

to buy one because to do so they would have to obtain finance through some finance company. The situation would have been different had the blocks been allotted to selected purchasers on free-of-interest terms.

Even building companies today are criticising the spiralling cost of homes. A number of companies are complaining about the fact that homes are hard to sell because the companies have had to increase the amount of the deposit due to the fact that they are finding it hard to get land and are paying more for the land that is available. As a consequence, the companies are charging more for the homes, and as a result the amount asked for a deposit must be greater.

One suggestion was made by an officer of one of these building companies which I thought had some merit. It was that a developer should take an option over rural land and assess the development costs. The developer would then submit his proposal to the Town Planning Board indicating the charge per block at which the land was to be sold to the public. He would then seek a rezoning of the area.

In effect, what would happen is that he would take the rural land, estimate the cost of the services, and then approach the Town Planning Board to see if the land could be rezoned from rural to urban if it were sold at a certain price.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Mitchell): Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Mensaros.

### SUPPLY BILL

#### *Returned*

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

*House adjourned at 9.41 p.m.*

## Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 13th August, 1969

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### QUESTIONS (11): ON NOTICE

1. *This question was postponed.*

### 2. ARCHITECTS BOARD

#### *Complaints*

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) With regard to the Minister's reply to part (2) (a) of my question on Tuesday the 5th August,

1969, concerning complaints to the Architects Board, would he please advise—

- (a) what was the date that each of the complaints still being investigated by the board was received by the registrar; and
  - (b) what was the date in each case that the complaints were submitted to the board?
- (2) Of the six complaints submitted to the board since the 1st July, 1964, has the same architect been involved in more than one of the cases?
- (3) Even though none of the complaints dealt with have been found to be justified by the board, has any directive whatever been issued to any of the architects involved?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) Complaint 1 received by the registrar the 29th May, 1969. Complaint 2 received by the registrar the 3rd June, 1969.
- (b) Complaint 1 submitted to the board the 3rd June, 1969. Complaint 2 submitted to the board the 1st July, 1969.
- (2) The same architect has been involved in two of the complaints received.
- (3) In accordance with the Act, in one case the architect was found not guilty of the alleged breach of the Act, but was directed to pay his own costs of and incidental to the enquiry.

3.

### WATER SUPPLIES

#### *Rock Catchment Areas*

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

In reference to the rock catchments at the Hyden, King, Dingo and Holt rocks—

- (a) what was the construction programme for each place;
- (b) to which stage has work at each place been completed;
- (c) when is it anticipated that the work will be completed in each place;
- (d) are these rock catchments to have concrete reservoirs;
- (e) what will be the capacity of each catchment; and
- (f) what quantity of water is impounded in each catchment at present?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) Original construction programme was completed many years ago.
- (b) Answered by (a).
- (c) Answered by (a).

- (d) Concrete storage reservoirs already exist at all four rocks.
- (e) Capacities—
  - Hyden Rock, 6.4 million gallon masonry wall dam.
  - King Rock, 1.5 million gallon concrete dam.
  - Dingo Rock, 10 million gallon masonry wall dam.
  - Holt Rock, 0.5 million gallons (2 x 0.25 reinforced concrete roofed tanks).

- (f) Existing Storages—
  - Hyden Rock, 3 million gallons.
  - King Rock, 1.3 million gallons.
  - Dingo Rock, 7 million gallons.
  - Holt Rock, 0.5 million gallons.

#### 4. EDUCATION

##### *Access to West Gosnells School*

The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that when the proposed West Gosnells School is opened in February, 1970, many of the pupils (mainly infants) living on the opposite side of the Southern River will have to walk two miles to and from school?
- (2) As the number of children affected will grow, owing to increased building expansion, will the appropriate Departments examine the position with a view to building a footbridge over the Southern River at the foot of Balfour Street, and reducing the children's walk to approximately a quarter of a mile?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes, but this is approximately the same distance at present travelled to the present Gosnells school.
- (2) The possibility of providing a footbridge will be investigated.

#### 5. STATE SHIPPING SERVICE

##### *Abolition of Passenger Services*

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

If it is the intention of the Government to re-equip the State Shipping Service with cargo carrying vessels, and abolish passenger services, what other means of transport will travellers be obliged to use?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

A proposal is at present before the Commonwealth Government for financial assistance to purchase two barge carrying type vessels.

These would replace the older type cargo vessels now in use and run in conjunction with K class ships which will for some time continue to provide passenger services to North West ports.

#### 6.

#### EDUCATION

##### *Cannington Primary School*

The Hon. CLIVE GRIFFITHS asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Further to my question on the 7th August, 1969, concerning the Cannington Primary School, would the Minister advise—
  - (a) when is it anticipated that the negotiations referred to by the Minister will be finalised; and
  - (b) will the Minister lay the file on the Table of the House when the negotiations are finalised?
- (2) If the negotiations do not result in an agreement being entered into—
  - (a) will the location of the school still be changed; and
  - (b) will the new school be ready for occupation at the commencement of the 1970 school year?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) It is anticipated that agreement will be reached within four weeks through the Land Resumption Office, Public Works Department.
- (b) Consideration will be given to this.
- (2) (a) No.
- (b) No.

#### 7.

#### WATER SUPPLIES

##### *Shortage at Salmon Gums*

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

- (1) What action is being taken by the Country Water Supply authorities to relieve the serious and acute water shortage at Salmon Gums?
- (2) Is the department aware that there is considerable silt in the Salmon Gums Dam?
- (3) As the farmers and residents of the district do not enjoy the benefits of the Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme, will the Minister give earnest and early consideration to the excavation and construction of a second dam at Salmon Gums with the necessary bitumen catchment area so that the residents in the area will not experience another water shortage in the future?

- (4) In the event of the existing dam at Salmon Gums not being able to supply essential requirements of water, and bearing in mind septic systems are in use at the town, will the Government transport water in sufficient quantities to the town in railway water tankers?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) The department is keeping the consumption of water under strict observation and will take appropriate action to safeguard the supply if this becomes necessary.
- (2) The department is aware that the dam contains some silt.
- (3) Consideration will be given to future improvements as necessary.
- (4) Appropriate action will be taken, if necessary, prior to the necessity for the carting of any water.

#### 8. PUBLIC WORKS

##### *Landscaping between Freeway and Parliament House*

The Hon. J. DOLAN asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) When is it expected that the proposed landscaping of the area between Parliament House and the Freeway will be completed?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of the project?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Towards the end of 1970.
- (2) \$330,000.

#### 9. HEALTH

##### *Rebuilding of Busselton Hospital*

The Hon. V. J. FERRY asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) What arrangements are in hand for the conversion of the old isolation ward of the Busselton Hospital to a laboratory?
- (2) Has a feasibility study for rebuilding this hospital on the existing site been completed?
- (3) If so, is the Minister in a position to advise details of any acceptable proposals?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1), (2) and (3) Laboratory needs have been deferred pending the submission of a feasibility study at present being undertaken by the Principal Architect, with the intention that a high rise building, incorporating laboratory needs, will be erected on the existing site, which building should not, for the time being, involve private property.

When the Principal Architect's report comes to hand the Hon. Member will be further advised.

10.

#### HEALTH

##### *Shortage of Doctors in Goldfields and Country Areas*

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

- (1) Referring to my question on Thursday, the 7th August, 1969, relating to shortage of doctors, and the reply to part (1) of the question—
  - (a) does the Minister know that the Goldfields Ward of the Country Shire Councils' Association is very concerned with the shortage of doctors in their area; and
  - (b) is he further aware that at the Country Women's Association State Conference, very deep concern was expressed at the shortage of doctors in country areas?

- (2) Will the Minister conduct an immediate enquiry into this obvious shortage of doctors in country areas, with a view to taking steps to rectify the concern of country and goldfields' residents?
- (3) Will he clarify Government policy on this urgent matter?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1), (2) and (3) The only vacant practice in the country at present advertised is Pingelly.

The doctor situation in the country is better today than it has been on many occasions in the past.

Apart from the North-West, provision of medical services in the country is a matter for private enterprise, but the Government assists local authorities to subsidise incomes in areas where it is considered necessary to attract a doctor and the practice is not large enough to provide an income.

11.

#### HEALTH

##### *Additions to Margaret River Hospital*

The Hon. V. J. FERRY asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Are any additions or alterations planned for the Margaret River Hospital in the near future?
- (2) If so, what is the nature of the proposed work, and when may it be effected?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) and (2) A new male toilet block. Tenders have been received and a contract should be let shortly.

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY***Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 7th August, on the following motion by The Hon. J. Heitman:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency:—

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

**THE HON. S. T. J. THOMPSON** (Lower Central) [4.43 p.m.]: Before becoming involved in my speech on the Address-in-Reply I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna for the very educational tour that he provided for members this morning. It is very much appreciated.

In his Speech, the Governor mentioned Sir David Brand and the fact that he has served as Premier for a record period. I would like to take this opportunity, too, to pay a tribute to Sir David for the energy and ability with which he has led the Government during this period. I consider it has been a period of record expansion so far as this State is concerned. I would also like to offer my sincere congratulations to Sir David for the honour conferred on him by Her Majesty.

For some time there has been a slogan in use in this State; namely, "A State on the move." This still seems to be appropriate. Over the past few weeks salary increases have been granted to quite a number of sections of the community. I think that public servants, teachers, police, shop assistants, and so forth, have all benefited in recent weeks. With regard to those who have not benefited, I am sure it will not be very long before they do.

One section of the community that generally does not benefit from these increases is the farming section. As a matter of fact, perhaps the farmer will be on the other end; as he is on the end of the line, he has no opportunity to pass these rises on. Therefore he will be asked to absorb just that little bit more than he has in the past. This is becoming more and more difficult each year. He is in the position where he has to sell all his products, with the exception of wheat, on the open market. Indeed, even the foundations of our wheat scheme at the present time are going to be severely tested.

I had planned to discuss what I call the unseasonable conditions that apply in many areas of the State at this time. However, Mr. House covered this field

very thoroughly during his address on the Supply Bill last night. Consequently, I will content myself with saying that a very serious situation exists, especially when we talk in August of hand-feeding sheep, because there is the possibility that this could go on for nine months. In fact, there is every possibility that it could be the end of April next year before another season breaks. Therefore, it becomes a gamble so far as the economics are concerned. The farmer has to gamble on getting a return for the hand-feeding, even if he does hand-feed his stock for that length of time. Unfortunately there is no avenue through which stock may be disposed of at the present time.

Those are the unfortunate circumstances in which farmers are placed. They have no alternative but to gamble and feed their stock in the hope that something will turn up.

Many articles have appeared in the Press in recent months concerning the plight of the farmer and the economics of farming. Particular reference is always made to the small farmer and the fact that he is going to be—as many put it—squeezed out of the industry. No-one has attempted to define who the small farmer really is.

I do not agree that all single-unit properties are less economic than the larger units, particularly if they are free of debt. I am a little concerned with the propaganda on this subject at the present time to the effect that many a small farmer will be induced to try to become larger by mortgaging his property to buy the property of the next door neighbour.

The whole question is becoming very involved and I consider that any opportunity to expand at the present time must depend on some Government assistance, such as the assistance that has been proposed for the dairy industry.

On many occasions, we have also heard people quoting the Minister for Primary Industry as saying, "The small farmers must go." This is not correct. With your permission, Mr. President, I would like to read to the House just what Mr. Anthony's comments were on this particular point. Mr. Anthony concluded a quite lengthy screed by saying—

Farming can produce considerable financial reward today, but normally only as a result of substantial capital investment in a property of sufficient size to allow a scale of operation that will enable the farmer to take advantage of all the modern methods and techniques that scientific research have made possible. It is a distressing but nevertheless undeniable fact that this trend towards larger holdings is occurring on a world-wide basis, although fortunately we in Australia have been affected by it to

a far lesser degree than most other countries. But we do have a significant low-income problem, not only in the dairy industry, but in virtually every farm industry.

I am not prepared to sit back and do nothing to try to solve this problem. If the solution demands that some farmers, and I emphasise "some", should, in their own interests and in the interests of their families, leave the land and seek to make their way in some other form of employment, then I will do my best to see that no impediments are put in their way. It is quite clear that many farmers do want to leave the land. The response I have had from farmers to the proposed plan to reconstruct marginal dairy farms makes this very evident. The tragedy is that too many of them are leaving their farms as a result of being forced out by economic strangulation which is no fault of their own and which, because of the inadequate size of their properties, it is virtually impossible for anyone else to help them successfully withstand.

It is my aim to help these people not only to reconstruct their farms (by some leaving and others enlarging their properties) but to help them avoid any unnecessary destruction of their dignity and their assets.

Those are the thoughts of Mr. Anthony concerning the small farmer, so I fail to see why he should be accused of stating that the small farmer must cease production. Mr. Anthony, apparently, is making every endeavour to assist the small farmer either by helping him to phase himself out of the industry or to improve his position.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: That is a very responsible statement.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: About two weeks ago I was at a luncheon arranged by the Chamber of Commerce, at which you, too, Sir, were present. Both the speakers at that luncheon emphasised how essential primary producers were to the rest of the community. From my point of view that was an interesting statement made by those speakers. The following also appeared in *The West Australian* of the 31st July, 1969, as the concluding words of an article:—

Urban Australians will have to reconcile themselves to the fact that if primary production is to continue to earn massive export credits (partly to sustain manufacturers) it will need more direct and indirect financial help.

It is most pleasing to realise that the rest of the community is beginning to learn how important primary production is to the State in general.

In his speech yesterday evening, Mr. Clive Griffiths pointed out how desirable it was for a person to have his own backyard in which to do as he liked. I very much doubt that statement, because I am beginning to think that there are a number of regulations which preclude one from doing as one likes in one's own backyard. In fact, I think that today we are becoming inundated with regulations. We do of course, have health regulations, and the particular ones I wish to speak on govern abattoirs. In their general application these regulations are very sound, but, unfortunately, in the more remote country districts where slaughteryards are situated, they are not very practical. In fact, they will have an alarming effect on local butchers. In some areas the butchers will go out of business because it will be impossible for them to function.

The proposed regulations which will so affect them are those which provide that a freezing chamber must be installed at the slaughterhouse.

The Hon. G. C. McKinnon: This is a matter of your opinion.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: No, this is not my opinion, because when I first looked at the regulations I thought they were quite sound, and the butcher in my town said it would be a good thing if the freezing chamber were placed in the slaughterhouse; but, of course, his remarks applied to an abattoir where beasts were killed every day. The small slaughteryard in a remote country town would kill only twice a week.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: What do you mean by a remote place?

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: Places such as Wickepin and other small country centres. If these regulations are put into effect, they will prohibit the killing of cattle, and the local butchers will have to purchase their meat from wholesale butchers. It is not possible for them to install freezing chambers both in the butcher shop and in the slaughterhouse.

If a country butcher observes the regulations it will mean that he will have to install a fairly expensive freezing chamber at the slaughterhouse and on every occasion he wishes to kill some cattle he will have to rush out to the slaughterhouse to ensure that the freezing chamber has cooled down sufficiently before he commences his kill. I believe that today there is every justification to take any steps towards safeguarding the health of our people, but the existing regulations relating to slaughterhouses in the country have been in operation for years, and I do not think there have been any epidemics in the country districts through the killing of cattle.

In regard to killing on the farm, as you well know, Mr. President, the slaughtering of stock is generally done under a tree or in a shed.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: Your aim is to poison yourself but not the public.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: The honourable member says this is so.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: The wife of the farmer knows the conditions of slaughtering on the farm.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It has not killed anybody yet.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: How does the Minister know?

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: The butchers concerned feel they have all the necessary facilities, with the exception of the freezing chamber, at the slaughter-yards now. After the kill the meat is transported straight into the freezing chamber at the butcher's shop, and the butchers consider that this would comply with health standards.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Does the honourable member realise that the regulations were drawn in complete collaboration with the butchers themselves; and I do not know of any butcher who has gone out of business as a result of their being put into effect?

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: I doubt very much whether the departmental officers visited the smaller slaughteryards in the country, and it is about these that I am speaking. If one approaches the butchers in the main country towns one will find that they hold the opinion that is held by the butcher in my town: that the regulations are quite sound; and, in principle, that is so. However, if they are applied to the smaller slaughteryards it will mean that the butchers in those towns will have to buy their meat wholesale.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Has the butcher who is affected written to the department, or has he complained only to you?

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: I think he has complained only to me.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: He should write to the department.

The Hon. E. C. House: What about the person who kills only a mile from the butcher's shop?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: That is why I say that the person to whom Mr. Syd Thompson referred should write to the department instead of complaining to him.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: I will pass the Minister's comment on to those concerned.

This brings me to another point I wish to make. At the present time we are subjected to a great deal of publicity about the harmful effects of smoking. Apparently

legislation will be introduced to restrict advertisements for the sale of cigarettes. Apart from the publicity given to the harmful effects of smoking, we also see published in the Press statements by doctors concerning the deleterious effects of aspirin, but I have never yet seen any publicity about the harmful effect of alcohol. I feel sure that for every person who dies as a result of excessive smoking, or from taking an overdose of aspirin, there would be 20 others who die from the effect of consuming excessive quantities of alcohol. Despite this we do not see any moves being made for legislation to be introduced to prohibit the consumption of alcohol.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: You really think it is a poison, do you?

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: This brings me to the breathalyser test, and the conviction of the driver of a motor vehicle if he is found to have .08 per cent. alcohol in his blood. In my opinion it is all very well to impose excessive fines for such an offence, but the driver has to be involved in an accident before it is possible for a test to be taken. In other words, he has to break the law before a test can be taken. So I do not think the breathalyser test will have much effect on reducing the road toll.

The point I am making is in regard to the severity of fines we are imposing on drunken drivers. Such fines impose a tremendous burden on the family of the convicted driver in many instances. I am all in favour of the license of the offending driver being suspended, but in nine cases out of 10, when fines are imposed, it is not the driver who suffers most, but the members of his family. Therefore, I think that perhaps some of the fines that are imposed are a little too severe. Perhaps it would be more advisable to reduce the fines a little and increase the period of suspension.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I know that is easy to say, but those people who are convicted of drunken driving should think of this before they commit the offence.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: It is all very well to make such a statement as that, but it does not help the family in any way. Perhaps the most severe penalty is for the license to be taken away from an offending driver. In my view the cash fine hits not so much at the offender concerned, but at his family. I know of several cases where the imposition of fines has created real hardship on the families concerned.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The cash fine does not create much hardship on the person who can afford to pay.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: I am only giving my thoughts on this matter. The Minister has made his point.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I am only trying to help you.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: Some time ago the Government instituted an inquiry into the prospects of the town of Collie and of its coal output. Quite an interesting feature on this matter appeared in *The West Australian* of the 7th August. I do not propose to quote the whole of this feature, but there is one aspect with which I disagree. I will comment on it. The report states—

This is the lesson the miners need to adjust themselves to, but at this stage—in the absence of export markets and big industrial users at home—it is for cabinet to assess whether coal production, with company and union help, can be increased substantially with profit to the State.

I would like to point out that the Collie miners have appreciated that for many years, ever since I have been associated with them. They are very much aware that a great deal of assistance is required to reduce the price of coal to make it an economic commodity. However, I think this feature article is quite a good one, and I agree with the rest of it.

In another feature article of the same date appears a point that has been raised by the Minister for Traffic (Mr. Craig). It states—

According to Traffic Minister Craig, opposition to police control of country traffic is rooted in local authorities' reluctance to surrender revenue from traffic prosecutions to the State government.

To my way of thinking this statement of the Minister for Traffic is entirely wrong. He seems to have a wrong conception of the country shires, in thinking that the only reason they have for not handing over the control of traffic in country areas is the loss of revenue from traffic fines. There are many country shires which spend more money on country traffic control than they are receiving from traffic fines; although one or two of them might be doing quite well out of this. However, by and large this is not the case.

The reason country shires are anxious to retain traffic control is that they feel the authority of the country shires is being sapped; and that the handing over of country traffic control is the last straw. If it were not for this reason they would be glad to hand over traffic control immediately. This is the last ditch stand by the country shires to retain the little authority that they now have. The Minister for Traffic seems to be a little off the beam in making that statement.

A couple of weeks ago the Minister for Traffic made another statement. He said that when he drove along the South Western Highway he did not meet any traffic inspectors. I made a point of travelling within the speed limit in driving from

Wagin to Perth this week. Only one car passed me on the road all the way from Wagin to Armadale; but when I reached Armadale I adjusted my speed to the maximum permitted in the metropolitan area. I counted 50 vehicles, including a rubbish truck, which passed me before I gave away the counting. I would say that the law is being broken many more times in the metropolitan area than along the country roads on which a speed of 65 miles per hour is permitted. All this outcry about the lack of traffic officers to patrol the country roads is a lot of nonsense.

If we are to prevent accidents, particularly accidents similar to those which occurred recently at night, we would need a traffic inspector to sit alongside every driver; and it is beyond the bounds of possibility to have a traffic inspector posted on every road at night time. *The West Australian* and the Minister for Traffic have made great play about the lack of traffic control in the country, but I feel that traffic control in the country in general is much better than it is in the city.

The Hon. E. C. House: The country people are more law-abiding citizens.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: That could be said of them. An outcry was raised in the country districts a few months ago over the action of two justices of the peace who sentenced some juvenile offender to gaol. This matter created much controversy in the newspapers.

I have a copy of a letter which was written by a justice of the peace (Mr. C. V. Federick) to the Minister for Child Welfare, dated the 12th June, 1969. He was one of the justices of the peace mentioned by the report in the *Daily News*. The letter states—

Dear Mr. Logan,

I received a telephone call from the 'Daily News' yesterday. The reporter asked me questions concerning the problem of part-native children who had been committed to the care of the Child Welfare depart. and then had been sent home soon afterwards. Only portion of the information given to the 'Daily News' reporter was published on June 11th 1969.

The paper obviously used the part which supported their ideas and omitted the rest. As a member of the Children's Court, Honorary Agent C.W.D. and Honorary Probation Officer I am involved in the problem from several angles and would like to give you my thoughts on the matter.

I fully appreciate the difficulty the Department is having in finding accommodation for young offenders and this may take some time to improve.

There is another way the problem could be handled however, which I feel sure would get good results and would not cost the department anything.

When it becomes necessary to send a child who has been committed to the care of the C.W.D., back to his home, or for that matter anywhere outside an institution, he should be placed under the care of an Honorary Probation Officer. The Parole Board already has them established throughout the state.

The child would be required to report at regular intervals to the Probation Officer who keeps a record of all visits. The Probation Officer could report to the Department if he thought it was necessary.

I have found from experience that regular visits by a child to a Probation Officer is a very simple and effective way to impress on him that he has not got off scott free and the fact that the child has to make the effort to report regularly has a very beneficial effect.

If the child fails to report the Police are asked to make enquiries as to why he failed to be there. This gives the Police an opportunity to visit the home and generally has not got to be repeated as the child then realises that reporting is a "must".

That was the recommendation which Mr. Pederick made to the Minister for Child Welfare.

The Minister wrote the following letter, dated the 1st July, 1969, in reply:—

Dear Mr. Pederick,

I thank you for your letter of 12th June, 1969, with its very constructive suggestion on improving our present probation services.

As you have quite correctly reported, most of our present difficulties are due to the large number of part-native youths who are not effectively controlled or supervised and who, therefore, continue to offend, almost with impunity, as we do not have available space in our institutions.

Recently, we discussed this problem with a group of native community leaders and sought their support in dealing with the problem. As a result, we are now examining ways of recruiting and training adult natives who could act as honorary probation officers for us in country towns. We are convinced that this would be more acceptable to the families of the children concerned and help to strengthen the capacity of the native community to feel responsibility for its members.

The scheme may take a little while to set up as we will have to expand our present training services and repeat the training programme in many different areas. Nevertheless, our experience with honorary probation officers in the metropolitan area over the last seven years has clearly demonstrated the worth of such a scheme.

The suggestion of Mr. Pederick could be put into practice immediately. I appeal to the Minister that wherever possible this proposal should be given a trial.

Only this morning we saw a report in *The West Australian* under the heading of "Institutions full—court frees youth," in which the following appeared:—

A magistrate yesterday released a 17-year-old youth on a bond after a Child Welfare Department officer said that there was no room for him in a maximum security institution.

The youth was charged with assaulting a girl in Redcliffe on February 27.

Personally I feel it is not desirable for these children, particularly native children, to be sent to institutions. I hold the view that the suggestion put forward by Mr. Pederick for supervision by probationary officers might be more effective, but I cannot support the proposal to appoint native community leaders to act as probation officers because the natives in the country towns—I presume this also applies elsewhere—segregate themselves into different groups; and one group will not accept the other. To appoint one native leader to supervise the rest will create problems; whereas these people will be prepared to accept the supervision of a white probationary officer. However, that is a suggestion for the Minister concerned.

I felt some concern when I read a report in this morning's issue of *The West Australian* under the heading of "Airport Lounge Bar Criticised." This criticism was made by an Eastern States visitor. I had the experience of going out to the airport lounge a couple of times recently, to have a look at this very situation. I found the position to be as outlined by the late Mr. Jones from his seat in this House. I remember the late Mr. Jones commenting on this matter some years ago, and saying what a disgraceful situation it was. I found that the situation had not improved since that time. On the occasion mentioned a brawl developed, and the condition of the lounge was in a very bad state. This does not reflect well on the public image of the youth of the State.

The Hon. Clive Griffiths: In what way was the situation disgraceful?

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: On the particular occasion there was a brawl, and one person attempted to use a knife. The



number of young people drinking in the lounge at that hour of the morning was astonishing. It seems to be the focal point of a large section of the young community. Obviously these young people did not go there to meet their friends. It seems to be a favourite gathering place at night. The report to which I refer appeared in this morning's issue of *The West Australian*, and it is there for all to see.

Last year I made some mention in this House of the position of the country trotting clubs, and the position has deteriorated quite a bit since then. I have the figures of the distribution made by the Totalisator Agency Board to the racing and trotting clubs; and this year the amounts have risen considerably, particularly the amounts that were paid to the racing clubs.

We are aware that this distribution is made on a fixed basis; the distribution to the country clubs has been allocated in proportion to the amount of stakes each club paid in the year. Last year the W.A. Trotting Association, in its wisdom, implemented a plan of paying a bonus of \$100 per race to all country clubs on which the Totalisator Agency Board operated, and Pinjarra was one of the clubs to benefit. As a matter of fact, the Great Southern Council is the only one which does not have a club operating on the T.A.B. It will be seen that the new plan will upset the percentages, when the money is distributed this year. To top it off, the Pinjarra club was allocated three additional meetings which were held in the afternoon late in the season. This, of course, will boost the stakes paid to it very considerably.

The fact that this subsidy will be continued for the next year will further enhance the position of the country clubs which are operating on the T.A.B., to the detriment of the clubs which are outside its sphere of operations.

I suggest that if that position is to continue the Act be amended so that we will have an inner and an outer circle of country clubs. We could then bring the nearer metropolitan clubs, which are now operating on the T.A.B., into the inner circle, and the other clubs, outside that area, could be put into an outer circle. Thus, as in the past, we would be able to maintain the balance of the revenue that is received.

I also believe that the Great Southern Council has a very good argument to put up in favour of its being allowed to have the tote operating on at least some meetings conducted by that council, that being the only council which is excluded. I feel this council has every right to be granted the same privileges as are enjoyed by other councils. The Great Southern Council includes the towns of Albany, Katanning, Williams, Narrogin, Wagin, and Dumbleyung, and perhaps that council could be permitted to operate all its T.A.B. meetings

at the one course. This would obviate the necessity for the building of facilities in several different towns.

That is one aspect to which I think consideration could be given but before anything could be done about it the Act would have to be amended. I intend to take up the matter again with the Minister controlling the T.A.B., and I hope we will be able to get the necessary support to bring the proposition into being. With those very few remarks, and complaints, I support the motion.

**THE HON. J. DOLAN** (South-East Metropolitan) [5.17 p.m.]: I have a number of matters to which I wish to refer and I hope members will not think I am trailing my coat; because there are some matters to which I shall refer which may appear to be provocative, or it might appear that I am just going out of my way to invite some criticism.

The first subject on which I wish to speak is the question of the woolmark. This received some mention during the last session of Parliament when we were discussing the Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act Amendment Bill. I think it is just as well for us to know the story behind the establishment of this symbol. Fibre institutes, the C.S.I.R.O., and various wool marketing boards and interested bodies were for some time perturbed about the effect that the use of fibres was having on the wool industry generally. They felt that the industry needed a symbol which would focus the attention of people interested in wool, and in various fibres, on wool as a prestige item. They realised, of course, that wool cannot compete with fibres on a cost basis alone, but they felt that people would pay more for an article as long as they could be assured that it was something worth while.

With that in mind, the various wool organisations started an international competition among artists and designers throughout the world, and that competition was won by an Italian named Francesco Saroglia. The simple design of graceful striped loops, that one sees in advertisements, is now known as the woolmark, and from that time onwards it has assured customers that if it is on an article they are buying then that article is made of 100 per cent. pure new wool.

I now want to draw attention to some of the statements that were made by the Minister for Labor in another place, and the Minister for Local Government in this House, when they introduced the Bill to which I previously referred. I believe they were not factual in the statements they made about the woolmark. I have examined the position closely and I feel that what I say—although it is controversial I think the Minister will listen

carefully to it and in reply will indicate whether what he said was factual or not—is quite true.

Three things were said by the Minister in this House and I have looked at the second reading speech made in the other House and the two speeches are so similar as to be almost identical. The first matter was referred to by the Minister in the following terms:—

... legislative amendments along the same lines as those contained in this measure have been, or are being introduced into every State Parliament by Ministers in charge of textile labelling. This is as a result of an agreement reached at a conference held in Queensland last year.

That conference was the Australian Agricultural Council conference which is held in the various capitals in turn each year.

I checked on the point and it is completely factual, as the Minister said, that all the other Parliaments in Australia introduced similar legislation. Although different States have different ways of presenting their Bills, if one examined the legislation introduced one would find that in essence the provisions were identical. However, the part I do not regard as factual is this—

It is a fact that most major wool producing countries permit the description "wool" to be applied to textile products resulting from a blending of sheep's wool and the speciality animal fibres which I have just mentioned.

The exceptions have been Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Mexico, and Belgium.

I feel sure that in a very short time I will be able to convince the Minister that that is not so. The next point with which I wish to deal was when the Minister in this House said—

Acceptance of the proposal contained in this Bill will mean that the wool brand mark, as well as the description "pure wool" or, alternatively, "all wool" may be used on textiles containing not less than 80 per cent. sheep or lamb's wool and where, at least, three-quarters of the balance—or 15 per cent. of the total weight—comprises speciality animal fibres previously mentioned.

Also included is the five per cent. of ordinary fibres, which had been agreed to in the legislation.

Now let us see what is factual. Some time after the Bill was passed in this House, an International Wool Textile Organisation conference was held in Paris. It was the 38th conference of this type and it was attended by representatives from 25 nations. There were 400 delegates

in all so members can see it was a conference representative of all nations interested in wool. At that conference were well-known figures in the wool industry in Australia—for example, Mr. Vines, who was the General Manager of the International Wool Secretariat. He gave certain definite promises arising out of some discussions which took place.

The conference started on the 4th June, 1969, which is subsequent to the legislation being passed in this State. One of the first proposals was made by Great Britain. Its proposal was that other countries should follow Australia in allowing the woolmark to be used on cloth with only 95 per cent. wool. Members will notice that our Act stated that so long as there was 80 per cent. wool in an article the woolmark could be used. This is where I challenge the Minister and say that the statement he made is not factual—that even the passing of that legislation does not mean that the woolmark can be used on an article where only 80 per cent. wool is used.

The British proposal to which I have just referred was put forward at the 38th conference of the International Wool and Textile Organisation, and that conference was held subsequent to our Act being passed. The use of the woolmark was a key issue and the British view took into account recent Australian domestic legislation allowing the woolmark to be used on cloth with a five per cent. non-wool fibre content. That was the position that existed before we passed legislation during the last session. The newspaper article from which I gained this information goes on to state—

The International Wool Secretariat representatives at the conference asked for more time to assess the Australian experiment.

We were told a different story. We were told that other countries of the world were producing woollen articles containing fibres and were permitted to trade internationally to the extent that we were suffering; therefore, legislation of the type passed in this House last session was necessary. That was what we were told but this conference indicated that the opposite was the case—that we made the first move in Australia with the allowance at five per cent. But we are down to 80 per cent. of wool with the legislation we passed last session. Let us see what happened—and I quote again from this newspaper article—

Most delegates on the cloth committee, a joint I.W.T.O. and I.W.S. working party, favoured maintaining present regulations. These allow five per cent. fibre only in cloth used for decorative purposes.

And not for other cloths. The article goes on—

Mr. J. W. Vines—

That name will ring a bell so far as people in the wool industry in Australia are concerned.

—Managing Director of the I.W.S. said that they would probably make a final decision at the end of the year. He gave assurances that the I.W.S. would not go ahead with the proposals if they appeared to damage the woolmark image.

The conclusions of the cloth committee will be put before the 400 delegates from 25 I.W.T.O. countries at the closing plenary session of the conference on Friday.

Further to that, and subsequent to our last session, on the 29th April, in the Australian Senate, Senator Young, who is also a wool producer, had this to say about the woolmark—

Therefore the scarcity aspect of wool has fallen by the wayside because of the introduction of synthetics; but the quality aspect of wool is still with us.

This has been proved by the fact that the woolmark is regarded as a symbol of quality throughout the world. Because of the woolmark we have sold wool. It is a symbol of quality and for wool to hold its place on the world textile market today it must be a quality product.

To carry the impression we have about the woolmark a little further, it got international publicity because Sir Francis Chichester, who sailed solo around the world, had a cap and on that cap, in the front centre, was the woolmark, advertising to the world that it was a symbol of the highest quality. Therefore I believe that the Minister's statement that the passing of our legislation would mean that the woolmark could be put on articles containing only 80 per cent. wool is incorrect.

On the introduction of the Bill a reference was made to certain quality fibres, and I thought it might be of interest to members if they knew the world prices of those fibres. The prices I am about to quote are the English figures and they are as follows:—

Mohair	.....	53d to 82d a lb.
Alpaca	.....	165d a lb.
Camelhair	.....	112d a lb.
Cashmere	.....	148d a lb.
Vicuna	.....	205s a lb.
Llama	.....	130d a lb.

I would like the Minister to examine what was said when the Bill was introduced and give me an assurance, because I have very grave doubts whether the woolmark can be put onto an article which is only 80 per cent. wool.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It is already there.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: Well, I feel that is wrong. Before anybody can use the woolmark there is a legal necessity that he must apply for a special license. Should anybody use the woolmark in circumstances which do not justify its use he runs the risk of prosecution.

I will give an example just to show what I say is correct. I will refer to an article which was published in *The Countryman* of the 19th June, 1969. It is headed, "Woolmark brings court order in Germany" and reads as follows:—

A German court at Wuppertal has granted an injunction against a retail firm which removed the Woolmark label from a Woolmark-quality garment then sewed it into a garment which failed to meet the specification for the label.

The action arose out of a woman going into a store. The article she wanted to purchase did not have the woolmark and, as a consequence, she was not prepared to purchase it. The woolmark was taken off another article and attached to the article which the woman wanted to purchase and the retailer was prosecuted.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What was the basis of the charge?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: False labelling of the product. The garment was tested and showed a substantial percentage of non-wool fibre. Costs of £2,083 sterling were awarded against the retailer.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I wonder what "substantial" meant.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: The Minister's guess is as good as mine. His interpretation of "substantial" might be different from mine.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It may have been 21 per cent.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: That is the first item about which I wish to speak. I thought Mr. Syd Thompson was going to beat me to my second item, which relates to Totalisator Agency Board distributions. Here again, of course, this subject might appear to be a little controversial. However, in 1966 a Bill was brought before us to provide that the State Government, instead of getting 5 per cent. tax on the turnover of the T.A.B., should get 5½ per cent. On that occasion the Minister for Mines had the following to say—

It can be expected that turnover will stabilise at between \$36,000,000 and \$36,500,000 and it is of interest to note that this quotation is a little below that attracted by off-course bookmakers in their peak year of 1957-58. However, in the event of any substantial increase in the current level of turnover, further consideration will be given by the Government to

payments to clubs; but, in any case, these will be kept under review to ensure they do not become excessive.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Did I say that?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: The Minister said that on the 17th November, 1966, at page 2483 of *Hansard*.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: As long as you assure me that I said it, then I must have said it.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I would not have mentioned the matter unless I was absolutely sure. When I spoke to the Bill I told the Minister I thought he was underestimating the amount of turnover when he said it would stabilise between \$36,000,000 and \$36,500,000. I had the following to say:—

I think the Government should have a good look at this aspect because, although the opinion has been expressed that the amount will be stabilised at between \$36,000,000 and \$36,500,000, I consider it is an underestimate. Probably, it will only be a matter of a year or two before this figure is up to \$40,000,000 and, as I have said, in these circumstances this situation should very well be looked at.

Let me make it clear: I am not having a shot of any kind at the T.A.B. I feel that the set-up, so far as T.A.B. operations are concerned, is the best we have had with regard to betting. All I am concerned about is that I believe we have not got our distribution priorities right.

I mentioned that the turnover might be up to \$40,000,000, and this year the figure has passed \$44,000,000. So far as I know, no move has been made by the Government to review the position. With your permission, Mr. President, I intend to read the figures for the last three years. I will quote the amount of turnover, and the amount of money received by the various distributees—those who got their share of the money—and in this respect I think I might be a little at variance with Mr. Syd Thompson.

The racing clubs receive their share and the trotting clubs receive their share. The share given to the trotting clubs is divided so that 80 per cent. goes to the metropolitan clubs; that is, the W.A.T.A. and the Fremantle Trotting Club. Of that 80 per cent. the W.A.T.A. gets 67½ per cent. and the Fremantle Trotting Club gets 12½ per cent.

I understood that the remaining 20 per cent. was divided among the country clubs, and that the amount did not vary. However, some country clubs are receiving more than others because the basis of distribution is the amount of stake money paid out. If the stakes are raised

by any club then immediately that club is entitled to a greater amount of the money distributed.

Let us examine the position with regard to betting. I understand that in the last financial year over \$500,000,000 was invested in Australia, either on the T.A.B., the course totalisators, or with the book-makers. That works out at approximately \$40 per head of population. No small wonder that we hear it expressed that one of the favourite Australian four letter words is p-u-n-t.

The Hon. J. Heitman: The punters do not wake up to the fact that they cannot win.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: Someone else always gets the lot, yet they try to win. We debated the betting Bill in 1966-67 when I estimated that the amount of turnover would be more than \$36,000,000 or \$36,500,000. The investments in that year amounted to \$36,286,829. Of that amount almost half—48.99 per cent.—was invested on Eastern States racing.

The racing clubs in Western Australia did nothing to make that money—nothing at all. It was purely the operations of the T.A.B. and yet the racing clubs benefited from those operations. That was one of the arguments I advanced as to why we should have a good look at this figure.

In 1967-68 the turnover jumped, as I had anticipated. I do not claim to be a prophet but I had a feeling that it would rise, and it did rise to \$39,662,295. In the year just ended, to the 30th June, the turnover went up to \$44,738,794. Based on the distributions that have been made I feel that the racing clubs and trotting clubs are getting more than a fair share of the profits from the operations of the T.A.B.

There is scope here for the Government to limit the amount which the clubs should receive. I do not know of any sport which is finding the going easier than racing and trotting—if they can be called sports. Other sports are languishing and finding it difficult to raise money, and they are the sports I want to see encouraged.

What is the position so far as racing and trotting in Western Australia is concerned? It can be seen that a beautiful new grandstand has been built at Belmont, and another one at Ascot—Headquarters. Closed circuit television is provided so that the patrons who do not want to trouble themselves to walk out to watch the races can sit down and watch them on the television. It can be imagined how much interest those people have in the actual racing. They do not watch the thoroughbreds racing; all they are concerned about is investing a few dollars.

The racing and trotting clubs have reached the stage where they can plan for the building of these amenities, and they can budget, to a certain extent,

on the amount they will receive from the T.A.B. I do not suggest that that is their only source of revenue. I understand that the racing clubs have owned properties in various parts of the metropolitan area and they have received sufficient capital, from sales, to embark on those projects.

If the Government was bold enough to say that the racing and trotting clubs deserve support because so many people are dependent on the industry, and that racing has an attraction for so many people—unless they go to excess—then, to a certain extent, racing is quite harmless. Might I say, however, that it does not worry me. I have been in this House for some time and tickets are sent to me every year but I have never been to a race meeting or a trotting meeting.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: They can have my tickets.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: They can have my tickets too. Occasionally, when travelling on interstate trips, I have been to the races and, strangely enough, because I am a sucker, I have made a profit. The people who lose are those who think they are on a good thing. When I return from the Eastern States I have enough sense to leave racing alone.

I noticed in an article in *The Sunday Times* a few weeks ago where the president and the secretary of the Trotting Association were invited to comment on trotting generally, and they said they would make Gloucester Park—as far as the grandstands and accommodation were concerned—probably the best course in Australia.

In Victoria and South Australia enormous sums of money are invested in trotting because of the profit derived from the totalisator. A new grandstand which cost \$4,600,000 was opened at Randwick last Sunday week. The racing clubs are able to build those facilities even though attendances are falling off. What are those organisations doing to attract the crowds? They are getting the money from the T.A.B. and using that money to build these wonderful facilities for the people who do patronise the courses.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: That money would have built a few classrooms.

The Hon. J. DOLAN: That can be said again. I feel we should view these matters in their right perspective. I would like to put the case in a light which I think more than anything else should convince members. The W.A.T.C. last year, got more money from T.A.B. distribution than the Lotteries Commission distributed among all the charitable organisations in Western Australia. If all the money which the racing interests receive—that is, gallopers and trotters—is added together it amounts to twice as much as was distributed to all charitable organisations by the Lotteries Commission.

I feel a limit should be placed on the amount of money which the racing clubs should get, and I do not say that critically. We should get our priorities right and I feel that there are other organisations in the community which are languishing and need more help than they are getting. The racing clubs, on the other hand, are getting more help than they are entitled to. So much for that.

When the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply was moved by Mr. Heitman, I thought he spoke a lot of sound common sense—as he usually does. However, he got completely out of his ground when he made a couple of unfortunate references to the teachers of this State and the dispute which was then going on. May I make this perfectly clear: Since I have been in this House I have never levelled one word of criticism against the Education Department or its operations.

I felt that as a teacher I always respected the department and the profession, so much so that I would not criticise them. Without being at all critical, and in a friendly way, I would like to let Mr. Heitman know that his remarks were completely out of proper perspective. He said—

At one time those in the teaching profession were well respected in the community as being dedicated to their work, and they were admired by most. This image has lost ground.

I would say that the image of teachers in the minds of our community, and the parents particularly is as high today as it has ever been. I was a teacher for a long number of years and I have always taken pride in the fact that when the superintendent wrote out my report I was always sure— even before he started—that under the heading of "Zeal and Industry" I would receive the maximum marks.

The Hon. J. Heitman: That's for sure!

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I would say also—in quite a friendly way—that a large number of those people who taught with me and who got the same marks then, are continuing to do so today; and I think that if statistics were made available we would find at least the same percentage of teachers obtain the maximum marks for their zeal and industry as was the case in the years when I was teaching.

I think the second remark made by Mr. Heitman is completely without foundation, and I cannot understand why it was made. He said—

This makes one feel that perhaps professional trouble-makers are employed by the union to encourage discontent with the education system in this State.

I think that is a slur on the executive officers of the union which is completely undeserved. I know the men associated with the union, and they have never come

to me grizzling about their conditions. But surely we are not so blind or we are not in such a frame of mind that we feel people are not entitled to criticise. Teachers held protest meetings about various matters; but in the same year we have had protest meetings of the very people Mr. Heltman himself represents—the farmers. They held protest meetings all over the place, culminating in the enormous meeting held at Perry Lakes Stadium, and we sympathise with them. However, anybody who says that the teachers have not been putting up with plenty is just not aware of the true position.

I will leave the matter at that and say with all sincerity and with deep feeling that the education of the youngsters in this State is in very good hands. I feel the teachers will always be worthy of their profession, and I know of no other profession which deserves the respect of the community more than does the teaching profession. I hope they will always have that respect. Because something is a little upsetting, we should not be tempted to criticise in such a way that our criticism is directed at one group of people. I was very proud and honoured to belong to the profession.

Before I leave this theme, may I say that sometimes we are inclined to be starry-eyed about the "State on the move" and to attribute this to our magnificent mineral developments, whether it be iron ore, bauxite, or nickel. I have no criticism whatever of this development; I am as happy as anybody else that this is happening. However, neither mineral deposits nor pastoral and agricultural industries are our main assets.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Who said they were?

The Hon. J. DOLAN: I did not say anybody said they were. Our main asset is our people. I am pressing a point of view which might be different from that of other people. What should give us food for thought is the fact that our minerals are all being processed by Japan. Let us have a look at the difference between Australia and Japan so far as natural wealth is concerned. Japan has practically no mineral wealth; she gets plenty of minerals from this State, but not from her own land. Japan has no wealth in the land or in agricultural production and so on. However, there is one thing Japan does have; that is, 70 per cent. of Japanese children have a secondary education. Only half that percentage of our children have that education. So I suggest that we cannot compete with that country in certain fields.

I remember looking at a magnificent piece of machinery one day at Finucane Island. It was one of those pieces of machinery which are used for loading iron

ore, and I suppose there must have been thousands and thousands of parts in it. From the time it left the Australian drawing boards for Japan, moulds had been prepared and all the patterns made, etc., to the time it was completed, a period, of nine months elapsed. I think if we gave the same job to Australian workmen, they would not have the facilities to complete it within nine years.

What is the reason? I feel that we have not put the same into our people as the Japanese have into their people. The Japanese had to make up for their shortcomings in natural resources and so they decided to concentrate on building up the talents of their people. I feel that we have the opportunity to do likewise, and if we do not we are likely to lose our place as one of the great nations in the South-East Asian area.

The next matter to which I would refer is that of youth. I feel that had we limited the amount of money which was paid by the T.A.B. to various organisations last year there could have been an extra \$200,000 available to us, and I can suggest many ways in which that money could be spent. If anybody wants to know what we are doing for our youth, I would ask him to go to Matthews Park in Floreat Park on a Saturday afternoon and there watch the girls' basketball. One will see every court occupied and hundreds of girls enjoying good healthy sport.

I feel it is desirable in our community today that we should not only have a centre at Matthews Park, but we should have one also on the southern side of the river. There are difficulties involved with transport and so on when girls on my side of the river have to go so far in order to participate in a good sport. I would be very happy if, before I leave this Parliament, we could have fields for this particular sport in all of the different sectors of the metropolitan area. If we could have a second Matthews Park south of the river, another in the eastern suburbs, and another in the western portion of the metropolitan area, I think it would be one of the best things that could happen.

I say that advisedly, because a week ago I read an article in *The West Australian*. It appeared on the 4th of this month, and has this to say—

More 15-year-olds are arrested for serious crimes than any other group and relatively few crimes of violence are committed by people over 25. Almost half the population of the United States is under this age.

I would say that state of affairs could well exist in other countries of the world—that the 15-year-old group is the problem group, and most likely to be involved in violent crime. However, if one goes to Matthews Park or Langley Park one will

find that the people there engaged in good clean sport are the 15, 16, and 17-year-old groups. If money is spent to encourage them to take part in sport there will be less necessity to build homes for delinquents, and money would be saved in that respect. Of course, there would also be a terrific saving in the other respect.

I will not delay the House much longer. However, I wish to refer to a communication I received last week from the Shire of Cannington. The councillors are very concerned about the fire protection which is accorded their area. There is one fire station in the Cannington Shire, and that is the Cannington Fire Station. The method of staffing that station is that there are three shifts of men in each 24 hours, seven days a week. Each shift comprises three men, and they are on duty for 56 hours a week—shades of a 40-hour week! I do not say that these men work solidly all the time, but they are on duty for 56 hours. There is one officer on duty during each shift, and he works 42 hours a week.

The station has two machines. One is a large appliance and requires two men to operate it. The other is a fully equipped Land Rover which requires one man.

It is interesting to note the figures of plans for residential dwellings and industrial businesses approved in that shire for the year ended the 30th June, 1965. There were 383 residential dwellings approved, and 11 industrial businesses, to a total value of approximately \$5,000,000. These figures have gradually increased until we find that in 1969, 734 residential dwellings and 117 industrial businesses were approved, and the value has risen from \$5,000,000 in 1965, to over \$13,000,000 in 1969. However, during that period the fire protection facilities have not improved.

The shire is perturbed about this, and, of course, wrote to the Fire Brigades Board about it. The board replied—in so many words—that it regretted the situation. The board did admit that it acknowledged the growth and development in the area, and that future fire protection needs of the Cannington sector would be kept in mind.

I suggest that they have been kept in mind for a long time. Whilst the value of construction approvals in the area has risen from \$5,000,000 to \$13,000,000 in four years, there has not been any change made in the fire station equipment or staff. I think it is about time the board did more than just “keep them in mind.”

I am not critical of the Fire Brigades Board, but I think the number of calls covered by the Cannington Fire Station is the largest in the metropolitan area; except, of course, for the Central Station. The nearest station is the Victoria Park Fire Station which is two and a half miles away, and the next is the station at Belmont, four miles away.

What would happen if one of the big establishments in the area were to catch fire? The Cannington brigade would rush out, and perhaps find that the fire was likely to get out of control. By the time it called for help and the help arrived, the building would surely be gone, and the damage that would be done could have been prevented had the Cannington brigade had proper facilities. So the shire has asked for help in this matter, and it wants further fire protection equipment and staff for the area.

The fire brigades union feels it is an absolute necessity for the two vehicles each to be manned by two men. At the moment the smaller unit is manned by only one person and if anything should happen to him, or if he were involved in an accident on the way to a fire, there would be nothing anybody could do about it. I think this is a case which requires an urgent decision by the Fire Brigades Board and for something to be done about it.

We always hear the cry that the departments have no money, and this sentiment is repeated in the following extract from a letter from the W.A. Fire Brigades Board to the Shire of Cannington:—

It will be appreciated that with the current rapid overall development of the Metropolitan area the Board is committed to substantial recurring increases in its annual expenditures.

For that matter we all know that the shires are also committed to substantial recurring increases in their annual expenditures, because they must make contributions to the Fire Brigades Board for the coverage they receive. These expenditures continue to increase, of course, with the increase in the values of the properties that are covered. It would seem to me that as they get more policies the premiums of the fire insurance companies continue to rise.

In the circumstances I feel that this particular case is well worth a look by the Minister. I have attended a number of demonstrations given by fire brigades and I must say that I have always found the Minister present; he has always given encouragement to the fire-fighting services. I have generally met the Minister at the sports held by the volunteer fire brigades. If it were not for the work that these volunteer fire brigades carry out, the extra responsibility that would be thrown on the regular service could possibly be too much for it to handle.

A little over a week ago an amendment was moved to the Address-in-Reply during which the Minister for Local Government and I had a little cross-fire about the rate of progress in the various capital cities. The Minister asked me for the figures and I said I would let him have them. I can now say that the increase in

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*House adjourned at 6.5 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 13th August, 1969

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

### QUESTIONS (54): ON NOTICE

#### 1. MINING *Iron Ore*

Mr. McIVER asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

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

Mr. COURT replied:

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

#### 2. HOUSING *Country Centres*

Mr. McIVER asked the Minister for Housing:

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