

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 29th August, 1963.

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The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

CARRIAGE CLEANING AT KALGOORLIE

Letting of Private Contract

1. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Railways :
 - (1) Has any consideration been given to the proposition of the letting out on a private contract basis the cleaning of carriages at Kalgoorlie?
 - (2) If so, what are the salient reasons and has a final decision been made?

Mr. COURT replied :

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by No. (1).

LAND ACT

Penalties in Section 113(3)

2. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for Lands :
 - (1) Have the penalties as set out in subsection (3), section 113 of the Land Act, ever been invoked?
 - (2) If so, on how many occasions and against whom?

Mr. BOVELL replied :

- (1) and (2) Penalties under section 113 of the Land Act have never been invoked as sufficient evidence or proof has not been available to sustain such an action.

Compliance by Pastoral Companies with Sections 102 and 103

3. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Minister for Lands :
 - (1) Are all requirements of sections 102 and 103 of the Land Act being complied with on the under-mentioned stations :—
 Nicholson Pastoral Co.;
 Gordon Downs Pastoral Co.;
 Turner River Pastoral Co.;
 Ord River Pastoral Co.;
 Mistake Creek Pastoral Co.?
 - (2) Who are the leaseholders of each of the above pastoral companies?

Mr. BOVELL replied :

- (1) Improvement and stocking conditions are being complied with in respect of Nicholson, Gordon Downs, Turner River, and Ord River stations. Mistake Creek station is in the Northern Territory.
- (2) The registered lessees of the stations are :—
 Nicholson station—The Nicholson Grazing Company Pty. Limited.

Gordon Downs station—Gordon Downs Limited.

Turner River station—The Turner Grazing Company Pty. Limited.

Ord River station—Ord River Limited.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Crediting of Salary Cheque to Bank

4. Mr. EVANS asked the Treasurer:

Is it possible for any governmental employee normally paid for his services by cheque to have, at his request, his wage or salary credited to his bank account by the Treasury Department?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:
Yes.

5. *This question was postponed.*

HOUSING AT CARNARVON

Provision of Single-pensioner Flats

6. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

(1) Will he give favourable consideration to building at least three flats for single aged female pensioners at Carnarvon at an early date?

(2) If not, will he make an area of land available for this purpose?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) For the time being, single-unit flats are being erected where the need is considered to be the greatest.

(2) If the honourable member has a proposition, the Minister for Housing would be glad for him to discuss the matter with the commission.

POLICE OFFICERS

Increase at Carnarvon, and Duties

7. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Police:

(1) Is it his intention to station more police at Carnarvon, and if so, when?

(2) When members of the Police Force go on leave from Carnarvon, is a relief officer sent to Carnarvon to relieve them?

(3) Do police officers stationed at Carnarvon have to relieve police officers stationed at Shark Bay and Onslow when they go on leave?

(4) Are police officers at Carnarvon required to do regular patrols of the stations in their district; if so, how often?

(5) Does or will the Exmouth Gulf area come within the Carnarvon police district?

Provision at Exmouth Gulf

- (6) Will a police officer or officers be stationed at Exmouth Gulf, and if so, when will this take place?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

(1) and (2) No.

(3) Yes, on some occasions; at other times reliefs are supplied from Geraldton.

(4) No. The patrols are carried out when circumstances indicate the necessity.

(5) No.

(6) Yes. A constable is now under transfer to Exmouth Gulf and will be proceeding within the next few days, as soon as accommodation is available.

RESEARCH STATION AT MANJIMUP

Responsibility for Maintenance

8. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Premier:
What department is responsible for the maintenance of the buildings at the research station at Manjimup?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:
The Public Works Department.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Availability of Report

9. Mr. ROWBERRY asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Has a report on youth education been called for or received by him?

(2) If so, will he make the contents of such report available to the House?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) The report of the investigating committee into youth service has been presented to me.

(2) The report is at present being considered by Cabinet and will be made available to the House in due course.

ROYAL FAMILY

Post-war Visits to Country Centres

10. Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Premier:
Would he please advise the House which of the following towns have been visited by a member of the Royal Family since the war, and if visited, the date of such visits:—

Albany;
Bunbury;
Geraldton;
Kalgoorlie?

Mr. NALDER (for Mr. Brand) replied:

Albany.

- * Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester.

The 2nd October, 1946.

Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

The 30th March, 1954.

Bunbury.

- * Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester.

The 7th October, 1946.

Geraldton.

Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

The 24th March, 1963.

Kalgoorlie.

Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

The 26th March, 1954.

Her Majesty The Queen Mother.

The 6th March, 1958.

- * Note.—In his capacity as Governor-General of Australia.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

Drawing of Lots: Clarification of Sections 41, 95, and 101

11. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Does he not agree that the importance of drawing lots under section 41 of the Local Government Act is greater than in section 101?
- (2) If so, why should the more important draw not be detailed in the Act, yet the lesser draw be completely detailed?
- (3) Should the drawing of lots take place with respect to section 101 before the expiration of the 72 hour period as specified in section 95?
- (4) If such a draw does take place before the time prescribed in section 95, and a nominee subsequently withdraws, is it necessary to re-draw for positions on the ballot paper if more than the required number to fill vacancies in the particular ward or council still remain?
- (5) With reference to the last question, what happens if such a withdrawal leaves the required number to be elected for the particular ward or council?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) No. Each is equally important as a duty imposed upon the returning officer.
- (2) Vide answer No. (1).
- (3) Not necessarily.
- (4) No.
- (5) This is set out in sections 97(2) and 98(1); the remaining candidates would be declared elected without the holding of an election.

MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY

Takeover by Government and Sale of Freehold Property

12. Mr. TONKIN asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is he aware that for some time following the announcement that negotiations were proceeding between the Government and the Midland Railway Company for the purchase of the company's railway, the company advertised freehold property for sale?
- (2) Is it known what property has been sold during the period that negotiations have been proceeding?
- (3) If "Yes," what was the total amount obtained by the company from the sales?
- (4) Have these sales been taken into consideration in fixing the purchase price to be paid by the Government?
- (5) Is it true, as reported, that "the State will get the railway for about £150,000 less than that sought by the company when it asked the Government to take it over"?
- (6) If "Yes," does this mean £150,000 less than the figure which included £708,660 of reversionary certificates for which the Government was asked to accept liability?
- (7) Does the amount of the funds which the company has accumulated since negotiations began and from which it is proposed to pay 2s. 4d. in the £1 to discharge reversionary certificates include money obtained from the sale of freehold properties?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) Yes. Approval for sales was obtained.
- (2) Yes. Lot M 2108 in the Arrino Ward and Lot M 2118 in East Chittering.
- (3) Lot M 2108 of 5227 acres at 10s. per acre. Deposit £501 10s. and balance with interest at rate of

5 per cent. in equal annual instalments over six years ending the 17th December, 1968.

Lot M 2118 of 1376 acres at 30s. per acre. Deposit £513 5s. and balance with interest at rate of 5 per cent. in five equal instalments ending the 8th July, 1968.

(4) Yes. As the Government is acquiring the shares of the company and as no dividends or other payments have been made to the company's ordinary stock holders during this period the proceeds of these sales as and when received will, of course, be to the credit of the Government when it takes over.

(5) This is substantially correct. Under the original offer the Government was asked to accept responsibility for any liability to reversionary certificate holders and to issue bonds to cover the amount involved. Likewise the Government was asked to acknowledge a liability to directors and to London staff. There are also some other savings. These liabilities will not now fall on the Government.

(6) This question is not fully understood.

The Press reference to £150,000 is a figure given as an approximate figure independent of the official Press release which read: "As a result of negotiations the cost to the Government of acquisition originally proposed by the Company has been reduced by the deletion of the cost of discharging the liability to Reversionary Certificate holders and the liability to Directors and London Staff."

The £150,000 represents the approximate total of the liability the Government was originally asked to accept in respect of *pro rata* payment to reversionary certificate holders and directors and London staff.

(7) No.

SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

Policy of Government

13. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Education:

(1) On what grounds was the three-mile limit selected as the distance from school that children should be picked up and set down by the school bus?

(2) Is it considered that a distance of up to three miles is within the capacity of a six-year-old child to find its own way to school?

(3) Has consideration ever been given to reducing the compulsory three-mile bus radius to 2½ to conform with compulsory school attendance radius?

(4) What changes have been introduced to departmental policy on school buses since consolidation of schools was introduced?

(5) Is it considered that consolidation of schools with the transportation of children by bus is a more economic system than the alternative—many more and smaller schools?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) The three-mile limit is related to the compulsory radius for school attendance laid down in the Education Act.

(2) The Education Act provides that school attendance is compulsory for children six to nine years of age living within two miles and children nine years of age and over living within three miles of a school.

(3) No. See also answer to No. (2).

(4) Since consolidation commenced in 1920 policy has been continuously under review to meet changing circumstances.

(5) Consolidation of schools is not necessarily based on economic factors. It is possible to provide a higher standard of education at larger schools.

MIDLAND JUNCTION WORKSHOPS

Apprentices and Tradesmen

14. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) What number of tradesmen are employed at the Government Railway Workshops, Midland?

(2) What number of apprentices are employed?

(3) What number of apprentices will be called for in 1963?

(4) What is the approximate retiring rate of tradesmen per annum?

Mr. COURT replied:

(1) 1,191.

(2) 415.

(3) 93.

(4) 79.

I would like to explain to the honourable member that in answer to No. (1) we have assumed that his reference to tradesmen was, in fact, to men who were classed as tradesmen, and was not a general reference to employees; and in respect of No. (4) the retiring rate covers all employees who left the workshop under the headings of "resignations, retirements, deceased, and paid off," rather than under the strict definition of retirement.

AGED PEOPLE'S HOMES*Erection of Additional Establishments*

15. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) What number of women are awaiting entry to aged women's homes in the metropolitan area?
- (2) Has the Health Department given any consideration to my suggestion in the House last year that an aged men and women's home be built in the eastern suburbs?
- (3) Is the department aware that many aged people prefer to live in their old districts rather than shift to a new district?
- (4) Has the Health Department sought the assistance of the McNess Homes Committee to build more homes in the Swan electorate?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) The number is difficult to evaluate, but it approximates 180 for Government homes of which number 30 are urgent.
- (2) The needs of the aged are always under consideration by my department; but, as advised last year, homes, as distinct from hospitals, are now being provided for by voluntary organisations and denominational bodies with substantial grants from the Commonwealth Government and by the State Housing Commission, which body also administers the McNess Homes referred to by the honourable member.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Answered by No. (2).

FREMANTLE GAOL*Inmates Under 21 Years of Age*

16. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) How many persons under the age of 21 years are in Fremantle gaol at the present time?
- (2) Of these, how many are under eighteen years of age?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) 79 under 21 years.
- (2) 17 under 18 years.

17. This question was postponed.

LOCOMOTIVE WORKS AT ALBANY*Effect of Increased Dieselisation on Staff*

18. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What will be the overall effect of increased dieselisation of the W.A.G.R. as to reduction of staff, by way of transfer or dismissal at the Albany loco works?

- (2) Will the traffic staff at Albany be affected by increased dieselisation of railways, relative to transfers and dismissals, and if so, what categories will be affected?

Mr. COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The increased dieselisation of the W.A. Government Railways at present envisaged will not bring about reductions or dismissals of staff at Albany and any transfers in the future will be in the normal course of W.A.G.R. administration and not directly related to present increased dieselisation plans.

YOUTH CENTRE AT ALBANY*Erection on Government Land*

19. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Government made any decision as to the erection of a youth centre on Government land at Albany in conjunction with the Albany Youth Centre Committee?
- (2) If not, will he endeavour to have the matter determined as soon as possible?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) This depends upon the Government's decision regarding the recommendations of the committee which inquired into youth service, and which has reported to the Government.

JUNIOR AND LEAVING EXAMINATIONS*Results at Applecross, Kent Street, and Bentley High Schools*

20. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Education:

In connection with the Applecross, Kent Street and Bentley High Schools, will he indicate for the years 1960, 1961, and 1962, the following information:—

- (a) Number of children who took their Junior and Leaving Certificates;
- (b) number of children who passed each examination?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

	Applecross		Kent St.		Bentley	
	Jnr.	Lvg.	Jnr.	Lvg.	Jnr.	Lvg.
Number of children who took Junior and Leaving Certificates—						
1960	306	...	253	139	...	...
1961	369	...	310	160	...	...
1962	302	90	253	119	135	...
Number of children who passed each examination—						
1960	236	...	227	119	...	...
1961	318	...	246	131	...	...
1962	257	72	201	86	111	...

CANNING PARK RACECOURSE*Development for Residential Purposes*

21. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) As the Department of Industrial Development has indicated that favourable consideration would be given to the allocation of the Canning Park racecourse for residential development by the State Housing Commission, will he advise what approaches have been made to obtain this land?
- (2) In view of the excellent essential services which are already established in this area, will he give immediate consideration to the development of the Canning Park racecourse for residential purposes?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) and (2) Comprehensive and detailed investigations of the Canning Park racecourse were made in 1953 for the purpose of ascertaining its suitability for housing.

These are now being brought up to date. On completion of the reassessment and the economics of acquisition and development, the commission will consult further with the Department of Industrial Development.

ROSSMOYNE SCHOOL*Adequacy of Classrooms for 1964 Enrolment*

22. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has any further census been conducted by the Education Department with a view to ascertaining the number of children who will be eligible to attend the new Rossmoyne School in February, 1964?
- (2) If not, will he undertake to investigate the present position and, if necessary, review the proposed decision to erect only two classrooms?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) It is considered from information available that two rooms should be sufficient for 1964 requirements. However, the position will be reviewed early in the third term.

23. *This question was postponed.*

BENTLEY HIGH SCHOOL*Present and Future Enrolments*

24. Mr. D. G. MAY asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will he advise the number of children at present attending the Bentley High School?
- (2) What is the anticipated number who will be attending at the commencement of the first term in February, 1964?
- (3) What is the anticipated intake of pupils for 1964 at the Bentley High School from the following State schools:
 - (a) Manning;
 - (b) Koonawarra;
 - (c) Riverton;
 - (d) Canning Vale?

Raising to Five-year High School

- (4) Has any further consideration been given to the raising of the Bentley High School to a five-year school. If so, would he indicate the date of the proposed alteration?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) 1,116.
- (2) 1,345.
- (3) (a) 110;
(b) 68;
(c) 34;
(d) 11.
- (4) No further consideration has been given at this stage to raising Bentley High School to a senior high school.

"STOP" SIGNS*Number Erected*

25. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Transport:

How many "Stop" signs have been erected in the metropolitan area since March, 1959?

Mr. CRAIG replied:
243.

BUS ROUTES*Numbering of Stops*

26. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Metropolitan Transport Trust yet evolved an efficient method of numbering bus stops on its various routes, as a guide to passengers?
- (2) If so, when is it intended to put such system into operation?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) No; investigations are still proceeding.

FREMANTLE RAILWAY BRIDGE*Date of Completion*

27. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister for Railways:

As he publicly stated (see *The West Australian* of the 22nd June, 1963) that the Fremantle rail bridge was expected to be completed by mid-August, 1963, and as this expectation has not yet been realised as at the end of that month, what is the most recently amended date of completion?

Mr. COURT replied:

Apart from minor items of maintenance and other small incidentals provided for under the agreement the contract will be completed by the 31st August

JUVENILE CRIME*Figures for City and Country*

28. Mr. HALL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Child Welfare:

- (1) Has there been an increase in juvenile crime in the metropolitan area?
- (2) What were the respective figures for the years 1957-58, 1958-59, 1959-60, 1960-61, 1961-62, 1962-63, and what was the average age of the juveniles?
- (3) Has there been an increase in juvenile crime in the country areas?
- (4) If so, has the increase become more prevalent in the larger country towns?
- (5) What were the comparative figures with respect to juvenile crime in all country towns for the years 1957-58 to 1962-63?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) From 1957-58 to 1960-61 there was an increase in juvenile crime. In 1961-62 it declined but has returned to almost the same figure as 1960-61 during the last year.
- (2) Figures of juveniles committing offences for the whole State:—

		Charges	Percentage of Population
1957-58	.....	1,368 children	2,171 1.12
1958-59	.....	1,409 "	2,430 1.12
1959-60	.....	1,547 "	2,419 1.21
1960-61	.....	1,626 "	2,678 1.24
1961-62	.....	1,469 "	2,288 1.09
1962-63	.....	1,620 "	2,843

(Est. Pop. 7-17)

Average age of juveniles:—

1957-58	.....	14.9 years
1958-59	.....	14.2 "
1959-60	.....	14.1 "
1960-61	.....	14.6 "
1961-62	.....	14.4 "
1962-63	.....	Not available at present.

- (3) From 1957-58 to 1960-61 there was an increase in juvenile crime in the country areas but since then there has been a decline.

- (4) The offences committed by juveniles outside the metropolitan area were mainly committed in the larger country towns.

- (5) Child Welfare Department District Officers have appeared in courts in country towns, as follows:—

1957-58	.....	459 occasions
1958-59	.....	522 "
1959-60	.....	622 "
1960-61	.....	711 "
1961-62	.....	643 "
1962-63	.....	596 "

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**OBSERVATORY SITE***Noise from Earth-moving Equipment*

1. Mr. HEAL: I have been requested by the residents who live near the Observatory site to ask this question of the Minister for Works. They requested me to ask the Minister if he would be kind enough to wave his magic wand in order that they might close their eyes and sleep between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I would like to explain this question. As members know, there are certain earth moving works being carried out by Bell Bros. The reason the work is carried on day and night is, according to the Under-Secretary for Works, that there is a certain time by which the work must be completed by Bell Bros. as there is a penalty clause in the contract.

The people in the area have informed me that it is impossible to have any rest at all. There are many sick and elderly people living in the vicinity of the old Observatory.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): The honourable member had better get on with his question.

Mr. HEAL: I will not be too long. If you, Mr. Speaker, were living in the area you would think it was important. These people say that Bell Bros. have some of the rowdiest trucks they have heard of and they want to know if the Minister would waive the penalty clause in the contract to enable all the people to have some rest?

Mr. WILD replied:

I thank the honourable member for giving me notice of this question this morning. I have had

the matter investigated, but nothing can be done. However, the contractor has agreed to endeavour to minimise the noise as much as possible. This work will continue for approximately two weeks after which the night shift on that particular work will be finished. However, there are two large earth-moving shovels, and the trucks are coming in one every five minutes, so if the night shift were abolished it would be physically impossible for the work to be completed on time. However, I did discuss the matter with the architect of the firm which is looking after this particular project, who, in turn, discussed it with Bell Bros. and the only thing I can promise the honourable member is that they will do what they can to minimise the noise; but due to the tight programme it is not possible to cut out the night shift.

ELECTRICITY CHARGES AT ROEBOURNE

Reduction

2. Mr. BICKERTON asked the Minister for Works:

Further to my question asked yesterday, the answer to which was unsatisfactory, will he give consideration to reducing the electricity charges in the township of Roebourne?

Mr. WILD replied:

I will give consideration to it.

Mr. Bickerton: Thank you.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: ELEVENTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 28th August, on the following motion by Mr. Mitchell:—

That the following Address be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator in reply to the Speech he has been pleased to deliver to Parliament:—

May it please your Excellency:

We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

MR. MOIR (Boulder-Eyre) [2.35 p.m.]: The Address-in-Reply affords members an opportunity to draw to the attention of the House and the Ministers concerned

matters relating to their electorates, and matters relating to the State in general. There have been quite a number of speeches made during this debate and very pertinent subjects have been discussed.

The first topic on which I wish to speak is unemployment which, of course, was ventilated here previously. However, subsequent to that debate, statements have been made to which I feel the average person is entitled to take some strong objection. The statements to which I am referring were made by the Minister for Industrial Development.

Unemployment is a matter of concern not only to members of Parliament but to everyone in the State. Of course, it is a very grim position for anyone to be in if he is unemployed. However, one of the most distressing aspects of unemployment at the moment is the large number of young people who are unable to find work.

From figures recently issued, we know there were 6,600 citizens in this State unemployed, and that is very bad indeed. However, we realise the situation is ever so much worse when we are informed that there are 2,200 minors amongst that number. The Regional Director of Labor and National Service in Western Australia has stated that amongst those 2,200 youngsters are many who have the Junior and Leaving certificates, and many others who have the Junior; and there are, of course, those who do not possess either certificate.

However, it is a very sad reflection on the State that there is no employment available for these young people. The situation is all the more distressing in view of the fact that we must remember that those youngsters who have been out of employment for possibly from six to twelve months, but have then obtained employment, are not included in the figures I have just quoted. It is not right that these youngsters should have to hunt for jobs in the way they do. They have to follow up all sorts of avenues to try to obtain employment, and not just seek employment in the field for which they are suited. As a result, young people who possess certain potential talent are unable to find employment connected with it and are forced to enter some work which is more or less a dead-end occupation.

We know that, unfortunately, there are a lot of occupations in which young people can be employed, but because of the increase in wages according to age, applicable under the provisions of the Arbitration Court awards, as soon as these youngsters reach a certain age they are dismissed in order that the employer might continue engaging juniors who are paid less than the older workers.

Those young people are in a very unenviable position, because then the search commences over again for employment into

which they can fit themselves. When we find there are suitable qualified youngsters among these people—ones that have both the Junior and Leaving certificates—and they still cannot obtain employment, it should cause each and every one of us a considerable amount of concern.

It must be remembered that this statement was issued in July. We know that these youngsters left school in December. So they were at least six months looking for a job without obtaining one. Not only is this a great personal hardship for the young people concerned but it is a tragedy for the State because those youngsters are not being trained in an occupation and are not learning the requirements of any occupation. Therefore they must represent a distinct loss in ability to the State.

We know there are certain age limits, and once a youngster goes beyond them he cannot enter some of the occupations that are normally offering. So this problem has a lot of implications. I must say, however, that when one realises the hardship suffered by the breadwinners of families who are out of employment—and a considerable number are—one realises the anxiety on the part of those people; and when we see that there are 2,500 applications for jobs at the United States Navy radio station at Exmouth, and only 250 of these applicants are from people outside the State, we realise that there are 2,250 people in Western Australia who have applied for jobs in that venture.

We know full well that not all of those people would be unemployed; some of them would be occupied at present, but for various reasons they have applied for employment on this radio station at Exmouth. Probably they think the employment would be more suitable to them; and some, perhaps, take the view that their earnings would be higher; and some, of course, have applied for other reasons. But a substantial number of those applicants would be without employment of any sort at the moment.

We see further on in the statement that at the peak of employment at this base, 700 men will be employed. That will be next May. So some of these applicants will have a long time to wait before obtaining employment at Exmouth. As 2,500 applications have been received, some of the applicants have only a very remote chance of ever being employed there.

The youngsters who have not obtained their Junior are in an unenviable position, too; because unless such youngsters are employed soon after leaving school in an occupation in which they can learn a degree of unskilled work, their chance of obtaining a job becomes very remote indeed as time goes by. Therefore it is all

the more astonishing when we find a responsible Minister of the Government taking a critical view of members of the Opposition raising these matters in this Chamber; and I refer to a political article written on the 22nd August by the Minister for Industrial Development.

He referred to the censure motion that the Opposition moved to the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. In my opinion, the censure motion was well warranted in view of the facts that came out at the time. The Minister seemed not only to take very little notice of that motion, but he imputed very wrong motives to it, because he had this to say—

There was a time in the State Parliament when Opposition censure motions were moved for good reasons—and electors could believe that the Government had a genuine case to answer.

But these days censure motions have lost their meaning because the Opposition uses them as a substitute for policies it cannot offer.

Of course the Opposition is not in a position to offer jobs to the unemployed; we cannot solve that problem. The only course that is open to the Opposition is to voice its disapproval in this Chamber and to offer the Government suggestions which the Government seems to be lacking. But the Minister chose to write a very disparaging article regarding the motives of the Opposition.

We must recall that last year at the elections the people were completely misled on the question of unemployment. It appears that responsible members of the Government will tell the people any sort of a fairy story. It seems that they either have no plans to put into effect to deal with the unemployment position, or, once having been elected as the Government, their concern disappears.

We must remember that no less a person than the Premier himself, when speaking during the course of the elections at Kalgoorlie last year, dealt very harshly with the attack of Opposition members on the then unemployment situation in the State—a situation which was nowhere near as bad as it is now. The Premier then assured the electors in the goldfields areas, and those in the rest of the State, that there was nothing to worry about as far as employment was concerned. He predicted that everybody would be employed in a matter of months, and he even went on to say that in a few months' time, far from our having an unemployment problem, there would be a shortage of workers—there would be more jobs available than there would be workers to fill them.

When the Premier speaks authoritatively like that, it is very difficult for anybody to suggest that it may be just some election

trick. But there is no doubt that is what it turned out to be, because we have seen an ever-increasing worsening of the unemployment position in the State.

I say there is absolutely no excuse for a position like that. In a State that is just crying out for development, there is no need for any person who is willing and offering for work to be refused employment.

The housing situation was also mentioned by members, and this again was referred to in the article which the Minister for Industrial Development wrote for the paper; and he approached that criticism very lightly indeed. We know that the housing problem is a pressing one at the moment; it is well within the knowledge of various members—even I as a goldfields member have some knowledge of what it is in the metropolitan area.

I know of people who are paying £6 and £7 a week for what I would call sub-standard accommodation. The people who have applied for State homes have had their applications lodged with the commission for quite some time, but they have no prospect whatsoever of having a house allotted to them. In the meantime, they have to put up with substandard accommodation and pay rapacious landlords prohibitive rentals for it. I have personal knowledge of these cases and can speak with authority.

Further, there are the emergent cases. They are the people who are confronted with a housing emergency. I can recall, some months ago, the previous Minister for Housing—the member for Balcatta—criticising the present Minister for Housing on this question, following which a very indignant letter appeared in the Press from the Minister for Housing refuting the statements made by the member for Balcatta. One of the statements that honourable member made was that people who had qualified to have their names placed on the emergent list at the Housing Commission had to wait months for accommodation, whereas in the days when the Labor Party Government was in office they had to wait only a matter of a fortnight, even if they were among the worst cases who had to be allocated houses. The Minister replied very indignantly, stating that no applicant had to wait more than three weeks to be housed if he could prove that his case was an emergent one.

At that very time I had been endeavouring to obtain accommodation for people who had been practically evicted on to the road. They had to remove their furniture and store it, and at the time the wife of the man concerned was in hospital. That was a case of where the house had been sold over their heads. The name of that man was placed on the emergent list, but it was three months before any type of accommodation was offered to him, and

then the accommodation that was offered fell far short of the requirements of his family. I felt so concerned about it that I wrote to the chairman of the State Housing Commission, enclosing a cutting of the Minister's statement in the Press and pointing out that such statement was not in accordance with fact.

I did not even receive an acknowledgment of the letter in which I pointed out the plight of these people who had been placed on the emergent list and who, at that time, had been waiting two months for accommodation. Evidently my letter did not mean much, and I just took it for granted that the Minister was powerless to help these people because he did not have the accommodation to offer them. Also, he did not write back refuting my assertion that his statement in the Press regarding the housing position was entirely wrong.

The Minister for Industrial Development, in his article in the Press, lauds the Government for what it has done about the housing position, and he made this profound statement: that the Government had built 137 homes in 48 country centres where there were no State houses built before. We know that the problem has been very pressing in the metropolitan area and that there are many country towns which have not had State houses built in them. However, when we analyse these figures mentioned by the Minister for Industrial Development we find that the 137 homes that have been built in 48 country centres do not average three homes to each centre. In the town of Esperance in my electorate, if the Government built 50 houses in the next three months there would still be a housing shortage there.

I pass from that subject to put forward my support of members in this House who have complained about the attitude of Ministers to the letters they have written and the answers they have received to their inquiries. I would point out that the members of this House are not individuals in the true sense of the word, but have been elected by the people of the State to represent their various localities. They are sent here as members of Parliament to represent those people.

When I write a letter to a Minister I am not seeking information for my own satisfaction. I write to seek information because there is some section of my electors requiring it, or there is an elector who wants to know something. He has asked me for some information and, in writing to the Minister, I am trying to ascertain it for him. In most cases, however, one gets a formal acknowledgment within a day or two of writing the letter, and then two months can elapse before one gets the information that is required from the Minister.

Mr. Lewis: Sometimes it takes a fair while, switching around from one department to another, to obtain the information or perhaps obtain reports from officers in the country.

Mr. MOIR: I have had experience of being a Minister and I always had some very pertinent questions to ask my departmental officers if they were slow in furnishing a reply to an honourable member seeking information, and I was never guilty of allowing weeks to elapse—in this case months have elapsed—before the person who wrote the letter received a reply. I did not care, either, whether that honourable member was of my own party, or an honourable member belonging to one of the anti-Labor parties. All members of Parliament who wrote to me received the same courtesy and attention.

I will inform the House of some of the information that an honourable member receives. On the 27th August last I asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Are additions to the Esperance district hospital planned for this financial year?
- (2) If so, will he supply details?

The reply I received was as follows:—

- (1) Yes, subject to the availability of loan funds.
- (2) Final sketch plans are awaited from the architects. The intention is to provide an additional 14 beds.

That was the same reply I got two months before when I wrote a letter to the Minister pointing out the urgent necessity for more hospital accommodation at Esperance and in the reply he wrote he informed me—

This has been the subject of consideration by the Medical Department and the Principal Architect has been asked to provide a sketch plan to provide approximately 14 additional beds.

That was on the 17th June. On the 27th August, more than two months afterwards, I still get the same reply. These sketch plans must be very intricate for them to take so long to sketch. Probably the person who has been charged with the sketching is still at the drawing school; he is still polishing up his drawing or his sketching.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: All I can say is that if you get your hospital additions this year you can consider yourself very lucky. We are doing our best.

Mr. MOIR: I can realise, with this Government in office, that we will be lucky if we ever get them. I base my assumption on the reply I got from the Minister for Railways recently. I must admit it was a pretty prompt reply. I wrote my

letter on the 12th July and the Minister replied to me on the 29th July. He really must have been in a hurry. My letter was in regard to the proposed extension from the existing railway at Esperance to the new wharf site. Of course, one realises that this railway runs through the properties owned by many people. I raised this matter in the House last year and pointed out that those people were very concerned as to what route this railway would take because they did not know whether they were actually the owners of the properties or not; and, of course, sales of land anywhere in the vicinity were non-existent. One could not sell properties.

This is the prompt reply which the Minister sent to my letter—it only took 17 days for him to reply!—

I refer to your 12th July letter requesting information on the proposed route of the railway line from the existing line at Esperance to the new wharf site.

The proposals in this regard are not yet finalised, investigations are still being carried out. The Commissioner hopes to finalise plans very shortly, and as soon as I have received advice from him I will communicate with you again.

That shows how we are slipping back. On the 25th September, 1962, I asked the Minister the following question—

- (1) Has the location of the proposed Esperance wharf railway extension been decided on?
- (2) If not will he indicate what particular problems are delaying this determination?
- (3) When can a decision be expected?

The Minister's reply was as follows:—

- (1) to (3) The location of the proposed extension has not yet been decided on, but survey work to determine a precise location is proceeding and a decision is expected within the next two months.

Here we are, nearly 12 months later, and we still do not know where it is going.

Mr. Hawke: The great lurch backwards!

Mr. MOIR: That is the sort of thing we have to put up with from a Government which describes itself as so efficient. It indicates quite clearly that the people who have houses and property alongside the prospective route of the railway line are not causing the Government any concern at all. The Government shows no thought whatever for their fears and worries. I will go so far as to suggest that the probable end will be that there will

be no railway extension at all; that the Government will use road transport to convey goods from the wharf site to the town itself, or to the railway.

The Government's actions follow the same pattern in respect of a reticulated water supply at Esperance. A question was asked here last year as to when this reticulated supply would be put into operation; and I was informed that it would be in June of this year. Now, of course, we find it will be in January. So one could go on giving illustrations of the Government's actions in matters of this kind.

Before departing from that I would like to bring to the attention of the House something that has been mentioned here before. I refer to the opening function of the pilot dam at Kununurra, when we saw a representative for the district in this House excluded from the invitation list. We also found that the Federal member for Kalgoorlie was excluded from the invitation list. This was a most extraordinary thing. Here we have two representatives of the people in the area not being invited to the function, merely because this Government did not see fit to invite them, despite the fact that there were some 61 other people who were invited.

Apparently the members in question did not measure up to the other 61 guests who were invited. When the matter was raised here all sorts of excuses were made by the Government in an attempt to justify its action. It must have caused a great deal of concern by its ignorant approach to this subject. It does not matter to which party a member of Parliament belongs: he is a representative of the people in this State, elected by the people to a particular electorate, and as such he should be invited to functions in his own electorate. One wonders whether Mr. Brown, a previous member of Parliament, would have been excluded from the function; or whether the member for Kimberley, had he been sitting on that side of the House, would have been excluded from the function. I venture to say he would not.

There is, however, a brighter side to these things. After the report that Mr. Collard had been excluded from the invitation list, and that Mr. Luchetti, the New South Wales member representing the Federal Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Arthur Calwell) had walked out of the function in protest, we find published in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* of the 23rd July—and it is noteworthy that this did not appear in the metropolitan Press—a report indicating that Sir Robert Menzies had commented on the absence of Mr. Collard from the State function. He expressed surprise at his absence. The article reads as follows:—

The Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, is reported to have expressed astonishment when he found that Mr.

Collard (Labour, Kalgoorlie) was not at the official dinner to celebrate the opening of the Ord River diversion dam scheme at Kununurra on Saturday.

Sir Robert is said to have commented on Mr. Collard's absence to State officials while the dinner was in progress.

The Ord River scheme is in Mr. Collard's electorate.

Mr. Luchetti (Labour, N.S.W.), who was to have represented the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Calwell, at the dinner, walked out in protest just before the dinner began because Mr. Collard had not been invited.

Mr. Kelly: Even Mr. Menzies had a streak of decency in him.

Mr. MOIR: To continue—

Mr. Luchetti had dinner with Mr. Collard in a workers' canteen at Kununurra.

In Canberra today, a Government official made a point of saying that the official dinner had been a State function arranged by the State Government.

I daresay the implication was that the State Government did not know any better, so it ought to be excused for its bad manners.

Mr. Hawke: For its ignorance.

Mr. MOIR: In any case Sir Robert Menzies expressed astonishment at the action, as well he might, because it was certainly a most boorish action by a body of men representative of the people as a Government of the State.

Mr. Hawke: It was dirty party politics; and the Minister for Railways was responsible.

Mr. Court: In your mind I am responsible for everything.

Mr. MOIR: While I am dealing with these matters and pointing out the cavalier treatment meted out to members, I would like to add that ever since this Government has been in office, I have had to bring these matters forward on many occasions. Things have progressed, however, from the stage where Ministers visited the electorates of various members without giving them any indication of their visits. They do now at least send us a notification of their visit, together with a copy of their itinerary, to enable us to attend the districts they visit. Other Ministers, however, still do not consider it worth while to do this.

Mr. Norton: How much notice did they give you?

Mr. MOIR: In some cases the notice arrives the day the Minister does; in others the day before; while other Ministers give

ample notice of their visits. It is, however, important to know the different attitude that has existed from the time when I first complained about this matter in the House.

I now propose to object very strongly to the strange attitude of the Minister for Justice. I say the strange attitude, because surely a man who administers justice should have some cognisance of the principles of justice. The following letter dated the 28th June was addressed to me as the member for Boulder-Eyre:—

For your information, I have to advise that approval has been given to the appointment of a full-time officer to act as Clerk of Courts at Esperance. Applications have been called for the position, and an appointment will be made as soon as possible, when the local Officer-in-Charge of Police will be relieved of these duties.

Additionally, I would like to advise you that the Commissioner of Police and the Crown Law Department have agreed there is need for a new building for a Police Station and Court House at Esperance, and, as soon as negotiations for a suitable site are finalised with the Shire Council and the necessary Loan funds can be made available the matter will be proceeded with.

But, of course, a few days prior to that, this item had appeared in the *Kalgoorlie Miner* of the 25th June—three days before the Minister penned his letter—under the heading, “Clerk of Courts For Esperance—New Buildings Planned—Minister’s Announcement”—

The Minister for Justice, Mr. A. F. Griffith, M.L.C., announced yesterday that a full time Clerk of Courts will be appointed at Esperance and that the clerk will take over the duties which have hitherto been performed by police officers.

This is the absolutely priceless part of it—and I could think of a stronger word than that—

This advice was received by the President of the Kalgoorlie division of the Liberal Party, Mr. W. Stead.

Mr. Kelly: That often happens.

Mr. Toms: They don’t play politics much!

Mr. MOIR: The previous member, Mr. Nulsen, had long been an advocate for a courthouse at Esperance. The province members have also advocated it; and Mr. Claude Stubbs, M.L.C., shortly before that Press article was published, received a communication from one of the Ministers giving the reasons why the courthouse

could not be built. A matter of two or three weeks before, he was told why the courthouse could not be built at that juncture! Now we find that this scandalous procedure has taken place. The article continues—

The position of Clerk of courts was advertised in the Government Gazette on June 14 and is due to close on June 28, following which an appointment will be made.

The Minister further advised that, as soon as negotiations for a suitable site are finalised with the shire council and the necessary loan funds are made available, a new police station and court house will be built in Esperance.

He also stated that the town planner has been informed that provision is to be made for a suitable site for public buildings and details of departmental requirements, including the police station and court house, have been covered in this arrangement.

Mr. Stead expressed pleasure at the fact that the Esperance district is to enjoy this further service. He said that it was a clear indication that the Brand Government was alive to the progress taking place in this district. He was gratified also to note that this appointment, which had been recommended initially by Mr. Jack Cunningham and which had been constantly supported by the Kalgoorlie division has now become an established fact.

No doubt he did advocate the establishment of the courthouse and the appointment of the Clerk of Courts at Esperance, but we know full well the previous member for Eyre had done the same thing. We also know that the province members have advocated it for several years. But, of course, it becomes quite apparent why the information was released in this manner. It was to give Mr. Cunningham a boost, as we all know he was defeated at the last elections.

Mr. Kelly: Two elections.

Mr. MOIR: He was defeated at the last election and is no longer a member of Parliament, although he is the endorsed Liberal candidate for the next May elections for that august Chamber. Therefore, I not only think the Government plays politics, but it gets down in the gutter to play them.

Mr. Kelly: In the sewer.

Mr. MOIR: If further illustration is needed, it is this! I wrote on the 21st May last to the Minister for Housing asking what the proposals were in regard

to the building of houses at Esperance; and on the 7th June he replied as follows:—

I thank you for your letter of the 21st ulto., and request for information regarding the housing situation and proposed programme for the erection of houses at Esperance.

For your information, I would advise that the acquisition of an area of land (East Location 21) bounded by Sims, Kalgoorlie, Carter and Coolgardie Streets is now being finalised. The planning of this area has been completed, and the development is in progress; this will be followed by the survey, and it is anticipated tenders will be called and contracts arranged early in the financial year.

The number of houses to be erected during the next financial year has not yet been finalised, but tenders will be called progressively for the erection of houses for employees of the Fertiliser Works as well as employees of other industries and applicants in general.

My letter to him asked these specific questions: How many houses were to be built for the fertiliser works employees? How many houses were to be built for the employees of other industries? But in the Minister's letter I received the run-around.

At the time I knew how many houses the Government proposed to build at Esperance because a Government official in the area who had nothing to do with housing was able to tell me the Government was going to build 42. That information was not good enough for me to answer the questions of interested people, so I wrote to the Minister, although the figure I have stated was common knowledge of the staff of the Government. However, the Minister either did not wish to disclose that information or he did not know.

Mr. W. Hegney: A bit of both, I think.

Mr. MOIR: Another matter for concern is the water supply at Esperance. Under the proposals, I am of the opinion that the people are going to be asked to pay a prohibitive price or a price far in excess of what they should be expected to pay. If one can place any reliance on answers given to questions, I was told last year that the total cost of providing the scheme would be £76,000. However, we now find that the scheme is to be placed under the country areas water supply scheme which has set down certain provisions for annual valuation and the charges to be made.

This, as far as I can estimate, will mean that the average householder in Esperance will be asked to pay anything from £16 upwards in rates each year—this is an

area where practically every house has its own water supply from tanks supplying the rainwater for drinking purposes and an underground supply for water that is not required for drinking. In some cases the underground supply is quite good for drinking and is used for that purpose. I would say that 99 per cent. of the houses in Esperance are equipped with their own water supply. So it is a distinct imposition on the people there to charge them a terrific amount for this water supply.

They are public-spirited people and I have heard no objection to the reticulation of the town: it has been welcomed with open arms. But they had no idea what they would be required to pay for it. Suggestions have been made that this scheme should be placed under the Water Board Act, but the Government is resolutely against that proposal. My opinion is that a small scheme in a small town such as this could be placed under a water board for administration purposes.

I believe the people could be supplied with the scheme at far less cost than is the case at present. It would appear that the Government wants to recoup the money it has laid out—the £76,000—in a very short time indeed, instead of having the matter spread over at least 20 years. It appears that the people of Esperance are expected to pay for this scheme within a few short years.

While on the subject of Esperance I wish to lodge a complaint with the Minister for Education in connection with a reply I received from him concerning additional buildings which are required at the Esperance High School. He informed me that two classrooms were being removed from Bullfinch and would be re-erected at Esperance. Has this Government got any imagination at all? Some towns on the goldfields probably do not have a very long life. We have had examples of towns like Bullfinch, which operate for 10 or 12 years and then cease operating because the gold deposits are exhausted. We accept the fact that the Government cannot be expected to go to the expense of providing a very substantial and well-built school. But surely we have a right to expect more in a town like Esperance, which is growing fast, will continue to grow fast for many years, and will be permanent. It will be there long after this Government is forgotten.

Mr. Bovell: It will never forget this Government for what it has done for Esperance.

Mr. Oldfield: It will never forget the stagnation.

Mr. Bovell: It brought order out of chaos.

Mr. MOIR: I am sure the Government will not be remembered in the way it would wish to be remembered. It will be remembered more for its shortcomings than for

ts performances. We find that at Esperance the school itself and the additions hereto are what we would expect to see erected in a temporary mining town. It is nowhere up to the standard of accommodation which is required there. It cannot be compared with the accommodation provided in the metropolitan area for the teaching of children—it is nowhere comparable at all.

The Government might say it costs a lot of money to transport building materials to Esperance. I would point out to the Government that there are excellent building materials at Esperance itself and I refer to the excellent building stone which is in the area just a few miles outside Esperance. I venture to suggest that the Government has not given the slightest consideration to that fact. It has not looked into the question of building with this stone, and it has certainly not gone into the question of costs. It would be far cheaper to build with this stone. Quite a few excellent buildings have been erected by private individuals at Esperance, and those buildings have been standing for a good many years, too.

I suggest that the Government should explore the possibilities of erecting not only school buildings but also other buildings with this excellent stone which is obtainable at Esperance. The costs involved would be much cheaper than for the Government to transport building materials from other areas of the State.

While I am on the subject of building materials, I wish the Minister for Transport would take a look at the licenses required of people who transport materials to Esperance. Esperance is over 100 miles from Perth by road. I understand that in the costs structure there is not a very great deal of difference between roofing iron and roofing cement—sheets or tiles. Tiles are a bit more expensive, but we know that they cap off a very nice home. Many people at Esperance itself and in the surrounding farming areas have not tiled roofs on their dwellings.

We find, however, that the Railways Department will not, under any consideration, transport tiles from any area at all—I was going to say from the metropolitan area—to Esperance, because over the long rail journey there are too many breakages. The Railways Department will not accept responsibility for those breakages and therefore it will not transport the tiles. Of necessity this means that purchasers or those people building homes must have their tiles transported by road.

The Transport Board charges £2 per ton. I am informed that for a reasonable-sized house the amount of tiles required is 16 tons. For the privilege of carting those 16 tons of tiles from the metropolitan area to Esperance, people have to pay

the Transport Board £32. I think that is an entirely unjustified imposition. We know that the principle of the Transport Board is to protect the railways. When the railways will not transport certain types of goods, then I fail to see why people should be penalised to the extent of having to pay £2 per ton for such things as tiles, which have to be transported by road.

It could well be that the Government should take a good long look at the whole question of transportation to these areas. If it is cheaper for people to obtain their supplies by road transport—which it is, in some instances—where timber supplies can be taken straight across the south-west this should be agreed to; because to go all the way by rail from here to Coolgardie, and from Coolgardie through Norseman to Esperance, is a much longer journey than it would be by a more direct route by road. That is one way in which the Government could assist settlers in that area.

Mr. Craig: We did make some arrangement so far as roofing iron is concerned, did we not?

Mr. MOIR: The Minister may have done, but I am not aware of it. Yesterday evening the member for Murchison spoke of the disabilities and distances of his area. I want to speak of the disabilities and the distances in my area. There are people in my electorate whom I am unable to visit because of weather conditions and road conditions at times when I am available to visit them. I would point out to the House that if I wished at the weekend to visit Esperance or other parts of my electorate I would have to travel over 1,200 miles just to get to Esperance itself. Esperance is 250 miles from Boulder. The electorate extends 80 miles further west and right to the South Australian border in the east. True, there is only habitation in the Esperance area for 70 miles east, but the area extends for a depth of from 25 to 30 miles from the coast. There are people living all through that area. It is a fast developing area indeed, and the situation means that I cannot do justice to those people.

If I wanted to make a trip to the border I would have to travel 596 miles from Kalgoorlie. I have been out on the trans-line and seen the people out there, but I have not yet been out on the Eyre Highway, and there are quite a few people living there at the various little centres. Of course, there are pastoralists all the way. The return trip out along the Eyre Highway would mean a total distance of 1,192 miles.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. I. W. Manning): Order! The honourable member has five minutes to go.

Mr. MOIR: It is a long distance to travel, and I bring these matters before the House because I believe that people living in isolated places are entitled to see their member, whoever he may be, once in 12 months, at least.

There is one other matter about which I asked some questions the other day—I refer to copper ore supplies. A mineowner wrote to me and expressed concern at the fact that he had been informed he would have difficulty in selling his supplies of copper to the people who had purchased them previously. The man concerned is very indignant about it, and well he may be. I have made inquiries and I asked questions in the House, but I did not get satisfactory replies by any means. I asked certain questions on the 21st August regarding the position and what action the Government contemplated taking to protect the interests of the numerous small mineowners who probably would be forced to cease operations. The advice I received from the Minister was that the superphosphate manufacturing companies stated that normal supplies of 10 per cent. grade and over would be purchased from the usual local producers.

On the face of it that appeared to be all right, but the local producers' prices have been substantially cut. I think perhaps I had better read out the whole question and the Minister's reply. I asked the following questions of the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:—

- (1) Have the superphosphate manufacturing companies entered into an agreement to purchase all their copper requirements from a mining company operating at Whim Creek?
- (2) What is the reason for departing from the previous practice?
- (3) What is the grade of the copper to be so supplied and at what price?
- (4) What was the grade and the price previously paid by the manufacturers for copper supplied by various small mineowners?
- (5) Is he contemplating any action to protect the interests of the numerous small mineowners who will otherwise be forced to cease operations?

The replies I received from the Minister for Lands read as follows:—

- (1) to (3) No. It is understood that some copper for superphosphate purposes will be obtained from Whim Creek, but the Minister has no information as to quantity, etc. Such copper will take the place of previously imported copper sulphate and will not affect the supply of medium grade ore previously purchased, and again to be purchased this year from other local producers.

(4) Prices were fixed on a sliding scale depending on grade.

(5) Advice received from the superphosphate companies is to the effect that normal supplies will be purchased of 10 per cent. and over from the usual local producers.

Previously the companies were accepting grades below 10 per cent. and were paying on a sliding scale. On a grade of 1 per cent., where the companies were previously paying 42s. 6d. per grade they now pay 39s., a drop of 3s. 6d. That is quite considerable when one multiplies it by the number of units, which range from 1 through to 20, and in some cases 25 per cent.

This operator who wrote to me said he had been planning to put in a ball mill at his mine, but owing to the advice he had received he had decided not to do so. It appears that the Government is doing very little to protect these people, when we find that the copper producers, who have done a very good job in this State over many years in supplying copper to the fertiliser companies, are not being protected.

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman): Order. The honourable member's time has expired.

MR. CORNELL (Mt. Marshall) [3.3 p.m.] : It is not very often I address myself to this debate, but I do so on this occasion mainly to get into practice for the session ahead. I have not spoken on this debate for some considerable time because I gather that generally speaking it is a wasted effort. Most of the things one says during the course of the debate are listened to, fall on deaf ears, and that is the end of the penny section so far as any representations one makes regarding matters affecting one's electorate are concerned.

Mr. J. Hegney: Has that been your experience?

MR. CORNELL: That has been my experience, and I do not think I am an orphan. I have read the Lieutenant Governor's Speech, and on a previous occasion I think it was the Deputy Leader of the Opposition who said that he regarded the Governor's Speech as a rather colourless document. I am inclined to agree that most Governors' or Lieutenant-Governors' Speeches fall within that category and they certainly could not be classed as best sellers.

The Address-in-Reply debate is one of which members have an opportunity of plugging the electorate line, and during the course of this debate much the same thing has happened. I have had a breakfast of tinned snappers with the member for Kalgoorlie on the *Kalgoorlie Express*; I have done a tour with the member for Murrumbidgee through his electorate; I have caught fish

at Geraldton with the member for Geraldton; with other members I have prawned in Shark Bay; and now I must say a few words about the electorate of Mt. Marshall.

The first matter to which I want to make reference, got under my skin at the time it happened. No long ago the Minister for Justice made a tour of my electorate, or portion of it, presumably at the invitation of one of the Upper House members. On the Saturday before he made the tour he contacted me by phone early in the morning and told me of his intentions. He said that he proposed to visit certain towns in my electorate in company with Mr. Abbey.

Mr. Hawke: The same old racket!

Mr. CORNELL: I let it go at that; but on reflection I thought I had better write to the Minister for Justice and give him my views on the question. I wrote the following letter:—

Dear Arthur—

Mr. Hawke: It sounds like the member for Collie and the Minister for Education.

Mr. CORNELL: The letter continues—

I do not know whether Roy Abbey sought to gain any cheap political advantage by ignoring me on the occasion of your recent visit to the Mt. Marshall electorate. Perhaps he did.

In connection with your visit to the Avon electorate, Abbey saw fit to keep the Assembly member (Mick Gayfer) in the picture. He associated him with your visit, and provided him with details of your itinerary. I can only conclude that his disregard for me was not accidental.

I thank you for letting me know that you would be going into Mt. Marshall. The omission to inform me of the date of your visit, and your forbearance in not inviting me to be there, of course, were understandable oversights.

I am contacting the local authorities concerned and explaining the reason for my absence.

would like to say at this point that if Mr. Abbey wants to kick in the ruck I can retaliate.

I noticed in the paper this evening that Mr. Griffith also had something to say about members of Parliament criticising the police, and I agree with what he said. However, as we all know, politicians have notoriously short memories, and I was able to find a publication of April, 1958, entitled, *The Lib* and in it I saw an article written by Mr. Griffith. This was what the Minister said, among other things—

Every responsible citizen is perturbed by the increasing incidence of larrikinism in the metropolitan area. The Government did nothing;

That was in April, 1958, and I leave it to the imagination of members to realise what Government that was. He continued—

perhaps it was too busily engaged in planning the Socialist State. But in 48 hours, by a little publicity and a lot of plain speaking, the "Daily News" was able to check the undesirable elements who were invading Scarborough. I am not detracting from the merit of what the "Daily News" achieved when I say it was a crying shame that the Press and not the Government had to deal with the disgraceful situation that had arisen.

I do not know whether that was ricocheted criticism. Instead of sniping directly at the police, the Minister had a go at the Government.

With a short memory such as that, it is rather peculiar for him now to criticise members of Parliament who criticise the police; but with four unsolved murders on its hands and frequent outbreaks of hooliganism every so often, the Government, if it is to be blamed for such things, cannot be very happy just now. So the gentleman concerned, who makes comments like those I have just read out, is hardly entitled to make the comments which were published in this morning's issue of *The West Australian*.

There has been a great deal of publicity of late regarding the inability of local authorities and country traffic authorities to correctly police the Traffic Act. Despite assurances by members of the Government to the contrary, that type of criticism continues; and to a degree it is spearheaded by, and emanates from, National Safety House. However, I shall not pursue that particular angle any further at present.

In January last a traffic inspector who does a tour of duty in the shires of Kellerberrin, Tammin, and Cunderdin, apprehended a driver at Cunderdin for exceeding the speed limit. The inspector asked that person to produce his license, but he was unable to do so. The traffic inspector then wrote the following letter to the officer in charge of the Police Traffic Branch in Perth:—

23rd January, 1963.

Please allow an officer to call on Mr. Lawrence Baxter, of Flat 11, 3 Burtway, Terrace Drive, Perth, and obtain particulars of his driver's license. He was stopped for a speed offence at Cunderdin on the 4th January, 1963, and told to produce his license within 3 days.

To this date, no record has been received of production.

Please inquire the reason of the delay and give name and number of officer on inquiry.

I was under the impression that the metropolitan police co-operated fully with country traffic authorities, but that does not appear to be the case, because the following is the letter which the traffic inspector received from the traffic branch in reply:—

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 23rd inst., requesting that one of my officers interview Mr. L. Baxter, and I advise that it is not the policy of the Police Department to assist in an inquiry of this nature. To do so would mean the loss of much time, firstly in making the initial inquiry and secondly, in attending various Traffic Courts throughout the State.

However, I am prepared to assist, where possible, by giving you the particulars of the defendant's driver's license. In this instance the only Lawrence Baxter on record is shown as residing at 4 Darlington Street, South Perth. Details of his driver's license are:—No. 375141, Classes A. & C., expiring on 7th June, 1963. There is no record of the license being produced in the metropolitan area.

I think everyone will agree that the request to inspect this person's license was a fair and reasonable one, and the reaction of the traffic branch was very difficult to understand.

When the case was heard eventually in the Cunderdin Police Court it was disclosed that the party concerned had had three previous convictions. One was for drunken driving, for which he received six months' suspension of his license; another was for unlawfully assuming control of a vehicle, for which he received another six months' suspension; and the third was for driving whilst disqualified, for which he received 12 months' suspension. It is interesting to note that production of the license was never made.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.5 p.m.

Mr. CORNELL: Before the afternoon tea suspension I was on the subject of what I regard as a degree of non-co-operation between the Police Department and the traffic authorities in the country. I feel sure the Minister for Police has duly noted what I have said and will follow the matter up, because in my opinion it is a situation which should not be tolerated and should not be permitted to continue.

I also made reference to the criticism of the country traffic authorities emanating from National Safety House. Before I pass from this subject I would like to say that during the brief period in which I was Minister for Transport I increased the grant to the National Safety Council for the purpose, shall we say, of spreading the gospel of safe driving in the rural

areas, my idea being that if officials from the safety council could go into the rural areas and build up goodwill with the local authorities, those local authorities in turn might see their way clear to make contributions to the funds of the National Safety Council with a view to augmenting this fund, thus enabling the work to be continued and expanded.

That was done and the increase made was roughly £4,000. More or less at the same time, however, the director, Mr. Clark, issued a blast against local authorities which, I am afraid, has soured them for ever.

Shortly after the House rose last year an article appeared in *The West Australian* entitled "End of Term Report." There were several references to various members by their Christian names. A reference was made to George and it was stated that unless he is more amenable to discipline and curbs his rebellious nature he will run the risk of expulsion. I do not know from where he was to be expelled—from this Chamber or from the party whom he represents. As he fairly religiously adheres to Country Party policy there should not be any grounds for expulsion from the latter. However, what he said may not of course have met with the approbation of certain members in the House, but at least it does not give grounds for expulsion. The writer of the article may, of course, have had some inside information which I did not possess.

Mr. H. May: You are the only George we have here, you know.

Mr. CORNELL: I realise that. It is pretty obvious to whom the writer was referring. He also gave a few bouquets. To Mr. Graham he gave one for concise and lucid preparation. The hardest worker went to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I do not know what accolade he would get; maybe a chain around his neck with the initials "T.A.B." on it, or arm displaying the Minister couchant and Jac Maher rampant. The designation of most inquisitive member, of course, went to the member for Albany, for topping the 9 mark in questions this session. The rate he is going now he should reach the century this term. The most "reticent" was given to the new member for Roe, Mr. Hart; and, in my humble opinion, that was not fair comment.

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Oldfield: The writer of that article should never be allowed in the gallery again!

Mr. CORNELL: I waited for the hierarchy of the Country Party to do something; but as they did not, I took it upon myself to write to *The West Australian* and draw its attention to the situation.

should have had more brains; because writing to the Press is, of course, a soul-destroying game at any time, and I should have remembered the previous occasion when somebody whom I know desired to tilt at the Press windmill following an article which appeared in *The West Australian* about five years ago. It is history now, but it concerns the time when the late Charles Herbert Simpson left one party and joined the Country Party.

The leading article of *The West Australian* at that time went to town on Mr. Simpson's transfer. For the information of those members who may not have read the article, and to refresh the memories of those that have I will read it again as follows:—

Simpson Shows His Colours.

The State Liberal Party will not lose much by the departure from its ranks of Charles Herbert Simpson. In switching from the Liberal Party to the Country Party in order to avoid Country Party opposition in his electorate Simpson has engaged in an act of gross political opportunism and opportunists are not helpful in any party devoted to principles.

A sordid political intrigue is perceptible here. It is not true that the Liberal Party has been intolerant towards the Country Party. On the contrary, the Liberals have stuck to the anti-socialist line and the Country Party through some of its members has departed widely from it. Several Country Party M's.L.C. have become laughing stocks, especially in the shrewdly led Labor Party which uses them cynically.

There is nothing distinguished in the record of C. H. Simpson, nothing at all. His change of party will not help his new protectors or hinder the party which got him into Parliament.

But it is rather a sad development and disillusioning, at a time when the need for co-operation and sincerity in the Opposition parties is so great if ever they are to resume the Government of this State.

It appears to me that the late Mr. Simpson's cardinal sin at that time in the eyes of *The West Australian* was that he left the Liberal Party to join the Country Party. Had the traffic been in the opposite direction, of course, it would have been quite a different picture, as was the case when Mr. J. I. Mann became the foundation member of the Liberal Party after leaving the Country Party.

The then Leader of the Country Party (Mr. A. F. Watts) wrote a letter to the Editor of *The West Australian* in reply to its article on Mr. Simpson; and this letter I will read, not, as I have already said, for

its historical value, but to show the very severe difficulties facing anyone who desires to accost the Press. The following was the letter written by Mr. Watts:—

I suggest that the feeling engendered in most people by your leader of March 10th headed "Simpson shows his colours" was one of intense weariness at the pettiness of your journal and that it is about time some constructive thought was applied by your leader writer to the State's political problems.

I must confess that my own reaction was that the article contained its own condemnation, in that it strove to "smear" an honourable man, whose political colleagues had seen fit to select as a Minister of the Crown, as their leader in the Legislative Council, and recently as their re-endorsed candidate for the Midland Province, obviously therefore disagreeing entirely with your leader writer's views of his ability and usefulness to the State, up to the time of his resignation.

That the State's leading paper should also impute untruthfulness to such a man as the General President of the Country Party organisation, (Mr. E. W. Prowse), by ignoring his assurance to you that no arrangement had been made with Mr. Simpson in your reference to "political intrigue"; so far from maintaining the prestige of your journal, stamps it as one that for petty political ends, is prepared to ignore the facts.

Lastly, it would appear that your journal is quite unprepared to recognise the difference between "intrigue" and the action of a man who sacrifices position and remuneration for what he has regarded as fundamental principle.

I shall be obliged if you will publish this.

That letter was never published. It was returned to Mr. Watts unseen. Thereupon the Country Party organisation asked that it be published on the basis of a paid advertisement, but that request was also refused.

Mr. J. Hegney: Free Press!

Mr. H. May: That is what we have to put up with in this State!

Mr. Hawke: Freedom of the Press!

Mr. CORNELL: Let us get back to the end-of-term report. As I say, I wrote to *The West Australian* because I thought in fairness to my newly-acquired colleague, the member for Roe, the comment was not quite fair. This is what I said—

The reference to Mr. T. G. Hart, M.L.A. by Frank Harvey in his article "This Week in Parliament—End of Term Report" as the most reticent member is not fair comment.

Upon reflection, Frank Harvey will no doubt realise that other members—some with much longer Parliamentary service than that of Mr. Hart—are equally entitled to a reticent ranking.

Mr. Hart is a new member and, obviously, he is feeling his way. His disinclination to be a Parliamentary sputnik and fly into the orbit of garrulity at least indicates that he has his feet on the ground.

The Editor of *The West Australian* (Mr. Griff Richards) acknowledged that letter by saying—

This is to acknowledge your letter about Frank Harvey's reference to Mr. Hart. Mr. Harvey's comment is:—

According to Hansard's records which I checked, Mr. Hart has not spoken since his maiden speech on August 2. This I call reticence—which the Oxford Dictionary defines as "reserve in speech, avoidance of saying all one knows or feels"—and fair comment.

Even other new members, who have also had to feel their way, have managed to make more than one speech, and without being garrulous. Mr. Hart may well have his feet on the ground—but is there not a danger of the grass growing under them?

In fairness to Mr. Harvey we do not think we should publish your letter without at least the first part of Mr. Harvey's comment. Don't you think it would be better to let the matter rest?

I think I was wise in accepting the advice of the editor and letting the matter drop. However, if the member for Roe is reticent, let me assure him he is reticent in the most excellent of company, because I traced back the records of a couple of the tall poppies of this Parliament, and I found that even the Premier in his first two sessions was probably more reticent than the present member for Roe. In 1946, the Premier's first session, he spoke very little, and in 1947 his total contribution to Hansard was two questions.

Mr. Graham: The member for Roe is a potential Premier.

Mr. CORNELL: Yes; he has that material in his structure.

Mr. Oldfield: What about the Minister for Railways; did you check his first session?

Mr. CORNELL: Before I leave the Press I would like to say that, in the last couple of days, Parliament has been sitting, and I have searched *The West Australian* for some reference to the parliamentary debates. I have never measured the total of the columns in *The West Australian*, but I can assure members that the amount

of publicity given to the parliamentary debates in the last two days has probably been condensed to a couple of inches in obscure portions of the paper.

As a matter of fact, when I look at the galaxy of talent in the Press gallery I wonder what the hell they are doing there. What it must cost *The West Australian* to gather its parliamentary news is anyone's guess. I suggest it should install a couple of tape recorders and send the tapes back to the subs. and let the subs. sit back and listen to them. That would certainly save some reporters sitting in the gallery and getting blisters on their posteriors, and it would save an attack from the subeditors when it gets down town.

Last night the member for Avon made an impassioned oration on matters affecting the wheat industry; and, incidentally, unless he was reported in the country edition of the newspaper he did not receive any mention at all, because he did not receive anything in the city issue.

The honourable member made a reference to decentralisation, and I heartily agree with his sentiments. With all due respect to the Minister for Industrial Development, those seminars which put hypothetical industries into hypothetical places do not achieve much in a practical way. In my view the position, not only in Western Australia, but in Australia, is a particularly serious one. Rural residents and producers are faced with the fact that the greater the efficiency in the agricultural industry, the less is the labour force required.

As a point for that contention, in the last 15 years in New South Wales, for instance, rural production has increased tremendously, whereas between the two census years of 1947 and 1961 the labour force in the rural industries in that State declined by roughly 12 per cent.

In the 16 years I have been in this Parliament, five country seats have gone into the metropolitan area, and if a redistribution were to take place tomorrow, another country seat would vanish; and if a redistribution on the present scheme takes place at the end of the life of this Parliament, yet another country seat will go. So the lack of decentralisation and the converging of population in the metropolitan area present a very real problem. Australia has become one of the most unbalanced countries in the world; and following present trends, if and when—and it surely will—the population of Australia reaches 20,000,000, we will find that 10,000,000 will be in Sydney and Melbourne.

The Leader of the Federal Country Party, the Right Honourable John McEwen, believes that the Commonwealth, which is dominant in the financial field, should obtrude in a big way into the field

of decentralisation. Speaking at the opening of the Country Party Conference of New South Wales on the 26th June, at Orange, he said this—

The Country Party must really fight for policies which make decentralisation a practical and living part of our total and national policy. All parties have talked about this, but orthodox policies have failed.

People choose to live where a job and a home can be had. Where education, medical services, and amenities are adequate. Where the cost of living is not excessive. Manufacturers locate their plants where they can make most profit.

The objectives of policy therefore must be to provide secure and attractive conditions of living—and conditions which ensure that the prospect of profit-making in country industry is rather better than that of city industry. Without this, talk of decentralisation is just talk.

Taxation incentives to encourage exports have demonstrated clearly that results can be achieved if the incentive is provided. Equally effective means of providing a real incentive to decentralisation of industry must be found.

Therefore I take it that by inference the Deputy Prime Minister suggests the Commonwealth should make some substantial amount of money available for the subsidisation of industries which are prepared to put a stake in the rural areas of Australia. In that respect I think all members will agree that he has a point.

Following those remarks, he touched on the problems of primary producers. There is a lot of loose talk about how well off primary producers are. Some are well off. The member for Avon is a case in point. But many young men on the land are having a battle to stay there.

At the same conference the Deputy Prime Minister, speaking as Leader of the Federal Country Party, said—

Some sectors of Australian rural industry today face problems of reconstruction or readjustment. Others could be confronted with similar problems as a result of the changing international trade scene to which I referred earlier. We as a Party should be continually promoting policy thinking to ensure they are not denied the kind of assistance which they might reasonably expect in a society such as ours.

Similarly in the field of rural credit, it does not automatically follow that having secured the establishment of the Development Bank, nothing more need be done. The Development Bank has never had enough money to engage widely in mortgage lending.

We know that many young men growing up on Australian farms have the skill and the experience to be successful farmers themselves. Unless their parents or someone else close to them can find a pretty sizeable deposit, they can never start to purchase farms for themselves. It is a national loss as well as a great personal frustration to have these good young types finish up working in the cities with their skills wasted and their inclinations frustrated.

The Country Party must be unceasing in having the Development Bank play a far more positive role in the mortgage field, in addition to its lending for development.

Here is the point I wish to make: Whilst the Development Bank has made considerable funds available for farmers, they must be able to assure the bank that they are in a position to carry on before any funds can be made available to them, and many farmers are not in that position. So they are babes in the wood; no-one really wants them; they are not a trading bank risk and they are not a development bank risk, because they are not in a position to give an assurance that they can carry on. To that extent, there should be some means of assisting them.

Although I know that in the last Federal Budget the funds for the Development Bank were increased, that part to which I have just referred remains as a militating factor against the young farmer receiving the assistance he so urgently requires to enable him to stay on the land.

Without wishing to throw brickbats at the Government—something I never do—I was wondering from what source the money came to finance the Games homes; because £1,000,000 was found by the Rural and Industries Bank at the drop of a hat—or near enough to that figure, three quarters of a million pounds, anyhow; and some of the loans were made available on Kathleen Mavourneen terms. Yet some farmers cannot get £1,000 or £1,500 with which to carry out in the reasonably near future, some essential developmental work on holdings that they have taken up. I trust that Mr. McEwen's endeavours in that field will also bear fruit.

I now touch on a problem which I think is exercising the minds of a lot of us: foreign investment in Australia. *The Bulletin* of the 13th July last published an article headed "Treasury v. Trade"; and there appears to have been some points of conflict between Mr. McEwen and Mr. Holt. This article from *The Bulletin* reads as follows:—

The now open conflict in the Menzies Cabinet over what should be the Government's attitude towards

overseas investment is more than a clash of viewpoint between the Treasurer, Mr. Holt, and the Country Party Leader, Mr. John McEwen. Involved in the conflict are the two most powerful departments in the Commonwealth complex—Treasury and Trade.

Treasury and Trade took opposing sides when the question of whether the Government should completely lift import controls was decided in 1960. Treasury, which won the day, advocated that the controls should be lifted.

The argument, basically, was the same then as it is now. Treasury, in effect, argued that Australia's balance of payments problem and the question of overseas investment were inter-related. If important restrictions were lifted the influx of overseas investment into Australia would cushion the demands made upon overseas funds by an upsurge of imports, sufficiently to enable Australia to maintain an economically viable position. As a solution for Australia's balance of payments problem, Australia must pursue the "open door" policy as far as overseas investment was concerned, and not discriminate between types of capital investment.

Trade argued that the balance of payments problem and the problem raised by overseas investment in Australia were two separate problems. Indiscriminate entry of overseas investment only provided a temporary short-term solution for balance of payments difficulties, and potentially could, in the long term, raise a larger problem than the one it solved. If overseas investment took over existing Australian industry on any substantial scale, it would mean only a replacement of ownership and not an addition to Australia's industrial and economic capacity.

Australia sooner or later must run into trouble in servicing this investment, and this in the long run must give the country a worse balance of payments headache than existed now. This long-term danger would be minimised if Australia replaced its "open-door" policy on overseas investment with a policy which encouraged overseas investment, that added new capacity or brought new techniques and know-how to industry, but discouraged the type of overseas investment which merely replaced Australian with foreign ownership. Investment that brought new capacity or introduced into Australia new techniques or know-how was self-servicing

in that it provided the extra output and extra earnings to service the investment made.

Admittedly this approach of treating the balance of payments problem and overseas investment as two separate problems made it more difficult to cope with current balance of payments difficulties. But it was better to face the problem now, while it was still within manageable proportions, than to have it develop into a much larger one in future years.

By separating the balance of payments problem from overseas investment it would become possible to develop a policy that would encourage retention of ownership of existing Australian enterprises in Australian hands and make future overseas investment more valuable, as it would then represent an addition to the strength of the Australian economy instead of merely a change in ownership.

Sir John Crawford, then permanent head of the Department of Trade, lost this fight, resigned soon afterwards from the Department, and retired to the quieter backwaters of the Australian National University. But he left a legacy behind him—the legacy of an idea over which Cabinet, and particularly Holt and McEwen, will be joining issue in the Budget discussions which are to start as soon as Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies gets back from overseas.

At the Country Party conference which took place in Perth at the end of June, I asked Mr. McEwen if he would care to say something on the conflict between the departments of Treasury and Trade on this particular subject; and if there were such a conflict, to what extent it existed. Mr. McEwen's reply was that he would not care to say. Nevertheless, it is very interesting to note that Mr. McEwen has had a great deal to say on the desirability of certain types of overseas investments which are being made in Australia, and recently his comments on this matter were as follows:—

We see funds coming in and we welcome them. Overseas funds to establish oil refineries or a plant to produce synthetic rubber or some great chemical activity—something for which we have not the experience, specialised technical skills, nor the great capital resources. This we can all welcome as adding to the fullness of the Australian industrial scene.

We have gained two ways. We have gained the industry and the employment here, and we have taken

into our banking funds the overseas money being transferred to Australia.

All of that I make quite clear I favour, but there has been an increasing tendency for capital to flow into Australia not to establish some new and highly complicated technical activity but to come in to buy out an Australian flour mill or an Australian bakery or an Australian dairy factory, sometimes a co-operative.

I make it quite clear that I can't welcome the transference of ownership to overseas people of these simple food processing activities which have been actually established by Australians, and in many cases successfully operated by Australians for more than half a century. However, to a not insignificant extent, the overseas money which is provided to buy out these industries, is also the overseas money making good our inadequate earnings from export sales. To this extent overseas investment in Australia has come to be depended upon in our balance of payments.

This is the important quote—

We in this room are mostly established farmers. If we earn enough annual income we can live comfortably. If we don't, we could still live comfortably by selling a bit of the farm every year, and that is pretty much the Australian situation—we are not earning enough and we are selling a bit of our heritage every year. I am not satisfied, and we in the Country Party will not be satisfied until this is no longer a necessity. I am much in favour of some overseas investment in Australia, but I do not want this country to be dependent on it. In that case you have lost your real freedom and today we are undoubtedly dependent to an important extent on overseas investment. This is why I and the Country Party will fight for better markets for our products overseas quite apart from the farmers' interest.

I think that sums up the position pretty well as it pertains to Australia at the moment. More or less simultaneously with that comment, *The Bulletin*, again on the question of takeovers, published this article—

In a single day this week international companies swallowed Australia's biggest jam maker whole, and took a sizeable bite from our fifth biggest rubber manufacturer, thus underlining the view of American journal "Business Week," that this is the age of multinational companies which "produce and sell in many countries, bring in rich profits and fit right into today's global market."

In fact the vogue for multinational companies is sweeping the US in such a hurry that the Harvard Graduate School of Business is planning a special Centre for their study. The idea is that these companies are much more than mere instruments of profit! US scholars see them as a means by which business can act as a stabiliser in a world full of tensions.

"Business Week" thinks the academics are taking a rather altruistic view, but says it is true that multinational corporations do provide an effective mechanism for international exchange of men and technology and, by superimposing on a set of already interdependent nations a further set of interdependent business enterprises, they may help to erode some barriers of national sovereignty.

More tangibly, as in the case of Unilever's £4½ million cash bid for Rosella, the net result is a pile of good hard money for those who sell out to the multinational companies and another layer added to our future commitments for the overseas remittance of profits. (Unilever remitted about £750,000 from last year's profits.) Moreover, in the case of United States Rubber's buying 25 per cent. of South Australian Rubber's capital, while there could be an initial gain in capital inflow arising both from the purchase and new money to be put up for a tyre factory in SA, the end result for the balance of payments will be the same. "Exploitation" used to be the bad old word for these manoeuvres.

In this form of takeover the end results could be disastrous, but the immediate side effects are bad; namely, that in an attempt to forestall the takeover bids by some of these overseas companies, Australian companies are merging to protect themselves, and each merger means that it is a decline in competition as we know it.

Mr. Tonkin: How is it that you get away with it without any interjections? I never do.

Mr. Kelly: It is a case of discretion being the better part of valour.

Mr. H. May: He thinks he is making his maiden speech.

Mr. CORNELL: Whatever some members may think on the question of overseas investments, I think it is one that should be pondered upon because it is a problem which posterity will have to face.

Mr. Fletcher: We should keep Australia for Australians.

Mr. CORNELL: I think it is interesting to know that Mr. Staniforth Ricketson, who can by no means be regarded as a reactionary, advocated that 30 per cent.

of Australian holdings should be reserved in subsidiary companies in Australia owned by overseas companies.

It should also be pointed out that the flow of overseas capital to Australia at the moment is running to about £200,000,000 a year, and this is giving the Treasury temporary relief from the internal problem of trade in balance. The Treasury is even advocating borrowing overseas, despite the fact that the money has been available locally at a lower rate of interest. I have said that the Leader of the Country Party is troubled by the extent to which these overseas investments are being used to purchase Australian firms without adding in any way to Australian industry.

If local capital is introduced for the establishment of a new Australian industry, or the extension of an existing one, ultimately the loan is paid back and the enterprise the loan has produced belongs virtually to Australia. However, if the enterprise is sold to another fellow who lives overseas, it is his for all time.

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Hearman): Order! The honourable member has another five minutes left.

Mr. **CORNELL**: He has the enterprise for all time, and the servicing of investment by way of capital from outside Australia will mean that all the profits so made will constitute a problem which posterity will have to face; and if the Canadian example is something to go on, we are in for a pretty torrid time. As Mr. McEwen said at the time he made this observation: "It is the rich and the old who always oppose a change"; and he is not expending his strength for the rich and the old. I consider that this problem is of such magnitude that this House should place something on record in respect to it.

Mr. Fletcher: Hear, hear!

Amendment to Motion

Mr. **CORNELL**: Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move an amendment—

That the following words be added to the motion:—

but wishes to express concern at the increased volume of overseas investment introduced for the sole purpose of taking over established Australian enterprises and industries.

Debate (on amendment to the motion) adjourned, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Deputy Premier).

House adjourned at 4.45 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 3rd September, 1963

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

MARINE STORES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Assent

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

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Acknowledgment of Presentation to Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): I wish to announce that the Address-in-Reply agreed to by the House has been presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator, who was pleased to make the following reply:—

Mr. President and honourable members of the Legislative Council: I thank you for your expressions of loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and for your Address-in-Reply to the Speech with which I opened Parliament.