

The other night it was stated that a certain Minister was not in the House. The Minister for Mines is not in this House, I know. The fact is we are now achieving something which has not previously got under way, but it has taken five and a half years to do so. I challenge the Government on its lethargic attitude in this matter.

The other point I wish to mention concerns university colleges and the establishment of another three-year high school in Albany. The question of a university college was mentioned by the Minister for Lands last Saturday in one of the best deliverances I have heard him make. My remarks are congratulatory, and he certainly made a good job of it. He said university colleges would have to come and would obviously have to be established in country areas in order to offset centralisation. I hope the Minister for Lands will support me in this respect. Perhaps the Minister for Education might be a little opposed to the idea, but never mind. If the two Ministers could get together we might get somewhere. It is a progressive move, and well worth considering.

I think the Minister for Education realises now that the population of Western Australia has become rather explosive in country areas, and that serious consideration must be given to a further high school in Albany, particularly a three-year high school.

By way of a question, I asked about the appointment of an inspector for Native Welfare and a welfare officer at Albany. The Minister's answer on that occasion was very vague, as I have had earlier correspondence from him in this respect.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will address the Chair.

Mr. HALL: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. However the correspondence I had previously received from the Minister gave a complete assurance that an inspector and a welfare officer would be appointed. Nevertheless, when replying to my question, the Minister said he knew something was going on, but he did not mention that he had told me in a letter that they would be appointed if suitable accommodation could be supplied.

The position in Albany has now reached very serious proportions. The native population has almost doubled because many have migrated from Gnowangerup to Albany. Consequently the position has become acute and it is very necessary that some adjustments should be made. I hope the Minister will give serious consideration to the point which I raised and which he answered by way of correspondence; yet when replying to my question, he only said that he knew something was going on in this connection.

I terminate my short contribution to the Address-in-Reply debate with the points I have mentioned. I ask that serious consideration be given to them.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Runciman.

House adjourned at 5.40 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 20th August, 1968

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

SUPPLY ACT

Assent

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

QUESTIONS (11): ON NOTICE

ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

Albany Operators

1. The Hon. E. C. HOUSE asked the Minister for Mines:

Would the Minister ascertain from the Minister for Transport—

- (a) a list of the names of the hauliers and transport businesses based at Albany or in the Albany Shire who pay road maintenance tax;
- (b) the average monthly payment to the maintenance tax fund of each of the named persons or companies for 1967-68;
- (c) the gross total paid by all persons and companies based at Albany and in the Albany Shire for 1967-68;

South Province: Allocations

- (d) is it correct that the main proportion of cartage done by the above carriers would be in the Albany, Plantagenet, Denmark, Gnowangerup, Ravensthorpe, Nyabing, and Esperance Shires;
- (e) the figures of main roads grants to each of these shires for 1966-67 and 1967-68; and
- (f) the allocation of maintenance money to each of the above shires from the road maintenance tax fund during 1967-68?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) The appended list marked "A" shows the names of road maintenance contributors who are owners of vehicles registered in Albany and who are known to be engaged in business as hauliers.
- (b) Information showing payments made by individual contributors is confidential. The contributors referred to in the reply to question (a) paid a total of \$70,119 during 1967-68 in respect of vehicles registered in Albany. It is not known whether all these vehicles were employed in the Albany area throughout the full year or whether vehicles registered elsewhere may have also operated in the area.
- (c) 1967-68 contributions for all vehicles registered at Albany totalled \$72,059.
- (d) Records do not show the areas of operation but it would be reasonable to assume that vehicles registered in Albany would operate mainly in the Town or Shire of Albany or in the neighbouring shires. There is no reason to assume that the shires of Ravens-thorpe, Nyabing, or Esperance would be affected except in regard to the one or two carriers serving those districts.
- (e) The appended list marked "E" shows main roads grants to each of the shires named for 1966-67 and 1967-68.
- (f) Allocation of maintenance money from the Roads Maintenance Trust Fund during 1967-68 is shown in the statement marked "F."

The lists are as follows:—

"A"

List of known haulage contractors with vehicles registered with the Albany Town Council and Albany Shire Council who paid road maintenance charges during the period 1/7/67-30/6/68—

Albany Haulage Co.
Atwell, B. V.

Babarich, G.
Babarich, R.
Bailey, R. H.
Betti, L. R.
Bevan, K. & D. M.
Bevan, M. W. & P. K.
Bevan, N. T. & I. E.
Bevilaqua, F.
Bosich, A.
Brambles Holdings Pty. Ltd.
Brambles Manford
Cagnana, W.
Capelli, B.
Capelli, P.
Capelli & Deegan
Colley, E. & W.
Deegan, J. & E.
Dixon, C. F.
Dixon, W. E.
Douglas, E. J.
Faney & Thompson.
Frawley, T. & M.
Gerovich, A.
George, W. R.
Gilchrist, K.
Hall, D. G.
Hazel, R.
Jarvis, J. T. & W. E.
Killick, D. G.
Killick, L. R.
Kosecki, J.
Lach, N.
Lee, M. N.
Lenzo, S.
Leuba, C. C. & F.
Maddern, E. F. A.
Mayne Nickless Ltd.
Moore, F. W. & E. M.
Morris & Gomm.
Niznik, E. & S.
O'Neil & Ludwig.
Orzel, J.
Pascoe, R. A.
Payne, D. A. & D. G.
Peters, W. V. E.
Ramsden, P. B.
Rijavec, J.
Ruffo, R.
Schmidt & Kolb.
Scriven, F. J.
Shell Co. of Aust. Ltd.
Simpson, A. J. & M. I.
Southern Transport Pty. Ltd.
Spouse, R.
Thomas, H. C.
Union Freighters.
Weber, H. & G.

"E"

MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENT

Shire	ALLOCATIONS IN VARIOUS SHIRE AREAS, 1966-67 and 1967-68			Total, 2 years
	Type of road	1966-67	1967-68	
Albany	Main roads	.....	45,600	45,600
	Important secondary roads	50,400	13,500	63,900
	Developmental roads	66,500	74,687	141,187
	Developmental roads (Central Road Trust Fund)	57,528	62,022	119,550
		\$174,428	\$195,809	\$370,237
Plantagenet	Main roads	.....	.....	.....
	Important secondary roads	12,800	27,650	40,450
	Developmental roads	60,200	72,570	132,770
	Developmental roads (Central Road Trust Fund)	50,515	53,916	104,431
		\$123,515	\$154,136	\$277,651
Denmark	Main roads	64,000	31,400	95,400
	Important secondary roads	8,600	650	9,250
	Developmental roads	51,240	74,390	125,630
	Developmental roads (Central Road Trust Fund)	16,019	20,326	36,345
		\$139,859	\$126,766	\$266,625
Gnowangerup	Main roads	.....	12,000	12,000
	Important secondary roads	168,500	57,800	226,300
	Developmental roads	132,230	112,790	245,020
	Developmental roads (Central Road Trust Fund)	55,570	62,489	118,059
		\$356,300	\$245,079	\$601,379
Ravensthorpe	Main roads	.....	257,000	257,000
	Important secondary roads	240,500	9,600	250,100
	Developmental roads	104,180	158,910	263,090
	Developmental roads (Central Road Trust Fund)	11,646	18,602	30,248
		\$356,326	\$444,112	\$800,438
Nyabing-Pingrup	Main roads	.....	.....	.....
	Important secondary roads	18,600	8,800	27,400
	Developmental roads	71,380	59,890	131,270
	Developmental roads (Central Road Trust Fund)	20,354	24,377	44,731
		\$110,334	\$93,067	\$203,401
Esperance	Main roads	65,600	25,800	91,400
	Important secondary roads	24,400	182,500	206,900
	Developmental roads	370,350	269,160	639,510
	Developmental roads (Central Road Trust Fund)	99,190	129,934	229,124
		\$559,540	\$607,394	\$1,166,934

"F"

Allocations from Roads Maintenance Trust
Fund, 1967-68

Shire	Allocated on Programme	Allocated for Shire Expendi- ture
Albany	10,520	8,520
Plantagenet	16,220	13,220
Denmark	5,940	5,040
Gnowangerup	31,090	20,090
Ravensthorpe	2,510	2,510
Nyabing-Pingrup	11,440	9,440
Esperance	18,960	12,960
	\$96,680*	\$71,780

* In addition, general maintenance of main roads in these shires was undertaken by the Main Roads Department from road maintenance funds. Allocation for 1967-68 in the shires listed = \$48,500.

BRIMSTONE

Cost per Ton

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

What were the total costs of brimstone per ton in Western Australia for the years 1966-67 and 1967-68 at each separate superphosphate works, including—

- shipping freight;
- rail freight;
- road transport; and
- any other costs which may apply?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The information requested is not available. The details are known only to importers of brimstone, and are not known to the Department of Agriculture.

3. *This question was withdrawn.*

MINERAL ROYALTIES

Receipts

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

- (1) What royalties are being received by the Government for—
 - (a) iron ore;
 - (b) nickel;
 - (c) copper; and
 - (d) all other minerals?
- (2) What amounts were received to the 30th June, 1968?
- (3) What amounts are expected in 1968-69?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) In accordance with the provisions of each iron ore agreement Act—

Dampier Mining Co. Ltd.:
15 cents per ton on ore used in Australia.

On iron ore exported outside Australia, same royalty rates as Goldsworthy and Hamersley.

- (b) Western Mining Corporation Nickel Refinery Agreement provides for a royalty payable on all nickel-containing products on a formula basis, which is calculated at 2 per cent. of the value of the world ruling price of nickel metal. At the present price the company will pay approximately \$37 a ton on nickel metal. The Mining Act at present provides $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the realised value f.o.b. It is intended to increase the rate.
 - (c) Nil.
 - (d) Royalty rates on all minerals are in accordance with Regulation 205B of the Mining Act, 1904.
- (2) For the year ended the 30th June, 1968, the following amounts of royalty were received:—
 - (a) Iron ore, \$4,945,084.
 - (b) Nickel (at $\frac{1}{2}$ % rate), \$19,312.
 - (c) Copper—nil.
 - (d) All other minerals, \$1,272,597.
 - (3) (a) Iron ore, \$9,336,000.
 - (b) Nickel (at 2% rate), \$328,000.
 - (c) Copper—nil.
 - (d) All other minerals, \$1,497,000.

SOUTH-WEST HIGHWAY

Bridgetown-Manjimup Section:

Proposed Work

5. The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT (for The Hon. V. J. Ferry) asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Main Roads Department to undertake improvements or reconstruction work to the South-West Highway between Bridgetown and Manjimup during the current financial year?
- (2) If so, will he inform the House of the details of the work proposed?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Blackwood River bridge at Bridgetown, which is 440 feet long, will be widened by 12 feet, strengthened and redecked. An amount of \$47,500 has been provided for this work in the 1968-69 programme.

PRE-VOCATIONAL AND MANUAL ARTS CENTRES

Availability and Publicity

6. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) With reference to my question on Wednesday, the 14th August, 1968, would the Minister indicate the courses that are undertaken in—
 - (a) manual arts centres; and
 - (b) pre-vocational centres?
- (2) Which manual arts centres are open at present for night classes?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) (a) (i) Woodwork — constructional work, cabinet making, decorative work, turning, free form shaping.
 - (ii) Metalwork—sheet metal, machine, and bench work.
 - (b) (i) Transport — the motor vehicle, petrol, and diesel engines.
 - (ii) General metals—oxy and arc welding processes.
 - (iii) Home handyman—basic building construction using timber, brick, and metal components.
- (2) Metropolitan—
 - Applecross.
 - Armadale.
 - Ashfield.
 - Belmont.
 - Bentley.
 - Cannington.
 - Hollywood.
 - Kalamunda.
 - Medina.

Mount Lawley.
Scarborough.
Subiaco.
Swanbourne.
Tuart Hill.
Victoria Park.
15 schools.

Country—

Boyup Brook.
Bridgetown.
Bruce Rock.
Busselton.
Carnamah.
Collie.
Corrigin.
Cunderdin.
Denmark.
Derby.
Donnybrook.
Esperance.
Gnowangerup.
Harvey.
Katanning.
Kellerberrin.
Kojonup.
Kulin.
Lake Grace.
Manjimup.
Margaret River.
Merredin.
Moora.
Mount Barker.
Narembreen.
Narrogin.
Norseman.
Northam.
Pingelly.
Pinjarra.
Port Hedland.
Quairading.
Waroona.
Wongan Hills.
Wundowie.
York.

36 schools.

AUGUSTA HOSPITAL

Accommodation

7. The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT (for The Hon. V. J. Ferry) asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is he aware of the limitations of existing in-patient accommodation at the Augusta Hospital, and the present high demand for beds to accommodate persons in need of medical treatment at this hospital?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "Yes," will the Minister inform the House of any plans to relieve the situation?
- (3) If the Minister is not aware of the current position, will he undertake to investigate the matter with a view to resolving the problem?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) The situation at the Augusta Hospital is fully appreciated, but circumstances are such that it is not possible at the present time to provide for further additions, having in mind urgent hospital priorities in other parts of the State and the limitations imposed by available loan funds.

SCHOOLS IN WEST PROVINCE

Future Proposals

8. The Hon. F. R. WHITE asked the Minister for Mines:

In view of the restricted nature of the reply to part (2) of my question on Wednesday, the 14th August, 1968, will the Minister advise—

- (a) is a new primary school proposed for South Kalamunda at a time subsequent to the end of this financial year;
- (b) if the answer to (a) is "Yes"—
 - (i) what is the location of the approved site;
 - (ii) in which financial year is construction proposed;
- (c) if the answer to (a) is "No," is a new primary school proposed for an alternative area near to South Kalamunda;
- (d) if the answer to (c) is "Yes"—
 - (i) what is the location of the proposed site; and
 - (ii) in which year (or years) is construction proposed to be commenced?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) (i) Lots 112-115 South Kalamunda townsite.
- (ii) A definite date has not been determined but the position will be kept under review.
- (c) and (d) See answer to (a).

BALL POINT PENS

Use on Legal Documents

9. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON asked the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Would the Minister supply the details of investigations which established the opinion that the ink of some ball point pens has a tendency to fade?
- (2) If no recent investigation has been made, will the Minister undertake to re-examine the validity of the present ruling?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Tests were carried out in 1953 at the Government Chemical Laboratories as to the stability and permanence of inks used in ball point pens from brands selected at random.

Tests included exposure to direct sunlight which showed complete fading in periods of 12 to 48 hours in some cases.

Further series of tests of ball point writings to simulate actual office conditions were—

- (a) Exposure in a room with diffused lighting but without direct sunlight for a period of two months.
- (b) Writing on paper retained between pages in a file stored in an open cabinet for two months.
- (c) Writing on various types of paper tested as in (b) for two months.

In all these tests fading occurred in varying degree depending on the actual exposure to light and other factors such as the nature, sizing, reaction, or initial bleaching of the paper.

The report states that fading is progressive and with some brands it would only be a matter of time before the writing would be illegible and discernible only by the impression made by the point on the paper. The report further states that, as a generalisation, the ink from ball point pens can be said to lack the permanence which is required for important documents or for record purposes.

- (2) Yes.

EGG PRODUCERS

Prosecutions

10. The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON asked the Minister for Justice:

- (1) How many egg producers have been prosecuted since the introduction of the C.E.M.A. plan, and for what reasons?
- (2) If late returns are one of the reasons, what steps are taken by the board before prosecuting?
- (3) In what areas of the State has it been necessary to take action, and the number of charges in each area?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) One hundred and fifteen egg producers have been prosecuted in Western Australia since the introduction of the C.E.M.A. plan. Of this number, 85 prosecutions were taken under section (1) (a) "Failure to furnish a return by

the due date" and 30 under section 10 (1) (b) "Understatement of a hen levy return."

- (2) If a producer is late in submitting a return he is written to and advised accordingly, although since September, 1967, he has been contacted either by telephone or personal visit or by registered post A.R. card, and warned that further failure to furnish a return by the due date will result in prosecution.

Decisions to prosecute are made by the W.A. Egg Marketing Board, and in all cases of prosecution there has been a history of repeated failure to furnish returns by the due date.

All producers are constantly reminded about the importance of submitting returns on time by circular letter and by notice in the board's newsletter which is issued monthly to all producers.

- (3) Prosecutions have been made in 26 towns of the State encompassed by Carnarvon, Kalgoorlie, Esperance, and Albany, with 75 of the 115 prosecutions being heard within about a 25-mile radius of Perth, and the remaining 40 in country areas.

EDUCATION

Student Accident Insurance

11. The Hon. F. R. WHITE asked the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Education Department of Western Australia has a public liability insurance policy which covers injury to post primary school students attending secondary schools?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "Yes"—
 - (a) what are the details of the coverage given by this policy; and
 - (b) what is the annual premium of this policy?
- (3) Does the Education Department of Western Australia have a similar policy to cover primary school pupils?
- (4) If the answer to (3) is "Yes"—
 - (a) what is the name of the insurance company concerned; and
 - (b) what are the details of coverage given by this policy?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) The public liability indemnity policy covers the legal liability of the department—including its vicarious liability resulting from negligent acts of its

servants—in respect of death and/or bodily injury and damage to property occurring to all post primary students whilst attending senior high, high or junior high, and primary schools anywhere in the State of Western Australia.

The cover also extends to include the adventure camps.

The sum insured under this policy is \$50,000 in any one event.

(b) \$1,086.98.

(3) No.

(4) Answered by (3).

BILLS (4): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Illicit Sale of Liquor Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Justice), and read a first time.

2. Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance Surcharge) Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), and read a first time.

3. Cremation Act Amendment Bill.

4. Mental Health Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Health), and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: NINTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 15th August, on the following motion by The Hon. F. R. White:—

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) [4.52 p.m.]: I wish to make a brief contribution to the motion so ably moved by Mr. White on opening day. First of all, I would like to be associated with the congratulations that have been offered by many previous speakers to you, Sir, and to the new members of the Chamber. It is some eight years since I first became a member here and on looking around the other day I noted that we have had 15 new

faces since that time. There are still 17 of the original 30 members who were here when I came, but two of the new members have come and gone in the intervening eight years. So we have had quite a number of changes during the eight years that I have been a member of this Chamber.

I have heard it said that this is not a House of review, but I am sure anyone who has read the debate on the Address-in-Reply that has taken place in this House over the past few days would be well acquainted with what is taking place in the various provinces.

There are a few matters with which I wish to deal. The first is in connection with the Housing Commission. I am not complaining about the activities of the commission in the country areas or the number of houses being built. At the present time, although that number is not what we would like, I feel we are obtaining our fair share of houses.

I received a paper from the State Housing Commission dated the 1st March, 1968, and I was rather surprised to find that the average rental for houses in the metropolitan area ranges from \$9 to \$12, whereas in the country the range is from \$10 to \$14. The answer to this appears to be quite simple. In the first place, one would say that it costs more to build a house in the country than it does in the metropolitan area. That is true to a degree; but when one takes into consideration the price of land in country areas as compared with the price of land in the metropolitan area, it should be cheaper to build a house in the country than in the metropolitan area.

On the figures supplied by the State Housing Commission, the average price range for a house in the metropolitan area is \$6,400 to \$7,500, whilst in the country the range is \$7,200 to \$8,500. The average price of a block of land in the metropolitan area is \$2,750, whilst the average in the country is only \$1,150. So one can see that although the country has an advantage in the price range, rental is \$2 higher in the country than it is in the metropolitan area. This could be the cause of one of the difficulties we have in getting people to go to the country areas. I would like an explanation from the Minister, as possibly there are some higher charges applicable to the country about which I have no knowledge. I wish to reiterate that I am not complaining about the deal we in the country areas are getting.

I noticed in *The West Australian* of the 1st June an article headed, "Country Race, Trot Stakes Given Boost," and that additional prize money totalling \$90,500 will be made available to country racing and trotting clubs. At first glance this would appear to be a wonderful thing for country racing and trotting clubs. However, as

one reads further into the article one finds that this money is being made available only to those clubs where the T.A.B. operates.

There are six trotting clubs and seven racing clubs outside the metropolitan area which will receive an additional \$40,000 to add to their stakes in the coming season. This is certainly going to be a wonderful thing for those clubs because it will mean that stakes will be raised \$100 per race; but if one looks at the T.A.B. Act one finds that 20 per cent. of revenue has to be distributed to racing and trotting clubs in the country, on a pro rata basis, based on the stakes paid during the preceding season. Therefore next year when this additional \$40,000 is taken into consideration, the six trotting clubs and seven racing clubs on which the T.A.B. operates will receive an unfair advantage over the clubs outside the operations of the T.A.B., of which there are quite a number in country areas. In other words, it will tend to centralise country racing and trotting in those clubs on which the T.A.B. operates.

As far as the great southern is concerned, there are no clubs on which the T.A.B. operates. The position could perhaps be worse in some other districts where some of the clubs operate on the T.A.B. and some do not. It will mean that those that do not operate with the T.A.B. will go out of existence. The stakes of one club will go up, while the stakes of another will go down, as T.A.B. money goes only to those clubs that operate with the T.A.B. I hope something can be done about this otherwise we will find that in a few years the only clubs operating will be those with the T.A.B.

Some months ago a circular was sent out in regard to builders' registration. I do not know whether all members received it, but I received a copy from the Master Builders' Association. A few weeks ago a letter appeared in the Albany paper under the heading "Rural Building—No Protection." This letter was written by a Mr. T. Knight of Albany and he advocated that registration of builders in country areas was necessary.

This was required as a safeguard to people who were having houses built in the country. I cannot agree with Mr. Knight that the country is at a disadvantage at present because registration is not compulsory. People who wish to build in the country are not compelled to employ unregistered builders, because there are plenty of registered builders available. However, at times it is necessary to employ unregistered builders. If we had to rely on registered builders to build the shearing sheds in the country, I do not know where we would be. I think the onus is on the registered builders to do a better job so that they will be employed on other building projects.

The Hon. E. C. House: Some of the unregistered builders do a better job than the registered builders.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: Mr. Knight requests that all builders be registered. As I have said, the onus is on the builders to give better service. At the moment unregistered builders are employed to a large degree, but registered builders can be engaged if desired. So I cannot go along with the contention that all builders throughout the State should be registered.

Mr. Ferry referred to land allocations, and the number of blocks forfeited. He quoted some very interesting figures and had evidently dissected the return very well. I think he said that roughly 200,000 acres had been forfeited over the last three years. That is not a bad effort when one remembers that about 3,000,000 acres have been allocated over the past three years. I venture to suggest that, on present-day prices, perhaps in the next three years we might see a considerably larger acreage of land forfeited than was the case in the past three years.

Despite Mr. Strickland's remarks about the affluence of the farming community, conditions are definitely not the best in the agricultural areas at the present time. I have with me an account for the sale of 116 wethers which were sent to the Midland market. The wethers were estimated to dress at 53 lb. and they brought a gross price of \$3 per head. The account shows that the commission amounted to \$13.75; yard fees were \$5.80; and the cartage was \$52.20. The farmer received the princely sum of about \$2.30 per sheep. So Mr. Strickland can see the farmer is not enjoying the best conditions at present.

The Hon. J. J. Garrigan: What was the weight of the wethers?

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: They dressed at a little less than 53 lb. each.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: The statistician's figures show that the increase in the price index was due to the rise in the price of meat.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: That is right. Perhaps there is need for an inquiry into the difference in the price paid by the consumer and the price received by the producer. I think it was about this time last year that reports appeared in the Press that it would be another 10 years before we could produce enough sheep to supply the demand. If one travels around the country today one will see that there are plenty of sheep for sale and that there is not much demand. It seems we have already caught up.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: That is because Japan bought 12,000 tons of meat from New Zealand.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: That does not alter the fact that Western Australia does not have a market for its sheep.

One aspect of land allocation to which I would like consideration to be given concerns returned servicemen. I feel that some provision should be made for the young chaps who have given two years' service. All things being equal, I think that returned servicemen should have a better chance of getting a block than they do at the present time. Ever since I have been in politics I have known that the land board has a difficult job. However, I feel that any young chap who has been away for two years, on service, should have some preference when allocations are made, all other requirements being equal.

A matter of concern in recent months in country areas has been the report of the Local Government Assessment Committee. This problem has not been discussed very much at the shire associations conference, but it has been discussed considerably by a number of the shires which will be affected. Some shires stand to gain, and some to lose. In my area, five shires will go out of existence, according to the report, and naturally they are a bit unhappy. Some of the other shires which stand to gain seem to view the matter from the other side. I do not intend to comment on the report, because I feel it is something which will require a good deal of consideration.

The Hon. R. Thompson: The Government would not have the courage to touch it.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: I feel that the Government will have to have the courage to make a decision. It is not fair for any shire to have the axe held over its head. Are those shires to stagnate? What about the position of the officers employed by them? Those officers will immediately seek employment with other shires which are more favourably situated, and so put their present employers at a disadvantage.

I know of one shire which has plans for building, but it is waiting the outcome of the assessment committee's report. What does that shire do now: does it just sit back and wait; or does it go on with its building?

The Hon. R. Thompson: I think anybody who studied this report would realise it would be political suicide for the Government to take any action.

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: Those are your comments, Mr. Thompson, not mine. However, I do say the Government will have to make a decision before too much time elapses. I know this report has been put forward as a blueprint for the future allocation of the boundaries.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I do not think the Minister for Local Government would say that.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: I have already said that.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. S. T. J. THOMPSON: I have heard quite a lot about road safety in the past six months, and the 65 miles per hour speed limit. There is no doubt that that speed limit has not had the effect we hoped for, because our accident rate is considerably higher than it was in the past.

I was interested to read last week that the Main Roads Department had decided to reseal a section of Albany Highway. It is the section about which we have complained on a number of occasions. Some two years ago, in reply to my remarks during a debate, it was said that the section of road was quite safe. In spite of that fact, the department changed its mind and last year put over that section of road a machine which cracked the surface for a considerable number of miles. That had the effect of making the road much safer.

Now the department has decided to reseal 25 miles of road between the 33 and 113-mile pegs, on the Perth-Albany Highway. This will considerably improve the road. However, there is another matter to which the Main Roads Department should give consideration. As a driver, I have noticed that some roads have been widened by the addition of a strip down one side. This makes the road very difficult to drive on because most drivers seem to avoid travelling on the narrow strip which has been added to the road; and despite all the effort put into the job by the Main Roads Department, it just cannot get the same camber on the new portion of the road.

This is particularly noticeable on a winding road where the new strip has been added to one side for a certain distance, but changed to the other side after going around a bend. I have noticed, when following other cars, that invariably they have swung over to drive on the older strip of road. I feel that the Main Roads Department has a problem to overcome because a lot of our roads which were originally narrow have had a new strip added. I know it is not possible to tear up the whole of the road and put down a new one. However, the new strip which has been added is definitely a hazard on many of our country roads.

I do not have a great deal more to say except that it does pay to advertise; I am convinced of that. Last Wednesday evening, Mr. Perry told us about his difficulty in obtaining a block of land. However, today he said that the block of land had been released. I do not know whether his speech had anything to do with that release, but I think it certainly pays to advertise. With those few remarks I support the motion.

THE HON. E. C. HOUSE (South) [5.13 p.m.]: I would like to join with other members in congratulating you, Mr. President, on being returned to your high office in this Chamber. By returning you members have shown their faith in your judgment and shown their appreciation of the way you have treated them in the past. I offer you my best wishes for the ensuing period.

I would like to add a few words of condolence to those members who are no longer with us. I refer to Mr. Robinson who, I think, was possibly one of the finest members we had in this Chamber. I know he will be sadly missed, because of his personality. All members respected him. I also refer to Eric Heenan. I think it is a pity that he should have been defeated in an election after his long service to the Government and to this Council. He gave a long period of service, not only in helping other members of the House, but to the State generally.

I did not know Sir Keith Watson very well. However, I admired his ability as a member, and the experience which he gained over a long period brought him to the peak which he demonstrated to us in this Chamber. I congratulate Mr. White on the speech he made on opening day. One of the subjects he dealt with was hire purchase and its effect on the community. I feel this matter could be studied to a greater depth and I suggest it is of great concern in this so-called affluent society. In many cases extreme hardship is caused when the breadwinner dies and the wife is left with young children, rent to pay, and hire-purchase commitments to cope with.

In many instances the agreements that are entered into with hire-purchase salesmen are taken out without a great deal of thought, and I think the Government would do well to tighten up on this aspect. As I have said, it needs a great deal of study and research in depth and I do not intend to go into that question today. I merely wish to congratulate Mr. White on the subject he chose, because it is almost of national concern.

Last year on the Address-in-Reply debate I spoke at some length on research stations and the lack of one in the southern part, or in the wetter areas, of the State. Today, therefore, I am pleased to be able to say that the property for the research station which the people of those areas so badly wanted has been bought by the Government, and I thank the Premier and Treasurer for his generosity in enabling this to be done.

It was not an easy task to find a suitable property in order to comply with all the conditions that were laid down. It meant that a lot of local effort was put into the selection of a property, and as property after property was rejected, it

was only natural that the one which was purchased was rather expensive. The final selection cost over \$250,000, but after a thorough inspection I can say we are extremely happy with this property, which has an area of 14,060 acres developed and another 600-odd acres of virgin land. This makes for a good balance and it is land which has a great potential for research.

The principle behind the establishment of a research station in this part of the State is that it will be possible to carry out a great deal of scientific work on the diseases of sheep, and problems relating to the general raising of stock, including beef cattle, with particular research into ewe infertility, lamb losses, and sheep diseases generally. Another matter of prime importance will be research into the growing of coarser grains and the growing of a greater variety of better grains suitable for this particular tract of land stretching right through to Esperance. One of the main factors which to a great extent has hampered farmers in this particular belt of country is that they have not had the type of grains they needed.

If the Department of Agriculture conducts as much research as it did into producing drought resistant grains and light soils and so on, it will do much to assist the farmers producing in the heavier types of soil in the bottom section of the State. I want to emphasise that a little research has been done on the heavier types of soil in the southern part of the State and I feel sure that if greater research into this matter was undertaken the results could be as good as or even better than those obtained on lighter soils.

The Southern Districts Sheep Research Council—the members of which are very capable—has conducted a great deal of study and research into this project. I realise it is dangerous to mention names when one is talking of work done by various persons on any particular project, because one is always apt to forget the name of some particular person; but in this instance I would like to mention the names of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Lewis and Mr. Bob Cochrane of Gnowangerup. These three people will be of great assistance to the Government in any research that is conducted into this project, and we are fortunate indeed to have such citizens who are willing to give their time and money to carry out greater research for the extension of some of the smaller experiments that have already been or will be commenced.

I would like to ask the Minister for Agriculture to give almost immediate thought to the establishment of a vine nursery on this research station. The southern part of the State has a terrific potential for the growing of grapes suitable for the production of wine. The cost of importing wines into this State has

reached an almost unbelievable figure at the moment, because of the freight rates and other charges involved in the importation of bottled wine; and the establishment of a local industry in this area would be extremely encouraging to South Australian wine producers who have shown a great deal of interest in this portion of the State. I sincerely hope they will come to Western Australia with a view to establishing a wine-making industry in the southern area. Apparently the soils in this part of the State have been described as probably being equal to the Rhineland in Germany. Therefore there is no doubt that if South Australian producers are given some encouragement to produce wine in Western Australia we could soon have such an industry under way.

This research station would be the ideal place for the establishment of a vine nursery. It is a fairly simple matter to grow cuttings of vines which are suitable for wine making. Members may wonder why the vine cuttings could not come from the Swan district, but there are many diseases among the different types of vines in the Swan Valley, and we do not want to transmit these to the southern section of the State which, at the moment, is entirely free of such diseases.

Another great benefit that would be gained if a grape-growing and wine industry were established in the southern area is that it would encourage the farmer with the smaller property to plant, say, five or seven acres under vines, which may mean he would be able to make a success of his property instead of experiencing economic hardship. This would apply particularly to those farmers who were settled on the smaller war service land settlement properties in the Denbarker and Rocky Gully areas.

One of the main reasons for my advocating the establishment of this research station is that these smaller farmers would be able to obtain their vine cuttings from the station and commence production at the appropriate time. A great deal of work and research has to be done before it can be said that the project will be successful, but the wine producers from South Australia who are interested are experts, and there is no reason to doubt that their opinions on the suitability of this part of the State for wine growing will be proved correct.

I would now like to mention that, at the moment, the operations of the land board seem to be a vexed question. If one is to speak of the land board and its allocations, I think it is desirable that one should know a good deal about the background or history of land allocation since 1948, the period when large tracts of land were available and when the Government, in its wisdom, decided it would like to see

them developed. At that time it also had the war service land settlement scheme to administer with a view to seeing what could be done, and to extend what was being done, with this type of country. Even then it was difficult to interest people in raising finance to enter ventures of this kind. Among these were farmers on established properties who had this type of land next door—they they did not seem to be interested.

So when the land board was first established, it was necessary, because of the paucity of applicants after advertising, to allocate much of the available land to those persons who, if they were applying for land today, would not be considered because they are unsuitable as settlers. Many of them were from the Eastern States, and if a thorough investigation had been made into the extent of their experience and the amount of capital available to them they would not have had much chance of being allocated a block. This state of affairs led to many of the properties becoming neglected. I would also point out that at that time the allocations were made under conditions different from those applying today, as very few improvements needed to be carried out over the long period the land was under leasehold.

In these circumstances the settlers could practically sit on their properties without doing much developmental work, and this was the cause of much of the criticism that was levelled. Another factor was that these properties were generally located close to the nearest township, and one had to pass the properties that were neglected before reaching those that were developed. Since then the Act has been gradually tightened up, until today the conditions that apply are fairly stringent.

I would like to pay a tribute to the land board and the departmental inspectors for the way they have handled this problem. It is very easy to criticise any board and to say it is not doing anything to solve the problem in hand; but it is not an easy task for the land board to sort out the genuine applicants from those who are unsuitable. If a settler is making a real and legitimate effort to develop his property, no-one is anxious to take steps to have his block forfeited, because in many instances if such man is granted some further time to make a success of his property he overcomes the problem that is confronting him.

I can claim to have a fair knowledge of the allocation of land under conditional purchase, and for the information of the House I will quote some figures on allocations made. In my electorate since April, 1959, the following allocations—together

with the acreage involved—have been made:—

District	Allocations	Acreage
Plantagenet	513	417,465
Roe	486	1,319,773
Kent	363	1,408,701
Oldfield	229	482,924
Esperance	216	312,000
Nerridup	163	341,185
	<hr/> 1,970	<hr/> 4,282,048

These are the total allocations and the total acreage of land made available since the present Government took office. In 1967 there were .42 per cent. forfeitures and in 1968 the percentage was .21. From these figures one would have to agree that in a project of this magnitude, and with country embracing such a large variety of soil types, the personnel employed, and so on, the number of forfeitures is infinitesimal.

After all is said and done, the land board only allocates the land; it has no responsibilities after that. It does its best in selecting applicants; the numbers are large, and the board has to sift through all the applications before blocks are allocated. Only four years ago the board was advertising in the Eastern States for applicants, but this is not done any more. There are now plenty of Western Australian applicants and at the present time the blocks of land available are allocated almost entirely to Western Australians.

I do not say that we do not appreciate the applicants from the Eastern States who did come over here. We gained some very fine farmers, and they were the means of preventing inbreeding by bringing in new blood.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Are you talking about sheep or farmers?

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: I am talking about human beings, to whom the same principle applies. The small percentage of forfeitures, out of the large number of allocations, reflects the creditable performance of the land board.

I would ask the Minister for Lands to consider the provision of tape recording of proceedings before land boards. I have been on local government committee hearings where the proceedings were tape recorded. The witnesses give evidence on oath, and they, together with other speakers, choose their words very carefully. This is very different from having a reporter who might be out of sight. When people see the tape recorder winding before their eyes they are inclined to put a brake on telling a bigger or a better story than they should.

Land development in Western Australia is unique, and we have nothing to copy from. I do not think there is any other State in the Commonwealth which has the large area of land that is available

in Western Australia; land in the other States is not so plentiful in the same category. The falling prices of farm produce is a worry at the present time. When people talk about forfeitures of land they should not forget the days of the last depression when the prices for fat lambs and wool fell drastically. Today the prices are nearly as bad as those received at that time.

The land board uses no yardstick to gauge the amount of money that is available to each applicant. We know that it has not been set up to cater for the rich applicant; it caters for the applicant who has a reasonable amount of capital and a determined look in his eyes, and this is the type of person to whom I would like to see the land given. He is the deserving one.

There was a time when professional people—lawyers, doctors, dentists, and others—were allocated land, but that was brought about by the small number of applicants for the land being allocated. That practice has been discontinued, and now only the genuine farmer is allocated land.

We have heard a great deal in recent times about costs and the price squeeze, and of the effect on the farmer and wool-grower. Indeed, they are no respecter of the scale of farming operations. I go so far as to say that people who are farming in a pretty big way at the present time are feeling the effects, if they have outstanding debts; but if they are free from debts then they are in a reasonable position. Any farmer who has debts, and who has to increase them month by month by borrowing in order to bridge the cost gap, is in a serious position, irrespective of whether he is in a big way or a small way. There are some university academics who say that the person going on the land must have certain requirements, and if he has not been through the spiral of brain-washing then he cannot be a successful farmer. Even in these times their contentions do not apply.

In many fields of agriculture the farmer can engage others to help him with his problems, so he does not have to be a rural expert. He needs to be a practical person with plenty of commonsense. Those are the main assets of a successful farmer.

I now make a plea for the small farmer. It seems to be the trend for financiers, bankers, and possibly governments, to advocate the abolition of the small farmer. They say that the farming industry would become more economic if that were done. However, I do not agree with them.

The price of wool has been dropping by an average of 7.5 per cent. each year for the last 10 years, while the farming cost index has been rising at the rate of 4 per cent. each year. This gives a rate of an average of 5 per cent. on a balanced

basis at which the industry is going downhill. It does not matter whether a person is farming in a big or a small way; he is affected by what is shown in the results of the survey that was taken, and by the cost index. Many of the small farmers are dedicated people, and they work long hours. There are not many industries in which the people work 14 hours a day for 6½ days, and possibly seven days a week, just because they like the work.

The small farmers deserve encouragement. They should not be condemned or be allowed to be wiped out. However, unless assistance is given to them by the Government, as a result of better thinking, I believe they will be the first ones to go. If that takes place the loss to the farming industry will be great, and it will not be long before the bigger farmers will be placed in the same boat as the smaller farmers.

It is often said that the mining developments are a very great asset to the State, but let us not forget what agriculture—in the production of wool, wheat, and meat—has done for the stability of the economy of this country. It is still contributing greatly to Australia's economy, and it is still needed. I go so far as to say that indirectly agriculture is one of the greatest employers of labour.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: People cannot eat iron ore.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: I have no criticism of the iron ore projects, and I go along with the development that is taking place. All that is very good for the State. As we move around the schools in the country and see the large, and ever-increasing number of school children we become aware that employment must be provided for them when they leave school. It is impossible to provide employment for all of them in the country towns. In saying this I am not speaking against decentralisation. Even with the full implementation of decentralisation it would not be possible to provide them all with employment in the country. From the country angle we know that industries, like the iron ore industry, will be the means of providing employment for our young people.

While I am dealing with the cost squeeze question—I do not want to jump on anybody else's bandwagon—it is important to realise the effect of the discontinuance of quarterly adjustments to the basic wage. When the price of wool went up to £1 for one pound weight there was a sudden jump in the basic wage. I think the increase was about £1 per week. The impact was felt by the farming community, because it was a sudden jump. With quarterly adjustments to the basic wage, which I term the creeping system of wage increases, one could adjust oneself to the impact. The increase was not such a

large one at the one time, because the increase used to be made quarterly.

That was a sensible method. Under the present system a halt has been called to rises in the basic wage, but eventually there will be another sudden jump, because costs are rising—there has been no halt to the rise in costs. We in the farming community feel that we can cope better with the creeping method of wage increases.

In the case of manufacturers, the quarterly adjustments to the basic wage puzzled them. Many of them would have liked to increase the price of their products, but they felt the rise in the basic wage was not sufficient to warrant that action. Usually they absorbed the rises in the basic wage for a period, before they increased the prices of their products. That helps in putting a brake on the rising costs.

Most increases in the basic wage have been made because it was considered that industry could afford to pay the increases. I agree the increases were justified, as illustrated by the huge profits which were made by the big companies. However, when the wages were increased the prices of products rose also, with the result that the huge profits were maintained.

We had one example in Albany of a company which absorbed the rises in wages by expanding its operations. It was a transport company, and it did not increase its charges for cartage for a period of 15 years. It was able to absorb the rise in costs, wages, power, fuel, and repairs simply by expansion in operations. The imposition of the road maintenance tax increased the cost of cartage from 3.6c to 4.1c per ton mile, but it was a remarkable achievement of the company to absorb the increased costs over the years without increasing its charges. What an example that is to the other manufacturers in the State—those who are constantly increasing their prices and squealing about the increase in costs and wages.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: They could cut out their entertainment costs.

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE: They could cut out many of the taxation dodges which they use. They have many more dodges than have the farmers. It would be staggering to realise what the manufacturers are getting away with.

Once again we are hearing the cry that farmers must become more efficient. I ask: Are the manufacturers becoming more efficient, and are they doing all they can to keep prices down? They seem to revel in making huge profits. I would say that today the farmer is very efficient, and is doing far more to cope with the problem of increasing costs than is the manufacturer.

If a recession were to occur the wage and salary earners would be the first to suffer. When the last depression occurred the price of farm produce fell drastically,

and the effect was felt throughout the community. Today the price of farm produce has fallen to a dangerous level. I do not think its effect has been felt yet, because it took quite a period of time before the rise in the price of farm produce affected the community generally. It will be interesting to see whether in the next 12 or 18 months the present falling prices will bring about a recession in the city. I do not see how they cannot because we depend so much on this trade generally to balance payments. However, we know that it has not had much effect on the farmers at the moment because they are using their borrowing powers; and this is also dangerous.

I think I have said enough on that subject, and although I could get wound up in regard to it, I think perhaps it is better I did not.

During his speech Mr. Syd Thompson touched on the Local Government Assessment Committee, and I would also like to say a few words in connection with it. For some reason or other something must have gone wrong; and that is putting it nicely and mildly. The new boundaries seem to run geographically out of balance and I would say the report is not acceptable to the majority of people in the area I represent.

In the earlier pages of the report, reference is made to taking community interests into consideration; but, if members know anything about these country districts and shires, they will realise the report does not do this. A community really means the congregating of people into the one centre, but this has not been kept in mind when these proposed boundaries have been decided. For example, Gnowangerup extends right to the bottom corner to Two People Bay on the coast; and no-one from the lower area will be interested in the top area. Surely if a person is paying rates to a shire he will want to know something about the shire centre, and will want to take an interest in it!

We must face the fact that the Government relies tremendously on the generosity of country people and their loyalty to their areas. P. & C. associations, hospital boards, kindergartens, local government committees, sporting bodies, and the shire councils are all saving the Government money because of the work they do. Yet, with a quick stroke of a pen in the drawing up of these boundaries, the existing proud community spirit can be destroyed.

Let us agree that in many cases the present boundaries are not entirely suitable. Some shires are possibly too small and a revision is urgently needed. However, we must take into account the community spirit. I know of people who use a town exclusively in connection with education, sport, and entertainment; and yet

they are paying rates in another centre or shire. However, when it comes to raising money for a swimming pool, kindergarten, or sporting bodies—

The Hon. S. T. J. Thompson: And churches!

The Hon. E. C. HOUSE:—And churches, the people in the area concerned must be rated, and if they live in the area, they do not begrudge it. However, it is ridiculous to rate people in one area for something which will benefit another area. Therefore, in considering an alteration to boundaries, we must include in an area those people who will be able to make use of the amenities provided there. It is very important that this be done.

I feel the committee has gone overboard for big machinery and big money—\$4,000,000 worth—but these things do not make a community. They do not make the country town tick, and they do not make for good shires, either. It is essential that this report be reconsidered. It is not completely useless—my apologies to the Minister—as it has some merit; but it does need a great deal of revision.

For instance, in the southern section we have the Albany Shire, which has done a lot of work to build up roads and to advance the community generally. A great deal of land has been opened up in the south and now the farmers there are being told, in effect, that they will not be able to exist on their own any more, but will be swallowed up in Albany. It will not be long before Albany will be a city and does now stand on its own feet; but these people would like to have their own shire, and they cannot see any justification for the present proposals. The only time members of the eastern section will travel to Gnowangerup will be to attend a shire meeting. Members can imagine the kind of voting which will be experienced there, particularly when the question of the raising of rates for road work and other amenities for the centre is under consideration.

I believe that if this report is adopted, the community spirit, which has developed over a long period, will be destroyed.

That is all I wish to say now. I support the motion and although I am a comparatively new member myself, I feel I am in a position to congratulate the new members who have spoken this year.

THE HON. J. J. GARRIGAN (South-East) [5.53 p.m.]: I feel I should say at least a few words in support of the motion. Unfortunately, I have a wog or virus, whichever way the doctor likes to put it, and therefore I will have to speak slowly and, perhaps, not so loudly as I have in the past.

Firstly, Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate you for once again being re-elected to the very

high position of President of the Legislative Council, a position in which you have done so well over a number of years. I hope and trust you will be spared for many years to carry on in this very high position in the future.

To the new members I extend the right hand of fellowship and a warm welcome. I trust they will represent their provinces well, and their efforts will be of benefit to those provinces, to the House, and to Western Australia, and a credit to themselves.

I will touch briefly on a few matters concerning the vast and wealthy South-East Province. I always maintain that the bigger the province the bigger and more varied are the problems involved. One of our major problems today is that appertaining to the goldfields, and concerns the imposition on the gold prospectors in Kalgoorlie and the other areas in Western Australia from the far north right down to the south.

I would suggest that today the gold prospectors are a forgotten race, chiefly because of the existing mineral boom in Western Australia. This type of boom is, of course, of benefit to the State because it always brings with it stability not only to the State itself, but to the whole of the Australian economy.

Practically all the land available for prospecting has been granted to companies, syndicates, corporations, and individuals, by way of temporary reserves or mineral claims. We have a very peculiar set-up in Western Australia, and anyone who has had anything to do with goldmining will have studied this situation. Not the least of these is my colleague and friend, Mr. Stubbs. I suggest he is one of the most practical miners who ever lived in Western Australia. He has undertaken a keen study of mining and is also an ex-student of the School of Mines. What I am about to say is based on practical knowledge, and my experience as a bush geologist.

The peculiar set-up is this: We have three distinct mineral lines in Western Australia, all extending from the Murchison, and far beyond, to the Southern Ocean. The first of these lines of lode extends south from Mt. Jackson, Bullfinch, Southern Cross, and Marvel Loch, right down to the copper mines of Ravensthorpe, and finishes deep in the bed of the Southern Ocean.

The second of these lines from which the prospectors and the companies can achieve anything is some 120 miles east, again starting far away in the north from Mt. Ida, Carbine, Coolgardie, Spargo's Reward, Widgiemooltha, Norseman, and Popes Find, through to Mt. Magnet, and descending far under the Southern Ocean.

The most easterly and the most important is the third line of lode which starts somewhere far away in the Murchison, beyond Laverton, and goes right down

through Leonora, Menzies, Broad Arrow, Kambalda, and again dips away under the Southern Ocean.

Mr. Stubbs who, as I have already mentioned, has a wonderful knowledge of the subject, will agree with me when I say that the only true mineral lode in Western Australia is a lode which runs from north to south, dipping south and underlaying west. An east and west lode is only an offshoot of what we call the north and south lode; and even in those lodes faults are found. These appear, for instance, in the Yilgarn area where we have what are called dykes, or decomposed granite. These dykes, or decomposed granite, stand straight up and down—in other words, they are vertical—and always from the northern side of these an east and west lode is to be found.

I would suggest that the prospector, because of his experience over many years, is a bush geologist. He knows if he goes off the beaten track—that is, the track which I have already mentioned as the long one which extends down through three clearly defined mineral areas—he is not going to find gold. Practically all the areas from which the prospector has obtained a living for many years, and from which the prospector of the future expects to obtain a living, have been taken up, as I have already stated, by syndicates, companies, individuals, and speculators—with a capital "S" for speculators. They know full well the prospector would be wasting his time if he thought of going to Harvey, Merredin, or anywhere else where there is no indication of gold at all. When in the bush or country prospecting for gold, the prospector has as much natural talent as any geologist who has gone to the School of Mines.

Sitting suspended from 6.1 to 7.30 p.m.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: At the tea suspension I had almost reached the point of saying that it would not be fair to imply that gold had been found only in the auriferous areas. Gold has been found at Tooday, Wongamine, Lake Grace, and as far east as Randells, on the trans-Australian railway line. However, with all these small finds gold was not found in any quantity, and the quality was not of the best. I could refer to Tarcoola, which is just over the border in South Australia. A number of years ago, when our gold was bringing something like £10 an ounce the gold from that area was worth about £4 an ounce. So members can see that prospectors are not likely to go looking for gold in areas where gold is known to be of poor quality.

To show how the position of the prospectors in Western Australia has slipped in a short time, I would like to quote some answers I received to questions I asked of the Minister for Mines. I asked the Minister about the treatment of ore at the

State Batteries during the years 1967 and 1968, and the Minister gave me a most courteous and informative reply.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I always do.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: I asked the Minister the following question:—

What was the total tonnage of ore crushed at all State Batteries in Western Australia during each of the financial years ended—

(a) the 30th June, 1967;

(b) the 30th June, 1968?

The Minister's reply, in reference to the year 1967, was 33,639 tons; and in relation to 1968, 23,765 tons.

So members can see how, in a short time, there was a reduction in the crushings of the State Batteries by about one-third. I would put this down to the fact that prospectors have not sufficient country in which they can prospect; because so much has been taken up by syndicates, companies, and other individuals. However, let me remind members that almost every mine, or mineral find has been the result of a discovery by prospectors. We could take our minds back to the depression years; at that stage gold was the very foundation on which Western Australia rested, and the prospectors have done a great deal for Western Australia and the economy of Australia generally.

Had it not been for Bayley and Ford, Paddy Hannan, and others like them, Western Australia would not be in the sound financial position that it is today. A monument should be erected to such people and it should be there for all to see to make the public realise how much the prospectors have done for Western Australia. To mention only a few, there were Bayley and Ford, Paddy Hannan, Sam Cash, Jock Walls, and many others. Then, only recently, Jack Morgan and his partner found the very rich nickel deposits at Kambalda, and these deposits have been the subject of talk world-wide. I am proud to say that the finds at Kambalda will do much to bring stability to the eastern goldfields.

At this stage it is only fitting I should mention a company that has done so much to bring about stability in the eastern goldfields—I refer to Western Mining. That company has done a colossal job. It does not need to go to the State Government for help to build homes and swimming pools, and to provide the other amenities which are so necessary for the men and women who live in the outback parts of the State. There was an article in the Press within the last couple of weeks which indicated that in its very short period of operation at Kambalda, Western Mining has turned over something like \$4,000,000 worth of nickel. That is a colossal effort and I congratulate the company and commend it for the wonderful

job it is doing. Over the years for whatever Western Mining has taken out of the ground it has always put something back; it has always put something back into the economy of Western Australia.

I am sure the Minister for Mines will agree with me when I say that if prospectors are to continue with their search for gold an amendment will have to be made to the Act to permit them to prospect on temporary reserves or mineral leases. For the life of me I cannot see how a prospector, or two prospectors going on to a mineral lease or reserve would upset the people in whose names the leases or reserves are held.

Anybody who has had anything to do with a prospector, or with prospecting, knows of the working tools of a prospector. All he requires is a good utility, a 100-gallon tank, a pick and shovel, a dolly-pot, a pestle, and a panning-off dish. There are many ways that prospectors prospect for gold. They can take a little sample here and a little sample there and with their panning-off dish, and in their own way, they can ascertain how many penny-weights to the ton they will get. Then a prospector may tap a reef on the surface, and that is where he uses the dolly-pot and pestle.

A prospector may take an auger and bore into the ground. Then he removes the auger, with its sample, and he uses his panning-off dish, from which, as I said previously, he can ascertain the quality of the gold.

The other method used by prospectors is called costeening. The costeens put down by prospectors are not very big; they may be only a foot wide and a foot deep and the idea is to tap the top of any lode which they think might exist in the area in which they are prospecting.

However, when a prospector finds gold he does not rush around with a bulldozer, or a front-end loader, digging up the countryside. He sinks a little shaft and in the breaking and crushing of the ore he does not do any harm to anyone. In fact, the pastoralists of Western Australia welcome prospectors because they do many good turns for the pastoralists. If a prospector finds a sheep in a bog he pulls it out; or if he finds a sheep caught in a fence he releases it. Anything unusual that he sees he reports to the station owner. Therefore I think the Act should be amended to enable prospectors to prospect on reserves or mineral leases.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: You know that a P.A. for gold gives a right to all minerals.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: After a certain time.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Yes.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: Some of the big reservations cover 1,000 acres so why should we provide a limit in regard to time?

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Have you thought of the consequences of giving the right to all minerals for an existing mineral title?

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: I know what is in the Act, and when people apply for mineral reservations or leases they have to state certain facts. However, I trust the Minister will take a sympathetic view of the matter and do something to assist the prospectors in Western Australia.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I am very sympathetic. You know I have not granted a temporary reserve on the goldfields for over 12 months.

The Hon. J. J. GARRIGAN: I am quite aware of that. I should now like to refer to another matter, but in my remarks, which are directed to the Minister for Mines, there is nothing vicious. I am more or less seeking some guidance from the Minister about what should be done in one of the major country towns which Mr. Stubbs and I represent—I refer to Merredin. A large number of Government employees reside at that centre, and in this regard I asked the Minister some questions. I was informed that there are 46 school teachers, nine members of the Police Force, and 314 railway employees living in Merredin.

When a Government employee is transferred with his family from the metropolitan area to Merredin, or vice versa, he finds great difficulty in obtaining accommodation; and in my view the time has arrived when housing should be provided for these people. At present the housing available at Merredin is deplorable. People have to live in a lean-to, or any other shelter they can find. However, if houses could be built at Merredin people transferred to that centre could occupy them, and when they, in their turn, were transferred back to the metropolitan area they could take over the houses of their successors, and they could take over the houses in Merredin. I hope the Minister for Mines will pass this suggestion on to the Minister for Housing and that he, in turn, will give it the consideration it deserves.

Although the Minister for Health is not here at the moment there is one important matter on which I would like to touch, and where I think an anomaly does exist. In Kalgoorlie and Boulder we have what I think is the best medical scheme in Western Australia. It is known as the Goldfields Medical Fund. It is administered by a most capable manager and staff, and there is hardly a person in our district who does not belong to this fund.

However it does not matter whether a person pays for a single-bed room, a four-bed ward, or a 10-bed ward, if the patient happens to be admitted to a single-bed room, and he has been paying into the fund for a four-bed or a 10-bed ward, on

discharge he is charged the difference between the cost of the single-bed room and the four or 10-bed ward, as the case might be.

Under the Act that account must be paid. It could amount to a considerable sum of money if the patient were there for a long period of time. On the other hand there is, of course, the case of the person who pays into the fund for a single-bed room and who may have to be accommodated in a 10-bed ward, but who on discharge is not given any rebate whatever for the difference between the cost of the single-bed room and the 10-bed ward. For example, I was paying for a four-bed ward and I was put into a 10-bed ward. It is one of those things that happen. It does not appear to be anybody's fault—it is not the fault of the medical fund, or of the sister, or of the hospital authorities concerned.

In Kalgoorlie we have the second largest population outside the metropolitan area. Also we have an enormous population of pensioners and people who are unable to fend for themselves. We have no "C"-class hospital, and the result is that these unfortunate people have to be housed in the Kalgoorlie District Hospital. It is because of the lack of a "C"-class hospital that some of these people are compelled to accept whatever beds happen to be available. I feel the time has come for the Government to give serious consideration to subsidising the establishment of a "C"-class hospital in Kalgoorlie.

With those few remarks I support the motion.

THE HON. G. E. D. BRAND (Lower North) [7.48 p.m.]: I would first like heartily to support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply so ably moved by Mr. White. I would then like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on once again being elected to the Chair you now occupy. We have seen you in action for a long time, and your treatment of members has been most generous. We all wish you many years of pleasure in that position.

I would also like to offer my sincere congratulations to the new members who have been elected, and also to you, Sir, on being re-elected unopposed. I have seen Mr. Cloughton in action, and I have been very impressed. At this stage I must say how very jealous I am of the ability displayed by Mr. Berry, who is my partner in the Lower North Province. In about five minutes he was able to say all that I have been trying to say about the Lower North Province over a period of time. It is said that familiarity breeds contempt, but I do not think it will on this occasion. I am sure Mr. Berry will do a great job in representing the Lower North Province.

My congratulations go to Mr. Medcalf on his very interesting dissertation on law reform. This is generally a most dry and

uninteresting subject, but it was a great pleasure to listen to Mr. Medcalf speak. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I only went to sleep once! I hope that the stay of all new members will be a long and happy one.

It makes one a little sad when one thinks of those members who were not returned. I refer particularly to my friend Eric Heenan, and on this matter I would like to put Mr. Lavery straight. Wherever I went in the north with Eric Heenan he was always very well received. He was always the perfect gentleman and, of course, this helped him tremendously.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Why did you want to put me straight? I said he was the most ethical man I had ever met.

The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND: There are certainly not many of us about. It is unfortunate that after having given 32 years' service Mr. Heenan did not retire undefeated. It is a great pity indeed. I am sure we all glory in the honour that has been bestowed on Sir Keith Watson. It was always a pleasure to listen to him debating. He has great wisdom and a beautiful delivery; he is a very intelligent man. Those of us who prefer to listen rather than talk always found him a great teacher. His honour was richly deserved.

Our old friend Herb Robinson is, of course, no longer with us. I enjoyed being pushed around by him while he was Whip, though I must admit he did not get me to do very much.

The first topic I wish to speak about is the damming of the Gascoyne River. Mr. Berry explained the position very well and one must pay heed to his remarks, because he is an expert who for many years has been dependent on the Gascoyne for his supply of water for the plantation which he operates. For a long time we have been endeavouring to get a dam constructed. We were given all sorts of reasons why it could not be constructed, and probably the reasons were correct.

When I first came here I asked the Premier what the trouble was in connection with the damming of the Gascoyne, and he replied it was not possible to find a suitable place at which to dam it. However, the river must be dammed in the not too distant future. The area has experienced nine good years, but I daresay it will not be long before the river ceases to run, for one reason or another. If that happens the impact on the plantations will be very severe and production will almost cease, as has been the case in the past.

As a result of investigation and research that has been carried out proof has been forthcoming that bananas and other commodities can be grown with much less water than was first thought possible. Controls have been in existence since 1960, but improved agricultural practices have helped no end. Mention has been made

of building a dam at Rocky Pool, but although investigations were carried out the boring operations did not give much hope of a decent foundation. There are quite a few problems evident, and I daresay it would cost about \$5,000,000 to place a dam in that area.

We are all hoping that a large dam eventually will be constructed at the Kennedy Range; though when one looks at the great height of this range, towering over the flat ground as it does, one wonders how it will be possible to place a dam in that area.

It was very interesting to read that the owner of Landor station, Mr. Viveash, offered some of his land for use in a test using a nuclear explosion; the suggestion being that a hole should be blown in the ground and the water allowed to fill that hole. One does not know what the holding condition of the land would be, and it is possible that the hole would fill with silt.

We all hope that in the future it will be found possible to dam the Gascoyne River to provide a permanent supply of water for the growers of the district.

I listened with interest to Mr. Perry's remarks on the question of natives. In the Lower North Province we come in contact with many natives, on innumerable occasions. It has been my pleasure to meet up with them in all sorts of places. We meet the young people in the schools, and we meet those who have just left school. We also meet, of course, the young men and women and the old folk. However, one feels very inadequate when one cannot do something for the native people. I have met bush natives, natives living in homes, clean folk, and folk who are not so clean; though, of course, we also meet them among our white population.

When one visits the schools one sees the young people who are really quite bright; some of them have skills which we do not possess. They are good with their hands and the more intelligent among them go on to higher education and become academically qualified.

Only the other day a young man named King was interviewed on TV. He said he hoped to become a doctor, and I wish him all the very best for the future. He will be an acquisition to his country if he qualifies in medicine. I have in my possession a particularly good sketch which was done by a young native. The teacher suggested that he amuse himself for half an hour and he promptly sat down and drew the scene in front of him. The drawing was so good that I had thoughts of sending him to *The West Australian* newspaper to see whether he could be employed as an artist. The teacher, however, told me he wanted to be a boundary rider like his father. To my way of

thinking that is a waste of talent. Native children have inherent abilities and these are not evident until somebody points them out. Mr. Berry and I were at Rawlinna at the weekend where we presented trophies, quite a few of which were won by natives.

I could not understand why the native girls would look away when we shook hands with them. It was not until I called in to see the Reverend Stewart, who is in charge of Cundeelee Mission, that I was enlightened as to their tribal habits. He seemed to think that aboriginal children should attend a kindergarten before they go to school. It would appear that when they do go to school they know about one, two, and three but they do not know anything about four, five, and six. However, they know many things of a tribal nature. They look out of the window at school and see birds, and they know where the birds go to get leaves to build their nests, and so on.

It is in the schools that it is considered these children are backward, but if half of the white children could find their way around the bush as well as the native children can, they would be doing very well.

The plight of young native brides is rather unfortunate. The natives have a certain rite which makes a boy into a man; and the native who performs that ceremony—he is called an uncle—is entitled to marry the daughter of that man. In these enlightened days, this is embarrassing to the children concerned. When girls leave school and return to their families at a station or on a reserve it must be shocking for them to realise they have to marry a much older man. These girls have learned refined ways of living and that is where we fall down. However, that may not be so. If we were under the domination of a coloured race we would not enjoy being pushed around; and perhaps they do not.

Pastor Vaughan, at Wiluna, came up with a couple of ideas. He said that the natives received too much money. Ninety per cent. of the natives usually get drunk and then go home and push everything and everyone around, including their wives. They finish up with no money and have to wait until the next pay day to get more. In the meantime, they probably live off the bush. According to Pastor Vaughan, no native can obtain any vegetables from him until he has worked for a certain number of hours. If a native does some work, Pastor Vaughan maintains he is entitled to some of the produce.

Pastor Vaughan is also of the opinion that if a native is living in a Government building, or in a house at a mission, or on a reserve, he should do work to the value of a few dollars for it, as this gives the native a sense of ownership and pride. In many

cases natives have not had the same training in hygiene as white people have had, and their homes suffer accordingly.

I put these suggestions of Pastor Vaughan to the Native Welfare Department, but the department was not impressed. However, I think Pastor Vaughan was on the right track.

This evening we listened to a speech by Mr. House in regard to the problems being experienced by woolgrowers. He has a great knowledge of the subject and I do not desire to cover the same ground as we are all fully aware of the causes of these problems.

It is the lot of many people to have to live in outback towns. With this in mind, I asked a question a week or so ago about several different towns—and I enumerated the towns—in the Murchison-Eyre electorate receiving the benefit of the Zone "A" allowance. This was suggested originally before 1965, but nothing much has been done about it. I hope one day the Treasurer, in his wisdom, will apply the Zone "A" taxation deduction to the people living in these towns.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The Federal Treasurer?

The Hon. G. E. D. BRAND: Yes; not the Premier. I am sure we are all aware of the privations which people in the outback have to face. A disgruntled elector of mine had to come all the way to Perth to obtain treatment to his teeth, whereas a city man just has to go around the corner. This man had to get into his car, drive to Perth, get his teeth attended to, and drive back, at a cost of about \$200. I did not ask him what he spent his money on, but I presume it was on dental treatment and expenses for the journey to and from Perth.

The town of Carnarvon is going along very nicely at the moment. It is one of the go-ahead towns with a very forward-thinking shire council. There have been all sorts of suggestions in regard to obtaining land for houses. This has been difficult, because of the type of country—it is clay, sandy soil, that easily washes away. However, after much trouble, work, and planning, the Morgan Town area has been built up. Originally it was suggested that the area of Brown's Range be built up, but there it is 10 degrees hotter in summer and there would have been interference with the work of the tracking station. So that plan was discarded. With the assistance of the engineers of the Public Works Department and the initiative of the shire, an area of land protected by levee banks has been built up; and this should provide something like 600 blocks which will be sold at reasonable prices to people for the purpose of building homes. I congratulate Carnarvon on being so go-ahead.

I have been asked to do a ticklish sort of job. The people of Carnarvon feel that the transport company now operating—I will not mention its name—which pioneered the cartage business before the black road was put through, and which suffered all the inconveniences of breakdowns, blown-out tyres, and so on, cannot handle all the business that is offering. Therefore it has been suggested that I request another transport company be licensed—one of the local firms in that area. At one time goods used to be transported by ships, but these days road transport is more efficient and much faster. Therefore the people hope that another company will be permitted to assist the present company because it is overburdened and cannot attend to all the needs of the people.

The ceremony of joining the rails at Kalgoorlie for the standard gauge line was very interesting, but I want to make reference to the celebrations for the gold-fields 75th anniversary. As usual, some of the people—the knockers—said these celebrations would be a flop and that nobody would be interested. The job of organising was given to Ross Rodgers, who did not get very much co-operation. However, his efforts culminated in two or three days of excellent sightseeing for about 3,000 to 4,000 visitors.

Certain people at Kalgoorlie formed themselves into a society, bought an old building, and turned it into a museum, which was opened by the Minister for Mines. This museum is a feather in the cap of those responsible. In the not too distant future we hope to persuade the Minister for Railways to give us a "P"-class engine to place in front of the building, which is full of mementoes of the early days, when gold was first discovered, and even up to the present day. This museum was one of the highlights of the celebrations.

The Shire of Kalgoorlie has commenced building a new civic centre. About three years ago everybody considered that Kalgoorlie had had it, but now the town is busy and progressing. The celebration held recently reflected great credit on the organiser (Mr. Ross Rodgers).

That concludes all I wish to say, and I sincerely support the motion.

THE HON. R. H. C. STUBBS (South-East) [8.13 p.m.]: May I congratulate you, Sir, on your re-election to the high position you occupy. I am sure you will continue to show the firmness, fairness, and dignity that you have shown in the past. I must say my association with you has been very pleasant.

To the new members, I offer my congratulations. To members who have been returned I also add my congratulations; and to the members who did not come back I express my sorrow. Although we are politically opposed, we become friendly with members opposite. We seem to be

like one big school; and when someone is missing we regret the fact. That is the hazard of politics and we must face it.

Mr. Syd Thompson mentioned the changes in the Chamber since he first came here. On looking around I can see 12 new faces—members who were not here when I first arrived—so I refer to myself as an old member.

As a member for the South-East Province, in association with my colleague and friend (Mr. Jim Garrigan), let me say that the interests of the province are mixed in that they include mining and agriculture; and I must support Mr. Garrigan in what he had to say about prospectors. I think he was very modest, because he certainly did a good job. He knows his subject very well and left little for anyone else to say without going over the same ground. One cannot spend 28 years in mining towns and around mining places without gathering knowledge; and Mr. Garrigan gathered it in a very efficient way. Our province contains a very large area, in excess of 80,000 square miles, with a population of just on 19,000 people.

The province takes in the nine shire councils of Dundas, Kulin, Kondinin, Narembeene, Merredin, Westonia, Yilgarn, Coolgardie, and Kalgoorlie, and two town councils in Kalgoorlie and Boulder. As I said before, our interests are mixed. In the mining world at the moment, fortunes are also mixed. Very exciting things are happening in nickel development but, unfortunately, I cannot say the same is occurring in the goldmining industry. That industry is certainly declining.

For years we have hoped that something would happen with regard to the price of gold, but unfortunately this has not occurred. All the big names in the mining world are prospecting for nickel and large field parties are searching for this mineral. Enormous sums of money are being spent and hundreds of men are engaged in the search for nickel.

In the South-East Province nickel has been found from Nepean, 20 miles south of Coolgardie, down to Spargoville, Widgiemooltha, and Higginsville. The International Nickel Company has been successful at Widgiemooltha, and holes have been drilled south of Widgiemooltha and at Higginsville by Anaconda. It looks as though mining towns will be springing up because of this development.

Western Mining has been drilling with success in the other areas, so I think it will be only a short time before we have another producing mine in our area. Of course, Scotia is also operating in the South-East Province and, according to recent announcements, it looks almost certain that that company will be producing very soon. Mt. Martin is producing gold and will be producing nickel, and I think substantial tonnages will be treated in the near future.

On the bright side of the picture, nickel development is proceeding rapidly. However, unfortunately gold is not in the same position. In the case of nickel, the rewards are great but the risks are many and the costs are high. A great deal of money will have to be spent before the mines are developed. A case in point is the International Nickel Company in Canada. That company spent \$10,000,000 and 10 years prospecting before it found the Thompson Lake nickel deposit in Canada.

Western Mining operated for two years in the field at Kambalda before it drilled and, of course, we all know the history of Kambalda. The company associated with that find intends to establish a new township two or three miles from the present townsite. I understand that everywhere the company drills it finds nickel, and it would be silly to build houses on those deposits. So I believe no more houses will be built in the present townsite of Kambalda, when the present commitments are completed, but a further 500 houses will be built two miles away.

Mr. Garrigan mentioned the Western Mining Corporation. He and I both worked for that company. We know that the company never gives up. In the old days of course, if a mine "got out" of the ore deposit the company gave it away. However, the Western Mining Corporation has drilled and driven for thousands of feet until it found the ore body again. On several of its mines it has shown courage and spent a great deal of money, and it is good to see that the company is being rewarded for that effort. It has had a wonderful backing from its work force as well.

The discovery of nickel has been a wonderful boost for Kalgoorlie and the outback. The mining industry creates true decentralisation. Towns crop up and amenities are provided. The modern trend is to provide good housing and all the amenities necessary to keep the work force in an area. That is the position in most mining towns now. In the old days when one went to a mining town and got a job, one put up a bag shack built with bush timber. However, that is not the position today. The women will not stay under those conditions. To keep them happy they have to be provided with a good house and amenities. Of course, if the women are happy then there is every chance that the men will be happy, too.

On the other side of the mining ledger, gold is in the doldrums. Because of the price of gold the industry finds it difficult to make ends meet, or to make a small profit. Gold is still priced at \$35 American an ounce, and it has been at that figure for many years. Mr. Garrigan and I—and previous members from the Goldfields—have said every year that the price is not sufficient to make ends meet. The Australian price is \$31.25.

Gold has played an important part in the economy of Australia, and particularly

of Western Australia. Prospectors discovered the gold-bearing areas, and the companies followed and deep mines were developed. Railways, roads, and water pipelines were built and this enabled the mines to be developed. Agriculture followed in the wake of the mining industry. Unfortunately, of course, gold is not the glamour metal now. However, I have always said that one day it will come into its own again; but unfortunately, we do not know when.

On reading through the history of the world I find that many attempts have been made to replace gold as the medium of exchange. In the old days shells were used, but it was found that shells break. Then animals were used, but it was found that animals got old and deteriorated. Through the years various metals were used, but finally gold was the one which was adopted. Gold is accepted in most of the Asian countries, and in some of the European countries. In 1968 the members of the International Monetary Fund introduced a new method of paper money to do away with gold as a medium of exchange. A two tier system of dealing in gold was introduced. I do not intend to say too much about this matter because I think the economists have tricked themselves. I cannot follow their reasoning even though I read as much as I can on the subject. I am afraid it is getting beyond me.

The point I want to make is that in Western Australia gold is now back to the position it was in 1929. In that year 4,108 men were employed in the industry. In 1967—the latest figures I could get—4,027 men were employed. In 1929 gold was \$8.5 per fine ounce. In 1939 it had risen to \$19.50, and in that year 14,961 men were employed. Over a period of 10 years nearly 10,000 extra men were employed in the industry. Whereas the return in 1929 was \$3,000,000, it had increased to \$23,000,000 in 1939. In 1940 the return rose to \$24,000,000. Unfortunately, the war intervened and I do not think the goldmining industry has fully recovered since then. It has gradually dwindled until, as I say, only 4,000 men are employed and the return is now only \$18,000,000.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: But the overall position of the mineral industry is totally different now.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: I admit the mineral industry is in a good position. I also agree with Mr. Garrigan that it was due to the work of the prospectors, and the big companies which followed. At the moment I am dealing with gold and I am sure the Minister will agree that the goldmining industry would benefit from an increase in the price of gold.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Indeed it would, but it is just as well that we are having the benefit of the other minerals.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: Yes, we have to thank the good Lord because he put the minerals there.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: He should have put some of the minerals in more accessible places!

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: I agree with the Minister. Just the same, the good Lord never seemed to put them near the sea; he put them inland. Most of the people living in the bush are pure gold and true blue.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: The Darling Range bauxite deposits have not been too badly placed.

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: Of course, that is just one deposit. The beach sand on the edge of the sea is a better place to find the minerals. The Commonwealth Government, in its latest Budget, gave the goldmining industry only \$2,700,000. That is nowhere near the sum which agriculture is to receive. I am not critical of agriculture because in the past I have said that it should receive this money, so what I have to say is not meant to be derogatory.

The comparison I make is that \$2,700,000 is allocated to the goldmining industry, but the allocation for superphosphate has gone up from \$6 to \$8 per ton. Up to June, this year, 1,415,000 tons of superphosphate were used and there could be an increase of 250,000 tons next year. Based on 1,415,000 tons of superphosphate, \$11,333,000 will be spent on the agricultural superphosphate bounty, and that figure could go to \$13,000,000. While I agree that we should have this expenditure, I do not think the Federal Government realises the value of gold. For that reason, I believe the allocation of \$2,700,000 for the goldmining industry is a pretty niggardly amount compared with that for agriculture.

I now wish to turn to the subject of pyrites. The people at Norseman are very disappointed because the mine which has been producing pyrites and employing up to 120 men—and which has been working for 25 years—has now been closed down. I know the Tariff Board recommended that the mine be closed because the pyrites could not be sold.

I realise it is hard to try to match brimstone. Pyrites has to be mined and concentrated, and then railed a long way. The process is costly, and it is dirty. It is not

clean by any means, and the cost of the maintenance of the plant is a little higher than that for a brimstone plant. Brimstone is also cleaner to handle. Therefore all superphosphate companies have switched their plants to provide for the use of brimstone.

What worries me is that we are putting all our eggs in the one basket, and we are entirely at the mercy of foreign countries, because all our brimstone is imported from America, Mexico, and Canada. When pyrites is used for the manufacture of superphosphate the sulphur is eventually turned into sulphuric acid which is mixed with phosphatic rock. This renders the superphosphate soluble, thus enabling plant life to take immediate advantage of the superphosphate.

Australia, unfortunately, does not have any natural deposits of brimstone, and therefore it is dependent on importations of brimstone, so essential to the agricultural industry, from overseas. Because of this I consider Australia is in a very weak position and I have been concerned about the situation for quite some time. As a result I asked a series of questions on the subject. There are many important factors, apart from the fact that 125 men have lost their employment in Norseman, which would be a serious blow to any town. The questions I asked and the answers I received from the Minister for Mines on Tuesday, the 9th August, 1966, are as follows:—

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

- (1) How much sulphur was imported into Australia and Western Australia during the years ended the 30th June, 1965, and 1966 from—
 - (a) Canada;
 - (b) U.S.A.;
 - (c) Mexico; and
 - (d) other sources?
- (2) What was the cost in Australian currency per ton?
- (3) If there is a cost per ton increase, what would be the reason for it?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

The answer to (1) and (2) of this question is in the form of a schedule as follows:—

Country of Origin	1964-65				1965-66			
	Australia Tons	Australia \$ Per Ton*	Western Tons	Western \$ Per Ton*	Australia Tons	Australia \$ Per Ton	Western Tons	Western \$ Per Ton*
Canada	175,984	18.17	42,310	18.52	175,983	21.8	30,234	20.39
U.S.A.	135,131	16.74	24,203	16.17	189,671	22.8	80,528	24.73
Mexico	63,639	20.16	23,775	19.05	41,590	25.2	4,480	21.88
Other	25	24.22	....	....	29	39.5	....	....
Totals	374,459	17.07	90,797	17.12	407,253	22.7	115,302	23.48

* F.O.B. port of shipment.

(3) Higher world prices of sulphur. From those figures it will be seen that in 12 months the price of sulphur, or brimstone imported from Canada rose from \$16.52 per ton to \$20.39 per ton; from U.S.A., the price rose from \$16.17 per ton to \$24.73 per ton; and from Mexico, the price rose from \$19.05 per ton to \$21.88 per ton.

During this session I also asked questions about the importation of sulphur into Australia, as follows:—

- (1) How much sulphur was imported into Australia and Western Australia during the years ended the 30th June, 1967, and the 30th June, 1968, from—
 - (a) Canada;
 - (b) United States of America;
 - (c) Mexico; and
 - (d) other sources?
- (2) What was the cost in Australian currency per ton?
- (3) Was there a cost increase over previous years?
- (4) If so, what was the reason?

In the answers to these questions, the figures in relation to the tonnage of sulphur imported into Western Australia in 1966-67 and 1967-68 were as follows:—

Country	Western Australia	
	1966-67	1967-68
	tons	tons
Canada	60,018	85,970
Mexico	47,684	38,960
U.S.A.	18,095	50,225
Other .....	.....	5,019
Total	125,797	183,174

And the answer to my question regarding the cost of sulphur imported into Western Australia during 1966-67 and 1967-68 was as follows:—

Country	Western Australia	
	1966-67	1967-68
	\$/ton	\$/ton
Canada	33.2	33.1
Mexico	29.6	33.5
U.S.A.	33.4	35.0
Other .....	.....	53.5
Average for total tonnage	34.2	38.0

From Canada, the total tonnage of sulphur imported into this State, in the 12 months from 1967 to 1968, rose from 60,018 to 85,970; from Mexico it dropped from 47,684 to 38,960; and from the United States it rose from 18,095 to 50,225.

In the same period of 12 months the price of sulphur imported from Canada dropped .1 of a dollar; from Mexico, the price rose from \$29.6 to \$38.5; and from the United States, the price of sulphur rose from \$33.4 to \$35.0. From those figures it can be seen that the price of sulphur imported from Canada in 1964-65, compared with the price of sulphur imported from that country in 1967-68, was more than double, because it rose from \$16.52 to \$38.1. The same applied to the price of sulphur imported from the United

States. In 1964-65 the price of sulphur from that country was \$16.17, but in 1967-68 it had risen to \$35. The importation of sulphur from Mexico also doubled in price, because in 1964-65 the price was \$19.05, but in 1967-68 the price had risen to \$38.5.

It seems ludicrous to put all our eggs into one basket. I think it would be good insurance against anything untoward happening if we continued to produce pyrites. Any sudden eventuality could curtail the importation of brimstone into this State, and we are now totally dependent on overseas markets for the production of superphosphate which is so essential to our agricultural industry.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: What do you do when the local company will not use local material?

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS: That is the point. I think the Tariff Board should have encouraged the local superphosphate companies to use pyrites. I agree, of course, that the pyrites produced at Norseman is slightly different from that mined at, say, Queensland, where the pyrites contains a little copper and other minerals, the sale of which helps to increase the profits earned by the company. Unfortunately the pyrites mined at Norseman is as pure as it can be, and the sulphur is about half the weight of the pyrites.

I now want to say a few words about the train service that may commence when the standard gauge line is brought into operation. I asked questions on this subject both last session and this session, and the reason for my interest is that I am seeking the information for the benefit of the people residing in the areas that will be served by this new railway service. On Thursday, the 1st August, 1968, I asked the following question:—

When the passenger train service commences on the standard gauge railway line from Perth to Kalgoorlie and return—

- (a) what type of service is contemplated;
- (b) what will the timetable be departing from—
 - (i) Perth; and
 - (ii) Kalgoorlie;
- (c) will there be any alternative service?

To which the Minister for Mines replied—

- (a) a diesel-rail car service will be provided.
- (b) (i) and (ii) These timetables have not yet been resolved.
- (c) Limited overnight sleeping berth accommodation will be available on interstate passenger services.

It seems to be an open secret in the Kalgoorlie district that there will be a daylight diesel train service. The point I am trying to make for the benefit of the people

Mr. Garrigan and I represent, is that at present people residing in Kalgoorlie can catch the Kalgoorlie express to Perth at a time which enables them to consult medical specialists and various Government departments the following day. They leave Kalgoorlie at 7 p.m., disembark from the train at 9 a.m. and during the morning they can visit the various business houses where they wish to conduct their business and catch the afternoon train back to Kalgoorlie at 5 p.m. To them this means that a great deal of time is saved.

If a daylight service is brought into operation, however, they will be travelling during the day and be forced to obtain accommodation in Perth overnight so that they may attend to their business the following day; and, at the moment, I do not know what time the train will leave Perth for the return trip to Kalgoorlie. It will be even more difficult for those people residing at Esperance and Salmon Gums if a daylight service is inaugurated, because they will be travelling in the bus all night, or part of the night, or part of the early morning. I do not think this is desirable, because I travel a good deal by bus and I certainly find it very cold and dusty.

I would like to suggest to the Minister for Railways that he gives some consideration to making it possible for people to travel from Esperance, Salmon Gums, and Norseman by road bus to Kalgoorlie, arriving there at about 8 p.m. They could then board the train and travel by an overnight service to Perth, arriving in the city next morning. This arrangement would suit the Esperance and Salmon Gums people better than a daylight train service from Kalgoorlie. Such a service would be all right for the residents of Kalgoorlie proper, and it would also be quite enjoyable from the point of view that passengers would be able to enjoy looking at the countryside. However, in giving consideration to the establishment of a service I would like the people who reside south of Kalgoorlie to be granted the benefit of an all-night train service, and a daylight bus service from those areas.

I am aware the next matter I wish to raise is a Federal one, but nevertheless I wish to bring it to the attention of the House in the hope that those in authority at Canberra read our *Hansard*. The subject to which I refer is the lack of television in country areas. We are still extremely worried about the lack of this amenity on the goldfields, and I would point out that I asked a question last session in relation to the problem.

I have been endeavouring for a long time to get television facilities made available for country people and I understand a national station will be established at Geraldton and at Kalgoorlie, but each of these stations will be only 40 kilowatts, with a radius of only 40 miles. People residing further south of that range are not very happy about that arrangement.

It is also significant that this will be the lowest powered television station in Australia. All the other national stations throughout the Commonwealth are 100 kilowatts. However, the television stations to be established at Kalgoorlie and Geraldton will be only 40 kilowatts. I do not know any of the technical details of television stations, because we on the goldfields have not got a station and do not look like getting one for some time.

Speaking on behalf of the people south of Kalgoorlie, I consider a lot of thought should be given to this matter. After all, there will be large pockets of population in that area, following the development of the nickel finds at Mt. Martin, and Kambalda, at several big mines from Nepean to Higginsville, and at Scotia on the north of Kalgoorlie.

Television is an amenity which is essential to keep the womenfolk happy. They remain in their houses all day long, and on the occasions when they have the opportunity to come to Perth they often look at television. When they return they miss this amenity, and induce the menfolk to leave mining and settle in the city. Television should be provided to help retain the people in the districts I have mentioned. Some people in the farming districts who are in the viewing area have told me that television is a tremendous boost to the retention of manpower on the farms. This is the same amenity which is desired by the people living on the goldfields.

Before I conclude I would like to refer to a publication entitled *Bases For A Successful Australian Mining Industry* written by W. M. Morgan, Managing Director of Western Mining Corporation. On page 9 the following appears:—

A great deal of lip service is done to encourage decentralisation by Government, but remarkably little is done about it.

We do not see the Postmaster General's Department, for instance, eager to provide television services to these remote communities; they are most reluctant to provide telephones into the houses of the workers in these areas, unless at somebody else's expense, and the postal deliveries are nil unless the companies concerned make all the necessary arrangements and pay for them.

That sums up the position. Many of the mining companies do provide various amenities to induce the employees to remain. With those remarks I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply.

THE HON. F. D. WILLMOTT (South-West) [8.47 p.m.]: I join with other members in congratulating those who were returned at the last election, and particularly the new members who were elected.

I hope they will obtain the same satisfaction from their stay in this House, as I have. I express my regret to the members who are no longer with us, and particularly to those who lost their seats at the hands of the electors. Of course, this is a hazard which we have to face, and all members realise that when they are elected.

I apply that expression of regret to the former member for Kimberley; but I also express extreme regret at some of the things which have been said and which have been insinuated in regard to the Kimberley election.

We were told by Mr. Heitman the other evening that he had spent a fortnight with the present member for Kimberley (Mr. Ridge) in that electorate. On the evening that Mr. Heitman returned from the Kimberley I met him at the Perth Airport—and I met a very tired man. He had been working hard, as I am sure had Mr. Ridge. The reason I met him at the airport was that I was catching a plane for the Kimberley to spend a fortnight working with Mr. Ridge. That means that for a full month Mr. Ridge was at no time out of the company of either myself or Mr. Heitman. I will say this: Mr. Ridge fought an absolutely clean campaign.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Did anybody in this House deny that?

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT: I have not got around to that.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: You can reply through the President. You should not make insinuations.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Will the honourable member please resume his seat.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: I will not let you get away with that. I am sorry Mr. President, that I interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Interjections are highly disorderly, and I would not like Mr. Lavery to interject again.

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT: I repeat that Mr. Ridge conducted a very clean campaign while he was with me, and for the whole of the time I was in the Kimberley electorate I practically lived with Mr. Ridge. He was not out of my company at any time, and we even shared the same bedroom. In view of some of the things which have been said in regard to this election I had better make it quite clear that we did not share the same bed! Not that we had very much time to spend in our beds! We were working. Mr. Ridge worked very hard and very intelligently, and that is the reason he is the present member for Kimberley. He did not at any time in my presence make any sort of personal attack on Mr. Rhatigan. In fact, he studiously kept away from any reference to his political opponent, and that was fair enough.

Great play has been made of the native vote. It has been said this was the reason for Mr. Ridge being elected as the member for Kimberley. I would like to point out my experiences during that campaign, and I am speaking from personal experience. I am not relying on hearsay, as has been done by many of those who have spoken on this matter. It has been said that some pressure must have been brought to bear on the natives to win their votes. If there was any pressure put on the natives, I would say the pressure was from their own people.

One afternoon at Wyndham, where I spent five or six days visiting houses—including houses occupied by natives—and leaving the candidate's card with his picture on it, an old native was watching us, from the opposite side of the street, going from house to house. We wondered what he was doing. He was only showing some consideration for us, and he did not approach us until we had finished with the houses on that side of the street.

He came up to us; he had one of Mr. Ridge's introductory cards in his hand. He said, "Mr. Ridge?" This person could not read or write. It is hard to determine the age of natives, but I would say this person was between 50 and 60 years. Although he could not read, he knew the picture. He had picked the card up from one of the houses, and he came up deliberately to look for Mr. Ridge. He said to Mr. Ridge, "I know you. I worked for you when you were the shire clerk. I would like to help you. Give me some of your cards." This person was not a native from Wyndham; he had come from way out east of Derby.

As most people are aware, the picture is what matters to the natives. This native was only as intelligent as some white people who are compelled to be enrolled and to vote. People who are familiar with the ways of natives are aware that they are guided by pictures, such as the one on Mr. Ridge's card; just as they are guided by tracks on the ground. If they see a track as belonging to Coolabar, they cannot be told it belongs to somebody else. They cannot read or write, but pictures mean everything to them.

When I went to Broome exactly the same thing happened in the case of another native. This is the type of person who guides his own native friends as to how they should vote.

I return again to the position at Wyndham. An allegation has been made that the native vote—and this only—won Mr. Ridge the Kimberley seat. I would suggest that perhaps a more reasonable point of view—and this has not been expressed in this debate up till now—was the fact that Mr. Ridge, in my company, called on every house in Wyndham, with the exception of about eight to 10 located in an area known

as the Gulley. The reason we did not call on those houses was that we ran out of time. We also called at all the houses at Kununurra. Mr. President, you might remember a certain person in the Bible who dreamt of a staircase leading up to Heaven; but I am sure he did not see as many steps as I saw in Wyndham and Kununurra when I climbed up to all those houses which were built on stilts.

Let us look at the figures for Wyndham, as a result of the work we did, and see how they bear out the argument that Mr. Ridge won his seat through the unintelligent vote—mainly the votes cast at Gogo Station and Jubilee Downs. In the 1965 election the figures for Wyndham were—

Rhatigan (Labor)	202
Drysdale (Liberal)	66
Majority for Rhatigan	136

In the recent election the figures for Wyndham were—

Labor Candidate	162
Liberal Candidate	115
Majority for Labor Candidate	47

The majority in favour of Labor was reduced from 136 to 47.

Let us consider the figures for Broome. In the 1965 election they were—

Labor Candidate	265
Liberal Candidate	131
Majority for Labor Candidate	134

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Was that the intelligent or the unintelligent vote?

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT: I would not know. I think they were all intelligent votes. The figures for Broome in the recent election were—

Labor Candidate	230
Liberal Candidate	165
Majority for Labor Candidate	65

So the majority of the Labor candidate was reduced from 134 to 65. The same trend is found in the other centres. Let us consider what factors influenced Mr. Ridge's election.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Are you suggesting that Mr. Strickland was telling a lie?

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT: Let me make my own speech. I am quoting figures at the moment.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: You are not making a good job of it.

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT: Let us look at the combined box for Halls Creek and Jubilee Downs. I should point out that

they were combined in the 1965 as well as the recent election. In the 1965 election the figures were—

Labor Candidate	49
Liberal Candidate	22

Majority for Labor Candidate 27

In the recent election the figures were—

Labor Candidate	40
Liberal Candidate	26

Majority for Labor Candidate 14

This trend is the same as the trend in the other boxes. I cannot see any difference in the trends. However, the interesting one is Gogo. A great deal has been said about this particular poll, and a great scene was made because it was said that in the Gogo box not one informal vote was cast. Because of this it was said something must have been wrong; someone had an influence there.

I wonder what the situation was in 1965! This is very interesting. At Gogo, in 1965, the Liberal candidate polled 34 votes while the Labor candidate polled three. The informal vote was nil. So the position in 1965 was exactly the same. Therefore what is all this nonsensical talk about the undue influence exerted, and talk that the seat was won on an uninformed vote because the voters were led up the garden path? That is the insinuation which has been made right throughout the debate on this matter. I contend that nothing could be more foolish than the allegations which have been made; and if anyone cares to study the figures he would have to agree.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: Did you say the boxes were counted together in 1965?

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT: That is so; that is, Halls Creek and Jubilee Downs.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: I do not think there were any complaints on that occasion.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. F. D. WILLMOTT: A great deal has been said about this matter and, quite frankly, I think most of it is bunkum.

A great deal of stress was also laid on the fact that some of the natives in this area were in possession of how-to-vote cards on which their names were typed. Is there anything illegal or unethical about that? I do not think so. I think it was no more than a normal election gimmick—and a good one. Something was certainly wrong with it in the eyes of the Labor Party—and that was that the Liberals thought of it. That was what was wrong with it—and the only thing. This talk of unethical behaviour at the last election is pure red herrings, and pretty smelly red herrings at that.

I do not intend to labour the point. I think the figures I have quoted completely debunk the idea put forward in regard to

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

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

House adjourned at 9.3 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 20th August, 1968

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

SUPPLY ACT

Assent

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

QUESTIONS (24): ON NOTICE

"C"-CLASS HOSPITALS

Registrations, Operations, and Accommodation

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

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

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

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

3,371

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

WATER RATES

Charges to Tenants and Owners

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

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

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

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

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

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

HEADMASTER'S RESIDENCE AT QUAIRADING

Completion

3. Mr. GAYFER asked the Minister for Education:

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

Mr. LEWIS replied:

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