

of speculation are reasonably tightly tied. In this way, the Parliament will not be accused of allowing people to speculate in land acquired for industrial purposes.

The fact that the Minister may exempt a person from the provision at a later stage is desirable. In these changing days an industry which is necessary when it is established may have been set up on a small acreage but, at a later date, it may be found that it is no longer required because of some other system which has been evolved with different techniques. Surely the person concerned must be able to sell the land and receive some equity for the site. This will be done only after a close examination to establish that the industry was intended to be set up in all good faith but that it was no longer required economically because of the effluxion of time. Under these circumstances the persons concerned who had acquired the land should receive from the Minister an exemption from the requirement that they are not able to sell it outside of the purpose for which it was acquired.

I see no other problems associated with the amendment. As I have said, it tidies up the legislation and, when it is incorporated in the reprinted Act, it will clearly indicate to any persons who examine the Statute exactly where they stand. In this way there will be no excuse for anyone to say that he was not aware of the extent of this provision or the intention of the Parliament when it passed the measure. I support the proposed amendment, because it clarifies the situation.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Bill again reported, with an amendment.

House adjourned at 9.30 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 26th March, 1970

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

AFTERNOON TEA SUSPENSION

THE SPEAKER: I would like to make a short announcement concerning afternoon tea today. I understand it is the Premier's desire to adjourn the House somewhere around 4 p.m. If that eventuality is likely we will not rise for afternoon tea at 3.45 p.m., and we will sit for another 15 minutes. In any event I will watch the proceedings and let members know later on whether we will rise at 3.45 p.m.

QUESTIONS (46): ON NOTICE

1. COCKBURN SOUND

Causeway: Point Peron-Garden Island

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) What criteria are being used to determine the causeway design which is to cross the south passage between Cockburn Sound and the Indian Ocean?
- (2) Who will make the final decisions on the plans, the State or Commonwealth Government?
- (3) In regard to environmental factors (currents, winds, beaches, etc.) what consideration will be given to these aspects when designing and building the causeway from Point Peron to Garden Island?
- (4) How far have the State and Commonwealth Governments progressed towards establishing the causeway?
- (5) If there are estimated times for commencement and completion of the causeway what are they?
- (6) What is the estimated cost of constructing the causeway?
- (7) Will it be necessary for the Government to acquire any freehold or leasehold land on Point Peron reserve prior to completion of causeway towards providing access to this project?
- (8) Could an indication be given as to the future of Garden Island?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) To meet the requirements of the Department of the Navy and to conform in basic design to Fremantle Port Authority development plans.
- (2) The Commonwealth Government on the basis of criteria as set out in (1).
- (3) Design will be based on existing research into all environmental factors.
- (4) Research is currently progressing.
- (5) Not known.
- (6) Not known.
- (7) Depends on final agreed alignment.
- (8) The island is the property of the Commonwealth.

2.

EDUCATION

Eden Park Primary School

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

Relating to Eden Park Primary School, Westfield, Kelmscott—

- (1) When are the permanent buildings expected to commence and be ready for occupancy by students?

- (2) What buildings are to be included in initial contract?
- (3) Will he identify the site for the permanent school by providing a map marked appropriately?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) To commence first week in May, 1970, and to be occupied by the end of September, 1970.
- (2) Cluster of six classrooms and separate administration block.
- (3) Yes. The plan is attached.

The plan was tabled.

3. EDUCATION

Special Grant of \$2,000,000: Use

Mr. GRAHAM, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How much of the \$2,000,000 obtained from State Housing Commission funds will be used to construct classrooms?
- (2) Of the balance, how much is likely to be spent on—
 - (a) land purchase;
 - (b) ground development;
 - (c) other?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) An amount of \$1,228,000 is being spent on school facilities. These are mainly classrooms but in some instances include administration, toilets, and stores. The cost of classrooms and other facilities are not shown separately in the contracts.
- (2) (a) \$680,000.
(b) Nil.
(c) \$92,000.

4. FIRE BRIGADES

Gosnells Area

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Chief Secretary:

In connection with the Cannington fire brigade services—

- (1) Is he aware that considerable time elapses from time of alarm to arrival of fire control vehicles at fires in the Gosnells area?
- (2) Is he further aware that approximately 45 minutes elapsed between the fire station being notified and the subsequent arrival of the fire engine at Gosnells?
- (3) Will he give immediate consideration to the establishment of a fire station in the Gosnells area?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No.
- (3) Emerging development along the narrow Gosnells-Maddington corridor will require an extra fire station in the future, and the W.A. Fire Brigades Board is currently investigating development trends as part of an overall review of all requirements south of the Swan River in order to check on site locations and establishing priorities.

5.

POTATOES

Sale in Mt. Barker

Mr. MITCHELL, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Under what Act or regulation was a trader in Mt. Barker convicted for selling potatoes which he had purchased in the metropolitan area?
- (2) In view of the fact that he had secured his potatoes from the same source for 15 years, was not the action somewhat belated?
- (3) If in fact there is a law to prevent potatoes being sent to Mt. Barker should not the railways exercise some restraint in carrying cargo to a restricted area?
- (4) As this restriction was apparently unknown to the packer, trader and the general public, could some effort be made to call the attention of all to this offence?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) The Plant Diseases Act potato regulations.
- (2) Action is possible only when evidence of an offence is indicated.
- (3) Yes, and this co-operation has been a long-standing arrangement with the Railways Department.
- (4) The requirements are widely known to potato traders who are in daily contact with inspectors. This requirement will be again brought to their notice.

6.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Power Line: Helena Valley

Mr. DUNN, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Is it the intention of the S.E.C. to install a new power line through the Helena Valley which will require further clearing of virgin country?

- (2) If "Yes" could he advise—
 (a) the route to be followed;
 (b) the width of clearing required;
 (c) if all alternatives have been examined?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) The State Electricity Commission is considering routes for important transmission lines encircling the metropolitan area which could include the Helena Valley. Some clearing would be required.
 (2) (a) The route is being planned in consultation with local authorities and the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority.
 (b) Where clearing is required, the width would be 3 to 5 chains. Complete clearing will not be necessary.
 (c) As in (a) alternatives are being examined.

7.

LAND

Mundaring Shire

Mr. DUNN, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Has the land which comprised the old railway line which serviced the Boys, Darlington, Glen Forest and Mundaring areas been vested in the Mundaring Shire?
 (2) If "No" could he advise if it is the intention that this be done?
 (3) If "Yes" when is this likely to happen?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) No.
 (2) and (3) The future of the land within the former Bellevue-Mt. Helena railway is under current consideration, which includes a study of the views and requirements of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, the Main Roads Department and the local authorities concerned. Endeavours are being made to reach early finality.

8.

HOUSING

Wandana Flats

Mr. GRAHAM, to the Minister for Housing:

What was the net profit (or loss) for each financial year at Wandana, after taking into account all of the factors chargeable under the terms of the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement Act?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

Year	Profit \$
1956-1957	18,556
1957-1958	21,904
1958-1959	17,016
1959-1960	16,998
1960-1961	14,932
1961-1962	15,876
1962-1963	14,824
1963-1964	16,964
1964-1965	13,530
1965-1966	682
1966-1967	15,353
1967-1968	21,415
1968-1969	20,487

As answered on the 24th March, 1970 to the honourable member for Canning, the Wandana project is but part of the commission's State-wide rental housing, the accounting for which is on a bulk basis. Therefore, the figures quoted have been estimated from the known rentals received after deducting known and estimated (on experience) outgoings.

9.

WATER SUPPLIES

Cranbrook

Mr. MITCHELL, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is he aware that the town water supply at Cranbrook has proved inadequate for present needs?
 (2) If "Yes" can he advise what steps will be taken to improve the supply by next summer?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
 (2) Investigations for an additional storage and catchment have been successfully completed and the design of a 12,000,000 gallon excavated tank and bitumen catchment is proceeding.

Construction of these works will depend on the availability of loan funds and have been listed for consideration on the draft 1970-71 loan programme.

10.

ABATTOIRS

Narrogin

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Are steps being taken to establish an abattoirs at Narrogin?
 (2) If "Yes" what person, firm or company is attempting to do this and what assistance is his department giving to this end?

Mr. COURT replied:

(1) Negotiations are being actively pursued but no decision has been made.

(2) Great Southern Abattoirs Ltd., a Narrogin company.

My department has co-operated with the company and the member for the district in locating and negotiating with parties interested in joining the company in the establishment of an abattoir.

11. CRIME

Personal Injury: Compensation

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Premier:

(1) Is it the Government's intention to introduce legislation to compensate persons for personal injuries suffered in consequence of a crime committed against them?

(2) If "Yes" when?

(3) If "No" why?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) In the next session of Parliament.

(3) Answered by (1).

12. AIR POLLUTION

Exhaust Fumes

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Premier:

(1) Further to his answer of the 17th March, 1970, on pollution, will he describe the apparatus or equipment currently being used to measure carbon monoxide?

(2) When will the more sophisticated continuous recording apparatus be in use here and what will it cost?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

(1) Drager.

(2) Depends on delivery from the U.S.A. \$4,000.

13. STAMP ACT

Unlawful Payments: Claims

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Treasurer:

(1) Have any claims been received for repayment of money paid under the unlawful provisions of the Stamp Act?

(2) If "Yes" how many and under what sections and for what total sum?

(3) Does the Stamp Office keep a record of the amounts of the various categories of duty paid under the Stamp Act?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Four claims have been received. No sections of the Stamp Act are referred to in these claims. The total claimed is \$2,835.69.

(3) Yes under the headings listed in the Consolidated Revenue Fund Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure.

14.

EDUCATION

Swimming Staff: Salaries

Mr. TONKIN, to the Minister for Education:

(1) How many pay periods have elapsed without certain teachers on the swimming staff of the Education Department being paid salary due?

(2) What period is covered by these pay days?

(3) Is the reason for the non-payment of the teachers in any way related to difficulties of liquidity in the Treasury?

(4) If "No" what is the reason?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) One.

(2) Three weeks.

(3) No.

(4) Absence of staff through illness.

15. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Aluminium Works: Point Peron Area

Mr. TONKIN, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

(1) Has an offer on behalf of the Government at any time been made to an aluminium company to let it have the Point Peron area for the establishment of works?

(2) If "Yes" what is the name of the company and what reason did it give for not accepting the offer?

Mr. COURT replied:

(1) Neither myself nor officers of my department know anything of such a proposition. In any case it is completely opposed to the reasons why we restricted Western Aluminium N.L. production at Kwinana. I would be interested to know the origin of what appears to be false information given to the Leader of the Opposition.

(2) Answered by (1).

16.

NURSES

Salaries

Mr. FLETCHER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

(1) Does the male and female nurse with equal qualifications receive the same remuneration?

- (2) If not does the disparity relate to the difference between the male and female basic wage?
- (3) Would a triple certificated female nurse employed where only a general certificate is necessary receive more or less than a male with only a general certificate; if so, to what extent?
- (4) If equal pay does not apply in respect of above will he give favourable consideration to—
 - (a) implementing same in Government hospitals subject to an application by the nursing profession;
 - (b) the payment of additional margins to those in possession of qualifications in excess of the basic general certificate as an incentive to advanced study?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Special allowances for additional certificates are not paid unless the nurse specifically is required to use those additional certificates in the course of her employment.
- (4) (a) The subject matter to which the honourable member refers is concerned with the principles laid down in Part 10 of the Industrial Arbitration Act dealing with equal pay for male and female works, which clearly states that "This Part does not apply to or in respect of those provisions of any award or industrial agreement that apply to persons engaged in work essentially or usually performed by female workers but upon which male workers may also be employed".
- (b) As previously pointed out, special allowances are already paid for nurses holding additional certificates and diplomas from a recognised college of nursing or university, when the nurses are required to use these in the course of their duties.

17. VETERINARY SCHOOL

Establishment in Western Australia

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Premier:

In his address at the opening of the Commonwealth Parliament the Governor-General spoke of a fourth veterinary school to be built in Australia.

- (1) Does he know if this will be built in Western Australia?
- (2) What is the Government doing about having a veterinary school set up in Western Australia?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The Government has made representations to the Commonwealth for the establishment of the fourth school of veterinary science in Western Australia and has undertaken to contribute to the finance required for this purpose. A strong case has been presented for location of the school in this State and I understand it is being given serious consideration.

18. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Exports to Asian Countries

Mr. RUNCIMAN, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) What milk or milk products were exported from Western Australia to South East Asian countries in 1969, 1968, and 1967?
- (2) What were the quantities sold and what were the names of the companies involved?
- (3) What foodstuffs besides milk products are exported from Western Australia?
- (4) What amounts of—
 - (a) vegetables;
 - (b) fruit;
 - (c) meat, lamb, mutton, beef,
 are exported to Asian and south Asian countries?
- (5) What are the prospects of increasing sales to these countries?
- (6) Does the Government take part in any promotion schemes for the sale of foodstuffs to Asian countries?
- (7) Has the potential of Indonesia been considered; if so, what is being done about it?
- (8) What was the number of dairy cattle exported to these countries in 1967, 1968, 1969?
- (9) What was the average price paid for sheep exported to Kuwait in 1967, 1968, 1969?
- (10) What was the approximate freight costs from Fremantle to Kuwait?
- (11) Is it known what average price agents received for these sheep in Kuwait?
- (12) What are the prospects of extending our market in this and adjacent countries?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) The following table indicates milk and milk products exported to Asian countries for the years 1967-68 and 1968-69.

Product	1967-68
Milk and Cream, including buttermilk, skimmed milk and whey	166,050 lb.
Cheese	3,653 lb.
Butter	17,532 lb.

Product	1968-69
Milk and Cream, including buttermilk, skimmed milk and whey	66,533 lb.
Cheese	11,550 lb.
Butter	10,935 lb.

- (2) For quantities sold see table referred to in (1).

The principal companies exporting milk and milk products from Western Australia are Sunnywest Co-op. Dairies Ltd., Masters Dairy Ltd., Peters Creameries (W.A.) Pty. Ltd., Capel Dairy Company through Watsons Foods Pty. Ltd., and Brownes Dairy Pty. Ltd.

- (3) Beef and veal.
Lamb and mutton.
Pig meat.
Poultry.
Meat preparations.
Prawns.
Rock lobster.
Fish preparations.
Wheat.
Barley.
Oats.
Cereal preparations including biscuits.
Meal and flour of wheat.
Fruit and vegetables.
Honey.
Confectionery.

- (4) It is requested the answer to this question be deferred until the next sitting of Parliament.

- (5) Western Australian food product suppliers are well established in Asia and in many cases are in the forefront of the Australian export drive.

Prospects for increasing sales to a number of Asian countries including Indonesia and Japan are improving.

- (6) For many years the Government through the Department of Industrial Development has assisted exporters of foodstuffs to participate in promotions in Asia.

Such assistance has been offered through trade exhibitions including Western Australian exhibits aboard two trade ships to Asia.

The department assists Western Australian manufacturers in a practical way by providing the services of export consultants to introduce products to the market. It has also assisted particular industries such as the apple industry with promotions in Singapore.

- (7) The potential in Indonesia has been investigated. A leading Western Australian company is looking at the potential for breeding of dairy and beef cattle in Indonesia. The company has already received an order for pigs.

There are prospects for milk products and other companies are examining the possibility of direct exports and joint ventures. The Government has sponsored four group trade visits to Indonesia over the last three years.

A further group will depart Perth on the 2nd April for Indonesia. The 17-man group is the largest sponsored by the Government to visit Indonesia.

- (8) to (12) It is requested the answer to these questions be deferred until the next sitting of Parliament.

19. *This question was postponed.*

20. TRAFFIC Patrol Cars

Mr. MAY, to the Minister for Police:

In connection with metropolitan traffic patrol cars, will he advise—

- (1) What is the complement of these patrol cars from 10.00 p.m. onwards each evening?
- (2) Has any consideration been given to the strengthening of personnel in these cars during the evening and early morning?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Monday to Thursday, 1.
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 2.
- (2) Yes.

21. LAND

State Housing Commission: Forrestdale

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Housing:

What is the extent and location of land held by the State Housing Commission within two miles of the Forrestdale Post Office?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

The commission holds 672 acres of land within two miles of the Forrestdale Post Office.

24. RESEARCH STATION

Rocky Pool

Mr. NORTON, to the Minister for Agriculture:

What progress, if any, has been made on the development of the research station at Rocky Pool near Carnarvon?

Mr. NALDER replied:

The Rocky Pool experimental area attached to the Gascoyne Research Station has been fenced and a water supply has been installed. Quarters and a machinery shed have been erected and some of the appropriate machinery has been supplied. An area has been set aside for planting and it can be anticipated that the first crops will be planted this year.

25. SALARIES AND WAGES TAX

Legislation

Mr. TONKIN, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Is he aware that Sir Henry Bolte is reported to have introduced in the Victorian Parliament legislation to repeal Victoria's salaries and wages tax?
- (2) Did the Prime Minister at the February 26th Premiers' Conference insist on the abandonment of the wages and salaries tax in Western Australia as Sir Henry Bolte has alleged he did in connection with Victoria's tax?
- (3) Has the Prime Minister stated that the Commonwealth will, after June this year, deduct any amount collected from receipt duty on wages and salaries from whatever tax reimbursement grant it would otherwise give this State?
- (4) Is it his intention to introduce legislation to repeal this State's salaries and wages tax?

Sir DAVID BRAND replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I do not recall him doing so at the conference held on the 26th February.
- (3) At an earlier conference the Prime Minister stated that he wanted the States to refrain from imposing receipts duty on wages and salaries and if these imposts were still in existence when the present financial arrangements were reviewed in 1970, that will be a decisive factor in determining the Commonwealth's attitude on the allocation to a State imposing that form of taxation.

22. ICECREAM

Manufacturing Licenses

Mr. H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Which Government instrumentality issues licenses to permit the manufacture of icecream?
- (2) Are there any minimum standards of quality to which icecream must conform, as applies to whole milk?
- (3) If so, what are the requirements of standard as set down and which authority is responsible for ensuring adherence to this standard?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) The Department of Agriculture under the Dairy Industry Act.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) (a) Standards are set down in the food and drug regulations under the Health Act, part N. section N.01.
- (b) Local authorities acting under the supervision of the Public Health Department are responsible for ensuring adherence to these standards.

23. WHOLE MILK

Licenses

Mr. H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What number of licenses to produce whole milk are currently held by dairymen in this State?
- (2) What was the total gallonage of licenses issued to dairymen in 1969?
- (3) What was the total amount of milk delivered by these dairymen to treatment plants in that year?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) and (2)

	At March 1, 1969	At March 1, 1970
Number of dairymen supplying treatment plants	538	541
Number of licenses held by above dairymen	646	689
Total gallonage of quotas held by above dairymen	59,960	63,930
Number of dairymen selling retail (no quotas)	17	9

- (3) Milk delivered by licensed dairymen to treatment plants for the year ended the 30th June, 1969:—

Gallons

- (a) for sale as milk or cream on the liquid milk market 21,799,000
- (b) for manufacturing 9,588,000
- Total 31,387,000

- (4) This will depend on the outcome of the current review of Commonwealth-State financial relations.

26 and 27. *These questions were postponed.*

28. EDUCATION

Japanese Language

Mr. H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) In recent years have lessons in the Japanese language been available to students at the Governor Stirling Senior High School outside school hours?
- (2) Has a request been made to the Education Department for a group of 14 fourth year students at Governor Stirling Senior High School to have lessons in the Japanese language after normal school hours?
- (3) Is this group of 14 students attending Governor Stirling Senior High School for the first time, having been drawn from contributory high and junior high schools?
- (4) Have these students had a previous opportunity to learn the Japanese language?
- (5) Has the Education Department insisted that if these students are offered this subject that they must have three of the five weekly lessons as part of the normal school timetable and the other two lessons after school?
- (6) Does the Education Department realise the difficulties in rearranging the school timetable to comply with such a direction?
- (7) Why does the Education Department not sanction a course of study of the Japanese language for these students outside of the normal school hours?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Four of the students are from Governor Stirling Senior High School—others come from contributing high schools and junior high schools.
- (4) The four students from Governor Stirling Senior High School—yes. The others—no.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) The experimental classes held out of school hours in various schools have not led to students continu-

ing the study of Japanese. Because of this, the department has attempted to organise the classes during school hours. In the case of the Governor Stirling class, it could not be entirely fitted into school hours.

29. INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE BOARD LOANS

Security

Mr. McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Agriculture:

If a farmer owns more than one property is security priority required over all properties for the purpose of Industries Assistance Board loans?

Mr. NALDER replied:

Section 15 (1) of the Industries Assistance Act, 1915-1958, provides that a first charge in favour of the Industries Assistance Board in priority to all other encumbrances is required over all lands held or occupied by the borrower for agricultural, farming or grazing purposes.

30 and 31. *These questions were postponed.*

32. TRANSPORT

Trolley Buses: Sale

Mr. BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many of the trolley buses offered for sale by the M.T.T. have been sold to date?
- (2) How much has been received from the sale of these buses?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) All have been sold (50).
- (2) \$15,600.

33. USED CAR TRADING

Extended Hours

Mr. DAVIES, to the Minister for Labour:

As a report in *The West Australian* newspaper of Tuesday, the 25th February last, inferred that the Western Australian Automobile Chamber of Commerce (Inc.) had been pressing for longer hours for used car trading, can he advise whether any such representations have been made to him by the chamber and, if so, the form and content of representation?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

The report referred to appeared in *The West Australian* on Wednesday the 25th February, 1970.

The comment that "The W.A. Automotive Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Automotive Industries has been pressing the Government for longer trading hours" is in fact the complete opposite of the true position.

In October, 1969, the Used Vehicle Division of the W.A. Automobile Chamber of Commerce petitioned the Government to—

- (i) oppose any extension of trading hours for used cars, and
- (ii) strengthen the enforcement provisions of the Act and increase penalties for breaches.

As I understand it, 149 petition forms were circulated, 128 dealers supported the above proposals, 8 failed to reply, and 13 declined to sign. Thus over 85 per cent. of dealers indicated support.

I have been advised that a letter dated the 25th February, 1970, to the Editor of *The West Australian*, signed by both the President of the W.A. Automobile Chamber of Commerce and the President of the Chamber of Automotive Industries, was denied publication.

This letter reads as follows—

Your report regarding hours of trading for used vehicles published today asserts in the final paragraph that our respective organisations have "been pressing the Government for longer trading hours".

This is totally incorrect and we would ask you to publish this letter to remove any misunderstanding or misapprehension that has been caused by the report.

34. *This question was postponed.*

35. NATIVES

Employment of Mr. Geoff Merritt

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) Has he read the reference in the *Daily News* of the 25th March regarding Geoff Merritt being retired from the railway workshops at Midland?
- (2) Has his department made any effort to have Geoff Merritt retained in employment on the railways or the finding of alternative employment for this part-native youth in some other government department?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. Arrangements are being made for assessment by the Special Counselling Service of the Commonwealth Employment Bureau with a view to placing Mr. Merritt in suitable employment.

36. HOUSING

Single Unit Flats: Eastern Suburbs

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Are any single unit flats being built in the eastern suburbs at present?
- (2) What number of single unit flats have been built in the past five years?
- (3) What number of applicants are waiting for single unit flats in the eastern suburbs?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes, 8 units at Lockridge.
- (2) 8 units at Midland.
- (3) Commission applicants are classified in two regions, and for the region including Midland, 901 applications are held. However, only two applications are for the Midland area.

37. RAILWAYS

Weekend Timetable

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is it still the intention of the Railways Department to curtail Saturday and Sunday trains in the metropolitan area?
- (2) If "Yes" when will the change be made?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) This was under consideration. There is no present intention to curtail services.
- (2) Answered by (1).

38. EDUCATION

Kewdale Junior Primary School

Mr. JAMIESON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the location and size of the school site for the proposed Kewdale Junior Primary School?
- (2) When and from whom was this site acquired by the school sites committee?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Swan Location 8238, Reserve 28799, bounded by Acton Avenue, Gabriel and Keane Streets. Area, 7 acres, 2 roods, 29.7 perches.

- (2) The site was acquired from the Crown and made a reserve for educational purposes on the 3rd December, 1967.

39. HEALTH EDUCATION COUNCIL

"Human Relationships" Course

Mr. JONES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

Referring to his answer to question No. 23 on Tuesday the 24th March, will he recheck to ascertain if the Collie Police and Citizens' Youth Club have not endeavoured for the past three years to obtain a course in "Human Relationships" but were advised that it was not available due to staff shortages?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

I understand that a request from the Collie club for a course on "Human Relationships" was received by the Health Education Council about two years ago, but that the council was not able to meet this request owing to other commitments. The request was repeated in December last and I am informed that this was deferred because of staff problems. This request was one of those mentioned in answer to question 23 on Tuesday the 24th March.

A request from the council for an increase in staff is at present under sympathetic consideration.

40. RAILWAYS

Coloured Revolving Lights: Diesel Locomotives

Mr. McIVER, to the Minister for Railways:

Would he give consideration to equip a diesel locomotive with a coloured revolving light similar to that on ambulances and police cars for a trial period in an endeavour to eliminate level crossing collisions?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

Yes.

41. *This question was postponed.*

42. INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION ACT

Penal Sections

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Labour:

- (1) On how many occasions during each year 1954 to 1963 inclusive were the penal provisions of the

Industrial Arbitration Act successfully used by—

- (a) industrial unions against employers;
 - (b) employers against industrial unions;
 - (c) industrial unions against workers;
 - (d) employers against workers?
- (2) What was the amount in both fines and costs each year in each case for (a), (b), (c), (d)?
- (3) In each case of (1) what were the main categories of offences under which the penalty provisions were applied?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

The information required for the years 1954-1963 inclusive, is not readily available. It would involve many hours of work and research to obtain the statistics as every judgment of the court involving prosecution would have to be examined to ascertain whether convictions were made and the penalty invoked.

No statistics were kept in those years, but since the establishment of the W.A. Industrial Commission, statistics have been compiled and presented in the annual report and accordingly, question 43 has been answered from this source.

43. INDUSTRIAL ARBITRATION ACT

Penal Sections

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Minister for Labour:

- (1) On how many occasions during each year 1964 to 1970 inclusive were the penal provisions of the Industrial Arbitration Act successfully used by—
- (a) industrial unions against employers;
 - (b) employers against industrial unions;
 - (c) industrial unions against workers;
 - (d) employers against workers?
- (2) What was the amount in both fines and costs each year in each case for (a), (b), (c), (d)?
- (3) In each of (1) what were the main categories of offences under which the penalty provisions were applied?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

(1) to (3)

Successful Proceedings by Parties for Application of Penal Provisions of the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912-1968

			1st February, 1964, to 30th June, 1964			Year Ending 30th June, 1965			Year Ending 30th June, 1966		
			No.	Amount \$	Off's	No.	Amount \$	Off's	No.	Amount \$	Off's
A. Before Industrial Magistrates—											
(a) Industrial Unions against employers			45	....	(i)	118	....	(i)	129	....	(i)
Fines	....	....	....	778.00	(ii)	....	2662.20	(ii)	....	1552.10	(ii)
Costs	....	....	....	160.72	(iii)	....	279.05	(iii)	....	576.05	(iii)
					(iv)			(iv)			(iv)
					(v)			(v)			
(b) Employers against industrial unions :											
Nil	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
(c) Industrial Unions against workers			26	....	(i)	49	....	(i)	69	....	(i)
Fines	....	....	....	152.00	(ii)	....	411.00	(ii)	....	438.00	(ii)
Costs	....	....	....	20.00	....	....	104.10	....	....	105.36	....
(d) Employers against workers			....	....	....	1	....	(i)	....	....	....
Fines	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Costs	....	....	....	....	....	....	2.69	....	....	....	....
B. Before W.A. Industrial Appeal Court—											
(a) Industrial Unions against employers			....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Fines	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Costs	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
(b) Employers against industrial unions			....	....	....	1	....	(i)	....	....	....
Fines	....	....	....	....	....	....	200.00	....	....	....	....
Costs	....	....	....	....	....	....	115.00	....	....	....	....
(c) and (d) Nil			....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

Successful Proceedings by Parties for Application of Penal Provisions of the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912-1968—continued

			Year Ending 30th June, 1967			Year Ending 30th June, 1968			Year Ending 30th June, 1969		
			No.	Amount \$	Off's	No.	Amount \$	Off's	No.	Amount \$	Off's
A. Before Industrial Magistrates—											
(a) Industrial Unions against employers			44	....	(i)	50	....	(i)	51	....	(i)
Fines	....	....	....	418.60	(ii)	....	550.00	(ii)	....	525.00	(ii)
Costs	....	....	....	211.63	(iv)	....	203.90	(iv)	....	126.00	(iii)
					(iii)			(vi)			
(b) Employers against industrial unions :											
Nil	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
(c) Industrial Unions against workers			23	....	(i)	60	....	(i)	31	....	(i)
Fines	....	....	....	350.00	(ii)	....	563.00	(ii)	....	220.00	(ii)
Costs	....	....	....	39.00	....	....	65.00	....	....	71.06	....
(d) Employers against workers			4	....	(i)	3	....	(i)	7	....	(ii)
Fines	....	....	....	22.00	....	....	63.00	(iv)	....	420.00	(iii)
Costs	....	....	....	....	....	....	6.60	....	....	12.00	....
B. Before W.A. Industrial Appeal Court—											
(a) Industrial Unions against employers			....	....	....	1	Con- viction recorded— No fine. Respondent to pay	(i)	....	....	....
Fines	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Costs	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
(b) Employers against industrial unions			2	....	(i)	....	....	1	....	....	(i)
Fines	....	....	....	500.00	....	....	....	....	....	750.00	....
Costs	....	....	....	160.00	....	....	....	....	....	Respondent to pay	....
(c) and (d) Nil			....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

(Footnote References Next Page).

Off's—Offences.

(Arranged above in descending importance, according to number of convictions.)

- A. (a) (i) failing to pay correct wages, overtime, etc.
 (ii) failing to maintain, or produce for inspection, a time and wages record.
 (iii) failing to employ apprentices or minors under correct conditions.
 (iv) permitting employees on premises outside specified hours.
 (v) failing to provide suitable tool lock-ups.
 (vi) general (in particular failing to provide sanitary arrangements at sites and employing non-unionists when unionists available).

- A. (c) (i) failing to apply for membership of complainant union.
 (ii) failing to maintain financial membership of complainant union.

- A. (d) (i) failing to attend or fulfil technical education requirements.
 (ii) taking part in a strike.
 (iii) disobeying order of Commission in Court Session.
 (iv) Other.

B. (a) and (b) (i) failing to comply with the order of the Commission.

44.

WHEAT

Quotas

Mr. GRAHAM, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has the Wheat Quotas Committee made any recommendations regarding the granting of wheat quotas to owners of freehold land with little or no previous wheat delivery history?
- (2) If so, will he state the nature of such recommendations and the date made?
- (3) Has he accepted or rejected the recommendations, and if the latter the reasons for so doing?
- (4) Has the independent committee of inquiry completed its investigations into wheat quotas?
- (5) If so, when did he receive their report?
- (6) If not when is the report expected?
- (7) When is it anticipated any decisions be announced?
- (8) As farmers with some years of delivery of wheat have been permitted to select the best five of the last seven years in order to establish their quota, has any consideration been given particularly to those who have a record of five years or less, to enable them to delete at least one year of production when determining quotas?
- (9) If not, why not?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) In early February, the Wheat Quotas Committee recommended to the independent committee of enquiry that quotas for established farmers be calculated as follows—

The base quota = 50 per cent. of the delivery history estab-

lished on the best 5 years out of the seven years 1962-68, plus 50 per cent. of the rotation entitlement calculated as the area allowed under the specified rotation for the area x 14 bushels per acre: provided that the new base quota did not exceed the highest delivery of the past seven years. The specified rotation varied generally with rainfall, increasing as rainfall decreased.

The Wheat Quotas Committee also recommended that growers who have been farming for many years on the land they now own and do not have a full five years' delivery history be allocated a quota calculated in the normal manner less a percentage *pro rata* to the number of seasons they had previously delivered wheat. If no deliveries have been made, the properties would not qualify for a quota allotment.

- (3) The independent committee considered these proposals along with a number of others, but did not recommend their adoption.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) to (7) March 16th. An announcement will be made shortly.
- (8) and (9) This has been considered.

45.

RAILWAYS

Level Crossing: Kewdale

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Were a number of people killed at a railway level crossing at Kewdale one night in or about January, 1970?
- (2) If "Yes" how many?
- (3) How long has the said crossing been there?

- (4) At the moment of the tragedy what warning signs and devices were operating at the said crossing?
- (5) What warning signs and devices are now operating at the said crossing?
- (6) Were additional warning signs and devices placed at the said crossing within 24 hours of the tragedy; if "Yes" will he describe them?
- (7) Who is responsible for the placing of safety warning and devices at railway level crossings?
- (8) Why were adequate warnings and signs and devices not installed at the said crossing before the said tragedy?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes on the 5th January, 1970.
- (2) Five.
- (3) Since August, 1968.
- (4) Standards Association of Australia Railway Level Crossing Signs—type RLC-B—each side of the crossing.

This sign comprises a standard with white cross arms and red triangle reflectorised with the words "Railway Crossing" and the number of "Tracks" in black letters.

- (5) Flashlight warning signals—type RLC-F.
- (6) Yes. The red triangle on the standards was replaced with a "STOP" sign.

Preliminary Warning Signs—type RLC-C—comprising a standard surmounted by a red triangle with black legend and symbol on yellow background—and "STOP SIGN AHEAD" warning—type W22—were erected on approach roads. (National Association of State Road Authority signs were also installed subsequently.)

- (7) The Railway Department is responsible for erection of signs recommended by the Railway Crossing Protection Committee.
- (8) Warning signs had been erected and the crossing scheduled for protection by flash light warning signals.

46. METROPOLITAN HIGH SCHOOLS

Teacher-Student Ratios

Mr. JAMIESON, to the Minister for Education:

What are the respective enrolments, numbers of teachers and ratio of the latter to the former in each of the metropolitan high schools at the present time?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

	Enrolments				Staffing			Ratio A-B	
	Upper School	Lower School	B Total	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time Equiv- alent	A Total		
Senior Highs—									
Applecross	425	1,035	1,460	77	5	3	80	18.3	
Armadales	218	1,153	1,371	72	4	2	74	18.5	
Balcatta	85	1,020	1,105	47	6	3	50	22.1	
Belmont	198	1,225	1,423	70	13	9	79	18.0	
Bentley	246	1,091	1,337	69	12	8	77	17.4	
Cannington	144	1,124	1,268	61	5	3	64	19.8	
Churchlands	260	1,114	1,374	69	7	4	73	18.8	
City Beach	126	584	710	41	4	2	43	16.5	
Cyril Jackson	122	766	988	54	7	4	58	17.0	
Governor Stirling	364	1,071	1,435	78	4	2	80	17.9	
Hamilton	87	1,059	1,146	60	5	3	63	18.2	
Hampton	229	972	1,201	57	6	4	61	19.7	
Hollywood	244	626	870	47	7	3	50	17.4	
John Curtin	304	1,087	1,391	78	4	2	80	17.4	
John Forrest	217	1,252	1,469	82	4	2	84	17.5	
Kent Street	327	984	1,311	72	7	4	76	17.3	
Kwinana	89	1,128	1,217	54	4	3	57	21.4	
Melville	197	1,103	1,300	64	7	4	68	19.1	
Mirrabooka	142	932	1,074	58	2	...	58	18.5	
Mount Lawley	370	1,157	1,527	76	9	3	79	19.3	
Perth Modern	212	1,139	1,351	65	9	6	71	19.0	
Scarborough	220	1,173	1,393	70	12	7	77	18.1	
Swanbourne	185	643	828	53	3	2	55	15.1	
Tuart Hill	237	1,065	1,302	69	9	5	74	17.6	

Balcatta, Cannington and Kwinana, being new Senior High Schools in 1970, have not yet their full complement of senior staff.

	Enrolments			Staffing			Ratio A-B
	Upper School	Lower School	B Total	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time Equiv- alent	
High Schools—							
Balga		256	256	15	....	....	17.1
Como		490	490	27	....	....	18.1
Eastern Hills		418	418	23	....	....	16.1
Kalamunda		734	734	37	9	6	17.1
Kewdale	34	967	1,001	54	5	2	17.9
Morley		239	239	11	2	1	19.9
Rossmoyne		800	800	40	4	2	19.0
South Fremantle		988	988	49	4	2	19.4

QUESTIONS (2): WITHOUT NOTICE

2.

EDUCATION

1. HEALTH

Eating Houses: Inspections

Mr. GRAHAM, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

The question relates to the restaurant from which some food-stuff containing the body of a mouse recently was purchased, and to the subsequent prosecution. Will he discuss with the Minister whom he represents the matter of further inquiries being made as to whether in fact the inspections stated in reply to questions yesterday to have been undertaken did take place? If I may elaborate in a few words, to me, and I think to other members, it is obvious that the extent of the filth and the infestation of mice and cock-roaches was such that the premises could not have been inspected and the appropriate action taken, if there is substance in the statement made yesterday that from the beginning of the year inspections were carried out every week. It is obvious to me that this was an accumulation over a long period, and my concern is that there is gross inefficiency somewhere and that this is a menace to the health of the public if this is allowed to continue. I would ask that the Minister, himself an ex-Minister for Health, should confer with the present incumbent with a view to his department undertaking an inquiry into these alleged inspections of certain restaurants within the City of Perth.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

I shall obtain from *Hansard* a copy of the honourable member's question-statement and ask the Minister for Health for his view on it and whether he will institute an inquiry into the matters that have been raised.

Swimming Staff: Salaries

Mr. TONKIN, to the Minister for Education:

My question relates to question 14 on today's notice paper, the first part of which is—

How many pay periods have elapsed without certain teachers on the swimming staff of the Education Department being paid salary due?

The Minister replied to that. I want to preface my question by telling the Minister that some considerable time ago a newspaper reporter asked the Director-General of Education about the non-payment of teachers in respect of several pay periods which had then elapsed and it was explained that possibly an additional pay period, or perhaps two pay periods, would elapse before payment could be made.

My question to the Minister is: In view of the contradiction which is apparent from his answer this afternoon, will he check his information regarding the number of pay periods which have actually elapsed without payment being made and inform the House at the next sitting?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

In reply to the question without notice, the answer is: Yes.

BILLS (3): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Taxation (Staff Arrangements) Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Sir David Brand (Premier), and read a first time.

2. Acts Amendment (Commissioner of State Taxation) Bill.

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

3. Bank Holidays Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Craig (Chief Secretary), and read a first time.

BUILDING SOCIETIES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. O'Neil (Minister for Housing), and transmitted to the Council.

KEWDALE LANDS DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Further Report

Further report of Committee adopted.

STATUTE LAW REVISION BILL

Second Reading

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) [2.50 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

In presenting this Bill to members, it is desired to mention initially that the Bill does not have the effect of making any alteration to the substance of existing law. It would, I think, be beneficial to members if they would refer to the explanatory memorandum distributed for information, wherein it will be noted that this is the ninth Bill in a programme of bringing the Statutes of Western Australia into form for their inclusion in the minimum number of volumes that will make them readily available for reference and use. The memorandum accompanying the Bill sets out, with some particularity, the intentions as to Statute law revision and the presentation of our Statutes in workable form.

I am advised that, prior to the preparation of this Bill, officers of the Statute law revision section of the Crown Law Department embarked on a prolonged programme of research into our Statutes in an endeavour to establish firmly a complete list of those that are still in force. This was effected by making an index comprising every repeal effectuated since the establishment of Western Australia as a colony and applying this index in an examination of every Act and Ordinance since enacted. As a consequence, there now exists an index which is capable of being reproduced and which will be more authentic than any of its predecessors and this index will show every Statute of any kind that is still law.

It may interest members to know that, during the course of this work, a number of enactments were found that few would have known existed and others of dubious existence noted. Many of these are dealt with in this Bill.

More particularly, the Bill disposes of many Supply, Appropriation, and Loan Acts, the provisions of which are of no further consequence. These are contained in parts I and II of the first schedule. Part III lists five Railway Acts, which now serve no useful purpose. Part IV contains several Acts, some of which have previously been partially repealed and all of which are now found to have been spent. Part V contains several enactments which are superseded and are no longer within the legislative competence of the State.

Part VI contains many enactments, eight of which apparently never received Royal Assent. These are the ones to which I have previously referred and, strictly speaking, they never operated at all as Acts. The purpose of including these measures in the Bill is to render their ineffectiveness certain. Part VII comprises the general part containing a group of enactments which are no longer effective and which, accordingly, should be repealed.

The second schedule confers short titles on enactments that do not at present have short titles. This action is being taken even though some or other of these Acts may later be repealed. This is in order to put them into the index form. The third schedule amends eight Acts, of which the short title begins with the word "The"; the removal of which is being done to facilitate their reprinting and indexing.

In commending to members an examination of the memorandum which has been placed in their hands, I would mention that that document explains in full the reasons for the many deletions from our Statute book proposed now to be effected by the passage of this measure. Members may recall that the Bill was introduced towards the close of the first part of the session, thus enabling close study of its contents by anybody interested to do so.

I am advised that the work of the Statute Law Revision Committee is proceeding very well; it being a difficult and arduous task in the hands of a limited number of people.

The Minister for Justice is pleased with the progress being made, feeling that we are getting close to the point of reproducing our Statutes in better form.

The Minister in charge of this Bill moved in another place to eliminate 10 of the 16 Acts proposed to be repealed in part IV of the first schedule. This action was considered desirable because there had been a change of thinking regarding the repeal of those 10 Acts.

It appears that certain provisions of the Interpretation Act, 1918, that were thought initially by the draftsman to take care of the position if the full number of

repeals as originally proposed were effected, were later found not apt for this purpose. It was thought safer therefore to leave the 10 Acts on foot until they could be more properly dealt with by an alternative method of Statute law revision.

It is pleasing to note the willingness of our professional legal officers to come forward in amendment of their own work. This approach exemplifies the meticulous care exercised by the revision section of the Crown Law Department to ensure the authenticity of our Statutes.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. T. D. Evans.

PERTH MINT BILL

Second Reading

MR. BOVELL (Vasse—Minister for Lands) [2.58 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The proposal to establish the Perth Mint arises from the United Kingdom authorities' expressed desire to sever their association with the Perth branch of the Royal Mint and their subsequent agreement that its control and management should be transferred to this State.

Originally there were three such establishments in Australia—one in Sydney, another in Melbourne and the third, of course, being our local branch here in Perth. The Sydney branch ceased operations on the 31st December, 1926. In the case of the Melbourne branch, although a large percentage of the staff from that establishment transferred to the Australian Mint at Canberra, it was not until late 1968 that it ceased operations.

The local branch was established by Royal Proclamation issued on the 13th October, 1897, under the provisions of the Coinage Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. Its main functions were to refine gold produced in the State and to mint sovereigns.

This latter function ceased in 1931, and until 1940 the activities of the local Branch Mint were restricted to the refining of gold. Since 1940, copper coins have been minted in Perth at the request of the Commonwealth Government.

With the opening of the Australian Mint in Canberra the coining operations for the Commonwealth have been almost entirely transferred to that establishment. However, the local Branch Mint, in addition to refining, continues on a contract basis to mint coin and coin blanks mainly for some foreign countries. It is expected that these operations will continue in the future.

I referred earlier to the fact that the local Mint was a branch of the Royal Mint in London. As such, all employees are

Imperial employees and are employed under Imperial conditions, which differ in some respects from normal State conditions. For example, although the staff are not entitled to long service leave they do enjoy more liberal annual leave conditions up to a maximum of six weeks in the case of the more senior staff.

In addition those of the staff who are "established" staff—that is, they possess an Imperial Civil Service Certificate which is issued by Her Majesty's Civil Service Commissioners in the United Kingdom—are entitled, on retirement, to retirement benefits which include a non-contributory personal pension and a lump sum additional allowance. Both benefits are based on service and salary and are at present calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Superannuation Act, 1965, of the Parliament of the United Kingdom.

By agreement in 1960 between the Treasurer of this State and the Deputy Master and Comptroller of the Royal Mint, London, it was decided that, after the amount of the basic pension had been determined, the pensions payable to retired "established" staff of the Perth branch of the Royal Mint would be brought into line, as far as the cost of living increases were concerned, with similar non-contributory pensions payable under the Superannuation Act, 1871, of this State.

Unlike the "established" staff, those members of the staff who do not possess the Imperial Civil Service Certificate and are referred to as "unestablished" staff are not entitled on retirement to any non-contributory pension and lump sum additional allowance. Their entitlement is limited to a gratuity.

Under the 1960 agreement to which I previously referred, it was also decided that for the purpose of calculating the amount of the gratuity payable in each instance, the "unestablished" staff of the Perth Branch Mint were to be regarded as having similar status to persons temporarily employed under the Public Service Act. Although these latter employees are not paid gratuities on retirement, they are entitled to long service leave, or if this is not taken during the course of their employment they receive payment in lieu thereof, which therefore becomes a form of gratuity.

The attachment between the Royal Mint and the Perth branch of that institution is purely formal. The costs of establishing, maintaining, and operating the local Branch Mint and the retirement benefits payable to retired staff have all been met by this State. The State also receives the full benefit from the revenue produced by the operations of the Perth Branch Mint.

Before the establishment can cease to operate as a branch of the Royal Mint it will be necessary for a Royal Proclamation to be issued. The United Kingdom authorities have already agreed on the form of the proposed proclamation. At the same time it will be necessary to repeal the Western Australian Statutes under which funds have been made available annually to meet day-to-day establishment costs of the Perth Branch Mint.

The Bill provides for the creation of an instrumentality to be known as the Perth Mint under which name it is proposed the present functions and operations of the Perth Branch Mint shall be continued as a State instrumentality. At the same time, the Bill repeals the Statutes to which I referred a moment ago.

It also provides for the Governor to appoint a director who shall be on such salary as the Governor shall from time to time determine on the recommendation of the Public Service Commissioner. He will be a body corporate capable of suing and being sued, of acquiring, holding, or disposing of real and personal property and, subject to the Minister, will be responsible for the administration of the proposed Act.

There is also provision in the Bill for the Governor to appoint a deputy of the director to act during the absence, illness, or suspension of the director. The Bill also provides for the property of the proposed Perth Mint—that is, the property of the present Branch Mint and any future assets which might be acquired—to be vested in the director in his corporate name.

Provision has been made in the Bill for the appointment of permanent and temporary officers of the Mint and for the engagement of wages employees. In the case of the officers, the recommendations relating to the appointments and the respective salaries will be made by the Public Service Commissioner. The appointment of permanent officers will be made by the Governor and temporary appointments will be made by the Minister.

It is intended that the Minister shall, subject to any award or agreement in force, and on the recommendation of the Public Service Commissioner, determine the terms and conditions of employment of both the permanent and the temporary officers.

An officer from the Public Service Commissioner's Office has already had preliminary discussions with the Deputy Master and the representatives of the salaried officers at the Mint concerning those matters. Subject to any law, award, or agreement in force that applies to the employment, the terms and conditions of employment of wages employees shall be such as are from time to time determined by the director.

(100)

With regard to this matter I have been advised that a representative of the Department of Labour has already had discussions with the present Deputy Master and representatives of the wages employees concerning the matters to be covered by the proposed agreement covering the terms and conditions of service of the wages staff.

In January, 1964, when the matter of the transfer of the Perth branch of the Royal Mint to the State was considered, a circular was issued to all employees at that establishment. The circular set out broadly the terms and conditions under which staff would be transferred to the State.

For the benefit of members, the following extracts from that circular are pertinent:—

... Should the State take over the full control and management of the Mint, conditions following the date of takeover would be no less favourable than those at present obtaining. . . .

Officers will be granted conditions similar to those applicable to permanent officers appointed under the Public Service. . . .

Wages staff will be employed under conditions applying to staff in Government Departments and Instrumentalities.

... The rate of remuneration of a Royal Mint employee transferred to a State Refinery will be no less favourable than that to which he would have been entitled in respect of the position which he normally occupied in the Royal Mint immediately prior to transfer.

... Subject to there being no break in service employment with the Royal Mint deemed to have been continuous, will be regarded as service with the State.

... Any recreation leave which has accrued at the date of transfer will be preserved subject to clearance within a reasonable period.

... Any sick leave credits will be carried forward.

Earlier in this second reading speech I mentioned that the present staff of the Branch Mint are employed under Imperial conditions and I made special reference to their leave entitlements and retirement benefits.

To honour the undertaking given that conditions following the date of takeover would be no less favourable than those at present obtaining, it has been agreed, and the Bill provides, that with respect to leave entitlements and pension benefits of "established" staff, those employees who are established officers or established workmen immediately prior to the date of any

transfer to State control will be given the option, to be exercised within a stipulated period from the date of transfer, of—

- (a) transferring to the State service—
under the same conditions with respect to leave entitlements and pension benefits as they enjoyed prior to the date of transfer under relevant legislation of the United Kingdom; or under State conditions of service in their entirety with actuarial adjustment of pension benefits on transfer to the State Superannuation Fund; or
- (b) retiring on such pension and "additional allowance" as they are entitled to by the length of their service with the Perth branch of the Royal Mint.

In those instances where "established" staff elect to transfer to State conditions of service they will be required to join the State Superannuation Fund. It will therefore be necessary to recognise and preserve their present Imperial retirement benefits to the date of transfer of control of the Branch Mint to the State. For that purpose it is proposed to arrange for their value to be actuarially assessed and the equivalent units of State superannuation retirement benefits determined. The fully paid cost of those units will be met by the State.

"Unestablished" staff, members will recall, at present receive on retirement a gratuity equivalent to accrued long service leave as if they were temporary employees under the Public Service Act. In the case of these members of the Branch Mint staff, it is proposed to calculate the gratuity to which they would be entitled at the date of transfer. They will then be given the option of—

- (a) Being paid the amount forthwith.
- (b) Accepting deferred payment at the time of retirement from State service.
- (c) Using the amount to purchase paid-up units of superannuation; or
- (d) Applying the amount towards establishing long service leave credits.

Royal Mint employees who are unestablished at the time of takeover and who are to be regarded as employed on a permanent basis may become contributors to the State Superannuation Scheme in the normal way.

By making these options available to the staff of the Branch Mint, the Bill honours the promise that staff will be permitted to transfer their entitlements as to leave and superannuation to the State service and continue their service under State

Public Service conditions or that, alternatively, they may transfer to the State service retaining the Imperial conditions to which they are currently entitled.

Clearly, they must choose one course or the other, because a combination of State and Imperial conditions would create considerable administrative problems. However, the choice is a free one and either way they will not be disadvantaged by the transfer. I think that is a fair proposition.

The Bill also provides that State conditions shall apply in the case of future employees and that, with the exception of those "established" employees who express the wish to remain on the present Imperial conditions and retain higher annual leave entitlements, all staff will enjoy the benefit of long service leave.

The funds available to the director to enable him to exercise his powers and functions under the Bill will comprise moneys appropriated by Parliament, moneys borrowed by the director, and moneys received by the director from the operations of the instrumentality.

Those moneys shall be paid into an account to be called "The Perth Mint Account" which will be located at the Treasury or at a bank approved by the Treasurer. Likewise all expenses of the director shall be charged against that account.

There will also be a second account which will be the continuation of the one which is at present maintained at the Reserve Bank for the purpose of recording bullion transactions with and through that bank.

It is also proposed that the director shall be required to maintain a complete set of financial accounts and, at the 30th June of each year, arrange for the preparation of a balance sheet and revenue account, which statements are to be submitted for audit by the Auditor-General, who will be required to furnish a report on the result of his examination of those accounts.

A copy of the financial statements bearing the Auditor-General's certificate, together with his separate report, will be forwarded to the Minister who shall lay them before each House of Parliament.

The Bill also proposes that the director will be given the power to borrow funds, but in any proposals under this heading the prior approval of the Treasurer, and in certain instances the Governor, will be necessary. He will also have the power to temporarily invest funds not immediately required in such securities as the Treasurer may direct and any interest from the investment shall be the property of the director.

In the case of fees and charges payable for services rendered or materials supplied by the director, it is expected that the determination of those fees and

charges and any alteration to them will normally be preceded, in each instance, by a proposition submitted by the director to the Under-Treasurer setting out the director's requirements. The Bill proposes that the fees and charges payable shall be such as are recommended by the Under-Treasurer and approved by the Minister. It is also proposed that the Governor shall have the power to make regulations for the carrying out or giving effect to the proposed Act.

Before I conclude, perhaps I should explain why I am introducing this Bill. The Premier, as Treasurer of the State, has decided that this legislation, when passed, shall be administered by the Minister for Mines, whose department over a long period of time has had a close association with the Royal Mint. As members know, I represent the Minister for Mines in this Chamber and I am therefore introducing this legislation on his behalf.

The operations of the Mint were previously under the jurisdiction of the Treasurer, but, as I have explained, it is now proposed that its operations shall come under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Mines, and I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Davies.

EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL, 1970

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 17th March.

MR. DAVIES (Victoria Park) [3.17 p.m.]: The meat of this Bill is contained in two clauses comprising, in total, three lines, and I do not think there is likely to be much argument on the Bill or its effect.

When introducing the measure the Minister said, in regard to the first part which seeks to repeal section 7A of the principal Act, which repeal will allow natural born or naturalised subjects of Her Majesty to be appointed to the permanent teaching staff in Western Australia, that he was unaware of the purpose of that section, but he did know there was a somewhat similar provision in the Public Service Act. If he is unable to tell us why this section was inserted in the Act, no-one can, because it was incorporated in the legislation by Act No. 30 of 1952, at which time there was a Liberal-Country Party coalition Government in office.

At that time the Bill was introduced by The Hon. A. F. Watts as Minister for Education, and, in speaking to the provision in question, he made the following

comment which appears on page 906 of Vol. 1 of the 1952 *Parliamentary Debates*:—

The next provision relates to the conditions under which aliens may be employed in the department. It is provided that a person shall not be appointed to the permanent teaching staff of the department unless he is a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty. It is also provided that a person who is not a natural-born or naturalised subject may be appointed temporarily to the teaching staff. Objectively, of course, it is hoped that such persons will become naturalised and, if satisfactory, will be able to be appointed to the permanent staff. In the meantime their services will be made use of under the temporary provisions under which some employees or teachers are from time to time engaged.

Mr. Lewis: What was that put in?

MR. DAVIES: In 1952, as a result of the Bill introduced by The Hon. A. F. Watts, who was then Minister for Education. That Bill became Act No. 30 of 1952, and the quotation I have made appears on page 906 of Vol. 1 of the 1952 *Parliamentary Debates*.

Although the Minister pointed to the effect of the clause in his Bill, he did not put forward any reason for it. It can be imagined, perhaps, that at that time the immigration programme, which had been set in train by a Commonwealth Labor Minister for Immigration, was starting to attract large numbers of migrants to this State; and also at that time, there was probably no need for any increases to be made to the teaching staff. Therefore, I can only assume that the insertion of section 7A in the principal Act was designed to be a protective provision, because I believe that in 1952 the staff shortage was not as bad as it is now.

However, as I point out, no reason for it is given. The Minister at that time told us that action was being taken but he did not give any reason for it.

The debate was adjourned and later resumed by The Hon. J. T. Tonkin, the present Leader of the Opposition. He made only a short speech and said he had been in touch with the Teachers Union which had no objection to any of the provisions in that Bill, including section 7A which was being added.

The other principal speaker of the day seemed to be the present Minister for Works (Mr. Ross Hutchinson). He dealt with this particular clause and said, at page 1278 of the 1952 *Hansard*—

There is another interesting part in the Bill which states that a person shall not be employed permanently by the department unless that person is

a natural-born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty, but such person may be appointed temporarily with a view to obtaining a position on the permanent staff when naturalisation takes place. I do not think that needs a great deal of comment. The idea is highly logical and I heartily approve the sentiments behind it.

So perhaps on this occasion if we had had the present Minister for Works as the Minister for Education a repealing Bill would not have been introduced at the present time. I feel sure we will all agree, however, that circumstances alter cases and circumstances have certainly changed dramatically since 1952.

We know from the Minister's second reading speech that there is to be a continuing and active attempt to overcome the severe shortage of teachers within Western Australia; indeed, he gave the figures and the result of the visit of the Director-General of Education when he went overseas last year. Some encouraging figures were given as a result of his visit; figures relating to the appointment of teachers to Western Australia all of whom, of course, were British born or naturalised British subjects.

The part I liked about it particularly was the saving it would mean to the State in the training of teachers each year. I daresay this would be a contribution to the welfare of Australia by the Wilson Government in Great Britain.

It was encouraging to see, however, that the figures showed a saving to the State of about \$200,000, which is a considerable sum of money.

Mr. Lewis: It cuts both ways.

Mr. DAVIES: The Minister is one jump ahead of me. It does cut both ways and we do lose a few teachers to England. However, our prime concern, and the prime concern of any legislation, is to see what good it will do to the State. The legislation on this occasion is to encourage the permanent appointment of qualified teachers.

We must ensure that the best qualified teachers are available for instruction in our schools. I view with a little alarm some of the temporary appointments that have been made, particularly in the high schools throughout Western Australia.

It seems to me that the shortage of teachers is so acute that almost anyone who has had a university education can obtain a position to teach. I have had some alarming instances quoted to me of people who are travelling on holidays— itinerant people—receiving appointments for three, four, or five weeks, or perhaps longer. They are appointed to high schools on supply to fill in and they also act as permanent teachers; or at least as permanent as a temporary teacher can be.

I do not think this is good; indeed I am a little alarmed by it. I believe that continuity of contact between a teacher and a student is important. Where teachers are changed fairly often it must be very difficult for continuity to be maintained and, accordingly, the student must suffer.

So if the repeal of this legislation will enable quicker permanent appointments to be made, and provided the people concerned are properly qualified, I will heartily endorse the measure. I have already expressed some concern in regard to properly qualified teachers, and I think that some concern has also been expressed in the higher echelon of the Education Department and of the Teachers Union as to the type of people coming here and holding themselves out to be qualified teachers.

I think the suggestion of the Teachers Union, that teachers be properly registered, has a great deal of merit and I would heartily support such a move. After all, the people concerned are getting a minimum of three years' training, which is certainly a high level. They come out properly certificated and they continue to train and obtain higher degrees.

If these people are in a professional classification and can be considered to be professional people, surely they are entitled to the same protection that is given to lawyers, dentists, and others. They would receive that protection by being registered.

I know there would be many wrinkles that would need ironing out in the establishment of a suitable registration system, but it is not impossible. This is done in many countries overseas. I believe Scotland is the latest country to adopt this principle. Such a move would certainly provide protection for the teaching profession.

I know that as time goes on some teachers will, perhaps, not develop as well as others. Some will obtain higher qualifications than others merely because they study for those qualifications. But this is so in all fields of endeavour. For instance, a lawyer may be well experienced in court procedure but in the opinion of a particular individual he might not be worth very much. This principle can be applied equally to teachers.

With the legislation, however, I think control can be effected; a control which would benefit not only the teachers as a profession but also the Education Department itself. I know the Education Department is short of teachers. We know that action is being taken on this occasion to try to remedy the position but I am not going to let slip the opportunity to say that there seems to be some top heavy administration in the Education Department. I really do not know just how short the supply of teachers is, because late last year I had a lady come to me and say

that she was a double-certificated nurse who had taught infant classes in South Australia for 15 years. She had gone through a crash course in that State to obtain her teachers' training. She was considered to be quite competent. Her husband had come to Western Australia because of the employment prospects here and, naturally, as his wife she had come along with him.

She sought a job in the Education Department here. As I have said, she was a double-certificated nurse with 15 years' practical teaching experience in South Australia. She had been in charge of country schools and had taught classes both in the country and in the metropolitan area.

The Education Department, however, said that there was no place for her in this State; it was not short of teachers. She approached the union which said it had no objection to her being absorbed on supply or on perhaps a permanent basis later. When she went back to the Education Department, however, the department still insisted that there was no place for her in the teaching profession here.

I took the matter up with the Minister for Education on two occasions and he merely said that she did not come up to the standard required. After having considered the education standard of some of the teachers who are teaching our children in high schools, and after comparing it with the qualifications possessed by the person to whom I have referred, I certainly do not think the Education Department really considered her case very seriously. I wonder whether the shortage is as bad as it is made out to be; or whether the administration is a little top heavy.

Mr. Lewis: I prefer the first of the two alternatives.

Mr. DAVIES: Having given the Minister a selection I suppose he is entitled to make a choice. I cannot say very much more about this point, but I do think it is time serious consideration was given to teachers being registered. If they are it will make for greater harmony in the profession, and as a result of that it will also make the teachers feel more satisfied. It will certainly do a great amount of good for the Education Department.

The last clause in the Bill seeks to delete paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of section 37AE. This provision deals with the right of appeal to the tribunal in regard to the assessment figures. I must congratulate the department on doing away with assessment, because it has been a bone of contention in the profession for a considerable time. I believe that this is a step in the right direction.

In introducing the second reading of the Bill the Minister pointed out that some kind of assessment was required, but not in the form as we have known it; that is, by setting a mark. As this form of assessment is no longer applied, the provision in section 37AE becomes redundant, and naturally we support its deletion.

There is provision for appeals against the new type of "assessment" to be made as the occasion demands. This right of appeal remains in the Act, and gives the teachers continued protection in that respect. I am pleased to see that it remains, because I believe it is essential. In my view this is the only way to give disgruntled teachers an opportunity to talk the matter out and to see what can be done. The machinery for doing this reposes in the Teachers' Tribunal; it is to remain there; and for that I am pleased. On that understanding and also in the hope that the department will give some consideration to registering teachers, I support the Bill.

MR. H. D. EVANS (Warren) [3.33 p.m.]: In his introductory remarks, the Minister said that this was a very short Bill which contained only two amendments. Although he was correct in his statement, it would be fair to say that the implications which are contained in his comments are very substantial. The first amendment in the Bill simply seeks to repeal section 7A of the Education Act. This section has excluded non-British subjects—that is, those who are not natural born or naturalised British subjects—from holding permanent positions in the department.

The member for Victoria Park has pointed out that the origins of this provision are rather dim, and that no satisfactory explanation seems to be obtainable. However, from my discussions with representatives of several organisations I found that neither the Civil Service Association nor the Teachers Union seemed to be vitally concerned one way or the other with this provision in the Act. It would appear that neither of these two organisations has discussed this matter on an official level, nor have they sought a direction from their members at any time. I find no difficulty at all in supporting the move to delete the provision from the Act.

In his introductory remarks the Minister also stated that the overseas drive for the recruitment of teachers which is currently under way had brought about certain desirable results. He said that 21 teachers had come from the United Kingdom into the Education Department of Western Australia during the latter part of 1969. We on this side of the House are happy to learn about the result of this drive, and we will help to amend the

provisions of any Act in order to alleviate the present shortage of teachers. The Minister also went on to say—

Every effort is being made by the department to use our local resources. He cited four instances to give physical and rather tangible evidence of this. He referred to the new teachers' training college which is being built, the new primary teachers' training college to be built at Mt. Lawley, the fact that further training colleges will be built in 1973 and 1975, and that facilities and equipment in existing teachers' training colleges have been upgraded.

In addition to this physical evidence, the Minister quoted figures relating to the intake of students. He said that 45 per cent. of all students studying in tertiary institutions in Western Australia are following some preparation for teaching, and that 34 per cent. of all students who pass the Leaving examination are recruited into some aspect of the teaching service.

This brings me to two observations which I would like to make in respect of the comment made by the Minister. The first is that the full resource of teacher potential is not being used. We just do not have the numbers to fill our own requirements. We do not have a sufficient number of students completing secondary education; and we need more of these students. There are insufficient numbers of students reaching the required academic level to fulfil a desirable recruitment programme.

Perhaps I could indicate this by way of figures. The retention rates of secondary school students who remain at school in Australia as a whole and in each of the States tell their own story. In the 15-year-old section of the population we find that, taken as a percentage, 75 per cent. of this population group remain at school in Australia. The percentages for the individual States are New South Wales 72 per cent., Victoria 81 per cent., Queensland 68 per cent., South Australia 82 per cent., Tasmania 79 per cent., and Western Australia 71 per cent.

If we extend the figures to the 16-year-old and 17-year-old groups we find that the contrast is even more noticeable. The retention rates for the 16-year-old group are Australia 44 per cent. The rates for the individual States are: New South Wales 42 per cent., Victoria 55 per cent., Queensland 35 per cent., South Australia 52 per cent., Tasmania 36 per cent., and Western Australia 32 per cent. This shows that Western Australia is on the lowest level.

The same trend is indicated in the 17-year-old group. The retention rates are Australia 23 per cent., and for the States: New South Wales 25 per cent., Victoria 27 per cent., Queensland 18 per cent., South Australia 21 per cent., Tasmania

15 per cent., and Western Australia 17 per cent. In this group the percentage for Western Australia is the second lowest.

This is a rather sorry state of affairs, I think it would be fair to say that the national picture taken in its broad perspective is still unsatisfactory. In the 15 to 19-year age group, which is a vital age group when considered in terms of further education, the figures show that in Australia 33 per cent. of the population in this group continues to the completion of higher education.

In the United States the percentage is 68, while in Russia it is 52, Canada 48, and the Netherlands 45. So Australia lags well behind in terms of percentage of population that completes an advanced education.

That same trend is indicated if it is taken as a percentage of each 100,000 of the population. On that basis, in the same 15 to 19-year-old age group, the figure would be in Japan, 2,014; the United States, 1,450; Britain, 893; Italy, 625; and Australia, 481.

So it would appear from these figures that our full local resource is not being developed and this is the reason I indicate my disagreement with the Minister's remark in this regard. It was of some concern to me also when I examined the figures concerning the percentage of students who pass from the third year to the fourth year. This is a rather critical grading period and indicates that the selection of a vocation is made about this time. In 1964, 30.6 per cent. of third-year students went on to fourth year; and in 1968 this figure had fallen to 30 per cent.

The same trend is apparent in regard to students who pass on from the fourth year to the fifth year. In 1964 the figure was 75.3 per cent., while in 1968 the figure was 72.8 per cent.

With regard to teacher recruitment, the Minister pointed out that 34 per cent. of successful Leaving candidates entered the teaching profession. This is quite so because 34 per cent. do; but in 1960 that figure was 42.2 per cent., and so there has been a decline in this regard of 8.2 per cent.

A further point which should be made is that the percentage of female teachers has increased which, of course, indicates that the intake of male teachers is even more acute. The percentage of recruitment from available numbers has declined from 42.2 per cent. in 1960 to 34.1 per cent. in 1968. So there is an indication that something is wrong in this area and that advantage is not being taken of the full potential of teacher recruitment which is available.

Mr. Lapham: What is wrong?

Mr. H. D. EVANS: Quite a bit. The precise degree to which conditions in the service can be considered a factor bringing about this situation is not determinable, but it is a very real factor and is one which should be regarded very closely. In addition, in answer to the interjection of the member for Karrinyup, to enable students to continue to develop their potential fully, a number of remedies to assist can be suggested and this of course revolves around free education in its true sense—free books, scholarships, and many other aids, as well as a very careful establishment of courses to cater for the individual needs not only of the students but of the community.

The repeal of paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of section 37AE will virtually remove an anachronism. The deletion of this paragraph reflects a comparatively recent change under which an old system of assessment in the Education Department will be abolished. This involves the grading of teachers in accordance with a mark which was commensurate with the estimated capacity and ability of the teacher. This assessment is the function of the superintendent and it is no exaggeration to say that superintendents just do not have time to complete the detailed assessment which is required.

For many years the deletion of this method of assessment was sought and it was discussed at many teachers' conferences. I think it was a very happy day when its deletion was ultimately achieved. The result is that superintendents will now be able to act in their true capacity as initially envisaged, and this was, of course, an advisory capacity. They will not now have the time-consuming duty of a meticulous assessment of the kind required under this provision.

I believe that the provision for appeal against the assessments, which has replaced the old method, safeguards teachers from any opportunity of some disadvantage being occasioned. All in all there should be no concern in this regard as the machinery is available for an ultimate appeal. Therefore with the several qualifications I have made to the Minister's statements, I have pleasure in supporting both the amendments.

MR. LEWIS (Moore—Minister for Education) [3.47 p.m.]: I would like to thank the two members who have contributed to this debate for their general support of the measure. Although the member for Warren referred to reservations, he did not mention any.

With regard to the provisions of the Bill, the first is to delete the provision which prevented the permanent employment of unnaturalised British subjects, while the second seeks the abolition of the numerical assessment of teachers.

The member for Victoria Park dealt to some extent with the history of the previous amendment which was, of course, before I entered politics. I daresay I could have obtained this information, but in my opinion it was not relevant. We have submitted this Bill to meet a present-day condition and I am very glad the member for Victoria Park was generous enough to appreciate that a far different set of circumstances exists in 1970 from that which existed in 1952. As members know, there is a much higher percentage of employment, and the competition for these people is much keener than ever before.

Furthermore, I think we have become more mature in our attitude in regard to the employment of people whom we regard as foreigners. We have become more cosmopolitan in our attitude, and this applies to all trades and professions in which they make their mark in our community. These people have become doctors, architects, engineers, and so on, and teachers in our State education system. They are employed not only in private schools, but also in institutions like the University and the Institute of Technology; and I believe we are much the richer for this.

The member for Victoria Park had some reservations in regard to the employment of temporary teachers and the standards these teachers might bring to the profession. I suppose this is a question of supply and demand. By way of illustration, I might say that if we want to buy some sheep and we require a high standard, but that standard is hard to obtain, we will accept a standard which is rather less. The sheep will still be very good, but will be of a slightly lower standard than we desire.

I suppose this is the same with the teaching profession, and the intake of students. If our supply of teachers was much greater than it is, in comparison with the demand, then we could be more selective with regard to the students who enter our colleges for teacher training.

The same applies to the application by teachers to join our service on a temporary basis. Although we would like to see the standard of teachers raised I think many members of this House have appealed to me, personally, on behalf of certain individuals who have been rejected by the department. The appeal has been on the basis that the person concerned had taught at such-and-such a school for a number of years and, surely, if he or she were able to teach for a number of years in some other country or some other State that person must be of a standard acceptable in Western Australia. In one or two of those cases the appeals have been upheld, but in other cases they have not.

As I have said, the department has to keep a balance and we are continually aiming at reducing class sizes. This involves the sufficient supply of teachers to staff the classrooms. At the same time, we are endeavouring to keep the standard of teaching as high as possible. We have to keep a balance between those two objectives and it is not always easy to do that.

Regarding the registration of teachers, that may occur at some future time but at present, when we are so short of teachers, we have to accept the registration of teachers as a long-term objective. We would have to know and accept the provisions governing the registration of teachers.

Some members were concerned that there is no numerical assessment of teachers. This does not mean that teachers will be teaching without being assessed in any way as to their capabilities. The present practice is that teachers, within two years of graduating from college, must be certified as being efficient. This is done by the district superintendent visiting the school and going into the classroom. He then reports on the person's ability as a teacher. No marks are used, and have not been used for some time.

I am advised that a personal report on the teacher is not made after the first two years unless there is an obvious falling-off in efficiency, or a deterioration of standards in some way. This situation has been welcomed both by the Education Department and the Teachers Union.

The member for Warren was alarmed at the falling percentage of students going on to higher education. He is not the only one concerned with this matter; but, here again we have to face the facts of life today. There are so many opportunities for young people in all walks of life. They can leave school at the end of three years of secondary education—or even earlier, if they reach the school-leaving age—and find so many lucrative jobs available to them. There is less inclination for them to enter into an arrangement whereby they are tied to one job; that is, being trained as a teacher.

The minimum period of training is three years—not in all cases, but we are steadily working towards not less than three years—and then the teacher undertakes to be bound to the Education Department for a minimum period of three years, or longer, in order to recompense the Government for the amount of money spent on training. That is a long period, particularly for young women. They measure the long-term advantages of a teaching profession against the short-term advantages of some of the well-paid jobs which are available.

I know there are a number of reasons for this and we can quote all sorts of figures to suit our own arguments. Nevertheless, it is a fact that the employment opportunities in Western Australia are greater than in some of the other States of Australia; and, indeed, better than they are in some other parts of the world. I am not advancing that argument as a total explanation of the tendency to leave school and get a job.

Governments have been concerned about this and have endeavoured to meet the situation by making available a greater number of scholarships to induce young people to continue at school and receive a higher education. The higher education leads the students towards the teaching profession, or some other profession. To induce them to get a higher education is the main thing.

Assistance has been given to students by way of textbook allowances and tuition fee subsidies. However, we are still lacking the numbers we would like to have in our colleges. The percentage of students who continue to higher education is decreasing primarily because of the competitive inducements offered by outside industry and commerce. We will have to continue to review the inducements which we can give the young people in an endeavour to improve the position. No-one realises more than those in the Education Department that if we are going to keep up with the teacher demand we must increase the supply of students to our teaching colleges.

The colleges certainly will not lack the buildings because we have embarked on a programme in the hope that we can get young men and women to enter the teaching profession. There is little more I can say on this matter and, therefore, I commend the second reading to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

SIR DAVID BRAND (Greenough—Premier) [4 p.m.]: Mr. Acting Speaker (Mr. Mitchell), I would remind the House that when we meet again we will be sitting on Thursday night of that week. I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 7th April, at 4.30 p.m.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 4.1 p.m.