

Motion put and a division taken with the following result:—

Ayes—24.

Mr. Bovell	Mr. W. A. Manning
Mr. Burt	Sir Ross McLarty
Mr. Cornell	Mr. Nalder
Mr. Court	Mr. Nimmo
Mr. Craig	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Crommelin	Mr. O'Neill
Mr. Grayden	Mr. Owen
Mr. Guthrie	Mr. Perkins
Dr. Henn	Mr. Roberts
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Watts
Mr. Lewis	Mr. Wild
Mr. Mann	Mr. I. W. Manning

(Teller.)

Noes—23.

Mr. Bickerton	Mr. Kelly
Mr. Brady	Mr. Moir
Mr. Curran	Mr. Norton
Mr. Evans	Mr. Nulsen
Mr. Fletcher	Mr. Oldfield
Mr. Graham	Mr. Rhatigan
Mr. Hall	Mr. Rowberry
Mr. Hawke	Mr. Sewell
Mr. Heal	Mr. Toms
Mr. J. Hegney	Mr. Tonkin
Mr. W. Hegney	Mr. May
Mr. Jamieson	

(Teller.)

Pair.

Aye.	No.
Mr. Brand	Mr. Andrew

Majority for—1.

Motion thus passed.

House adjourned at 1.53 a.m. (Thursday).

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 18th August, 1960

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY : SEVENTH DAY—

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE GUILDFORD MENTAL HOSPITAL

Commencement of Construction

1. The Hon. R. F. HUTCHISON asked the Minister for Mines:

As the reply to my question on Wednesday, the 10th August, 1960, relating to the building of the new mental hospital at Guildford was in my opinion very vague and quite unsatisfactory, will the Minister inform the House—

- (a) What the phrase "other mental matters" in the reply is meant to convey?
- (b) When is it intended that the building of this urgently required new mental hospital will be commenced?
- (c) (i) Who are the personnel of the special committee; and
(ii) what is the constitution of the State Health Council,
referred to in his previous reply?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) These were referred to in the Minister for Health's announcement some time ago when a special committee was appointed to report on—
 - (i) Planning for the Guildford site as represented by the drawings of the Principal Architect.
 - (ii) Relieving of overcrowding at Claremont Mental Hospital.
 - (iii) The need for additions at Heathcote Reception Hospital.
 - (iv) Co-ordinating of voluntary group activity with the Child Welfare and Education Departments, etc.
 - (v) The need for separate children's sections in any planning, including consideration of the needs of adolescents.
 - (vi) Accommodation for geriatrics or the desirability of providing other accommodation for those senile patients at present provided for in our mental hospitals.
 - (vii) New mental health legislation.
 - (viii) Any other related matters.
- (b) As stated previously, action will follow as early as possible after the report of the special committee and the State Health Council has been received.

The PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

(c) (i) The Inspector-General of Mental Health Services (Dr. Moynagh); the Acting Commissioner of Public Health (Dr. Davison); the Physician Superintendents of Havelock Clinic, Claremont Mental Hospital, Heathcote Reception Hospital, and Child Guidance Clinic (Drs. Gray, Fitzgerald, Ellison, and Robinson respectively).

(ii) The State Health Council is an advisory body on all medical and hospital matters. It is comprised of—

1 representative of the Royal College of Surgeons.

1 representative of the Royal College of Physicians.

1 representative of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

4 representatives of the British Medical Association.

3 representatives of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of W.A.

Professor of Child Health,
Inspector-General of Mental Health Services,
Commissioner of Public Health,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Health,

Under Secretary for Health.

KING'S PARK

Policing of Speed Limits

2. The Hon. A. L. LOTON asked the Minister for Local Government:

(1) Is the King's Park Board responsible for policing its own traffic speed limits?

(2) If the answer is in the affirmative, when was a prosecution last made and with what result?

(3) If the answer is in the negative will the necessary steps be taken by the Police Traffic Branch to check excessive speeds?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN replied:

(1) No.

(2) Answered by No. (1).

(3) The Police Traffic Branch is checking excessive speeds in King's Park, in accordance with Traffic Regulation 388 (a).

VESTHEY'S ORD RIVER LEASES

Costs of Fencing and Re-grassing

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

Referring to the answer to my question on Tuesday, the 16th August, 1960, concerning costs of fencing and re-grassing eaten-out

pastoral leases along the Ord River, the Minister is requested to explain what is meant by "the Government proportion of the cost?"

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The part of the total cost that is eventually accepted as Government responsibility following current discussions to determine the extent of Government and lessee proportions of costs involved.

Part of the eroded area is in the Northern Territory and is also the subject of discussion.

RAILWAY ROAD SERVICES

Revenue and Expenditure of Koorda-Wialki and Kondinin-Hyden Sections

4. The Hon. N. E. BAXTER asked the Minister for Mines:

Further to my question of the 4th August, 1960, would the Minister advise the total expenditure and revenue in detail of the railway road service for six months ended the 30th June, 1960—

(a) on the Koorda-Wialki service;

(b) on the Kondinin-Hyden service?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(a) (b)

Koorda-Wialki Kondinin-Hyden

Expenditure:	£	£
Drivers' wages	288	209
Fuel and lubrication	102	112
Maintenance	283	312
Supervision, leave, etc.	244	264
Depreciation	155	166
Interest	25	28
	£1,097	£1,091
Earnings	£635	£636
Loss on Operations	£462	£455

GOVERNMENT OFFICES

Car Park on Hale School Site

5. The Hon. E. M. DAVIES asked the Minister for Mines:

(1) In the proposed plan to erect Government offices on the Hale School site, has provision been made for the parking of employees' cars?

(2) If not, will the Minister consider making such provision?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

(1) The matter is under consideration.

(2) Answered by No. (1).

BLACK ROCKS PROJECT*Alternative Site*

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

- (1) Is it a fact that a representative of the consultants commissioned by this Government to find an alternative site for the Black Rocks project was asked to examine the possibilities of Shoal Bay and Secure Bay, both of which are located more than seventy air miles from Derby?
- (2) Is it a fact that the representative declined to risk flying in a small aircraft over the uninhabited, extremely rugged and inaccessible country, which surrounds these bays?
- (3) Was an aerial survey made by Government engineers? If so, what are their opinions?
- (4) Were land parties despatched to reach the bays? If so, how did they fare?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) The consultants were commissioned to report on "the most suitable site for a 'deep-water port' to serve the West Kimberleys."
- (2) The Government has no knowledge of this matter.
- (3) No.
- (4) A land party including engineers of the Public Works Department, the Main Roads Department, and the Consulting Engineers made a land reconnaissance to ascertain the practicability of establishing road connections to possible port sites where favourable marine conditions existed for a deep-water port.

The nature of the country approaching Secure Bay was most unsuitable for road access and the establishment of a townsite.

GASCOYNE RIVER*Examination of Water Supplies by Mr. Furphy*

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

At Carnarvon on the 24th January this year, the Minister for the North-West, Mr. Court, stated that H. G. Furphy, an engineer, had been engaged to examine water supplies in the Gascoyne River area. Last week I gave notice of the question, "On what date was the engineer engaged?" to which the Minister for Mines,

Mr. Griffith, replied on Tuesday, the 16th August, 1960, "In February last." In view of that vague reply and, of the fact that the engineer had not visited Carnarvon to examine the vital water supply problem, is it correct to assume that no engagement had been made when the Minister for the North-West made his Furphy statement at Carnarvon?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The statement made by the Minister for the North-West, Mr. Court, on the 24th January followed closely on advice by telephone from Mr. H. G. Furphy of Scott & Furphy, Consulting Engineers, Melbourne, that they would be pleased to undertake the investigations and report on the problems of the Gascoyne River. Formal advice regarding the terms of reference was submitted to Scott & Furphy on the 15th February, 1960, and acknowledged in writing.

DISCHARGE OF NOTICE OF MOTION*Abattoirs Act Regulations*

On motion by the Hon. F. J. S. Wise, the notice of motion standing in his name on the notice paper, regarding the disallowance of regulations, made under the Abattoirs Act 1909-1954, was discharged from the notice paper.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY*Seventh Day*

Debate resumed from the 17th August.

THE HON. C. R. ABBEY (Central) [4.45]: I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere congratulations to you, Sir, on your assumption of the high office you now occupy. It is indeed an honour for the people you represent in the Central Province to know that two consecutive Presidents have come from their province. To Mr. Baxter, Mr. Syd Thompson, and the members who were re-elected, I convey my sincere congratulations. It is no mean job to be re-elected.

I wish now to comment on a booklet *Wasteland Farming* by Eric Smart, a well-known farmer of the Mingenew district. All members will have had an opportunity to read this publication, and I hope that they realise the amount of work put into it by Mr. Smart. A great deal of research and knowledge has gone into the preparation of the book which has been published at considerable expense.

The idea propounded by Mr. Smart is one that could well be examined by the Government officials concerned with light land farming. There appears to me to be

great possibilities in light land farming in the Midland areas. Just recently I had the pleasure of inspecting Mr. Smart's property. I spent the whole day with Mr. Smart, and we moved from point to point inspecting the pastures which, mainly, are Western Australian blue lupins which have been used so successfully in building up to a high standard the quality of some of our poor sandplain country.

During our trip I saw as fine a flock of merino sheep as there is in existence in Western Australia—a flock of something like 50,000 carefully-selected and well-handled merinos. The relations existing between Mr. Smart and his staff impressed me. Great respect for, and admiration of, him was shown by his employees. It is evident that Mr. Smart could not carry on such a huge undertaking without the loyalty and backing of his staff.

It is an eye-opener to inspect Mr. Smart's property. The virgin soil there, as most members know, is very poor, but after being put under lupins for a number of years major changes take place. The pasture I inspected—mostly oats planted on old lupin country—was terrific in growth. At the time I was there I would say the pastures in most areas would not be more than three or four inches high, but on the well-developed portions of the light land of Mr. Smart's property, the pasture was over the bumpers of his car; and the sheep were running on those paddocks, but they did not appear to have interfered with the pasture to any great extent. The capeweed and oats gave evidence of strong growth. The condition of the sheep and cattle that were grazing was really something to see. I imagine the wool clip from that property will be an extra good one this year.

In the booklet, Mr. Smart sets out a number of the possibilities of that area. His contention that a settler can start with very little capital provided he has some assistance from a financial institution is, I think, well based. It is not expensive to develop the country, because the low scrub on the sandplain is easily dealt with. Clover, it would appear, has no immediate future there, but lupins do provide the necessary pasture. There is also the possibility of a good return from barley and oats, and eventually wheat. I saw crops that had been treated with various trace elements, and they seemed to have great possibilities. As a matter of fact I should think that this year the return from grain from all Mr. Smart's crops could be above average.

I hope that an endeavour will be made by the Department of Agriculture to try out the methods proposed by Mr. Smart, because the encouragement of settlement in this area is well worth while.

Within the last day or so we have had laid on the Table of the House a report by Mr. Rowland, the controller of the Midland Junction Abattoir. This report,

which has arisen from his recent trip overseas, is an interesting document. I know that most members have already examined it; and I, myself, have had the opportunity to read portions of it, and I intend to examine it more thoroughly in the next few days.

I suggest that Mr. Rowland is mainly trying to convey to the people his opinion that the decentralisation of treatment works in most countries has been of great benefit to the producer; and that it has also had a good effect on the quality of the stock treated. In Western Australia we have a problem inasmuch as the Midland Junction Abattoir is reaching its maximum treatment capacity on the present site. Certain plans have been made to extend as far as possible the present accommodation for stock, but a limit will soon be reached. I suggest that the decentralisation of abattoirs in this State should come about very soon.

The importance of treatment works in country areas is stressed in the report. When Mr. Rowland visited America and Canada, he found that large central works had fallen from favour, and that decentralised treatment plants were very economical as they treated, at the source, the stock available; and, of course, the general quality of the meat and by-products was very good. As far as we are concerned, we have to depend on a good quality product that we can export; although in future our population will perhaps catch up with the State's present production.

In Denmark there are eight privately-owned decentralised processing centres. This is something that we could well follow, although not to the same extent. I think all members will know of the very good quality of the bacon and other products produced by Denmark. Those products are generally popular in Europe, and they are available at a reasonable price.

In Western Australia, we should look at the possibility of Government-owned abattoirs being placed under one board or commission. If this were done the work of the abattoirs would be co-ordinated and we would be able to prevent any unnecessary clash of interests. In addition, this arrangement should ensure economical working. We should have a look at the possibility of there being a set-up similar to that of the State Electricity Commission. The S.E.C. is a most efficient body which supplies to the consumers a service at a cost which is very reasonable when we take all the factors into consideration. If the abattoirs were brought under a commission or board, we would gain advantages in controlling the rises in costs and in wages that we face today.

I agree that the initial cost of establishing such an undertaking would have to come from loan funds, but I think that

a board charged with controlling all Government-owned abattoirs—charged to operate them economically and for the benefit of the consumer and the producer—would be a great improvement on the present set-up. When extensions are needed at the moment, loan funds have to be made available; and we know just how difficult loan funds are to come by. I suggest that an autonomous body with power to borrow is necessary and desirable.

Mr. Rowland's visit overseas has provided, in my view, some worth-while information which will be of enormous benefit to the State. His assessment of the future of the livestock industry in Western Australia is a most comprehensive one, and I believe that a great deal of use will be made of his views in the future. As a producer I know that at Midland Junction we have a most efficient works. It is operating economically, and a great deal of the credit for this must go to Mr. Rowland. He was, of course, brought to Western Australia to plan the extension of the abattoir and to manage that large instrumentality; and he has done so with very great credit to himself.

The plans that are now being examined will probably be adequate for the future, but as a further measure we have to look at decentralisation when formulating such plans. In the main, the people in the country districts are very realistic in their attitude to increases in charges such as those that have recently been made in rail freights. The attempt yesterday by members of the Opposition to prove that feeling was high in the country because of rail freight rises, was doomed to failure from the very beginning. I am afraid the people concerned would remember quite well the reductions that were made in road subsidies by the Hawke Administration in areas where rail services had been suspended by the Labor Government. Also, those reductions were made in areas where rail services were non-existent.

Had this policy been continued by the present Government, it would have added greatly to the producer's costs and it would have been an unfair discrimination. Fortunately, I do not think such a policy will ever be implemented under the administration of this Government. What would have been the position of the Government had we allowed the ever-increasing costs of the railways to create large annual deficits? If this had occurred, of course, the result would have been a lack of funds for the provision of electric light extensions, hospitals, schools, and other public works in the country where they are all very urgently needed.

I can quote a case in point at Koorda where there is a rainfall of 11 or 12 in., and where the lack of natural water supplies causes a good deal of distress every year. About two years ago I well recall

trainloads of water being taken to Koorda to supply the sheep needs in that area. The rationing of the water was on the basis of half a gallon to each sheep; and in that hot climate it was pretty inadequate. Fortunately Koorda has now been connected to a water scheme and the people are already reaping considerable benefit. In travelling through the town now, one would be amazed at the number of gardens that have sprung up, and at the site set aside for a proposed bowling green, together with many other amenities that are under consideration because water is now readily available.

The people north of Koorda are extremely anxious that their district should be included in the comprehensive water scheme. Representation has been made on their behalf; and should the Commonwealth Government agree to grant the money for the extension of this scheme, I sincerely hope that the area north of Koorda will be included. In my opinion the dry areas should have priority No. 1. At present there are many rock catchments on the Burakin-Bonnie Rock line, and I hope that some use can be made of the storage facilities there.

I would like to mention one other matter. That is the report made just recently on the concern felt by the authorities in West Germany over the quality of kangaroo meat that had been shipped from this State. Members, particularly those from the North-West, would know that this is an export trade which could prove of great benefit to the State. It is indeed a pity to see it being jeopardised as a result of bad treatment and faulty packaging. To countries overseas, kangaroo meat could be something of a luxury item.

Recently, I met two American businessmen who were very keen to taste kangaroo meat, and I was fortunate in being able to supply them with a meal which they thoroughly enjoyed.

The Hon. A. R. Jones: Have you got a license to shoot kangaroos?

The Hon. C. R. ABBEY: The person who supplied the meat to me had one. I thought that interjection would come from Mr. Jones. As I was saying, those two Americans thoroughly enjoyed the kangaroo meat, and they suggested that our possible exports of kangaroo meat could be very valuable to us. A great number of people enjoy game, but there are many in Europe and America who do not get the opportunity to enjoy it. I hope the health authorities will investigate the possibility of tightening up the export regulations in order to ensure that we export a product to other countries that is worthy of Western Australia.

Also, by fostering this export trade we will help to control the kangaroos in the North where they are regarded as a serious pest. I am sure it would be possible to

set a high standard in regard to the supply of kangaroo meat by exporting a product that would be received with favour by people in other parts of the world. I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

THE HON. R. THOMPSON (West) [5.10]: Most members of this House will recall that last year the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Mr. Hearman) invited Professor Saint to address members of both Houses on the subject of alcoholism during one of the Parliamentary recesses. Professor Saint presented a very interesting address to those who attended that meeting. He pointed out the needs of alcoholics and the cure that was required to bring about effective and beneficial results for alcoholics in Western Australia.

We have since learnt that last week, in the National University at Canberra, a convention was held on alcoholism. I have not received a copy of the transcript of the findings of that convention, but I consider that Western Australia should take the opportunity of availing itself of the services of the men who are in this State, such as Professor Saint, at a very early date and so set a lead in regard to the treatment for alcoholics. These people have to be treated in many ways.

After Professor Saint had delivered his address to those members of Parliament who attended, Dr. Hislop, Mr. Hearman, Professor Saint, and myself discussed ways and means of obtaining finance to combat alcoholism in Western Australia. One of the suggestions put forward was that perhaps a tax on wine could provide the finance for the building up of a fund to combat alcoholism. I think most members know that I am opposed to taxes of all kinds. However, the suggestion put forward was that if locally produced wine was taxed a 1d. a bottle or 6d. a gallon—imported wine could be taxed in the same way—a reasonable sum could be obtained.

Quoting from the *Pocket Year Book* of Western Australia for 1959, the production of local wine over the last few years was as follows:—

Year	Gallons
1953-54	747,000
1954-55	839,000
1955-56	811,000
1956-57	924,000
1957-58	735,000

The tax on the gallonage of wine produced in 1957-58 in Western Australia, at the rate of 1d. a bottle or 6d. a gallon, would return an annual amount of £18,337. Over a period of five years, on the same figures, the tax would give an aggregate return of approximately £90,000.

I have considered the possibility of establishing a foundation for the treatment of alcoholism. I have approached

the representatives of the brewery, wine and spirit merchants, and various organisations including trade unions and workers' groups, with a view to enlisting support for the establishment of such a foundation. Alcoholism is a disease of the mind as everyone has recognised. All of the organisations I approached were willing to contribute something towards a foundation to be set up in Western Australia. A start must be made in this direction by someone, and I consider the Government of this State should be the first. I am prepared to give whatever Government is in office my greatest support in establishing a foundation for this purpose.

Throughout the community we find broken homes caused by alcoholism on the part of the husband, and sometimes the wife. Alcoholics seem to prefer wines and spirits. The children of such families are the ones who suffer most as a consequence, as the Minister for Child Welfare well knows. He is aware of the amount of money that is paid out by his department to assist broken homes and the children of alcoholics.

Last December I made an approach to the Premier in regard to assistance to the haven for alcoholics in Fremantle. That organisation has run into a little debt. The finance for maintaining this establishment has, in the past, been borne mainly by the business houses and the people of Fremantle. Although the Premier undertook to give me a reply in the new year, he has not been able to do so, as a result of pressure of work. I sincerely hope that in the near future some assistance can be given by the Government, so that Western Australia can take a leading part in the establishment of a foundation for alcoholics.

The next matter is one which should be dealt with on a Federal basis rather than on a State basis. I am sure that members of this House, in the course of their duties among their constituents, often come up against young families, the breadwinner of which has to go on the invalid pension. If the husband is paid a full invalid pension, the wife receives an allowance of £1 15s., and the children receive smaller amounts. Admittedly such pension is supplemented by payments through the Child Welfare Department. In many of these cases the young couples have purchased homes on terms. Even if they have purchased homes through the State Housing Commission they will not be entitled to a reduction in their commitments; but if they have rented homes from the State Housing Commission they receive a reduction in the rental.

I have discussed this matter with the State Housing Commission, and on several occasions it agreed to reduce the payments for a stipulated period. Unfortunately after this period has elapsed the plight of the families remains the same as before,

and the couples are forced to sell their equity in the homes, or give up their homes altogether.

The position is not so easy in respect of household goods, furniture and appliances acquired under hire-purchase. The majority of people, including these young couples, today rely on hire-purchase for their needs. Some companies are rather lenient to people who become invalided, but others are harsh.

I know of one young man, 21 years of age, who suffers from a heart condition. His wife is 20 years old; he has one child aged 15 months, and his wife is expecting another child. He is committed to £3 8s. a week for hire-purchase payments. The worry of having his household goods repossessed does not contribute to his well-being, and he cannot look to the future with any bright prospect.

I suggest the Commonwealth Government should be approached and requested to contribute funds to every State, through the Child Welfare Departments, for the purpose of relieving the burden on young people with families, who are forced to go on to the invalid pension. It can be claimed that people can take out insurance against sickness when they acquire goods under hire-purchase, but such a concession is not granted by every hire-purchase company. The States should be given some funds by the Commonwealth Government for the purpose of paying off debts incurred by people in these circumstances.

I do not mean the money should be paid out without investigation. The Government should make a close investigation in every case, and a committee consisting of members of this House and of another place, and a representative of the Child Welfare Department could administer the fund. This proposal needs careful examination. I am putting it forward as a suggestion because I have not had sufficient time to work out all the details. Such a scheme would certainly be of great assistance to people who are taken ill and become invalided, and then have to live on a mere pittance under the invalid pension. The children in these families should be given the opportunities for study and advancement—to which, in my opinion, they are justly entitled.

We know that these families receive a reduction in the rental of homes from the State Housing Commission, but the worst feature is that the earnings of the children are taken into consideration by the commission when rebates in rentals are worked out.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: It is based on the family income.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I know the Minister is sympathetic towards my suggestion. In the case of one family I have in mind, although a son was employed, his sister could not find employment, and

the family could not carry on. It was getting into debt with the local tradespeople and falling into arrears with the rent. As the girl could not find any employment she entered a convent, but that did not ease the burden of the family because there was no extra income. The son, who is 18 years of age, is receiving £12 a week in wages; this amount, together with other assistance the family is receiving, places the family above the allowable income for a rebate in rental. Yet there are still four small children in the family to be brought up and educated. The mother is having a difficult time.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: How do you suggest we can help her any more than we are doing?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I want to point out that when such a family is receiving an invalid pension, and assistance from the Child Welfare Department, the total income is only sufficient for the sustenance of the family. The son to whom I referred has just started work and is still studying at night to advance himself. The inclusion of his wage of £12 a week places that family above the rebatable scale.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: How can we help them more than we are doing?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Perhaps an exemption could be granted in respect of a portion of the earnings of the children. I have in mind another family placed in similar circumstances. The daughter is working in the Fremantle Harbour Trust and is in receipt of £7 a week in wages. When that girl started work, she had one pair of shoes, one dress, and no stockings. Yet from the moment she started work, her wages were taken into consideration.

I would say that for the first three years of young people entering employment their wages should not be taken into consideration. Girls, in particular, when employed in an office must have suitable clothes and accessories to be presentable at work. I am sure that nobody wants to see a girl, who has qualities to hold down a particular job, such as this girl has, obliged to go to her office shabbily dressed. This is not the case here, however, as the girl's mother makes all her clothes.

I consider that an age limit should be imposed in order that young people entering employment under such circumstances should not have their incomes taken into account for at least two or three years, in order to give them an opportunity to clothe themselves adequately for their respective positions.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I am sympathetic towards people facing such difficulties; but do you know that the Housing Commission has £100,000 of arrears because of people who think they should not pay anything at all?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I do not believe any member in this Chamber is called upon to deal with more housing problems than I am. I can agree with the Minister. I can call to mind many instances of a similar nature.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I think I have met you on some occasions.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The Minister has met me on every occasion; I will give him credit for that. I think he has been most sympathetic and, perhaps, at times generous. However, it is our duty to present these cases. I would like to leave my views with the Ministers concerned; and I hope that something can be done to relieve the public of some of the hardships it is having to face at the present time.

I wish now to touch briefly on the recent elections in which I was successful. I do not wish to reflect in any way on the Electoral Department, but I think that consideration will have to be given in the near future to the question of the people being employed in the polling booths. Several incidents were reported to me on election day, and I reported these incidents to the Chief Returning Officer for the West Province. We found that all too few people employed in the polling booths appeared to know the Assembly boundaries on the electoral rolls. My own wife has been on the Legislative Council rolls for some 14 or 15 years. She went into her customary polling booth and was informed she was not on the roll. She replied, "I know I am on the roll; I have been here for some 14 or 15 years." The booth attendant said he could not find her name, but told her not to worry as it was not a compulsory vote. My wife told him, "My husband happens to be the candidate, and I want to record my vote."

The Hon. L. A. Logan: She voted for you all right?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: And many of your people voted for me, too. The booth attendant told my wife it was not a compulsory vote. She pointed out to him that he was looking on the wrong side of the book; that her particular street was on the dividing line of the boundary. One side of the street is in the Fremantle electorate and the other is in the South Fremantle electorate. The attendant turned over the page and found her name very quickly.

Two of my neighbours—I will name them, the Pattersons—went to the town hall booth and were told they were not enrolled. Mr. Patterson replied, "That's funny; I have the acknowledgment card at home, which I received only a month ago. We haven't been in the house very long, but we have received the acknowledgment card." The Pattersons were told they were not on the roll and they were denied a vote. Mr. Patterson contacted me at my office and informed me of the situation. On making inquiries I found the complaint was correct. Therefore, the

same problem applied in that instance—booth attendants not knowing the boundaries of the areas.

The same thing happened in North Fremantle, where people were denied a vote to which they were entitled although they were enrolled. In this particular case I will give credit to the returning officer, because he did inform the people concerned that they had been wrongly turned away from the booth.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Are you suggesting it is because of prejudice or inexperience?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Inexperience; definitely inexperience.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I think a lot of this trouble has been caused by the segregated rolls that we have.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Perhaps that is true. I consider that in a province roll we should, rather than record the names of people alphabetically as in the Assembly districts, list street names alphabetically. I know that I have a complete record of every person who lives in my area, and of street names and numbers. I know it is not going to benefit either me, Mr. Davies or Mr. Logan.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You don't know what I am laughing at, but you obviously think you do.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The alternative method would obviate members of the public being turned away from polling booths. I live in Lefroy Street, so instead of looking up the particular street, I would look under "L". Houses would not need to be listed in numerical order.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: My word, they would.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I am trying to put forward practical suggestions. Another solution would be to employ local postmen as booth attendants. Postmen know almost every person residing in their areas.

I am not accusing those who worked in the booths of wrong intent; I think the trouble was due purely and simply to inexperience; and I believe it is our duty to remedy the inexperience of these casual workers.

I was informed by the person who had charge of the Willagee Park polling booth that he had been obliged to turn away approximately 200 people because they were unable to produce their red-coloured return cards from the Electoral Department. He told me, "These people came here claiming to be on the roll, but they could not produce their red return cards." I reported the incident to the Chief Electoral Officer, who promised to investigate the matter. I have not heard anything regarding the result of his investigation.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Had all those people been able to vote, you might not have won.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: If the Minister will study the figures for Willagee Park, I think he will find that I won by a majority of about 98 per cent. I know it was quite a large majority.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Which just goes to show what a great job the Housing Commission is doing for your supporters, on your own admission.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: It shows the appreciation expressed by the electors.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I think the Minister for Housing realises what a wonderful socialistic venture it is too. He administers the commission and knows what a wonderful job it does.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: He is in charge of the great socialistic ventures of the State.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Another legacy of the Labor Government.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: And you enjoy every minute of it.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: We have recently heard comments on the median strip down the Stirling Highway.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Did you say the "comedian strip"?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The "comedian strip" as the honourable member calls it. I would like to draw the attention of both the Minister for Housing and the Minister for Local Government to Stock Road, which runs along the boundary between Willagee Park and the O'Connor area. There are two lead streets from Willagee Park to Stock Road running into the industrial area of O'Connor. These streets are almost horseshoe bends, and I have noticed that when heavy trucks come into Stock Road from the O'Connor district, there is often the danger of a collision. I do not know how many accidents have occurred at those particular spots but while there is still vacant land available for widening the road, I feel that something should be done to ease the situation. As time goes on, I think we shall find that O'Connor will have a great many more factories, and this particular road junction may become a future hazard.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Is it on the highway or is it a local government authority road?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I think Stock Road is administered by the Main Roads Department. I know the department is going to install traffic lights there, and I believe that Stock Road will eventually become one of the access roads or routing roads into the Kwinana Freeway. From the map I would say that those two streets would be the natural outlets for Stock Road if it were made into an access road. I think this matter

should receive attention before all the land is sold, so that the Government is not forced to resume it.

The Rockingham Road Board has made repeated requests to the late Mr. Lawrence, Sir Ross McLarty and myself, and probably to Mr. Lavery and Mr. Davies who also represent the West Province, for the provision of a police station at Rockingham. I have been notified that one will eventually be built there, but I would like to see it placed on the top, or at least near the top of the list. I say that for two reasons: Firstly to give the people of Rockingham necessary police protection; and, secondly, to relieve the Medina police from having to travel to Rockingham. At present the Medina police station is sadly understaffed. In fact, I would say it is more understaffed than any other police station in Western Australia.

The constables there are flat out all the time, and I would not have the sergeant's job for double his salary. He lives next door to the station, and he has an insufficient number of constables to attend to all the work that has to be done. He is pulled out of bed at all hours of the night to undertake certain duties; and he has to carry out extra work himself. I think most members know that the sailors from the ships which berth at Kwinana frequent the Medina Hotel, and the police there have a very trying time. So I ask for two things: Firstly that the police station at Rockingham be given a very high priority; and, secondly, if it will be some time before it is built, I ask that extra staff be provided at the Medina Police Station to make the conditions there a little easier until such time as the constables are relieved of the necessity to travel to Rockingham.

The people at Riverton are seeking a new police station for Cannington. At present the people in that district find it rather difficult if they want to get in touch with a policeman. However, I am pleased to see that after several years the people at Hilton Park are to be provided with a police station.

At this stage I should like to compliment the Minister for Local Government on the setting up of a committee to go into the special subdivisions in the green-belt area. This is something that has been long overdue.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: What do you think the town planning and regional authorities are doing?

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: The Minister did not give me time to finish. I said that this was something which was long overdue. The market gardeners in my area did a particularly fine job during the war years by providing the services and visiting ships with fresh vegetables and food. Their contribution to the war effort

was probably as great as anybody's because they worked night and day, with their wives and children, to supply that food. Now those children have grown up and the sons are in the position of wanting to take over portion of their fathers' properties which, after all, they helped to develop and pay for, and bring to the state of production where they—each property—can support two families.

But, unfortunately, these people have been denied the right to build other houses on the properties; and in some cases the properties belong just as much to the sons as to the parents, because of the work they have done. They are denied the right to build another house on a 5-acre subdivision, and get a title for that particular portion of the property. However, I commend the Minister for the setting up of this committee, and I feel sure that nothing but good can come from it. I am certain a tolerant attitude will be adopted when the facts are placed before the committee.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: It will be a while before they get to that stage.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I realise that, but it is a worthwhile proposition. I should also like to record my thanks to the Minister for Education. I approached him late last year regarding the transporting of spastic children from the Fremantle area to the Sir James Mitchell clinic at Mt. Lawley. Some six months ago the Minister gave his approval to the request, and a bus was put on the run; and not only the children who were attending the clinic previously, but a number of other children as well, are enjoying the service and are able to undertake the necessary education and guidance that can be obtained at the clinic. It was an excellent move for the Minister to make, and I thank him for the quick manner in which he acted.

Coming back to the Minister for Housing again, in the Fremantle area over the last few years there has been a big expansion of industrial establishments, such as wool stores, garages, and factories; and this has meant the demolition of many older type residences. Most of these places were rooming houses where aged pensioners, widows, and other single units could get accommodation at a reasonable rental. I agree that many of these dwellings were substandard, but at least the people I have mentioned could get a place to sleep. Because of the demolition of these houses, those people are finding it difficult to get other accommodation.

The other night a suggestion was made to me that perhaps something could be done about taking over a 17-roomed house on the northern side of the Fremantle Park. The house is vacant at present, although I do not know whether the Historical Society has some interest in it. I was wondering whether the Minister would

be good enough to make inquiries to see if the house could be taken over, if only for a short period and until the experimental proposition in South Perth had proved itself one way or the other in regard to single-unit accommodation.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I doubt whether I have power under any housing legislation to build accommodation, or take over existing accommodation, for single people.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I was asking the Minister's opinion about it. It would be a way of providing accommodation for many of these people. It is a big old house, and perhaps two could share a room. No doubt if it could be taken over and used for the people I have suggested, it would take some of the financial stress from people on pensions. It is hard for a person to live on a pension these days; and some at present are being charged £2 10s. a week for a single room.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The accommodation in South Perth is being built with money provided by the Lotteries Commission and a grant by the State Government, and not from money provided by the Housing Commission.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: I said that it was an experiment; but I imagine that if it is successful the Housing Commission will probably take some steps to provide similar accommodation.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The Aged Persons Assistance Act is the one which should operate in that regard.

The Hon. R. THOMPSON: Yes. The suggestion was made to me and I thought I would pass it on for what it was worth in case some good could come out of it. I know that the Minister, too, realises the necessity to try to do something for these people in the way of accommodation.

The last point I would like to mention is in respect of the transporting of school-children attending the Applecross High School. At present children who live at Salter's Point and Manning Park, and who attend the Applecross school, have to get on a bus at Salter's Point or Manning Park, alight at Canning Highway, take another bus as far as Collier Street, and then walk approximately three-quarters of a mile to the high school. For the last few weeks, since the matter was first brought to my notice, I have observed that approximately 150 to 180 children from Manning Park ride their bikes to school and back to their homes. I have spoken to some of these students and asked them why they all rode bikes along the busy Canning Highway.

They told me that the position is such that by the time they travel by two buses and then walk to school they are drenched, if it is a wet day. They prefer to push their bikes because if it starts to rain they can take shelter; and, also, they said they thought it was quicker to ride their bikes

than to travel by two buses. I think buses should be made available to take the children from Salter's Point through Manning Park and then direct to the Applecross High School.

Those of us who use Canning Highway know that buses travel from various points direct to Aquinas College; and if such a service can be provided for those students, surely a similar service could be provided to take the 150 students who live in Manning Park and Salter's Point to the Applecross High School. I hope that in the near future the position I have mentioned will be remedied.

THE HON. A. R. JONES (Midland) [6.0]: Having congratulated you, Mr. President, and those members who have been returned to this Parliament, I now feel free to make a few comments on two or three subjects that come to mind. I think it was only 12 months ago when, after having addressed this House for some half hour or so, I concluded with words to the effect that I wondered whether it was worth while making these speeches on the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, because little notice seemed to be taken of what was said by members.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: How true!

The Hon. A. R. JONES: I was told later—by Mr. Wise, if I remember correctly—I had spoiled a good speech by saying that. I was glad, however, to feel that notice had been taken of something I had said. I have listened very intently to speeches made on this occasion, and I must say that some of the speeches made by members have been very good indeed; they have provided quite a lot of information and suggestions to the Ministers in this House. I wish now to address myself to the House for the 15 minutes that remain.

The speech made by Mr. Mattiske was a very interesting one indeed. As a result of it, a number of us now have a lot more know-how of the workings of the crayfishing industry. Mr. Ron Thompson also put forward a few suggestions to the Ministers, and pointed to certain anomalies that existed in his area. His contribution was well worth while.

Since last year I have been reading of the activities of the various Government departments; and on refreshing my mind with back numbers of *Hansard*—as far back as 1954—I find I said that the Department of Agriculture should be consolidated and placed under one roof, so that it could function more efficiently and profitably; that more members should be appointed to its staff in the research field; and that they should be established in the country areas from where they could operate. I thought this was far preferable to having men touring around and wasting a lot of time in travelling great distances.

It is gratifying to find that what I suggested then is now an established fact. We have the greater part of the Department of Agriculture under one roof in South Perth; and we also have men in the department operating from centres like Geraldton and Narrogin. There are up to four, five, and even six men operating from such centres. This sort of thing, of course, encourages one to continue to speak to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. This occasion also gives one an opportunity to have a grizzle about what is not taking place, and to bring the omission before the notice of the Minister concerned in this House. I will again refer to something I said in 1956.

At that time I mentioned the economic position in which we found ourselves, and I spoke generally on the increases in costs that were taking place at the time. Very briefly I said that if we were to hold our place and remain one of the prominent contributing nations of food supplies and clothing materials to the peoples of the world, we would have to watch our costs very closely because, as things were going, we would price ourselves out of the markets of the world.

It seems that we have gone a further step, because we are finding it more difficult each year to gain those markets; and it seems only elementary to me that unless we can raise the standard of living in the countries which produce the same goods as we do, and which compete on the same markets of the world as we do; we must reduce our costs of production—I do not suggest that we should reduce our standard of living—or we shall find ourselves unable to keep up with the competition.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: We should reduce our profits.

The Hon. A. R. JONES: In reply to that interjection I will relate some figures to the honourable member, which will show that the people who are producing the real wealth of the country today are not getting the profits they were eight or nine years ago.

The Hon. E. M. Davies: The majority are on the basic wage.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Some are on less.

The Hon. A. R. JONES: There are people who have grown up in the agricultural areas and who are known as really good managers in the farming game; and when we have them telling us today that they are afraid of what is happening because of rising costs, it does not provide much encouragement for the fellow who is just starting out in the field of agriculture. I emphasise agriculture all the time, because in Australia we are still dependent upon it; we are still dependent on those things that are produced from the soil. The things that are so produced constitute 87 per cent. of the exports from this country upon which we depend for raw

material for secondary industry. Accordingly, unless we produce these raw materials, or the wherewithal to bring them here, our secondary industries will not flourish. That being so, we must ensure that we have a thriving primary industry—one that will not only be sufficient for Western Australia but for the markets of the world.

Unless we keep in a state of prosperity those who produce the raw materials from the soil, the secondary industries of the nation will suffer. Let us not be niggardly towards any one section of the community. I have already suggested that unless we can reduce our production costs, by reducing wages and the cost of every article on a sliding scale over 12 months, it will not be possible for us to compete on the world's markets. If we did this over 12 months we would eventually get our costs down, and things would level out. Those who were not affected by a reduction of wages, etc., would be taxed accordingly in order to maintain the level we require. I am pleased to know that at least one member in this House has ideas similar to mine; because Mr. Baxter spoke along the same lines the other night.

I feel quite sincerely that unless we get down to something of that nature, we will not be able to hold our place, or help this country of ours to supply the needy peoples of the world. It would be impossible to do so because the costs would be against us. I would like to relate my own experience so that members will know that what I say is factual. My accounting is done on a very strict basis, and at the present time I find I am receiving 3½ per cent. on the capital I have invested in farming.

Of course, we all know that had I invested the same amount of money around the town I would probably be getting 6, 7, 8, or even up to 10 per cent. by way of interest. But what would be the result if I—and many other people like myself—withdraw my capital from farming and invested it around the town? It is only by keeping the country strong and in production that we are able to maintain our cities at all. It is beyond my capacity to work out how all this can be achieved; but unless our statesmen get down to the job with our economists and decide that something must be done, we will not have a very rosy future.

I would now like to touch on the development of new areas. From time to time tracts of land are thrown open by the Lands Department, and these are taken up by applicants from all over the country. At the present time the Lands Department is insisting—and I think wisely so—that the applicants should have a certain amount of money to develop these lands. This of course is being done to prevent them leaving their land due to an insufficiency of funds after having only half developed it. Although the idea of the

applicants providing a certain amount of money is a very good one, I do think that the Government itself should measure up to the position and provide some assistance as well.

Rather than throw open one area after another for selection in a haphazard fashion, the whole scheme should be planned by the Government. It should provide good roads and facilities, including telephone facilities, through Federal aid, so that the people may have the chance to make progress. In past years too often have we seen land being thrown open for selection 20 or 30 miles from a railway. A good deal of this land has been in sandplain country, and the result has been that in their efforts to develop the land in question the farmers have worn out not only themselves but also their mobile units. Too often has the cause of failure stemmed from the fact that the farmers have had no roads, telephone facilities, or transport services at their disposal.

I urge this Government and any succeeding Government, when tracts of land are to be thrown open, to ensure that within 12 months of the area being selected a good road is laid down so that the people taking up the land may have communication with a railhead, a main road, or a port.

I wish now to touch on the question of our iron ore deposits. I know the Premier is in the Eastern States at the moment appealing to the Prime Minister and the other Commonwealth Ministers concerned to give us an export license for iron ore. I have said before, and I will say again, that if we have sufficient ore in Western Australia to warrant some of it being exported, there is no valid reason why we should not be granted a license to do this. If the powers-that-be say that Western Australia has deposits of iron ore which must be kept for posterity, and for the needs of Australia for the next 50 or 100 years, then it is the Commonwealth's responsibility to see that we are given some financial compensation whilst we store this iron ore for Australia.

I feel it is quite wrong for 700,000 people to be asked to forgo the financial benefit that may accrue from exporting iron ore when it is to be stored for the benefit of the whole 11,000,000 population of Australia. I feel the least the Commonwealth Government can do is to grant a license for the export of small quantities of iron ore—say 3,000,000; 4,000,000; or 5,000,000 tons. These small deposits would not be a proposition for a large concern such as B.H.P. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

On motion by the Hon. C. H. Simpson, debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.15 p.m.