

Mr. McPHARLIN: I do not intend to take up a great deal of time. However, in conclusion I would like to make reference to industrial unrest. The company I referred to was forced into the position of increasing its charges mainly because of claims made by the industrial unions. As a result of this we now have an increase in the price of steel. Let us hope we do not see a great deal of industrial unrest in the forthcoming year.

Mr. T. D. Evans: Let us hope we do not see more increased prices.

Mr. McPHARLIN: Let us hope we see some conciliation, arbitration, and compromise on both sides. We must attempt to flatten this spiral of wages and costs chasing each other. Everyone would like some stability.

In many quarters alarm is being expressed about the cost spiral. Many people in my electorate are asking me where will it end. Let us hope that industry and the unions can come to an agreement so that there is less industrial unrest and more co-operation between all concerned.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Harman.

House adjourned at 7.45 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 16th March, 1972

The **PRESIDENT** (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Election

On motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the House), resolved:

That, in accordance with Standing Order No. 34, the following members be elected to act as Deputy Chairmen of Committees for the present session—The Hon. F. D. Willmott, The Hon. J. M. Thomson, and The Hon. R. F. Cloughton.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Election

On motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the House), resolved:

That, in accordance with Standing Order No. 37, the following members be elected for the present Session:—

Standing Orders.—The Hon. F. D. Willmott, The Hon. J. M. Thomson, and The Hon. R. F. Cloughton.

Library.—The Hon. V. J. Ferry and The Hon. L. D. Elliott.

House.—The Hon. J. Heitman, The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson, The Hon. J. L. Hunt, and The Hon. D. K. Dans.

Printing.—The Hon. R. T. Leeson and The Hon. F. R. White.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 15th March, on the following motion by The Hon. D. K. Dans:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency:—

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

THE HON G. W. BERRY (Lower North) [2.41 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion. At the same time, I draw the attention of the House to a few matters which concern this Parliament—particularly matters relating to the province I represent.

When I rose to support the Address-in-Reply last year, I said that before I had to get on my feet again to speak on the Address-in-Reply during the next session of Parliament I hoped I would have received better news than I received that night in regard to the damming of the Gascoyne River, or about some scheme that would give me hope that we had found a solution to the problem existing in the area.

When I made that statement last year the river had flooded and for that year the position was reasonably secure. This year, unfortunately, the river has not flowed up to date, but Parliament has assembled earlier this year than it did last year. However, the position at this time last year was much brighter than it is now. When I spoke on the Address-in-Reply last August the river had been flowing for some considerable time, but this year it is a grim picture. Most of the rain seems to have fallen on the eastern seaboard of Australia in the State of Queensland and in the Northern Territory.

I view with trepidation the position that will obtain in the town of Carnarvon and surrounding areas in the months and years ahead. The irrigated areas are entirely dependent upon the flowing of the Gascoyne River each year. We are now entering the 13th year in which we have been hoping that somehow some of the water that pours out to sea could be conserved. As I have said before, only a very small area is at present under cultivation. In an area of about 10 square miles, 2,000 acres are cultivated, which represents between

\$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000 worth of bananas and winter crops. The value of wool from the Gascoyne district did not reach \$1,000,000 in the year for which statistics were given to me. Carnarvon, the town in which I live and which I represent, is therefore a vitally important place.

Each year as I rise to my feet to speak in the Address-in-Reply debate I hope I will receive some news that this acute water situation will be solved somehow. As a result of my speech last year I received a letter dated the 15th October, 1971, from the Minister for Works. The relevant portions of the letter read—

During the last decade investigations consistent with the resources available to the Public Works Department and the Geological Surveys Branch of the Mines Department have been made into the means of providing a secure water supply for Carnarvon.

Further on the letter says that one site was not suitable, and the letter continues—

Simultaneously with the Kennedy Range dam study a hydrogeological survey was made of the Gascoyne River delta to ascertain the availability of groundwater away from the river and a reconnaissance based on a study of many existing bores confirmed that groundwater in the area was inadequate in both quantity and quality for meeting any irrigation demand.

In 1969 the firm of Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners, which was commissioned to determine whether it was possible to provide security for the existing irrigation area and town water supply, allowing for some nominal growth, reported that further investigations should be undertaken:—

- (1) to determine the yield of the river bed and aquifers, and
- (2) to study the feasibility of integrating their use with a surface storage at Rocky Pool.

Following the receipt of the Consultants' report the investigation of the groundwater potential of the area was accelerated and in late 1969 the Public Works Department, in conjunction with the Geological Surveys Branch of the Mines Department, commenced an investigation into the water resources contained in the river sands. These investigations extended over a 48 mile stretch of the river and included the drilling and testing of the surface sands and a deeper aquifer. However no major source of groundwater was located but the presence of limited additional aquifers upstream from the plantation area was confirmed.

At the same time the firm of Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners conducted a study into the feasibility of constructing a dam at Rocky Pool and information on site drilling and the investigations which are now completed is being collated and the report on such is expected to be available later this year.

So much for that piece. The letter continues—

The technique of using nuclear explosives to produce excavations for water storage is at this time in the experimental stage and a feasibility study to determine whether it would be possible to carry out nuclear blasting in the vicinity of the Gascoyne River could cost from \$10 million to \$12 million. Furthermore it could well be that the result of the study would establish that the use of nuclear explosives is neither an economic proposition nor acceptable in this instance.

However if it is established in the not too distant future that nuclear explosives can supply the ultimate solution to the water supply problems at Carnarvon further information on the use of nuclear materials must be acquired before any such technique could be applied. Meanwhile the results of the river sands investigations and the feasibility of building a dam at Rocky Pool are still being assessed.

Like everyone else, I have been waiting very patiently to hear whether this report was satisfactory and whether there was a chance of a dam being built. To precipitate an answer, yesterday I asked some questions in the House. One of my questions was—

- (1) Has the Government received the report of the feasibility study concerning the damming of the Gascoyne River?
- (2) If so, when will it be released?

The answer was—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The feasibility study is being evaluated by departmental officers and on receipt of the report consideration will be given to its release.

I am again standing in this House speaking in the Address-in-Reply debate, and once again I have to report that in regard to the future of the irrigated areas of Carnarvon I am no further advanced than I was when I first stood in this House and spoke about it.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: You will have to start praying for rain.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: If the river does not start flowing, a calamitous situation will arise in that area.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Or get the rain dancers.

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: I ask that the rain dancers start immediately. I cannot be facetious about this situation. I am extremely worried about it. If the river fails to flow, the livelihood of everyone in the area will be in danger.

I lived in the area during the 1950s when we experienced a succession of seasons in which the river did not reach the sea, so I am aware of the position which obtains when the river does not flow. Much more depends upon it now than depended upon it in those days because now we have a population which is entirely dependent upon the river. I feel that somewhere in our endeavours to get something done with the Gascoyne River there is either a negative approach or a lack of enthusiasm on the part of the Public Works Department; or else the people concerned are not prepared to depart from conventional methods in an effort to conserve water in this area.

I do not know just how much water has flowed out of the river. Last night when I watched the film of the Ord project I learned that the Ord River was flowing at 1,000,000 cusecs. That is a large amount of water. I venture to say that when the Gascoyne River is in flood the rate of flow would be very close to that figure; yet it has not raised the level of the Indian Ocean, although it flows into it.

I get very frustrated when people say to me, "What is happening about the damming of the Gascoyne?" I have to reply, "That is a good question." I have to tell them that I wish we both knew and then perhaps we would know when a start would be made. But at the moment we can find out nothing apart from the fact that an investigation is proceeding into the feasibility of doing something about it, and that a report will be issued in due course.

When I mentioned the matter of a nuclear explosion, I did so because I felt perhaps it is time we started to make some use of the energy stored in the atom. However, the Minister said in reply that the time is not yet opportune, or that we are not yet using nuclear explosives. However, in the *Northern Times* of Thursday, the 9th March, 1972, on page 1, under the heading of "Council seeks views on nuclear explosion" the following appeared:—

Carnarvon Shire Council is to approach the State and Commonwealth Governments asking that support be given to council's action in seeking the views of other countries on the use of nuclear explosives to create a water storage at Carnarvon, and what requirements would be needed.

The members of the council are concerned, just as I am, because we all live in the area. The article continues—

The Premier's department had advised council that the time had not been reached when the government

could seriously consider using nuclear explosives to create a water storage at Carnarvon.

So I take it the writing is on the wall. If the feasibility study shows the scheme to be impracticable the whole area will fold up. I think history tells us that civilisations have ceased to exist as a result of a lack of water. In many populated areas of the world today people still suffer from a lack of water. The continent of Australia is considered to be one of the driest continents in the world.

However, we seem to be prepared to let this most valuable commodity go to waste. I find it hard to convince myself that, in this day and age with the technological advances we have made, we cannot come up with some method of conserving part of the water which is going to waste. In the film last night we saw what is happening in the case of the Ord project. As I said before, the Ord was made for man to dam; but apparently the Gascoyne was not. Apparently it requires a different approach.

If men with the vision of C. Y. O'Connor had not pumped water to Kalgoorlie, that town would not be in existence and we would not have the comprehensive water supply scheme which is being extended and which is a boon to those living in country areas. From where will the water come to meet the demand when the comprehensive scheme is extended? The facilities for the storage of water in the metropolitan area will soon be used to their maximum. Somewhere somehow we must get water to the metropolitan area.

It is beyond my comprehension why in this day and age we let this most valuable commodity which is vital to our very existence run into the sea year after year. I could continue speaking for hours on this subject, but members probably would get bored. No doubt if a member got up and spouted about some problem year after year I would get bored. However, I just cannot help but feel that something must be done and that someone must come up with an idea which will bear fruit and save our water.

A sum of \$10,000,000 or \$12,000,000 in relation to the survey was mentioned in the Minister's letter. I would like to know how that cost is calculated. Has anyone in Government circles held consultations with Commander Koch who is in Western Australia? He has been associated with the Atomic Energy Commission, and with atomic projects. Has anybody asked anyone what can be done under the "plough-share" programme or some other programme? It appears to me that one runs into a brick wall when one mentions doing something in a manner contrary to convention in an effort to conserve water. I feel we need someone who is strong enough to take the bull by the horns and

tell people what must be done to sustain our water. I hope that on the next occasion I rise to my feet someone will have thought of something, and that action will be taken.

I ask all members to direct their thoughts towards the problem of getting rain onto the catchment area of the Gascoyne within the next few months. If we have no rain we will be confronted with a serious problem indeed—it will be much more serious than my standing on my feet wanting to know when the Gascoyne will be dammed. I will let the matter rest at that, until some other convenient time.

I would now like to mention the matter of the "kangaroo regulations" which I moved to disallow last year. I was successful in having an advisory committee formed, composed of members of all sections of the industry concerned. Those people will consult together upon the operation of the regulations. Many opinions were expressed regarding the introduction of the regulations controlling the red kangaroo. Of course, this problem concerns mainly the area I represent. People were most upset and concerned about what was to happen.

As a result of the conference held in this building between the Minister and all interested parties, people were able to air their views, and the Minister conceded the formation of the advisory committee. We are now in a position in which people are able to communicate with each other. All those concerned with the red kangaroo are able to make recommendations to either the Minister or the department with regard to amending the regulations.

I think this has been a step in the right direction, and had it been implemented in the first place we would not have had the bitterness and ill-feeling which has been engendered by the introduction of the legislation and the amendments to the Fauna Conservation Act. I appeal to the people concerned with these regulations—to the pastoralists, to the shooters, to the processors, and to the department now that they have this indication to see that the regulations work. This would be in the interests of all of us; it is not designed to strangle one section of the community; the legislation is intended to benefit everybody.

If we can work amicably in this regard I am sure it will reach a successful conclusion. In the area of the lower north province—the Eastern Murchison—we have had a very exciting find of uranium. While at the moment it is probably not of great importance to the extent of activating employment, I have heard on the air that it will be a source of nuclear fuel for Japanese power plants in the foreseeable future. There is also the possibility of a uranium enrichment plant being constructed in the Commonwealth for the preparation of nuclear power.

I recall that at a meeting one night Dr. McLeod who was then Government geologist had a few words to say on mineral exploration when addressing the gathering. It was at the time when Kambalda had been discovered. He said that Kambalda would be the forerunner of many exciting discoveries. Now that they had found the mineral in this particular area he had no doubt that there would be bigger and better finds which would spark off and provide an impetus to the people who have the know-how and the money to carry out research and exploration into this matter.

We also have, in the area, a most extensive laterite deposit at Mt. Keith. I see, however, that development of this is not to be considered till later. The fact of the matter is that we are opening up and discovering vast quantities of wealth which we did not know existed, and it is certainly a great thing for the area that all this activity is taking place.

I see that the development related to Poseidon is going ahead and we also have the find at Agnew and the deposit at Mt. Keith. I have no doubt that we will soon see a railway line moving through that area when the spate of mineral exploration is accelerated and the market returns to its previous buoyancy.

Another matter which is dear to my heart as it concerns my province and to which I would like to refer is the 26th Parallel of Latitude which runs across the Commonwealth and distinguishes between Zone A and Zone B for taxation purposes. I know it is not within the province of the State Government to make any alteration to the taxation allowance that is brought about by living either north or south of the 26th Parallel.

I do implore the State Government, however, to make representations to the Federal Government and to the Treasurer that during their Cabinet deliberations they give consideration to the implications that exist as a result of the 26th Parallel.

This is an imaginary line that is drawn across the Commonwealth and separates and affects allowances to the tune of many hundreds of dollars as it relates to one's personal income tax. The consideration is whether a person lives north or south of the line, not how far he might live from civilisation. It is ironical that a person who might live a few miles away is not entitled to any benefit at all.

It is time the Federal Treasurer had a look at this aspect and I trust the State Government will prosecute this matter as urgently as possible with the Federal Treasurer. In a State as large as ours, which covers such a vast area, the 26th Parallel is not an equitable means of determining whether or not one should have an allowance because one happens to live either north or south of that line.

The determining factor should be how far one lives from the metropolitan area or from a town of any size before one reaches the South Australian border, which is a mighty long way away.

I would now like to refer to the question of fruit fly regulations. I read in a newspaper the other day that the Minister for Agriculture is establishing a check point just inside the South Australian border—if I am not mistaken—to safeguard against the introduction of fruit fly and other pests into Western Australia. I think this step is mainly concerned with preventing the entry of the Queensland fly because we already have the Mediterranean fly well established in Western Australia. The regulations that exist for the purpose of controlling fruit fly are, in my opinion, absolutely ridiculous. We are making no attempt whatever to keep the Mediterranean fruit fly under control. We may be making a token effort but that is as far as it goes.

To instance what I mean I would point out that I was at the metropolitan markets a few months ago when some capsicums from Carnarvon were found to be infected by fruit fly—and now I refer to the Mediterranean fruit fly. I brought the matter to the notice of one of the members of the Lower West Province and mentioned that these capsicums were able to be transported anywhere within the State even though they were infected by fruit fly. Those which we could see were infected would not be despatched; they would be destroyed. When I asked why these capsicums were allowed to be transported throughout the State I was told that this could be done because they were not covered by the regulations.

I feel the regulations should be elastic enough to prevent this or any other vegetable from being despatched throughout the State if it were infected by fruit fly. It should be banned from any area of the State. I cannot imagine anything more ridiculous. On the one hand we have the establishment of a check point inside the South Australian border and on the other we are permitting commodities which are infected by fruit fly to be sent right throughout the State.

I cannot see the sense in permitting fruit-fly infected capsicums to be brought down from Carnarvon and allowing them to be distributed in fly-free areas because they do not happen to be covered by the regulations. Because of this they can be sent wherever anybody wishes to send them.

I hope the department will look at this aspect and that it will be more stringent in this regard and prevent any vegetable so infected from being sent to the fruit-fly free areas. I must admit, however, that there are not many of these left now.

Another matter which is very close to home and to which I would like to refer concerns the building of a new courthouse at Carnarvon. Because of the lack of building projects at the moment I should imagine this would be an ideal time to promote the building of the courthouse and to help it get under way a little more readily than these things normally take. Yesterday I asked the Leader of the House the following question:—

As it is understood that loan funds have been made available by the Carnarvon Shire Council in agreement with the Government for the building of a new Court House in Carnarvon—

- (a) when were the funds approved;
- (b) what was the amount; and
- (c) what is the present position of the project?

The answer I received was as follows:—

- (a) May 12th, 1971.
- (b) \$150,000 in 1970-71.

In addition some \$87,000 was supplied from General Loan Funds.

The last answer was—

The plans are in the course of preparation—tenders scheduled for July, 1972.

I am not complaining. The courthouse is being built; but I would have thought that at this time when the labour situation is so critical, projects of this nature would be accelerated in some way. Plans are being prepared and I realise these cannot be done in five minutes; but the project was under way before the money was approved. The Government has failed in its duty when, during the present unemployment situation, it fiddles around regarding a project like this. Nearly 12 months has elapsed since the loan was approved and therefore a fair amount of interest will be involved.

I hope that what I have said will be instrumental in expediting activity regarding the relief of the unemployment situation because when the project gets under way at least some people will be employed.

I was interested in the reference in the Governor's Speech to the high school at Carnarvon being upgraded to matriculation level. New sections have been built and this year fourth-year students will be accommodated while the fifth-year students will be accommodated next year.

We are very grateful for the extensions which will enable children in the area to remain in Carnarvon instead of being sent into Geraldton or down to Perth for their senior high school studies. However, in the process of constructing the new wing to provide for the new classrooms, the existing playing field was utilised so

that now virtually the school has no playing field. Provision has been made for a new playing field, but, unfortunately, nothing has been done about it and so now we have the school, but, as yet, no playing field. I appeal to those responsible for planning these projects not to half do the jobs but to complete them. At least the playing field could by now be at the stage where the grass is becoming established. At the moment there is nothing but a great big heap of sand and rubbish.

The children utilise the oval whenever possible, but this system is not practical. I therefore seek the co-operation of the planners so that in those instances when extensions to schools encroach on the playing areas, alternative playing fields are immediately put in hand.

I received a letter dated 16th February from the Australian Federation of Police Associations/Unions as follows:—

Dear Sir,

Re: Organised Violence—Demonstrations

I have been directed by the Federal Council of the Australian Federation of Police Associations and Unions to draw your attention to a motion passed at the last Federal Conference of the Council which was held in Melbourne during the week of September 13, 1971.

The motion reads as follows:—

21. That this conference express alarm at the growing tendency of certain sections of the community who resort to actions of organised violence and lawlessness at demonstrations in the streets and other places throughout Australia and that this motion be brought to the notice of all members of Parliament throughout Australia.

The Hon. J. Dolan: Are you referring to "police" or "peace"?

The Hon. G. W. BERRY: I am referring to the police who are the custodians of law and order and for whom this community should be thankful and of which it should be proud. The letter continues—

The Federation represents every Police Force in the Commonwealth and voices the opinion of 21,000 members.

The Federation does not seek to deny people the right of democratic protest but seeks to remind political parties that they have a responsibility whether in office or in opposition to assist the various Police Departments to maintain law and order.

That is very essential. To continue—

It is true that legislation has been introduced to give police sufficient power to deal with public demonstrations where breaches of the law occur but it is the desire of the Federation to point out that this is not the end of Government responsibility.

It is apparent from the information available from the various States that it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain and retain suitable personnel to maintain an efficient police service in the community.

The New South Wales Police Regulations have recently been amended to provide for recruits up to the age of 35 years and other Police Departments have previously raised their age limits for recruits, to overcome police shortages.

The Police Department of South Australia has experienced difficulty in maintaining their Cadet training programme. Recruiting difficulties persist in spite of the efforts of the various Police Associations to improve wages and conditions of the members of the Police Force.

And so it goes on. I will not bore the House by reading the remainder of the letter except for one more paragraph as follows:—

We ask only for the opportunity to properly serve our fellow man but we can not give that service without your assistance and for this reason we request that you examine the matters we put before you now and treat the issues as urgent.

The matter is urgent. If our Police Force ever reaches the stage where it is not an effective body, all I can say is: Lord help the lot of us.

I think I have covered a fair range of subjects in my address and next time I stand in this House I hope that it will be to receive some better news than that which I received yesterday regarding the dam. I was told the feasibility study report has not yet been released, but is under consideration. I sincerely hope the consideration will not take too long and that the decision will be made in favour of the dam.

THE HON. N. McNEILL (Lower West) [3.18 p.m.]: I would like to associate myself with the expressions contained in the Address-in-Reply moved on Opening Day by Mr. Dans; and in so doing I would like to place before the House a few of my views concerning the opening of Parliament itself, and in particular with reference to the conditions which obtained on Opening Day, Tuesday, the 14th.

I would firstly like to support the remarks made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Griffith) in relation to the situation which obtains as a result of the decision that

Parliament shall conduct its proceedings to coincide with the calendar year as against the financial year. I am likewise a little curious concerning the situation during an election year. It is understood that at that time only one session of Parliament will be held. During an election year the custom has been for the election to be held in the early part of the year, usually in February, and for the opening of Parliament to take place in the latter part of that calendar year and, more particularly, at the beginning of the next financial year.

A rather curious situation may well arise if the practice adopted this year is continued in the future. However, so much for that. At the moment I am more concerned over the conditions which we experienced on Tuesday. Certainly we have not been accustomed to opening Parliament under the weather conditions which prevailed on that day. I am sure every member must have felt a great deal of sympathy for those required to attend Parliament in an official capacity. In saying this I am referring to people other than members of Parliament. His Excellency the Governor and those who accompanied him—namely, his secretary and the service chiefs—were, in fact, required not only to attend but to wear ceremonial dress. Perhaps somewhat facetiously we could be accused of practising sadism by inflicting such conditions upon those persons. It must have been a trying time for them.

Perhaps we will not always experience that kind of weather on opening day but, as there is a possibility it could occur again, I think we should give some thought to ways to overcome the problem. I have no doubt the lights used for the television cameras contributed to the overall discomfort but, through force of circumstances, I suppose we are required to accept that. Perhaps some sort of air circulation system could be provided to alleviate the situation a little. Certainly many people indeed on opening day asked whether or not the Chamber was air-conditioned. I would not attempt to justify installing air-conditioning in this Chamber. It would be extremely difficult to justify expenditure of that nature on a building such as this for a number of reasons upon which I will not elaborate now. Certainly one reason is that the Chamber is in use for a small part of the year and, more particularly, for a proportionately smaller part of the summer period.

I shall suggest some of the alternatives, as I see them. Firstly, the life of a Parliament normally runs for three years. Bearing this in mind, is it necessary to have an official opening every year? I am inclined to think that the appropriate time for an opening would be when Parliament commences subsequent to an election. If there were a ceremonial opening at the

commencement of a Parliament, at other times during the various sessions the Government should and could take the opportunity to express its policy at what I regard the appropriate time; namely, when the Budget is introduced into the Parliament. As it is now, the Budget statement by the Government and the subsequent debate has fallen somewhat in status because we are accustomed to a formal opening of Parliament every year at which the Government's policy is outlined. In other words, the Budget is no longer necessarily regarded as a statement of Government policy for any particular session. I consider it would be more appropriate to restore the Budget to its proper place in the operation and declaration of Government policy. A formal opening each year certainly tends to relegate the Budget to a lesser status. Perhaps this would be one way to tackle the problem.

In addition to being a formal occasion for the declaration of a Government's policy for the session, the opening of Parliament is an occasion when the people of Western Australia have an opportunity to observe and take part in the ceremony associated with this institution. I consider this is very important indeed. I would be most reluctant to see that ceremony in any way dispensed with, because we should take every opportunity to impress upon the people the fact that the role of the institution of Parliament is the protection—it is indeed a protector—of their common and individual rights. Parliament is the people's institution. I believe the people should have the chance to appreciate this through a ceremonial occasion such as the opening of Parliament. This being so I wonder whether a summer opening could, in fact, take place in the evening.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Why should we have an opening in summer anyway?

The Hon. N. McNEILL: Whether or not an opening ceremony is formal, I suggest it should be an occasion for the people—your guests, Mr. President, and the guests of Mr. Speaker—to enjoy the Parliament building and its surroundings. I consider this is extremely important. I would like to refer to a booklet concerning the opening of the completed Parliament House in Perth, Western Australia, by the Governor of Western Australia, Major-General Sir Douglas Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., which is dated Monday, the 23rd March, 1964. I shall refer in particular to what I think is normally known as the frontispiece which has a picture of Sir John Forrest and a quotation taken from the *Hansard* report appearing in the *Parliamentary Debates* of Volume 7 at page 1103 in the year 1894. When speaking in the Legislative Assembly on the motion

for a commission to report on the expediency or not of erecting new Houses of Parliament, Sir John Forrest said—

For my part, I believe in making a country's Houses of Parliament as convenient, as beautiful, and even as splendid as possible, so that those who enter them may regard them as something like sacred ground, and be impressed with a certain amount of reverence for their surroundings, and so behave themselves.

I believe that is relevant to what I am saying. I believe an opening ceremony could be carried out in the evening in the vicinity of Parliament House. If this were done it would give an opportunity to a larger number of people to attend and, further, it would perhaps give them the opportunity to stay a little longer. I am not suggesting they should stay simply to enjoy the hospitality offered within this building but also to enjoy the surroundings. It is to these surroundings that Sir John Forrest made reference. For my part, I believe the gardens and surrounds of Parliament House are worthy of much greater appreciation by the citizens of this State.

I was somewhat critical myself of the construction of the fountains in front of Parliament House. However, I have grown accustomed to them, and as their effect is gradually being softened by the landscaping and the development of the gardens and lawns, they are becoming increasingly pleasant. An evening function would give visitors an opportunity for a greater appreciation of these surroundings. I might add that my comments on a night opening are not necessarily my own thoughts, but come from a person quite close to me whose judgment is far superior to my own in these matters.

I would now like to refer to a matter mentioned by Mr. Berry—the letter he received from the Australian Federation of Police Associations/Unions. I too received such a letter.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I think all members received one.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: I would like to refer particularly to remarks I made in the Address-in-Reply debate in this House in the first session in 1971. These are reported on page 142 of *Hansard*. I said—

People feel that essentially they should be free from the attacks of others, either physically or in any other form, and should not be affected by the antisocial activities of a group in our community which does not seem to have any civic responsibility or any appreciation of the rights of others. This has an effect on the enjoyment of private and even public activities of a great many people, and also on the satisfaction which people gain from living law-abiding lives—the sort of lives they confidently expect to live free from interference by others.

I say most regretfully that it appears this state of affairs is no longer to obtain in this country, and the normal enjoyment of life unimpeded by the antisocial activities of others cannot be taken for granted.

In view of my comments last year, I would like to express my concern at the necessity for the resolution and the comments made by the Australian Federation of Police Associations/Unions in regard to this matter. I would like to express my support for the views expressed by the association. I would like to quote from page 2 of the letter which says—

The public is entitled to expect proper protection from the expanding numbers of persons who disregard the law and frequently use demonstrations and public disorder as a vehicle to carry their objectives into effect. That objective is to nullify the effectiveness of the police in the community.

I would also like to place on record my support of the campaign and the actions which the association has adopted. I believe it is vitally necessary that there be a thorough appreciation of what is actually happening. It is not good enough to simply recognise a case of lawlessness and a breakdown of law and order. It is clear that the association believes that this is part of a campaign, the objective of which is to destroy established authority. I too believe this to be true. We must be prepared to assist the police and to recognise the situation they are facing.

Mr. President, this leads to further comments which are perhaps a little related. As an introduction to my remarks I would like to refer to a Press report contained in the Fremantle section of *The West Australian* of Thursday, the 16th March, 1972. This article written by Rodney King, is headed, "Tyres Squeal: Nedlands parents shudder." The article continues under the heading of, "Car Tests in Side Streets." At this moment I am not vitally concerned with the contentions in this article, but I would like to say a word or two about the expression, "Tyres Squeal: Nedlands parents shudder."

Since the last session of Parliament I have read reports that the Government intends introducing legislation concerning noise abatement. I listened carefully to the Governor's Speech hoping that it would contain some reference to legislation of this type, but it did not. I was most disappointed because I was hoping such legislation would be forthcoming in the very near future.

Members who have sat in this Chamber for a number of years will be aware of the great interest displayed in this subject by the Chief Secretary, in his capacity as a back-bench member of the

Opposition. He has spoken at great length in this House, and we know of his research by the facts presented in his speeches. He has given some very learned dissertations on the subject of noise abatement with particular reference to industrial noise. With that background and interest I hope the Chief Secretary will be personally interested in advancing such legislation.

I do not intend to embark on the whole question of noise abatement or even of industrial noise. I have insufficient knowledge of the subject. However, I am concerned with the existence of what I regard as a form of air pollution—and that is noise. Noise is a very offensive form of pollution. Of course, one of the main offenders in this field is the motor vehicle. Certainly there are laws which can be exercised to control motor vehicle noise which is offensive, but I am sure members will recognise the great difficulty in attempting to implement these laws and regulations.

I would like to list some of these offenders, but this is not an exhaustive list by any means. First of all there is the motorist who delights in souped-up motors with straight-through or modified mufflers and exhausts. It is these very drivers who gain enjoyment from tremendous bursts of acceleration. The noise from these vehicles becomes a very considerable irritant to people in a wide area. Many people suffer simply because they are forced to live in areas where this type of thing occurs.

The next motorist on the list is the one whose car is equipped with a certain type of tyre which is very effective in causing tyre squeal. We often think this is a screeching of brakes, but in fact it is the squeal of the tyres on the road. Once again I am sure most members will have had this type of noise inflicted on them. We have little or no control over it.

The motor cyclist also sometimes offends in this way. I do not object to motor vehicles or motor cycles, but it does appear that some motor cyclists enjoy demonstrating the tremendous power which is available to them through their machines.

They demonstrate it by means of rapid acceleration, and not infrequently we find this is done during what we like to think are the quiet hours of the night, or more particularly the early hours of the morning. I am in that unfortunate sort of situation in my mode of living in that, having to attend Parliament and work until late into the night, I am often awakened, after getting to sleep, by one of those persons who appears to drive a heavy truck with a steel tray, of some 15 or 20 tons. I can only imagine that the driver of this vehicle, in an endeavour to make an early start each day, takes his truck

home in the evening after work. The following morning, in the same vehicle, he departs for his work about 4 a.m. or 5 a.m., and always seems to take the precaution to provide some sort of orchestration by having a heavy length of steel, about 6 or 8 feet long, lying on the steel tray of his vehicle to provide percussion accompaniment to the roar of his diesel engine as he proceeds down the street.

The Hon. J. Heltman: Perhaps it is to let him know that the tray is still on the truck.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: That could, perhaps, be so. Apparently it serves some sort of purpose. In all probability he is not aware of the noise he is causing as he drives along. It is not my intention to try to single out any particular vehicle or any particular type of driver. In fact, it seems to be my experience that those who commit these offences in my area are not those who have a lawful and legal right to the use of the road, and I am thinking in terms of those who are engaged in their lawful duties at night, such as milkmen and newsagents who deliver newspapers. These people go to tremendous lengths to minimise any noise they make. My concern in saying all this is that we cannot go on accepting the situation that there is going to be more and more noise in built-up areas, but that, in fact, some action should be taken to prevent it. The whole purpose of my remarks in this respect is to say to the Government and to the Minister in charge of this problem that if legislation is to be introduced I hope they will give some consideration to what I regard as extraneous noises; those which, in fact, can be corrected or eliminated.

On the subject of correction of extraneous noise, I believe, in the first instance, that those who are instrumental in making these noises deliberately should be the subject of some punitive action. Perhaps this relates back to the statements made by the Australian Federation of Police Associations/Unions; there needs to be greater protection and the provision of more staff. Probably if more punitive action were taken this, in some instances, would bring about some correction.

Secondly, there needs to be greater attention paid to the condition of our roads; to their surface deterioration. In a number of instances I have been placed in a situation, even when visiting country towns, and standing near, say, the South-West Highway, where it is virtually impossible to carry on a conversation on the footpath because of the noise of passing traffic which is not just passenger vehicular traffic but heavy vehicular traffic. However, the fault lies not only with these vehicles; a great contribution to the noise in many instances is made because of the road surface itself. I believe that we must take

notice of this factor. In fact, some significant notice of it is long overdue in an endeavour to make some correction simply for the purpose of cutting down the volume of offensive noise.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.04 p.m.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: I was referring to the fact that I regarded the existence of noise as a form of pollution and, in fact, one of the more offensive and perhaps insidious forms of pollution. I indicated an opportunity should be made available for action to be taken to correct the traffic noise to which I referred, mainly by way of punitive action in the first place; secondly, by way of vehicle research, because I appreciate the fact that in many instances noise is associated with power, and therefore there needs to be a good deal of research undertaken to investigate the correction of this particular problem; and thirdly, by taking into account the question of the condition of roads and road construction which undoubtedly is one of the contributing factors to vehicle and vehicular traffic noise.

Although I made some brief reference to the question of industrial noise, it is possible under the present requirements to geographically locate industries in places where they cause as little noise as possible. We have the zoning requirements, the town planning schemes, and so on under which industrial noises are isolated to an extent. In fact, where they are not isolated, an opportunity is available for citizens to take civil action in cases such as a sawmill operating in the proximity of a residential area. Action can be taken to restrict and limit noise, because of the offence it creates. However, in the case of vehicular traffic the solution is not so easy.

I believe all this is a far cry from the controversy and the arguments which we all remember arose in regard to the crowing of roosters in the early hours of the morning in quiet residential areas. I am sure some of us have reached the stage where if, in fact, it denotes a return to the countryside atmosphere we will welcome the crowing of roosters as compared with the noise caused by vehicular traffic, particularly in the early hours of the day.

I repeat that I believe this to be important. I think there must be some effect on the work output of the people brought about by noise created in the daytime, but more particularly at night. This noise is not only offensive but disturbing to a degree where the output and efficiency of the people can be greatly affected. I believe that rest is affected, particularly during the night hours, and I believe that those on shift work are affected to a greater degree. There is some effect on the physical as well as the mental efforts, and I am sure this must be the case.

Finally I say there will possibly be some effect of a lasting nature on the mental health of the people as illustrated by the

very newspaper heading I quoted, which pointed out that when tyres squealed, Nedlands parents shuddered. I am sure that we are all accustomed to reading reports in the newspapers of instances in certain areas which describe the squealing and screeching of wheels and tyres. The fact that mention is made of them surely indicates it has an effect on the mental and nervous condition of people generally. I hope that consideration may be given to this question in any legislation that is introduced by the Government. I hope that legislation will be introduced, and that this will not be in the very far distant future.

The next subject I wish to raise is agricultural education in Western Australia. I am sure members are all aware that very recently a report of the Advisory Committee on Agricultural Education was released for public scrutiny. Members would have been provided with copies of that report. I have not yet had the opportunity to examine it in as much detail as I would have liked, but I would like to make an acknowledgment of the good work that has been done in the compiling of this report, and to compliment the persons under the chairmanship of Professor Stern who were responsible for preparing it. I have placed a question on the notice paper which I anticipate will be answered later today.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I can say now that the matter is still under consideration.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: I thank the Leader of the House for that advice. The purpose of asking the question is simply to draw attention to this report. I hope very serious consideration will be given to not just the report itself, but more particularly to the opportunity that should be made available in an endeavour to implement the recommendations and findings of this committee.

I feel I should refer to the report briefly, and more particularly in order to establish its status. I am sure it does not need me to establish its high status or the importance of the research it has undertaken. I draw attention to what appears on page 38 of the report under the heading "Previous reports." It states—

The last ministerially appointed committee of inquiry into agricultural education was that chaired by Professor E. J. Underwood over twenty years ago. Since that Committee's report in 1950, considerable changes in the agricultural industry have occurred.

The committee gave consideration to that report. The report on agricultural education also makes reference to the Nalson and Schapper report of 1966 for the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science.

Under this heading the report on agricultural education also refers to a further non-Government report prepared by a sub-committee of the Western Australian

branch of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science in 1968, in which Professor Stern himself took a prominent part. As I recall, a copy of that report was circulated to the Government and to members of Parliament. Also on page 38 reference is made to a comprehensive study of agricultural education in all States made in 1966. It was undertaken by Farquhar in that year. It refers to the fact that a deficiency was found in the supply of agricultural graduates. Of course, this is an important aspect in the consideration of this question.

The reference on page 38 of the report of the advisory committee mentions that the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Advanced Education and the Department of Primary Industry jointly sponsored a tertiary agricultural education project under Professor J. S. Nalson. That report and the investigation were given in *Consensus and Conflict in Tertiary Agricultural Education (1970)*. There is some explanation given in the report of the committee which inquired into agricultural education, research and extension in South Australia by Ramsay in 1971. Of course, this report has just been released.

Finally there is reference to the report of the British Advisory Committee on Agricultural Education, 1966, known as the Pilkington Report. I refer to those matters simply to draw attention to the research that the Advisory Committee on Agricultural Education under the chairmanship of Professor Stern did on its own account, apart from the work done by the tremendous number of people, organisations, and institutions whom the committee interviewed or contacted, and from whom they received submissions in an endeavour to formulate the recommendations which are contained in the very early pages of this report.

I am sure that some of the recommendations will be a little difficult for some institutions in Western Australia to accept, but I hope this will not be regarded as being an opportunity to treat them as being too difficult or impracticable of implementation. The fact is that this is the report, and the committee has made its recommendations. In view of the present agricultural situation and the agricultural education situation in Western Australia, every opportunity must be taken to put these recommendations into effect. After all, what in fact would be their value if an attempt were not made to implement them?

I would like to add that I myself, in common with a great many other people, gave a very small amount of time, at the invitation of this committee, in an endeavour to contribute to the work of research and to the subsequent findings of the committee. I certainly want to extend my compliments to Professor Stern and the other members of his committee for

the very valuable work they have done in preparing the report for study by people who are particularly interested in this subject. I believe members in this House should be interested in this subject.

I would now like to refer to a matter which was also the subject of a question which I asked the Minister in this House on the 15th March. I referred to the Minister the question of what is known as a two-price quota scheme for the dairying industry in Western Australia. My question was as follows:—

- (1) What are the responsibilities of the Government in regard to the adoption of what is known as a "2 price quota scheme" for the dairying industry in Western Australia?
- (2) Will the Minister detail to the House—
 - (a) the nature of the proposal;
 - (b) the benefits, or otherwise, to the Western Australian industry of the adoption of such a scheme;
 - (c) possible effects on the payment of the Commonwealth subsidy as a result of either adoption or rejection of the proposal; and
 - (d) when is a final decision on the scheme required to be made?

I was referring to the adoption or otherwise of the proposed two-price quota scheme. I will now refer to the fact that on page 3 of the Governor's Speech the following appears:—

State legislative action on any future Commonwealth proposal for dairy industry control will be taken care of in proposed legislation to replace the Milk Board with a Dairy Industry Authority.

I appreciate the reference and the fact that there will be some legislative action but what really concerns me is: Is it fully appreciated by the Government and by the people in the industry in Western Australia what effect this proposal could have on the entire industry? I do not believe there is a thorough appreciation of this effect.

On the 9th March I had an opportunity to attend a conference of the Farmers' Union of Western Australia and this matter came up for discussion. It was reported on at considerable length by the section president, Mr. Eckersley, and it was apparent to those who were present that the people in the industry had very little knowledge, indeed, of what was involved and what was entailed in the proposal for the establishment of such a scheme.

This, to me, is important, bearing in mind the reference in His Excellency's Speech: That State legislative action on any future Commonwealth proposal for

dairy industry control will be taken care of in proposed legislation to replace the Milk Board with a dairy industry authority.

We were promised that legislation would be introduced very early—in fact, we expected it would have been introduced in the last session of Parliament—to do away with the Milk Board and have a single authority for dairying in Western Australia. I believe that the subject of a two-price scheme in Western Australia is far too big and far too important to be covered by the statement that the industry will be included in a single dairy authority when the legislation is introduced.

I believe that now the Government intends to bring in a single authority there will not be enough opportunity for the people in the industry in Western Australia to become completely and satisfactorily acquainted with what is in store for them if the two-price quota scheme is adopted.

It may well be that I was a little misunderstood when I asked my question on this subject. The full import of my question may not have been appreciated and I do not blame the Minister or the Government for that. The Minister, in his reply to my question, stated as follows:—

(1) At the February meeting of Australian Agricultural Council, Commonwealth and State Ministers agreed in principle to the two-price quota scheme subject to detailed discussions at officer level which will take place in Canberra this week. If the proposal is agreed in detail State legislation will be required.

Presumably, that refers to legislation to cover this single industry authority question. It seems to me to be a rather strange situation where we have a proposal with which the rank and file of the industry is not acquainted, and of which they have no real knowledge, but which has been agreed to at Agricultural Council level.

The proposal has been agreed to by the Minister and the Government in this State, in conjunction with other State Ministers, and it will be legislated for presumably without further reference. It might be argued by the Minister that the industry must be acquainted with the facts because the proposal has come from the Australian Dairy Industry Council. I accept the point of view that perhaps the industry should be acquainted but I think I am safe in saying that the Australian Dairy Industry Council is a remote Federal body in the minds of many of those who are just concerned with the day-to-day operation of their dairy farms and the selling of their milk and dairy products within and outside Australia.

I would like to think that a great deal more thought and examination will be given to this question before legislation is

introduced. In saying that I am well aware that the words, in principle, have been used. This was intended to imply that the details will be worked out and that legislation will be framed subject to agreement on the details of the operation of the scheme. However, I wonder how many people know what the proposal actually includes.

Since asking the question to which I have referred a document has come to me entitled, "Australian Dairy Industry Council, Proposal for a Long Term Plan for the Australian Dairy Industry, Including a Two-Price Quota Scheme for the Manufacturing Sector of the Industry, October, 1971."

I am bearing in mind the words used by Mr. Berry when he said he felt he was probably boring the members of the House each successive year by talking on the same subject. I feel a little in the same position. Members will be aware that each year I have been on my feet discussing the question of the dairying industry. I am now thankful I have done so, in view of what is, in fact, proposed.

I would like to read some of the proposals contained in the document to which I have referred to signify the importance of the question. I ask members to bear in mind the question I asked and the response I received from the Government. On page 2 of the document, under the heading, "Provisions of Plan for the Australian Dairy Industry," appears the following:—

1. Action by all State Governments to license existing dairy farms with provision that no new licenses be issued except under a Policy agreed to at the Australian Agricultural Council after consultation with the Australian Dairy Industry Council and taking into consideration the market requirements for dairy products.

Comment: Because of the present uncertainty of future export markets and the likelihood of the need to introduce some form of production restraint, the Australian Dairy Industry Council and the Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation are of the opinion that the entry of new producers into the industry should be controlled and that existing producers should be discouraged from further investment which would have the effect of increasing production.

While thousands of dairy farmers ceased dairy production during recent years, the influence of the loss of production from these farms on Australian overall dairy production has been offset by the entry into the industry of new

farmers through the development for dairy production, in many cases on a large scale, of properties not previously used for dairying.

Both the Council and the Federation are strongly of the opinion that it is vitally important that action be taken to protect the interests of existing dairy farmers by controlling the entry of new farmers into the industry.

In adopting this policy neither organisation is advocating a closed industry but they believe that any future expansion of the industry should be on a planned basis agreed to at the Australian Agricultural Council after taking into consideration market requirements.

While this policy is designed to protect the industry on an Australia wide basis, it would not restrict the expansion of the industry in a particular State or district if the Australian Agricultural Council agreed that it would be in the best interests of the industry for such expansion to take place.

Action along the lines recommended is considered to be essential whether or not any form of production restraint is introduced.

2. Agreement by the Federal Government to provide financial assistance to the industry at least at the present level for a period of five years.

Comment: The five year period is proposed to cover the term of the new stabilisation plan which will commence on July 1, 1972.

3. Action by the Federal Government to prohibit the importation of cheese until Australian Milk production levels are adjusted to meet future domestic and overseas market requirements for dairy products.

Comment: The Australian market is the major base on which the income structure of the Australian dairy industry depends.

As a direct result of the promotion programmes financed by the dairy industry, cheese consumption increased during the 1960's. From an average of 5.7 lbs per head for the three years ended 1958-59 consumption increased to an average of 8.3 lbs per head for the three years ended 1970-71.

These figures include imported cheese which, in 1970-71 amounted to 5809 tons or 11.4 per cent of total Australian cheese consumption. A substantial proportion of

cheese imports originates from countries which prohibit imports of any Australian dairy products including cheese. In addition, some of the imported cheese is produced in countries which are members of the European Economic Community and a major reason for any scheme for production restraint in Australia would be to safeguard the industry should the United Kingdom enter the E.E.C. Therefore, the importation of cheese, particularly from countries which have trade barriers against Australian dairy products is not acceptable to the dairy industry.

Dairy farmers have contributed to cheese promotion in Australia but the full benefit of this expenditure has been lost because of the substantial quantities of cheese being imported into Australia.

4. The introduction by all State Governments of legislation to control the production and sale of cooking margarine coloured and flavoured to resemble butter, along similar lines to the legislation implemented in Victoria and Tasmania.

Comment: Apart from rising costs and the level of returns, the greatest single threat to the stability of the dairy industry on the Australian market comes from competition with margarine. Competition with table margarine is limited by production quotas, but the increasing sales of special types of cooking margarine coloured and flavoured to resemble butter, in States without controlling legislation, is a major problem to the industry.

5. The introduction by all State Governments of legislation to control the production and sale of imitation milk, along similar lines to the legislation implemented in Victoria.
6. The effective policing of the table margarine production quota legislation by the State Authorities.
7. Appropriate action by State Authorities to ensure at all levels, uniform high quality of dairy production.
8. Agreement by the Australian Dairy Industry, the Federal Government and all State Governments to introduce, if necessary, a two-price quota scheme along the lines of the scheme outlined in the attached document.

I submit that there are great State Government responsibilities in these proposals. In fact, what I have read illustrates and demonstrates the purpose of my question when I asked—

What are the responsibilities of the Government in regard to the adoption of what is known as a "2 price quota scheme" for the Dairying Industry in Western Australia?

I think it will be agreed that there is need for a very close study of the implications of the proposal.

We now come to the actual proposal for a two-price quota scheme and I refer members to a statement I made in this House. It appears at page 373 in Vol. 187 of the 1970 *Parliamentary Debates*. I referred to a submission or a recommendation by the Liberal Party and, more particularly, the Rural Committee of the Liberal Party, in relation to what might be done and should be done to improve the overall situation of the dairying industry in Western Australia.

One of the recommendations I mentioned was that there was justification for the examination of the method of distribution of the Commonwealth subsidy. Earlier in the debate I had elaborated on this question to the effect that there was some reason to implement or employ the Commonwealth subsidy as was originally implied. I understood that the subsidy was to be paid only on the Australian domestic requirements of dairy products, and the subsidy was not necessarily available for products which were exported and which as we know embarrass the economic situation of the Australian dairying industry.

The two-price quota scheme now proposed is, in fact, a virtual implementation of that recommendation. I will again quote from the Australian Dairy Industry Council document. Under the heading "General principles" appears the following:—

Under a two-price quota scheme dairy farmers would be allotted a butterfat production quota based on an estimate of Australian market sales of manufactured dairy products plus a quantity for exports to be determined. For quota butterfat production a dairy farmer would receive a premium price, whilst the price received for over-quota butterfat production would be based, in the case of butter and cheese, on equalised export market returns and for all other manufactured products, on the basic factory return. Federal Government financial assistance would be restricted to quota production and would be allocated on the recommendation of the Australian Dairy Industry Council between butter, cheese and other prescribed products produced from quota supplies, for distribution on a butterfat basis.

The significant point which I am using for this purpose is that the Federal Government financial assistance would be restricted to quota production. That is, on that portion of the production which is required to satisfy the Australian market sales of manufactured dairy products.

I express my support for that aspect of the two-price quota scheme and I think it is quite reasonable. Of course, there are a great many other features of the proposal of which I believe members of this House and the industry itself should be made aware.

Under the basic provisions of the proposal outlined by the Australian Dairy Industry Council is one paragraph which is of particular interest to Western Australia. Under the heading "State butterfat quotas" appears the following:—

The allocation by the Australian Agricultural Council on the recommendation of the Australian Dairy Industry Council, of a butterfat quota to each State based on an estimate of the quantity of butterfat in all milk and cream supplied by dairy farmers for manufacture into prescribed products taken as an average over a previous base period to be determined. The sum of all State quotas to equal the total Australian quota.

If one were trying to arrive at some basis for quotas, that might sound like a reasonable suggestion, but I ask members to bear in mind the reply given to me in the House yesterday to the effect that quotas would be based on production history. I am sure members will recall that I have contended in this House that one of the chief factors contributing to the situation in the dairying industry in Western Australia has been the pricing structure. One should not and could not reflect on the production capacity of Western Australia when trying to arrive at a quota for Western Australian butterfat. In my view, the limiting factor has been the pricing structure, not the capacity to produce or any other such factor.

Therefore, the basis on which quotas are arrived at becomes very important to Western Australia. I particularly direct the attention of the Minister and the Government to this matter, and I hope they will bear it in mind. If these details are being worked out at a Government and officer level, as stated, let them not forget the statistics which have been given in this House.

I refer once again to answers given to questions I asked in 1971, which are reported on page 1278 of *Hansard*. I think members will recall that each year I ask similar questions in relation to the value of all dairy products imported into Western Australia. This is vital information. In reply to the question I asked last year,

I was advised that for 1969-70 the figure was \$8,895,000. At the time I asked the question the figure for 1970-71 was not available. One might safely assume it would be in the same vicinity—perhaps in excess of \$9,000,000, of which possibly 50 per cent. would be for butter and the rest made up of a variety of other dairy products.

I have claimed that Western Australia is and has been for a long time able to produce its own requirements of dairy products, given the opportunities, if it were not for the pricing structure; yet we have a quota scheme based on production history. I believe that would not be an equitable basis for arriving at quotas unless due weight were given to the peculiar situation of the dairying industry in this State compared with the other States; and I emphasise the word "peculiar." I think it is of great importance that the Government and the Minister should bear this in mind in any deliberations with the other States on this question.

I could continue on that aspect but I think I have said enough to illustrate the point I am making. Perhaps I should refer to the fact that at the annual conference of the whole-milk section of the Farmers' Union the president of that section made reference to this aspect.

I refer again to the document prepared by the Australian Dairy Industry Council. The extract I am about to read relates to the question I asked in regard to the responsibilities of the State Government in this matter. In paragraph 4, under the heading "State Dairy Authorities," the document reads—

- 4.1 There shall be a Statutory Dairy Authority in each State.
- 4.2 The Constitution of any State Authority could be designed to meet the requirements of the particular State.

Perhaps we cannot take exception to those proposals. The document continues—

- 4.3 All milk produced shall be vested in the State Authority.

I believe I am safe in saying that, in itself, is a highly contentious subject in the dairying industry. I will not read the rest of that paragraph; I have read the significant part of it. The document continues—

- 4.4 State Authorities shall have power to:—
 - (a) Control all milk produced in the State.
 - (b) Determine the level of each farm butterfat quota and allocate such quota to the farm concerned.
 - (c) Approve or disapprove of the transfer of a farm quota to another farm.

- (d) Approve or disapprove of the transfer of a farm quota from one factory to another factory other than on July 1 in any year.

- (e) Determine any matter in relation to farm quota in dispute between a dairy farmer and a manufacturer which has been referred to it.

I will not continue with these proposals because they are very lengthy and complicated. I make no apology for selecting those particular items from the report.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: You know that I wish you every success.

The Hon. N. McNEILL: I am grateful. I am sure it is always understood but I like to hear it said by the Minister.

I believe these are some of the important considerations with which the industry in Western Australia should be acquainted. The industry as a whole should have opportunities to place its point of view before the Minister before any firm decision is made on these questions because they are vitally important, not only to the industry as it is domestically situated but also to the conduct of the whole dairying industry in Western Australia.

On the 15th March I asked the following question in the House:—

Will the Minister detail to the House . . .

- (c) possible effects on the payment of the Commonwealth subsidy as a result of either adoption or rejection of the proposal;

The reply to that part of the question was—

- (c) Returns to Western Australian producers per lb. of butter fat produced are eroded by increased total Australian production with consequent increase in the exportable surplus and lower equalized price. Limitation of the production covered under Commonwealth assistance and equalization will benefit Western Australian producers.

In the first instance let me say I am glad to have that acknowledgment because it justifies the contentions of the party to which I belong and the recommendations in relation to the operation of equalisation and the subsidy which were made by its rural committees two years ago.

I am more concerned about the payment of the subsidy—and this question might not have been understood by the Minister and those who prepared the replies for him—and I refer to an item headed "Disunity in the dairy industry could be exploited by the government" which appeared in the *Farmers Weekly* of the 9th March, 1972.

It is a report of what was said by Mr. T. R. Noakes, the president of the dairy section of the Farmers' Union, at the whole-milk annual conference on Friday, the 3rd March. When speaking about the proposed two-price scheme for the industry, Mr. Noakes said—

Failure to accede to the two-price scheme could result in the exclusion from the subsidy, which was being changed to an annual grant.

Having heard that statement by Mr. Noakes, I was hopeful that the Minister and the Government would give me the background information which enabled the president of the dairy section to make such a statement. As will be obvious to members, no such information was given.

The last part of the question I asked in this House on the 15th March was—

Will the Minister detail to the House . . .

- (d) when is a final decision on the scheme required to be made?

The answer to that part of the question was—

- (d) Commonwealth attitude on payment of subsidy is not known and is a matter for Commonwealth decision. It is not known when a final decision will be reached.

I would like to know whether there is some basis for the contention which has been expressed by Mr. Noakes, because if there is some basis for it clearly it is not known to the Government, when it says, "The Commonwealth attitude on payment of subsidy is not known." Mr. Noakes has said, "It could result in the exclusion from the subsidy, which was being changed to an annual grant." If there is some inconsistency, then in the interests of those involved in the industry it should be cleared up.

The final comment I want to make on this subject relates to what is believed to be the need for such a proposal. Perhaps I am putting the cart before the horse. In the introduction to the document prepared by the Australian Dairy Industry Council, entitled *Proposal for a Long Term Plan for the Australian Dairy Industry*, the third paragraph reads—

The almost certain entry of the United Kingdom into the European Economic Community and the consequent loss of an established market for up to 67,000 tons of butter and 12,000 tons of cheese.

Once again, there needs to be clarity in thinking because the Dairy Industry Council submits that as being one of the features which can justify the proposition for a long-term plan which I have already discussed at some length. In the *Farmers*

Weekly of the 9th March, 1972, Mr. Eckersley, the president of the whole-milk section and Senior Vice President of the Farmers' Union in Western Australia, is reported as saying—

Australia's dairy industry was in a planned recession today because it had swallowed a red herring, Mr. Eckersley told the Wholemilk Section Conference.

Britain's intended entry into the European Common Market was "perhaps the biggest red herring ever thrown across the path of the Australian dairy industry," he said.

"This bait has been swallowed hook, line and sinker, and as a result the dairy industry has gone into a planned recession.

"It takes years to slow an industry like ours down and as many years to build it up. Australia has lost millions of dollars worth of market opportunities because of falling production.

"We must all share the blame for this situation. The average producer has little knowledge of his industry outside his own farm gate.

I do not know and I will not say whether I believe the statements made by Mr. Eckersley are correct, but I think he has served a very valuable purpose in expressing those thoughts because a re-examination is needed of the implications and the result to Australia and the Western Australian dairying industry of the operation of the E.E.C. and Britain's participation in it. I sincerely welcome the views expressed by Mr. Eckersley, although I do not say I believe him to be right. I do not know whether he is right, but it is important that he, in his position, has expressed those views. They must be borne in mind when considering proposals for a two-price quota scheme in the dairying industry in Australia.

Once again, I have gone to considerable length in discussing the dairying industry. I make no apology for this because I believe what I have said needed to be said. People in the industry have expressed a great deal of anxiety about the end results of these sorts of proposals.

I hope firstly that my remarks may direct a little more attention to the question; and, secondly, that they will serve to bring to the notice of the Government the fact that it needs to tread most carefully and warily indeed. I hope the Government does not believe it can legislate in the very near future for a matter of such importance as this without entering into a good deal more discussion and negotiation with the people who are affected, in the industry. Mr. President, I support the motion.

THE HON. R. THOMPSON (South Metropolitan) [4.46 p.m.]: I support the motion moved by The Hon. D. K. Dans for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. However, my purpose in rising to speak is to address myself to the conditions under which the opening of Parliament took place. I refer to the extreme heat to which the Governor, the guests, and the members were subjected. I feel that if we are to have openings of Parliament in March in years other than election years, then the ceremony should take place at 8.00 p.m. in the cool of the evening. This would allow all those present, and particularly the Governor, because he is obliged to wear a heavy uniform, to be reasonably comfortable.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You share Mr. McNeill's views, then?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Definitely. The conditions were such that a lady sitting alongside me during the opening very nearly fainted. She was in a very distressed state. I feel sure this was caused by the heat and not merely because she was sitting next to me. I say that so that the Leader of the Opposition will not laugh. I felt particularly sorry for the Governor, who was perspiring freely, and also for his secretary who stood, as he usually does, like a ramrod. I also felt sorry for all the other service chiefs. Perspiration was running off their noses and chins.

I do not think it is fair and reasonable that guests should be subjected to the conditions in this Chamber at that time of the year and day. I respectfully suggest that in future if the weather is hot—as it usually is in March—consideration be given to holding the opening of Parliament in the evening.

Mr. President, over a number of years I have raised with you privately the question of members' dress in the Chamber. I feel strongly about this matter because I think it is unreasonable that we should be required to be so formally attired in a building such as this which, after two or three days of 90 degrees heat, attains a temperature of 90 degrees and does not cool down. We have had years of experience of this. As far as I can see, our Standing Orders do not state that we cannot enter the Chamber without a coat or, for that matter, that we cannot enter the Chamber wearing shorts.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: As far as I am concerned, I hope you do not do that.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: It is all right for the Leader of the Opposition to interject and say he hopes we do not do that. However, I am speaking for myself. I consider that I am reasonably dressed, and I do not like having to come here and sit in this Chamber because it is a sweat box. I do not think this Chamber warrants air-conditioning. I think it would

be a waste of public money because it would cost many thousands of dollars and we are required to work under these conditions for only a few days of the year.

However, I think consideration should be given to air-conditioning some of the staff offices in this building. If our typists and clerks were working in a commercial building, their union would object strongly to such conditions. The Public Health Department would not allow a building to be constructed in the manner of this building. It is completely without ventilation. If members look at the offices along the eastern front of the building they will see that there is not even one ventilator. Members are at least free to come and go, but the staff are required to work here for five days a week. I feel some consideration should be given to them.

From my experience on the Joint House Committee over a number of years I know that this has been a pressing point. For a number of years it has been urged that air-conditioning should be installed in the front offices. I might say that I am not concerned about members; and I am not advocating that my office should be air-conditioned. However, I feel that the Leader of the Opposition in this place and in another place and their secretaries should not have to work in such hot offices. I have been in those offices on many occasions, and I think the conditions are shocking.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Don't you think it would be better to have one session of Parliament from July to November?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: No. I favour two sessions of Parliament; and not because that is a party attitude. I favour two sessions because I think members are afforded a greater opportunity to bring their problems to Parliament. I am sure all members take an interest in their electorates. I have utilised this facility in the past, and I think two sessions of Parliament is a very good feature.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I certainly agree that the Leader of the Opposition should receive many more privileges than he does.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: If a building such as this were to be erected in St. George's Terrace it would not get past the Public Health Department or the Perth City Council. However, somebody has made a mistake with regard to this building. I am making an appeal that when it is hot you, Mr. President, should invite those who desire to do so to take off their coats or to wear suitable attire in the Chamber. I do not wish to do anything that is wrong. I have been very tolerant, and I know that other members as well as myself have discussed this matter with you over a period of years.

Some three weeks ago some members including myself were in South Australia and we attended a sitting of the South Australian Legislative Assembly. We found that by resolution of that House members, and even officers of Parliament, were permitted to wear reasonable dress. The Clerks and messengers were suitably attired and they looked both neat and comfortable. As a matter of fact, I would say they looked better than the officers of this Parliament during hot conditions because they were attired in shorts, short-sleeved shirts, and ties. I thought they looked very smart indeed. Many members have taken advantage of the resolution and have attired themselves in open-neck shirts. Some wore shorts, and some wore ties, but at least they all looked comfortable. I might add that the Chambers in that Parliament are air-conditioned.

I am not advocating air-conditioning, firstly because I do not like it. I do not think it does anything whatsoever for one's health. Secondly, I would not advocate it in the Parliament of this State because it would be used for only a short period of the year. We should take advantage of the wearing of sensible clothes in a climate such as ours.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly would not agree with your views.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I am not concerned with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly or what he says or does. This is the Chamber in which I work. We in this Chamber are masters of our own destiny, and the other Chamber can do what it wishes to do.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I like to hear that bit about "masters of our own destiny"!

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I know what the Leader of the Opposition is alluding to, but I will not develop that. One of these days we may be masters of our own destiny in the true sense of the word.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You would like that when it is just about time for you to retire.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: If I knew that I could be successful in introducing a Bill to abolish the Legislative Council, and that I would get the required number of votes, I would do so tomorrow.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You are looking for headlines in the paper.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I am not looking for headlines. I have advocated this since the day I came to this place.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Why did I interject on you!

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The Leader of the Opposition should have a look at what happens in New Zealand where responsible Government is carried on without an Upper House. Do not tell me that country has not had responsible Government. Why should we be saddled with the expense of this House? It is like air-conditioning this Chamber: it is an added expense to the community.

The Hon. F. D. Willmott: There is more hot air in this Chamber.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I wish you would get off air-conditioning; you are starting to worry me.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The Leader of the House is not going to put me off! I believe the Upper House in Queensland was abolished in 1922 and successive Governments of all political colours have not seen fit to reinstate it. The present Liberal-Country Party coalition Government has been in office for years in that State, and it has not tried to reintroduce the Upper House.

The Hon. J. Heitman: What did they save in wages? They doubled the members in the Assembly.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: At least it gave the elected Government of the day the right to govern in accordance with the majority wish of the people.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Why don't you resign in strong protest?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: A coward runs away. I do not do that.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: What has this to do with wearing shorts in the Legislative Council?

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Who started the argument?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: If the honourable member's leader had not interjected possibly I would have sat down by now. However, I will have another opportunity to develop this argument during the debate on a Bill next week. The Leader of the Opposition seems to want some answer in respect of the Legislative Council. He made a rather good speech yesterday, and I did not interject. However, seeing that he has shown me the discourtesy of interjecting on my speech—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: If you look at the report of my speech yesterday you will find that you did interject.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I beg the honourable member's pardon.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Don't you remember my saying to you that I always know where you will be when the bells are ringing?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Oh, yes. I apologise to the Leader of the Opposition. I was making the point before I was rudely interrupted that you, Mr. President, may see fit to make some declaration to this Chamber next Tuesday—

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I hope you don't, Mr. President.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: —as to whether or not we may come into this Chamber suitably attired during conditions of extreme heat. I will leave it at that for the moment. I support the motion before the House, and I will have something to say on other matters at a later stage.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. R. F. Cloughton.

QUESTIONS (19): ON NOTICE

BINGO

Legislation

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH, to the Chief Secretary:

In view of the fact that a Bill to amend the Lotteries (Control) Act, to make provision for the legalising of the game of bingo, passed through all stages in the Legislative Council last year and was presented to the Legislative Assembly for consideration by that Chamber, and as the Bill was amended during the Committee stage in this Chamber by amendments intended to ensure that gambling would not be permitted on licensed premises, moved by me and wholeheartedly supported by the Chief Secretary, what was the reason for the Government not proceeding with the Bill in the Legislative Assembly?

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS replied:

The amendment made in Committee on the Bill was accepted by me in complete good faith. When the Bill reached the Legislative Assembly, upon reflection in that Chamber it was found not acceptable. In a Press Statement the Premier, Mr. Tonkin said, "The amendments made in the Legislative Council were unacceptable to the Government, and we were, therefore, not prepared to go on with them. As a result, it has been discharged from the notice paper."

2. NATIVES

Store Orders

The Hon. J. HEITMAN, to the Leader of the House:

(1) What is the monthly cost of store orders provided for natives and part natives at Moora, Mingenew, Mullewa and Goomalling?

- (2) How many natives in these towns would receive store orders on a monthly basis?
- (3) What was the cost of the Native Welfare Department annually for the years 1960, 1965, and 1971?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

(1)	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
	\$	\$	\$
Mingenew	245	Nil	14
Mullewa	188.50	270.75	243.75
Moora	—	129.25	111
Goomalling	—	Nil	53.25

(2)	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Mingenew	1	Nil	Nil
Mullewa	1	Nil	Nil
Moora	—	Nil	Nil
Goomalling	—	Nil	Nil

Figures for the month of December for Goomalling and Moora were not available.

Departmental policy requires that store orders only be used in the first instance until payment by cheque can be arranged.

Exceptions are made where it is clearly in the interests of the family to receive orders.

(3) Year ended—

30th June 1960—\$1,272,448.
 30th June 1965—\$2,120,534.
 30th June 1971—\$3,358,684
 plus Commonwealth Grant of \$1,680,000.

3. AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Advisory Committee Report

The Hon. N. McNEILL, to the Leader of the House:

As the Advisory Committee on Agricultural Education set up by the previous Government has now submitted its Report—

- (a) has the Government completed its consideration of the Report; and
- (b) what action is contemplated in order to implement the recommendations of the Committee?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (a) and (b) The report is under consideration.

4. CREDIT UNIONS

Interest Rates

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH, to the Chief Secretary:

(1) What is the general rate of interest paid by Credit Unions to people making deposits with such organisations on—

- (a) fixed deposit; and
- (b) short term deposit?

- (2) What is the general rate of interest charged by Credit Unions to their members who obtain loans from such organisations?

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) are not applicable to Credit Unions. Interest of 6% per annum is given on savings.
 (2) 1% on the outstanding balance at the end of each month.

7.

5. ROCK LOBSTER INDUSTRY

Freezer Boats

The Hon. R. THOMPSON, to the Leader of the House:

What is the future of freezer boats in the Rock Lobster Industry in the State?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

The role of freezer boats in the Rock Lobster industry is being considered by the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna at the present time and a detailed statement will be made to the House within this Session of Parliament.

6. RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Loan Applications

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) How many applications for loans have been approved by the Rural Reconstruction Authority?
- (2) How many applications have been rejected?
- (3) How many successful applications are still awaiting payment of approved loans?
- (4) If there is a significant difference between the answers to questions (1) and (3) what is the reason for delay in payment?
- (5) Can steps be taken to expedite payment after approval has been given?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) 328.
- (2) 599.
- (3) Exact figure to date not available as it would involve collection of statistics from over thirty branches of the R. and I. Bank. At the last monthly return (23-2-72) the figure was 263. At this date it is calculated to be between 200 and 220.
- (4) Reasons for delay are:—
 - (a) Large accumulation of approvals before funds became available following proclamation of the State Act in October, 1971.

- (b) The need to await the State Act before setting up Security and Accounting procedures in an entirely new department.

- (5) Steps have been taken. A specialist Security Officer has been engaged to concentrate on cleaning up the arrears.

SEWERAGE

Floreat Park Treatment Works

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS, to the Leader of the House:

Will the Government take urgent steps to counter the vile stench emanating from the sewage out-fall works at Floreat Park which is causing much discomfort to the residents in the area?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

The Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board is currently engaged in the construction of a new chlorination house at the Shenton Park treatment works. It is anticipated that the new equipment will be in operation by early June this year.

The new chlorinators are expected to materially improve odour control at this treatment works.

8.

FERTILISERS

N.P.K. Manufacture

The Hon. S. J. DELLAR, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Are N.P.K. fertilisers mixed—
 - (a) in Western Australia; or
 - (b) in Australia;
 and if so, by what company?
- (2) Can such company or companies supply the full requirements of—
 - (a) Western Australia; or
 - (b) Australia?
- (3) If Western Australia's requirements of N.P.K. cannot be filled from local sources, from what countries is this fertiliser available, and what is the cost ex Fremantle?
- (4) (a) Is the Commonwealth still subsidising nitrogen fertilisers; and
 (b) if so, to what extent?
- (5) If the answer to (4) is "Yes", to what extent on—
 - (a) Australian; and
 - (b) imported;
 manufactured fertilisers?
- (6) Are any duties or tariffs charged on such fertilisers as N.P.K. when supplies are not available in the Commonwealth?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) (a) Yes, by C.S.B.P. and Farmers Ltd.
(b) Yes, by all major fertiliser manufacturers.
- (2) (a) Yes.
(b) Yes.
- (3) Answered by (1) and (2).
- (4) (a) Yes.
(b) Eighty dollars for each ton of the nitrogen content of the fertiliser.
- (5) (a) Eighty dollars per ton of nitrogen.
(b) Eighty dollars per ton of nitrogen when—
 - (i) like or directly competitive goods were not produced in Australia in sufficient quantities to satisfy demand in Australia;
 - (ii) goods were imported on more favourable terms than those offered by any Australian producer where the Minister is satisfied that the export price is not less than the normal value of those goods in the country of origin and that the goods are shipped at realistic freight rates.
- (6) Yes, but exemption can be obtained.

9. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Financial Assistance to Able Star Engineering

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Has the Department of Development advanced any money to the firm Able Star Engineering Co. Pty. Ltd. who are the manufacturers of a pneumatic shearing hand piece?
- (2) If so, how much money has been advanced?
- (3) Is it a fact that this company is now in liquidation?
- (4) Has the company repaid the loan obtained through the Department of Development?
- (5) If not, is any action contemplated by the Government to ensure that this company continues to operate as a manufacturing concern in Western Australia for the pneumatic hand piece?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) Yes. A Government guarantee was issued for a loan to the company by the Commonwealth Trading Bank. Later a Receiver and Manager was appointed, to whom an advance was made by the Hon. Treasurer to finance the completion of a current production run. The original assistance was granted on the 21st June, 1967.
- (2) \$30,000 was advanced by the Bank under guarantee. \$4,933.78 was advanced by the Hon. Treasurer.
- (3) No, but a Receiver and Manager was appointed on behalf of the State on the 18th March, 1971.
- (4) No repayments have been received, either by the Bank or by the Hon. Treasurer.
- (5) The Government has authorised the Receiver and Manager to continue to conduct sales and service to handpieces, using the former factory premises, but no further manufacturing is contemplated at this stage. The Receiver and Manager is negotiating for the sale of the business as a going concern and at the same time he is investigating overseas markets for the handpiece.

10

SOIL TESTING

Albany Regional Laboratory

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) Is it expected to be able to carry out soil testing and mineral deficiency research at the new Albany Agricultural Department Regional Laboratory being erected in the near future?
- (2) Is it intended that staff from this office will be investigating the difficulties being experienced by farmers in the Denmark area with the varying soil types in the region?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) Mineral deficiency research will be carried out at the new Albany Agricultural Department Regional Laboratory and soil testing will be further investigated.
- (2) Staff from the Albany Regional Laboratory will, with any support required from other specialist staff in Perth, be investigating all major problems of the Albany Region.

11.

CHIROPRACTORS

Qualifications

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) What qualifications has the chairman of the Chiropractors Registration Board, to carry out the

functions as prescribed in subsection (3) of Section 15 of the Chiropractors Act, 1964?

- (2) If none, will the Minister take appropriate legislative measures to prevent him carrying out such duties and thus avoid embarrassment to the individual concerned?
- (3) (a) How many cases have the Chiropractors Registration Board investigated against people calling themselves "Chiropractors" without being registered; and
 - (b) what were the results of their investigations?
- (4) Does the Act provide protection for members of the public against any person practising chiropractic as defined in Section 4, who are unqualified to do so?
- (5) Who are qualified to practise chiropractic in this State as defined by Section 4 of the Act, but without calling themselves Chiropractors?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) No qualifications as a Chiropractor.
- (2) It is not anticipated that the Board would appoint the Chairman as an examiner and he would be in a position to refuse such an appointment and so avoid personal embarrassment.
- (3) (a) 6.
 - (b) 2 not sustained.
 - 2 cautioned.
 - 2 prosecuted and convicted.
- (4) The Act protects the public against persons calling themselves chiropractors who are not registered as such.
- (5) No one, apart from exclusions that may arise under Section 6.

12. STAMP DUTY ON RECEIPTS

Refunds

The Hon. N. McNEILL, to the Leader of the House:

In view of the Government undertaking to refund stamp duty on receipts subject to application being made by contributors—

- (a) how many applications for refund have been received;
- (b) what is the total value of valid applications;
- (c) what is the total amount which has so far been refunded?
- (d) how much remains to be refunded;
- (e) when is it anticipated that all refunds will have been effected; and

- (f) in view of the suggestion by the Premier reported in *The West Australian* on the 11th November, 1971, that such refunds be directed to charitable funds—

- (i) has the Government any knowledge of how much has so far been contributed to charitable funds; and
- (ii) how much is likely to be remitted in Commonwealth taxation?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (a) 4,469.
- (b) The value will not be known until all applications have been received and checked. The closing date for applications is 31st May, 1972.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Answered by (b).
- (e) Not known until all claims received and checked. Refunds will commence in the 1972-1973 financial year.
- (f) (i) Nil.
- (ii) Not known.

13.

BUILDING SOCIETIES

Interest Rates

The Hon. J. HEITMAN, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) What rate of interest is being charged on the loan of \$300,000 to the Trades and Labor Council's newly formed Terminating Building Society?
- (2) Will the other \$100,000 expected from the Government be loaned under the same interest rates and conditions?
- (3) Is \$300,000 a larger amount than is usual for a Government to loan to a Terminating Building Society?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) $\frac{3}{4}$ % (three quarter percent) below the Long Term Bond rate ruling at time advances are drawn.
- (2) Further loans, if any, would be advanced under the interest rates and conditions ruling at the time the advance is made.
- (3) There is no positive criteria for determining the amount of loan from the State Home Builders' Account to a terminating society in its early years.

In this case the amount of loan has been determined in light of likely demand from the large number of people eligible for membership of that society, and the desire to extend a truly co-operative element of the Terminating Building Society movement.

14. EDUCATION

High School and Teachers College at Albany

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) In view of the urgency of the situation, will the Government be calling tenders for the building of a second high school in Albany during the current financial year, and a teachers' training college in the 1972-73 financial year?
- (2) If not, what priority will be given to these projects?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The need for a second High School in Albany is under close review. On the previously established rate of growth a further school will be required in the near future. Present numbers, however, are insufficient to establish two viable Secondary Schools.

15. LIQUOR

Tavern License Applications

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) How many tavern license applications have been submitted to the Licensing Court since the passing of the Liquor Act, 1970?
- (2) Of this number, how many have been—
 - (a) granted;
 - (b) refused;
 - (c) otherwise dealt with?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

As some applicants may have applied more than once for the licensing of the same premises, figures quoted relate only to application for specific premises.

- (1) 13 applications submitted.
- (2) (a) 7 granted but only one operating with remaining premises not yet completed.
- (b) 1 refused.
- (c) 1 withdrawn.
4 awaiting hearing.

16. *This question was postponed.*

17. REGIONAL PRISON

North-West

The Hon. W. R. WITHERS, to the Chief Secretary:

With reference to the Governor's speech on the 14th March, 1972, concerning a proposed regional prison for the North West—

- (a) where will the North West regional prison be built;

- (b) is it planned to rebuild or relocate the existing regional prison for the Kimberley situated at Broome?

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS replied:

- (a) There has been no final decision made concerning the siting of the proposed North West Regional Prison.
- (b) Answered by (a).

18. STATE FINANCE

Additional Commonwealth Grants for Works and Housing

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Leader of the House:

Further to my question on the 15th March, 1972, relating to the State's Works and Housing programmes, would the Minister advise—

- (a) the nature of the "other works" referred to in the reply to part 2 of the question; and
- (b) the amount allocated to each?

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE replied:

- (a) and (b) Railway Works—\$505,000.
Public Works Department Engineering projects—\$160,000.
Construction of buildings and ground improvements—\$731,500.
Electricity generation and distribution—\$581,220.
Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage works—\$550,000.

19. TRAFFIC
Seat Belts

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS, to the Minister for Police:

Further to my question on the 15th March, 1972, relating to Traffic and Seat Belts, would the Minister advise what methods have been used up to this date to encourage parents of children under the age of eight, to wear seat belts where practical?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

A comprehensive publicity campaign advocating and encouraging the use of seat belts for children has been carried out over a number of years by the National Safety Council.

Both Press and Television media have been used on numerous occasions. The last publication appeared in *The West Australian* on Saturday, 12th February, 1972

and the response was overwhelming. This article further stimulated the anxiety of parents to ensure their children are fully protected.

Staff at the National Safety Council handle, on an average, some twenty to forty phone calls each day from parents enquiring about child restraint devices. These parents also visit the Safety Instructional on occasion to examine child restraints in the demonstration room at the Centre and discuss in detail their particular need.

In addition the National Safety Council also distributes two brochures entitled "How you Should Wear your Seatbelt" (advice on child restraints) and "Car Care for the Young".

Approximately 40,000 copies of these publications have been distributed. Copies are available to the Hon. Member if he desires them.

House adjourned at 5.18 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 16th March, 1972

The SPEAKER (Mr. Norton) took the Chair at 11.00 a.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr. Norton): Questions will be taken after 3.00 p.m.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 15th March, on the following motion by Mr. Brown:—

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech be agreed to:—

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

MR. BERTRAM (Mt. Hawthorn) [11.05 a.m.]: I rise to speak in support of the motion so well presented by the member for Merredin-Yilgarn on Tuesday afternoon last, and formally seconded by the member for Karrinyup. I desire to speak briefly on a few matters.

Listening to the debate so far it seems that in respect of this motion the Government will have a reasonably smooth passage.

Mr. O'Neill: Thank you for the hint.

Mr. BERTRAM: The Leader of the Opposition indicated that many facets of the Governor's Speech would have been similar had he been leading the Government.

Sir David Brand: They were in the previous Speeches.

Mr. Bickerton: Do not stir them up.

Mr. Court: That is the point—not a single new proposal was advanced.

Mr. BERTRAM: If I correctly heard the comment made by the Leader of the Opposition, I am entitled to draw the inference that matters are progressing fairly smoothly and there will not be much attack from the Opposition.

The Leader of the Opposition mentioned quite clearly there had been an increase in the number of unemployed since the Government took office about March of last year.

Sir David Brand: That is a statement of fact.

Mr. BERTRAM: That is a fair comment—statistically there are more people unemployed now than at the time the Government took office. I understood that there was no suggestion that the present Government is in any way to blame for this.

Mr. Rushton: You will hear about that fairly quickly.

Sir David Brand: I said it was the responsibility of a Government.

Mr. BERTRAM: I do not feel we will hear about it, as the member for Dale said. If this assertion was to have been made it would have been stated loudly and clearly and not referred to obliquely.

Sir David Brand: I thought I made it clear enough.

Mr. BERTRAM: It was not said that unemployment had increased by misadventure or default on the part of the Government. If this was the allegation it should have been spelt out precisely and clearly. I am not saying it was the allegation. However, it is true that people reading the Press unfortunately sometimes receive the wrong impression, and I think a number of people reading today's Press would believe this had been said—that the Government had been instrumental in increasing unemployment.

Mr. O'Connor: That would be true.

Mr. BERTRAM: That was not said! Having now made that observation and having put the record straight I can proceed to other matters.