

population in Perth, for the period the 30th June, 1967, to the 30th June, 1968, was approximately 4.6 per cent., which is exactly double that of Brisbane—about which I was speaking—where the increase in population was 2.3 per cent. These two capital cities had the greatest increase in population.

Two interjections were made during the debate, one of which referred to Canberra and the other to Darwin. The rate of population growth given in those two cities leaves ours for dead. The population increase for the same period in Darwin was 13.6 per cent., while that in Canberra was 9 per cent.

I think I was making the point that although other capitals were also troubled with growing pains—though not to the same extent as we are—they are still able to contain their problem of housing.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Not Darwin.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: Darwin will probably never catch up. However, Darwin is in the same position as Canberra; it has a wealthy god-parent.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The private sales at Darwin are made at astronomical figures.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: The Commonwealth is doing most of the developing and by comparison with this State the Commonwealth is tremendously wealthy. Accordingly, if it cannot carry out the necessary developments successfully what chance have we got to do so?

Before I conclude my remarks I would like to express my thanks to you, Mr. President, for the courteous manner in which you always acknowledge me. I would also like to thank the officers of the House upon whose generosity I have imposed more than once. I have never found them wanting. I must also pay a tribute to the officers in Government departments who have given me the utmost co-operation when I have approached them on various matters. The Ministers have also co-operated and I thank them for having done so.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: These are not valedictory remarks.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I notice that the Minister for Mines was in a very benevolent mood at afternoon tea and I thought these few remarks might keep him happy.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. J. G. Hislop.

House adjourned at 6.5 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 13th August, 1969

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

QUESTIONS (54): ON NOTICE

1. MINING *Iron Ore*

Mr. McIVER asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) When will the low grade magnetite iron ore deposits at Northam be developed?
- (2) Have the companies concerned and the Government reached an agreement on a special freight rate?
- (3) If "Yes", will he set out what the agreement prescribes?
- (4) Have the companies reached any agreement on a special rate for use of wharf facilities at Kwinana?
- (5) If "Yes", will he outline the agreement?
- (6) Will existing port facilities available be able to handle the tonnages involved?
- (7) If "No", what will the additional facilities required involve?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) The companies studying Northam and Mt. Gibson ores and their development potential still have a lot of work to do.
These studies are being undertaken in co-operation with the Government as a basis of assessing the viability of the proposals and the conditions that will apply.
- (2) No. Only indicative rates have been quoted at this stage.
- (3) Answered by (2) above.
- (4) No. Here again only indicative rates have been quoted for study purposes.
- (5) Answered by (4) above.
- (6) No.
- (7) A stock-pile area near the existing Port Authority wharf at Kwinana, extension of the wharf southwards and conveying equipment from the stock-pile area to the wharf.

2. HOUSING *Country Centres*

Mr. McIVER asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many State Housing Commission homes were constructed in Northam during 1967-68 and 1968-69?

- (2) How many State Housing Commission homes are to be constructed in Bunbury, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie this financial year?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

(1) 1967-1968	5
1968-1969	15
(2) Bunbury	80
Geraldton	70
Kalgoorlie	8

3. POULTRY FOOD Cost

Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Agriculture:

What was the cost of poultry food in each year since 1960 for the following—

- laying mash;
- wheat;
- meat meal, maize, etc.?

Mr. NALDER replied:

Costs available are included in the attached schedule.

- (2) There is no policy to this effect. However, a newly upgraded high school would probably not qualify immediately for a science block because of the prior claims of schools already on the list.

5. EDUCATION

Cannington High School

Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Education:

- Can he give a definite date when work will commence on the gymnasium for the Cannington High School?
- Will he ensure that the gymnasium will be completed for the 1970 school year?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- and (2) No. Erection depends upon the availability of loan funds.

FEED AND FEEDSTUFF RETAIL PRICES—WESTERN AUSTRALIA

(Wheat price is F.O.R.—Fremantle)

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Laying Mash (\$/Short Ton)	60	60	61	62	64	65	67	70	74	75
Wheat (C/bushel)	150.0	153.3	158.3	159.6	145.8	146.7	153	156.5	165.5	171.0
Meatmeal (\$/Long Ton) ....	....	....	....	100	....	105	126	....	123	141
Soyabean Meal (\$/Short Ton) .....	....	....	....	130	....	160	....	....	180	175
Fishmeal (\$/Short Ton) ....	....	....	....	145	....	181	226	209	210	192
Bran (\$/Short Ton) ....	....	....	....	47	....	44	46	....	48	45
Pollard (\$/Short Ton) ....	....	....	....	48	....	47	48	....	50	47

NOTE: Maize is not used in poultry feeds in W.A. and is not carried by stockfeed firms.

Retail price of wheat is \$2.11/bushel (1969)—ex produce merchants.

4. EDUCATION

Science Blocks

Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Education:

- Has his department considered approaching the Commonwealth Government for finance to build science blocks immediately a school has been upgraded from a junior school to a fourth-year school?
- Is it Government policy to wait twelve months before science blocks are established.

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- No such approach has been considered because the programme for the building of Commonwealth secondary science blocks is drawn up by the State Education Department to fit within the fixed sum allocated. In determining priorities the needs of all schools are considered, including those about to be upgraded.

6. STAMPING OF DOCUMENTS

Country Centres

Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Acting Treasurer:

What revenue from stamp duty was derived from stamping documents at each of the centres—

- Kalgoorlie;
- Bunbury;
- Albany;
- Geraldton,

for each of the years 1965 to 1968 inclusive?

Mr. NALDER replied:

Records of the revenue derived from stamping documents at these centres are not available. This is because the stamps supplied are available for sale to the public as well as for affixing to documents submitted.

The total stamp sales in the years concerned were—

Centre	1965	1966	1967	1968
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Kalgoorlie	9,644	10,308	21,520	27,105
Bunbury	48,311	51,239	52,030	71,982
Albany	13,688	13,512	15,029	19,506
Geraldton	5,079	4,931	5,107	7,178

7. EDUCATION

Schools at Kalgoorlie

Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What were final enrolment figures for Kalgoorlie (Central) School, Kalgoorlie Infants School and North Kalgoorlie School for the years 1962 to 1968?
- (2) What are the present enrolment figures for these schools?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

	Kalgoorlie Central	Kalgoorlie Junior Primary	North Kalgoorlie
(1) 1962	473	296	513
1963	470	313	488
1964	456	332	494
1965	410	286	491
1966	388	316	493
1967	402	332	475
1968	406	340	492
(2) Kalgoorlie Central—	387		
Kalgoorlie Junior Primary—	303		
North Kalgoorlie—	496		

8. TRANSPORT

State Shipping Service

Mr. RIDGE asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Commonwealth Government yet considered the State's proposal for financial assistance to re-equip the State Shipping Service?
- (2) If "No", when is a decision expected?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) This is at present being considered by the Commonwealth Government and at their request officers of the W.A. Coastal Shipping Commission discussed the proposal with Commonwealth Officers in Melbourne.

I am unable to advise when a final decision will be made by the Commonwealth Government.

9. ORD RIVER DAM

Naming

Mr. RIDGE asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) Have names been selected for—
 - (a) the main Ord dam;
 - (b) the satellite township that may be established in the Weaber Plains area near Kununurra?

- (2) If "No", will the local authority be consulted before decisions are reached?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) (a) The main Ord dam which is presently being constructed will be called the Ord River Dam for the duration of construction.
- (b) No.
- (2) Yes.

At the appropriate time this matter will be dealt with by my colleague the Minister for Lands through the Nomenclature Committee.

10. *This question was postponed.*

11. GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

Air-conditioning

Mr. RIDGE asked the Minister for Works:

As certain court houses in the north are to be air-conditioned, will he indicate if this decision represents a change in policy in relation to the air-conditioning of Government buildings and, if so, will he give consideration to extending the use of this facility to other existing and proposed new Government offices in the north?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Specific approval has been given to air-condition certain court-houses in the north. This does not represent a change in the existing policy in regard to Government buildings generally.

12. HOUSING

Rental Accommodation

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

What is the total number of rental units of accommodation owned by the State Housing Commission in the metropolitan area and country respectively in the following categories—

- (a) one sleeping unit;
- (b) two sleeping units;
- (c) three and four sleeping units?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

Information in the form requested is not available.

The State Housing Commission owns 10,430 rental units in the metropolitan area, and 5,749 in country districts.

13. **BUILDING TRADESMEN***Award Rates*

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Labour:

What are the current weekly award rates, including allowances, for building tradesmen in the metropolitan area?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

	On Site	On Premises of	
		Employer	
	\$	\$	
(1) Bricklayers and Stone Workers	63.22	55.40	
(2) Plasterers	63.27	55.45	
(3) Carpenters and Joiners	63.62	55.80	
Carpenters and Joiners in Joiners Shop		55.70	
(4) Plumbers	63.42	55.60	
(5) Painters and Sign-writers	62.92	55.10	
(6) Glaziers	62.92	55.10	
(7) Stonemasons	62.67	54.85	

Rates are inclusive of all allowances.

14. **HOUSING**
Eligibility

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) In the metropolitan area what is the present weekly income maximum for persons seeking accommodation through the State Housing Commission?
- (2) What formula is used or under what set of circumstances is the figure varied?
- (3) What portions of wages and allowances of building tradesmen in receipt of award rates are taken into account when applications are lodge for Commission accommodation?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) \$52.67 plus \$1.92 for each dependent child.
- (2) The amount is varied in accordance with fluctuations of basic wage.
- (3) Basic wage, margin and construction allowance are taken into account. Lost time, tool and travelling allowances are excluded.

15. **EDUCATION***Percentage of Students per Unit of Housing*

Mr. RUSHTON asked the Minister for Education:

What percentage of students per unit of housing is allowed in calculating expected numbers into primary and high schools?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Average student numbers per single residential unit of housing—

Primary—74.

Secondary—27.

These vary according to type of locality.

16. *This question was postponed.*

17. **HOSPITAL***Rockingham-Kwinana*

Mr. RUSHTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

What work is contemplated on the new Rockingham-Kwinana hospital this financial year?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

An overall plan is well under way to provide for a capacity of 200 to 250 beds, the first phase of which is being planned in detail for 60 beds, comprising 40 general and 20 maternity beds, plus appropriate service areas.

The plan will be of a low level type, it being expected that construction will commence in the 1970-71 financial year.

18. **EDUCATION***Bungaree School*

Mr. RUSHTON asked the Minister for Education:

Will the department advise the present number of students at the Bungaree School, the increased enrolments expected by the end of next term and steps being taken to accommodate these children on a temporary basis?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (a) Enrolment—257.
- (b) Estimated enrolment by the end of next term is approximately 350.
- (c) Arrangements are being made to house an additional class in a vacant room at Rockingham Primary School immediately. Further temporary accommodation will be arranged as required.

19. **HOUSING***Rockingham-Kwinana*

Mr. RUSHTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) For the Shire of Rockingham and the Shire of Kwinana, respectively, what were the numbers of—
 - (a) completed units of housing;
 - (b) uncompleted units of housing, as at the 30th June, 1969?

(2) What are the—

- (a) estimated units of housing to be completed;
- (b) estimated units of housing to be commenced,

during the 12 months to the 30th June, 1970?

- (3) What was the population of each shire as at the 30th June, 1964 and 1969 and what is the estimate to the 30th June, 1970?

Mr. NALDER replied:

The clerks of the respective shire councils have supplied the following figures—

		Hocking- ham	Kwinana
(1)	(a)	4,101	1,970
	(b)	900	480
(2)	(a)	1,400	700
	(b)	2,000	400
(3)	1964—Permanent	3,130	....
	Additional summer	5,000	....
	population	8,130	5,760
	1969	11,400	....
		5,000	....
		16,400	8,510
	1970	16,000	....
		5,000	....
		21,000	11,500

20.

HOUSING

Female Applicants

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

What is the number of single-unit female applicants currently on the waiting list with the State Housing Commission?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

As at the 31st July, 1969, 1,263 applications were held, of which 276 come within the current criteria for assistance.

21.

HOUSING

State Housing Commission Profit

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What was the profit made by the State Housing Commission for the year ended the 30th June, 1969?
- (2) Of the profit, how much was gained respectively from—
 - (a) rental charges;
 - (b) land sales;
 - (c) other (give details)?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) This information is not yet available.

22.

HOUSING

Developers and Builders

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) In what localities has the State Housing Commission allocated land to developers and builders at a specific figure with the expectation that such land would be passed on to the ultimate purchaser at the same figure?
- (2) How many such lots have been made available to builders?
- (3) Between what amounts do the prices of lots lie?
- (4) How do these prices compare with market value?
- (5) How many such lots have been sold to individual purchasers?
- (6) Is there any income limit or other restriction on means or property owned by applicants?
- (7) What is the range of prices charged for house only?
- (8) What safeguard is there against builders adding a sum to the price of a house, but which in fact represents a profit on State Housing Commission land?
- (9) At what stage are plans of proposed dwellings examined and approved?
- (10) At what stage and under what circumstances is a check made on the cost of construction?
- (11) What amount of variation from the commission's estimate is allowed to builders' prices?
- (12) In how many cases has there been a difference in price, and of these, how many above and below the estimate respectively, and to what extent?
- (13) Have any complaints been received from purchasers of dwellings regarding sale price or workmanship?
- (14) If so, what has been done about them?
- (15) Is he satisfied with the concept and working of this scheme?
- (16) If so, why?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Calista and Orelia.
- (2) 718.
- (3) Calista—\$800 to \$1,500 per lot.
Orelia—\$2,000 to \$2,250 per lot.
- (4) (a) Calista in accordance with values which were assessed by the Chief Valuer, Commonwealth Taxation Department;
(b) Orelia generally at 30% below the Chief Valuer's assessment of current market value.
- (5) 45.

- (6) There is no income limit or other restriction on means, but there is the qualification with respect to the ownership of a house or land, as has always been the case regarding the sale of land under the public scheme.
- (7) \$7,510 to \$15,101.
- (8) Prior to the transfer of the land to the project developer or builder, they are required to submit to the Commission the plan of the dwelling and the sale price of the property, showing land and buildings separately.
- (9) Answered by (8).
- (10) Answered by (8).
- (11) In the order of 10 per cent. is considered as acceptable variation.
- (12) Up to the present date, the Commission has examined 351 cases, and it is considered that the prices have generally complied with the tolerance allowed. However, it is felt that in some cases these are reaching the limit of this tolerance and these cases will be discussed with the builders concerned.
- (13) Yes.
- (14) In one instance the Commission advised a builder that no further land would be made available to him. In another case the Commission intends to have discussions with the builder because the prices charged appear to be reaching the limit of the tolerance allowed.
- (15) Yes.
- (16) The scheme is meeting the main objectives which are—
- (i) Making land available at reasonable cost to both individuals and builders.
 - (ii) Producing a very desirable admixture of both State Housing accommodation and privately designed and constructed homes.
 - (iii) Meeting a need to supply accommodation to service the growing industrial complex at Kwinana at a much higher rate than would otherwise be possible.
- I have some roneoed sheets of the terms and conditions under which land is made available to project developers in the Kwinana new town and to individuals in the Kwinana new town, and the general conditions which have prevailed under the public scheme of the State Housing Commission for some considerable time. I ask that these be tabled.

The papers were tabled.

23.

SWAN RIVER

Flooding

Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) What is the maximum height the Swan River has reached at Guildford or the nearest gauging point?
- (2) When was the last flood period along the river banks?
- (3) To what height would levee banks need to be built at Bassendean or West Midland to avoid flooding of recreational grounds in the vicinity of the river at both points?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) At Meadow Street Bridge: 18.18 feet.
At Guildford Road Bridge: 15.31 feet.
Both heights measured above low water mark, Fremantle.
- (2) August, 1963.
- (3) Provisional estimates of river levels during the design flood are 20.5 feet at Crosbie Road, West Midland, and 15.80 feet at Bassendean Parade, Bassendean, measured from low water mark, Fremantle.
Levee banks should be at least two feet above these levels.
The design flood is based on the 1926 flood but it should be understood that a greater flood is possible.

24.

HEALTH

Poisons: Records

Mr. BRADY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) What systems, if any, operate in Western Australia to measure the effect of—
 - (a) nicotine;
 - (b) alcohol;
 - (c) fluoride poisons, in the community generally?
- (2) Are any records kept in the Medical Department of the detrimental or beneficial effects of the above in the various parts of the State?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) (a) None known to be operating at present.
(b) Work has been or is being done by Mental Health Services, the University, and Royal Perth Hospital.
(c) Fluoride poisoning would be investigated by the Health Department if it occurred.
- (2) No specific records are kept but reports on various investigations are available.

25. **HEALTH***Dental Clinics*

Mr. BRADY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) In what areas are Government mobile dental clinics operating?
- (2) What centres have been supplied with Government dental clinics?
- (3) What criteria are used in deciding the necessity for a dental clinic being established?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Present activity of mobile clinics is at—

Denham (Shark Bay) area.

Education Department camp school at Point Peron treating country school children.

At institutions treating patients most of whom are under the care of the Child Welfare Department.

Outlying schools in the Bunbury area.

The aero-dental unit has recently completed a circuit involving stations in the Gascoyne and Ashburton districts.

Perth Dental Hospital mobile clinics (3) are operating in the following areas—

- (1) Murchison,
- (2) Southern Cross,
- (3) Koorda-Lake Grace.

- (2) Static Government Dental Clinics are situated at—

Carnarvon.
Exmouth.
Dampier.
Tom Price.
Port Hedland.
Broome.
Derby.
Kununurra.
Fremantle.
Victoria Park.
Albany.
Bunbury.
Boulder.

- (3) (a) Population.
- (b) Remoteness from private practice.
- (c) Density of low income patients eligible for subsidy.

26. **RAILWAYS***Perth Terminal Facilities*

Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What arrangements are made by the Railway Department to see that country passengers arriving at the Perth Terminal by bus can board taxis or buses to Perth or taxis to other centres?

- (2) Is the department aware that—

- (a) on the 3rd August, 1968, passengers arriving at the terminal found only one taxi was available for a bus three-quarters laden with passengers from the country;
- (b) the road bus driver rang for additional taxis;
- (c) this caused a twenty minute delay to passengers and that some had to walk and carry their own luggage?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Adequate space is provided for taxis to ply for hire at the Perth Terminal and taxi companies have been invited to install free telephones.

One has already been installed and another is being arranged.

On occasions when this facility has failed staff have arranged taxi transport on departmental telephones.

- (2) (a) (b) and (c). In the absence of specific information, this cannot be confirmed.

27. **ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES***Underground Power Lines*

Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Is he aware—

(a) that the Cass County North Dakota Electric Co-operative has found that burying long distance power lines can be cheaper than stringing them on overhead poles;

(b) that this is alleged to be possible by the use of cheaper cables, ready-made connectors and improved trenching machines;

(c) that the co-operative mentioned it calculates—

(i) underground cable costs about 27 cents a foot as compared with 30 cents a foot for overhead lines; and

(ii) that with the underground method maintenance costs are reduced?

- (2) Is he further aware that a co-operative spokesman asserts, after laying 200 miles of underground cable not another mile will be installed overhead?

- (3) In view of the costs and methods mentioned in (1), will he request the State Electricity Commission to investigate, if necessary at first hand, the feasibility of applying the techniques and equipment to areas of State Electricity Commission control in this State?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) No. The Cass County system is for a rural area, and the installed cost of the cable is reported as being \$1,800 U.S. per mile, whereas the S.E.C. costs for overhead are \$800 A. per mile. The Cass County system has about one-third the power capability of the Commission's system, and no allowance has been made for the extra cost of undergrounding transformers and services, or for the additional cost of correcting the capacitance effect of high voltage underground cables.

28.

TRAFFIC

Drunken Driving

Mr. T. D. EVANS asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) Has he read the news item in the *Daily News*, Thursday the 7th August last, page 4, under the heading "Drunk drive charge fails—no alcohol"?
- (2) Having regard to the allegation that the accused person had been charged after a positive reading had been obtained with a breathalyser test, would he make a comment as to the apparent conflict between the "breath alcohol" and "blood alcohol" results?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) There is no breathalyser equipment at Albany and the test taken by the Traffic Inspector would be an "Alcotest" which is a preliminary test only, and which might not be carried out under the best of conditions. There is a time factor involved in the more precise "breathalyser" and "blood alcohol" tests which could produce a varying result to that indicated by the "Alcotest."

29.

EDUCATION

Enrolments

Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) What are the enrolment numbers for—
 - (a) junior high schools;
 - (b) three year high schools;
 - (c) five year high schools, outside the metropolitan area?
- (2) In respect of (c) what are the enrolment numbers for the fourth and fifth years?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

	Primary	Secondary	Total
As at February, 1969—			
(1) (a) Junior High Schools	10,212	4,355	14,567
(b) High Schools	....	2,284	2,284
(c) Senior High Schools	....	9,062	9,062
(2) Fourth year—1,187.			
Fifth year—588.			

30.

TRANSPORT

Report

Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Transport:

Will he table the report into road transport referred to in the annual report of the Director-General of Transport, 1969?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

It is presumed the honourable member refers to the report on "Road Transport Costs—Perth to the Pilbara Area Western Australia" and a copy is tabled herewith.

The report was tabled.

31.

FRUIT FLY

Tomatoes

Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Have any cases of fruit fly infested tomatoes been reported to his department?
- (2) If "Yes", how many and from what areas?
- (3) Has his department made an inspection of ripe tomatoes on plants left standing; if so, with what result?
- (4) How many types of fruit fly have been identified in Western Australia?
- (5) Do any of these types use the tomato as their host?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes—in ripe fruit.
- (2) Several in ripe fruit. One from Wanneroo and a number from Carnarvon over several years.
- (3) Yes, some fruit fly infestation in ripe fruits.
- (4) Several native species, but one only of commercial importance (the introduced Mediterranean fruit fly).
- (5) Yes.

32.

EDUCATION

Slow Learning Children

Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is provision being made this financial year for the construction of the Bunbury Slow Learning Children's Occupation Centre?

- (2) When will tenders be called for the project and what buildings are contemplated?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) The Bunbury Occupation Centre is listed on the 1969-70 building programme and will proceed if the necessary funds are forthcoming.
- (2) A commission has been let to Oldham Boas & Ednie Brown to prepare plans for the centre comprising 1 junior classroom, 1 home economics, 1 craft/classroom, administration and toilets. It is not known at this stage when tenders might be called.

33. CHILD WELFARE OFFICES

Staff

Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Child Welfare:

- (1) How many staff are employed at each of the following district offices—
 Geraldton,
 Albany,
 Kalgoorlie,
 Collie,
 Northam,
 Bunbury?
- (2) Is consideration being given to the appointment of another officer, or assistant, to the Bunbury office?
- (3) If so, when is the appointment to take place and what arrangements will be made for office space?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Geraldton—
 2 full time District Officers.
 Albany—
 1 full time District Officer.
 1 full time typist.
 Kalgoorlie—
 2 full time District Officers.
 1 full time typist.
 Collie—
 1 full time District Officer.
 1 part time Family Welfare Officer.
 Northam—
 1 full time District Officer.
 1 part time typist.
 Bunbury—
 1 full time District Officer.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Funds to establish a part time position of family welfare officer have been sought in the 1969-70 staff estimates. If the necessary finance is made available to appoint an officer, then the department will approach the Public Service Commissioner's office for an increase to our present office accommodation in Bunbury.

34.

EDUCATION

District Youth Organisers

Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many full-time and part-time district youth organisers are there and in what centres do they operate in—
 (a) metropolitan area;
 (b) country centres?
- (2) Will further appointments be made during the next twelve months and, if so—
 (a) to what centres;
 (b) when;
 (c) what would be the total number of appointments?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) (a) 3 Full-time (Fremantle, Midland, Mt. Lawley).
 6 Part-time (Bassendean, Osborne Districts, Belmont, Dale, Epileptics' Young People's Club, Deaf and Dumb Club).
 (b) 2 Full-time (Albany, Warren).
 9 Part-time (Boddington, Bridgetown, Busselton, Bunbury, Katanning, Roebourne, Serpentine/Jarrahdale, Wagin, Morawa).
 In addition 6 part-time organisers are attached to full-time centres, viz. (Midland 3, Warren 1, Fremantle 1, Albany 1).
- (2) It is anticipated that a further 7 full-time centres will be established. A few additional part-time organisers may also be appointed to assist the full-time men.
 (a) Centres under consideration for a full-time establishment are—
 Bunbury, Busselton, Kalamunda, Cannington, Northam, Belmont, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, a Shire of Perth locality.
 (b) It is hoped to make a number of these appointments ready for third term 1969, and the remainder by February, 1970.
 (c) 12 full-time.
 25 part-time.

35.

BARRACKS ARCHWAY

Gates

Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it intended to replace the wrought iron gates which were considered by many to be an attractive feature of the Barracks Archway?
- (2) If not, what is it intended to do with the gates?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) No.

(2) No plans exist for any use of the gates which are in store at the Welshpool Depot of the Architectural Division, Public Works Department.

36.

EDUCATION

Loose-leaf Notepaper

Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Is he aware that many fourth and fifth year high school students do not have use for the exercise books issued free to them as a result of the "loose leaf" system of note recording being considered more practical?

(2) If there is any evidence of this, cannot consideration be given to issuing an equivalent quantity of suitable notepaper and so avoid unnecessary waste?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) It is known that many fourth and fifth year students prefer the loose leaf system of note recording but not all teachers and principals share this view.

(2) The free stock list contains exercise books, punched foolscap paper and two ring snap folders. Principals may requisition according to their preference.

37.

EDUCATION

James Street Annexe

Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Was a contract let for the re-sealing of the James Street Annexe of the Technical School?

(2) If so, what were the terms of the contract and what was the estimated date of completion?

(3) Has the completion date since been passed?

(4) If so, are any penalty clauses included for failure to meet the contract and will any penalties be sought?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Price \$9,650 for re-surfacing of bitumen paving. Due for completion May the 5th, 1969.

(3) Yes.

(4) A liquidated damages clause was included in the contract documents.

Consideration will be given to the application of damages.

38.

MCCARREY REPORT

Part II

Mr. TONKIN asked the Acting Premier:

(1) Has part II of the McCarrey Committee's report on land prices been presented to the Government?

(2) If "Yes", on what date was it received?

(3) Will he table a copy of the report?

Mr. NALDER replied:

(1) No.

(2) and (3) Answered by (1).

39.

ROAD

Manjimup-Pemberton

Mr. H. D. EVANS asked the Minister for Works:

(1) In view of the deterioration of the main Manjimup-Pemberton road caused by increased log hauling, is it intended that road-works will be carried out on this section in the near future?

(2) If so, could he indicate an anticipated date of commencement?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) The Manjimup-Pemberton Road, although formerly a Declared Main Road, is now classified as an important secondary road.

The Main Roads Department is not aware that there has been a substantial deterioration in its condition.

There are considerable demands for improvements to important secondary roads in many parts of the State, and any work on the Manjimup-Pemberton Road must be related to overall priorities. The department has allocated \$1,500 in its current programme of works to assist the shire council with maintenance.

(2) Answered by (1).

40. TINGLEDAL COMMUNITY HALL

Future Use

Mr. H. D. EVANS asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Is he aware of a report in the *Albany Advertiser* of the 8th August which states that the Public Works Department has advised the Denmark Shire Council that the Tingle Dale School will probably be used as a youth hostel for the Youth Hostel Association?

(2) Can he indicate if this report is accurate?

- (3) In the event of the report being correct, will the building still be available for use as a community hall as requested by the Tingle-dale Progress Association and the Denmark Methodist Church?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The report is not completely accurate. Interest in the school has been shown by more than one organisation. The shire has been asked to consider exercising control to enable comprehensive use to be made of the building. It has also been asked to submit any alternative suggestions for further use.
- (3) It is hoped that the building will be available for use by all interested organisations if this is feasible.

41. MINING

Bauxite Reserves

Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) What is the estimated amount of reserves of bauxite available in Western Australia?
- (2) Is he satisfied that adequate reserves exist to sustain the industries established and in the process of being established which are dependent upon bauxite for their operation?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) The Minister for Mines has informed me that the inferred reserves in the Darling Range area of the South West Mineral Field are 650 million tons.

The reserves on the Mitchell Plateau at the time that the Agreement was signed were estimated at about 200 million tons. Further exploration of the area indicates that this figure may be exceeded.

- (2) Yes. It is also reasonable to assume that the companies concerned would not make the large scale investments involved unless they were satisfied before embarking on the projects.

42. EDUCATION

Primary School at Cannington

Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he still of the opinion that the Cannington Primary School will be open for use in the 1970 school year?
- (2) If "Yes", when will tenders be let?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Anticipated towards the end of September.

43. WATER SUPPLIES

Goldfields Line

Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is the goldfields water supply line fully equipped with electric pumps?
- (2) If steam pumps are operating at any point, where are they situated and when does he expect them to be replaced?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) No. 6 Pumping Station at Ghool—to be replaced by an electric station in October, 1969.
No. 7 Pumping Station at Gilgai—to be phased out on the commissioning of No. 6 electric station.
No. 8 Pumping Station at Dedari—to be replaced by a diesel driven station in January, 1970.

44. HEALTH

Cigarette Smoking; Hazards

Mr. BERTRAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

How much has been spent on education of the public in schools and elsewhere as to the health hazards associated with cigarette smoking in each of the last five statistical years?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

Information not available in Public Health Department.

45. EDUCATION

Parents and Citizens' Associations

Mr. BERTRAM asked the Minister for Education:

What is the total amount of money provided by the parents and citizens' associations to supply amenities and services for and incidental to the education of children for each of the five years ended the 30th June, 1969?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

This information is not available from the Education Department.

46. TRAFFIC

Prosecutions

Mr. BERTRAM asked the Minister for Police:

How many prosecutions have been made under regulation 1612 of the Road Traffic Code and how many convictions were recorded thereon during each of the last five statistical years?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

Regulation 1612 of the Road Traffic Code is a prescribed Regulation under the provisions of the Traffic (Minor Offences) Regulations now the Traffic (Infringement) Regulation.

Convictions are not recorded against any person committing an offence charged under the provisions of these Regulations. However, it is known that the following infringement notices were issued for offences against Regulation 1612—

1964-65—Not available.

1965-66—18.

1966-67—22.

1967-68—17.

1968-69—37.

47.

HEALTH

Cigarette Smoking: Hazards

Mr. BERTRAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

Further to his answer to my question on the 6th August in which he specified the main hazards alleged to be associated with cigarette smoking, will he answer my question by specifying each and every of the hazards which in His Excellency the Governor's speech are by clear implication alleged to be associated with cigarette smoking?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

It is still impossible to answer the question. Many people make allegations about the effects of cigarette smoking in practically every country of the world.

The only satisfactory answer remains that given on Wednesday, the 6th August, to Question No. 44.

48.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Boulder Town Council

Mr. MOIR asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government?

Will he table all the papers containing the evidence and the Boundaries Commission report that caused him to abolish the Boulder Town Council?

Mr. NALDER replied:

No.

49.

HEALTH

Dust Nuisance

Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is he aware that the dust nuisance from industrial establishments in the Welshpool industrial centre is getting worse?

- (2) Is he aware that the heaviest fall out of raw dust affecting residents of Kew Street, Kewdale, occurred on the nights of the 8th and 9th of August?

- (3) When can local residents expect some relief from this nuisance?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No. Gauges situated in the area to measure the dust nuisance have not shown an increase in wind-borne dust.

- (2) No. Complaints have not been received by this department of dust on those nights.

- (3) Several factories in the area are investigating or are in the process of installing equipment to reduce the dust emission in this area.

50.

RAILWAYS

Air-conditioning

Mr. MOIR asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What system of air-conditioning is in operation on the Perth-Port Pirie express?

- (2) Is the air recirculated throughout the train or is the air drawn from outside?

- (3) If the air is recirculated is it re-conditioned or purified in the system?

- (4) Is he aware that many passengers complain of adverse effects from the air-conditioning?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) McCullagh—Carrier air-conditioning unit.

- (2) and (3). Air is recirculated with limited admission of fresh air from bleed points, i.e., 80 per cent. recirculated air: 20 per cent. new air. There is no purification.

- (4) Some complaints respecting temperature, humidity and various odours have been made verbally to the technician on the train.

51.

EDUCATION

Classroom Floor Space

Mr. TAYLOR asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) In designing classroom accommodation how many square feet of floor space per pupil is recommended by the Public Works Department school architects?

- (2) By the same standard, how many students could comfortably be accommodated—

(a) in a classroom at Calista School;

(b) in a demountable?

(3) What is the floor area of a standard room at—

- (a) Medina Primary School;
- (b) Calista Primary School;
- (c) Kwinana High School?

(4) What is the floor area of a demountable at Kwinana High School?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) 12 square feet.
- (2) (a) 45.
- (b) 45.
- (3) (a) 682 square feet.
- (b) 594 square feet.
- (c) 682 square feet.
- (4) 576 square feet.

52. EDUCATION

Kwinana High School

Mr. TAYLOR asked the Minister for Education:

What were the dates of installation of the twelve demountables at Kwinana High School?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

There are 10 demountable classrooms and two Bristol classrooms at Kwinana High School.

These were occupied as follows:—

Demountables—

- 2 February, 1967.
- 2 April, 1968.
- 6 February, 1969.

Bristol—

- 2 February, 1968.

53. EDUCATION

Enrolments

Mr. TAYLOR asked the Minister for Education:

What is the department's present estimate of enrolments for February, 1970, at the following schools—

- Spearwood,
- South Coogee,
- Calista,
- Orelia,
- Kwinana High?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- Spearwood—450.
- South Coogee—240.
- Calista—650-700.
- Orelia—200.
- Kwinana High—1,190.

54. *This question was postponed.*

QUESTIONS (4): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. LOAN MONEYS

Allocation to Departments

Mr. TONKIN asked the Acting Treasurer:

Has an allocation been made to the various departments of the loan moneys available to them for the present financial year?

Mr. NALDER replied:

No, not to my knowledge.

2. HOUSING

Commonwealth Grant for Single Pensioners

Dr. HENN asked the Minister for Housing:

Is he in a position to enlarge upon the announcement made in the Federal Budget speech that \$25,000,000 will be made available as a non-repayable cash grant to the States for the housing of single pensioners?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

I was in communication with Senator Dame Annabelle Rankin (Minister for Housing) this afternoon and it appears an amount of \$25,000,000 will be made available to all of the States as a non-repayable cash grant over the next five years. The allocation to the States will be in proportion to those pensioners in receipt of a special allowance to the total number of pensioners, and on this ratio Western Australia can expect \$350,000 per year for five years or a total of \$1,750,000.

Senator Rankin is to make arrangements for Mr. Nimmo, Secretary of the Department of Housing, to have discussions with me next Thursday—tomorrow week—on the details. As I understand it, accommodation similar to that built by the State since 1959 will be built and will be available to people either in receipt of the special allowance, or eligible for the special allowance.

Mr. Jamieson: Female pensioners only?

Mr. O'NEIL: I am not certain of this. I indicated the matter will be discussed in depth. I think a further condition will be that all of the States will be expected to maintain their own contribution to pensioner housing on no less favourable terms than they have been doing for the last few years. I think that is as much as we know about it at the moment.

HOUSING

State Housing Commission Profit

Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Adverting to question 21 on to-day's notice paper, what are the circumstances responsible for the State Housing Commission not being aware, more than six weeks after the end of the financial year, of the financial results of its year of operations?
- (2) When does he anticipate being able to supply the information sought?
- (3) Meanwhile, is he able to give a reasonable estimate of the position?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

- (1) to (3) I must indicate I anticipated this question would be asked. Perhaps I should have enlarged upon my reply. I discussed this matter with the Accountant of the State Housing Commission when I saw the answer that was provided. He told me that on previous occasions he has been able to make an estimate and indicate that this was subject to audit, but on this occasion he is unable to supply the information even in estimate form. If the honourable member persists, probably I will be able to supply it later on, but I am not sure when the information will be available.

Mr. Tonkin: I suppose you have made that much profit you won't be able to count it.

McCARREY REPORT

Availability of Part II

Mr. TONKIN asked the Acting Premier:

Part I of the McCarrey report was presented to Parliament a very considerable time ago. It was indicated that part II, which would suggest to the Government the means by which part I of the report could be put into operation, would follow.

He said this afternoon that part II has not yet been received. As it appears to be an inordinate length of time between the tabling of part I of the report and the receipt by the Government of part II, can he give any explanation as to why part II of the report has not been received, and, if not, will he inquire and inform the House tomorrow as to when the report is likely to be presented?

Mr. NALDER replied:

I will undertake to seek out the information that is required by the Leader of the Opposition and endeavour to indicate tomorrow when it can be expected that part II of the report will be received.

BILLS (2): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Collie Recreation and Park Lands Act Repeal Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Bovell (Minister for Lands), and read a first time.

2. Forests Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Bovell (Minister for Forests), and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 12th August, on the following motion by Mr. McPharlin:—

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. MENSAROS (Floreat) [5.8 p.m.]: I have listened very carefully to most of the speeches on the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, a debate which is designed to give members an opportunity to express their views on various political matters whether they are included in the Governor's Speech or not.

I do not wish to claim the right to reply in detail to assertions which were made by various members, although the member for Cockburn during the debate on the Supply Bill, in his rather inspiring and, perhaps because of this, least publicised speech, challenged us on this side of the House to refute, more often, statements made and arguments presented by the Opposition.

I would like only to reflect on my impressions generally, and express my thoughts in connection with those speeches, before dealing with a few particular matters which, I hope, might merit some consideration.

My impressions generally are two-fold: Firstly, it appears to me that every member wishes, in one field or another, more Government intervention. This, in my view is very hard to reconcile with the equally frequent outcries—coming more often than

not from the same sources—of safeguarding individual freedom and rights against Government intervention.

I am sufficiently conservative in my liberal views to be prepared to accept that the best Government is the one which least interferes with the actions of the individual; which secures their property and lawful actions against interference by others; and which offers arbitration in their disputes, should such interference occur.

Having these convictions, I often wonder about present day editorials and expressed views of other media of communication chiding Governments because of the lack of sufficient quantity of legislation in one session of Parliament. A poor legislative record, they say, if anything less than 100 Acts reaches the Statute book during one year.

I can still vividly recall contrary opinions about Governments in the thirties when they were condemned if they were able to govern without adding excessively to, and cluttering up, the already numerous rules and regulations imposed upon the individual.

My second impression—listening especially to the remarks made by the Opposition, and more particularly by the Leader of the Opposition—whose forceful way of delivery I admire, enjoy, and quite frankly envy—is that, according to these speakers of the Opposition, almost everything in every field and under every portfolio in this, our fair State, is wrong.

The farmers are neglected, housing is appalling, education has reached a crisis and is the lowest standard in the world, our criminal justice is inadequate, everyone is overtaxed and underpaid, we are developing too fast, goods are allowed to be transported by road, yet we pay too much road maintenance tax, and—*horribile dictu*—Mr. Speaker, you and I are even allowed by the Government to smoke cigarettes!

I admit that this impression is not only conveyed by the speeches of the Opposition. It appears to be an “in custom” today to rubbish everything and not be proud of anything. To use the expression “in custom” again, and referring to science fiction, I have often thought that if someone came here from an outer planet and was in an Apollo 11 quarantine-like isolation and only watched “Four Corners,” “Impact,” and the like on television, only read newspaper articles, and only listened to some commentators on the radio, he would surely gain the impression that he had come to the worst country—the worst State—in the world.

I do not believe this, but I try to be humble and realistic enough to acknowledge that my beliefs might not influence members of the Opposition.

Mr. Jamieson: You can only build up by self criticism; you cannot do it any other way.

Mr. MENSAROS: But what about the thousands and thousands of people who continually come here from various countries—from almost every country in the world—with the intention of making this, our State, their permanent home; and who, with very small exception, stay here and become useful citizens? Opposition members mentioned only two families who left our State because of lack of cheap accommodation. What about the thousands who remain and become useful citizens? Are they proving that this is the worst country, or do they manifest the belief, which is mine as well, that this is still one of the best countries offering the best conditions, not only the best for the present but especially the best for the future?

Having tried to accept the challenge of the member for Cockburn I would like now to mention a few specific matters. These came to my mind as a result of widespread communication with my constituents and therefore they are pertinent, being the expressed feelings of residents of my electorate; although some of them I hope will be of wider interest.

It was pleasing to hear His Excellency announce as the very first item of the Government's legislative programme that it was intended to provide additional relief to home owners to protect them from the effects of sudden increases in land values. The enactment of the Land Tax Amendment Act of 1968 was a sincere endeavour towards this aim. Based upon the average valuation at the time of the legislation it lightened the burden, especially of the single home owner where the value of his property, or rather the unimproved part of his property, was under \$5,000, by decreasing the rate by more than 50 per cent. from five-eighths; or, expressed in decimals, \$0.625c to \$0.3c in the dollar. This was sincerely intended as a relief, as the Treasurer said in this second reading speech. I quote from page 2161 of 1968 *Hansard*, where the Premier said—

Taxpayers whose assessments have recently increased sharply, following marked increases in the valuation of their property, can expect substantial reductions in their assessments. In other cases where revaluation has just taken place and the new values are about to enter into the assessment this year, marked increases should be forestalled.

The sincerity of this intention is undoubted and is best proved, if it needs any proof, by what the Leader of the Opposition had

to say in reply. On page 2367 of 1968 *Hansard*, amongst other things, he said, referring to the Treasurer—

He is able to ensure that the reductions in land tax, which he promised, can be effected, and that will bring joy to those who consider they have been paying too much and who have, in fact, been paying too much. It will give them some relief . . .

Yet in places where revaluation took place recently, as it did in some parts of my electorate in City Beach and Floreat Park, the burden on these single home owners became heavier—indeed, in some cases very much heavier—because the newly valued land of single home owners exceeded the limit of \$5,000, which was the lower ceiling where decreased rates were to apply under the amendment.

I received several representations by constituents who did not own property other than their home and whose actual tax increased manifold. However, I think the Government has to be commended because it realised the situation and promised to introduce amending legislation. It seems to me that in this legislation the lower ceiling of \$5,000 should be raised to an amount which, according to present day land values, is somewhat more realistic. This could be done generally, but if this is not possible, since we have accepted the principle of progressive land tax rates, it should be done at least in cases where the taxpayer is a pensioner receiving superannuation, or is on a restricted income, having passed the stage of productive earning capacity.

There is another fact I would like to point out in connection with land tax which does not strike the lower income group, but which, nevertheless, is a recurring annoyance to taxpayers who own more than one property. This is that the yearly land tax assessments show only the aggregate tax levied on all properties. Although they show the separate aggregate value of improved and unimproved land they do not show the separate amounts of land tax for each property.

This represents a puzzle to the taxpayer every year if he wants to ascertain the tax for each property. This exercise might very well be important if the property is producing income and the owner, whether an individual, a partnership, or a company, wishes to book this expenditure of land tax against the produced income. It also becomes important when the property is being sold, because we all know that on the sale of property, rates and taxes are adjusted.

Admittedly, details can be obtained from the Taxation Department, but, as far as I am aware, only by way of personal and physical inquiry. The information is not obtainable on the telephone or even by a representative or agent of the taxpayer.

We should not forget, perhaps, in this connection that land tax, being an indirect form of taxation, is based in almost every country only on the value of the land itself, irrespective of how much land its owner has. This is the same way as other indirect taxes in Australia, like custom and excise duties, sales tax, and stamp duty, are levied in the Commonwealth and the States. For instance, I pay the same amount of transfer stamp duty on a property whether I purchase one or 10 properties a year. I pay the same amount of stamp duty on a building contract, whether I have one contract or 100 contracts a year. If I purchase a motorcar I pay the same amount of sales tax as I would on any car of the same value, and I do not pay on the aggregate value of all the cars purchased by me during the year. Perhaps what is more important for some is that the same excise duty is paid on a bottle of Scotch, and the bartender does not ask whether one or 100 bottles are consumed by the customer during the year.

I do not want to go as far as to suggest that this more equitable method should be adopted with land tax, because I know very well that this is one of the few revenues which Big Brother is leaving us in this State to assess and collect. However, I do suggest that with the very welcome decision to set up Western Australia's own taxation department, assessments of land tax in the future could have full details of the working out of the aggregate tax, showing the tax against each property in the case of multiple land owners.

Another matter which came to my attention as a consequence of some complaints by constituents is the process of execution or enforcement of court orders which contain provision for the payment of money and especially—as happens so frequently—weekly or periodical sums, particularly in the case where the defendant has no tangible assets. This is not a theoretical question because, as we know, almost every youngster, having reached the age of 17 years, purchases a car for himself, even though it is most likely to be a \$50 job. He does not insure it and if he has an accident and causes damage to some property, then the person who suffers the damage goes to court. He then receives an order, and in most cases he will receive an order for periodical payments, the youngster to pay so many dollars a week.

However, the only recourse open today to the plaintiff on default of payment is imprisonment of the defendant under the provisions of the Justices Act. I believe that in this day and age, when we are thinking, and rightly so, of compensating innocent victims of criminal actions—and this was forecast in the Governor's Speech at the opening of the first session of this Parliament—it is somewhat unrealistic to make

a quasi-criminal of a defaulting defendant by imprisoning him, especially when this does not help the plaintiff at all.

I feel that consideration should be given to extending similar conditions for process of execution or enforcement in all common law cases to those contained in the Married Persons and Children (Summary Relief) Act, when periodical sums are ordered to be paid. It would cause very little inconvenience, if any, to employers if common law court orders could be enforced by an "Attachment of Earnings," so that employers would be compelled to deduct the periodical payments from the pay cheques of the employees who are defaulting defendants. Perhaps some costs could be awarded against the defendant to compensate the employer. I might mention here that this type of solution is in force and widely used in almost every continental country, and I do not know that there would be any difficulty involved here.

Coming now to another subject. We know that during the second part of the last session we amended section 374 of the Local Government Act to allow the Minister to modify the application of the general building by-laws. Despite the criticism levelled against this amendment—and I think it was levelled more from outside than from within this Chamber—I think it was a practical solution of the problems of what could perhaps be termed the petty behaviour of some local authorities, which I have seen so often during the course of my business and later when representing constituents with similar difficulties. Yet I think one cannot overlook the theoretical objections raised on legal grounds against the amendment, and in any case one would have to admit that the amendment is only a makeshift solution.

Whilst criticising some of the decisions of local authorities as being restrictive, impractical, or narrow-minded, I think we should stop and think whether the greater and initial fault does not lie in the rules and regulations—in this case, in the general building by-laws themselves—which the local authorities have to implement and apply.

To try to answer this question, let me briefly examine these building by-laws. Building codes may be divided into two very broad classifications; namely, the "performance" type, and the "specification" type.

A performance-type code states the regulations in terms of the desired results and omits the methods of how to achieve these results, except as they may be cited for illustrative purposes. The other one, the specification-type code, uses the assumption that if all the materials, distances, procedures, and the like, which are specified in this code, are adhered to, then the desired result will be achieved automatically.

The performance-type code relies on the detailed specification style of information only to indicate one or more acceptable materials, designs, methods of construction, or tests, as an example that it will result in an end product which meets the performance requirement of the code as it is stipulated. Such a code, however, does not restrict the designer to these particular materials and methods. It readily accepts any changes, such as changes in material when new materials come to hand; changes in the design criteria as they are promulgated by professionals; and changes in methods of construction as they become practicable.

It must be remarked, however, that there is no 100 per cent. performance-type by-law. It always contains some specification-type of instruction, something like, "minimum recommended live loads" which will always be included in an appendix or a reference to standard rules, such as the A.S.A. rules.

If we accept the classification of building by-laws which I have tried to explain, then we have to establish that our building by-laws are definitely the specification-type. This, to my mind, results in the undesirable case where rulings strictly adhering to the specification-type rules become impracticable and, in turn, necessitate the Minister, by way of appeal, to modify the application of these rules. The amendment to which I previously referred was designed for this purpose.

It is a recognised fact, I think, that technical development has covered more distance in the past few decades than it covered during all of the time in human memory prior to these few decades. By using the specification-type by-law we lose the benefit of any of these new developments or, at least, we lose it until such time as the by-laws—usually with slow procedure—are amended to include these innovations, which, by then, are often used quite widely in more progressive countries.

I remember my personal fight with one particular local authority about 15 years ago when I tried to have a flat roof construction accepted. This type of construction is quite common today and, even then, it was in use not only in different countries but also other States of Australia.

I feel, therefore, that consideration might well be given, in due course, to reverting basically to these performance-type by-laws, which exist and are used in other places such as New Jersey and New York State, Canada, and by the Greater London County Council in England. I realise that this would involve more highly trained and qualified building surveyors, but I think this should be hailed rather as an asset than looked upon as an obstruction in considering the suggestion I have made.

In a somewhat loose connection with this subject—yet rather pertinent to our existing by-laws and procedures—I would like to commend the report entitled “Procedures Affecting Building and Development” by the able committee appointed by the Minister for Works and Water Supplies. It deals with remedies to anomalies which come from too many regulations by too many authorities, which very often necessitate the duplication or quadruplication of procedures when obtaining a permit, a test, or an inspection. This subject has been raised quite often in the Chamber, the last time—I think—by the member for Dale. One paragraph of this report sums up the intention and the very healthy outlook of the report when it says—

Existing problems no doubt arise from the inability of current processes to cope with rapidly changing circumstances. A study of both the problems and the processes reveals that the former can be largely overcome by certain amendments to the latter.

Mr. Brady: What is the report the member for Floreat is quoting from?

Mr. MENSAROS: It is entitled, “Procedures Affecting Building and Development” and is the report submitted by the committee appointed by the Minister for Works and Water Supplies. It is dated 1968.

Some of the minor recommendations of this report have already been implemented, as builders and architects will know. However, there appears to be some tardiness in implementing the major ones. I think it would be both timely and necessary to proceed to implement these recommendations.

Finally, I would like to deal with a subject which is more closely connected with my electorate and especially with parts of my electorate. As members know, the University of Western Australia owns some land in Daglish, which is in my electorate. This land was subdivided some years ago at a time when there was no compulsion upon the developer to supply all the services. At the time of the subdivision there were no roads, water or electricity; in fact, there was nothing. The land, in parcels of 12 or 20 lots, comes up for auction occasionally, and recently it has come up almost every year. Before the auction sale the roads are built, and the electricity is provided. However, there is still no main water.

The University, through its agents, puts out some very nice pamphlets which I have in my possession. Brochures indicate that electricity and gas are available; that immediate possession is possible on payment of a deposit; that the Jolimont School is nearby; and that bus and rail transport are conveniently available. However, they do not say a word about main water. The

last pamphlet even mentions that sewerage is available, but we know that sewerage cannot be used without main water.

When people go to an auction sale to buy the land and they assume that water will be connected to subdivisions which are only a few miles from the G.P.O. in the heart of the metropolitan area, they cannot be blamed. After they have bought the land and start to build they realise to their horror that the main water is not connected. They have three courses of action; namely, to stop building; to borrow it from a neighbour—if they are lucky and have a neighbour with main water supply—on unrated services; or to pay the cost of having the main connected. The cost of the latter is not refunded and, depending on the distance, it can be anything up to the amount of \$1,600 to \$2,000.

I should like to commend the Water Board, which went out of its way in politeness to explain this situation to me, but it could not help, of course. In order to try to prevent a recurrence of these happenings I asked a question of the Acting Premier, who very politely obtained an answer from the University. Probably due to my inexperience I had framed my question in such a way that it was possible to give what I would term, with great respect, an evasive answer. I asked whether the University advertised that electricity, gas, and sewerage are available, but made no mention of the lack of availability of water connection. The answer was that certainly the University did advertise these positive things, but it was not true that it made no mention of the availability of water, because—and I quote—“The auctioneer in his opening address emphasised that there were no water mains in these two streets.”

Mention could have been made in the opening address, but possibly I should have asked whether the brochure itself omitted this fact. In any event, to my mind this is very near to stating an incorrect fact by omission. By bringing up these facts, perhaps the problem will not occur again. I even hope that the University will consider advertising the land in a way which is more in keeping with the high public image of this august body.

In the hope that the few subjects I have mentioned have been not altogether an unnecessary contribution to this debate and that they might be looked at by the Ministers and the departments concerned, I support the motion.

MR. TAYLOR (Cockburn) [5.42 p.m.]: I have attentively listened to the last speaker, the member for Floreat, and I must say that in the past I have been quite impressed by his thoughtfulness and his scholarship. However, he began with two or three remarks this evening which made me wonder as to the basis of his thinking. He queried the type of criticism

which comes from this side of the House and expressed the opinion that he was not quite able to follow the depth of feeling that emanated from this side of the House. He made the point, I felt, that we in this State, should be more satisfied with what we have, and he then began to speak about the views he had obtained in his electorate.

I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, that I am going to act in the very way the member for Floreat criticised when he spoke. I am going to act in the same way as other members on this side of the House who speak on all matters relating to housing, education, and land; because we sincerely believe that these matters need to be spoken about.

If one looks at the electorate of the previous speaker and my own electorate, one will find something very comparable. They are both coastal electorates and have both been developed since the war. Both electorates have land problems, housing problems, education problems, and so on.

Yet I speak on every opportunity for the 45 minutes allowed members at the fastest rate of any speaker in this House and I am still unable to give all the information I would wish about my electorate. I have yet to hear the member for Cottesloe, the member for Nedlands, the member for Mt. Lawley, or the member for almost any other Liberal electorate, speak for any length of time about a single problem within his electorate. Perhaps just one point will emphasise the difference which evolves.

Yesterday a colleague of mine was able to obtain figures on education. An analysis of those figures shows that of the 30 high schools scattered throughout the 22 metropolitan electorates, only four have a class average of over 20 pupils per teacher, and three of those four high schools are in the electorate of Cockburn. If a comparison is made of the figures relating to the three high schools built in the electorate of the member for Floreat, and the three high schools built in my electorate, all of which were built at comparable times, it will be found there is a difference of 12½ per cent. in the class ratio per teacher. I will make no further comment than that.

However, if comparisons were continued in the fields of housing, education, drainage, and so on, the percentage difference would be just as great, or even greater. The length of beach in each electorate would be a good example to cite, for a start. In the shire of Kwinana we have only one small seven-acre beach plot, but the people in the electorate of Floreat Park enjoy glorious stretches of beach.

It appears to me that the people in the Cockburn electorate are bearing a disproportionate share of the problems of industrialisation and development within the State; whereas the people residing in

the larger section of the metropolitan area—in the great urban sprawl—are enjoying the greatest benefit that may be accruing from development, and the sacrifices are being made by the people on the fringes of the metropolitan area.

The theme of my maiden speech in this House was that the Government should look to this particular point to do all in its power to balance out the situation.

Mr. Bertram: This is progress!

Mr. TAYLOR: In this State the apportionment of expenditure on education is supposedly equal, but in some instances it is obviously more equally apportioned than in others. In my speech on education the other evening I said that surely a developing area has a right to a lower average of class numbers than the average of class numbers in schools in a well-established area. A developing area should also have the right to a teaching staff that is more stable than the teaching staffs in those areas that are well established. The same comment can be made through the full gamut of all requirements.

I have here three newspaper cuttings which, to my mind, indicate the thinking of too many people in this State and represent the basic reason for members on this side of the House having to rise to their feet so often and speak *ad nauseam* on the problems existing within the State at present. All three of the statements published in these newspaper articles are attributable to the Minister for Industrial Development. The first was made at a Liberal Party conference held in Geraldton. The following is a small extract from the article:—

He added that at no stage had mineral developments been allowed to overshadow development in other areas.

I hope, at a later stage, to prove that that statement is not quite correct.

Mr. Davies: I think, at the same time, the Country Party, at a conference held in Norseman, was saying exactly the opposite.

Mr. TAYLOR: The Minister for Industrial Development also told the Bunbury Anglican Synod, according to a report published in *The West Australian* of the 12th August, 1969—

... that the government was seeking to provide opportunities for co-operation for members of the new communities which would result from this development.

The Minister also spoke about the construction of new harbours and about other developments, and quoted statistics which we hear so often quoted in regard to the material development of the State. The Minister said he was seeking to provide opportunities for co-operation for members of new communities; for people, in other

words. I hope that my remarks in the next three-quarters of an hour will refute that statement.

Another statement made by the Minister was reported in the *Coastal Districts Times* of the 8th August, 1969. That statement, relating to the south-west alumina project, reads as follows:—

The company would need 1,000,000 gallons of water a day for two units. Eventually the project would need up to 9,000,000 gallons a day to meet refinery and domestic needs.

In another part of the article the Minister was reported as having said—

Related to alumina shipments through the new port at Bunbury, this could be the most important single development in the last 50 years of the South West region.

That is the sort of statement we hear time and time again. The concluding paragraph of this article reads as follows:—

The Murray Shire (will benefit) by way of housing, shops, light industry, increased medical, educational and other service facilities.

With the words of those three quotes in mind, let me turn to the Cockburn area to indicate to the House whether this sort of development is, in fact, being borne equally by the whole community.

I would describe the comments made by the Minister as bosh or hog-wash, and I believe that the Government's attitude so far as the communities in the Cockburn electorate are concerned is just a botch! Industry in the Cockburn district is being developed at a tremendous rate. The plans for the area are extremely worth while. The people there are working hard and the shires within it must be commended for their admirable approach to the problems they are facing. However, I would point out that almost every problem with which we are confronted stems from the action of this Government.

I have already said a little about schools and education by pointing out that of the 30 high schools situated throughout the metropolitan area three out of the four which have the greatest average class number per teacher happen to be in the Cockburn district. I also made the point the other evening that at least three or four primary schools will not have sufficient accommodation when they open at the beginning of next year. The figures in regard to this position were supplied to the Government and I hope some action will be taken to solve the problem, but from my experience I am afraid that no action will be taken before the schools open. There is ample time at this stage to build additional classrooms, but there was last year, too, when the matter was raised in this House, but the classrooms were still not ready in time.

I do not have time to quote the figures I have here to substantiate this claim, but I hope the Minister will have another look at the remarks I made the other evening.

Housing is another matter on which I would like to speak at considerable length. The latest figures supplied to me by the State Housing Commission indicate that in the Coolbellup and Kwinana areas 239 units are at present under construction. These include pensioner accommodation and three-bedroomed terrace houses, and the remainder are flats. There is not a single-unit house among them. In Kwinana, 119 units are under construction by the State Housing Commission. By the end of the year, or shortly afterwards, we hope to have a nickel refinery established, which no doubt will employ many hundreds of people.

Mr. O'Neil: Did you say that no single-unit houses are being built? The comment said it includes medium-density development.

Mr. TAYLOR: The figures I have just quoted include pensioner accommodation and 21 three-bedroomed terrace houses. The total remainder is composed of flats. This is in the reply received by me from the commission dated the 30th July, 1969. Those remarks apply to rental accommodation.

As I was saying, the construction of a nickel refinery is under way and the people it will employ will require a large number of houses. A new power station is to be constructed and the employees of that establishment will also require accommodation. Further, a new factory is to be erected and its employees will also require to be housed. Bulk wheat installation facilities are being constructed, railways are being laid down, all of which undertakings will mean an increase in the work force, the members of which will all require accommodation.

Mr. O'Neil: Do you think the State should build all of them?

Mr. TAYLOR: The private developers who are constructing houses within this area at the moment insist on a high deposit being paid on a home, and the interest rate on the balance of the purchase money is also high. It is higher than the interest rate set by the State Housing Commission; and, in addition, the repayments required by private developers are greater than those sought by the State Housing Commission.

This is a workingman's area; it is not City Beach or Floreat Park. These people will be working in occupations which will give them an average, or below average, take-home pay.

Mr. O'Neil: How many houses are being built by the State Housing Commission at City Beach and Floreat Park?

Mr. TAYLOR: None, but my point is—

Mr. Tonkin: Is there anyone there who could meet the salary qualifications for a State Housing Commission home?

Mr. TAYLOR: —that additional wealth is being created within the electorate—I accept that—and greater development than ever before is taking place. However, the rewards for this development are being enjoyed by people in areas other than those in which it is being created, and there is no doubt that figures can be produced to substantiate that wealth is being created in the Kwinana area. Therefore, greater State expenditure should be made in that area for the various facilities required. What is to happen in the Kwinana district in regard to its housing requirements?

Mr. Rushton: Are you speaking for Rockingham, too?

Mr. TAYLOR: The honourable member will find that the position is exactly the same in his own electorate. In fact, the development that is occurring there will probably tilt the scales in regard to whether or not he occupies that seat in the future.

Mr. Jamieson: If he ever goes there he will find this out!

Mr. TAYLOR: An English migrant who was desirous of coming to Western Australia to work in an industry obtained figures from developers in regard to housing. He ascertained that 10 per cent. of the purchase price was required as a deposit. When he arrived in this State he had \$1,200 for a deposit on a home, but on making further inquiries he found that the deposit had been increased. He ascertained that the house he intended to purchase at Hamilton Hill was served with little or no public transport and therefore a car was necessary for him to continue in his occupation. He was working shift work, and there were three shifts a day for seven days a week. So that he could obtain a house he had to put himself in the hands of land agents for three mortgages, and his total repayment each month is \$112, which is half his take-home pay.

If he could liquidate what he owes on the house he would return to the U.K., and he is not the only one so affected. I believe a man should be able to purchase his own house, because it is far better for him to do so than to rent a place; and I do not care whether the house is built by the State Housing Commission or by private developers. However, the situation will become impossible if private developers continue to ask for such high deposits and impose such high interest charges for the houses they are constructing.

I make the point that housing is not being provided by the commission but by private developers, and there is every likelihood that many workers will be forced

to occupy these homes and, as a result of the conditions that apply to the purchase of them, repercussions will be felt in industry.

Mr. Rushton: How many more hundreds or thousands of families will be living in your electorate this year?

Mr. TAYLOR: Many hundreds will be entering my electorate in the near future as a result of new major developments, but at this stage the number of families arriving is approximately 40 or 50 monthly.

I would now like to refer to the allocation of land for industry. The Kwinana Shire has been anxious to lay down the conditions for the allocation of industrial lots for some time, especially one or two-acre lots on which small service facilities, such as dry cleaning works, warehouses, and so on, can be established.

For two or three years the shire has tried to have a plan drawn up for the allocation of industrial lots. Many people were clamouring for them, but they were unable to obtain them. This is not land held by speculators, but land held by the State Government. It has been held by the State Government from as far back as the early 1950s, and it was acquired on the basis that it would be needed for a particular purpose; and yet, when the shire wanted to make a move, and private enterprise wanted to come in to occupy small industrial lots, it took two or three years to draw up plans for only 20 industrial lots. Without doubt I say that as a result of some action by the Lands Department and the Town Planning Department a situation was created which prevented a decision being reached.

A similar situation occurred at Rockingham. I hope that some move will now be made as a result of my comments on Government departments to get plans drawn more expeditiously. I would point out that in the Calista area a shopping centre has been constructed in the new section. Again it took over three years of prodding by means of deputations, by representations from the shire, and from the people in the area to get this shopping centre under way. This is a small unit consisting of seven shops. The development was planned many years ago; it was known by the Government for something like 15 to 18 years; yet it has only just got off the ground.

Mr. Bertram: That is progress!

Mr. TAYLOR: If this had been a project to be undertaken by a private developer there would not have been this delay. As the shire council concerned pointed out, two or three shopping centres have been developed in the Rockingham district in the last two or three years. It was only a matter of paying the money before the development was under way.

In the Cockburn area the Government owns the land, but for some inexplicable reason the shire council and other interested parties are unable to get the Government departments to move.

Mr. Graham: The land is being held for the foreign millionaires.

Mr. Court: The same old tune!

Mr. TAYLOR: The construction of the Kwinana town centre is a matter which will come up shortly. The shire council informed me that for at least three years it has been pressing for the centre, as well as for the construction of a new hotel.

This shire has a population of 10,000 to 11,000 people. When the Medina township was being constructed between 1952 and 1954, a construction camp hotel or canteen was built. It is still a canteen, but its turnover last year was \$274,000. The shire council desperately wants a hotel to be built in this area, but for three years it has been unable to get a reply from those who control the land as to how, when or where the hotel will be built. The only significant move which I can determine from looking at the records of the action taken was that some three years ago the land was transferred from the Lands Department to the State Housing Commission. Whether this is a step forward, backward, or sideways I do not know. I repeat that this land which is now held by the State Housing Commission, has been owned by the State for many years.

It has been known for many years that a town centre must be provided in the locality I have indicated, but the shire is still waiting for something to be done. This would not happen in any other electorate.

Mr. O'Neil: I think you are being a little unfair. You know why we are having difficulty in putting forward proposals to the shire.

Mr. TAYLOR: I do not know.

Mr. O'Neil: You have made a request to lead a deputation from the shire to wait on me. It has been explained both to you and to the shire clerk that we are still awaiting proposals from the consultant planners before the deputation can be received.

Mr. TAYLOR: The Minister and I know this. The point I am making is that this is only one of a series of similar situations which have arisen over a number of years.

Mr. O'Neil: You take one attitude in this House but another one outside. That will not get you anywhere.

Mr. Brady: Who is running the Government—the consultant planners?

Mr. TAYLOR: The decision on the industrial lots fits in with the attitude adopted by the Government in respect of the Calista shopping centre and the Kwinana town centre. Another comparable instance is the building of a hospital in the district. This again has been the subject

of an approach to the Government over a long period of time. Letters have been sent by all the local doctors requesting that something be done.

Mr. Rushton: You know this proposal is being proceeded with.

Mr. Lapham: By writing letters?

Mr. TAYLOR: In 1967 the hospital was promised for 1969. Then on the 28th August, 1968, it was put off until the 1969-70 Budget. The last advice is that it will take 15 months to plan the hospital, but the site has been changed. Presumably it will be proceeded with in 1971-72. The doctors practising in the area wrote to the Minister setting out six points. They wrote to the Minister on the 27th February, 1969, and pointed out—

Our estimates of the number of patients referred to metropolitan hospitals shows that the district needs at least a 30 bed hospital now, and, as you know, the Kwinana and Rockingham areas are expanding very rapidly.

I accept that this is a problem of development; but I return to my original thesis that if wealth is being created in this area, which is trying to attract people, then the wealth of the metropolitan area rests partly on this development. This is all the people of the district and I am asking: that they be given a fair go.

Mr. Rushton: The provision of this hospital has been receiving careful attention. The answer is that a hospital with 250 beds is being planned for next year. This has been pressed for for some time.

Mr. TAYLOR: In all the matters I have raised there has been long delay. I repeat my view that they should not be delayed. The remarks which were made by the Minister for Industrial Development in regard to the proposed development in the Murray area highlight this: the development would affect the Murray Shire by way of housing; shops; light industry; and increased medical, educational, and other service facilities.

In my maiden speech in this House I asked that certain factors affecting my area be looked at. If the Minister for Industrial Development is prepared to talk in terms of providing millions of gallons of water a day, thousands of additional kilowatts of electricity, and the greatest development in 50 years, then he should keep under control, and prepare, the services for the people who will arrive. The cost of creating the wealth accruing to the Murray development should not be borne by the people producing the wealth; just as the cost of creating the wealth in the Kwinana area should not be imposed on those living there at the moment.

I will now make some reference to the roads in my electorate, and I regret the Minister for Works is not in his seat at the moment. Road development in my area is imposing a great strain on local authority rates. Some figures affecting the Kwinana

Shire will indicate the acuteness of the problem. Over some back roads in the area 500,000 tons of slag, gypsum, sand, and gravel are carried each year. About 200,000 cubic yards of limestone were transported over one back road to lay the foundations of the nickel refinery. In 1964-65 Alcoa carted 1,500,000 tons of clay over these roads. It is estimated that in 1970-71 Alcoa will be carting another 1,500,000 tons of clay, and in 1973-75 it will be carting a further 4,000,000 tons of clay over those same roads.

The Cockburn Shire faces the same problem. Many of the roads in this area have been cut up as a result of large trucks carting limestone to developing areas. Although part of the cost of repairs and maintenance of these roads is borne by the Government, dollar for dollar, it is not a sufficient recompense to the ratepayers of the district. The cost should be covered by some special grant. It is felt that the least the Government can do is to allocate extra funds, so that these service roads are maintained and are brought up to standard—perhaps partly by Government funds and partly by industry contribution. The cost should not be borne exclusively by the residents of the area.

Here let me refer to a report which appeared in the *Coastal Districts Times* of the 1st August, in relation to the roads within the Kwinana Shire district. It states—

Council has expressed disappointment to the Main Roads Department on its offer of \$12,000 to help repair damage by heavy trucks to district roads.

Further on in the report the following appears:—

However, council accepted the money. But it will ask the department if it will reconsider the offer for the repairs which may cost several hundred thousand dollars.

The shire estimates the damage to its roads at several hundred thousand dollars, but the Main Roads Department has offered only \$12,000 as its contribution. Here again is an example of a new, developing area which has to bear a disproportionate amount of the cost of providing the roads.

I now turn to beach reserves in my electorate, and action is urgently needed. This matter has been the subject of debate in this House during the 12 months that I have been a member of Parliament. On one occasion reference was made to the value of a particular reserve, known as the Kwinana Wreck Reserve, and to the good offices of the Premier in turning this into an "A"-class reserve.

I said at the time that industry would destroy or at least cut back the use of this particular reserve. An interjection was made by the member for Dale, and a

later remark was made by the member for Avon, making the point that industry would not or may not affect these areas.

I quote again from the *Coastal Districts Times* of Friday, the 1st August, under the heading, "Housing should be banned near beach" as follows:—

The Metropolitan Regional Planning Authority has suggested that the shire council refuse applications for residential development in the Kwinana beach area because of air pollution, dust, noise and smells coming from the industrial area.

This is an "A"-class beach reserve in the Kwinana Shire area where ultimately 60,000 people will reside; yet within 12 months we have the statement that the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority has suggested that no houses be built near the reserve because of air pollution, dust, noise, and smells coming from the industrial area. How farcical this is when one knows that the council has had to approve a request made by the Education Department for swimming lessons to take place on the Kwinana beach next summer.

Last year an interjection to me implied that I did not know what I was talking about when I referred to the shortage of beach reserves in that area.

Mr. Rushton: I might add that you are still not very clear.

Mr. TAYLOR: With regard to industrial legislation, I spoke at length on this matter on the Supply Bill. I wish the Minister for Labour were in the House, because I wish to speak about the type of industry which is being developed in this area. Because of the different circumstances here as far as employees and employers are concerned, there is a need for the Government to re-examine the type of industrial legislation which applies. The industrial legislation which has served industry in the metropolitan area is not satisfactory when it comes to mining development, major industrial development at Kwinana, and the development likely to take place at Bunbury and Pinjarra and other parts.

We have now reached the time when the Government should have a look at this legislation so that after discussions with the trade unions the legislation can be streamlined in order to set up a system that will work, and thus avoid industrial anarchy in the future.

I intend to make only a few comments in regard to the problems of industrial development in my area. I was pleased to learn that no more refineries are to be established at Kwinana. This is a good thing. More industry is needed, certainly, but it must be light industry—a type which will cater for young people and for women. There is no need for any more of the bulk refining industries to be established in the area.

Unfortunately, today there is no sign of diversification, and the problem in regard to the employment of women in the area still exists.

Over the past 12 months I have had occasion to ask a number of questions with regard to safety measures, and the answers I have received have been most disturbing. I asked questions of the Minister for Labour with regard to inspections by officers of the Factories Inspection Branch; and I also asked questions of the Minister representing the Minister for Mines in regard to inspections made under the Mining Act. In answer to a question which I asked on the 2nd October, 1968, I was advised that between the 24th May, 1968, and the 2nd October, 1968—a period of 3½ months—routine inspections were carried out by inspectors of the Department of Labour on three occasions.

In answer to a similar question on the 26th March, 1969, in regard to the number of inspections in a period of six months, I was advised that "regular inspections were made". As no number of inspections was given, I asked the Minister how many inspections were made. The answer stated that one inspection in six months was made by factory inspectors.

With regard to the question I asked of the Minister representing the Minister for Mines, I was advised that there were two inspections by inspectors of the Mines Department in a period of 10 months. In response to other questions which I asked, it transpired that 67 stoppages of work occurred on one plant alone, because the gas emissions were a danger to workers.

Despite this, during a period of 10 months only two inspections were made by inspectors of the Mines Department. This is just not good enough.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. TAYLOR: Before the tea suspension I was endeavouring to cover a number of matters which I felt were important to the people of Cockburn. I have, as in all previous speeches when referring to matters pertaining to the area, endeavoured, firstly, to seek Government intervention to mitigate some of the problems involved and, secondly, to try to have them learn from these experiences in the area so that future developments may be better served.

I had just completed my remarks on safety surveillance within the area and I had made the point that perhaps there should be more regular safety inspections within the Cockburn-Kwinana district. The safety record of the major industries in the Kwinana industrial area is unparalleled. They have exceptional safety records, but as long as there is new construction taking place and small private contractors are in the area, the possibility of industrial accidents remains.

The answers to questions I asked in this House last year concerning the number of visits by factories inspectors and mines inspectors indicated that not sufficient visits and inspections were made. Concerning air pollution, answers given to me last year to questions I asked indicated that inspections were made on 19 occasions in 10½ months. In one respect this would appear to be very satisfactory and I am glad that at least that number of inspections was made; but the figures also indicate that a problem must exist in the area and that the situation must be continually watched.

The next problem with which I would like to deal concerns the relatively major matter of the discharge of effluent, particularly from the noxious industry area, at Coogee. The Coogee Beach is the only beach accessible to a very large proportion of the population south of Fremantle, now that the old South Beach area has largely disappeared. From the answers I received to questions I asked of the Ministers concerned, I was not completely satisfied that something would be done before next summer. As I have already mentioned, the Coogee Beach is the only one suitable for use by the people of the area. With regard to Coogee Beach I would like to quote briefly from the Cockburn Shire minutes of the 1st July, 1969. They refer to this area as follows:—

Sewer—Bibra Lake to Woodman's Point: Resolved that Council object to the plans submitted, through Miss Peilman to allow untreated sewage from Melville and Canning to be treated at Woodman's Point when an area of approximately 2½ square miles is being affected by noxious odours from Treatment Works.

I repeat that this is the only beach in the area. Last summer effluent was washed up onto the beach and it would appear there is an odour nuisance in the area. With the rapid development south of Fremantle in Coolbellup and Hamilton Heights, there is need for action to be taken in order that the area might be more pleasant for swimming.

I would like to summarise the various points I have made. I know I have at least got beneath the skin of some Ministers, but I would like to state that I make all references in what I hope is a helpful, rather than a harmful, manner. Those on this side of the House are as interested as is the Government in development. We also want progress, but the Cockburn area, as I implied on Tuesday night, and I again imply, is restless. It must never get a bad name because of strikes or lack of housing or for any reason whatever. The industries there require labour. They are anxious to have it and are seeking it. People must want to go to live there, and therefore the name and reputation of

the area must remain of a high order. As has already been mentioned, if there is not satisfactory housing and there are no recreational areas, people will not be attracted to the district; those on this side of the House would deplore that state of affairs as much as would the Government.

If there is labour trouble or a shortage of labour in the area this will not attract new industries and this again is something that those on this side of the House would deplore as much as would the Government.

I make the point again that the references I have made and the goading I have indulged in have been in an endeavour to help the area grow further and certainly to make it a better place in which to live. A high turnover of labour exists there, and this sort of thing does not occur where the situation is completely satisfactory.

I would now like to quote very briefly a remark from a speech by the Duke of Edinburgh. I quoted from a speech of his during my maiden speech and I want to do so again, only this time it is a different extract. It reads as follows:—

You can do any amount of work on political theory, geographical economics, industrial organisation and relations and systems of social security, but before you see and experience all these things in action and in relation to people in their communities they can easily remain remote and vaguely impersonal.

Then he refers to the administration, Government, and others who act in those areas, and he says—

Yet it is exactly these people who have the most profound and lasting influence upon the whole pattern and quality of human existence.

What the Duke of Edinburgh is saying there is that the members who occupy the Government benches have the supreme power to establish the quality of human existence in that area.

I would now like to make one more quote—and this is the final one—and it is the one I made 12 months ago. The Duke of Edinburgh said—

The fact is that satisfactory human communities are more important than the industries which provide employment. People do not exist to serve industry, it is the other way around; every industry exists for the benefit of people. In any new development which involves the employment of people, the first consideration—

The first consideration—

—should be the establishment of a viable and satisfactory human community to which the industrial part of the development can offer gainful employment.

This was the comment I made at the end of my maiden speech and it remains the all-important point to be considered by the Government at this stage.

MR. YOUNG (Roe) [7.38 p.m.]: I rise to make my contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate, and my main topic this evening will be something which has affected my electorate very drastically and which was headlined in tonight's *Daily News*—the drought. Some comment was made earlier that we were possibly not having a drought. It was suggested that although isolated pockets were experiencing drought conditions, the greater proportion of the State was experiencing only a relatively dry season. It was stated also that the drastic conditions were confined in the main, in the past weeks, to the south coastal areas.

During the weekend the member for Avon and I decided we would have a look at the situation and we travelled some 900 miles in motorcars into the southern area along the south coast through Jeramungup, Boxwood Hill, and Gairdner River.

Even though there was, for this year, a relatively good fall of rain over the weekend, this will only very slightly help the position, which has now reached the stage where, in the second week in August, the pastures have made no growth whatever. The water supplies are down to a minimum and some dams have completely dried up.

Hand-feeding has been going on in this area now for some three or four months. The position has been reached where a motion was passed at a zone council meeting of members of the Farmers' Union held at Boxwood Hill last Friday. The motion requested that the Minister for Agriculture declare the area of the Stirling Zone Council of the Farmers' Union a drought area within the area covered by the membership, and confer upon it any Government benefits applicable to an area so declared.

This area of the zone council of Stirling attracts delegates from Pingrup, Jeramungup, Gairdner River, and back to the South Stirling zone. That covers a very large area of highly productive and, I must admit, very heavily stocked country.

Some 10 weeks ago those people held a similar meeting and requested assistance from the Government. I must acknowledge that the Government came to the party and provided transport for feed and stock, and helped in this respect. However, those requests were the forerunners. The problem has now extended northwards into the traditional wheatgrowing areas in contrast to just affecting the stockgrowing areas. The area has extended from Pingrup eastwards, north to

the lakes district, east of Merredin, and right into my colleague's country. I refer to the member for Mt. Marshall.

On Tuesday morning last, the member for Avon and I hired an aeroplane and, for approximately three hours, we flew over the area with a view to assessing the position further north, and comparing that area with the southern districts. Unless one is familiar with farming practice it would be impossible to tell, in some of the areas, which are the feed paddocks and which are the crop paddocks. This is not because of the lush green grass, but because the paddocks are bare and brown. The only difference is that the combine marks show that a paddock has been seeded. The pasture paddocks are those with the sheep tracks across them.

We took careful note of the condition of the dams in the area and in the three hours of flying we saw two dams that could be considered to be full. Those two dams, fortunately, had some 15 or 20 acres of rock catchment and the farmer was making full use of it. His dams were practically full.

Some of the dams had no water in them at all and, as a matter of fact, the only grassy patches were in the bottom of the dams where there was still some moisture. Other dams contained from a few feet down to a few inches of green dirty water which would be unsuitable for stock.

The fodder shortage can be assisted by the purchase and transportation, by some method, of the coarse grain and wheat into the area. Apart from the financial encumbrance it is not a very big exercise to hand-feed sheep. Admittedly, it is a chore that has to be done seven days a week or, under good management, twice a week. However, it will have to be done continuously and regularly and it appears that it might have to be done until next June, which is a rather frightening prospect.

I think the Government could well have a look at some form of subsidy to assist the affected farmers to purchase grain at a more equitable rate compared with the advance which the farmers have already received for the wheat they transported to the bins.

However, Mr. Speaker, this feeding problem is minute when compared with what the water position will be in the next few months. Those familiar with the grazing of stock will realise that in the winter months when the feed is lush the stock do not drink very much water. However, we have the position this year where the pastures have been dry all the time and the sheep have been drinking the stocks of water. We have reached the middle of August and the dams have been steadily losing water.

In the area roughly defined within this drought region—or very dry region; we will not group it all in the drought area—there are 10,000,000 or 11,000,000 sheep. Certainly, some of those sheep are within the area served by the comprehensive water scheme and they will have access to pipe water. However, we will find that probably some 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 sheep will have to be watered. This operation will commence almost immediately and will have to go through to the opening rains next year unless we are fortunate enough to get a thunderstorm; and it would have to be a pretty heavy thunderstorm and would have to cover a fairly big area.

The sheep will drink more than one gallon of water each per day and if 5,000,000 gallons of water have to be carried into the area seven days a week, this will impose a terrific burden on the farmers. It will also be a terrific burden on the transport system to make the water available at certain points from which the farmers can take delivery.

How can we get that quantity of water transported, and where we will get it from, I do not know. I am certain that within the next few weeks, or even sooner, there will be an outcry from the farmers for something to be done. We are all aware that from this time on the weather will warm up and the days will get longer. Stock will drink much more water than before. Possibly the impact of such a situation has not quite been realised as yet.

I do not think that many people have quite realised the seriousness of the position. It is hard to realise the seriousness until one has actually flown over the area and seen the state of the dams; it cannot be realised until seen from the air.

Rain could help the feed position in the southern area, to some extent. I have received reports from the Ravensthorpe-Esperance area that the farmers did receive some rain earlier in the weekend, and that their position has been temporarily relieved. However, in the northern areas the feed is beginning to run to seed and the clovers are starting to flower. Even with a good heavy downpour of rain that feed will never make good pasture now. This means that the stock will have to be carried over the summer and will have to be fed and watered by hand.

Unfortunately, it looks as though the stock will have to be fed and watered where they stand at the moment. Very little agistment is available. The farmers in the south-west, who traditionally in the past have been able to accept sheep, have increased their own stock and are now carrying capacity stock numbers. The farmers in the wheatbelt have improved their stocking rates and that outlet, which has been enjoyed in the past, is not

available now. The sheep will have to be carried where they are at the moment on the farms.

Mr. Davies: Are the crops and pastures affected by frosts?

Mr. YOUNG: The member for Victoria Park has made a point. In a dry season very severe frosts are experienced, and frosts dry up the small amount of surface water which is available, and it is hard to grow anything.

The position is that during a period of very light rainfall, when only 20 or 30 points fall, one does not reap the benefit to the same extent one would if there had been a cloudy mild morning. Of course, this has aggravated the position. The pastures have been retarded. However, in some cases in the light country the crops look reasonably good.

Mr. Sewell: What about erosion?

Mr. YOUNG: Soil erosion?

Mr. Sewell: That would be bad.

Mr. YOUNG: I will come to that point in a moment. Of course, in some of the heavy country the crops have not been affected by frost because they are not out of the ground. It has been so dry that the crops have not germinated. On our trip the other day we saw thousands of acres of red country where no signs of life or of growth could be seen; in fact, they looked like next year's fallow. If I had not realised that the Western Australian farmers do not fallow very much at this time of the year, I would have said, "What nice clean fallow." That is how much growth there is.

The member for Geraldton mentioned soil erosion. Members have probably seen references in the paper over the last few days to the linseed crops in the Esperance area. Some 50 per cent. of these crops will have to be reseeded. The effect of sand-blasting together with lack of rain allows very little growth. The growth is stunted and when high winds blow, the effect of the sandblasting is to kill the plants. The result is that 50 per cent. of the linseed crop, which is a record crop this year, will have to be reseeded.

Erosion, of course, has another contributing effect in that sand, which blows from the paddocks which are being worked for cropping, blows through the fences onto the pasture in the next paddock. Tiny clover plants and small pasture plants are buried under the resultant sand heaps.

We find the position is very critical. A firm and definite decision must be made on vast areas of the eastern wheatbelt. Further, such a decision must be made very quickly. Farmers in that area will be looking to the Government for some positive announcement on what is to be done; because the only alternative is to flood the market at Midland with surplus sheep. We know the situation

which arose last year when so many off-shears sheep came into Midland. Prices dropped. However, the prices which now obtain at country auctions are well below those prices of last year.

I was talking to a friend who had come through Wagin yesterday and who had attended a sheep sale there. Good, well-bred ewes which were one and a half years old, and which in a normal season would fetch from \$10 to \$14 each, were selling for \$4.50. If this is the stage which good breeding ewes have reached, what will be the market for normal off-shears sheep? Further, good sound young wethers, which were graziers' lines and not lines for slaughter, were fetching \$3.50 to \$3.80.

This is the price at the market in the country districts. By the time a farmer paid freight in order to sell in Midland on a flooded market, it would be perfectly obvious that there was no outlet for the surplus sheep as a meat proposition.

We, as a Government, have to make every effort to see that the stock can be carried over this summer and into next winter without decimating flocks which have taken farmers from 20 to 40 years to build up. If we kill off our good breeders we are going to do untold harm to the flocks of Western Australia. I consider that the Government has to make a statement that it will do something and do it quickly in order to see that we do not have the problem of buying somebody else's culls next year to replace the good sheep which were slaughtered this year.

I acknowledge the effort made by the Government in setting up the rural committee which met yesterday. The committee has already started to move. Further, I welcome the announcement made by the Minister for Agriculture last Friday that fodder would be transported into these areas and made available to the farmers. Nevertheless, we must make an effort and make it immediately. In two weeks' time the position will be critical. It is necessary to organise, and if the matter is allowed to go any longer we will find we are in trouble and nothing has been done.

I have painted a fairly gloomy picture of the situation in the eastern wheatbelt. I assure members that some areas throughout these districts are not quite as bad as the picture I have painted, but they are relatively small pockets. Although I have not been into it, I understand that the western fringe is quite good. It is not a complete write-off, but the position is rapidly deteriorating.

While I am on my feet, I would like to make some brief reference to road maintenance tax, which is another subject that the farmers are still most unhappy about. They are faced with the problem of a terrific amount of road haulage. It will be appreciated that a fairly colossal bill will be paid in road maintenance tax if it is

necessary to have big trucks on the road carting water every day for the next 10 months. I hope that the committee which has been set up to investigate road maintenance tax will come up with some answer. I understand that the committee recently met the committee of the Farmers Union, so it is obvious that the appointed committee is moving. As I say, I hope the committee can come up with some answer and give a ray of hope to the farmers who are now confronted with using the roads to a greater extent. This occurs at the present time when grain is being carted, and it will occur to a much larger extent when the carting of water is commenced.

I ask the Cabinet to see that the committee hurries up its findings and makes known the relief that the farmers in these areas can expect; because it is getting to the stage where farmers cannot see which way to turn. Conditions are getting really bad; and, if we do not offer some ray of hope, I do not know what the farmers are going to do.

My last reference tonight is to the key dam scheme which has been in operation for some years but which, unfortunately, has been rather hamstrung by lack of finance. Had this finance been available, it may have relieved the present critical water shortage to some extent. In any event, I understand that a recommendation has been made for more money to be made available so that greater use can be made of this scheme.

I have made representations over the past years for the Esperance Shire and that portion of the Ravensthorpe Shire which is east of the rabbit proof fence to be included in this scheme. When the scheme was originally designed, it was intended for the South-West Land Division. Unfortunately, the two large agricultural areas I have mentioned are outside the areas designated as the South-West Land Division for the purposes of this scheme.

There is one further point I wish to make before I resume my seat. Reference was made earlier in the debate to small farmers who are prepared to accept a relatively low rate of income as their lot. As I understand it, when the statement was made originally, the intention was not to downgrade the farmer, but to show that a farmer who looks at farming as a way of life and not as a means of making a living would prefer to accept a lower scale of income than the present alternative, which is walking off the farm.

No farmer likes to see a lifetime of work lost because of a period of hardship. Most of the traditional farmers in this State—or their fathers—will remember bad times in the past, and I think that the genuine farmer—the traditional farmer—would rather stay on his farm at a relatively low income with the prospect of the position

being improved. This is my plea: that the Government endeavour to improve the lot of the small farmer, rather than see him walk off by force of economic circumstances.

MR. McIVER (Northam) [8.1 p.m.]: Before I deal at length with several matters in this debate, I would like to place in its correct perspective the statement made by a member of this House the other evening when he spoke of the train facilities on the standard gauge railway. I do so because at the time he was speaking the Commissioner of Railways, the Director-General of Transport, and the Senior Administrator were in the House and I would not like those gentlemen to think that members on this side of the House are not fully aware of the overall position in relation to the standard gauge facilities.

I have no hesitation whatsoever in saying that the standard gauge facilities in relation to shifting grain in our State would not only be far more advanced than anything else in the Commonwealth of Australia but would in fact be comparable, if not superior, to anything else in the world.

Let us have a look at what takes place. We find that 40 wagons of the "WW" type which can hold in excess of 60 tons can be loaded within an hour, despatched to North Fremantle and taken to the wharf facilities there, and the same crew can bring back a fresh load of empty wagons to the loading point within eight hours. With the distances that they travel, this is quite an accomplishment.

I reiterate my previous remarks and say that the standard gauge railway generally is not being allowed to bring further revenue to the State because of the great competition from road transport. I feel that if the Railways Department was allowed to compete on a fair basis it would soon establish that it would certainly be a strong competitor of road transport.

When we look at the situation we see that the great interstate road trucks arrive from the Eastern States by rail and are detrained at Parkeston, and from there they travel through Kalgoorlie to the capital. The same train that brought those trucks across the desert passes them at Bodallin and arrives in Perth hours before any of the big trucks do. I wonder whether the Eastern States firms are aware of this fact and whether the people responsible for public relations are advertising this fact in our own State and also in the other States of the Commonwealth. With our railways deficit we have to do everything possible to see that the railways are given an equal chance to compete with private enterprise, but at the moment they are not allowed to do so.

On several occasions in the past I have been very vocal regarding the cost incurred in providing facilities at various centres along the standard gauge railway, because I feel there is not enough liaison between the people responsible for building the facilities and the people who are going to use them. To give an example, let us have a look at the stock races which have now been completed at Meckering; and Meckering is a town in which the railways handle over 20,000 sheep per year.

Would you not think, Mr. Speaker, that the people concerned with building the races would liaise with the stock agents and farmers in the district so that they would provide the facilities necessary for this operation? But what do we find? We find that the cost incurred in erecting these stock races was over \$36,000, and they are useless in their present form. There is not even a gate provided for the farmers who, in this area in the past, have been used to driving their sheep in close proximity to the marshalling yards. When the transport arrives, the sheep are put on the train and immediately despatched to wherever they may be going.

But now we have the situation where this cannot be done because there is not even a gate for the sheep to be driven through. What a ridiculous position in a modern facility!

I have a letter from the stock agent representing Wesfarmers at Meckering, and he has made representation to the department for alterations to be carried out. These are the alterations that have to be completed before the stock races may be utilised. With your permission, Sir, I will list them. They are as follows:—

- (1) A double unloading race from road transport with separate chutes for top and lower decks.
- (2) The position of road unloading race shifted to the western side of the yards to allow semi-trailers to turn.

That is a shocking situation. I have already mentioned that the stock can enter these yards only by rail or road. However, because of their length, the semi-trailers cannot turn around. To continue—

- (3) A gate to allow sheep to be driven in and out of yards.
- (4) Extra sheep holding yards to at least double the size of existing yards. Possibly made from weld-mesh, need only be 3 ft. 6 inches high.

The existing yards are over 12 feet high. To continue—

- (5) Divide two of the existing yards in half to give increased number of pens.
- (6) The race for loading onto rail must be changed to incorporate a separate race for loading the top deck.

I might mention here in regard to the ramp provided that I would challenge any member of this House—including the Acting Premier who is of a pretty large size—even to lift it from the ground. Continuing—

- (7) Gates be put at the bottom of the races for loading rail.
- (8) Fence off blind corners in sheep loading race onto rail.

I have limited time in which to speak and I do not wish to speak at length on this subject; but the point I am trying to make in this House is that the thousands of dollars spent on this enterprise could have been put into other avenues if only liaison had been established and everybody kept in the picture as to what was taking place.

Mr. W. A. Manning: Who planned them?

Mr. McIVER: The planning would have been done by the engineers responsible for the whole project—Maunsell & Partners.

Now we will have a look at the credit side. I give full marks to the Government for the new terminal complex which has been constructed at West Midland. I think this is a wonderful step forward in relation to modern transportation. Here we have the situation of feeder buses bringing people from a wide area to this point and then modern diesel services transporting them to the city. I would like to see a similar complex constructed in the Fremantle area so that the same operation might apply there.

The position in regard to the construction of freeways or expressways, not only in this State but also in other parts of the world, is that irrespective of the density of the traffic congestion in the capital cities, it is found that by the time any freeway is finally constructed, the problem of traffic congestion is evident once again. To emphasise my point we have only to look through the windows of Parliament House at approximately 5 p.m. to realise how dense is the traffic flow on the ramps leading to the Kwinana Freeway.

The only alternative is to integrate road and rail transport which will not only relieve the congestion of road traffic, but also will assist in reducing the number of road accidents and the death toll on the roads, which no doubt is causing great concern to everyone. Therefore in any future planning I suggest that this suggestion should be borne in mind and given every consideration. To give the slightest thought to discontinuing the suburban rail service is, in my opinion, negative thinking and is certainly not in line with the development that is taking place in Western Australia.

I make a genuine plea to the Government to give earnest consideration to the matter I now wish to raise and about which I am greatly concerned, especially as it affects my electorate. I refer to the parents of retarded, spastic, and mentally

handicapped children in country areas. In my electorate there are six spastics. For the benefit of members I might point out at this stage that Northam is the only town in Western Australia where spastics are cared for by the Silver Chain Nursing Association, and what a marvellous job it performs! I have accompanied the sisters of this association on their rounds on several occasions, and I must say that I was greatly enlightened by what I saw. I was certainly not aware, until this occurred, of the true situation in which the parents of these children are placed.

I will first of all refer to the treatment which must be given to these children. As far as their parents are concerned they cannot find enough hours in the day to spend on the care and treatment of these unfortunate spastic children. It is not uncommon for the child to be placed in a hospital to enable the mother to have a forced rest in order to avoid a breakdown. This brings me to the point that if these children are admitted to a hospital as spastics their parents are unable to obtain any recoup of hospital expenses from a hospital benefit scheme or similar fund. This is an anomaly in the health benefit services which we as legislators should attempt to correct.

If a child is admitted to a hospital as a diabetic, or because it is suffering from some other type of disease or complaint, the parents enjoy the benefits obtained from a hospital benefit fund, but, as I have said, the parents of a spastic child admitted to hospital are unable to obtain any benefits whatsoever.

In addition, the money that is spent on equipment which is vitally necessary for the treatment of spastic children is not recognised by the Taxation Department as an allowable deduction. Parents do not receive one cent as a taxation deduction on the money expended on such equipment. This is a matter that should be inquired into with a view to having the anomaly rectified.

Where the parents of these handicapped children are at a disadvantage is that every week the spastic child has to be brought to Perth for special care and attention irrespective of the treatment he receives in his own home. The equipment which is necessary for the treatment of such children, and in regard to which parents cannot claim any benefits from a hospital fund or as a deduction from their taxable income, include special beds; walking frames; stabilisers; special high chairs; special pushers; special foods, and special medicines.

Mr. Dunn: Have you any details of the cost of those items?

Mr. McIVER: I know the member for Darling Range is acutely aware of the situation relating to these handicapped children, and I am pleased to say that I

have those figures. I have ascertained that every 12 months the parents of each of these children spend \$1,358. This is an average amount, although it does fluctuate.

I am not the only one concerned about the problem of retarded children in this State. There are many other people who are greatly concerned, and I refer the House to an article published in *The West Australian* of Thursday, the 24th July. I will not read the whole of the article, Mr. Speaker, but with your permission I will quote one paragraph. This was taken from the report of a statement made by Mrs. Josephine Nicholson, counsellor with the W.A. Guild of Business and Professional Blind. It reads as follows:—

Mrs Nicholson, who is blind, said there were no special facilities for children who had handicaps like deafness, mental retardation or epilepsy as well as being blind.

She had been horrified to discover that there were almost as many multi-handicapped children of primary school age in W.A. as there were children suffering from blindness alone.

In Northam the parents of one family I know have a four-year-old child who has multiple handicaps. That child is blind, spastic, and of course is mentally retarded. In the existing circumstances in this State what can the future hold for such a child? There are no facilities whatsoever to assist the parents of this child. They are unable to take the child to the Blind School because it does not have the facilities to render the required treatment. So the true facts are that if anything happened to the mother or father of this child, the only alternative would be to place it in a mental institution and that would not present a very happy future for a child who is suffering from such handicaps.

The equipment required for the treatment of these handicapped children is very expensive. A wheelchair costs approximately \$80, stabiliser frames cost about \$25 to \$35, and walking frames from \$70 to \$80, and the parents of handicapped children who are on low incomes find it practically impossible to purchase such equipment. At this point I would like to refer to the wonderful efforts that are made by service clubs in Northam, because it is only with their assistance that the parents can purchase these necessary pieces of equipment for the treatment of handicapped children.

I believe we have a responsibility not only to the parents of these children who are residing in country areas, but also to the parents of all retarded children generally throughout the State. It is only fair to say that these children should be given every opportunity to enable them to take their place in a modern society and so

share, as much as possible, the benefits that are enjoyed by other members of the community.

I know that a great deal has been done in connection with slow learners' organisations, a branch of which has just been formed in my electorate. At the moment enthusiasm is running very high in this direction. As we all know, however, it takes a good deal of finance to get these things off the ground, and finance is always the barrier when we want to expand such organisations and make people aware of just what the parents of these children are having to endure.

We must place more emphasis on making the people of the State aware of the stress and strain and the responsibilities faced by the parents of the people to whom I have referred. Such parents have no social life whatever; they are faced with the position that they are wholly and solely depended upon to give 24 hours' attention to the children concerned.

I might also mention that although many thousands of dollars are raised throughout the State for the Spastic Welfare Association by the running of Miss Australia quests, and so on, not one cent of this amount goes back to the country centres to help in giving the assistance I have outlined. A small amount is kept by the various committees so that morning teas and formal luncheons can be arranged to assist the various entrants in the Miss Australia quest; but not one cent is received from the various associations to assist the people I have mentioned.

As members know, we devoted a great deal of our energy and attention last year to debating whether the Barracks Archway should be allowed to stand, or whether it should be removed. If we can spend so much time and energy in debating a subject of this nature, surely we can give a little time to evaluating the difficulties associated with our problems with spastics with a view to placing before the Government a proposal which might be acceptable, whereby the people to whom I refer can receive more direct aid. I say this because with increasing costs it is of paramount importance that such people receive more financial assistance than they are getting at the moment.

Dr. Henn: This Government has done a lot for slow learning children's groups.

Mr. McIVER: That is so, and I mentioned that fact. The Government is certainly doing a tremendous amount in this particular field.

Dr. Henn: Why don't you go and see the Minister for Health?

Mr. McIVER: I did not read the relevant correspondence, but this has been done. At the same time, however, ways and means must be found to enable these people to be given additional financial assistance.

Unfortunately the Minister for Works is not in the House at the moment, but I would like to bring to his notice a situation which has arisen in my electorate. I must be careful how I phrase my thoughts on this matter. I refer, however, to the cutting off of the house water supply of some of the people in the area.

Irrespective of the money owing to the Country Water Supply Department, the Government has adopted a policy that unless the amounts owing are received within a few days the water supply of the particular householder will be cut off. I might mention here that there have been many instances where householders have not been given notice of the fact that they might owe \$1.20, 80c, or \$1.40.

The whole situation is quite ridiculous. Surely a large instrumentality like the Country Water Supply Department is able to carry these debts for a short period! I wrote a letter to the Under-Secretary for Works dated the 11th February, 1969, which reads as follows:—

I wish to protest on behalf of the people of Northam, against your present policy of disconnecting the the Water Supply to private homes without any reasonable justification whatsoever.

The situation here is such that an account for \$1.20 overdue for only one month, resulted in the disconnection of the Water Supply to that home.

While I realise that the Water Supply Department, is not a charitable organisation, I feel you must agree that this procedure is absolutely unjust and humiliating to the people concerned. I have had people of respected standing in this community, come to me with this problem, all owing less than \$3.00. Surely it would be only fair that people with only one account outstanding, should be personally notified before such stringent action is taken to obtain such trifling amounts.

In every case brought to my notice, the people concerned deny having received a final notice.

To deprive people of water in a town renowned for temperature of over 100 degrees, is to my mind, most unjust and surely a more understanding and humane policy could be followed by your Department.

I also feel that if the Office of the Northam Water Supply was open during the lunch hour, this would enable working people to make their payments more conveniently.

Trusting you will have a further look at this existing policy which is causing growing discontent in Northam.

This situation does not apply only to Northam but right through the country areas.

Mr. Tonkin: Did you get a reply to that letter?

Mr. McIVER: Yes, I received a reply from the under-secretary dated the 11th March, 1968, which reads—

The matters raised in your letter of February, regarding cut-off action on water services at Northam have been investigated.

Under the present procedure for rendering of accounts, an account for rates or other charges, giving one month to pay, is rendered on the property which is the subject of these rates or charges. If at the expiration of this month the account is unpaid, a final notice giving a further fourteen days to pay is rendered on the property to which it refers. If payment is still not made cut-off action is commenced.

It goes on to say why this is so. The relevant fact is, however, that surely the Government can carry, until the following month, such a trifling amount as \$3. It is quite ridiculous to deprive people of a water supply in these areas because of such amounts.

Before I read that letter I was about to refer to an invalid pensioner who had his water supply disconnected because he happened to owe the department \$2.50. The next account he received was for about \$11. I might say here that it costs \$4 to have the water supply reconnected to one's home.

So here we have the situation of an old invalid pensioner who had the water supply to his house cut off for the trifling amount of \$2.50. He was certainly most agitated when he approached me about the matter. When I checked on the account of \$11 which he had received, I found his water meter had been incorrectly read and he had been overcharged by 100,000 gallons. In spite of this, however, he received no letter of apology from the department.

This sort of thing is also taking place in Wundowie where the people have no facilities to pay their accounts locally. However, consideration is being given to permitting them to pay their water rates at the local police station. It remains to be seen whether this will be approved.

I am sure we have all at some time or other laid aside our accounts for water rates with a view to paying them at some future date. The people to whom I have referred, however, have been penalised for doing this very thing.

In instances where money has to be paid, and a distance of perhaps 20 miles is involved, many of the people concerned

seem to overlook the matter. As a consequence, the water supply might be disconnected; and, if it is, a fee of \$4 has to be paid before it is reconnected. To some people this matter might appear to be of minor significance, but we should place ourselves in the position of those who have been affected. It is time the Government looked into this problem, and took steps to rectify the situation.

Mr. Tonkin: Either that or apply the practice uniformly. I am sure if an industrial establishment was involved and the amount was \$1,000, its water supply would not be disconnected.

Mr. McIVER: I take the opportunity in this debate to register my opposition to the Government's decision to close Wooroloo Hospital. The main issues involved in the proposal of the Government to close the hospital are the economics and cost, the inability to retain staff, the distance which visitors of patients have to travel, and the desire to establish a prison there so that prison reform can be instituted along the lines adopted at Karnet.

In my view the decision of the Government to close the Wooroloo Hospital is a very backward step. In relation to the economics and cost, although according to the Government the cost of maintaining this hospital is higher than that of maintaining other hospitals in this State, I would point out that not many hospitals are paying their way at the present time. By closing this hospital the old people of the State will be denied the use of an excellent "C"-class hospital.

Over the months since the controversy has arisen, there has been much talk in relation to the Government's decision, but we should disregard the pressures. We should look at the situation in reality. The Wooroloo Hospital has been functioning very successfully for many years, and one only needs to speak to the present patients, or to former patients, to realise its true value.

Furthermore, if this hospital is closed we will find that between Northam and Midland there will be no hospital available to render medical treatment. If one were to go through the records of the Wooroloo Hospital one would see that as a result of the increase in road accidents it has proved to be of great benefit in being able to render medical attention to victims, and to save lives.

I would ask those who have not visited Wooroloo Hospital to take a trip and look at the beautiful surroundings which are enjoyed by the patients. Aged people who over the years have rendered excellent service to the community look forward to being accommodated in this institution. Several pensioners at Northam have requested me to protest in this House against the Government's decision to close the

hospital. They pointed out that when they were patients there they found it to be a fine institution.

We should take into consideration the charcoal iron and steel works at Wundowie, and the possibility of serious accidents occurring. With the Wooroloo Hospital being so close, medical attention is readily available to those who may sustain injury.

Mr. Craig: The necessary medical attention will still be available.

Mr. McIVER: Whichever way we look at this matter, the scales are heavily weighted in favour of keeping Wooroloo Hospital in operation, despite the economics of running it, because it is an institution which the people of this State desire to retain. What I have said applies not only to the people represented by those on this side of the House, but also to those represented by members of other political parties.

I make a sincere plea to the Government, not only on behalf of the staff of Wooroloo Hospital and others who are employed there, but also on behalf of the people of the State who have a desire to make use of its facilities in the future, to reconsider its decision for closure. I trust the Government will give this matter serious consideration before it proceeds in the manner it has indicated.

Another matter I wish to comment on briefly is the Meckering earthquake. For me to stand up in this House and attack the committee which was formed by the Government, and criticise it in the manner that it was in another place would be the height of hypocrisy, because as the member for the district I have had nothing but full co-operation from this committee headed by Mr. Gabbedy.

Let us examine the facts. On the 14th October of last year Meckering was struck by a catastrophe which had not been experienced previously in this State. We had the situation where not only the town of Meckering, but also houses within a 10-mile radius of the earthquake, were demolished. There is no need for me to elaborate on the emotional side or on the extent of the damage, because we are all familiar with that; so any criticism I make in relation to the Meckering earthquake is made constructively.

One of the first things I wish to see implemented is the creation of a State disaster fund. Reference has already been made in another place to the creation of such a fund on a national level; but to create a disaster fund on a national level presents problems. Firstly, there is the time factor to be taken into account and, secondly, there is the difficulty in arriving at a common denominator to be used as a basis for allocation. Personally I would like to see a State fund created, although I agree in principle with the establishment of a national fund. I would like to

see a State fund created to operate in conjunction with a national fund, so that money will be readily available for distribution to the victims of whatever the disaster might be—earthquake, fire, flood, or the particular situation which the State now faces. I am referring to the present drought, which the member for Roe has mentioned. If a disaster fund were created relief could be given right from the outset.

I would like the Government to give this matter a great deal of consideration, because, if such a fund had been in operation when the earthquake took place, there would not have been the time lag there was in connection with Meckering. As I have already stated, the criticisms I have made in regard to this situation are constructive.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. McIVER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say that the magnitude of the responsibility was too much for the Cunderdin Shire to bear on its own. Therefore I feel an additional officer should have been appointed to the committee to liaise with the various departments. However, in the main, when one thinks of the extensive damage that occurred, one must congratulate the Main Roads Department, the Country Water Supply Department, and the State Electricity Commission for the great work their officers did in restoring facilities in this devastated area in such a short time.

Irrespective of the criticisms which have been levelled at Mr. Gabbedy and his committee, I am of the opinion that they evaluated fairly. I can only say that on all occasions when I submitted a request to this committee in relation to the earthquake disaster at Meckering, an officer was immediately despatched to the area to make an investigation; and in all cases but one, a further grant was given.

It is difficult to work on a basis of allocation, considering the emotions of the people brought about by the sheer hell they went through in the initial stages—it can be described in no other way. We had a situation where farmers did not want to go back onto their land; they would not leave the showground.

Out of this turmoil came a leader such as Mr. Fred Partridge, who acted in an honorary capacity and carried out his duties very well indeed. He forwarded the complaints of the people to me and to the committee in a very satisfactory manner. I would like to see him commended in some form or other, either by giving him a certificate of service, or in some other form the Government considers fit, because he deserves some commendation.

The tumult and shouting has died so far as Meckering is concerned, but one thing has emerged from this earthquake:

we find that the people of Meckering are determined to live in their town. They are dedicated to that decision. They are tenacious, and determined to carry on as a very community-minded people as before and to prove not only to the people of other areas, but to the people of Western Australia generally that there is always going to be a Meckering.

MR. WILLIAMS (Bunbury) [8.44 p.m.]: I would like to make some comments relating to my electorate during this debate on the Address-in-Reply. However, firstly, I would like to place on record my appreciation—I am sure other members will join with me—of the visit this morning to the marine research laboratories at Watermans Bay at the invitation of the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna. We were invited to inspect these laboratories and were given short addresses by some of the officers concerned. I am sure we all learnt much from this short visit; and we appreciated the efforts of the Minister, his Director of Fisheries and Fauna (Mr. Bowen), and the other officers who accompanied him.

Turning now to the problems of Bunbury, as with other places they have been brought about by development and growth. Problems of this type are not bad to have, but sometimes they are difficult to overcome.

Mr. Graham: They are problems of Government neglect in my electorate.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I reiterate, that they are problems of development and growth. We must all agree that this is the case. However, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has not yet spoken on this debate and no doubt, in time, he will tell us all about his problems.

Mr. Graham: You will not be disappointed.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I would like to spend part of my 45 minutes in speaking of a problem that is arising in Bunbury, and one which will get worse. I refer to the facilities at the Bunbury courthouse. Some years ago—about 1962—\$32,000 was spent in enlarging the courthouse and, at the time, this was presumed to be all that was required. However, since that time, the staff has increased by two members, from seven to nine.

The circuit court now sits in the town every three months; and if we are to believe what we read in the Press—and I think the Minister mentioned the fact some time last year—some time during this session legislation will be brought down to provide for country courts. This will place a further burden on the accommodation at the courthouse at Bunbury.

However, at the present time when the circuit court sits in Bunbury, two female typists who work in what is normally the jurors' room, have to move out and go

to the front office. This necessitates nine people working in a public office which is capable of housing four or five people reasonably well. It is necessary for the magistrate to move out of his room so that it can be occupied by the judge. The magistrate moves into another room which he shares with the judge's advocate and the court usher.

The circuit court is providing a great service to the region because it saves many people from having to go to the city for a Supreme Court hearing.

Mr. Graham: Probably visitors from Darling Range.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Maybe, but I have never checked whence they came.

Since 1963 the business of the court has increased considerably. For instance, local court plaintiffs in 1963 numbered 1,574 while in 1968—and this is for a period of 11 months—they numbered 3,050. This is an increase of practically 100 per cent. in that field. The total revenue taken in the courthouse from all avenues in 1963 was \$337,000, while in 1968 the amount was \$587,518, again an increase of just on 100 per cent. The revenue from stamp sales in 1963 was approximately \$32,316, while in 1968 the total, according to my figure, was \$73,740. However, in answer to a question today, the member for Kalgoorlie was given a figure of \$71,992.

The staff to a very large degree, are working in cramped quarters. During this year, the district inspector of police moved across to a new police station allowing rooms to be taken over by the Architectural Division of the Public Works Department. The building is very old, and my suggestion to the Government at this stage would be that the buildings on the corner of Wittenoom Street and Stephen Street be demolished to make way for the provision of new Government offices, including new facilities for the courthouse. I do not think it would be wise to place the courthouse in another part of the town, because at the present time it is close to the police station and is centrally situated as far as the public are concerned.

The old buildings on the site I have mentioned should be demolished, and I suggest that the foundations for future Government offices should be suitable for a four or five-storied building, because as time goes by and the town grows, more Government facilities will be required. If this is not a practical suggestion, then I consider a new courthouse should be built on the site. In addition, at this time, some land should be bought, not necessarily near the present town centre, but south of it, to allow for future development and, in the course of time, a complex of Government offices placed on this site, should the Government decide to make such a purchase.

The growth of Bunbury, in my opinion, warrants some assistance being given so that Government offices can be established

in the town. The average population growth rate over the past 10 years has been something of the order of 5 per cent. per annum, which is double that of the metropolitan area. I have no hesitation in saying that as time goes by this percentage could increase.

Whilst speaking of the facilities at courthouses, as I mentioned earlier there have been some revenue stamp sales. This again was referred to this evening in a question by the member for Kalgoorlie. It seems ridiculous to me that the staff of the courthouses must lick these stamps, the largest denomination of which is \$20. The staff must then cancel the stamps and each night check the supplies and order new supplies each week.

Recently in Bunbury the maximum amount of stamps available to the office was raised from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per week, if required; but again, the largest denomination was \$20. With the increasing amount of business in the town many documents are requiring stamp duty of an enormous amount. Recently one document was brought in for transfer and it involved a sum of \$60,000, requiring stamp duty of \$875. If members work this out they will ascertain that the document required 43 stamps at \$20 each and one stamp for \$15. By the time the officer had placed these on the document it looked very pretty, but not in the eyes of the Registrar of Titles. Having placed the stamps all over the document the officer then had to go through and cancel each one of them as required by law.

I understand, although I may be oversimplifying the matter, that in the metropolitan area a machine is available for cancelling the stamps. It is, I gather, a glorified cash register for which a special set of keys is required. Several responsible people hold the keys and the documents are put through the machine in the same way as transactions are dealt with through the cash register at a store. The process leaves the document very much tidier than does the system of placing stamps all over the document to satisfy the law.

I understand that not only Bunbury is in this position, but other regional centres also, such as Kalgoorlie, Geraldton and Albany. All these towns will grow in time and even if a machine is not required at the moment, serious consideration should be given by the powers that be to the provision of a suitable machine in order to obviate the ridiculous necessity to lick all the stamps and then place them all over documents.

Mr. Jamieson: You only need larger denominations.

Mr. WILLIAMS: That would certainly help, but if it is not very expensive, a suitable register should be provided. No

difficulty would be involved as far as security is concerned because many responsible people would be available for this purpose, including the magistrate, the clerk of courts, and his assistants. These people are all in very responsible positions and would be quite capable of ensuring the security of the machine.

During the last few weeks an announcement was made in Bunbury concerning the letting of a contract for a new technical school. An amount of \$1,300,000 is involved. Members have heard me speak on this subject on many occasions over the last three or four years. I believe that the design of the school is very appropriate and the site is a very good one, as it allows for future development of the town. The site is on the southern side of the town on what is commonly known as the bypass road on the journey from Busseton to Perth.

Very close to this site on which the technical school is to be erected is a rifle range and on several occasions members of the Bunbury Town Council and I have had meetings with various officers of several departments, including a Commonwealth department. We were concerned—and still are—with the resting of the rifle range. It will ultimately find itself in the middle of a residential area and, now that the technical school is to be established nearby, the council and I have suggested to the Education Department, and the Tertiary Education Commission, that this would be an ideal site for an educational complex. The Jackson report did in fact recommend that Bunbury be the site of a regional college of advanced education. I think that is the term coined for these colleges. An area of 200 or 300 acres could be set aside for this purpose.

The rifle range site is leased on a permissive occupancy basis, the Government being able to give notice to the Commonwealth to be off the site in less than 12 months. However, this is not as easy as it sounds. I have been working on the project for just on four years and the Commonwealth does not look like leaving ever yet. This led me to ask the Minister for Lands if he would be good enough to make available to me a copy of the lease. This he did and it is quite an interesting document. It was signed in 1916 by William Morris Hughes. That gives an indication of how old the document is. It states generally that the lease is for a period of 12 months. It must be renewed in July of each year, and the rent is £1, or \$2 as it is now. The lease stipulates that the State can resume the land for almost any purpose. It is wide open. It specifies many particular purposes for which it can be resumed and then it goes on to add, "or for any other public purpose."

Although I know this is not an easy matter for the Minister for Education, I have requested, and again request him, to ask his Tertiary Education Commission to indicate when the land will be required for the extension of tertiary education facilities. I would then like the Minister for Education to request the Minister for Lands to give to the Commonwealth notice of intention to resume the land for the purpose of the State. This would then give the Commonwealth the maximum amount of time in which to investigate the resiting of the rifle range if one is still required in the area.

At the present time there are on the range a pistol club and a small bore club, but because the area required for these clubs is not anywhere near as large as that required for a rifle range, I am sure these two clubs could be accommodated somewhere else within the town area.

However, I do ask the Minister for Education to push on with this matter and at the same time I ask the Minister for Lands to give to the Commonwealth the necessary notice of intention to resume, when the commission indicates the date the land will be required.

Over the past few years I have had quite a deal to say about regional development and I intend to say a little more about it tonight. I hope the Minister for Industrial Development will pardon me if in the early part of my remarks I am quite critical because I assure him that towards the latter part of my remarks I will be constructive.

Since about 1960 or 1961 the Minister and his department have asked local authorities to set up an industrial development committee within their areas. As a result some 40 of these committees were formed and over the years these have had varying degrees of success. More recently in some towns—namely, the larger centres—where the industrial development committees fell by the wayside, regional promotion committees were formed, but these too, I believe, are now falling by the wayside.

There are some very good reasons for this, and these I would like to mention. Firstly, there is a lack of responsibility, but not a lack of responsibility on the part of the people concerned with the committees. The people who have been operating on the committees feel they are not responsible to anyone in particular. The local authorities take an interest in the committees, as also does the Department of Industrial Development, but there is not the interest to the degree which I think there should be by the department.

The purpose and effectiveness of the committees is also a worrying feature to the people who serve on them. Again, this is because of the lack of interest, through staff, from the Department of Industrial

Development. Only three officers have been working in this field in the country section. Also, it is not always possible to notify the committees when visitors from overseas are coming to the area, or when something of importance is about to occur in the area. This is because the department can never be too sure of the security of, or because it lacks confidence in, some of the members of the committees. This is understandable because the committees are not directly responsible to anyone in particular.

If the committees are to operate with any degree of success they will need to have some resources and some finance, and these have been lacking. Some local authorities have provided a small degree of finance to the committees but the Government has provided very little, if anything at all.

It is all very well to have people doing this work voluntarily but the stage is reached where the people are spending what would normally be their free time working on the committees. Money is not even available for the employment of a part-time secretary and the secretarial work has to be done by somebody on the committee.

To operate efficiently the members of the committee are required to do research and study. Admittedly, the officers of the Department of Industrial Development make themselves available as much as they possibly can for this purpose, but, again, because of the lack of staff available from the department, this work cannot always be handled. On many occasions I have rung the department and I have been told that the officers are in Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Merredin, Northam, or Esperance. Those officers work all over the State and I am not criticising them by any manner of means. However, as I have said, there is insufficient staff in the department to handle this sort of work. If it is intended to use the service of people willing to give it voluntarily then I believe that service should be incorporated into regional development councils.

Also, in some areas a great number of various organisations exist. For instance, in the Bunbury region—as I like to refer to it—some organisations are what might be called unofficial official bodies, and some are of a much more private nature.

Some in the Bunbury region would be the Tourist Development Committee; the Chamber of Commerce; the local government authority; the Industrial Development Committee, about which I have spoken; the Farmers' Union; the South-West Regional Council, and the South-West Zone Committee. I believe all these organisations work for the benefit of the district and it is often found that the committees are cutting across each other's paths, and doing much the same sort of

work. In some cases they are carrying out research into matters which affect their own particular committee and they do not obtain all the facts which they should have. A committee will consider a certain area as one which it should have, and whether they are required or not the committee maintains that it should have certain facilities. Of course, this is where the wires get crossed, which causes such a lot of discontent.

I have mentioned the voluntary members who have taken a keen interest in committees and spent many hours working on them. I have been a member of one committee myself and I took great delight in doing what I could in the time available. However, here again one gets to the point of frustration when one sees what needs to be done, and there is not the time or the money to do it. I know it is wrong to say that the department should do what is required, but I hope to suggest a way to overcome the problem.

I have mentioned the departmental responsibility, and the insufficient number of staff, and I believe something can be done about this.

Mr. Court: That is fair comment and we are trying to find a more practical way of getting over the problem.

Mr. WILLIAMS: I realise the Minister is working on this and I hope that some time during this year something will be evolved. I imagine that some finance will be required, and this will depend on the money available. I assure the Minister I will not be critical all the time.

Another matter which baffles those people who give their time is the indefinite area of operations. I do not think a study has been made to define the area of any particular region. Of course, the various committees overlap from area to area and this causes hesitancy on the part of the committees because somebody's toes may be trodden on.

So I think one of the earliest things to do is to define the regions in which the committees are to operate. The last point I wish to mention, on the critical side, is the contact with the public, and publicity. There is a limited degree of contact because of the few people who are tangled up in the committees. Publicity, of course, is restricted by the lack of funds, and to do anything these days the message has to be got across to the public. To do this finance is required.

In the defining of regions I might mention that I believe the principal factors are geographic, social, economic, cultural, and transport, and they should be centred in towns which I believe at this stage of our development have virtually emerged. I refer to towns such as those I mentioned earlier—Geraldton, Albany, Esperance, Bunbury, Kalgoorlie, Northam, and possibly even Merredin. Perhaps I should

not forget Narrogin as I see the member for that area looking at me and wondering if I am going to mention his town.

Local authorities should be requested to participate in the regional councils or organisations. They should participate both in the field by providing a member to the senior body—the board of management if one likes to call it that—and also by making available some of the cash to provide the things which I have said are lacking.

If the Government makes a straight-out donation or grant and provides all the cash for the councils then those who spend the money will not take as much interest as they would if they were spending some of their own money. If those people can be persuaded to provide some of the finance which has to be made available then the money which is provided by the State Government—or the Federal Government—will be treated as their own.

I believe there should also be representatives of industry and commerce on the committees. They should be people who are leaders in their particular field of industry or commerce and should be appointed as members to the regional councils.

In both these cases—that is, the appointment from a local authority and the appointment from industry and commerce—the people concerned should be given some stature, not because they probably would look for the money, but because it would give them some feeling of being wanted. They would be there to do a job and they should be paid some nominal fee for attending board meetings and also to cover out of pocket expenses which might arise from the legitimate attendance to the duties of the particular regional council or committee.

I have a heading down on my notes which I should imagine would be in the pious hope category. However this can happen, I believe, and it does happen in other parts of the world. Further, the sort of people one would get on these regional councils would respect this. The heading I have on my notes is, "Regional councils to be non-political." The reason for this is that a regional council could put up a proposition which may be very feasible, but it may not be the policy of the particular Government—irrespective of whether this Government or another Government is in office—to do whatever has been requested in this way. Provided the proposition has been checked out thoroughly by a body which I will mention later—namely, a technical advisory committee—and a good case is given, I believe that irrespective of the Government of the day, the suggestion should be accepted to a very large degree by the Government. My belief is that, irrespective of politics, the suggestion should go forward and be put into operation by the Government department concerned.

My next point is that a regional council should have permanent offices; that is, buildings, which would provide some permanent home, should be established in these regional centres. I consider that a budget should be worked out to provide sufficient finance to enable a regional manager to be employed full-time and that he should have some full-time or part-time staff in the way of a clerical assistant or clerical assistants.

In this way someone would be at the office at any particular time and would be able to consider any bright idea or query put forward. Further, if a visitor came to the region and went to the office, the person in attendance could give him some information as to where the visitor might go within the region or town to find out what he wished to know if the information was not available at the office.

Mr. Jamieson: If these things are so important why do not the areas use the provisions of the Local Government Act and set up county councils?

Mr. WILLIAMS: The provisions of section 329, I think it is, of the Local Government Act allow a regional council to be set up for the purpose of local government only and not for the purpose of establishing industry and that kind of thing. I believe that the Local Government Act imposes restrictions of this kind.

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, but surely a concerted effort would achieve the result.

Mr. WILLIAMS: Yes, up to a point, but I still consider that the support of the Government department concerned is required to establish these committees. If this were given, they would be established on a much better footing than they probably would be through a concerted effort by local authorities.

To carry on, there should be some departmental representative on these committees. An officer should be appointed for the region and he should attend regional council meetings and also have the power to vote at board meetings. Only one person would be required to give complete liaison between the regional council concerned and the Government department concerned. This would give a full flow of information back and forth.

The next point would be the technical advisory committee. Such committees are used by some authorities at the present time; for example, the Swan River Conservation Board has a technical advisory committee. Such a committee should be made up of officers of various Government departments, who could be called upon if and when required to give their professional opinion on particular problems.

Finally, I wish to say that universities should be used to some degree wherever possible for the purpose of conducting research in these regions. The staff could

be used if they were available and certainly some of the students could be used during their vacation. They could work on an employed basis if research was to be done. This would make for better knowledge of the regions and much more information could be distributed.

I believe this is a system which could come about. It may not come about in the way I have described, but I believe that what I have said represents the basis of a system such as this. I hope the Minister may have some success with any representations that he may make to the Treasurer who, I hope, will be sympathetic towards this subject. Certainly I trust that in time to come we may see an organisation such as this. As I have said, it may not necessarily be along the lines I have laid down. I am only expressing my thoughts on the lines which could be followed in setting up such an organisation. I hope and trust that this may come about in the very near future.

MR. HARMAN (Maylands) [9.15 p.m.]: In addressing myself to this motion, there are three matters that I wish to touch on: two are in the form of requests and the third is in the form of a protest.

Firstly I wish to take up the case of a group of people in the metropolitan area. It is a group which is growing in number, although it is small at the moment. Further, it is a group which is disorganised, but one which draws its members—if we may so call them—from all walks of life. At the moment they are suffering an injustice brought about by an anomaly in water charges. I refer to people who live in home units.

In my electorate of Maylands there exist, or will shortly exist, 362 flat units in 32 blocks and 310 home units in 12 blocks. If one calculates each block on the basis that it replaced three single residential houses, one will see that 36 single residential houses have been demolished for these 12 blocks of home units.

From a survey I made just recently, I learnt that on an average each home unit owner pays \$55 per year in water rate charges. This includes sewerage and main drain. For the purposes of this exercise, if we calculate this out—that is, 310 units each paying an average of \$55—we will see that the total amount for a 12-months period would be approximately \$17,000. The average total rates for a single residential house in the area would be \$50 per year. Hence, prior to the demolition of these 36 houses, the total revenue derived from water rates would have amounted to approximately \$1,800. In round figures this represents an increase in revenue to the Water Supply Department of some 1000 per cent.

I will confine my illustration to one home unit block. I have picked out one of the 12 and I consider it would represent

an average of the 12 blocks. This particular home unit block has 12 units. The water rate charges for the year are \$665 whereas the water rate charges of the three houses which were demolished so that this block could be built amounted to \$125. Members will see that a big increase of revenue is coming from the same piece of land.

It is possible to take this argument a step further. In this home unit 15 people are residing, eight of whom are pensioners. The three houses that were demolished accommodated 12 people, so the number of people now being housed has increased by only three. This means that an average of four people occupied each of those three houses, which is in keeping with the figure used by the shires in the metropolitan area. It is something like 3.8 persons per dwelling.

Mr. Tonkin: What you are saying is that the Government is putting into operation a "pay-as-you-use" policy.

Mr. HARMAN: That is correct. In addition, the people who occupy home units are, in the main, elderly people: those who have retired, or elderly persons who have lost their partners through death. Prior to their occupying a home unit they no doubt lived in a modest type of home, but in their advancing years they found that it was too large, or the maintenance expenses were too great, for them to continue living in it and as a result they sold it in order to buy a home unit.

I am sure members would know that certain conditions relating to home units are laid down by the shires to ensure that each unit is provided with a garage, an asphalt area, and a laundry area, and that, perhaps, a small section of the land is set aside for a lawn or a garden. In most instances, a single residential home has lawns at the front and back, with garden beds, and so on. These are not provided with a home unit. Therefore it is my argument that people occupying a home unit do not use any more water than people who occupy a single residential home. I therefore ask the Minister if he would cause the situation to be examined to ascertain if there is some way to remove this anomaly which applies to people living in home units.

This matter has already been raised by some people who lived in one of these home units and they were simply told by the general manager of the Metropolitan Water Board—

... that rates which are levied under the provisions of the "Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act, 1909-65" are based on the annual value of the property and not according to the quantity of water consumed—this basis of rating being uniform with Metropolitan Water Authorities in Australia and Britain.

In this letter dated the 13th September, 1967, reference No. 40470/40489, he further states—

Annual Values of properties in the whole of the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Area, are fixed in accordance with the Act, which provides that the annual value may be assessed on the fair average amount of annual rental of the property on the assumption that it is let, less a deduction of 40 per cent. for all outgoings or alternatively, up to 6 per cent. on the capital value of the land in fee simple. In your case the annual values have been fixed as shown on the attached schedule and have been assessed on weekly rentals as detailed.

So I reiterate my request to the Minister for something to be done, because these people are definitely suffering an injustice. Admittedly they have not entered these home units with their eyes closed, and the majority of them would have known that their water rates would have been assessed on the existing charges; but I know that in some instances people who have occupied home units have claimed that they were not aware that the water rates would be so excessive. I think their case is a reasonable one. The revenue of the Metropolitan Water Board is increasing year by year, and I am sure the Government could give consideration to this problem and probably find a solution to it. It is certainly within its power to do so.

The second matter in regard to which I wish to make an appeal to the Government concerns officers in the Public Service who are ineligible to become contributors to the State superannuation scheme. Some time ago my attention was drawn to the fact that some temporary officers, particularly building supervisors employed by the State Housing Commission, were ineligible to apply to become contributors to the State superannuation scheme. When I made further inquiries, I found that if the head of the department could certify that an officer would occupy a particular position until he was 65 years of age he would, under section 9 of the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act, be eligible to apply to become a contributor to the superannuation scheme.

However, inquiring into the matter still further, I discovered that this section applies only to wages employees in Government departments. That is, a carpenter employed in the Public Works Department could become a contributor to the superannuation scheme, provided the head of his department certified that in his particular capacity as a carpenter he would remain with the department until he was 65.

This provision does not apply to temporary public servants; and, apart from the building supervisors in the State Housing Commission, I am told there are a number of temporary public servants

who are ineligible to contribute to the superannuation scheme until they have served at least five years. Even after the expiration of that period such officers can only apply to become contributors; the fact that they have served for five years does not mean that they will automatically become eligible to contribute to the superannuation scheme. However, in the majority of cases, such officers are accepted. It is not a right, but a concession granted to temporary officers after five years' service.

I took this matter up with the Deputy Premier some time ago and in July of this year he replied to me pointing out the situation I have just outlined to the House. He said—

Temporary employees under the Public Service Act are, as the name implies, purely temporary and could not be certified as being permanent officers because of the nature of their appointment under that Act.

Before leading up to the point I want to make, I wish to mention that I also made inquiries among some of the private construction firms in Perth and I found that superannuation schemes for the building supervisors of Landalls, Jennings, and General Agency are in operation. But, as I have said, the building supervisors of the State Housing Commission are not eligible to become contributors to the State superannuation scheme.

Why does not the Government give some consideration to allowing such employees to become eligible to contribute to the superannuation scheme after six months' service instead of having to wait five years? When one considers the attitude adopted by the State Housing Commission, the only inference that can be drawn from it at the moment is that the commission considers that the State will not expand; there will be no further increase in building activity by the State Housing Commission; but, instead, it can visualise that in the not far distant future it will not require as many building supervisors as it employs at the moment, and therefore it will continue to employ such officers in a temporary capacity until such time, a few years hence, as it can sack them when there is a decline in building activity.

I am sure this is not really the attitude, because this State is still expanding; it is a young State and, in the years to come, I cannot see the Housing Commission not being involved in building houses; not being involved in construction and supervision for other Government departments; or not being involved in house construction and supervision for the Government Employees' Housing Authority. Whichever way we look at it, the State Housing Commission will continue to expand.

The supervisors to whom I have referred are, in some sense, the watchdogs of the State Housing Commission; they are the officers who are out with the public; they are the officers who are dealing with building contractors; they are the officers who should be given every security by the commission; and they are the officers who should be encouraged to provide more service and give more dedication to their particular department. However, by being told they must wait five years before they can be considered for the superannuation scheme, they are not being so encouraged at the moment. The same argument could, in fact, apply to temporary officers employed in other Government departments.

I know there may be some who through illness, or other malady, probably cannot attain permanency in the service, but, even so, they must undergo a medical examination for admission to the superannuation scheme. So, if they are medically unfit for some reason or another, this would be determined at the time. But there is no suggestion that the State Housing Commission supervisors, or the inspectors and supervisors in other Government departments, are medically unfit.

I think morally and economically the Government has a duty to ensure that its employees should be employed as permanent Public Service officers rather than be treated in this offhand fashion as temporary public servants when they are doing a job of work which is quite important in the overall function of the Government.

So I simply request the Deputy Premier again to have another look at this matter, to see whether he can obtain agreement among his Ministers for this policy of five years to be relaxed and reduced to one of six months.

The final matter I wish to touch on tonight concerns a protest at the reduction in size of an aboriginal reserve in the Kimberleys; a reserve which was set aside many years ago for the use and occupation of aborigines in that area based, I believe, on its cultural significance and its overall sacred significance to the aborigines there.

The other day I was told by the Minister, by way of answer to a question, that, of this particular area, approximately 47,000 acres had been excised as being required for entry permits. Here, I feel, that principle has gone by the board for the sake of expediency; in order that there may be no administrative problems connected with the granting of permits for mining personnel to enter the particular reserve.

I know the precedent was set back in 1955 by a Labor Government, and I admit this; but there is a big difference in time between 1955 and 1969, and I think

it would be futile for the Government to argue that this is merely an extension of that precedent.

In 1955 the area excised was one bordering on the South Australian border, an area which was unknown to the administrators of the day or to the Minister of the day. In fact it was not until 1957, two years later, that the Minister for Native Welfare, accompanied by Bruce McLarty and myself, was able to traverse the particular country to see the people living in the area and to hear at the same time their objections to the excision of this piece of land from the native reserve.

But while I was not very happy at the action taken in 1955, I feel there were many reasons for this decision, some of which I have already stated. But this does not give the Government of 1969 the right to take 47,000 acres, out of hand, from an aboriginal reserve merely as an expediency to overcome the administrative problem—if we can call it that—of issuing permits.

I also notice that in the *Daily News* of the 12th August, under the heading, "Natives Cash in on Options," mention is made of 100 applications for mineral claims in various parts of the Cosmo Newbery reserve, which is some 60 miles north-east of Laverton.

This brings me to a point I raised last year, that in 1966 the Premier gave an undertaking that some part of the royalty derived from any minerals mined on a native reserve would be paid into a special native welfare fund. He also said, at the time, that a special committee would be established to investigate royalties to see whether there should be any change made in the rate of royalty being paid under the Mining Act.

I mentioned last year that there had been no change made to the rate of royalty that was struck in 1958. The committee to which I referred was appointed three and a half years ago and last year it had not, at that stage, made any recommendations to the Government. The matter was still being considered by this committee; that was three and a half years ago.

I have not inquired this year to learn whether the committee in question has brought down any particular recommendations, but I would expect that after three and a half years some firm recommendations would now be before the Government. Some months ago it was reported in the paper that Mr. Brodie Hall, when addressing a particular organisation, complained that mining companies should not have to pay royalties. I watched the papers for the next two or three days to see whether or not the Government supported this attitude, but I did not see any remarks at all made by any of the Ministers of the Crown.

Because the Government has not persisted with this committee and because it has allowed the committee to just sit around for three and a half years, I felt that perhaps the Government agreed with Mr. Brodie Hall and that it intended to phase out royalties and not worry about them at all. I certainly hope that this is not the intention of the Government.

I would hope that some firm recommendations have been put before the Government, especially as three and a half years have elapsed, and that in the present session of Parliament we will see some changes in the mineral royalties which were struck in 1958. The reason that I am harping on this question of royalties is this: if some part of the royalties is to be paid into the native welfare fund from mining operations on native reserves then the royalties must be of a certain value to result in an appreciable amount being paid into that fund.

Let us take copper. At the present time no royalties are paid on the mining of copper, but last year nearly \$1,000,000 worth of copper was mined in this State. Yet not one cent was paid in royalty to the Government. Some of this copper could have been mined on native reserves; hence my concern that if copper is found on the hundreds of mineral claims in the Cosmo Newbery Reserve and mining operations are proceeded with, not a cent will be paid into the Treasury in royalties, and therefore not a cent will be paid into the native welfare fund.

The point I make is that after three and a half years this Government should have taken this matter into consideration. I protest against the reduction in the size of this native reserve.

Mr. Lewis: Not much in the way of royalties has been obtained from mining on native reserves.

Mr. HARMAN: No, but if copper is found on the Cosmo Newbery Reserve and mining commences, no royalty will be paid.

Mr. Lewis: Royalty would be paid on minerals mined on native reserves.

Mr. HARMAN: Who would determine the amount of royalty?

Mr. Lewis: A certain amount of the ordinary royalty that is paid will be channelled into that fund. What does it matter whether the fund is composed of royalties on minerals or of some other amount taken out of Consolidated Revenue? What is important is the amount that is paid into the native welfare fund.

Mr. HARMAN: I have been trying to point out that no royalty is being paid on copper mined in Western Australia.

Mr. Lewis: Suppose there was, what would happen?

Mr. HARMAN: If copper is mined on a native reserve then the Premier should determine what part of the royalty that is struck will be paid into the fund.

Mr. Lewis: The Premier would determine that, but in the overall picture what is important is the amount that is spent on the assimilation of natives. That is what the Premier would take into account.

Mr. HARMAN: This completes my contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate. I protest most strongly against a reduction in the size of the native reserve. This is a bad precedent for the Government to set. If mining operations proceed, the Government, through expediency, will whittle away the land reserves of the natives.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. W. A. Manning.

House adjourned at 9.44 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 14th August, 1969

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

QUESTIONS (8): ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

2. KEWDALE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Outstanding Claims

The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE asked the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) Can the Minister advise how many claims are still outstanding as a result of the operations of the Kewdale Development Authority?
- (2) What are the names and addresses of the people concerned?
- (3) Have all such parties received firm offers from the Government?
- (4) Have counter offers been made which differ from the Government valuations?
- (5) What is the next move available to the persons concerned in order to reach finalisation and settlement of their outstanding claims?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

- (1) Five.
- (2) (a) R. J. and Mrs. J. I. Coles, 8 Todd Avenue, Como.
- (b) J. Daljac, 23 La Page Street, Belmont.
- (c) J. V. Reagan, c/o Keall Stables & Brinsden, Solicitors, Perth.
- (d) O. L. and Mrs. O. I. Schruth, M. M. V. Ooran—All of 690 Beaufort Street, Mount Lawley.
- (e) G. Calabrese, 34 Norman Street, Bentley.

(3) Yes.

(4) One counter offer has been made.

(5) Section 47A, Public Works Act, provides for compensation to be determined by agreement between the parties, by an action for compensation by the claimant or by reference of the claim to the Compensation Court.

3.

TRANSPORT

Carriage of Goods between Perth and Pilbara

The Hon. H. C. STRICKLAND asked the Minister for Mines:

Will the Minister advise if the Director General of Transport recommendation that "as-of-right" licences be issued for carriage of goods between Perth and Pilbara terminals, will permit hauliers to pick-up loading both ways along the entire route?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

Yes, if the recommendation is implemented.

4.

MINES

World Prices for Minerals

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

- (1) What is the latest world price for—
 - (a) nickel;
 - (b) cobalt; and
 - (c) copper?
- (2) What rises, if any, have there been in each of the previous two years?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) There is no accepted world price but the U.S.A. prices may be taken as being representative and are—
 - (a) 91.96 cents per lb.
 - (b) \$1.65 per lb.
 - (c) \$954 per long ton (average in May, 1969).
- (2) The prices during the past two years varied as follows—

Nickel—from 76.12 cents on the 1st August, 1967 to 83.93 cents per lb. on the 1st August, 1968.

Cobalt—from \$1.65 on the 1st August, 1967 to \$1.71 per lb. on the 1st August, 1968.

Copper prices varied from day to day but the average monthly prices ranged from \$820 per long ton in August, 1967 to a peak average of \$1,130 in March, 1968.