

that election. I just want to say this in conclusion: I do not think that anything Mr. Ridge could have done, or that any of his supporters could have done, or anything that the Liberal Party as a party could have done, would have been responsible half as much for consolidating Mr. Ridge in this seat as has the attitude taken by the Labor Party in regard to the last election. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. C. R. Abbey.

House adjourned at 9.3 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 20th August, 1968

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

SUPPLY ACT

Assent

Message from the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator received and read notifying assent to the Act.

QUESTIONS (24): ON NOTICE

"C"-CLASS HOSPITALS

Registrations, Operations, and Accommodation

1. Mr. HARMAN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many "C"-class hospitals are registered in Western Australia?
- (2) How many are operated by—
 - (a) the State Government;
 - (b) the various churches and religious organisations;
 - (c) organisations; e.g. Silver Chain;
 - (d) private groups or individuals?
- (3) How many persons are accommodated under the categories listed in (2)?
- (4) What is the number of persons awaiting admission to hospitals under category (a) of (2)?
- (5) What is the maximum waiting period for admission to hospitals under category (a) of (2)?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) 89.
- (2) (a) 2
(b) 19
(c) 6
(d) 62
- (3) (a) 882
(b) 461
(c) 502
(d) 1,526

3,371

- (4) Less than 10 who have been assessed.
- (5) There is no waiting list. Patients are admitted on medical and social assessment.

WATER RATES

Charges to Tenants and Owners

2. Mr. W. A. MANNING asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What is the reason for charging a higher water rate, 6.75c in the dollar, for flats and home units let to tenants while the same if owner occupied would be rated 4.25c in the dollar?
- (2) If the above can possibly be justified, why is the rate on houses, 4.25c in the dollar, the same whether let to tenants or owner occupied?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) A few years ago consideration was given to a "pay for use" system, or "partial pay for use" system and, at the same time, as to whether any relief could be given to householders who provided private supplies, mainly for the purpose of watering lawns and gardens. It was considered that a "partial pay for use" system could be implemented by reducing the rate in the pound (now dollar) on occupiers of houses who use a considerable amount of water in beautifying the house lot and on street lawns. The same reduced rating would give some relief to people who provided private water supplies.

The same conditions did not apply to flats and home units as the allowance of water for rates would not be used and private supplies would not be provided.

Consideration is now being given to the possibility of levying the same rates on tenanted flats and home units as for owner occupied flats and home units.

HEADMASTER'S RESIDENCE AT QUAIRADING

Completion

3. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Education:

When is the new headmaster's residence at Quairading expected to be completed and ready for occupancy?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

Under the terms of the contract the house is due for completion on the 3rd September, 1968.

SOUTH-WEST RIVERS

Damming

4. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Could he indicate to the House what rivers in the south-west portion of our State can be dammed or if any further damming could be done on rivers already dammed in order to augment the ever-increasing demand on water throughout the State?
- (2) With expansion of industry, population, and general reticulation in mind, what period of years is it anticipated such fresh water rivers in the south will cater for the State's needs?
- (3) Has an exercise been done on the feasibility of damming and piping to the south of the State any waters of our great north-west rivers?
- (4) What experimentation is taking place in the field of desalination?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The rivers and tributaries in the south-west portion of the State which could be dammed are too numerous to list, but the following fresh water drainage systems are capable of development:—

The Dandalups, Murray, Preston, Capel, Donnelly, Warren, Gardner, Shannon, Deep, Kent, and Denmark.

The following systems are already harnessed but are capable of further development:—

Helena, Canning, Harvey, and Collie.

- (2) The amount of useable fresh water available is currently being investigated on an Australia-wide basis by the Australian Water Resources Council.
As far as this State is concerned, it can be predicted that the fresh water potential of the systems in (1) above will be ample for the foreseeable future.
- (3) No, but the development of the fresh water potential of the south of the State would be more economical than piping water from the distant north.
- (4) A major amount of research is being done on desalination throughout the world. The Public Works Department is actively concerned with the subject and keeps up to date through literature, correspondence, operation of small commercial plants, and inspections by officers during overseas trips.

ELECTRICITY IN BEVERLEY

Three Phase Line

5. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Electricity:

In the extension of the S.E.C. power in the Beverley district—

- (1) Is a three phase line envisaged from Beverley to a point on the Beverley-Brookton Shire boundary south of Mt. Kokeby?
- (2) If so, is this three phase line to be ultimately part of a grid system, Beverley to Brookton, and from point of connection to Quairading?
- (3) Are the proposed contributors shortly to be connected in the Mt. Kokeby area responsible for the expense involved in the installation of the line suggested in (1)?
- (4) If so, are they the sole contributors to this three phase conduit to the exclusion of other consumers between Northam-York and York-Beverley?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes, if farmers accept contributory scheme.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) They are only responsible for part of the expense.
- (4) See answer to (3).

APPEALS TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL

Determination

6. Mr. BERTRAM asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

Relevant to his answer of the 14th August, 1968—

- (1) Will he recommend action determining the right of appeal to the Privy Council when a majority of Attorneys-General favour such a determination?
- (2) Would any unfairness or difficulty occur as against the other States or would other States be disadvantaged if the said right of appeal were determined here; if "Yes," give details?
- (3) How many appeals to the High Court from this State have been heard in each of the five years to the 30th June, 1968?

(4) How many appeals to the Privy Council from this State have been heard in each of the five years ended the 30th June, 1968—

(a) following appeal to the High Court of Australia;

(b) without prior appeal to the High Court of Australia?

(5) Who bears the administrative cost incurred in the United Kingdom of appeals from this State to the Privy Council?

Mr. COURT replied:

(1) The Minister will first consider the arguments raised before making his own recommendations to Cabinet.

(2) The answer to the question would involve an expression of opinion which the Minister is not prepared to give until the matters raised have been properly considered, preferably as an agenda item for the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General.

(3)

Period	Appeals as of right	Applica- tions for leave to appeal	Total
*The 1st July, 1963, to the 30th June, 1964	Nil	Nil	Nil
The 1st July, 1964, to the 30th June, 1965	4	5	9
The 1st July, 1965, to the 30th June, 1966	4	6	10
The 1st July, 1966, to the 30th June, 1967	4	5	9
The 1st July, 1967, to the 30th June, 1968	8	7	15

*N.B.—The High Court sittings were held in June, 1963, there being 7 appeals and 2 applications for leave to appeal.

Since then the High Court has sat in September of each year.

(4) There is no record in the Supreme Court of the number of appeals so heard.

(5) The Government of the United Kingdom, so far as is known, although certain fees and possibly some printing costs are payable by the litigants.

LAND RESUMPTION

Departmental Power

7. Mr. BERTRAM asked the Premier:

(1) How many Government departments have the power to resume land compulsorily?

(2) Which are the departments?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

(1) and (2) The sole authority for the compulsory acquisition of land is vested in the Governor under the Land Act in respect of lands

held under that Act and the Public Works Act, which also embraces freehold land.

Land can be compulsorily acquired only for purposes authorised or specified by Statute.

Various Acts specifically authorise the compulsory acquisition of land and access to this power is given to such departments as—

Public Works Department (Water, Sewerage, Drainage and Irrigation);

Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board;

State Electricity Commission;

Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust;

Metropolitan Region Planning Authority;

Fremantle and other port authorities;

Department of Industrial Development;

Mines Department;

Lands Department;

State Housing Commission.

In addition, the Public Works Act in defining public works for which land may be compulsorily acquired specifies numerous works which give access to this power to the following authorities:—

Government abattoirs;

Department of Agriculture;

Education Department;

Forests Department;

Medical and Health Departments;

Police Department;

Crown Law Department;

Prisons Department;

Railways Department;

Fire Brigades Board.

The definition of "public work" in the Public Works Act also includes every work which Her Majesty, or the Governor, or the Government of Western Australia, or any Minister of the Crown or any local authority is authorised to undertake under this or any other Act.

By this, any Government department or authority which is authorised by Statute to undertake any work has access to the compulsory acquisition of land.

ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

Payment by Eastern States' Hauliers

8. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) Has his department any factual or estimated figures of the number of eastern States' hauliers who enter Western Australia by road each day?

- (2) How many eastern States' hauliers, on the average, enter Western Australia by trans.-train each day?
- (3) What percentage of the total road maintenance tax collected in 1967-68 was paid by eastern States' hauliers?
- (4) Has his department any records or estimate of how many eastern States' hauliers?
 - (a) failed to submit returns; or
 - (b) failed to pay the road maintenance tax?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) 2,377 interstate hauliers arrived between the 1st January and the 31st July, 1968—an average of 11.1 per day.
- (3) Interstate hauliers paid 6.05 per cent. of the total collections.
- (4) The number of interstate hauliers who fail to submit returns or pay fees cannot be estimated but where evidence is available prosecution is instituted. Up to the 30th June, 1968, prosecution action has been taken against 514 interstate hauliers for failure to submit returns and against 383 for failure to pay charges. Some of the latter would be included also in the total of 514 who failed to lodge returns.

PORT OF KING BAY

Regulations

9. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) On whose authority were copies of "Regulations for the Port of King Bay" issued to the masters of State ships?
- (2) Why were they issued?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The General Manager of the State Shipping Service.
- (2) To enable masters to have a copy aboard their ships.
The general manager considered that the terms and charges mentioned in the "regulations" were reasonable within the meaning of clause 10 (2) (f) of the ratified agreement.

GOLDFIELDS SCHOOLS

Christmas Holidays

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

Will he please give consideration to restoring to the Christmas holidays enjoyed by goldfields' schools the week transferred to

the May vacation, having regard to the fact that the extension of the May vacation benefits other schools by the addition of an extra week's holiday, but does not similarly benefit goldfields' schools, but rather deprives them of a week in the Christmas vacation, previously enjoyed?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

No. It is considered that children are entitled to the same number of weeks' instruction each year irrespective of the part of the State in which their homes are located.

PORT OF KING BAY

Regulations

11. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) Before Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd. issued, on the 14th October, 1965, what were purported to be "Regulations for the Port of King Bay" did the company have any discussion with him or any other State Minister or with any officer of any State department regarding the proposed "regulations"?
- (2) When did he first become aware that Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd. had issued what were purported to be "Regulations for the Port of King Bay"?
- (3) When was a copy of "Regulations for the Port of King Bay" supplied to his office?
- (4) Did he or anyone acting on his behalf submit to the Crown Law Department for consideration the "Regulations for the Port of King Bay"?
- (5) If "Yes," on what date?
- (6) Did he at any time raise with Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd. the question of the legality of the "regulations"?
- (7) If "Yes," on what date?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) to (7) The questions of port operations, by-laws, and so-called regulations have been under discussion by the company and the Government at frequent intervals throughout the time the Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd. project has been under construction and in operation.

As is to be expected, with a project as large as this one, these matters, together with the many others associated with leases and

general project documentation, have been the subject of discussion with the Crown Law Department from time to time. Likewise the questions of acceptability of the contents of the various documents including points of law have been the subject of discussion on numerous occasions between Government and company representatives.

Mr. Tonkin: That is a nice way to walk the tightrope.

Mr. COURT: I am afraid to give answers to the Leader of the Opposition's questions! If he reads the reply he will realise it is a reasonable one.

Mr. Tonkin: It is most unreasonable, and you know it.

Mr. COURT: I will never be able to satisfy the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Graham: Not in that way.

12. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) On what date was a copy of what were purported to be "Regulations for the Port of King Bay" received at the Crown Law Department?
- (2) Prior to such "Regulations" being issued on the 14th October, 1965, by Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd., did any discussion on the proposed "Regulations" take place between any officer of the Crown Law Department and a representative of the company or anyone acting under the authority of the Minister for the North-West?
- (3) If "Yes," on what dates were the discussions held?
- (4) Has the Crown Law Department questioned the legality of the "regulations" or drawn attention to the requirement that they be made by the Governor?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) The 4th February, 1966, from the Department of Industrial Development under cover of a letter dated the 31st January, 1966.
- (2) Not so far as the Minister for Justice is aware.
- (3) Answered by (2).
- (4) The Crown Law Department advised that the "regulations" should take the form of by-laws. There have been a number of discussions with company representatives, but without agreement being reached to date, on the final form of the by-laws.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

Reprinting

13. Mr. TOMS asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has a reprint of the Local Government Act been completed?
- (2) If "Yes," when will copies be made available to local authorities?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) Yes. Paper covered copies with separate index are available from the Government Printer now.
- (2) Bound copies with index incorporated will be available in a fortnight.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Resignations

14. Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has a special committee been set up to investigate the reason for so many resignations from the Education Department?
- (2) What is the annual intake into—
 - (a) Graylands Teachers' Training College;
 - (b) Claremont Teachers' Training College?

Supply Teachers

- (3) How many supply teachers are currently employed by the Education Department?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Intakes for February, 1968—
 - (a) Graylands Teachers' College—237.
 - (b) Claremont Teachers' College—384.
- (3) Temporary teachers — formerly called supply teachers—employed as at the 31st July, 1968—1,537.

SEWERAGE AT CANNING VALE

Cost

15. Mr. BATEMAN asked the Minister for Water Supplies:

Will he advise—

- (1) The cost of installing the proposed sewage treatment plant at Canning Vale?
- (2) Cost of the sewerage main from treatment site to effluent disposal area?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Tenders for machinery and installation for the proposed treatment plant at Canning Vale have not yet been finalised, so costs are not available.

- (2) The effluent rising main from the treatment works site to the effluent disposal site is estimated to cost approximately \$40,000.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

Power of Resumption

16. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Electricity:

Would he advise the relative section of the State Electricity Commission Act under which it is possible to resume land for the purpose of establishing substations?

Mr. NALDER replied:
Section 31.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Collisions between Motor Vehicles and Pedestrians

17. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) During the last 12 months, what is the number of casualties arising from collisions between motor vehicles and pedestrians—
 - (a) in the metropolitan area;
 - (b) elsewhere in the State—
 - (i) where a pedestrian has been killed;
 - (ii) where a pedestrian has been seriously injured?
- (2) Of these numbers how many in each case has been attributed to—
 - (a) the motorist;
 - (b) the pedestrian?
- (3) What numbers in each case were found to be affected by alcohol or drugs?

Mr. O'CONNOR (for Mr. Craig) replied:

The tabulations hereunder refer to all traffic accidents and include accidents involving motor vehicles, animals being ridden or driven, or trains, provided the accident occurred on a road. Separate tabulations for motor vehicles are not kept. The figures refer to the year ended the 31st December, 1967, these being the latest available.

- (1) (a) Metropolitan area—

Pedestrians killed	47
Pedestrians injured	669
- (b) Elsewhere in the State—

Pedestrians killed	12
Pedestrians injured	80

- (2) (a) Metropolitan area—

	Pedes- trians killed	Pedes- trians injured
Attributed to:		
Motorists	14	160
Pedestrians	33	509

- (b) Elsewhere in the State—
- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Pedes-
trians
killed | Pedes-
trians
injured |
| Attributed to: | | |
| Motorists | 3 | 23 |
| Pedestrians | 9 | 57 |

- (3) This information is not tabulated.

"STOP" AND "GIVE WAY" SIGNS

Metropolitan Area

18. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Traffic:

- (1) How many "Stop" signs have been erected in the metropolitan area since October, 1967?
- (2) What is the total of such signs in the metropolitan area at the present time?
- (3) What is the total of "Give Way" signs in the metropolitan area at the present time?

Mr. O'CONNOR (for Mr. Craig) replied:

- (1) 144.
- (2) 1353.
- (3) 36.

SUPERPHOSPHATE

Demurrage

19. Mr. McPHARLIN asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) How many debits for each month were raised by the Railways Department for demurrage against farmers for exceeding the unloading time of eight working hours under clause 32, Tariff 1, Railway Goods Rates Book from the 1st January, 1968, to the 30th June, 1968, for—
 - (a) bagged superphosphate;
 - (b) bulk superphosphate?
- (2) What was the total amount claimed by the Railways Department as shown on these debits?
- (3) How many debits for each month were raised by the Railways Department for demurrage against spread service contractors for exceeding the unloading time of eight hours?
- (4) What was the total amount claimed by the Railways Department as applied to spread service contractors?
- (5) What percentage are these totals to the total debits raised and charges claimed on all freight carried by the railways for the same period?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (5) It will take some few days to provide the information requested by the honourable member, but this is being extracted and will be provided as soon as possible.

LAND AT EASTERN END OF CAUSEWAY

Vesting in Perth City Council

20. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Lands:

Have all formalities been completed in regard to the vesting in the Perth City Council of land at the eastern end of the Causeway for future development as park-lands; if not—

- (a) what is the cause of the delay;
- (b) what areas have yet to be vested?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

Not all formalities have been completed although the major area between the Swan River and Great Eastern Highway of approximately 25 acres has been vested in the City of Perth for "Recreation and Riverside Improvements." This area is now Swan Location 7766, Reserve 27743.

- (a) The remaining areas involve resumed land which is subject to the Public Works Act or administered by that department and requires certain procedures, including legal action, to be followed to enable control of the land to be delegated to the City of Perth.
- (b) The areas yet to be vested in the City of Perth are shown bordered red on the plan which I request be tabled.

The plan was tabled.

SUBDIVISIONS IN COUNTRY TOWNS

Compliance with the Town Planning and Development Act

21. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) Does the Lands Department when making a subdivision in a country town for housing have to comply with the Town Planning and Development Act or regulations and allow the required area under that Act for recreation or pay to the shire the equivalent of the taxation value of such land; if not, why not?
- (2) Do moneys received by shires in lieu of recreation areas in new subdivisions have to be applied entirely to the development of new areas or the upgrading of established areas or can it be taken into the consolidated revenue of that shire?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Under the Town Planning and Development Act, 1928, there are special provisions relating to the subdivision and alienation of Crown land. In its subdivisions the Lands Department makes adequate provision for the setting apart of land for recreation.
- (2) Under section 20 (6) of the same Act, all money received by a local authority in lieu of land shall be paid into a separate account of the local authority and shall be applied—
 - (a) for the purchase of land by the local authority for parks, recreation grounds, or open spaces, generally, in the locality in which the land included in the plan or subdivision referred to in that subsection is situated;
 - (b) in repaying any loans raised by the local authority for the purchase of any such land; or
 - (c) with the approval of the Minister, for the improvement or development of any such land as parks, recreation grounds, or open spaces, generally.

PORT OF DAMPIER

Control by Company

22. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is he aware that there was published in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, Thursday, the 30th June, 1966, a Customs proclamation No. 1143 in which the Port of Dampier was established and its limits defined for the requirements of the Customs Act?
- (2) Is he also aware that the limits of the Port of Dampier as set out in the proclamation are the same as those set out in the "Regulations for the Port of King Bay" issued by Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd?
- (3) Was there any communication between Commonwealth and State departments, prior to the issuance of the proclamation, concerning the proposed delineation of the port area?
- (4) If "Yes," was consideration of the matter based on the port area as delineated in the "Regulations for the Port of King Bay" issued by Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd. on the 14th October, 1965?

TRAINING CENTRE FOR GIRLS

Provision

- (5) Has Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd. had control of any of the port area proclaimed by the Commonwealth on the 30th June, 1966?
- (6) If "Yes," from what date did it commence to have such control?
- (7) Will he table a plan showing the limits of the port area over which the company has been exercising control?
- (8) Has the Harbour and Light Department been aware of the delineation of the Port of King Bay by the Commonwealth and Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd. and that the area defined is common to both?
- (9) Has the Harbour and Light Department recommended any alteration to the area of the Port of King Bay as delineated by Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd.?
- (10) If "Yes," on what date and in what particulars?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes, but only since notice was given of the question.
- (3) Not so far as I am aware.
- (4) Answered by (3).
- (5) Not in the view of the Government, except where and to the extent that contracts are made by the company pursuant to clause 10 (2) of the agreement ratified by Parliament. However, since other users of the port in practice wish to avail themselves of the company's wharf or other installations or facilities, and they can do so only on reasonable terms and at reasonable charges as required by the company, the latter, for all practical purposes, does exercise control of the port area.
- (6) Answered by (5).
- (7) I will table for one week a plan over which the company has apparently purported to exercise control pursuant to contracts as mentioned in (5).
- (8) No.
- (9) Yes.
- (10) In May and December, 1966, the Harbour and Light Department recommended that the Hamersley Iron Pty. Ltd. should only have control over the leased areas as shown on the plan given to the member for Pilbara.

The SPEAKER: Have you the plan to be tabled?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: No, I have yet to table it.

23. *This question was postponed.*

24. Mr. HARMAN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Child Welfare:

- (1) Has construction of the new secure training facility for girls commenced; if not, when is construction to begin?
- (2) What is the estimated date of completion?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Ancillary buildings have commenced, the main building has not.
- (2) Until building commences, it is not possible to give date of completion.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

NATIVE WELFARE

Commonwealth Grant

Mr. HARMAN asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

- (1) Can the Minister advise in what manner the Commonwealth grant of \$825,000 will be expended on aboriginal welfare?
- (2) What conditions has the Commonwealth Government imposed in respect of the expenditure of this grant?
- (3) Is the Press report in *The West Australian* dated the 19th August correct in stating that such grants will possibly be made on a triennial basis?
- (4) If so, is it intended that the present grant be expended over the next three years?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question, the reply to which is as follows:—

- (1) and (2) This information will not be available until the Federal Minister (Mr. Wentworth) makes a statement later this week after he has had discussions with all States.
- (3) The Press report is correct in that Mr. Wentworth indicated there was every possibility that future grants would be made on a triennial basis.
- (4) The present grant is for the period ending the 30th June, 1969.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: NINTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 15th August, on the following motion by Mr. Ridge:—

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. RUSHTON (Dale) [4.54 p.m.]: I would like to add my congratulations to the many which have been expressed to you, Mr. Speaker. I have every confidence in your upholding the traditions of the high office you now occupy. I hope you have a long occupancy of that office, Sir, and I am sure you will give satisfaction to all members.

I also convey congratulations to the Chairman of Committees and the Whips on their appointment; and to the new members who have come from far and wide, I would like to extend a hearty welcome and wish them a fruitful time in their work in this House and in their electorates. Of course, it is always somewhat of a sadness to wish those well who have departed. Many of us have firm friends amongst the ones who are not now with us.

To the members who have retired I wish them good health and the enjoyment of a long retirement; and to those from our side of the House who have departed prematurely, I wish them a happy return in the not too distant future.

I would like to thank the electors of Dale for the opportunity they gave me to continue the service to them. I have now completed three years, and it is a very satisfying privilege to work on their behalf; and I certainly pledge myself to do all I can for them.

I extend my congratulations to the Premier and his Ministers for the enviable record they have achieved while in office. They are now entering their 10th year of Government and I believe the results speak for themselves.

We have seen the tremendous stability in the economics of our State during this Government's period of office, and this is, no doubt, related to the very good house-keeping of the Premier and the officers of his department. During this period we have also seen the population increase by something in the vicinity of 200,000 and, of course, because of this growth we have experienced all sorts of encouraging results. The railways have moved from—

Mr. Jamieson: You are going to say something about housing for them, I hope.

Mr. RUSHTON: Yes, I will cover that in due course.

Mr. Jamieson: I thought you might not.

Mr. RUSHTON: When the Government took office the deficit of the railways was \$17,000,000, but this has now been reduced

to a manageable figure. The usage of electricity, which is a fairly good indication of the growth and activity of a State, has doubled during the reign of this Government, and it may be moving towards being trebled.

I believe it is well to look at the activities in the Kwinana and Rockingham areas to give the House some indication of what is taking place there. We heard the thoughts of the member for Cockburn, and I was very pleased indeed to hear his breadth of thought and what I considered to be a realistic approach to the subject of industry in that area. He is, as I am, concerned with the social welfare of the individuals. We realise that industry brings problems with it, but also it brings its rewards; and therefore I believe all of us welcome the progress the Government is making in attracting industry to this part of the State and, indeed, to any other part of the State.

I have received a letter from the Rockingham Shire and it gives some understanding of the extent of movement in that area and the challenges the shire is facing so well. The letter reads as follows:—

I advise you of the latest figures showing the development taking place in this District.

For the twelve months ended 30th June, 1968, the Council issued 525 permits for dwellings and a total of 571 building permits for a total building programme of \$4,524,815. Since the 1st July, 1968, to the 9th August, 1968, a total of 153 permits for dwellings have been issued—

That is roughly a period of five weeks, and the information shows the growth which is taking place there now. To proceed—

—which represents nearly 24 dwellings per week being erected in this area.

This will show that the increase in building activity experienced during 1967/68 is increasing at a very fast rate. On present indications this rate of development looks like being maintained for some time in the future. The number of dwellings being erected in the District will allow for an increase of approximately 2,500 to 3,000 persons per year, which is indeed a very rapid rate of expansion.

To substantiate these figures, the growth in the enrolments at the Rockingham and Safety Bay Schools is as follows:—

Rockingham School

February, 1968—390 pupils; August, 1968—565 pupils. (Average increase of 7-8 pupils per week.)

Safety Bay School

February, 1968—209 pupils; August, 1968—428 pupils. (Average increase of 9-10 pupils per week.)

From information obtained from the Headmasters of these schools this rate of growth is expected to increase in the near future.

Members will see that the tremendous growth, which I think is quickening week by week, is bringing extra emphasis upon the necessity to upgrade many public utilities and services in the area. In an earlier speech, a member on the other side of the House spoke of the need for a hospital in the area. When one considers the housing developments which are to take place there, in addition to what is already in hand in the Rockingham Shire, it emphasises the point that a hospital must receive a very high priority. We know that preliminary planning is taking place; but, nevertheless, the construction of a hospital at an early date is a must. I am sure this hospital will be given the consideration that is its due.

The question of the establishment of a high school at Rockingham is also a current issue. At the present time the children from this area travel to the Medina High School and the John Curtin High School. However, a very good site has been selected to service the Rockingham-Safety Bay area. I believe the preliminary planning should be taken a stage further and we should be ready to meet the tremendous demands to be made in the near future.

As I have already shown, the primary schools are growing apace. Programmes for this year are about to begin, and I understand that something like three classrooms will be added to each school. However, late last week I received news that it may be necessary to augment the programme at Safety Bay, in particular, in order to handle the estimated number of children who will begin school life next year. It may be necessary to enlarge the programme considerably.

I was certainly pleased to hear recently of the agreement by the M.T.T. to extend its service to the Warnbro area. This has been necessary for quite some time and, with the growth in the area, the extension of the bus service is greatly appreciated.

Boating facilities in the Mangles Bay area are being looked at and, with the development in the outer harbour of the Fremantle Port Authority, every attention must be given to the provision of a small boat harbour to provide for the fishing fleet, the power-driven boats, and certainly the yachting fraternity, which is growing larger every year.

There is also a need to give close attention to the improvement of the taxi service in the area. As I said before all the services—whether they be P.M.G. facilities or recreational facilities provided by the shire—certainly need to be lifted nearly weekly in the district because of the tremendous growth that is taking place. The

area has received constant attention from both the State Government and the local authority. I believe that both have gone about their tasks in a dedicated way, and therefore, it was somewhat of a surprise to me to see the attack made by the Opposition and by other quarters on certain issues, particularly in view of the growth and facilities which are being provided in the area.

We need to look at the facts in relation to the planning that has taken place there in order fully to understand just what has occurred. I refer to the preservation of the beach fronts, the planning for the future of Point Peron, and the establishment of a sewerage works.

At this stage, I would like to say that only a few weeks before my entry into Parliament as the result of a by-election, a report by a planning officer who worked with the Fremantle Port Authority was released. I think the member for Cockburn mentioned this fact. The gentleman concerned was a Mr. Morris who had lectured a professional group on the general future of the area. At that time a map, which was a preliminary one planned by the Fremantle Port Authority, was published in our local paper. I might add that since then it seems that a map is published every two or three weeks. At least it feels that way when one represents the area. Everybody, whether authorised or not, seems to be preparing maps and giving their opinion regarding the future of the locality.

I was pleased that the local shire, which has taken its responsibilities very seriously, set about having its own town plan prepared by first-class consultants. Of course, because of the State interests which are involved in the area, close co-ordination and co-operation has been necessary and has been experienced between the Government and the local shire throughout the whole of the time that I have been a member.

I was somewhat surprised to see the attack that was levelled against the activities in the area and the accusations of secrecy that were made. As I said before—and I now restate—over the whole three years that I have represented the district, maps and reports have been issued frequently, to the extent that it has been somewhat embarrassing for the local people, because the projected thoughts on the area had a tendency to confuse them.

Weeks before the headlines appeared in the paper, a Pressman contacted me at the suggestion of the owner of freehold land at Point Peron with a view to obtaining the latest knowledge I had of the possible development there. We chatted together on a very friendly basis, and I gave him all the knowledge I had on the subject and offered to obtain any detail he might require from the respective

Ministers. We parted with the thought that there did not appear to be much taking place that was not known publicly, and he said he would get in touch should it be necessary.

As I have said, within weeks the newspapers carried tremendous headlines to the effect that the Government was being secret in its future planning for the area. Certainly it was very surprising to me and also most unsatisfactory, in view of the attention which the local authority, the Government, and all concerned had given, publicly, to the matter.

I wish to mention the issue of the establishment of a sewerage works at Point Peron. In my opinion, the question of a sewerage works was the outstanding item of difference between the Opposition and the Government. I believe the Opposition had agreed that the plan presented by the Fremantle Port Authority was acceptable. From time to time, emotional issues arise, and I believe the question in everybody's mind is the installation of a sewerage works.

I would have been reasonably satisfied if the Opposition had, in fact, said to the local authority, "Should we win this election we will make a pledge to review the question of a sewerage works and take into account all the issues involved." However, the Opposition did not say that. Instead, it said, "We will pledge that a sewerage treatment works will not be built there on any account, irrespective of what you think, or what your technical officers think. In fact, we will not tell you where we think it should go, either." This attitude certainly concerned me, the shire, and the people in the area. I would be very happy indeed now that all the tumult has died—

Mr. Tonkin: What makes you think it has died?

Mr. RUSHTON: Very little has been said on the issue since the election.

Mr. Tonkin: Do you know why?

Mr. RUSHTON: No.

Mr. Tonkin: Because your leader has declined to supply information of the result of his representations to the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. RUSHTON: On that point, as far as I am concerned, no misrepresentation has taken place.

Mr. Tonkin: I will agree it is a little different from the Port of King Bay.

Mr. RUSHTON: What has been said does not detract from the fact that the Leader of the Opposition has refused to give the local shires the information as to where he thinks the treatment plant should be established. I would be very happy if he would let me know his views on the subject.

Mr. Tonkin: Did the shires ever ask for my views?

Mr. RUSHTON: Yes; and they were refused by letter.

Mr. Jamieson: You should find out from the Commonwealth Government what it will allow you to use it for.

Mr. RUSHTON: The issues are pretty clear, if members take time to examine them.

Mr. Jamieson: The Commonwealth Government is not too happy.

Mr. RUSHTON: Of course everyone is free to criticise and to challenge issues. However, from the point of view of the local shire, it is certainly very worrying when the Opposition makes a pledge that a sewerage works will not be established and, at the same time, it will not tell the shire where it considers the service should be established.

I have already indicated to the House the nature of the tremendous growth which is taking place in the area. It is expected that up to 200,000 people will live and work in the region. Although possibly not all of these people will be serviced by the suggested sewerage plant, nevertheless it shows the magnitude of the activity and the necessity for the local shire to give close attention to the matter.

I believe it is essential that deep sewerage should be installed at Rockingham. In my opinion, a decision on this question must be taken shortly.

I was very unhappy to know that my shire was caused so much concern during the election time, because doubts were placed in the minds of shire members as to where such a service would be established in the future. They were worried that the Opposition might prefer it to be established in the residential area and that would be totally against the requirements and the wishes of the people concerned. If it is placed inland, or in an industrial area, the economics of the installation will be out of reason and the people themselves will, in fact, suffer economically.

Mr. Jamieson: What has happened to your Government's proposition to join your territory to that of the Minister for Works?

Mr. RUSHTON: Where would this be?

Mr. Jamieson: You know enough geography and so does the Minister to know it is proposed.

Mr. RUSHTON: It will be a very welcome event when it does happen. I asked a question in this respect the other day.

Mr. Jamieson: It is significant the Commonwealth owns all that property, too. It would be interested to know what the State proposes to do with its property.

Mr. RUSHTON: Mr. Speaker, I will proceed now that the member for Belmont has had his say.

Mr. Tonkin: You never interject, do you?

Mr. O'Connor: Let the member for Dale make his speech.

Mr. RUSHTON: I appreciate the interjection of the Leader of the Opposition and I will come back to that issue a little later.

Mr. Bovell: Anyhow, the Opposition has shown dictatorship by refusing to disclose any matters which it considers.

Mr. RUSHTON: As my time is going on, I will proceed by shifting the interest to the eastern part of my electorate which is also moving quickly.

Many of our local needs are being met and other problems in the district are being attended to. The Armadale Senior High School has grown tremendously, as one can realise from the answers I received to questions I asked the Minister for Education. At the high school there is a need for attention to be given to teachers' accommodation. This is overcrowded. There is also a need for a better allocation of classes, and an extension of the science facilities; and the provision of a new library would give an opportunity to reposition some of the students' and teachers' accommodation and allow it to be used to better advantage.

The primary schools in the area are also under tremendous pressure due to the influx of population. I think most of us know that our population is growing, but in the Armadale-Kelmscott Shire we are receiving something in excess of 10 to 12 new residents a week. This influx brings with it many problems which are related to the servicing of the needs of these new residents. There is a need for a new school between Armadale and Kelmscott, and more classrooms at the existing schools in the district.

I express my gratitude to the Minister for Education, his departmental officers, and the teachers, for the close attention they give to the needs of my electorate. No doubt the same consideration is given to other areas throughout the State, but I am certainly impressed with the results one achieves through the Minister and his departmental officers, and I am impressed also with the morale of the teachers in my district.

Anyone who travels the Albany Highway towards Armadale will have observed the recent great improvements made to the surroundings of the Armadale District Memorial Hospital. In my view, previously the grounds were in such a state that they were not conducive to the well being of patients at that hospital. However, one must give credit for the dedication of the staff at the hospital, and particularly the gardener, in making such great improvements to the hospital grounds.

In recent times the Main Roads Department has allocated funds for an extension of Streich Avenue to link up with Armadale on the eastern side of the railway.

This will remove an existing bottleneck on Albany Highway and, because of this, the allocation of funds by the Main Roads Department to enable the work to be done is very welcome. We are looking forward to an improvement being made to the junction of Albany and Bunbury Highways, and it is to be hoped that the plans for this work are being finalised and that the work will proceed at an early date.

The question of the Orlando Street Bridge is one which is well known to the Leader of the Opposition and I urge that this bridge be replaced. I believe the replacement of the bridge is a necessity. It was built to service one of the earliest settlements in this State. The area was gazetted in 1832 and a community centre was created. The Orlando Street Bridge served this community centre. If it is replaced it will bring about two desirable effects. Firstly, it will help to prevent accidents where people are moving out onto the highway; and, secondly, it will obviate a bottleneck where traffic is moving into the township. I am looking for an early decision to be made on this matter and for the bridge to be replaced at an early date.

Recently the Minister for Industrial Development visited Armadale, and a report of the visit appeared in the Press. It was certainly a pleasure for me to be able to do my part in bringing about this meeting of the Minister with the shire. The Armadale area has a need for increased employment opportunities; because, although there is a tremendous increase in buildings there, employment prospects are not being improved at the same rate. There are many women who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity to obtain employment but, at the moment, they have to travel fairly long distances to do so. Therefore, it was of tremendous interest and a pleasure to me, as it was to the shire, to have the Minister for Industrial Development visit the area. The Minister gave the local authority some very good advice and he was well received.

Although we read in the Press some criticism of the Minister's visit and of his intentions, in the minds of all those at the meeting there was no doubt that the Minister was on the right track and it was necessary for the Armadale-Kelmscott Shire to give extra attention to the question. I know the shire will receive every co-operation from the Minister and his department in bringing about the desired result of increased employment opportunities.

Shortly we will have before us for debate the question of the Armadale-Cannington corridor development. This matter, of course, is of the utmost interest to my electorate and it is a question to which I have been giving a tremendous amount of thought. When in local government I had the opportunity to serve on group "C" of

the regional planning authority. I represented the Armadale-Kelmscott Shire and as a result I was able to gain an insight into the endeavours of the authority.

In this regard I would like to give credit to our town planners for the work they have done. I know I place numerous requests and questions before them, as I am sure other members do, and from that I would gather our planners are very busy people.

I believe the Government is realistic in its policy on land development. It has moved along in a realistic way, without panic, and without creating chaos. I think the member for Karrinyup made a good point in this regard when he said that we must give every attention to the supply and demand for land without a build-up in overheads and unessential taxes. I believe the Government's action in appointing the McCarrey committee to bring before the Government a realistic report was something worth while and close attention should be given to implementing the recommendations as required. The Government has gone about its job in a purposeful way, one which will bring results from time to time; in fact, it has brought results up to this point of time.

Mr. Graham: In what way?

Mr. RUSHTON: We have seen—

Mr. Jamieson: The amendment to the Address-in-Reply.

Mr. RUSHTON:—the published intention of adjusting the supply and demand for land. This is contrary to what we saw in the annual report of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, which was supported by the Leader of the Opposition. This action on the part of the Government has flowed from the McCarrey report and, in addition—although these appear to be small issues—we have seen two events which I believe are of importance. Firstly, there was the appointment of Sir Keith Watson and his committee; and, secondly, the appointment of a committee which is to give extra attention to the restrictions and hold-ups which are experienced from time to time in the development of land.

The appointment of a committee such as the one of which Sir Keith Watson is the chairman was recommended in the McCarrey report, and no doubt the member for Balcatta has experienced some of the restrictions and hold-ups on the question of land. I hope these committees will enable more land to be made available.

Mr. Graham: The reason I interjected was that you mentioned some results. I am not aware of any which have been achieved yet, and apparently neither is the honourable member.

Mr. RUSHTON: Yes, I have seen a number of results. This is a big issue and it is one to which we must give close attention—all of us—and every day we make some progress. As I said before, it is an issue that needs to be handled in a flexible way; and, while on this point, I would like to mention two aspects which may be contrary to present thoughts on the matter but which I believe would help in overcoming the problem.

In my view the Town Planning Department has too much on its plate to digest and I believe it should be redirected to enable it to give its full attention to planning, particularly in relation to providing for services for the future and the guidelines between which people could move.

I feel the day-to-day activities of the department, and the question of cutting up land into blocks to enable homes to be built should be handed over to an authority of administrators who could give all their attention to sorting out the problems and issues as they arise. Those administrators should be directed to work out the best ways and means of dealing with building land. When we leave this question in the hands of many departments, we do not obtain the greatest co-ordination or the results that should be achieved. Good results would flow from such an authority as I have suggested, if one were appointed.

Whilst it is somewhat unpleasant, I believe it is necessary for me to make reference to the member for Belmont and the attack in his speech last week on service clubs. I found his remarks fallacious, illogical, unsubstantiated, and unacceptable.

Mr. Graham: Fine words.

Mr. RUSHTON: I believe the attack was offensive to many people. While the remarks were misleading—

Mr. Jamieson: You were not listening very attentively.

Mr. RUSHTON:—I intend to show how wrong the charges were and in doing so I will use the honourable member's own words. I shall read a few of the items raised and then prove just how wrong the member for Belmont was in his charges.

Mr. Jamieson: Come on.

Mr. Toms: Don't read pieces; read the lot.

Mr. RUSHTON: I have read the lot and it is in *Hansard* for everybody to read. I will quote from what the honourable member said.

Mr. Toms: Read the lot and don't read it out of context.

Mr. RUSHTON: This is what the member for Belmont said—

I now wish to raise the question of service clubs in the community. As all members know, there are three

main service clubs. These are said to be non-political. The clubs themselves always claim to be non-political, but, if anything, they are usually a front for the Liberal Party organisation. I say that advisedly, because I have some documents in my possession which would indicate this to be a fact.

Then he goes on to speak of the connection between the member for Swan in the Federal House and the Rotary movement. If I feel that certain elderly and aged people in my community are in need of a certain service, is it wrong for me to interest a local service club in this matter—whether it be the Rotary club or any other service club?

Mr. Jamieson: There is nothing wrong with it at all so long as it is taking the credit for it.

Mr. RUSHTON: This is very similar to what has happened in the case of Mr. Cleaver, the Federal member for Swan.

Mr. Jamieson: Not at all.

Mr. I. W. Manning: Of course it is.

Mr. RUSHTON: I wonder what the member for Swan in this House must be thinking of this charge.

Mr. Jamieson: He gave me some very good advice a short while ago.

Mr. RUSHTON: A short while ago we entertained representatives from America in this building and I was very proud to lend the member for Swan my badge. I am sure the honourable member finds the Swan Districts Club a very good one.

Mr. Brady: It is a very good club.

Mr. RUSHTON: I am sure he is very proud of the work done by the club. I am certain that all of us would hold these service clubs in very high regard for the work they do for the community. The member for Belmont then referred to the Lions club and said—

The other two service clubs are the Lions Club and Apex. I intended to say a few words about both of them. I know of nothing to the detriment of either of those clubs, but there have been a number of complaints concerning their activities, particularly from the north-west. I think the complaints came mainly from Derby concerning the funds provided to the Liberal Party for the conduct of the campaign during the last general election. This matter was raised with members of the Labor Party, and when the question was asked why these people subscribed to the levy that was imposed they were told it was a voluntary levy.

Nevertheless the members who belong to these organisations and who do not subscribe to the levy are not greatly thought of. The voluntary

levy of \$2 a head was imposed by one of these organisations in Derby during the last general elections.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. RUSHTON: The statement of the member for Belmont disproves itself and it hardly needs an answer. If a member of an Apex club or Rotary club, or any other service club, happened to be a friend of a member of this House, surely he would be entitled to assist that member in community matters, or to raise funds.

Mr. Jamieson: Would you do it within the confines of a Rotary club?

Mr. RUSHTON: It has not been suggested that it has happened in connection with Rotary.

Mr. Jamieson: You are making the statement, not I.

Mr. RUSHTON: The honourable member is making the charge. I feel sure that neither a Rotary club nor any other service club would appreciate it if I introduced politics into its midst. I feel sure I would be most unwelcome if I did this. On the other hand, all members would be welcome in these service clubs if they did not introduce party politics.

Mr. Jamieson: Not Labor Party politics.

Mr. Bovell: The member for Swan is involved in a club.

Mr. Jamieson: Of course he is.

Mr. Bovell: And all credit to him.

Mr. RUSHTON: I would like to read a few words from the induction ceremony of a Rotarian, and I hope these words get the message through to the member for Belmont. They read as follows:—

Rotary is not a political organization, good citizenship is its concept and purpose. Neither is Rotary a charitable organization . . . it is no servant of the rich, no Patron of the poor . . . rather does it seek to be a good companion in the community . . . spreading the precept of "the helping hand".

As time is running short I will read a couple of the objects of the Lions club, which are as follows:—

To unite the members in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.

To provide a forum for the full and free discussion of all matters of public interest, partisan politics and sectarian religion alone excepted.

To encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in business and professions, provided that no club shall hold out as one of its objects financial benefits to its members.

I believe that answers the member for Belmont and the charges he made against service clubs.

Mr. Jamieson: It answers nothing.

Mr. RUSHTON: There is no doubt that the service clubs do a tremendous amount of good for the community.

Mr. Jamieson: I said that. You did not read that part of my speech.

Mr. RUSHTON: I have already mentioned that all members of Parliament, no matter on which side of the House they might sit, would be welcome by these clubs as long as they did not introduce party politics into their midst. Because of the charges levelled by the member for Belmont, I feel it would be reasonable and proper for the Leader of the Opposition, at the first opportunity, to dissociate himself and his colleagues from the remarks of this senior member of his party.

Mr. Jamieson: You are laughable.

Mr. RUSHTON: I support the motion.
Government members: Hear, hear!

MR. JONES (Collie) [5.37 p.m.]: I would first like to join with other members in congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on your appointment to the Speakership of this House. I am certain you will do justice to this very important position.

Before making a maiden speech after winning one's first election, some consideration and thought must be given by the member concerned as to how he will approach the problem. Before proceeding, however, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all new members on their election, and to personally thank the Australian Labor Party for endorsing me for the seat of Collie. I would also like to express my thanks to the workers in the Trade Union movement, to the Collie Miners' Union, and to the Collie branch of the A.L.P. for the assistance they gave me during the campaign, and to say how much I appreciate the opportunity given me by the electors of Collie to represent them in this Parliament.

At this point I think it would be opportune for me to pay a tribute to the ex-member for Collie, Mr. Harry May. He represented Collie for many years, and I would like very much to pay a tribute to him on behalf of the people of that electorate, which now comprises the West Arthur and Preston areas.

I appreciate that my election to this House constitutes a challenge, inasmuch as I follow in the footsteps not only of Harry May but also of the late Mr. A. A. Wilson, both of whom did excellent work for the district.

At the outset I would urge the Government to give a great deal more consideration than it has in the past to the agricultural situation in the electorate of Collie, and to the position generally in the

south-west. There is a very urgent need for the Government to look at the position that obtains in the south of the State in conjunction with that which obtains in the north. A glance at the statistician's figures will reveal that there has been a rapid decline in the population of the south-west areas, generally, since June, 1960. The State figures show that with the exception of four shires the numbers in the south-west have gone down considerably.

I would now like to quote some figures from the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics for the period the 30th June, 1960, to the 30th June, 1967. They are as follows:—

Shire	June, 1960	June, 1967	In- crease	De- crease
Augusta	4,000	3,253	...	846
Balingup	1,347	1,196	...	351
Bridgetown	3,521	2,802	...	719
Bunbury Town	12,234	13,467	3,233	...
Busselton	6,039	6,333	794	...
Canal	2,010	2,132	122	...
Collie	11,034	8,586	...	2,448
Dardanup	1,558	1,672	114	...
Greenbushes	862	680	...	182
Harvey	7,480	6,594	...	886
Nannup	1,655	1,272	...	383
Preston	2,630	2,138	...	492
Upper Blackwood	2,719	2,237	...	482
Manjimup	11,177	9,168	...	2,009

Those figures show that from the 30th June, 1960, to the 30th June, 1967, there has been a decline in population amounting to 4,305 in the areas I have mentioned, and we find that the population loss within the Collie electorate is 2,448.

We have heard a great deal about the development that is taking place in the north of the State, and the problems of housing, etc., which are facing the city. Very little mention has been made, however, of the south-west portion of the State, and it is obvious that there is need for the Government to have a good look at this area.

The suggestion has been made that the Government should give consideration to the appointment of a minister for decentralisation. The south-west conference and other prominent organisations within the south-west have been advocating such an appointment for years.

We are aware that in one of the Eastern States—New South Wales—a Liberal Party Government—and I give it all credit for having done so—introduced a Department of Decentralisation, which has met with overwhelming success. In conjunction with this a Minister for Industrial Development was appointed, and within the short space of seven years since the department was established there has been considerable activity within the country areas of New South Wales.

Quite apart from the establishment of new industries, greater loans have been made possible. Because of the limited time at my disposal I cannot go into any great detail, but the report is available to anybody who wishes to study the activities of this Department of Decentralisation.

In view of the general decline in population in the south-west of our State, I would recommend that the Government give consideration to the appointment of a minister and a department of decentralisation.

My electorate covers the town of Collie, the majority of the Shire of West Arthur, and portion of the Shire of Preston. It is true to say that all these areas have their own particular problems. For example, Collie is dependent upon mining and agriculture for its existence and, to a lesser extent, upon timber milling; the Shire of Preston is dependent upon agriculture, fruit growing, and cattle, whereas West Arthur depends on agriculture, sheep, and, to a lesser extent, on timber, for its existence.

The member for Narrogin and other members on the other side of the House mentioned that more people should go to the country areas. I agree with this view; but what is the Government doing to attract people to the southern portion of the State? I can suggest one way in which this can be done.

If one looks at the present cost of electrical power, one will find that the minimum cost to consumers supplied by the south-west power scheme is 5.80c per unit whereas in the metropolitan area the cost of the first hundred units is 5.50c per unit. On Wednesday, the 31st July, I asked a question in the House requiring the Minister to supply the production costs of electrical power. Members will recall that the cheapest operating station within the State electricity system at the moment is at Muja, which operates on coal fuel and that a unit of electricity is produced at the low cost of .33c. Yet we have the situation that the people living in the area where the power is produced are paying a greater price for that power than are the people in the metropolitan area.

People living in the city enjoy amenities that are not available to the people who live in country districts, so here is an opportunity for the Government to give some incentive to the people who reside in the south-west by making power available at a cheaper rate. After all, the power is generated some 10 miles from Collie, and yet we have the spectacle of those people and industry paying more for electrical power than do the people who live in the metropolitan area.

The Collie Shire area has many problems, the main one being the matter of water conservation, or the system that has been introduced in relation to the area generally. The Minister for Water Supplies will no doubt agree with me when I say that a vast portion of the electorate is being retained as a water catchment area. Coupled with this is the problem of the forest reserves, and finally that of mineral leases. Eighty-two per cent, of the total area of the electorate, which comprises

some 37,559 miles, is retained for forestry purposes, water catchment, and Crown Lands.

Surely it is not unreasonable for me to suggest to the Government that some consideration be given to the fact that Collie cannot expand. If the salt content in the Wellington Dam increases, more land will be resumed; and, as the Forests Department will not release land, Collie cannot expand and this will have a big effect on the economics of the town.

In regard to another facet of my electorate, I asked a question of the Minister for Police concerning the Collie gaol and in reply he said that this will be on the Estimates for the financial year 1970-71. I would urge the Government to do something now about the conditions at the gaol. It comprises three 10 ft. by 8 ft. cells and on one night the gaol contained 30 guests of the Government. In this gaol, prisoners can be detained for up to 14 days, and yet there is no shower available to them. There are no proper facilities for washing; there is only the old system of washing containers. I suggest it is not fair in these days, with our present standard of living, to ask anyone to stay in gaol for 14 days without a shower being available.

I am sure the Government would expect me to say something about its secrecy on fuel oil prices, and I would not be doing justice to my electorate if I did not mention this point. I am also certain the Minister for Electricity would expect me to make mention of this matter during my maiden speech.

It will be remembered that last year the Government decided to double the capacity of the Kwinana oil burning station and refused, for reasons best known to itself, to disclose the price being paid for fuel oil. *The West Australian* newspaper wrote several editorials condemning the Government for not disclosing the price it was paying for oil. Despite this, the Government was still not prepared to give its reason for refusing to disclose the price it is paying for fuel oil.

The people of my electorate wonder what is going on. The situation is that the Bunbury station, which has only been built for a period of some 12 years, is to be drastically reduced in output in the next two or three years. We find it hard to follow a statement made by the Premier in *The West Australian* of the 23rd June last year when he is reported to have said—

A decision to build a power station had effect for 45 years—five years for commissioning, 30 years for important use and ten years on standby.

As a result of information obtained from questions asked during the session, it has been revealed that by 1969 the Bunbury power station will be operating at less than

50 per cent. capacity. In line with statements made, and undertakings given, in regard to power generation, the Government should give consideration to the Bunbury power station operating at a higher level of capacity.

Why will the Government not reveal the price it is paying for fuel oil? Is it because of some deal made with the oil companies; or would there be a hue and cry from other users if the information were made available? After all, the Government had no compunction about making the price of coal available, so why not make the price of oil known? Last year, the Minister said that if the coal-mining industry wished to hold its own against other fuels, it must be prepared to compete against them. I ask the Minister: How can the industry be asked to meet competition when it is not aware of the type of competition it has to meet? It is clear that some deal has been made with B.H.P.

On the 7th June, 1967, the *Australian Financial Review*, under the heading "Fuel Oil and Coal" published the following:—

Friday's Australian Financial Review referred to what is called the recent "controversial" decision of the West Australian State Government to make the next major power extension in that State by doubling the capacity of the oil-fired Kwinana Station.

The article said this decision was seen locally as a major blow at the Collie coal field, and went on to say that Collie miners were heading a campaign to force the W.A. State Government to publish the price it was paying B.P. for fuel oil for Kwinana.

The pricing policies of the oil refineries have been examined in several Tariff Board hearings and the Tariff Board has reported (to quote from its 1965 report) that "confidential information submitted by the marketing companies show that the actual prices for refined products have been reduced more than indicated by the changes in list prices. It was stated that marketing companies have been prepared to allow large discounts off list prices to defend their market position or to secure large contracts for which distribution costs are low. Discounting is most pronounced in the furnace fuel market . . ."

The increases of \$1.25 per ton in fuel oil prices for bunkers announced last month are evidence that it is not "to secure large contracts for which distribution costs are low" that price reductions are made for fuel oil. It is "to defend their market position,"

in other words to drive out competition from competitive fuels, the chief of which is coal.

The new fuel oil prices for bunkers, for which distribution costs are virtually nil compared to the distribution costs to coal's customers are as follows:—

	\$
Geraldton	17.95
Fremantle	17.76
Kwinana	17.76
Bunbury	18.33
Albany	18.33
Adelaide	18.70
Port Pirie	—
Melbourne	18.70
Westernport	18.70
Hobart	19.46
Port Kembla	19.52
Sydney	19.02
Newcastle	19.52
Brisbane	19.90
Townsville	19.90

The same product is, however, being offered to coal's customers at under \$14 per ton delivered to the customer.

In effect this means that a Governmental instrumentality like the Australian National Shipping Line is being levied by the oil companies to subsidise them in their campaign to acquire a monopoly of Australia's fuel markets.

The Tariff Board's inquiries in the petroleum refining industry before the 1964-1965 inquiry had recommended that the refineries' pattern of production should be brought into line with Australia's consumption by producing some of the more valuable products such as gasoline and less of the heavier products such as fuel oil.

In the 1964-1965 inquiry the Australian Coal Association recommended certain proposals to the Tariff Board aimed at ensuring that fuel oil should not be sold in Australia at prices lower than prices of marine fuel oil (which are bulk consignments with minimum distribution costs) prevailing in the nearest port.

This shows quite clearly what the Tariff Board thinks of the move of the Government in this State and the effect on industry generally. The Collie coalminers and the Collie people are asking this question: Why is this Government adopting a policy which it not being adopted in any other part of the world?

I have traversed the situation in various parts of the world and I find that no fuel other than coal is burned in base power houses. It is all right to say we are moving towards oil or nuclear power, but such is not the situation. I have a cutting from the American magazine, *Time*, of the 20th

January, 1967, under the heading, "Lighting Up with Coal." Portion reads as follows:—

The world's largest seller of coal, Peabody Coal Co. of St. Louis, last week signed one of the biggest single contracts in the history of the industry. The \$500 million agreement calls for the delivery by Peabody of a minimum of 117 million tons of coal to the yet-to-be-built Mohave Power Project in Clark County, Nev., 80 miles from Las Vegas.

Further on the article states—

Coal-generated power costs about 60% as much as that produced by a new nuclear plant, and at least 10% less than gas-oil generation. Moreover, new, extra-high voltage power lines, such as the ones that will carry current 200 miles from Mohave to San Clemente, Calif., have made long-distance power transmission economically feasible. The choice of coal will also result in additional jobs and some \$30 million in royalties to the Hopi and Navajo owners of the Black Mesa coal mines.

This clearly indicates that coal is still being preferred irrespective of other opinion in America.

If we go to Britain and look at the scene in that country we will find there is one of the lowest productivity levels in the coalmining industry, but we will also find that the use of coal is being extended in that country also. A report from the British Coalmining Commission indicates that 4,000,000 tons per year will be required for additions to the big Yorkshire coal-fired power stations under construction; and other coal-fired stations are being constructed, indicating that coal is still being preferred.

A recent publication shows that coal is holding its own in Scotland, where there is a 2,400 MW, coal-fired station under construction that will burn 6,000,000 tons of coal per annum. We have the situation in Scotland that the calorific basis of the coal is identical with that of coal in Western Australia.

The Irish Electricity Trust decided to use peat in preference to imported fuel; and a report I have shows that in order to assist with employment and create a more balanced trade peat is being preferred rather than imported fuel.

Nuclear power is at present under consideration in the north of this State, but I have a report which shows that nuclear power cannot compare with coal. Lord Robens, President of the Joint Coal Board in Britain, recently congratulated the miners on their excellent effort in producing 39 cwt. of coal a day. In this State, we have the situation where the Collie coalminers are producing over 80 cwt. a day.

So it can be seen that coal is still preferred to other types of fuel in Britain. Of course, if we look at the rest of Australia, we see a somewhat similar pattern. In Queensland the annual report of the State Electricity Commission shows that new power stations are being constructed in the north of Queensland at Callide and Calcap. In New South Wales we find that there is a \$200,000,000 power station—coal-fired—under construction to the north of Newcastle. Coming more up to date, the New South Wales Liberal Government has recently decided to extend the coal-fired station at Wallerawang at a cost of \$55,000,000.

There is no shortage of coal in Collie, and this cannot be denied even by the Minister. The miners look at the position of South Australia, where 2,000,000 tons of Leigh Creek coal is burnt per annum. That coal is inferior to the coal produced at Collie, the British thermal unit rating being only 6,500 compared with 9,500 at Collie. In South Australia the coal has to be transported 175 miles, but it is still preferred to oil and nuclear power.

The Hydro-electric Commission of Tasmania reported that oil was preferred to hydro power in that State because coal was not available and seasonable conditions favoured oil. The miners at Collie have complained, and have asked a lot of questions with regard to the Government's decision to double the capacity of the Kwinana power station. That decision left a lot to be desired, and the report appeared in the Press headed, "Secrecy Vow at Fuel Talk." The article—in part—was as follows:—

SEC. members were sworn to secrecy when oil and coal prices were discussed at a commission meeting in the Fremantle City Council Chambers, one of the members said today.

The oil price varied with the quantity used and the public would still have to accept the commission's estimates that the average price of oil was less than the average price of coal.

The report showed that some members of the commission did not know what the price was to be. The article shows a lack of administration by the S.E.C., and I hope the Minister will look into this very important question.

What concerns the coalminers at Collie, generally, is that when the new Kwinana station comes into operation, most of the power produced in this State will be produced by oil generation. The Kwinana power station will produce 480 MW; the South Fremantle power station will produce 100 MW; and the East Perth power station will produce 55 MW. The total capacity will be 635 MW. At Muja the output will be only 240 MW; at Bunbury the station can produce 120 MW; and the

old Collie station has a capacity of 55 MW. The total output in the south-west will be 415 MW.

I suggest the Government should honour the promise which the Premier made regarding the economics of power generation. Instead of reducing the output of the Bunbury power station, the Government should consider assisting the railways and the coalmining industry by retaining the Bunbury station on a higher load.

This brings me to the question of rail freights. At the moment, the cost of transporting coal the 52 miles from Western No. 2 mine to Bunbury is \$3 a ton. Other agreements have been reached where, as an example, bauxite is transported some 32 miles at a cost of 54c a ton. The answer to a question I asked last week showed that the company did not pay for any rolling stock, although it did advance some finance, which is repayable to the company. There is also the position of iron ore being transported for 1.4c a ton per mile; and wheat is transported at a concession price. But coal is being transported at a cost of 5.77c per ton per mile.

I suggest the Government could well assist Collie and the coalmining industry, by allowing concessions similar to those granted to industries which it attracted to this State. I am not opposed to industry receiving concessions, but the Government should give the coalmining industry the same opportunity. If we had the same opportunity, perhaps the Bunbury power station would be more economical and more competitive, and there would not be the need to reduce the capacity of the station.

The Wayne report shows that the Collie line has been a payable line so far as the Western Australian Government Railways are concerned, because this section of line has been running at a profit. In November, 1965, the freight on coal was increased by 22c per ton from Collie to Bunbury, and this section of line at the time made a profit of \$373,278 for the year. Why did the Government increase the freight on coal when the industry was battling for survival? All we ask is that the coal industry be given the same treatment as that which is extended by the Government to other industries in this State.

It is true that the Government is considering a special concession on freight rates for the Griffin Company on the basis of \$2 a ton for some 500,000 tons, provided the company can obtain an export order from Japan. Might I suggest that this special freight concession should be allowed to the State Electricity Commission so that the Bunbury station could be retained on a higher output. Such a concession would also assist the railways. The employment in the railways at Collie has, with

the introduction of bigger locomotives, declined by 25 per cent. in recent years; and this, too, is having an effect on the town of Collie.

The business people at Collie do not know where they are heading. At the moment, there is not one junior employed in the coalmining industry. The average age of the employees at Western Collieries is 47 years. The average age in the Griffin Company is 44 years. Between now and Christmas, 134 construction workers will be put off from the Muja generating station. I have checked with the Commonwealth employment agency and there is not one job available in Collie for senior labour. The question is: where will these men go?

With the general reduction in the output of the Bunbury power station, there will also be a surplus of railway employees in the town. We do not have housing problems at Collie, and I am sure the Minister for Housing knows that I do not intend to attack him on that point. However, we have another problem, because we have too many empty houses. The State Housing Commission is sending deserted wives and widows to Collie, and also wives whose husbands are in prison. This means that the community at Collie has to look after those people.

They approach me, and the church bodies in the town, for assistance, and I suggest the Government should make a welfare officer available each week to look after those people who are obviously in need.

Returning to the question of coal, whilst I have indicated that the outlook for Collie, at present, is not bright, the C.S.I.R.O. does not consider this to be the case, and does not see the position as this Government sees it. In a special news item dated the 8th of this month, the following appeared:—

The C.S.I.R.O. predicts a bright future for coal in Australia.

In a bulletin just published, the C.S.I.R.O. said industry was expected to increase its use of coal by fifty per cent. in 1975.

New techniques had lowered the cost of coal for the generation of electric power and generating stations were likely to take seventeen-million tons by 1975 compared with eleven-million at present.

So it will be seen that the C.S.I.R.O. is contemplating the further extension and use of coal for power generation. I hope this Government, before it makes any firm decision on the siting of the next power station, will give some consideration to another coal-burning station.

From time to time the Government has interested itself in the new developments and new techniques which are taking place overseas. I would ask the Government what it is doing regarding the future use

of coal. Have any officers of the Department of Industrial Development been sent overseas or have any officers from the S.E.C. been overseas to look at new developments in power generation? I suggest the coalmining industry in this State could be assisted by making a bursary available, perhaps, to a university student to encourage an investigation into new developments. By this means the coalmining industry at Collie could benefit.

The development of the vapour injection unit invented by Mr. Fred Kohler, an engineer living in Collie, could have been the means of providing another industry which might have helped the town and district of Collie.

The unit which Mr. Kohler invented has been fitted to his car for many years and has increased the mileage of his vehicle by some 15 to 20 miles per gallon. A test carried out by an authority shows there is no wear and tear on the motor. Unfortunately, nothing has been done about developing this unit, but I hope the Government will do something to see if it is possible to set up an industry to produce the unit at Collie.

Having been associated with the industrial section of the trade union movement, I am aware, of course, that the Trades and Labour Council recently proposed a number of amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. I hope the Government will give favourable consideration to the amendments, because our Act does not compare with the New South Wales Act. Our Act contains a lot of anomalies.

I had the spectacle last week of an employee in the coalmining industry who met with an accident whilst he was single. He is now married with six children and because of the requirements of our Act, he is being paid compensation at the single rate only. I hope the Minister will give consideration to the matters placed before him.

I come now to the question of the Coal Mine Workers' (Pensions) Act. This legislation should be looked at because when it was introduced the work force in the coalmining industry numbered 1,400 to 1,500. At present it is down to the low level of 680, and within a short space of time there will be more miners receiving pensions than there will be making contributions.

The Act provides that each mine worker shall pay \$2.80 per fortnight into the pension fund. The companies then make a contribution on the basis of three and three-quarter times the amount that the worker contributes. The situation was kept level when we had a big work force, but now the number of workers employed in the industry is being reduced annually. If the pension fund is to survive, then I suggest a scheme similar to the long service leave scheme should be introduced by this Government.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. JONES: Before the tea suspension I was speaking of the coalminers' pension fund and the need for the Government, in my opinion, to give some consideration to introducing an amendment to the legislation, because with the numbers decreasing in the coalmining industry and the actuarial position of the fund, the Government needs to give some consideration to new methods of financing the fund.

In the course of my speech I have drawn the attention of the Government to the problems that exist in the Collie electorate and the need for the Government to make an examination of the current situation, because I do not think the position is one that cannot be rectified. If correct policies are introduced and implemented, and advantages which the Government has granted to other industries are granted to the coalmining industry, I feel certain Collie can be brought back to the town it was a few years ago.

I can recall the Premier being reported in a newspaper article last June as saying the Government could not sacrifice schools and hospitals to the benefit of Collie; but I am not saying he should do that. I merely draw the attention of the Premier and Treasurer to the fact that in South Australia the Government is charging 48c per ton wharfage charges on fuel oil, whereas in this State the Government has granted the oil refinery company a concession of \$2,000,000 per annum; because there are no wharfage charges.

As the Government has also granted concessional rates in regard to other commodities that are transported by rail, might I suggest that the same privilege be extended to the coalmining industry, especially as the Collie-Bunbury section of the railway line is highly profitable and, with the added income, the freight charges on coal could be reduced? This line is paying for itself and any concessions granted would not place a heavy burden on the Railways Commission.

I have not said anything about the apple industry, because Mr. Kitney, the member for Blackwood, has spoken on this subject. However, apple growers are having their troubles at the moment, but I do not know the answers. Whilst the problem being faced by the industry does not come completely within the scope of this Parliament, some attention should be directed to the industry by the Government. It should also direct its attention to those engaged in the wool industry, because it is generally known that woolgrowers in the Preston area, especially the smaller producers, will fail by the wayside unless they are granted some assistance.

As a result of the new methods in existence at present, small farmers are finding it difficult to exist, and some

organisation or authority should pay attention to the wool industry, the agricultural industry in general, and also the apple growing industry.

An approach has been made to the Minister for Railways to retain some of the old railway equipment in the south-west. It will be recalled by members that during the previous session of Parliament the decision was made, for certain reasons, to preserve the well-known Barracks Archway. The Historical Society in the south-west has suggested that one of the old "G"-class or "F"-class locomotives might be retained or preserved for historical purposes. Last Sunday a train was run by the Historical Society from Bunbury to Collie. The train was packed out and it is the intention to hold a similar event very shortly.

I have been advised by the Minister for Railways that the considered opinion at the moment is that, due to the cost, an old steam locomotive and a set of railway coaches cannot be retained in the service for such a purpose. This is a shame, and I am sure if they are not retained or preserved we will regret the fact in years to come. Other States of the Commonwealth have already taken steps to retain in service some of the old steam locomotives and also some of the old coaches that have been taken out of general service so that the younger members of future generations will have an opportunity to ride in this old type of transport; and if this Government does not take steps to preserve an old locomotive and a set of coaches it will, in the future, regret not having done so.

When I spoke of the problem of the number of widows in Collie, I did not intend to create a wrong impression. In actual fact, like any other town, Collie is anxious to bear its responsibility in this regard. For the purpose of keeping the record straight, it is considered by those in Collie that we are getting too many of this type of person and if this trend is to continue the appropriate authority should ensure that widows are well cared for when they are sent to Collie.

If given the opportunity, I firmly believe the coalmining industry will be able to compete with oil and other fuels. Having heard my views on the problems confronting my electorate, the Government must be well aware of the situation in the south-west and the need for something to be done with a view to giving new vitality to this portion of the State.

MR. FLETCHER (Fremantle) [7.37 p.m.]: As leader of the Opposition cross-bench, I congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, firstly, on your electoral survival and, secondly, on your subsequent elevation to the Speakership. Your legal training and background make you well equipped to

look after all members of the House irrespective of the side on which they sit. Like others who have spoken, I congratulate those members who have been elected as Chairman of Committees and Deputy-Chairmen of Committees.

Although I confer on you your proper title, Mr. Speaker, I do not expect you to refer to me as the leader of the Middle Opposition cross-bench. My colleagues on my physical right and left, as distinct from the political right and left, have conferred on me this honorary status.

Mr. Dunn: Are you getting any extra pay?

Mr. Graham: The tribunal is working on that.

Mr. FLETCHER: I also survived electorally against my not very formidable opponent. With the indulgence of the House, I would like to place on record the post-election statement I submitted to the Press. It is a tidy order for the benefit of *Hansard*, and I will read it as quickly as I can. It is as follows:—

STATEMENT by HARRY A. FLETCHER, M.L.A., at the DECLARATION OF THE POLL on 5th APRIL, 1968.

Owing to growing public awareness that the D.L.P. is now nothing more than a nuisance element at election times, support has progressively declined. Officials are now apparently groping for ways and means to demonstrate an impression of support.

Opportunity was quite apparently seen in Fremantle and South Perth, where no Liberal or Labor candidates opposed the respective sitting Members, to obtain votes which the D.L.P. would not otherwise receive. This, as no doubt anticipated, paid off in both electorates, for it is apparent from previous election figures that a percentage of Labor voters in South Perth, and Liberal voters in Fremantle, rather than cast an informal vote, gave their second preference to the D.L.P. as the only alternative, in the sure knowledge that the candidate had no prospect of election. In this manner, a percentage, rather than a fraction of a percentage, of State-wide support, is able to be shown.

My Fremantle opponent, as a resident of Boulder, to the best of my knowledge did not leave that address throughout the campaign, for there was no evidence of his presence by way of street signs or any distribution of election material. He was nominated by an agent a quarter of an hour before nominations closed.

I would like the House to listen carefully to this part of my statement—

I welcome traditional conservative opposition at election time, and a democratic opportunity to obtain a

public estimate of my worth to Fremantle electors. However, while I respect the right of all to vote as they wish, I do object to this State being involved in additional campaign expense for the sole and obvious purpose of giving a false impression of support for the D.L.P. which can promise Utopia while being certain that it will never have to honour such promises.

Mr. Jamieson: That was in South Perth, was it?

Mr. FLETCHER: In *The West Australian* of Monday, the 12th August, 1968, there also appeared this small quotation—

The Government appeared to forget that it depended heavily on D.L.P. preferences to retain some marginal seats.

The D.L.P. was not in a position to spend a lot of money on an early election. It was trying to pay its bills for the Senate election.

However, in view of the very near electoral death of the Government, I have no doubt it will resurrect the assistance of the D.L.P. on future occasions in an attempt to bolster the narrow margin of votes by which several members on the other side of the House won their seats. I submit that the two parties comprising those sitting on the Treasury Bench need to hold hands. In my opinion they are bound by the bonds of common funk. I do not wish to be offensive in saying that; I am just being factual. In view of the slender majority by which the Government gained office, if the members of both parties opposite let go of each other's hands, the Labor Party now in Opposition would be certain to win the next general election. The Government will also need the support of the D.L.P. in the next election, or the Labor Party will be occupying the position the Government now holds.

As I have stated, the D.L.P. contested the South Perth electorate with a dual purpose; firstly to bolster its declining figures, and, secondly, to try to demonstrate impartiality by opposing both Labor and Liberal candidates. As I pointed out in the Press statement, the Government gains D.L.P. preferences in borderline seats, and its preferences will no doubt go to the coalition again on the next occasion.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without again being critical of the housing situation, because it is deplorable. The House will recall my comments the other evening to the effect that I had presented the case of a person who already had a S.H.C. house and who wanted alternative larger accommodation. I was criticised over this and the Minister also took up the point, but neither of those levelling the criticism listened to me closely enough. I was merely referring to that type of applicant by way

of illustration. I said, "A person who already had a house". That is what I said, or meant to imply. What I meant to imply was that when the Labor Government was in office or when the present Government first took over, a person in such circumstances could obtain consideration practically overnight as a result of my representation for alternative accommodation.

Today, however, the same type of applicant, as I stated, has to wait three months or up to five months for emergent alternative accommodation. In a report published in the *Daily News* on the 10th July, 1968, it is stated that people have been waiting for five years for a house. I have people who have been waiting for over three years for a house, but the *Daily News* has quoted cases of people who have been waiting for anything up to five years. The headline over this article appearing in the *Daily News* was, "Speculators Blamed for Perth Housing Shortage." The article states—

Perth's big land speculators have been condemned by a group of experts studying the housing shortage here.

That is, not by the member for Fremantle, but by a group of experts. Continuing—

Experts from the Housing Industry Association say speculators are "thwarting and crippling community development and the work of the town planners."

HIA national president R. L. Seares said the Perth housing shortage was the most severe of any Australian capital.

Further down the following appears:—

The HIA is a Federal body comprising representatives from such fields as the building industry, real estate profession, finance companies, manufacturers and other groups allied to housing.

There we see opinions other than mine.

Appropriately enough, pasted on the back of that newspaper cutting there is a cutting from *The West Australian* which shows three pictures of snails. The first represents the W.A. Government's snail pace in housing; and the last one represents the W.A. Government pulling its head into the shell. I do not say that the criticism which has been made from this side of the House was responsible for those caricatures. At the bottom of the drawings appear, "Housing problem?" "Housing Crisis?" and "Where?"

The situation in regard to the provision of single units for spinsters and widows is in part being alleviated in the Fremantle area, to the extent of 32 single units which have yet to be completed. Subject to questioning, the Minister kept telling me from time to time that these units would be provided in the area. After all his promises for the provision of single-unit accommodation, I now find the 32 units

will not accommodate a queue of applicants extending from Fremantle to Plain Street, East Perth.

In regard to the unfortunate applicants for houses, I still receive the same stereotyped reply from the Housing Commission expressing regret. On the question of regret, like the Minister and like other members on both sides of the House, I also regret the misfortune of Western Australia in not being able to obtain a special Federal housing grant of \$5,000,000 from the Commonwealth Government. Such a sum would be of great assistance in the provision of houses for those whom we represent.

I have no doubt that the Commonwealth Government, being of the same political complexion as members opposite, will come to the party on the eve of the next election in order to help its colleagues buy the necessary goodwill to ensure their return to office.

I noticed that a report appeared in *The West Australian* of the 9th August stating that the Government was making a promise regarding a 50 per cent. increase in the housing funds. We on this side must have given the Government a nasty electoral shock, otherwise it would not be making promises such as that.

Referring again to the unfortunate applicants for houses, tomorrow morning a bailiff will be appearing at No. 46 King Street, East Fremantle, to evict an old lady from the house she occupies. She is in her 70s, and is a simple old soul who cannot understand the position. For years she has been living in that house, and she cannot obtain any single-unit accommodation because of the large number of applicants. She does not have the necessary drive to enable her to look for an alternative house. I cannot obtain any assistance from the Housing Commission to provide her with accommodation, and I have had to approach estate agents to try to do something for her.

When I visited the house which she occupied, I found that in many places the plaster had collapsed, and there were buckets placed on the floor to catch rain-water falling through the roof. There is a whole terrace of these houses which are occupied by other unfortunate people. I wish members opposite could see the type of houses that are available there.

Houses in a shocking state, comparable to those at Fremantle, exist, no doubt, in other electorates but they certainly do not exist in the district represented by members on the Government front bench. If they did, then I am sure those members would take a more sympathetic view of the situation.

On the question of high rents, it is only natural that human nature, being what it is, will exploit the existing shortage of houses. Private enterprise seems to condone the practice and exploit it to the

limit, and the general public is encouraged to do likewise. These people seek rents which are away beyond the capacity of the average person to pay.

Recently I read some comment which appeared in the International Labour Organisation literature. This is an international organisation, and at the place of its inaugural meeting in Switzerland in 1911 a scroll was affixed to the building. It carries the following words, "If you wish for peace cultivate justice." This is relevant not only to war but also to peace in the homes of all people. There does not seem to be any economic justice when we see in the Press that a \$100,000 home has recently been occupied by a speculator—a matter to which I was referring the other evening—while land and substandard homes are being sold and let at rates which are beyond the capacity of the average person to pay.

The other evening the member for South Perth dealt with the housing situation by giving an example of what a bulldozer driver did. He isolated himself in the north-west, away from his family and home, in order to obtain higher wages to acquire a block of land. It should not be necessary for people to leave their families and homes in the metropolitan area to go to some distant district to seek work under impossible conditions so as to obtain the necessary finance to buy a building block. Serious consequences flow from such a situation: family raising is deferred, and in many cases the young wife goes out to work in order to help her husband to acquire a block, and later perhaps to acquire a home. At the present time young couples spend years trying to save enough just for a block of land, let alone the cost of a house. As a consequence the people of Western Australia suffer.

I would point out that the Government contributes to that state of affairs by doing nothing about the housing shortage. Here again I have a Press comment to support my remarks in this respect. I quote from the editorial in the *Daily News* of today, in which the following appears:—

The thousands of home-hungry people whose lives have been blighted by money-hungry speculators might have felt that the government was strangely unwilling to interfere with landholding speculation.

Even now that the government recognises the problem it shows little capacity to deal with it.

The other evening I asked the Premier whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce a betterment tax as a deterrent to land speculation. The Premier's reply was that consideration would be given to the matter. The point

is: when will consideration be given—when the horse has bolted? The final paragraph of the editorial is as follows:—

What is really lacking in the government's approach is an adequate sense of purpose.

Criticism in this direction comes not only from me, but also from other sources.

In today's *The West Australian* appears a report under the heading of, "Housing Applicants Criticised." I thought that was rather an unfair heading. It goes on to state—

Too many people looked only to the State Housing Commission for houses, Housing Minister O'Neil said yesterday.

Further down the following appears:—

The government was becoming increasingly involved with finance for housing and much was being done to overcome the housing and land-price problems.

Mr. O'Neil was speaking at a Melville Rotary Club lunch.

The Minister for Housing is well aware of what causes people to be driven into the arms of the State Housing Commission: it is because they are seeking accommodation which they cannot obtain elsewhere. He must know that the prices which land speculators charge are beyond the ability of the ordinary people to pay. This applies not only to land and houses, but also to high rents. As a consequence of the failure of this Government to take action to prevent land speculation and to provide cheaper house accommodation, more and more people are getting onto the back of the Minister. He is paying the price for the policy of the Government, the same as we are.

In today's issue of *The West Australian* there appears a report under the heading, "Home Hopes Fade, Says Stephenson," and a portion of it reads as follows:—

Since the promulgation of the region plan in 1963, land speculation had reached fever pitch.

Often, land speculators held the whole community to ransom, and those who suffered most were generally families of modest means.

Those are the unfortunate people to whom I am referring. The report continues—

In the metropolitan region, house blocks within reach of work and city now cost from \$4,000 to \$10,000, which put them beyond the reach of many young married couples and migrants.

"In this spacious State, it is absurd for families with children to live in small, crowded flats," he said.

This is not a Labor conspiracy to embarrass the Government. What I have been doing is to present the views of other people on this subject. I have just read

out the views of Professor Gordon Stephenson; but they are also my views. I fully endorse every word he uttered.

I am glad the Minister for Industrial Development is in his seat. In the debate on the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition it was proven to the Minister by correspondence in my possession that the State Government was making homes available to the employees of B.H.P. He took umbrage at my reference to the huge profits which this company has made, and to my argument that it could well afford to provide housing accommodation for its employees.

To support the comment which I made, I refer to *The West Australian* of the 17th August in which appears a report containing some relevant figures. It is as follows:—

B.H.P. Writes Up Its Assets by \$165m.

The assets of Broken Hill Pty. Co. Ltd. and subsidiaries, Australia's major industrial and mining enterprise, were written up in the year to May 31 by \$165,159,000.

The report continues—

This amount has been credited to the assets revaluation reserves account, which in the consolidated balance sheet now stands at \$305,113,000.

As a result of this write-up, plus increases in the general reserve and unappropriated profits, shareholders' funds have risen to \$812,843,000 from \$611,780,000 in 1967.

Subscribed share capital was steady at \$258,394,000.

In view of those figures, how can the Minister possibly argue that this company should be given preferential treatment in the allocation of State houses? In view of the serious cases which I have dealt with, those homes should be filled by the people concerned. A company with such a huge capital could well afford to provide houses for its employees.

The Minister for Industrial Development contended that the allocation of houses to key personnel in industry was not a new practice. I think his comment was a lucky guess, and he did not really know the position. He would not know, for example, that I was once considered to be one of the key personnel before I was elected to Parliament. I was working for the State Electricity Commission at the South Fremantle power house. I will later lend some support to the words of the member for Collier.

Mr. Dunn: You have been promoted since.

Mr. FLETCHER: The interjection was whether I had since been promoted. I am sure all members would know all about that. I received a Housing Commission

home during the time the South Fremantle power house was being constructed. Others were, at the same time, made available to key contractor-personnel assisting with the construction of the power house, but during the construction only; and I repeat that, during construction only. They were then allocated for public use.

I would point out to the Minister and the House that there is a big difference between key personnel occupying public property for the purpose of creating a public utility in the form of a power station, and key personnel of a private company—a company which makes profits more than sufficient to provide homes for its own employees—occupying public property. The shareholders of that company benefit as a consequence of the company's not having to build the homes. And how do they benefit? They benefit at public expense because they occupy State Housing Commission homes. I hope I have answered the half truth of the Minister for Industrial Development. It may have been a lucky guess—the reference to key personnel—

Mr. Court: You are attacking the workmen of B.H.P., not B.H.P. itself.

Mr. FLETCHER: Trust the Minister to shift his ground.

Mr. Court: You just do not like it when you are told the truth.

Mr. FLETCHER: I drew a distinction between key personnel employed by the State to build a State utility on behalf of the community, and key personnel who are employees of a huge enterprise—a private enterprise which could well afford to build homes for its employees. I am not being critical of the employees—

Mr. Court: Not much!

Mr. FLETCHER: —but of the employer for not providing the housing, the same as the private companies are providing in the north. If the companies did not provide it in the north they would not get any personnel. The company down here could well afford to build the houses and not have its employees occupying houses to the exclusion of those I represent and those the member for Cockburn represents. He, too, could fill the houses many times.

Whilst on the subject of power stations, I point out that I asked parliamentary questions regarding the capital outlay of precipitators and coal handling plant, and I asked them for a purpose. I wanted to use the material on an occasion like this. I was told that the power house cost \$16,018,000, excluding capitalised interest. I subsequently asked the following question of the Minister for Electricity:—

Adverting to my question of the 29th August, 1967, and his reply in part "that the cost of completion of

South Fremantle Power Station was \$16,018,000"—

Can he make known the cost of the station excluding precipitators and coal handling plant including locomotive?

This was quite an elementary question. The answer was, "No." It was emphatic enough, and I say it was almost rude. It is simple arithmetic to work out what each precipitator, mill, and exhaustor cost, together with all the ancillary equipment associated with coal handling plant. It is simple arithmetic to subtract that figure from \$16,018,000.

I do not blame the Minister for the reply he gave me. He is always polite and courteous. However, I do suspect that those who gave the answer to the question had an ulterior purpose. They knew why I wanted those figures; namely to support the member for Collie. That is why the material was not made available to me—because it was known I had worked there and knew something about my subject; and those concerned did not want to give me the necessary assistance. I consider that a discourteous reply from people who are supposed, like ourselves, to serve the community.

However, the member for Collie has given us a splendid dissertation this evening on the subject of oil and coal. I am sure he convinced members opposite, just as he convinced those on this side, in regard to the use of coal. I have heard the honourable member ask two questions here on the cost of oil, but apparently this is a company secret with the connivance of Government members opposite and also the few public servants who were responsible for the discourteous answer to my question.

I wanted to demonstrate that the cost of the precipitators which keep the dust out of the atmosphere was money well spent and an investment for the future. I wanted to ensure that coal handling plant was available not only at South Fremantle, but at all future power stations, particularly those at present under construction.

In the event of an emergency it is quite conceivable that supplies of oil to Australia will be cut off. This is something with which the member for Collie did not deal, but with which I am sure he is concerned. In the event of war, supplies to other countries have been cut off. I also believe there is a possibility that there may be an inadequate supply of indigenous oil off the coast, and on the mainland, of Australia. In the event of there being an inadequate supply of oil for the South Fremantle power station, because of the coal handling plant which has been installed there, it will be possible for 100,000 kw to be available almost immediately. But what about Kwinana and the other power stations which are to be exclusively oil

fired? I would like to inform the House that the South Fremantle power house can, overnight, change over from oil to coal. The other power stations in the course of construction—and those yet to be built—can change from oil to what? I ask members: What can these stations change to in the event of an emergency?

Millions of tons of coal are available at Collie, but in the event of oil supplies being cut off, millions of dollars—and this is my concern—will be lying idle in these power stations, with a consequent shortage of power to industry and the public.

I do not need to point out that we are an island continent and that we are, at present—and could still be in the future—dependent on overseas oil. We are vulnerable, and I hope that point has been made clear. My concern is that with a change of Government, we would be presented with a *fait accompli*. Once these power stations are built exclusively for oil, there would be nothing we could do to retrieve the situation.

No wonder the member for Collie is concerned. I wish he could convert all of those on the other side. If there were a change of Government, we could not, overnight, acquire millions of dollars worth of coal handling plant, and install it. All power stations should cater for coal and oil. I know that oil is needed for "flashing up" purposes. I have assisted with that process and know it is necessary. As I have said, I do not stipulate that these power houses should cater exclusively for coal. We need both oil and coal for the reasons I have outlined. However, the stations should be steamed on coal for at least 23 hours a day leaving an hour for oil in "flashing up."

I do not accept the prospect of any imminent invasion by Asians, which propagandists tell us will occur. It appears that this propaganda is used to justify the millions allocated this financial year for the purpose of buying F111s and other war equipment. That is what the \$1,217,000,000 will be used for instead of for houses, schools, and other necessities, including coal handling plant for power stations.

My concern is that people are fed with that type of propaganda to justify the case which is presented by the Government and its supporters. However, those interested should ask themselves, "How are these millions of Asians going to descend on us?" If they did this they would have to be reasonable and admit that since the invaders do not have a navy, they would have to swim or come by canoe. The argument just will not stand up.

However, I do consider that our sealanes could be vulnerable. They have been in the past and could be again, and I hope I have made my point, which is that there

is such a danger while we have trigger-happy allies stirring up trouble in the north.

Still on the subject of power stations, I turn now to power transmission, particularly in relation to the lines which will cross the Swan River. I do not like the latest suggestion for crossing the river at Preston Point any more than I like the suggestion for crossing it at Blackwall Reach. The newspapers do not favour the idea either, and if I had time I would quote extensively from the Press of recent dates. The following are two of the headings in the Press:—

Power-lines Dispute Lies with Cabinet.
Second Try: Ugly Still.

The second heading referred to Preston Point and appeared in *The West Australian* on the 7th May, 1968. Another heading was, "Crossing the Wires," which referred to a question I asked in this House and to which I will make further reference later.

I understand I have approximately 10 minutes remaining and I hope in that time to deal with this very important matter. The Minister for Electricity wrote to me on the 27th October, 1967, as follows:—

During the debate on the Address-in-Reply, you made reference to the proposal that State Electricity Commission power mains be taken across the Swan River at Blackwall Reach.

I wish to advise that this matter is still being investigated. I would point out, however, that underwater crossings are extremely expensive and are the exception rather than the rule.

I can assure you that underwater crossings are being considered in the present investigations.

I would like to say here that when it was first mooted, I asked this question and I suggested that the lines could be placed under the existing Fremantle Traffic Bridge. I also suggested that they could cross the river under the new bridge to be built from Point Brown to East Fremantle. Another suggestion I made concerned the river bed. I was told this was impractical because the sea air would cause corrosion, and so on.

However, I still argue that that is nonsense because, after all, the wires are insulated and, further, they are armoured. Some members might not know what that is, but if the lines were armoured it would certainly prevent corrosion because the wires would be protected against the sea and air. However, they would not be if they were suspended on poles and were only uncovered aluminium. As I said, if they were armoured, they would be safe from corrosion.

The Government has evidently not considered the aesthetics of this issue, or the attitude of yacht clubs. I have received correspondence from clubs on this

matter, copies of which I have made available to the Minister. Unfortunately, I cannot quote the correspondence because time will not permit. However, I have been told that this issue is still being considered.

I know that 6,000 volts are carried underneath the river across the mouth of the harbour. This line is known as the ring main, and serves the Fremantle Port Authority and the harbour from the North Mole to the South Mole. If this can be done at the mouth of the river, why can it not be done up the river?

Mr. Court: How many volts does that one carry?

Mr. FLETCHER: It carries 6,000 volts. I know the Minister will say that these other lines will be carrying 60,000 volts or more; but, so what?

Mr. Court: It would be much more than 60,000 volts.

Mr. FLETCHER: The Minister is trying to get ahead of me. The figure might be 120,000 volts, but for argument's sake let us say 60,000 volts, which would be 10 times 6,000 volts. I have some figures which I would have liked to quote if I had the time. I made it my business to ask an electrical engineer associated with the ring main what it costs to replace and I was told \$5,000. If it were to cost 10 times as much for 60,000 volts—

Mr. O'Neil: It is 132,000 volts.

Mr. FLETCHER: Even if I accept the Minister's figures and multiply it by \$5,000, so what? The State Electricity Commission is making plenty of money and could well afford to do this, because of the reasons to which I have alluded. It would be much better than having ugly pylons going through my electorate, much to the offence of the people I represent. Also, incidentally, the pylons will go through the area represented by the Minister for Works. He does not seem to be very concerned about it but I should imagine his constituents are concerned over the prospect of having ugly wires suspended above their electorate.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have time to say that I am not the only person who is concerned about it; because a lot of other people are equally concerned. Since cables are under the ground in the power station yard—I saw them put there—and since they are armoured carefully for protection, they probably do carry voltages comparable to those mentioned by the members on the other side of the House who were trying to disprove my contention. During my overseas trip, I saw where cables came ashore after crossing thousands of miles of ocean. Admittedly they only carry telegraphic communication. However, I have

also seen electric cables from huge power stations, far in excess of those that prevail here, crossing under rivers.

If technical people should argue that anchors in the river might damage the cable, I would refute that by saying that the existing 6,000-volt cable in the harbour now would be more vulnerable to ships' anchors, which are of a much greater size and could do much more damage than the anchors of small pleasure boats on the river.

I hope I have presented a case tonight to show there is no justification for cables across the river, unless they are put under a bridge yet to be built, even under the existing bridge on a temporary basis, or, alternatively, under the river irrespective of the fact that it might cost many times more than \$5,000. After all, the width of the river in the locality suggested is only one-quarter to one-half mile; further down the river, the width is even less. Despite the arguments submitted by the Minister for Industrial Development, I still suggest it could be done at a reasonable cost and to the satisfaction of the community; that is, those people whom I represent and those people whom the Minister for Works represents.

Mr. Court: I have not argued against the cables going under the river. I was only inviting your attention to the different voltage.

Mr. FLETCHER: It seems that the Minister for Industrial Development is stealing what little time I have left.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: You have sold him.

Mr. FLETCHER: Because I do not have the time, I am prevented from showing how important the subject of fuel is to the State and just how vulnerable Western Australia is. For example, 229,100,000 tons of furnace oil is used in the State. I am quoting from the Australian petroleum statistics of 1968. This huge oil tonnage shows how vulnerable we are if we do not support the member for Collie in his objective of ensuring that all power stations in Western Australia should use coal.

MR. GAYFER (Avon) [8.20 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, I must again congratulate you on being elected to the high office which you occupy. The prevailing circumstances in the election caused a new Speaker to be appointed and I am sure it is fairly obvious to every member of the Chamber that there would be nobody more able to fill the bill than yourself. In company with other members, I have worked with you on the Standing Orders Committee and, in the main, we realise the wisdom and the learning that you will bring to your period of office. In respect of the office of Speaker, I noticed a comment in a book by Phillip Laundry. He dealt with the office of Speaker and said that the Speaker must be a patient soul

who can sit through more speeches than any other man undeterred by the fact that many of them are long and tedious and some not worth making anyway. This has not been the position during the present Address-in-Reply.

In my comparatively short period as a member of Parliament, I have listened to only six Address-in-Reply debates. The current one is the most interesting that I have been privileged to sit through. I join with other members in congratulating each and every new member who has spoken—whether he be on this side of the House or on the other side of the House. There are some masters amongst the new members in their chosen fields which they have studied over the years. In fact some of them made very diversified speeches and shown a full knowledge of the peculiar wants of the State in general.

The Premier must be congratulated for being returned to what will be a record-breaking term of office as Premier of the State. We hope he has good health to go through this period. Likewise, Ministers on this side of the House are to be congratulated.

I should also like to genuinely congratulate the Leader of the Opposition on coming back here as the leader of the group which has the second most important political role in the State; because, without good opposition we cannot have good government. I sincerely congratulate him on coming back to office with such a team behind him. All this in conductive to the betterment of the State in general.

I should now like to refer to the Minister for Industrial Development. It is not very often that I give him credit, but I do tonight. Likewise, I congratulate him on bringing into being, in the main, the condition by which we now live as a non-claimant State. I admit there has been ample proof over the years that we have always had iron ore resources, knowledge of them, and availability of them. However, I do not think the bargaining could have been done quite as effectively without the work and the drive which the Minister in question put into it. I believe that through the passage of time and through the efforts of another person or another Government, they may have come into being. However, let us say that the Minister for Industrial Development has received recognition throughout the world for his work in this direction and that he is a well-known figure in this connection. It is only fair to give him a great deal of credit for what has been achieved.

However, I do not say that I am particularly pleased, as it were, that our Federal Government continues to expect 850,000 people in Western Australia completely to develop one-third of Western Australia; because this is what the position amounts to.

Mr. Tonkin: One-third of Australia.

Mr. GAYFER: That is right. As it is, 850,000 people are expected to open up this vast State of ours. It would appear to me that a dam such as the Ord River Dam should have been financed completely by the Federal Government. It is not on an experimental basis, because we have proved already to the Federal authorities that it will go ahead. Instead of the Federal Government's financing it completely, from my reading it would appear that Western Australia is to be advanced a grant of \$20,000,000 and it will be expected to pay back a loan of \$29,000,000 which will be made to the State. A sum of \$29,000,000 is going to be an awful lot of money to pay back over the years. Certainly we hope the royalties from the iron ore will, in turn, pay back the money which is being expended in the north.

However, we in the south have contributed a lot towards the development of the north, by and large, and we will contribute a lot more in the repayment of the specific amount of \$29,000,000. This goes for many of the other amounts of money which are being spent in the area.

It is not that we should decry the fact that there are few people in the north. They have made their contribution by way of taxes, and because we are the over-populated part of the State we should, in turn, assist them with what they have put in over the years. However, let us take that argument a step farther to the south-east corner of the Commonwealth. That corner has vast resources available to it but it, in turn, is not putting very much back into this side of the continent.

A formula should be based on area, on national protection, and on the future of the population of Australia. The development of the whole of the north is most important, because it would be the buffer if ever there was an invasion. All these things should be taken completely into account and we should be given some relief from the terrific cost and burden that is placed upon us in this State. The population of Western Australia—at present 850,000 people—will be expected to pay back the money eventually.

I admit that over the years the south-west has certainly borrowed money which has been put into certain water schemes and other amenities. This money must also be paid back, but it is very little in comparison with the huge amount being spent on one project in the north of our State.

To this end I am doubly conscious that the most able submission put forward by the Minister for Works, his technical staff, and members of his department, for a grant of \$6,300,000 for the extension of yet another phase of the comprehensive water scheme in the south-west was, in fact, knocked back by the Federal authorities. To my mind this was one place

in our State where water could be piped in most profitably and, indeed, it would have helped the financial resources of the farmers who rely so much on it.

Amongst the many speeches that have been made by members on both sides of the House, I could not help thinking that there was one predominant note of warning coming from all members who represent country areas. I realise that many metropolitan members of Parliament think it is only the farmers who are grizzling again. However, one obvious point is arising: the State, the Commonwealth, and the world in general are really becoming worried about the condition of the farming populace of the world. It is only necessary to read a magazine which I have here and which was referred to by the member for South Perth. The magazine is called, *Australia in Facts and Figures*, and it states that the gross national product of Australia is down \$370,000,000. A newspaper article which I have here puts the figure at \$343,000,000. Surely this will make us think, perhaps, that the era of large spending and the golden Utopia in which we apparently live is possibly a little bit one-sided.

The other evening the member for Northam made reference to practically the same matter when he said that the farming community was apparently being gradually pushed into the background. I believe that is so. I certainly believe that iron ore has taken over, or possibly will take over, and become the predominant industry of the State. However, the many thousands of us in the farming industry and those associated with it are surely going to rely on the primary production of the State for many years to come in order to bring stability to our household, our livelihood, and our children.

It is well known that the wheat industry, amongst other industries, is at present at a crossroad. In the magazine to which I have referred, reference is made to the dairying industry. It says that the price deterioration in the major export markets heightens the problem of the marginal dairy farms. It says "Let us cut out the small dairy farmers. Let us amalgamate them and provide for bigger dairies. By doing that we will cut out some of the problems of the industry."

The same principle is being applied in the wheat areas today. There are many small wheat farmers who cannot produce sufficient wheat and sheep to make an economic living from their properties. Surely there is something we can do to help the person who wants to farm for the sake of farming to make a living from it, no matter how humble his property may be! Some figures were published recently which showed that there are 80,000 farmers in Australia who at present are earning, as a family, under \$2,000 a year. There would not be many of

the so-called little people, to whom reference has been made from the other side of the House, who are in such dire straits, or who are in a position as bad as that of some of the farmers I can think of.

Mr. Bickerton: Did you say they were clearing \$2,000 a year or earning that that much?

Mr. GAYFER: Net—clear.

Mr. Bickerton: The little people are not on that.

Mr. GAYFER: They have to take taxes and so on out of the results of their farming operations. It has been proved by statistics that some 3,000 are earning only \$22 a week—that is, as a farming household. They were mainly people from the dairying areas about whom the member for Warren spoke the other evening.

These statistics lead us to believe that all is not well with some sections of the farming industry—people with whom so many of us are familiar and whom we represent. On the other hand, I read in last Saturday's paper that the food output of the world is reaching a critical stage—there is a great deal of pessimism about it. A meeting of all the great scientists of the world was held and these people discussed the question of the expanding world population and the problems there would be in supplying food for this increased population.

The meeting was held in Adelaide last week and these scientists came to the unanimous decision that the amount of food that would be available in the year 2000 would not be sufficient to keep the people from starving—it would not be possible to keep the world's population happy and contented. These scientists stated that between 1971 and 1977 a famine would occur in many countries of the world. To me this is in sharp contrast to the facts and figures which one obtains from those countries of the world which can be classed the major grain-producing countries.

For instance, in November last year the authorities in Canada were worried about the future of the world's wheat position. We in Australia cannot be overhappy with it otherwise there would be no hesitancy in bringing in a stabilisation plan as a form of security for the wheat producers of Australia. India, I suppose, would be one country where we would expect starvation to occur quicker than in most other countries of the world. Yet, as I told members last year, when I came back from India, that country will be exporting wheat by 1971. That statement has been printed and confirmed in many papers since I made my speech last October.

The advent of dwarf wheats in the wheat producing areas of Australia, and Asia, will surely have an impact on wheat production, and should enable wheat to be produced in greater quantities than ever before. In this regard I join with the

member for Merredin-Yilgarn who stated that improved farm management will enable the growing of greater quantities of foodstuffs on our farming lands—particularly wheat. Yet we have people in sombre tones telling us that possibly there will not be enough food, at some time between 1971 and 1977, to feed the starving masses of the world.

If this becomes a fact it will only be because we cannot afford to give away the stocks in our vast granaries; because I feel sure sufficient grain will be produced. The only problem will be to get the money to pay for that food. It is all very well for the scientists to say that there will not be enough food available. I believe there will be, provided sufficient money is available to keep the industries concerned producing that food. If those industries are allowed to die that will be the end of it. Unfortunately certain parts of those industries are being allowed to die now. If we take away security from the wheat industry many farmers on millions of acres of new land in Western Australia, or even throughout Australia, will suffer.

If the apple industry or the pear industry is permitted to deteriorate a stage further there will be no apples or pears for export, purely and simply for the reason that the farmers who produce those crops will be seeking other forms of employment. This evening the member for Collie spoke about the drift of population to the larger towns and cities. That is quite true. What is there to keep the people in the country at the present time? The prices for the various products they produce is insufficient to permit them to live in similar circumstances to those who live in the cities or larger towns.

To this end I am particularly interested in the provision of a land utilisation test for all land in Western Australia, to begin with, to see whether it is possible to diversify the crops which are grown. Certainly we have sorghum, soya beans, and other crops being grown in the south-west and the Esperance region, as well as in Mt. Barker and other places, but surely we have some other areas in the wheat-belt where we could harbour water and grow different types of crops on a basis similar to that adopted by the Israelis. If there is a need for diversified crops to feed the world's population we will have some other avenues to turn to if we carry out experiments now.

I noticed an announcement by the Minister for Agriculture in recent days regarding the provision of a soil testing machine for the Department of Agriculture. I would think this would prove to be one of the biggest boons to the farming industry of Western Australia. The one with which I am familiar is in operation at the Huntington Research Station in England, and is attached to the Cambridge University. This machine will be of the utmost importance because it will show

the farmers what should be applied to their soils, when it should be applied, and what those soils are capable of producing.

It appears to me that if the scientists to whom I referred are right, and it is food they want, and they are prepared to pay for it, we can produce it. However, surely we cannot be expected to produce it if it becomes an economic impossibility for our farmers to do so. In order to increase production it is absolutely necessary that water be provided, not only for the people who live in the farming areas but also for the stock which will be carried. Water is the main requisite of the farming industry but I am afraid, from the sound of the Commonwealth's recent refusal of the proposal submitted by the Minister for Works, the old areas that I represent will be denied this facility for some considerable time. As a matter of fact it has even been hinted that if the project was started in 1973 it would be 1990 before the 640,000 acres of land to which I referred would have the security of a water supply.

After even 100 years the farmers in these older areas are still trying to get a water supply and in the meantime their land and water supplies are fast becoming salt-affected.

In recent weeks I have heard a great deal of comment from the new settlers in the Inkpen Estate area. It would appear that in some of the new areas, which are heavily timbered and about which there is not much knowledge, the terms and requirements of the C.P. leases are such that the new settlers are unable to comply with them. The main worry seems to be that the income will be so low that the settlers will have insufficient money to develop the new land. As a result they find it essential to get other jobs close to their properties and these provide them with a double income. They are then enabled to work their properties at the weekend, during their holidays, and at any other time they can afford away from their jobs. In addition they cannot shift their wives and families to their properties because they cannot afford to provide the accommodation for them. They are compelled to live at places where facilities are available; that is, in some of the nearby towns. But by doing that they are not adhering to the terms laid down under the Act.

In dealing with the question of wheat, I would like to commend the Premier and Cabinet on the allocation of land in the Kwinana area to Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. I realise that this is an amenity—if it can be called that—for which C.B.H. applied many years ago. Unfortunately, at the time it was decreed that C.B.H. would be better off to build its huge grain terminal at the Port of Fremantle. However, wisdom has prevailed, and the organisation is to be given

an area of land at Kwinana. I can assure the member for Cockburn that C.B.H. will not deface the waterfront and it will certainly provide for a buffer strip between its buildings and the town alongside which its facilities are to be built, and it will keep this area in a parklike state.

I would also like to inform the honourable member that the company's dust control system is almost perfect. C.B.H. in Western Australia has some of the finest dust-collecting machinery in the Commonwealth. It has tried to make the dust which is collected into pellets which can be used with a protein additive for pig-raising and so on. However, the process of bringing the dust to this stage has proved to be more expensive than the value of the final product. At present the dust is collected and put into bales and dumped. A good deal of it is carted away, or given away to those who want it as a stock feed supplement.

The advantages of building at Kwinana are tremendous so far as the industry is concerned. The production of wheat is increasing and it will not be long before 150,000,000 bushels of wheat will be going through the Fremantle terminal. This wheat will be produced in the Fremantle zone, and in the other zones allied to it. This is almost double the present figure but we honestly believe it will not be long before that quantity of wheat will go through the Fremantle terminal—that is, provided the industry is left in a secure position and overseas countries want our wheat.

Unfortunately at Fremantle at present shipping can be catered for only to a depth of 34 feet, but with the modern ships which are used by countries buying our wheat it will be necessary, almost straightaway, to have a depth of 45 feet and eventually the grain ships will require 70 feet. It is possible to provide this depth of water at Kwinana where the proposed installations are to be erected and there will be an overhead gantry built for loading the ships.

Again, the expense of providing upright storage at Fremantle would be almost beyond the capacity of the industry at present. We have something like 4,000,000 bushels of upright storage at Fremantle. The old horizontal storage is worn out and must be replaced. If we attempted to build an installation there on the land available to us it would mean putting up 28,000,000 bushels of upright storage at the moment, all of which would not be financially tenable so far as the industry is concerned.

Right throughout Australia a lot of horizontal storage and some cell storage is necessary as an economical method of handling wheat ships at ports. Again

the present shipping gallery at Fremantle can load ships at the rate of 1,600 tons per hour.

Sydney recently jacked up its speed to 3,200 tons an hour and it is the intention of C.B.H. to jack up its speed to 4,000 tons an hour at Kwinana. This is the requirement of the shipping world that we use.

Fremantle would be used for topping up parcels of shipments coming in from other ports, and for the other products of the industry which C.B.H. handles for the oat and barley growers.

I noticed the other night the member for Pilbara indicated the need for the extension of electricity to the Pilbara and the north-west part of the State. He mentioned the people there were paying from 18c to 8c for electricity, and he said it was about time the S.E.C. got away from the farmers and from those who had electricity and moved up north.

I cannot help remarking on the figure of 18c to 8c which he quoted. When we look at Newdegate we find on a rough figure the price is 8c to 9c; Bencubbin is 18c to 8c; Bolgart 17½c to 12½c; and Corrigin 13c to 8c flat. At Port Hedland the charge is \$5 a quarter and a commercial unit is from 5c to 3c.

We farmers have the same problem; the only thing is that we in turn have to generate our own electricity on the farm. We cannot supply it at an economic rate to all the people who work for us, and in a lot of cases we cannot provide a continual supply.

In my opinion, the need for the spread of electricity marches hand in hand with that for water. The people in the north-west of the State are just as entitled to be supplied with, and they need, electricity just as badly as we do. While the areas in closer proximity to the south are being connected and supplied, it means that there are so many fewer potential consumers a year in the country areas which are not receiving this most welcome necessity.

I would like the Minister to have a look at the possibility of printing a booklet in order to give the farmers on the contributory extension scheme a fair idea of what they are likely to be up for. Surely such a booklet could be put out with ample illustrations. It was done years ago in a pamphlet type screed that was put out but which has since gone out of date, and nothing new has been printed or circularised to the consumers who are forming a group and buying electricity.

As members of Parliament we are asked many questions, and they are not easy to answer. A booklet giving a general outline of the problems and requirements together with the responsibilities would at least be a welcome adjunct to those interested in this matter.

I heard a reference the other night to a subsidy given by the Government in order to set up grassed ovals throughout the State. I agree this is a most welcome adjunct. Not only has it meant that, within the centres of our areas, we have green swards which provide facilities for hockey, football, cricket, and those other things that are available in the city, but it has also meant that shire councils have built around those areas amenities which were not thought of before. I refer to such things as brick and tile changerooms, showground pavilions, and so on. All these things form the centre or the nucleus of a town.

This work has only been commenced because the Government has made it possible for local authorities to have their own water schemes by paying them a subsidy and thus helping them to install these valuable adjuncts.

At the moment we notice that certain of our railway dams are becoming available, and are not required for use by the Railways Department. This is because of the "dieselfication"—if I may use a word coined by the Minister for Industrial Development while he was Minister for Railways when he referred to the railways becoming "dieselfied." As a result of this, these dams are becoming redundant and consequently the Railways Department is finding it has no further use for them.

The Public Works Department, however, is coming into the picture; and, after having a look at the position, it says, "We want these dams and the water catchment areas behind them as a supplement to the comprehensive water scheme." This is reasonable thinking providing it is good water. I stress to the Minister that this water should be used and not left to evaporate with no pipelines being supplied to the comprehensive scheme, or with no genuine usage of it. Water is scarce and towns can make use of such water every year by applying some of it to the beautification of the facilities which exist.

I notice there are cases of a changeover of the railway water catchment reserves from the purpose for which they were wanted; and there is some doubt about their future use. We know the Public Works Department will want these water catchment reserves left for the purpose of supplying water to the dams.

I cannot see, however, why golf clubs, which are at present using these catchment areas and which have spent 40 and 50 years in making fairways and providing an amenity for the town from what was only bush, should still be faced with having to operate on a weekly lease. No community which has spent thousands of dollars in doing this sort of thing should have something of this nature hanging over its head. Surely the department can

make an immediate assessment and say, "This is needed for water catchment to supply our dams which will go into the comprehensive scheme," and tell the golf clubs, "It is yours for 50 or 100 years providing you pay the annual lease," or whatever the position might be.

In Quairading there are 570 acres of land which are so well grassed that two complete mowing outfits are employed. Yet under the terms of the lease the Minister can cancel it in one week. I think greater protection is needed. The Government and the various departments should bend over backwards to excise within this area a portion of land for the provision of an access road from the clubhouse. Surely three or four acres for an access road from the front gate would not be impossible in order to provide these people with security for their own building!

Without land they cannot obtain a liquor license; they have no security under which to borrow money in the event of their desiring to erect a brick and tile residence.

When the changeover comes I would ask the Minister to have a good look at the position and examine its full implications to see who is using each and every one of these reserves at present.

While I mention the Licensing Act, I cannot help but be reminded of the ridiculous state of affairs with regard to the present Act, particularly as it relates to a few minor and trivial breaches, such as a member buying liquor and giving it away at Christmas, but because he pays for it by the cheque of a firm of which he is a member, and because it refers to more than one person, he and the club are immediately in trouble.

These and other offences seem to me rather trivial, particularly in view of the impact they had on these clubs. Two of them that were recently concerned had had a recent change of managership. There is, of course, no excuse for a lack of knowledge of the Licensing Act, but the sections breached were so minor that it did not appear to warrant the justice that was meted out.

Surely some other provision could be included in the Act rather than to provide for just suing the club if it contravenes any section; surely it is not necessary to revoke or suspend the license of the club for such an offence. Could not some provision be made for a fine? In this case there was a suspension, which threw things completely out of gear. The club must still be looked after. In one case a month's suspension cost the club about \$1,250.

Surely we could give the Licensing Court power under the Act to invoke a small fine if in its wisdom it felt the charge had been proved.

Mr. T. D. Evans: To which section of the Act are you referring?

Mr. GAYFER: If the honourable member would check, he would find this is perfectly correct.

Mr. Graham: Do you intend introducing an amendment?

Mr. GAYFER: No; I am bringing this forward for the Government, and I hope it will be able to see its way clear to do something along the lines I have suggested.

Mr. Graham: I think I would vote for your Bill if you introduced it.

Mr. GAYFER: It would not be the first amendment to the Licensing Act I have suggested, but in these circumstances I would prefer the Government to bring down legislation. To my way of thinking there seems to be a fair amount of lobbying necessary when introducing legislation dealing with the Licensing Act.

The other night the member for Swan talked at great length about the rate of accidents on our roads in Western Australia. He was careful enough not to say that a professor in our University recently said we had the highest road toll in Australia. The member for Gascoyne and myself, not so long ago, were smartly pulled into gear over this statement. It was proved to us that if the figures were checked this State would be shown to be actually running third on the list. That is nothing to be proud of, but we are not the worst in Australia.

Mr. Nalder: In the previous year we were the second lowest.

Mr. GAYFER: We have never been the highest, but it was said by this speaker at the University that we were the highest.

Mr. Nalder: That is not the case.

Mr. GAYFER: No; but the paper published this report. The member for Swan said he was against, and could not see the use of, the number plates which will cost everybody \$1.50 a pair. I quite agree with him, inasmuch as we should not ask people to buy a pair of number plates. I have heard speakers tonight say that reflectorised number plates would be an advantage if the headlights of a car were off, or only one was on, because the driver of an oncoming car could see it was a car by the reflectorised number plate.

In my travels throughout the world, many countries which I visited did not ask people to buy two number plates; nor do I think two number plates are necessary for the protection of an oncoming vehicle. If we insist on a reflector on the front of a motorcar, surely this would be equally as effective as the second number plate.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Mitchell): The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. Graham: Is the honourable member a member of the National Safety Council?

Mr. GAYFER: Yes; that is why I approve of the number plates, but I do not see the reason for more than one.

Mr. Lapham: Aren't they an advantage?

Mr. GAYFER: If an accident happens, the car is usually on its way; and it has a number plate on the back.

Mr. Lapham: These plates reflect and are a safety factor.

Mr. GAYFER: Something else should be provided on the front of a car. Number plates are not beautiful. Many cars have a stainless steel bumper, the appearance of which is impaired by a number plate. In the Eastern States one sees yellow number plates on cars; and if one is proud of owning a car then, I think, a number plate spoils its appearance.

To get back to the basic theme, I consider the motorist is being put to 75c of unnecessary expense. Others have managed to do without this for a number of years, and I think people could be saved quite a lot of money.

Another thing that worries me is the 65 miles per hour speed limit in country areas. I prefer graduated speeds as against the 65 miles per hour speed limit. If local authorities were encouraged to graduate the speeds in their shires little by little, the 65 miles per hour speed limit could be done away with. I do not think it has proved anything up to date. If roads were graduated throughout the length and breadth of the State, surely this would be sufficient warning for traffic. The roads should be marked as is done on railway lines to show at what speed a curve can be taken with safety; and encouragement should be given to local shires on their roads and by-roads. Local authorities should be encouraged to do this out of their own financial resources and they should be assisted by way of technical advice and other means.

Mr. Lapham: Are you speaking of the speed limit from your own point of view?

Mr. GAYFER: Not your point of view.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Mitchell): The honorable member's time has expired.

MR. MAY (Clontarf) [9.7 p.m.]: I would appreciate it very much, Sir, if you would pass on to the Speaker my congratulations regarding his elevation to the high position of Speaker of this Assembly. I am quite sure that with his experience as a private member he will be able to control and guide this House in its deliberations during the coming sessions.

I would also like to congratulate all the new members on both sides of the House. I am sure that everyone who has spoken up to the present time has acquitted himself very well; and I am sure this will be the case in the future. I would like to congratulate the officers of Parliament for the manner in which they give service to

members. I had some experience of this in my first three years in Parliament and it is pleasing to know there is no decrease in the high standard, which is still in evidence today.

I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to the electors of the electorate of Clontarf for their confidence in electing me to Parliament. I realise it is not every person who has two chances to be returned to this House and I can assure those electors that any problems they may have will certainly be my problems, and I will work assiduously to assist them.

I would like to pay a tribute to my father, the ex-member for Collie, who helped me so very much during my first three years in Parliament. He also assisted me during the months leading up to the last election. It must be very difficult for a member of Parliament to have to retire, but I feel that the recently retired members will have no axe to grind if they have noted the enthusiasm of the new members in this Parliament.

There are a number of matters with which I want to deal, and the first one is in connection with industrial relations. I am sure we all appreciate that with the development which is taking place in the north-west—and other places—it is essential that we have industrial stability. By this I mean there should be a greater understanding by both employers and employees of their individual responsibilities. There are many problems which have to be resolved, and the only way to resolve them to the best advantage of all concerned is to ensure that the problems are faced on a common basis.

For the past three years I have had the privilege of being the industrial officer for a very large iron ore company. In the three years that I held that position I travelled to the north-west on no fewer than 24 occasions.

In 1965 it was decided by both the unions and the employers that it was necessary for the workers in the iron ore industry to have industrial coverage. Up until January, 1967, the workers in the north-west were working under a multiplicity of awards, mainly on a construction basis. It was, because of the long lines of communication with the various parent bodies in the metropolitan area, difficult and frustrating, at times, for the workers who tried to get satisfaction.

The award to cover the iron ore workers, which came into being in January, 1967, was negotiated for several years. Strangely enough, it was the employers who applied for the award. The unions were the respondents, and this was most unusual because it is usually the unions which leap to the fore for industrial coverage.

I think it is difficult for the workers in the north-west to appreciate the fact that it will be some time before this iron-ore

award will be reviewed. When it was brought down in 1967 the employers endeavoured to obtain a three-year term of coverage. However, the unions opposed this on the ground that it was a new industry and the award therefore should be for a period of only 12 months, to allow the industry to settle down.

Commissioner Kelly, in his wisdom, was in favour of the case put up by the unions and suggested that the award be reviewed again in January, 1968. It is reprehensible that this award has still not been reviewed. The companies will not make a move and the Employers' Federation will not make a move. Also, there is a certain amount of apathy on the part of the unions because its representatives have so much work to do. Eight months have elapsed since the award should have been reviewed, and yet there has been no move whatsoever to assist the workers in the north-west. It is bad enough that the men have to work in the north. I can assure members that every time I went up there I was very pleased that I had a return ticket in my pocket, because I am sure I would not like to live in the north-west under present-day conditions.

There should be something in the machinery of the Industrial Commission to ensure that if an award is not reviewed after a certain time, then the Industrial Commission can inform the unions and the employers that something has to be done. If they continue to delay or to procrastinate, then surely there should be some retrospectivity in regard to future adjustments and improved conditions awarded to the workers in the north-west.

I am dealing only with the north-west, because of the information that has come to my notice and because I have been associated with the industry. We all seem to be very critical of the workers when there is any industrial disquiet or unrest. On the other hand, I think there should be some way for us to help the workers in isolated areas when no endeavour is made by the powers that be to help those workers. So I hope that very shortly either the unions or the employers will get together and that a review of the award will take place.

The other evening the Leader of the Opposition put forward a suggestion which I intended to make. I refer to the recognition of the trade union movement in connection with a scholarship or a bursary whereby selected members of the trade union movement could attend the University of Western Australia with a view to studying and improving their education, so that when they came up against experienced advocates in the Employers' Federation they could present their case efficiently to the commission.

I feel that the unions are at a disadvantage because the advocates seem to be living from hand to mouth. Every

time there is an industrial hearing in the Eastern States, it is very difficult to arrange the finance for the trade union representative to go to the Eastern States to gain experience.

I feel that industrial awards and agreements should be discussed and negotiated at the highest possible level. If the union officials are given the same opportunities as the advocates from the Employers' Federation—who have unlimited finance because the big companies arrange donations to the Employers' Federation—I think we would achieve the industrial set-up I have spoken about.

It is quite obvious that if negotiations were to go on prior to an industrial award or an agreement being brought down, then a lot of the provisions of the award would be on a sound basis when they finally reached the Industrial Commission. This has happened in many industrial agreements where it has been possible to settle a considerable amount of the dispute beforehand because of negotiations between the employer and the employee. Consequently, when the matter is taken to the Industrial Commission very little has to be done.

The iron ore award contains 31 provisions which are mainly taken from parent awards; but there are other provisions dealing with the north-west which are not inherent in other awards. There are quite a lot of problems in regard to dust. Between the months of September and February the temperature is around 115 to 120 degrees all the time. The men are working alongside iron ore deposits which project the heat. The dirt, dust, and perspiration add up to a lot of worry.

If the award were reviewed, I am sure the Industrial Commission would grant the workers further improvements upon their present conditions. I feel that the stability of industry and its integration in Western Australia can be assisted greatly by both the employer and the employee getting together to work out the awards and the agreements to the best possible advantage. I am quite sure that everybody will agree that a satisfied worker is a good worker. If an employer can give the right conditions to his workers, he will obtain the best effort from them.

Another question with which I wish to deal concerns the extension of the Kwinana Freeway. I am glad the Minister for Works is in the House, because I wish to bring a matter to his attention; it concerns his announcement in the paper today regarding the delay in the extension of the freeway.

I think every member is aware of the bottleneck which exists at Canning Bridge. It has been mentioned in the paper on many, many occasions, and I myself brought it up when I was previously in Parliament. In view of the progress which will no doubt take place, I think it is time

the complex was investigated more thoroughly than has been the case in previous years.

Off Canning Bridge, heading east towards Perth, there are three lanes of traffic which converge into two lanes. It is only necessary to travel 50 yards from the bridge heading towards Perth and all the Manning traffic is on the right-hand side turning right to go into Leonora Street and then out along Manning Road to south of the river districts. It is an impossible situation. For some time there was a bus stop on the left-hand lane. The bus would come along, stop at the bus stop, and the whole highway would come to a standstill until the bus moved off, because traffic in the right hand lane was waiting to turn right to get into Manning. No flow of traffic was possible until the bus moved off or until traffic eased off to the right.

The same trouble arises at 5 p.m. when the traffic is moving out of Perth. Traffic reaches the Canning Bridge where some drivers wish to turn right and others wish to turn left back into Canning Highway. The drivers travel 50 yards and then turn right into Leonora Street to go to Manning. As a consequence the cars are banked up there, and when the lights turn green to allow the Fremantle-bound traffic to proceed, onward traffic over the bridge may be held up.

Some time ago I asked the Public Works Department if it would allow the freeway to extend over Canning Highway, because the road still deviates and joins up with Manning Road, and goes out through Manning.

The Public Works Department could not agree to the suggestion because, it said, too many cars would travel down the freeway and when they reached the bridge they would all turn right into the same lanes of traffic. That is ridiculous, because there are any amount of places in the metropolitan area where traffic sorts itself out prior to turning in a specified direction. This happens in the case of the Causeway, for example. If a person wishes to go to South Perth, he gets into the right lane of traffic before turning to the right at Canning Highway.

Recently another lane was made at the bridge to ensure that the traffic could turn left and then go along Canning Highway back towards Perth. This lane could be used to cross Canning Highway. The lights could indicate that the traffic could go only one way across; the flow of traffic would be continued and no traffic would be allowed to turn left at the bridge. If this were done there would not be the congestion at Leonora Street. Traffic which was coming along Canning Highway from Fremantle could turn into the Manning area two or three streets further up.

I do not think it is a difficult situation. I am sure the Minister and his department can work out ways whereby the

bottleneck can be resolved, especially now that the extension of the freeway is some considerable time away.

I am most concerned that the freeway is going to continue along the foreshore of South Perth. I feel the right thing has been done in South Perth by allowing the freeway to extend from Perth right along the foreshore until it reaches Canning Bridge. However, because certain other interests are not very happy about the freeway crossing at Deep Water Point, it is now to be extended past St. Lucia, Mt. Henry, and across the river at one of the very extensive expanses of water of the upper reaches of Canning Bridge.

I consider that Deep Water Point is the position where the Kwinana Freeway should cross the Canning River. However, in the wisdom of the Public Works Department it has decided it will go further up the river, but, once again, in view of the fact that it will be some time before the extension of the freeway will take place, I am sure there will be another alteration at some future date.

I would also like to take this opportunity of drawing the attention of the House to the housing situation. I know this subject has been debated at length over the last few weeks, but I would like to point out to the Minister—and I have spoken to him about this on previous occasions—that when we receive letters from people, or are approached by others on housing problems, every one of them is a personal problem to the individual who is making the approach to his member.

All members know that the State Housing Commission is facing many difficulties in regard to the present housing crisis, but it is extremely hard on those people who applied for a home approximately three or four years ago to be shown a reply from the State Housing Commission received by their member which states the commission regrets that these applicants cannot be placed ahead of turn. Such a statement is even shown in large print in the letter and it is to this I raise my objection. Surely those applicants who have been waiting three or four years for a house are not ahead of turn. They may be ahead of turn in relation to other applicants, but in this day and age they are certainly not ahead of turn when they have been waiting so long for a house.

It is obvious to the Minister and the commission, surely, that a member of Parliament will pass such a letter to the applicant concerned, because it is the only way the member can show that he has endeavoured to do something for him. Therefore, if the reply to the member can be rephrased to suit the occasion, I am sure it will be better for all concerned. I know that such a move will not solve the housing problem, but at least it will ease our difficulties when we are obliged to tell

various applicants for houses that we have done all we can for them; that we appreciate their problems, but at the moment they cannot obtain a house, and that something will be done in due course.

As I have said, I have spoken to the Minister about this matter and I am sure he has it in hand. I repeat that it is not a very pleasant experience when one receives a letter from the commission advising that an applicant is ahead of turn when, in fact, he has been waiting three or four years for a house.

In the Manning district there is some State Housing land to which I have referred on many occasions. It is situated in the East Manning area where originally provision was made for the erection of 500 homes. I have that information in black and white, and in 1962 I asked a question in the House of the Minister for Works at that time (Mr. Wild) as to when the problem of drainage and sewerage in the East Manning area would be resolved so that the erection of these houses could commence. The Minister replied that the first sod would be turned in 1963. That was five years ago, but no move has yet been made to erect these houses in East Manning.

This area is approximately only five miles from the G.P.O. and is served by all essential services, including electric light, bus service, and so on. Yet nothing has been done. The W.A. Technological Institute is right alongside this housing area, the Bentley High School is only a short distance away, and the Manning High School is to be built alongside it. Despite all these amenities this State Housing area is not being used because of a drainage problem. In 1963 I again asked when the State Housing Commission would commence building, and I was told that building would commence within 12 months. Still nothing has been done about the development of this land.

We hear talk of the Armadale corridor and yet here is land only five miles from the centre of Perth which is still undeveloped. It is a crying shame and something should be done about housing development on this tract of land. A private company has arranged for an area of land to be cleared alongside this State Housing Commission land and 56 homes are to be built on it shortly. If a private company can do this, surely the State Housing Commission, within a period of five years, could have done something about erecting homes on this area.

I have also noticed that there has been some alienation of this land for the building of war service homes, and I want to discuss this matter at a later stage. Some time ago I asked a question about this land and I was told it was all State Housing Commission land, and yet when

I wrote to the commission it replied stating that the matter was receiving consideration, and that due to a long-term agreement 30 acres of the land had now been alienated and transferred to the war service homes department.

Since 1962 no mention has been made of this land being transferred to the war service homes department and it is now found that on this tract of land owned by the State Housing Commission there seems to be a great deal of encroachment by other organisations. I would strongly ask the Minister to give some consideration to the development of this land. Alongside it there is a large playing field being developed for Trinity College, which is situated next to Clontarf. All of this pleasant area will be surrounded by a belt of State Housing Commission land which should be developed as soon as possible, because there is a definite need for housing and this land is close to the city.

Apart from these few aspects in relation to the housing problem, there are some other matters I would like to raise at a later stage and I intend to do so on the Estimates.

I have in my possession a copy of the Commonwealth Aged Persons Homes Act. I have read right through this piece of legislation, and I have come to the conclusion that this Act was evolved for the purpose of providing some form of accommodation for retired people and those who are in the twilight of their lives. I am particularly concerned about some people who reside in my electorate. They reside in an institution and between 1962 and 1965 I was called to this institution on many occasions, because these people had certain problems, but they were not quite as great as those that are facing them at present. As a result, I never brought their problems to the notice of the House during the three years I was previously a member of Parliament.

I will bring this matter to the attention of the House tonight, because apart from the housing problems with which I have to contend, my main trouble in the area of Clontarf is in connection with the Swan homes.

I have here a document which is the annual report of the Swan Cottage Homes. As with all its annual reports it does not contain a financial statement; it never has done. I have endeavoured to obtain a financial report of the Swan Cottage Homes but I have not been able to do so. I feel, however, that with assistance from members of the Commonwealth Parliament I may be able to obtain such a report in a short period of time. In the annual report mention is made that one of the reasons for the provision of these homes is—

As a charitable organisation we restate our objective to provide low cost and low maintenance charge modern

accommodation for elderly people in the Retirement Village concept and as free as possible of restrictive rules and regulations.

Our task is to provide couples or individuals with the key of their own "Home" to cultivate a spirit of "togetherness" to encourage a co-operative approach to the sharing and enjoyment of Village amenities, and in doing all this refrain from conducting an Institution. We believe that to date this has been accomplished.

I am constantly being contacted by telephone from people in this institution telling me about the victimisation that is going on in these homes. I asked the Premier a question in connection with the homes and he said he would make some inquiries and let me know whether his department had received reports of undue victimisation.

I propose to read a few extracts which are completely true; they are not in the least fallacious, and I am prepared to produce the documents outside the Chamber if they are required. I wish to bring the matter before the House so as to give members an idea of the position that obtains at the moment. One letter dated the 18th October from the chairman states in part—

This Board will be responsible for general maintenance and repairs of the flat and the provision and maintenance of trees, shrubs and lawns and payment of any rates and taxes.

An extract from another letter states—

This letter may be accepted as our undertaking to provide accommodation for you subject to a weekly rental of 10 shillings under the rebated rent scheme, and to be responsible for rates, repairs, gardening, etc.

On the 5th July, 1967, every resident in the home received a very lengthy letter, portions of which I will read. I would like members to develop this theme with me so that they may have an idea of what is going on. This is a request by the Swan Cottage Homes for a weekly maintenance payment of 50c per week for a bed-sitting room unit and 75c per week for a separate bedroom unit. The letter then states—

This means that residents have had the benefit of a low economic charge either for quite a long period or have joined us more recently at a weekly charge which is substantially below current values.

By comparison with other organisations, and according to the unsolicited comments of so many of our applicants for accommodation still on the "waiting list," our existing charges of \$3.00 per week for a bed-sitting room unit and \$4.00 per week for a separate bedroom flat are "foolishly low." The few units at Midland, whilst of

recent origin have been erected under present day costs and maintenance problems at increased rates will have to be faced under just the same conditions.

All residents would not wish to see any reduction in the standard of gardening, cleanliness and maintenance and consequently the Board of Management has with natural reluctance decided that a nominal general increase should be applied to every unit.

They then say how much they will charge, after which the letter continues—

This relatively small adjustment which could well have been applied much earlier, but was deferred for as long as possible, will in aggregate provide the Board of Management with the margin required for operations and stabilise our financial position.

When the Board removed gas meters from the laundries and suggested that residents might give an annual donation to cover the Gas used, partial assistance resulted. With the adjustment now proposed falling equally on all residents, the Board will not expect the previous donations to necessarily continue.

In view of all the circumstances explained to you, may we confidently anticipate your acceptance of the adjustment in good spirit? Your opinions—In writing please—may be sent if you wish to the Secretary.

At the bottom is the usual notation that donations of \$1 or more are allowable deductions for income tax purposes. Quite a few people took exception to these charges; but because of the frequency of the letters from the chairman of the board, and because the inmates were so worried, about 100 of them paid the amount; but there are still 20 or 30 who have decided they will not pay the maintenance charge.

Recently I had occasion to bring 12 people to Parliament House, ostensibly for a cup of tea and to give them an opportunity to look over the place. The true reason was that they would not see me at the home because they were frightened of what might happen. I was asked to go out to see them in the evening. I knocked on arrival and the blinds were pulled down once I entered the home; and, before I left, the people concerned looked up and down the street before letting me out. With the intention of getting them to tell me more about their difficulties, I had to get them up to Parliament House to prevent their being victimised.

It is a sorry state of affairs when people who are 70 and 80 years of age are continually subjected to this sort of vendetta. One man was called a parasite by a leading person in the home. The man concerned had a heart attack and the

doctor had to put him into hospital. There appears to be no redress for these people; they seem to think that everything that is told to them is gospel truth.

One of the ladies concerned has placed her affairs in the hands of her son; he has her power of attorney and all correspondence must go through him. I have here a circular headed, "Private Circular to Residents still opposing the increase in rental-maintenance required by Board of Management of Swan Cottage Homes Inc. from 24/7/67," which reads—

It is a sad disappointment that the appeal to you in paragraph 5 of the Homes Newsletter No. 27 of 6/6/68—

I would like members to note that. These people receive certain do's and don'ts every week; they are told what they should and should not do. The circular later states—

It is pertinent at this stage to ask you to consider the many items within the Village towards which you contribute nothing, and most of which have been added for your comfort and pleasure since you agreed to assist us to build the flat you occupy. The following are some of the items:—

- (1) Everytime you use the toilet or turn on the house tap the Board must pay for the water. We have no allowance but pay for every gallon registered.
- (2) The reticulation system that waters the lawns and trees require maintenance and use Electricity for which the Board pays.
- (3) Every time you walk in the streets at night, the Board is paying the street lighting, globes, maintenance and electricity.

They do not walk in the streets at night too often. To continue—

- (4) The cost of Electricity and Gas used in laundries is borne by the Board.
- (5) The Board pays your rubbish removal rate.
- (6) The many costs of maintaining, lighting and cleaning the Social Centre Hall are all borne by the Board.
- (7) The Library, Clinic, Chiropody Centre, Men's Workshop, Shop and Therapy Building all require maintenance.
- (8) Repainting of all flats at a cost of not less than \$6,500 Per Annum must be borne by the Board, in perpetuity.

This is the part to which I take exception—

It follows that you are now most selfishly leaning on the 95% of Residents who are contributing to meet the genuine deficit in Revenue which we faced, and because of this, you should be aware that the volume of ill feeling against you is growing, and we are frequently questioned on the unfairness of allowing default to continue.

Being a good Australian I am sure that you, Mr. Acting Speaker (Mr. Mitchell), could use another word to describe the paragraph I have just read out. The words, "It follows that you are now most selfishly leaning on the 95% of Residents" savour very close to libel. It is shocking that elderly people should receive a circular such as that. Further on in this circular the following appears:—

Mr. . . . will then be pleased to call on you, confidentially and will be authorised to negotiate on the arrears, if you can plead financial hardship—providing you undertake to meet the extra amount regularly each fortnight, in future.

(2) On 10th July, 1968, a list of those of you who choose to be still "standing out" will be published on the Homes Notice Boards, so that all residents may be aware of who it is that is leaning on them, and take their own action accordingly.

(3) After 10/7/68, no further steps will be taken to recover the arrears, beyond the issue to each of you of a half-yearly reminder of debt owing.

(4) Record of the increasing debt will be kept and, in due course, will be made subject of a priority claim against your Executors and Estate.

I went out to the Swan Cottage Homes, because if this letter was to be posted on the notice board on the date mentioned I wanted to see it. It was not placed on the notice board on the date mentioned, but on the following day.

I have in my possession a photostat copy of what was placed on the notice board. Alongside the circular letter the following notice also was posted:—

The Board of Management of Swan Cottage Homes Inc. wished to take this opportunity to express its grateful thanks to the occupants of the cottages listed hereunder, for their co-operation in meeting and continuing to meet the increases in rental

maintenance that financial stringency forced the Board to impose on all last July:—

All in Adie Rd.
All in Clayden Court.
All in Gordon Way—Except No. 1.
All in Graham Cresc.
All in Hawthorne Cresc.
All in Hillview Terr.—Except Nos. 11, 12 and 28.
All in Jarrah Rd.—Except No. 2.
All in McGrath Ave.—Except No. 16.
All in Pine Ave.—Except Nos. 2, 17, 33 and 42.
All in Plantation Drive—Except Nos. 34, 42, 51 and 53.
All in Sagers Drive.
All in Talbot Place—Except No. 18.

That notice identified the inmates who had not paid the increase in the maintenance fee.

It is a shocking disgrace that a prominent member of our community should allow this sort of thing to take place. I did not bring this matter up previously, as it is a Federal matter and I thought some Federal members would take it up on behalf of the people concerned. The only way to highlight this matter is to bring it up in this House, and to mention it to the Press—as I have done—to the authorities, and to the Premier. However, I have not succeeded in obtaining any redress. These elderly people should not be victimised in the twilight of their lives, and something should be done about the matter because their health is suffering as a consequence.

I have other newsletters which set out what the residents can and cannot do. One request is that inmates who do their shopping in Victoria Park should support their own local centre; another paragraph in one of the newsletters points out that the inmates have been using too much electricity in the laundry, and if they do not restrict the use of electricity, arrangements will be made to discontinue their use of electricity in the laundry.

In the newsletter of the 6th June the following appears under the heading of "Sabotage Resented by Residents":—

Protests from a stream of our people have been received concerning a resident who is buying tinned food in bulk and offering it at lower prices in competition with our Food Store. As our sales are increasing it is evident that this resident either bears a grudge or entirely misunderstands the service provided by the Food Centre. The Chairman invites an early discussion with the person concerned to put this matter into proper perspective and also to prevent contented residents being upset by the unauthorised "entrepreneur".

Another paragraph which appeared in one of the newsletters is as follows:—

The attention of the Board has been drawn to some misuse of laundry facilities such as the heating of water for use in a flat, or the use of appliances, other than washing machine in the laundry power point.

Residents must note most carefully that the free gas, power and light provided in the laundry is for the washing of clothes only.

All Residents are asked to watch for misuse and to warn any culprits that they risk being reported.

Continued misuse could lead to the changing of locks on laundry doors and the subsequent inconvenience of having to ask for a key every time they want to do laundry.

Any future misuse proved to the Board's satisfaction will result in the immediate termination of tenancy of the Resident concerned.

In regard to the installation of blinds and awnings the following appeared in the circular for February, 1965:—

Residents have been previously advised of the necessity for consultation with their neighbours whenever new exterior blinds or awnings are contemplated, in order that reasonably matching colours may be used.

This need seems to have been forgotten and several instances of badly clashing colours have occurred.

The Board trusts that this will not occur again, and reserves to itself the right to order the changing of any items erected which do not conform with existing block colours.

In regard to washing on Sundays, the following appeared in the newsletter of September, 1966:—

The Board of Management has, of course, placed no ban on Residents in the Village using Rotary clothes hoists on Sunday. All of our Residents in matters such as this have complete freedom, but a long time ago it was suggested that with the public and other visitors coming to the village, particularly on a Sunday, it might be a sound idea to try, wherever practicable, to do personal washing on week days. The Committee appreciates your co-operation.

Under the heading of, "Divan Bed Contributions," the following appeared in that newsletter:—

Residents are reminded that divan beds being subsidised furniture remain the property of Swan Cottage Homes. The contribution by a Resident of \$20 obviates a much greater personal expense for a bed purchase, and is provided as a specific gift to help our organisation qualify for a Government grant for this item of furniture. All

Residents are asked to note that in these circumstances the contribution is NOT refundable at any stage. The Board mentions this matter to remove any chance of misunderstanding.

Under the heading of, "Additions to Flats," the following appeared in the newsletter I have just mentioned:—

To remove any chance of misunderstanding residents are advised that wall to wall carpets laid under the quarter-round are classified as fixtures and like other approved additions must be left in situ when the unit is vacated. The Board would also hope that awnings once placed in position as improvements will be treated as donations to the Village and that no proposal for removal will be advanced.

I could go on giving examples in this vein, but I do not want to bore the House. I think I have furnished sufficient evidence to support my contention that these elderly people in the Swan Cottage Homes are being victimised to such an extent that their health is being detrimentally affected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Mitchell): The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. MAY: I do not know how much further I have to go to bring these matters to the notice of the authorities concerned. I have given ample evidence—I have it in my possession, and a lot more in my office—which will indicate what is going on at those homes. Daily I am still being contacted by telephone to find out what has happened; when I will speak on this matter in the House; and when will I be out there next.

In one case an elderly couple are having domestic trouble over the present state of affairs. The husband does not wish to pay the increased fee, but the wife feels that because of the state of his health he should pay and let the matter rest. She thinks that if he goes on in the way he is he will have a breakdown. This case can be confirmed by the doctor who has been treating the couple.

It is all very well to publish in the newspapers a report that only 15 to 20 of the inmates are concerned. That might be true at the present time, but it was not about four or five months ago. At that time hundreds of the inmates were concerned. Due to pinpricking and high pressure tactics, many of the inmates have succumbed to the stage where only 15 to 20 are concerned.

I intend to develop this matter further, but I have not time now to continue in this vein. However, I sincerely trust something will be done in connection with this matter. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Norton.

House adjourned at 9.51 p.m.