

completely dependent upon a few gallons usually in gnamma holes. There are many soaks. In places the natives have bored down more or less in the way of a rabbit warren or burrow, to a depth of 30 or 40 ft. in their search for a few gallons of water. If we provided water on that road it would make water available for the natives in the area, and that would be a tremendous benefit to them.

Strangely enough, most people seem to be under the impression that that country is abounding in game. Actually game is extremely scarce. There are very few kangaroos. A person might see four or five in hundreds of miles, whereas the pastoral areas in the north of this State are more or less alive with them. They abound there simply because the pastoralists have provided water. So, if we provide water for the natives the provision of that water will, in turn, attract game.

Another thing is that by providing a means of contact we could at least be able to give these natives some medical attention because it is an extremely common thing there to see children of three and four years leading their aged blind parents or others about at the end of a stick. These people look after their aged ones to a greater extent possibly, than do the white communities. In these places, where the struggle for survival is so grim, children who would not be old enough to go to kindergarten in our community, lead the blind about at the end of sticks.

The Minister for Health: Are they suffering from trachoma?

Mr. GRAYDEN: Yes, most of them. Blindness is only one disability. The smallest ailment causes untold suffering and death. We saw a child lying in the red dust and it was, because of its emaciated condition, obviously going to die. It was in that condition simply because it had an abscess on a tooth. In our community, with modern drugs, and foods such as eggs and milk, an ailment of that kind would be nothing, but there it could mean death. We saw another native who had lost a foot. That was caused by a tropical ulcer or some other trouble. The stump had not healed but he attempted to keep up with the party he was travelling with by vaulting along with a pole, because crutches are unknown to these people.

On this particular occasion it was a bitterly cold day. All the other natives were passing fire sticks over their bodies to keep warm, but this particular chap was bathed in perspiration. The nights there are bitterly cold—far colder than we experience here. Members can imagine the suffering this particular native went through. He would sit all night, with the ragged end of the stump unhealed, without any protection at all. I mention these matters only to emphasise that if this highway went through the centre, it would provide a means of access to these people

and we could give them some medical attention and provide other requirements for them.

I do not want to dwell any further on this subject except to suggest to the Government that it give serious consideration to it. Only 150 miles or less—possibly 130 miles—of road is involved, and that would provide the link between the road on the western side and the good graded road which the Commonwealth has now built to Sladen Waters in the Rawlinson Range. The Commonwealth Government has built that road for one purpose, namely, to service the weather station there which is to give reports for the Maralinga atom bomb site. The Commonwealth wants reports, and for that reason, and undoubtedly at tremendous expense, it has gone out of its way to complete 500 miles of road to Sladen Waters, and this now makes a central highway for Western Australia a practical proposition.

MR. POTTER (Subiaco) [8.6]: First, I should like to join with the other members in congratulating you, Sir, on your elevation to the position of Speaker of this House. On this, the occasion of my first speech here, I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Dame Florence Cardell-Oliver, who represented Subiaco for a period of over 20 years. This, I feel, justifies the high regard in which she was held by the electors. I can only say that I hope I will be held in such high regard after representing the same constituency for a similar period.

As a newcomer to this House I should like to express my appreciation for the courtesy shown me by members of all parties. I also would like to express my appreciation of the courtesy and co-operation shown me by the staff of the House. As a new member I must say that their help has been invaluable. Last, but not least I would like to thank the electors of Subiaco for the confidence they have placed in me, and I hope I shall be able to fulfil that trust. I say without qualification that I shall serve them irrespective of political party to the best of my ability.

I wish to touch upon a few local matters to which I desire the Government to give some attention. Although representations and communications have been made on several of these matters, I feel there is no harm in mentioning them here. First there is the question of the Axon-st. bridge which is in a poor state of repair. A new and wider structure is required—possibly of steel and concrete—to replace it. Then there are the trams in Rokeby-rd. They are very noisy, and representation has been made to me for their removal.

Now I turn to the question of cleaning up the King's Park frontage to Subiaco. I suggest the widening of Thomas-st. along the park frontage to conform with King's Park-rd. Thomas-st. would then

have two driveways with lawns, and gardens in the centre. I point out that the levels have already been taken, and this would reduce the expenditure for the job.

Another subject that has been exercising my mind, as well as the minds of many of my constituents and the members of the Subiaco City Council, and the minds of the people living adjacent to the areas I am about to mention, is the development of the university endowment lands, and other areas lying between Jolimont and Daglish, and immediately to the rear of those places. In fact, there is a wedge-shaped area of country covering many acres, stretching between the railway line at Daglish to the coast, with no lateral or north-south means of access. People living, for instance, in Wembley, Floreat Park, Innaloo and Double View, who desire to travel to Nedlands, Claremont or Fremantle, must travel either by the West Coast Highway, or by Railway-rd., Subiaco. These two means of access are several miles apart. Therefore, I visualise lateral roads through the extension of such thoroughfares as Jersey-st., Jolimont, to Daglish; Peel-st., Jolimont, through to Salvado-rd., and Selby-st. Wembley, to Nicholson-rd. subway in Shenton Park. I also suggest the extension of Hay-st., Jolimont, to the beach. This would create a new beach, but, with my colleague, the member for Wembley Beaches, I believe there should be some overall beach authority responsible for their development because not only would they be a boon to the local inhabitants, but a joy to visitors and a source of revenue in connection with our tourist trade.

Returning to the extension of Hay-st., this could be another means of relieving the traffic congestion by giving people a further means of access to and from the city. Much of the land itself is good residential country, and it seems criminal that it should be tied up within three miles of Perth whilst new housing areas have to be developed in the outer districts, far removed from the workers' place of employment. I have, since my election, often been approached for accommodation in Subiaco as it is close to the place of work of many people. Of course, not all of this land lends itself to housing.

I am not suggesting that housing projects should be undertaken in swampy places and the like. In those parts we could have parks, gardens, tree parks, playing fields, recreation grounds and the like. There are other matters that I would like to touch upon, but I feel I have made a few modest claims for the Government's consideration.

The Government is to be commended for its action in fostering the Trades Promotion Council as it is representative of all shades of political opinion as well as industrial, commercial, producer and consumer interests. Despite his absence,

I congratulate the Premier on making available £15,000 for the purposes of publicity for our local products. I feel that this should appeal to our local public, particularly to the housewives; I appeal to them to start buying our local products from the stores. The Western Australian public must realise that this is the only way to make ourselves comparable to the Eastern States. Every man, woman and child in the State must realise that it is only commonsense that every pound spent on Western Australian products is giving employment to Western Australians—the husbands of the housewives, their children and people with families.

If we are to hold this country, industries must be encouraged here and it is the patriotic duty of every citizen to support such industries. An American speaking to me a short while ago commented on the indifference of some housewives to the purchase of local products. He thought it was lamentable and he said that it was the bounden duty of every housewife in America to purchase articles produced in that country. I think if we look at American development we will find that that has been largely the case.

I have no fear that my constituents will not support this drive, because they have been encouraged to think of buying locally through the local paper and through the local trades association. Thus, it is only one more step to the purchase of locally made articles. Furthermore they are intensely loyal and they are generous when it comes to worthy causes, no matter what the charity may be. This also applies to State or Commonwealth appeals and I should like to quote an extract from a letter I received from the Deputy Director of Commonwealth Loans. I quote—

The Pennants have been awarded for the district's successes in the 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th Commonwealth Security Loans, details being as follows:—

Security Loan		Quota	Amount
		Allotted	Raised
		£	£
22nd—March 1955	35,000	38,870
23rd—August 1955	26,000	63,110
24th—November-December 1955	26,000	26,700
25th—May 1956		28,000	76,340

In the 25th Commonwealth Security Loan Subiaco raised more money than any other district in this State.

I feel sure you will be interested to know that in all Commonwealth Loans since 1941 Subiaco has raised a total of £1,500,000, and during that period has been awarded a total of 24 Pennants by the Commonwealth Government for over-subscribing Loan quotas.

So I feel that the Trade Promotion Council, in its drive for support of locally produced products, will have the wholehearted support of the residents of Subiaco.

Naturally, as the representative of a constituency in which there is a rather large industrial area, I am interested in the development of trade and the industrial expansion of our State, and I listened rather attentively to the member for Narrogin when he spoke of the processing of our primary products. I agree that every encouragement should be given in that direction, and I feel sure that the Government will be most sympathetic to any practical scheme of that description. I might suggest, too, that this is largely a matter of private initiative. But I can also point to the need, and indeed necessity for the processing of many of our minerals. In fact, much of our research should go into the economics of the marketing of our raw materials, of the processed and of the manufactured article, in regard to both primary products and our mineral wealth.

During his speech, the member for Narrogin also talked of trade with our Asian neighbours. With this I agree; but I feel that we must have some reorientation of our ideas of trade, not only with regard to the marketable price obtainable in those countries as against our own internal cost of production, but we must also show our willingness to share our material blessings without ulterior motives, as a friend and co-operator—help them to help themselves. Indeed, we should be prepared to give them technical and administrative education and advice as well as trade with them in the orthodox concept. We could take some of their raw materials for the purpose of manufacturing them here into the completed articles. I believe there is some parallel in Germany's trade with Pakistan at present, where they supply not only the goods and the equipment but also the technicians. Since boyhood I have listened to this subject of trade with our Asian neighbours. There has always been a sharp divergence of opinion as to whether individuals and British companies should not set up plants in Western Australia and trade with Asia in preference to the establishment of factories in those countries, in view of the general insecurity and probable political instability.

In the light of recent events we can say that this view has some merit. I would say to the British, Dutch, Western European countries, Americans, and those who have had dealings with Africa and Asian countries, that Western Australia is the place to invest their capital and erect their factories in order to trade with those countries. I would say further that now is the time because we are prepared and we are equipped to expand. We have an adequacy of power, water, transport, roads, docking facilities and the like, and we have available to us coal and many other raw materials. So the task should be easy.

To the Australian people and to the Australian Governments I would say that it is time we had a reorientation of our thinking on matters of trade, foreign affairs and defence and looked both ways as other countries do. Let us not only say "Australia and the Pacific" and "Australia and America" but also "Australia and the Indian Ocean" and "Australia and Africa" and "Australia and Asia" and include all those countries of the British Commonwealth which bound the Indian Ocean.

I could speak for some length of time on this subject and the need for a reliable agency in many of these countries; of the need for direct shipping, and so on, for it takes less time to travel to many of these places than it takes, by sea, to go to Sydney or Melbourne. The same thing applies in regard to our marketable products. It does not matter what type of political economy we may or may not embrace; the difference will lie only in our approach. Whilst many of the matters I have mentioned may not directly concern this House, we as Western Australians are most vitally concerned and must give some thought to them. I would say to the member for Narrogin, in regard to this Asian outlook, and this African, Asian and Australian relationship, that if we do well for ourselves, we do well for everybody. If we do not give some impetus to it, we will leave a chink in the Australian armour that we may well live to rue.

Never perhaps has there been a more appropriate time to speak of such matters with the Suez Canal crisis darkening our horizon. The insecurity of tenure of our naval bases at Trincomalee and Singapore; the rise of nationalism in those countries; the overthrow of Asian feudalism and the moves to overthrow the white man's domination fostered by communists and individuals within those countries who wish to further their own ends, must give us all a good deal of food for thought.

Without speaking on the merits or demerits of the position, but rather looking objectively at the scene and saying "Where do we fit in?", I would say to our people and to our Governments, "Never has the time been more propitious to push this matter of trade with our near Asian neighbours." Also, we should push our State's claim in this regard and ask the Commonwealth Government to take a greater interest in Indian Ocean affairs.

This is one of the matters which I think should concern us when we look at the position. It is not only a matter of defence but also a matter of survival of this and future generations—the matter of trade with our Asian neighbours. We look east all the time; we visualise Canberra and we do not look towards our north and the African continent. Almost an ocean of land separates us from the east and

sometimes Canberra could well be termed the capital of the Eastern States and Perth the capital of the West.

There is another feature I would like to mention, too. Since I have been in this House members opposite have spoken about trade and the other day I listened to the Leader of the Opposition make some mention of the lack of news coverage given by our local papers to parliamentary business and the affairs of the State. I may be forgiven if I did not report him correctly. He did set me thinking of the role played by the newspapers, the radio and the news coverage generally; the part that is played with regard to inviting foreign capital and industries here. Before I condemn them, however, I should like to commend West Australian Newspapers Ltd. for making available to reporters from interstate and overseas newspapers the opportunity of seeing and reporting on the North-West of our State.

I condemn the tendency on the part of many of our newspapers to deprecate the Australian workers. I feel this must militate against investment of capital in Australia. After all it is from the worker that the investor expects to obtain his return. From my own knowledge, I have in the past had references made as far apart as Yokohama, Capetown and London to Australian disputes and the general misconception that the Australian cannot work. I sprang to his defence on those occasions as I will spring to his defence in this House.

So many of our industrial troubles are reported and given an importance far beyond their actual significance. We are proud to feel that the Australians are foremost among the sportsmen of the world; they are fighters of some renown, and as workers I would say they are second to none; they excel. When we sit here and reflect upon the vast and rapid developments of our State from east to west from north to south, upon the miles of country cleared for agricultural purposes, and the thousands of miles of fencing, pipelines, railways, roads and the like; the factories, mines, housing projects and so on and the invisible things, the goods produced and the markets supplied, and when we make a comparison with the working forces of other countries, we may well justly swell with pride at the achievements of our workers.

When we see our shearers with sure and certain movements shearing the struggling sheep to reach such formidable tallies, and our miners in the hot ends of drives, winzes and rises, or in dangerous stopes covered with water, dirt, grease and sweat, taking out their fathoms a day to reach such a colossal tonnage per man; or when we see our waterside workers working six to a gang when in other English-speaking countries they work eight to a gang and

about 20 to a gang in Asian countries; when we consider our men on the roads, on buildings, clearing and fencing the country, tilling the soil, harvesting the crops and working in the extremes of climate in cutting winds and tempestuous weather, or in the heat when tools are hard to handle and the water boils in the water-bags; when we think of the rhythm of our axemen in the timber forests, of our timber men in the wet bush and draughty mills; when we consider our fitters, turners, moulders, furnacemen, boilermakers in cold and draughty galvanised structures in winter which are intolerably hot in summer; yes, when we have seen these things and considered them, we are proud to know such men.

They work hard. Is it any wonder then, that they play hard and fight hard, if need be? When one considers his working conditions and the amount produced per man together with the very little industrial unrest compared with that elsewhere, I believe members will agree that the Australian worker is comparable with any other worker in the world. This false propaganda, this trend towards sensationalism by certain newspapers has militated against the investment of foreign capital here and also against the creation of new industries in Australia. Remember also that all our economy is based on the home, and whatsoever the worker in this country or any other country in the world with which we have dealings takes home in his pay envelope helps in the development and expansion of our industries.

There is another point relating to newspaper propaganda and that is the malicious linking of the Australian Labour Party's socialist platform to that of communism. Whilst it may be all right for internal consumption, and it certainly does not disturb the Australian voter, from an overseas point of view it does have a militating effect on the investment of capital here. As you could well imagine, Mr. Speaker, if you were overseas and had capital to invest and you read these scare headlines from time to time magnified in the papers, you would certainly not be desirous of investing any capital here. Accordingly it has a boomerang effect upon the people who utter it. The perpetrators of such canards are either knaves or fools, because members know as well as I do that there is no parallel between communism and the Labour Party's objective.

The philosophies are different. We believe in more individual freedom; not the freedom to exploit. The methods are different. We believe in constitutionalism; we believe in democracy—that is, the counting of heads, and not the cracking of them as is the practice under a dictatorship. So, whilst rival political parties may have their little game for political purposes, it would be as well if these were used purely for internal consumption and not world consumption.

The other point on which I would like to touch is our economic instability, which should act as a deterrent to the would-be investor. This brings me to a final point and I feel a most vital one. I refer to the manoeuvring of the present Commonwealth Government. Twice in the last four years it has brought about an economic crisis. That Government seems to have no ability at all to manage the economic affairs of our country. This would certainly terrify investors from overseas who are not wholly aware of our political set-up and the system of checks and counterchecks which lie in the hands of the State Governments.

Last night the Premier brought the matter up. He referred to South Australia where they have managed their economy controlling not only wages but prices, rents and the like. There I suggest they have perhaps as much foreign investment as anywhere, and that is principally because they have the ability in that State to control the economy. The Government of this State is unfortunate in that it has no control of the other Chamber of this Parliament.

I have endeavoured to point out three matters of propaganda by which news coverage can adversely affect the investment of foreign capital in Australia. The first is the depreciation of the Australian worker; the sensationalism given to industrial disputes appears to have been a little modified in recent years. The second point, too, I feel is becoming no longer a matter of much value. The third remains one for the Australian people.

There are a number of other subjects I would like to mention but I am afraid I will have to be brief. I listened attentively to the experts on our economic ills, especially from the other side of the House. I do not wish to enter into a debate while speaking to the Address-in-reply, but I would suggest that the Premier would be very remiss in his duty to the State if he did not ask for more money from the Commonwealth Government; and even then more; and if he could get that, more again. I would further suggest that, in the interests of Australia, he would be failing in his duty because I believe that money advanced for public works is in the main an item of defence; as if it went to the defence vote. The same would apply in an advance for industrial expansion, because in modern warfare unless countries are equipped industrially, they are not ready for war.

I have listened to the age-old argument on economics. It seems to me that we need to bring our economic thinking into line with this jet-propelled and supersonic age. After all, economics is a day-to-day affair subject to stresses and strain and to change and variations. We have

heard much play and much mention of the subject of inflation and I have asked myself, "Have we got inflation here?" I am only speaking, of course, from the point of view of the State. Of recent years I have not been in the other capitals, but I feel that we need some flexibility in our economic outlook as between the States.

After all, the capitals of the other States are as far away from Perth as London is from Moscow, and I sometimes believe that they are as far apart in their thinking. But inflation, as I understand it, is not high prices, although they may be a symptom. It is an increase in the amount of money people have to spend without a corresponding increase in the commodities they can buy. Looking around, I cannot see that we are in that position. Other people may have a different opinion, but I see an abundance of things to buy, with insufficient money with which to buy them; and I consider that that is deflation.

Candidly, I cannot agree with the contention that we are combating inflation. I consider that the present crisis has been caused by the dwindling of our overseas credit, and the variation in our import and export balances; and I would suggest that had a Labour Government been on the Treasury bench in the Commonwealth Parliament, these crises would not have occurred twice in four years, especially with Labour's commonsense view of a managed economy both internally and externally.

One could almost visualise this crisis a few years ago when people barnstormed the countryside with the cry, "Put value back into the pound!" Is there anything more bereft of economic thinking than that, when one considers that money has been losing its value ever since the Battle of Waterloo? Look at the rise that has occurred in old-age pensions since the Act was first brought into force! The money paid for a shirt in 1900 would hardly buy the buttonholes today! Prior to World War I, houses cost from £200 to £400 to build. Prior to World War II, they cost from £800 to £1,000. Today, the cost is between £2,000 and £3,000, and even more. What rot it is to say, "Put value back into the pound!" What else can one expect except a crisis when there are such diatribes?

Similarly, we look in the paper and see sensational headlines about wages and salaries. There is the cry, "Peg wages and all will be well." That, too, is stupid. In this modern age of ours, members on the other side, and the interests they purport to represent, would be bankrupt and out of business in no time if we started to do that sort of thing.

I suggest we should try to manage our economy. I know that controls are distasteful, but at least they are the means

of stabilising our economy. After all, the housewife has to resort to controls when she starts managing housekeeping, so I do not know why we cannot do the same on a larger scale. When I use the word "controls," I do not mean something rigid and inflexible. Rather let us manage our economic affairs in keeping with the times in which we live. Let us look not only at wages and salaries, but also at prices and rents, interest, capital issues, credit and the like.

There is another matter—and that is the role of the banks. If we look into the past, we find that banking procedure has largely altered. Nevertheless, in the time of Britain's industrial expansion and in the time of America's expansion, we find that the banks played a very vital role in the economies of those countries. I made a lot of play on the matter of the investment of foreign capital, and I know that that has certain advantages in that it supplies us with equipment and technical know-how. At the same time, I suggest that perhaps one of the best means of giving impetus to progress within our own country is to promote through our banks advances to start and move on our own industries with a view to achieving some of the ends I have suggested. We must have these economic props if the banks are to do their job—and after all, they can only be called economic props.

It was suggested by the member for Nedlands that the Minister for Housing had rushed his job, and had spent the money available to him in seven months instead of using 12 months to carry out the erection of houses. For my part, I congratulate the Minister on having done so, and I only wish that he had had more money with which to make houses available. Whereas a few years ago people with families were seeking homes, today young married couples are desirous of starting housekeeping and need accommodation. The Minister is to be congratulated on having taken so many people out of back rooms and away from places that were not conducive to the raising of families, and I regret that he was not able to shorten the time from seven months to three-and-a-half months and thereby alleviate some of the strain and the emotional upsets that took place amongst certain families.

I congratulate the Government on its intention to bring before this House many vital Bills, and I feel that during this session a worthwhile contribution to the affairs of the State will be made. I thank members for the attentive hearing they have given me on the occasion of my first speech in this House.

On motion by Mr. O'Brien, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 8.55 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 16th August, 1956.

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