to represent the Gascoyne electorate in 1953, the Shark Bay ballot box was counted in the courthouse at midday on the following Sunday, and Mr. Norton had such a lead over Mr. Butcher that the latter needed every vote in Shark Bay, if everyone had voted, to retain the seat. I was present at the count and said to Mr. Butcher, "What do you think of it, Noel?" He said, "I give it away, because I do not have a hope."

The two Liberal candidates were Mr. Iles and Mr. Ralph Illingsworth. They were sitting rather dejectedly on stools in the courthouse, because they had lost their deposits. I said to Mr. Iles, "How many votes do you think you might get out of this box?" He replied, "Well, I went to school with so-and-so; someone else promised me a vote; and I paid a scrutineer to act for me." I said, "I suppose you will receive about half a dozen." I asked Mr. Illingsworth how many he expected and he said he did not expect any, because he had not been in the area before.

In fact, neither man received a vote. A cheque had been sent to the scrutineer, but Mr. Iles had it stopped. Of course, he had it stopped. The man had accepted money and said he was going to support Mr. Iles who subsequently found that he did not have one vote in the ballot box.

Those are the facts. What is the use of a presiding officer trying to shield someone? Why should they not be exposed?

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: This has happened plenty of times before.

The Hon. V. J. Ferry: Anyone can change his mind.

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND: I do not think it is fair and right; in fact it is not fair at all to shield them.

I conclude by saying that large numbers of aborigines are enrolled on both the Commonwealth and State rolls. In fact, many more are enrolled on the Commonwealth rolls than the State rolls, because the Commonwealth sends men around enrolling the aborigines. That is wrong and in my opinion the Commonwealth is making a mistake. These people should never be on the roll, because they come under the other category I mentioned.

There is one other section of the Act which I would like to read. In fact, I asked the presiding officer who was going to enrol natives at Gogo Station to read it; I refer to section 184. It reads as follows:—

Without limiting the effect of the general words in the preceding section, "undue influence" includes every interference or attempted interference with the free exercise of the franchise of any voter or with the free exercise by a native of his choice whether or not to enrol as an elector.

I am perfectly sure that the natives who are enrolled, and certainly the great majority of natives who work on the stations, have been rounded up and placed on the roll. They have never attempted to exercise their opinion, because they do not know what "enrol" means. They would not have the slightest idea and, in my opinion many of the natives would come within the ambit of that class. I support the motion.

Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.

THE HON. T. O. PERRY (Lower Central) [7.30 p.m.]: Mr. Deputy President, when the President cut me off as I was about to speak before the tea suspension I fear he may have thought the frown on my face was caused by some ruling he had given in this Chamber which had caused me displeasure. Let me assure you, Sir, it was a frown of concentration. I had intended to congratulate the President on his re-election, but as he is not in the Chair I cannot do so. However, I

would like to congratulate the new members on their election to this Parliament and I hope their term of office will be a very fruitful one for the provinces they represent and for the State in general.

I would like to take this opportunity to speak for a few minutes on the noxious weed known as Cape tulip. I believe this was introduced into Australia in about 1850, and into Western Australia probably at a later date. It was first introduced as a garden plant. This is evidenced by the fact that it was first found around old deserted homesteads and farming areas in the great southern, York, Beverley, Northam, and Williams areas.

Today this weed has spread from Albany to Geraldton; and it has gone as far east as Southern Cross. At one time the experts from the Department of Agriculture advocated cultivation and grubbing as a means of eradicating this weed. In later years they advocated spraying Cape tulip with power kerosene. With the introduction of hormone sprays, the department advocated the use of Ester 2, 4=D.

At that time, however, a great deal was still not known of the life cycle of the Cape tulip. Only recently has it been discovered that it is essential to burn the trash and the grass on the ground before the rains fall in autumn and the early winter months, as this ensures a high germination of Cape tulip. Accordingly, much of the effort and material used previously for the eradication of Cape tulip was wasted, because in some seasons the winter rains are late in breaking, and if the ground temperature has fallen below a certain level there is very poor germination. Accordingly the spraying of this weed only affects the corms that have germinated.

All through the years Cape tulip has continued to spread through our farming areas; sometimes it has been spread by stock, sometimes by hay and chaff which has been cut or mown in the infected areas, and very often it has been spread by the graders and machinery used by the shire councils for grading and constructing roads. The task and expense of eradicating Cape tulip from some of our farms is beyond the financial resources of the farmers involved.

Those of us who are fortunate enough not to have Cape tulip on our properties should share in the expense of eradicating this noxious weed. Some shire councils—certainly the Williams Shire Council—over the years advocated that a third of the cost of eradication should be borne by the Agriculture Protection Board, a third by the local shire council, and a third by the landholder.

If we take a long-range view of this suggestion we will see it is a very fair manner in which to approach the problem. Those of us who have properties entirely free of Cape tulip may think we

should not share in this expense; but our neighbour's problem today may become our problem tomorrow, and the suggestion that has been made seems a fair way of sharing the cost of eradication.

I would now like to speak for a few moments of the financial plight in which many farmers in Western Australia find themselves today. Mr. McNeill spoke of the plight of the dairy farmer, particularly those engaged in cream production. Mr. Strickland referred to the Country Party as a self-help party. I was very pleased to hear him speak in this manner, because if the Country Party does not help the farmer, I just do not know who does. The honourable member, however, spoke of the prosperity of the farmer as though he were a wealthy member of the community.

I would like to refer to an editorial which appeared in *The West Australian* of Monday, the 22nd July, 1968, which was headed, "Farmers in Trouble." The article goes on to speak of the trouble into which the farmer has run as a result of rising costs and falling prices for his commodity.

While the Federal Government's tariff policy may be justified in certain directions, it certainly exaggerates the problem of the farmer today, particularly when large industries like the motor industry and others can appeal for tariff protection. This, of course, may be justified, but on the other hand we have the arbitration system—and God forbid that we should ever destroy the arbitration system, because I do not know of a fairer way of fixing wages; I would hate to see them fixed by Act of Parliament—and when the industrial unions appeal to the Industrial Commission for margins above the basic wage I imagine that the judge of the Industrial Commission would consider the ability of industry to pay.

While many of our large secondary industries were enjoying a certain degree of prosperity, the Industrial Commission would, I suppose, feel that the workers were entitled to share in the prosperity enjoyed by industry.

The farmer is, of course, sandwiched between the two; he has no means of passing on his costs. If we have a policy of protection for certain sections of the community, and leave one section out in the cold, it must suffer. That is what is happening to the farmer today.

I would appeal to the Ministers and say that when they discuss taxing measures in Cabinet they should appreciate the fact that the farming community has borne about all it can stand. I refer particularly to those engaged in the dairying industry, the fruit industry, the meat industry, and the wool industry; I do not know much about the wheat industry, because I am not a wheatgrower.

I would now like to turn to our native problem. I feel that if our Native Welfare Department is to achieve anything at all

it must concentrate more on the children. The handouts that are given to the adult natives today are largely wasted. I refer particularly to child endowment which was originally introduced to help feed, clothe, and educate the children. When we realise, however, that a greater portion of the child endowment which is given to the natives finds its way into the wine saloons and hotels, it surely defeats the object for which it was introduced.

Those who employed natives 30 and 40 years ago found them to be far more reliable than they are today. I have never employed natives, but about 14 years ago I was appointed by the Shire of West Arthur to sit in the court with the magistrate when natives applied for citizenship rights. During that time about 20 natives applied for citizenship rights. I never opposed one application during the years I sat in that court. I felt that the police and the native welfare officers came in contact with these people more frequently than I did, and they were in a far better position to judge whether they should be given their citizenship rights or not and, as a result, I always accepted their recommendations.

I was interested, however, as to what happened to these natives once they had gained their citizenship rights. In almost every case they went downhill because they had a more ready access to liquor. When sitting with the magistrate one finds that all the police charge sheets and records are placed before one. Very few of these natives had convictions for drunkenness or disorderly behaviour prior to their being granted citizenship rights, but within a few years of receiving these rights they seemed to be continually in trouble with the law. I often wondered whether these people really benefited from being granted citizenship rights.

I feel the whole atmosphere of our native reserves is not good for native children. Last year it was my duty to present the trophies at the Williams interschool sports. I was most intrigued with the native children from the Wandering mission. They seemed to have a very high standard of hygiene, they were well behaved, well spoken, and they entered into the sport with all the energy and enthusiasm in the world; much the same as our own white children would. When they were presented with their trophies they showed even greater pleasure than our own children did.

I wondered what happened to these children when they finished at the mission, so a week ago yesterday I called at the Wandering mission, and the father in charge told me this was one of their greatest problems. Upon leaving school these children were very often not accepted by the white community. They had received the benefit of education; they desired a better life than was offered them; and they had little option but to return to the native mission.

Father Tiernan spoke to me about the way the old men tried to break the spirit of many of the young girls who washed their own clothes and washed themselves in an endeavour to keep themselves clean. The older men of the tribe referred to these girls as trying to live as a white person. They would say, "You think you white lady; you white girl now." They would try to drag these girls down to the level of life as lived on the native reserve.

Even if we have to use compulsion—and this is an ugly word—we must try to keep these young people away from the influence of the native reserve until they are 17 or 18 years of age. I think at 18 years of age they would be more settled. If they could do some form of manual or technical training they would be able to take their place in the community and be accepted.

Somebody became interested in one child who lived at the native reserve at Darkan and made arrangements for him to be admitted to the boarding hostel at Bunbury. He passed his Junior examination at the Bunbury High School. While at this school he was seen by one of the scouts of a city football team who noted his prowess as a footballer. Although the teachers at the Bunbury High School considered that this boy would have passed the Leaving examination, the boy decided to come to Perth and is now employed as a cadet journalist with W.A. Newspapers Ltd. and is playing in the thirds team of one of the football clubs in Perth. This boy has had an opportunity to make a success of his life, but what is the position in regard to his brothers, sisters, or cousins? Nobody is interested in them, so they go back to the reserve. What are their future prospects in life?

I think if the Government and the Native Welfare Department placed more emphasis on helping the children instead of the old natives who are quite content to live on a reserve—they have no desire to live in any other way—we would achieve far greater success.

I have a personal problem and am delighted to know the Lands Department has appointed a liaison officer to whom we can take our problems. I have not yet had time to meet this gentleman (Mr. Charman). I feel that some Government departments need a shake-up. I have a plan of the township of Darkan which I think was surveyed after the turn of the century. A common was surveyed just south of the town. This was done so the then road board could fence it and anybody desiring to do so could pasture horses or cattle on the common.

Five or six years ago, as a shire councillor, I discussed with the Shire of West Arthur the question of getting the common surveyed for the purpose of providing building blocks. We approached the Lands Department which had the common

surveyed, but it did not release the blocks for selection because there were a number of other blocks in the town still not taken up.

Many of our older residents who had sons and daughters living in the area wanted to retire to Darkan but they could not obtain suitable building blocks. Therefore the Lands Department was asked to release these blocks on the old common. The department released half a dozen blocks in a low-lying area in the new subdivision. These blocks were auctioned in the Collie courthouse—40 miles away—and because they were so low-lying and so wet in the winter months, not one bid was received for them. Since then, one block has been taken up; and the other day a local carrier, who was carting sand or gravel for the building was bogged for 3½ hours.

I was dissatisfied with the blocks that were thrown open, so last year I applied for one that was not released. My application was acknowledged by the Lands Department which wrote to me a month later stating the department was endeavouring to ascertain whether Arthur Street, which this block fronts, was constructed to a suitable standard. To my knowledge buildings were erected in Arthur Street 40 years ago and I wrote to the department advising it there were five residences, two State Housing Commission homes, and a Catholic church fronting Arthur Street, and that was the only access.

The department contacted me later and told me it had written to the Shire of West Arthur to obtain further information. A month later I rang and asked the department if it had this information and was told the shire clerk had not replied to the letter written to the shire. I informed the Lands Department that already this year it had released six blocks in Arthur Street, and a person in the department told me the department already had the information it required. So the department wrote to the Shire of West Arthur to obtain information it already had! I said, "I suppose I will get a reply to my request in a couple of weeks," and was told the matter would be referred to the divisional surveyor at Bunbury, and it could take a couple of months.

It was necessary for me to phone from time to time, but I am now fortunate in that my file has been marked "Urgent." However, I applied for a block in 1967; 1968 is nearly gone, and still I have not received an answer.

My son now owns the farm I had, which is three miles out, and should he desire me to move on, I have nowhere to go. But I am fortunate in that my file is now marked "Urgent." How the poor unfortunate individual whose file is not marked "Urgent" will get on I do not know. I hope something is done in this respect, and that Mr. Charman will iron out these anomalies.

It is fair enough that the Lands Department should want to make inquiries, but these matters should not drag on year after year.

In 1966 a man in Darkan applied for a block in order to build a shed in which to keep tools and other things. He lives on a farm but he ran into financial difficulties and it was necessary for him to become a part-time builder in order to augment his income. He has received no answer. I understand the reasonableness of the Lands Department making an investigation before throwing land open for selection but it should not take one, two, and three years for a person to obtain an answer. I support the motion.

THE HON. F. R. H. LAVERY (South Metropolitan) [7.55 p.m.]: In addressing myself to this motion I wish to join with other members and congratulate you, Sir. I did this privately, so you know my feelings. I would also wish both yourself and Mrs. Diver many more years of good health.

I also join other members in welcoming our new members to the House. Mr. Medcalf is not present tonight, so he can read that I wish him well. I was almost as lucky as he when I was first selected to stand for the seat of West Province. Twenty two minutes before closing time there was not a nominee in opposition, but during that last 22 minutes along came Mr. Solomon, a solicitor in Fremantle, and there had to be an election. I congratulate Mr. Medcalf in being fortunate enough to enter this Chamber without the cost, troubles, and worries of an election; and I feel he will be a worthy successor to Sir Keith Watson—and I told him so privately.

Mr. Claughton is one of the younger men to join the House—I am on my way out and he is on his way in—and I hope the next 16 years are as happy for him as the last 16 years have been for me. I am putting in a good word for the next election. Mr. Berry, another new member, represents a district that is partially agricultural, and is also a worn-out mining area. Mr. Berry was well known to me in the early days as a member of the Fremantle road board, which is now the Shire of Cockburn. When Mr. Berry was a board member it was a problem whether one could obtain \$50 in order to do something, and not \$25,000, as is the case now. In those days the members of roads boards were men of great courage who set out to try to do something for their districts and I am sure Mr. Berry is recognised—as we say in Spearwood—as one who knows his onions.

This brings me to the matter of retiring members. In the first place, I would refer to Mr. Robinson. As has been said before, elections come and elections go, and so do some members of Parliament. In a personal way I am very concerned that it was necessary for Mr. Heenan to leave this

Chamber. This to me was a very sad thing. I think I can conscientiously claim to have known Mr. Heenan for something like 40 years; and I also claim—as would every other member in this House—that no man had a higher standard of ethics.

I am sure that in every debate recorded in *Hansard*, in which Mr. Heenan took part, it will be found that his remarks were always on a high level; whether he was in favour of the proposition being put forward or not, he always treated his opponents with respect.

I went on a canvassing tour with Mr. Heenan just prior to the last election and, in view of the remarks made by Mr. Strickland, now is a good time for me to mention this. With Mr. Heenan I travelled to Kalgoorlie, Menzies, Leonora, Laverton, across to Sandstone, and back to Wiluna, Meekatharra, down to Cue, and then down to Mt. Magnet. While canvassing on behalf of Mr. Heenan we had with us, in the car, some very intelligent people including a well-known man (Mr. Spencer Compton), one of our early geologists and a man with a great accumulation of knowledge of this State. I found that wherever we went in the mining areas there would be only about 20 or 25 citizens in the town; and it was necessary to move out into the station country.

Mr. Heenan had friends at quite a number of the stations at which we called. Of course, we all have personal friends in our electorates who do not vote for us, and we met people who had probably never voted for Mr. Heenan before and did not vote for him at the last election. But what did strike me was the type of propaganda which had been organised by the supporters of Mr. Berry.

Mr. Berry, as I have just said, is well known to me and I am positive that he had nothing to do with this propaganda. However, as you will remember, Mr. President, when Mr. Heenan first became a member of Parliament the boundaries of his electorate extended from the Esperance area up to Kalgoorlie, and out along the trans-line. As is also known, almost without exception every five or six years when a member's term has been completed and he goes before the people again, new boundaries have been set. At the last election Mr. Heenan's boundaries were so changed that he moved right out of Kalgoorlie altogether and his boundary line commenced at a point a little south of Menzies.

Because of that, those people who were working on behalf of the Liberal candidate were able to use a situation which suited them. They said that Mr. Heenan was someone from Esperance who had just moved to the district, whereas he had actually represented this area for at least six years. When it came to the Carnarvon area, where Mr. Heenan was reasonably well known as he had represented it for at

least six years, the propaganda was much the same. The Liberal organisers told the people they did not want someone from Esperance telling them how to grow bananas. This, of course, was a very nice piece of propaganda. Although it was claimed that Mr. Heenan came from Esperance, he had not represented that area for some 15-odd years. So it would seem that we of the Labor Party are slipping behind because we win our seats ethically, or we do not win them at all.

Mr. Heenan would be very hurt if he knew I was speaking in his defence tonight. I am speaking behind his back because he is not even in Australia at the moment. Another point about the election which struck me was that a candidate is lucky if he is in a district when the Agent-General is visiting the State, and when the Agent-General is taken through that district. The Agent-General (The Hon. G. P. Wild) attended meetings and social gatherings arranged on his behalf at Leonora, Laverton, and other places. The meetings were, in fact, nothing more nor less than political meetings. I say this with all sincerity, because people from the district, who had no political thoughts at all, were quite open and told me that Mr. Heenan should have visited the area while Mr. Wild was there, because all the people from the stations came in at that time.

That is all very well, but I want to draw attention to the fact that Mr. Berry was a bit lucky in that his opponent was probably one of the most ethical men one could ever meet. Somewhere along the line they had to dig up a D.L.P. candidate to help Mr. Berry. I know that D.L.P. candidates are very useful to the Liberal Party.

I felt I could not allow the Address-in-Reply to pass without saying something on behalf of Mr. Heenan, who is no longer in this Chamber.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: According to the paper, if the Prime Minister decides to have a Federal election between now and Christmas, the D.L.P. will be useful to the Labor Party.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I think that as far as the D.L.P. is concerned, the Minister would know that everything I have said is true. The move was not successful when they tried to use it in the electorate where Mr. Dolan stood as a candidate.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What do you mean, "They" tried to use it?"

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I will leave it at that.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You had better.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: Having made that complaint I would point out that for 53 years I have been working on behalf of candidates and this was the only time in all those years that I could see the writing on the wall in so far as Liberal

propaganda against Mr. Heenan was concerned. This was because of the propaganda being used—that a man from Esperance would represent the area if Mr. Heenan were elected.

In the area of Exmouth which was new to both candidates Mr. Heenan and Mr. Berry both polled very well. I say again, publicly—from my place in this Chamber—that I am not connecting Mr. Berry with this situation because I know he has a high standard of ethics.

I have several matters to which I wish to refer, but I will cut them as short as I can. I am very concerned with some of the things that have happened in my electorate, and I think the Address-in-Reply debate is the time to mention them. It will be remembered that not many months ago an inquiry was held throughout Australia into waterside work. As a consequence, a new scheme has been introduced and to all intents and purposes, so far as the authority at Fremantle is concerned, this scheme is working fairly well. I do not know that it is working so well for some of the companies who are now employing waterside workers.

I refer to the containerisation system. I think some companies have men standing idle doing nothing, whereas the ships working under the Fremantle Harbour Trust—or under the Fremantle Port Authority—are short of labour. There is a good relationship in Western Australia between waterside workers and the employers generally. However, I am perturbed about some dissension on the waterfront because the Fremantle Port Authority has not provided depreciation funds for replacement of the plant used on the wharf.

Only a few weeks ago there was some dissension on the wharf because of the use of obsolete plant. While I pay full tribute to the Fremantle Port Authority for the advance it has made in the layout of the harbour, and its administration of the harbour—and on the amount of money spent, south of Fremantle, in Cockburn Sound—we must remember that some bread-and-butter machinery has to be used. That machinery has to be kept in reasonable order.

I am referring to the towing vehicles used for transferring goods from the ships to the sheds, and from the sheds to other transport. These vehicles are in very poor mechanical condition, and I refer particularly to a small group of vehicles. The drivers were forced to stop work because the vehicles were becoming unusable and because drivers who refused to use them were being intimidated or penalised by foremen, and many men were sacked. Many of these machines were built from ex-Army carriers at the end of World War II, and have had 18 years' continuous service. Most of that service has been on three shifts—24 hours a day.

It is felt that if the port authority had followed normal depreciation practice it would have more than enough money to replace these machines. I think it can be said that a farmer or a transport company—or anybody using motor vehicles—makes provision for a depreciation account. If replacement is not necessary before 15 or 18 years, I am sure those people would be very pleased. Apparently no money has been diverted for this purpose by the port authority and I am drawing attention to the fact. Now that we are not a claimant State a heavier load will fall on the Treasurer than in the past few years in the allocation of funds to obtain the best possible results.

Of course, we cannot raise taxes every five minutes as we used to do and then blame the Grants Commission, because now we have to stand on our own two feet. I feel my asking for funds for the purpose I have mentioned is something Mr. Rudderham, the general manager, would appreciate as much as anybody. There is another problem attached to these machines and I have been wondering how some authorities can get away with this kind of thing when we are supposed to be so enlightened.

These machines are licensed by the traffic authorities but they are obviously exempt from the provisions of the Traffic Act. The machines have no lights, defective brakes, defective steering, and the engines discharge very strong fumes. It is felt by the men concerned that if the machinery came under the Inspection of Machinery Act, and if an inspector of machinery exercised jurisdiction over them, this would be of benefit to the men who use the vehicles, and of great benefit to the Fremantle Port Authority. If the vehicles did come under the Inspection of Machinery Act an inspector could exercise his jurisdiction over them and the maintenance would be of a higher order. The authority has been starved for funds in recent times so that a new jetty and a new wharf could be built at Kwinana, and some of the road paving on the wharf is so bad that many of the machines are dangerous to drive there.

While speaking of Fremantle and the harbour, there is another matter to which I wish to refer. There is a great deal of disquiet on the waterfront at the moment because of rumours—and I do not think they are without some substance—that the Government intends to sell the State ships. In this regard I want to issue a warning to the Government to look very carefully into the matter, because the people who earn their living loading and unloading, and working on these ships, are concerned that a number of them will be displaced.

Just as a matter of interest, tomorrow the *Dongara* will commence loading cement for a north-west port—I believe it

is Barrow Island. However, that ship will leave here 1,000 tons short of her full load and 1,000 tons of cement will be loaded onto a BP ship which is now at Kwinana. Here we have a situation where a State ship is loading a straight cargo but it is to be loaded 1,000 tons short and that tonnage will be carried by the ship of a private company, one that has nothing to do with our State. This means that the State ship will be deprived of a certain profit that it could have made had it been fully loaded, and it is the sort of thing that is going on all the time. I checked this matter myself and what I have just said is correct.

Why should a State ship be denied 1,000 tons of cargo—and it is the same sort of cargo which it will have on board, and it will commence loading tomorrow—and that cargo be given to a company ship—a ship owned by BP.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What is the cargo?

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: It is cement. I know what I am saying to be correct and I am prepared to repeat it outside the Chamber.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I take it the BP ship would be going to Barrow Island to load crude oil.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I assume that is so, but the *Dongara* also is going to Barrow Island.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: But not to load crude oil.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: No, it is a State ship. Having made a comment in regard to those two items, before I go on with the major part of my speech I would like to refer to a matter which Mr. Clive Griffiths mentioned last night; namely, high density housing.

The Hon. C. E. Griffiths: You agree with me.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I do. As Mr. Ron Thompson will confirm, the Cockburn Shire asked both of us to discuss a proposition with its officers and, as a result, that shire has decided that high density housing is something that it does not want built in its district. This is a shire that is pleased to have any type of business or housing built in its area.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It is a very progressive shire.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: It is a shire that makes every effort to keep in tune with the people in its district. The staff, including the outside workmen, are all living in the district.

The Hon. C. E. Griffiths: I am very pleased indeed to hear that you agree with my point of view.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I am pleased to agree with the honourable member and I will tell him why. Last year Mrs.

Hutchison and I—that is, my wife and I—travelled through Ireland, Scotland, and Germany, and we saw many high density housing projects. While overseas we were told by a doctor we met when visiting the Ulster Parliament that if we intended to build high density housing in a place like Australia we should ensure that it did not exceed four storeys—that was the very most. He also said that we should provide sufficient playgrounds for the children.

This doctor told us that the authorities in Belfast were building 35-storied buildings on an area of land that would probably suit a public office. He said, "All we are doing is increasing the possibilities of women becoming neurotic." Some of the buildings were 25 storeys high, and others went as high as 35 storeys. If a family were living near the top of one of these buildings the mother would look down and probably see little Willie playing on a quarter of an acre of grass with about 200 other children. If anything happened to little Willie, and he was knocked off his bicycle, by the time the mother was able to take the lift and get to the ground floor 11 or 12 minutes would have elapsed and little Willie would be in hospital.

While talking with this doctor about the problem he said that children reared in these high density projects did not have sufficient playing areas. Because they were locked up in flats, some of which might be on the 35th floor, the children were ready to tear the place apart, but when they did go outside, the playgrounds were too small to enable the children to have a free rein. Flats of this type might be all right for a husband and wife who live alone, but where there is a family with children they are totally inadequate. This doctor told us that if we had any say in the matter we should do everything possible to prevent blocks of flats being higher than four storeys. After seeing what happened at Medina—

The Hon. C. E. Griffiths: They are only two storeys there.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I do not think the Housing Commission is very satisfied with them. If its officers are, then they do not show it.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: How high is the Bentley flats project going to be?

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I would not know exactly.

The Hon. C. E. Griffiths: It will be 13 storeys high.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I know a number of the blocks will be quite high. I would like to tell the Minister that I do not need to be reminded that I do not know everything. There are many things I do not know; however, I do know that he and his friends fought every inch of the way to stop Mr. Graham from building a block of flats in Subiaco.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Wandana?

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: Yes.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: My word!

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: Arrangements were made to fly the previous Minister for Health, in the McLarty-Watts Government (Dame Florence Cardell-Oliver), to Canberra in an effort to stop money being provided to enable the Labor Minister for Housing (Mr. Graham) to build those flats, because it was thought Labor people would be accommodated there and they would vote out the then member for Subiaco.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That was not the reason.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I do not suppose there are two Labor voters in the whole building now.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That's too bad, but that was not the reason and you know it.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I will tell the Minister something else. Because of disloyalty to the then Minister for Housing (Mr. Graham), a piece of land on the south side of Coomoorra Road, in Mount Pleasant, on which he intended to build 1,200 flats, was made available for individual houses.

The Hon. C. E. Griffiths: Hear, hear!

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: When information about the project was obtained through the State Housing Commission the then Minister said, "All right. If you want to have rats in my office then you can have them. I will make the land available for individual houses"; which he did. I want to tell the Minister for Mines that I, too, know a little about what goes on in the Housing Commission—I know, just as the Minister knows.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Probably more.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I probably would, too.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Maybe now, but you would not at that time.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: At that time, yes.

While speaking on the subject of housing, let me say how concerned I am about the new residential area near the Kwinana townsite. Medina was the first suburb to be built, and then followed Calista, and now there is to be another one known as Orelia. As regards the development of Orelia I am concerned about what is to happen to the blocks of land in the area. I am not objecting to the private enterprise development that occurred at Calista, but I was wondering whether a certain number of blocks would be made available for purchase by individual citizens, either at auction, by private treaty, or by way of application, with the other blocks being

developed by private enterprise, as happened at Calista, and sold to people who could afford the higher costs involved in the purchase of houses of that type.

I do not think there is anything wrong with that but at the moment I cannot find out what is going to happen at Orelia—whether the whole of the area will be given to private enterprise to develop, or whether we are going to have something similar to what the Minister in charge of the House is proud to refer to—that is, in addition to the private enterprise development, such as I have mentioned, individual people will be able to buy their own blocks of land and build the type of house they want on those blocks.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I tried that by making each alternative block available for private sale, but I could not get any takers.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I agree that was so at the time the Minister was Minister for Housing, because there was very little money about then. A man who is on \$50 or \$55 a week, and who has a family to keep, can afford a house that will cost him no more than \$8,000 or \$10,000. However, there are many people who would like to buy a block of land in the area about which I am speaking and who would be able to afford \$15,000 or \$16,000 to build a home. They are people who are getting more than \$50 a week and I believe they should be able to purchase their own blocks and build the type of house they want.

I have visited this new area of Orelia and instead of having septic systems, such as were provided at Medina, workmen have already started to install the sewerage. Having seen that, I asked some questions in the House a couple of days ago and from the answers I received I find that a sewerage system is to be built in the area along McLaughlan Road, between Hope Valley Road, and Thomas Road, eastwards of Medina, approximately some two miles.

The proposed sewerage plant will take the sewage from Orelia. The answers to my questions indicated that the area involved was approximately 90 acres, and that the sludge from the new towns in the Kwinana area would be treated. That would mean almost any quantity, because there are four new suburbs which have been planned by Miss Feilman, the town planner, to cater for 25,000 people. We are very lucky that we have a planner such as Miss Feilman in Western Australia.

I am not concerned with the installation of the sewerage plant at this locality to handle the sewage from the new suburbs, but I am concerned with the sewage from the whole area. In answer to another query in respect of sewerage in this area we were told that it was possible to use only Point Peron; it was said that was the only economic area, and the only possible place from an engineering point of view to establish a sewerage plant.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: That is not quite correct. It was not the only area, but it was the most practical and the most economical way to treat the sewage.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I accept what the Minister has just said. I intend to speak at length on this matter. I am puzzled as to how the Government found it convenient to build a sewerage plant on the eastern side of Medina, and also found it very convenient to build one on the western side of one of the few recreational areas that is left in the industrial complex at Rockingham.

I have some documents before me from which I wish to quote. Firstly, I refer to the 1958 report of the National Fitness Council, which was the first year of its operation. The reports from 1958 to 1966 show the advance that has been made in the Point Peron area for recreational purposes. Then out of the blue it was decided that this area would be used for industrial purposes, and plans were made to join Garden Island to the mainland by a roadway. The purpose of that is to enable B.H.P. to obtain limesand by road instead of by lighter. There was quite a stir when that was proposed in December or January last; but subsequently the Government seemed to quieten the proposals.

I will not let the matter rest, in view of the fact that this area of land was handed over to the National Fitness Council for use by all the organisations in Western Australia which are mentioned in its objectives. When the Government proposed to install a sewerage plant on the eastern side of this very fine educational set-up, which cost in the vicinity of £350,000, it was time people looked into the matter. At the time I approached the National Fitness Council and was fortunate enough to obtain all of its reports, with the exception of those for two years.

Firstly I refer to the 1958 report, in order to illustrate the original set-up of this council. On page 8 the following appears:—

GREATER PERON DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This new Committee of the Council which faces one of the biggest jobs which any Sub-committee has yet had to tackle has made considerable progress since its formation in the middle of the year when it took over the early developmental plans previously handled by a Sub-committee of the Camps and Hostels.

Its object in seeing to the early development of this well situated 395 acres of valuable beach land for the purpose of Community recreation covers a sufficiently wide field of organisation to ensure a participation in these privileges by a wide Community cross section. It caters for Youth groups affiliated with the

National Fitness Council; for Sporting bodies associated with the Council through the A.S.C.; and for adult groups—incorporated bodies and associations whose aim in seeking tenancy envisaged family and child welfare, particularly in the field of Health and recreation and more particularly for those family units in the lower income brackets.

Both the overall lease of the land and the detailed conditions under which the Sub-lessees are given tenancy have been carefully examined by the State Crown Law Department.

The membership of the Greater Peron Development Committee consists of the following:—

- 5 members of the National Fitness Council.
- 3 representatives of the sub-lessees.
- 1 representative of the Rockingham Road Board, and
- 1 representative of the Public Health Department.

The Town Planning Board and, of course, Crown Law have ex-officio places, and since formation one representative from the Forestry Department, one from the Tree Lovers' Society and another member of the Rockingham Road Board have been co-opted.

12 leases have already been granted and the Committee is not approving any further leases until the Town Planning Board's new master plan of the area is available.

Building regulations for the sub-lessees have been formulated in co-operation with the Town Planning Board, the Rockingham Road Board and the Public Health Department to fit in with the new scheme.

Conditions have been laid down for six classes of development—

- (1) Self contained holiday homes.
- (2) Chalets and community buildings.
- (3) Dormitories and community buildings.
- (4) Hostels.
- (5) Formal Caravan Parks.
- (6) Informal Caravan and camping areas.

One factor which has been of great assistance to many of the groups which have been granted leases has been the decision of the State Housing Commission to hand over the allocation of hutments and cottages no longer used at Allawah Grove, Woodman's Point and Wembley to the Council Committee. This has meant a great deal of extra work for the Camps' Officer, Mr. W. K. O'Dwyer,

but has been well worthwhile in the savings it has meant for the groups. 142 of these buildings have been allocated at a very small cost and over half of them have been given to the lessees on the Point Peron area. Other groups who have benefited are Mission Schools, Scouts, Guides and Parents and Citizens' Associations.

At the moment the work of the Committee is firmly based and its policy well defined although it is reluctant and unable to do much more until certain matters have been clarified with the Cabinet. The Government has seen fit to suggest certain regulations and restrictions in the Developmental plan and the Committee is awaiting a further meeting with the Minister before the Cabinet can re-consider the matter and development continues on mutually acceptable lines.

Throughout the whole existence of this Committee and indeed for some years before it, the Town Planning Board provided basic information advice and assistance which made the huge task possible. The Committee's indebtedness to this Board is publicly acknowledged.

The 1958 report pointed out that a plan was being prepared; and in the report of 1960, which I have before me, the actual plan is shown. The following appears in the 1960 report in regard to the usage of this area:—

Civil Service Association; Police Union; Federation of W.A. Police and Citizens' Youth Clubs; Nature strip; recreation area—two ovals proposed; Car Parks; Caravans; Young Christian Workers; Church of England Boys' Society and Perth Rotary; Education Department; National Fitness Council; Camping areas; Car Park; Camping area; Hostel; Methodist Young People's Department; Association of Apex Clubs; Postal Institute; L. & S. Recreation Centre; Waterside Workers' Federation; Seamen's Union; Car Park; Recreation—proposed 9 hole golf course; Land suggested for further sub-leases.

Even before 1958 this area had been planned for use by the public for recreational purposes. On page 8 of the 1960 report the following appears:—

GREATER PERON DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

During 1959, its second year of working, this committee has shown its capacity by the efficient manner in which it has brought to realisation a project of such magnitude. It is indebted to the sympathetic support of the Government and several community groups whose help overcame many obstacles.

In its administration of 395 acres of valuable beach land it has ensured an equitable distribution on lease, to youth, adult, sporting, and allied groups concerned with community recreation and family and child welfare, and channelled each individual group's development and usage so that a uniform system designed to give the most good to the most people operates. The rule of no individual ownership or proprietary rights make certain that the scheme is a fully co-operative and community one.

The committee has been enlarged to include representatives of the sub-lessees who together with National Fitness Councillors, Rockingham Road Board, the Town Planning Commission, Public Health Department, Forestry Department and allied instrumentalities, share the responsibilities of this ambitious project.

Altogether up to that point of time a total of £28,000 had been spent in developing the area.

In 1963 a change of policy took place. I quote from the report of that year. On page 7 the following appears:—

When the lease of the Point Peron area was granted to the National Fitness Council of W.A. in June, 1958, the development of the area under the terms of the National Fitness Act was entrusted to the Camps and Hostels Committee of the Council, but with the growth of the scheme the Greater Peron Development Committee was set up to carry out the project under the direction and control of the Council. This new Committee consists of Council members, Government Department representatives in Lands, Health, and Forestry, Town Planning Department members, Rockingham Shire Council delegates and elected representatives of the sub-leasing organisations.

At first it was felt desirable to have the various youth groups establish seaside camps on the peninsula and sub-leases were offered to all church young people's departments and youth organisations. However, it was soon realised that the meagre finances of the groups to whom sub-leases were offered would not permit any worthwhile development of this holiday campsite.

Accordingly it was decided to offer sub-leases to any incorporated organisations whose aims and objects qualified them under the National Fitness Act for the benefit of child, youth and family welfare.

Since this change of policy was agreed to by the Council 22 organisations have been granted sub-leases of areas of various sizes and a further six applications are under consideration.

All the organisations developing the area are doing so in the manner agreed to by the Development Committee so that the buildings, facilities, and improvements on their areas are the properties of the organisations and no individuals have either ownership or prior rights of use or tenancy. By this means the Committee is assured that full benefits are available to as many children, youths and families of the organisations concerned by the rostering of use among their many members.

National Fitness Council field officers estimate that during 1963 a number in excess of 13,000 enjoyed a recreational holiday on the leased land (this figure does not include the youth campers at the Council's National Fitness Camp at Point Peron).

An authoritative survey has shown that the 22 groups holding leases have already expended £255,000 on their areas. The huge amount expended in voluntary labour is of course unassessable. These 22 groups have shown as anticipated and indicated future spending a total of £195,000.

That again indicates that this area was at that time regarded as a recreational area for the use of the people. It is interesting to note that in 1964 the Commonwealth Government, which then actually owned this land, was in the process of negotiating with the State Government for the handing over of the land wholly and solely for community purposes. The transfer was commenced in 1964.

In 1965 some correspondence took place between the State and the Federal Governments. The Federal Government was making this land available at almost a peppercorn price provided it remained for the use of the people as a recreational area.

The bombshell fell in 1966. I have here a plan of the area and it indicates the part which was up to that time available for recreational purposes. A report was published in 1966 and this showed the area which would be required for roadways to Garden Island and for the Department of Industrial Development, the Water Supply Department, and so on. The organisations using this ground at the time were—

Anglican Church—On behalf of C.E.B.S.

Catholic Church—For Y.C.W. Youth Movement.

Methodist Mission.

Methodist Young People's Department.

Baptist Union.

Churches of Christ.

Apostolic Church.

Apex—For Civilian Widows and Families.

Postal Institute—Workers.

Seamen's Union of Australia.

Waterside Workers' Federation.

Swan Brewery Employees.
 Police Union.
 Royal Perth Hospital Engineers.
 Boans Sporting & Social Club.
 Lands & Survey Recreation Centre.
 Australian Broadcasting Commission
 Social Club.
 East Perth Football Social Club.
 East Fremantle Football Social Club.
 Federation of Police & Citizens' Youth
 Clubs.
 War-Blinded Ex-Servicemen.
 Sister Kate's Home for Natives.
 Caledonian Pipe Band.
 Guild of Undergraduates.
 Point Peron Aquatic Youth & Family
 Association.
 Air Force Association.
 Architectural Students' Association.

In addition, of course, there was the Crippled Children's Society, which has been there for some considerable time.

Overnight the Town Planning Department approved the plan I have here. It was overnight as far as the public was concerned, but negotiations had been under consideration for some considerable time; and it was discovered that 200-odd acres were to be taken from the 355 acres to build roadways, etc. All the camps must go. In addition a sewerage plant is to be established alongside the Education Department's big endowment centre which, as I have said, was built at a cost of \$600,000. Out of the blue, on the 5th December, 1967, this information became public news, and I have here a series of newspaper cuttings, two at least of which I wish to read. I have also a copy of a cutting from the *Daily News* of the 13th December, and this concerns the transfer of the area from the Federal Government to the State Government.

Many people are concerned about this matter. A number of them who do not belong to my political faith approached me and asked me what I could do to give some publicity to the matter. Actually this area is just outside my province, it being in the district of Mr. Rushton, M.L.A.

In the course of our inquiries, we found that in fact the Premier had received a deputation from the National Fitness Council and its committees and sub-committees in regard to what was happening at Point Peron, and portion of the report of this deputation I shall read. Three letters are involved and I shall read the portions of them which cover what I am trying to convey. The following is the proposal placed before the Premier (Mr. Brand) when the deputation met him:—

The National Fitness Council and in particular its sub-committee, the Greater Peron Development Committee, has been extremely concerned in recent times with rumoured proposals as to the future of the Point

Peron Peninsula, and we have asked you to receive this deputation in order that we may put before you, as the head of the Government, a number of facts and the opinions of the Council and the Committee which arise from these facts. You are already aware that other Government Departments are involved and in consequence you have been asked to receive the deputation and may we express our thanks to you for assenting to receive it.

You will remember receiving in April and June last—

That was in 1967. To continue—

—two letters from the representatives of the council authorised to sign them in reference to the uncertainty which prevailed because of the lack of factual information with regard to any proposals which were contemplated by the Government. On behalf of the National Fitness Council, all of us wish to remind you that in these letters we reiterated that the Council does not object to use being made of portion of the Pt. Peron reserve for purposes that could be regarded as essential to the State's development. These views were based on a plan which was prepared by the Town Planning Department under date 12th December, 1966—

That was the plan I just showed to members. Continuing—

—and which was understood to disclose the requirements, or possible requirements of the Government in respect of the suggested work at Garden Island. A copy of that plan is now handed to you from which you will see a very substantial portion of the Pt. Peron reserve was to be retained unchanged for the purposes of the National Fitness Council as is clearly set out on the plan itself.

More recently however, we have been informed through the Hon. the Minister for Education, that there are proposals for the use of a substantial portion of the remaining areas shown on the plan for the purposes of a sewerage treatment plant and the outfall therefrom. It is mainly in objection to this proposal that we now submit our case to you. You are, of course, aware that a very considerable reduction was made by the Commonwealth when it sold the land to the State in 1963 or 1964. That reduction amounted to approximately \$200,000. In order that you may be aware of the understandings which the National Fitness Council had of that transaction we would refer you to a letter

from the Prime Minister's Department to yourself dated 9th January, 1964, reading in part as follows:—

Prime Minister,
CANBERRA,
9th January, 1964.

Dear Mr. Brand,

On 26th June, 1963, Mr. Nalder, as acting Premier, wrote to the Acting Prime Minister offering a price of \$30,460 for an area of land consisting of approximately 400 acres at Pt. Peron which has become surplus to Commonwealth requirements.

My colleague, the Minister for the Interior, has now approved of the property being transferred to the State of Western Australia—

I ask members to remember the next few words, which read—

—subject to the existing leases and subject also to the future use of the area being restricted to “a reserve for recreation and/or park land”, in consideration of a cash payment of £30,460 by the State. If the State is prepared to accept the property on this basis, the details could be finalised between the Chief Property Officer in Perth and your Under Secretary for Lands.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) J. G. Gorton
for Prime Minister.

It will be clear to you from a perusal of this letter that the land was sold as a reserve for recreation and/or park land and for that reason a reduction in price took place.

Prior to that letter coming from the Prime Minister considerable negotiations had, of course, taken place, and on the 8th October, 1963 the Under Secretary for Lands wrote to his Hon. Minister as follows:—

The proposal submitted to the Commonwealth Government is that the State acquire the whole of the Pt. Peron area available for transfer to the State for recreation as of “A” Class for “Recreation”, and the price offered by the State, viz. £26,800 for the land, was fixed accordingly. In addition the State has offered to acquire certain buildings valued at £3,660 making a total consideration of £30,460.

The letter goes on to say—

the National Fitness Council has spent large sums on its Greater Peron Development Scheme and if the area is acquired by the State there is no doubt that it will continue to be used by the National

Fitness Council in accordance with an overall plan already prepared by the council.

On the following day, 9th October, 1963, the Hon. the Minister for Lands wrote to you stating *inter alia*:—

The proposal is for the transfer to the State for recreation as of “A” Class for recreation.

In that letter the Minister repeated the reference to the expenditure by the National Fitness Council.

On the 31st October, the Hon. the Minister for Lands wrote again to you on the subject referring, it appears, to a proposal by the Rockingham Shire Council—

I think the following is the nigger in the woodpile:—

—that some of the land should be used for sub-division. We quote from that letter:—

The position here is that if the State's proposals are approved by the Commonwealth it would not be possible to permit any of the subject land to be made available as requested by the Shire of Rockingham, viz. sub-division of any part of the area. The land will be “A” Class for recreation and as such the price paid by the State, of course, is relatively low.

I say full marks to the Minister for Lands. To continue—

We desire to stress two points from these letters:—

- (1) That the land will be an “A” Class reserve.
- (2) That the land is to continue to be used by the National Fitness Council in accordance with overall plan already prepared by that council.

In very recent times only, has the council discovered that the land has not been made an “A” Class reserve but is understood to be a reserve of Class “C”, the purpose of which can be changed at any time by departmental action.

I ask members: Where do we go from there? The Commonwealth Government, over the signature of Mr. Gorton, made the land available as “A”-class; the Minister for Lands (Mr. Bovell) pointed out to the Premier that it must be “A”-class; yet we find when the land was finally taken over by the State that it was marked “C”-class. I continue—

May we with great respect submit to you that this is regarded by the National Fitness Council as such a departure from the clear terms of the Minister for Lands' communication and the intention of the Commonwealth in regard thereto, that we are

amazed not only that it has been done, but also that the council received no official information on the subject.

Again with great respect we would point out to you that when it was understood from the correspondence in question, that it was to be an "A" Class reserve, it was clear to the responsible officers of the National Fitness Council that there could be no change of purposes without the assent of Parliament. As a "C" Class reserve that is entirely unnecessary.

We would like again to refer to the communication to you from the Prime Minister of the 9th January, 1964, from which you will see that the sale was made to the State in accordance with that letter, subject to the existing leases and subject also to the future use of the land being restricted to a "reserve for recreation and/or park land," and stated that if the State is prepared to accept the property on this basis the details were to be finalised by the Commonwealth's Chief Property Officer in Perth.

Subsequently, after much negotiation it was proposed that a new lease of the land should be granted by the State to the Minister for Education in whom, of course, the original lease from the Commonwealth is vested. This new lease was prepared and submitted to the Minister and the Council. On account of the extraordinary restrictive conditions which it contained it was never executed by the Minister.

Mr. Lewis, too, must have seen a nigger in the woodpile. To continue—

In consequence at the present time the Hon. the Minister for Education continues to hold the land under the original lease from the Commonwealth which expires in October, 1972. This is confirmed by a communication dated the 30th November, 1966, (a very long time after the proposed lease had been rejected) from the Minister for Lands to the Minister for Education in which the former stated:—

"In the circumstances no doubt you still agree that as the various organisations have security of tenure under existing Commonwealth leases until 1972 it would be preferable to allow the arrangements to continue as they are."

The idea of the purchase of the land by the State can, we think, be truthfully said to have originated from the National Fitness Council, in the belief that control by the State would be of much greater advantage to the National Fitness Council and its

activities in relation to its development of Pt. Peron than a continuation of Commonwealth ownership could be. Unfortunately that does not appear to have been the position, for had the land been left in Commonwealth ownership the National Fitness Council would have security of tenure until 1993. Our reason for this last statement is that in 1960 negotiations had been completed with the Commonwealth for an extension of the 1972 lease for 21 years in order to give security of tenure for groups who had spent so much in the community recreation scheme and to encourage more capital expenditure for better buildings and facilities.

The Chief Property Officer of the Commonwealth was requested to prepare the necessary documents for such a lease and the council is therefore of the opinion that it can claim a moral right to the benefit of that arrangement especially as the numerous sub-lease holders were informed at that time of the prospective extension of the lease to 1993.

In order that you may have some clearer idea of the development that has taken place at Pt. Peron, under the control of the National Fitness Council and its sub-committee, we would like to leave with you

- (a) a number of photographs showing the type of buildings that have been erected there by the numerous sub-lessees and
- (b) a statistical list showing the voluntary work that has been done and the expenditure of capital in relation to these premises and also showing the vast number of persons that in the course of a year make use of the premises and the advantages to be derived from the beaches and other delightful amenities which exist on the Pt. Peron area.

It will be noted that among the list of those who have been granted sub-leases by the National Fitness Council, there appear such names as, Swan Brewery, East Fremantle Football Social Club and Royal Perth Hospital Engineers. We would ask you, Mr. Premier, not to imagine that it is only for the benefit of these particular bodies which you might consider not deserving such consideration as we ask, but for the benefit of their numerous employees and the hundreds of children belonging to their families and that the sub-leases granted to the bodies concerned were only for the purposes of ensuring that there was some legal entity to which the council might have recourse if necessary. It is only for the benefit of these families

and youngsters that the National Fitness Council is concerned in these matters at all. When you take the opportunity of studying the statistics and realising the thousands of persons who derive benefit from the Pt. Peron area during each year, this deputation is sure that you will realise why it asks you to give the most careful consideration to the requests that it will make at the end of this deputation.

We do want you to realise the very great concern that is felt by these organisations on behalf of their families and young people generally at the suggestion that this area should be devoted to some purposes which would make it hardly suitable for any continuance of the activities mentioned. Nor is there, as far as the council can ascertain, any suitable area in any way resembling Pt. Peron to be found at any reasonable reach of the City of Perth. Therefore unless the proposals as we now understand them are reconsidered the whole of the project and the benefits which have been derived by so many thousands of people therefrom will not only be lost but will become the subject of much bitter public resentment.

We are quite unable to believe that the use of any greater portion of the Pt. Peron area than that shown in the plan of December 12th, 1966 is necessary for the development of whatever activities can be contemplated in the area in the vicinity of Garden Island.

I interpolate at this point to say that the people who placed the matter which has been outlined here before the Premier were not objecting to plans for the roads to be joined, or whatever else the Department of Industrial Development required in the area; they were fighting particularly against the installation of a sewerage system in the area and against the future possibility of having to shift out completely, as I will show through reading another letter shortly. To continue—

We reiterate that so far as the proposals contained in that plan are concerned we would have offered no objection. But if the sub-lessees (at the termination of the existing lease in 1972 or at any other time in the near future) are to be placed in the position where they will have to vacate this area the statistics presented to you a moment ago must provide a strong argument for further consideration of any contemplated proposals for they disclose the expenditure of half to three quarters of a million dollars in cash to which must be added the value of the very great voluntary labour also shown in the statistics. Surely the State in the event of evacuation will have to give

consideration to substantial compensation which in the absence of a readily accessible and suitable alternative area would be a very substantial sum. Quite apart from this, the Minister for Education has indicated to us as his opinion, the consent of the Commonwealth would have to be obtained. The council has never had the opportunity of seeing any actual contract of sale between the Commonwealth and the State, and is not able to suggest whether the consent of the Commonwealth would entail any financial expenditure due to the purpose of the area being changed contrary to the intention of the Commonwealth when it made the sale at so low a figure.

In addition to the amounts mentioned as being expended by sub-lessees, the Government itself, has expended funds of between one quarter and one half million dollars through the Education Department and the National Fitness Council resulting in an Education Department Camp School and a youth camp which are regarded as outstanding examples of their kind. Looked at overall there is no doubt that the project is on the way to being an outstanding success and unique in Australia. Members of State Governments, the Commonwealth Director General of Health and other Federal officers who have inspected the scheme concur not only in regard to the Education Department's own premises but in regard to the overall scheme.

Having explained to you as shortly as possible circumstances which have given rise to this deputation and the facts which the council and its sub-committee believe are deserving of very careful consideration, it is now necessary to submit our requests:—

- (1) That the area be gazetted as "A" Class reserve in accordance with the arrangements clearly set out in the correspondence quoted earlier in this submission.
- (2) That the area of the peninsula shown on the plan given of 12/12/66 and not shaded pale green be vested in the Minister for Education under two headings:—
 - A. The area of the Education Department Camp School on behalf of the Education Department.
 - B. The balance of the area on behalf of the National Fitness Council of which the Hon. Minister for Education is not only Minister but Statutory Chairman.

- (3) That steps be taken to cancel the "freezing" order which it is maintained has been placed on all the area by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority. In explanation of his request it is understood that using powers under the Town and Regional Planning legislation the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority has taken action which "freezes" any further development in the area. If this state of affairs were to continue in the light of our previous request being agreed to, then the Minister and the council would be prevented from any further development on the restricted area which would thus be vested in the Minister.

There is quite a lot more from the deputation but I wish principally to refer to the final paragraph which reads as follows:—

The deputation is of opinion that it cannot much longer refrain from telling the representatives of these sub-lessees all the circumstances which have given rise to this deputation. We are stating this fact so that you will understand that within a week or two it will be necessary for representatives of the sub-committee to meet these people and inform them, at least to some extent, of the subject matter of this deputation.

Mr. President, in one respect I am sorry to have taken the time of the House in reading this document; in another respect, I am not sorry, because it is necessary to point out the answers which were given to the deputation and which were published in *The West Australian* on the 5th December, 1967. The Premier said, and his own words are included in the following newspaper extract:—

At the government's request, the Metropolitan Water Board had re-appraised the sewerage-works proposal, but had reaffirmed its favourable recommendation of the Point Peron site.

"All our advice is that the government could not justify another site because the cost would be much greater and the works would not be as efficient."

Later on the article reads—

The deputation said there was no other suitable area comparable to Point Peron within reasonable reach of Perth.

On top of that, I refer to the question I asked yesterday. The Government now intends to install a sewerage plant and station less than two miles east of Medina. I think of it as the "Medina townsite,"

but I was told last year it is the Kwinana townsite; there is, in fact, no Medina townsite.

If it is possible to install a sewerage station in the proposed area—that is, at least 3½ miles from the coast—why did the Premier have to tell the people that the Point Peron area was the only place where a plant could be economically installed? I do give the Premier credit for the fact that he was not biased by considerations made by the senior officers in the Water Supply Department. I must repeat his own words, as reported by the newspaper, which were—

The deputation said there was no other suitable area comparable to Point Peron within reasonable reach of Perth.

The people will have a sewerage station built right alongside a very valuable Education Department building. Almost \$1,000,000 has been spent in the area. The Rockingham Shire believes there is not enough gardening work going on there. However, I believe it is only saying that now, because it is bitter over not being able to acquire a subdivision for private sale.

The Premier, in company with members of the district, made a visit to the area about four years ago. At that time he visited the beach areas and finally decided that the Government would leave the portion of the beach where the *Kwinana* wreck is situated for the purposes of recreation, and that industries would be established south of there.

It looks essential that Point Peron should be saved. I go further and say this matter was discussed between Mr. Tonkin and myself. Mr. Tonkin made a public statement, which I checked with him last evening, to the effect that if Labor was in power at the moment it would not build a sewerage works in the area.

It is a question of piping. Plenty of land is available behind the Mandurah Road, and right through to Armadale for that matter. Any of that land could be developed, and it is simply a question of piping out to sea what we are told is absolutely clear water.

I hope I have done my duty to the people who asked me to bring the matter forward. I refer again to the fact that the people were told, early in the proceedings, that this area had to be an "A"-class reserve only.

The Federal Government sold those 400 acres of land to the State Government for \$28,000. In doing so the Federal Government took into consideration that the land was to be used for the benefit of the people of Western Australia; and I do not think the present State Administration has any right to use the area for sewage treatment works. The National Fitness Council is, in effect, a semi-governmental instrumentality and is probably unique in the field of national fitness throughout the

Commonwealth. It has had the distinction for many years of looking after the interests and the welfare of the youth of our community, and if it is to continue with its activities it will, in the next 30 years, need a large tract of land. Therefore, this problem must be given further serious consideration.

In addition, I would draw the attention of members to the fact that the Minister for Industrial Development, in referring to one of the letters that was published in the Press, said that industry and ordinary residents could not live side by side. In its wisdom the National Fitness Council has agreed with the proposals of the State Government that access must be made available to Garden Island for Government purposes in order to carry out future planning. The council has no objection to that move, but it does object to its eviction from its present site.

On the 13th December, 1967, a meeting was called by Mr. Hamilton, a field officer, in the National Fitness Council rooms. This was regarded as a closed executive meeting, but during that afternoon a telephone call came through to the National Fitness Council office to the effect that the people attending the meeting had to be told that the National Fitness Council must vacate the site it occupies. I would also point out that the National Fitness Council does not have any comparable site to which it can transfer its offices and where it can carry out its existing activities.

I agree that the site at present occupied by the council is an ideal one, but the industrial development that will take place in the very near future will be tremendous and we will find that if the present trend continues, people will be pushed further and further out from the metropolitan area. If one visits Wollongong and other industrial centres in New South Wales, one can easily visualise how the people in those areas have gradually been pushed further and further out to the perimeter of those centres. With such a prospect occurring in this State further consideration should be given to this problem.

I now wish to refer to two other matters. I am concerned about the safety set-up that there will be in the Kwinana area. On the 27th May, 1968, a serious accident occurred at Kwinana which affected 26 workers. During that afternoon I was in touch with Dr. Letham and he gave me a report which indicated that Dr. McNulty had visited the area and blood tests had been taken of the workers concerned four hours after the accident had occurred. These blood tests showed that all the workers were normal except one, but within six hours he was also declared to be fit.

The B.H.P. company has never known such an accident to occur before, despite the fact that gases have been known to escape and flow down the side of the

building. In this Kwinana accident the gases fell from a height of 200 feet and drifted to the ground 440 yards away, at which point some workers were affected. On the other hand, workers who were employed on either side of the stream of escaping gas felt no effects whatsoever. Three days after the accident Dr. Letham stated he was extremely delighted with the system adopted by B.H.P. for the prevention of accidents in this area.

I understand that one of the young men who rendered assistance at the time of this accident deserved great praise. I am not sure of his name, but he was the officer in charge of the safety on the site, and Dr. Letham said that this officer, for getting to the two men in the building the way he did, deserved great credit. Dr. Letham also paid a compliment to B.H.P. for the efficient system that has been installed for handling this fall-out of carbon monoxide gas, because, as I have said, a similar accident has never been known to occur before.

On the morning of the accident at Kwinana there was a low bank of air caused by fog, and we were told that at 6 p.m. these gases were still rolling around the ground, but that is not true.

Following this accident I received a paper from Australian Iron and Steel at Kwinana titled, "Raw Materials in the Manufacture of 'Pig Iron'." I understand that Mr. Dolan is a member of a committee which inquires into the problem of air pollution at various centres, and the reason I mention this is that an extract from this paper reads as follows:—

A blast furnace producing 1,500 tons per day (similar to Kwinana) requires approximately 2,600 tons of iron ore, 1,200 tons of coke and approximately 350 tons of limestone.

Smelting produces 1,500 tons of Pig Iron, 150 tons of dust and approximately 4,000 tons of blast furnace gas, which is used to heat the stoves in order to preheat the air blast supply to the blast furnace it is also used as a boiler fuel at the Power Station. Huge stockyards served by overhead cranes or reclaimers are a prominent feature.

I am concerned with the 150 tons of dust produced. I have seen workmen employed in this area for only an hour wearing helmets and protective clothing and within that period they have become completely covered with white dust.

I might be barking up the wrong tree in speaking to this question, because it is quite possible the company already has some means of handling the dust, but I point out that all the trees in the surrounding area are being covered with white dust from the alumina works, despite the fact that the company is employing all the devices it possibly can to treat the escaping smoke and particles of dust,

because it cannot afford to waste alumina in the air. I know that Mr. Ron Thompson has discussed this question with executives of the company, and I was wondering whether the Minister would be able to obtain more information about the 150 tons of dust daily that is escaping from the chimney stacks of the now Australian Iron and Steel Co.

I now wish to refer to another small matter which to me is rather important. It relates to traffic being banked up at peak periods at the intersections of Murray and Barrack Streets, Hay and Barrack Streets, William and Hay Streets, and William and Murray Streets, because of the traffic lights turning to red before vehicles can cross the intersections. Whilst I was in London I noticed that the traffic there works on a system of diagonal lines painted at each intersection, and I am suggesting that a similar system should be adopted to handle the Perth traffic at the intersections I have mentioned, and at others, if necessary.

As I have stated, at the London intersections, yellow diagonal strips about 10 inches wide are painted on the roadway. The system is followed by a driver who, say, is travelling south along Barrack Street and who wishes to turn right into Hay Street, of veering slightly to the left at the intersection so that he is nearly in line with the traffic that is about to move along Hay Street when the lights turn green, at which time he would immediately move off into his correct lane in Hay Street. This system has proved to be very effective in handling London's traffic which, of course, is extremely heavy.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: How wide are the London streets in comparison with the streets of Perth, such as Barrack Street?

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: The streets in London carry five lanes of traffic.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Barrack Street is not capable of that.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: Barrack Street carries five lanes of traffic. There is one parking lane, with two lanes going one way and two in the opposite direction. I am speaking of that time of the day when Barrack Street is a clearway; that is, when parking is not permitted at peak periods. I feel certain that before long Barrack Street will have to be declared a clearway right through the city.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: At peak periods there are no right-hand turns. A motorist cannot turn out of a two-way street into a one-way street.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: A driver is permitted to turn right out of Hay Street into William Street, and right out of Murray Street into Barrack Street. I raise this question because I consider it is vital that

something should be done before long to clear the traffic in Perth streets at peak periods. The next question I wish to raise relates to the light standards which are erected on the left-hand side of the carriageways on the Kwinana Freeway. Already 100 light standards have been knocked down, and many vehicles have been severely damaged which, in my view, is caused to a great degree, by the position of the light standards on the freeway.

I understand that of all the freeways in the world Italy has the best and was the first country to use this method. In that country the light standards on the freeways are positioned on the central median strip. The length of the arms which carry the lights is not as was explained by the Minister for Electricity in another place when answering a question in relation to the number of light standards that had to be replaced on the Kwinana Freeway as a result of their being knocked down by vehicles.

The Minister for Electricity stated that the light standards had to be on the near side of the vehicle when travelling along a carriageway—that is, on the left-hand kerb of the roadway—but, I repeat, on the roads in Italy and France, and on the "M"-ways in England and Scotland, the light standards are positioned on the median strip. I would further point out that in certain areas in Holland a motorist can travel at 80 miles an hour along the freeways, and also on some of the "M"-ways in England.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Did you travel along the road that stretches from north to south in England? If you did, I am sure you will agree that the cost of resumption in order to build that road must have been very great.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I am not worrying about the cost of each light standard; I am concerned about the fact that the Minister for Electricity has stated that light standards must be erected on either side of the carriageways along the Kwinana Freeway. I maintain that, after my experience of travelling along the freeways in Italy, it is much better to have the light standards erected in the centre of the median strip, and I am sure if this were done it would tend to prevent accidents occurring as a result of vehicles colliding with light standards. I think that most of such accidents occur through motorists veering sharply to the left.

I think a mistake was made when the light standards were erected along the fringes of the Kwinana Freeway, and if any new light standards are erected in the future they should be positioned in the central median strip. To shift the light standards that are already erected and place the electric mains underground

would cost a great deal of money. I have made a close study of the road lighting systems in other countries and I hope the suggestion I have made will be adopted. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. N. E. Baxter.

House adjourned at 9.30 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 14th August, 1968

The SPEAKER (Mr. Guthrie) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (45): ON NOTICE

EMERGENT ACCOMMODATION

Provision

1. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many emergent cases were provided with accommodation by the State Housing Commission during the months of May, June, and July this year respectively?
- (2) What is the anticipated number of emergent cases which will be provided with accommodation during the present month?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Referring to metropolitan area only—
May, 1968—36.
June, 1968—40.
July, 1968—32.
- (2) In the metropolitan area over the last financial year an average of 37 emergent cases per month was offered accommodation. An average of 32 per month accepted the offer made. It is anticipated that the experience during this month will be closely related to the experience of the past.

CARNARVON KINDERGARTEN

Resumption of Reserve

2. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is he aware that the Public Health Department has given notice to the Carnarvon Kindergarten Committee that it intends to resume Reserve No. 10921?
- (2) As Reserve No. 24807 is being used only as a storage area for electric light poles, will he change its purpose from "Recreation" to "Kindergarten Site"?

- (3) If the answer to (2) is "No," will he immediately make another kindergarten site available to the Carnarvon kindergarten as it is grossly overcrowded and has to refuse many children; if not, why not?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) No. However the Medical Department has requested the Lands Department to assist in providing another site for the Carnarvon kindergarten to enable the hospital authorities to acquire Reserve No. 10921 for future requirements.
- (2) Reserve No. 24807 has been suggested as an alternate site for the kindergarten and infant health centre and this is currently under consideration by the Shire of Carnarvon in conjunction with their town planning scheme for the area.
- (3) Will depend on the outcome of (2).

MAIN ROADS GRANT

Northern Shires: Allocations

3. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Works:

What amount was made available by way of Main Roads grants for developmental and important secondary roads for the years 1965-66 to the following shires:—

- (a) Shark Bay;
- (b) Carnarvon;
- (c) Upper Gascoyne;
- (d) Murchison;
- (e) Exmouth?

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

Details of Main Roads grants for developmental and important secondary roads for the year 1965-66 in the shires of Shark Bay, Carnarvon, Upper Gascoyne, Murchison, and Exmouth are given on the following statement:—

1965-66

Allocations for Developmental and Important Secondary Roads Shires

Shark Bay	\$
Developmental roads ..	15,000
Developmental roads (Central Road Trust Fund) ..	896
Important secondary roads	45,000
	<hr/>
	\$60,896
Carnarvon	\$
Developmental roads ..	89,300
Developmental roads	