

to be any more specific than that, I urge that the Government should review the activities of the Transport Department to ascertain what freight it is trying to attract from road transport to rail transport, with a view to getting a clear-cut definition of its policy. Housing continues to be a major problem in my electorate.

Mr. Davies: Last week the Government said it was not.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: It will continue to be a major problem, I think, whilst we have a rapidly increasing population. Progressively we have new applications for houses being lodged; and this, of course, requires additional homes to be built, which is quite a difficult task. Perhaps in a place like Harvey the increase in the local population is greater than in other centres of a comparable size. It is of considerable interest, of course, that the Minister has informed us there will be a substantial increase in the sum of money to be made available for housing under all its headings in this financial year as compared with last year, and perhaps we can now look forward with confidence to more houses being built in the future—particularly, I hope, in my electorate.

It is well that I should make some comments on the Department of Agriculture. The member for Murray complimented the Minister on the success of the dairy improvement scheme, and I fully support his remarks. To a great extent it is achieving what it set out to do originally; namely, to raise the property of the smaller farmer to a standard where it can become an economic unit. It has certainly been difficult to obtain finance under that heading, and therefore this scheme has been valuable from that point of view.

Unfortunately, adverse conditions have been experienced by those engaged in the production of whole milk and butterfat. Such conditions were certainly experienced during the last summer, which was an extremely dry one. It was also a difficult year for the production of milk and from the point of view of maintaining the quality of the milk. This year will again be an adverse one, not because of dry conditions, but because of the extremely wet season.

The agricultural parts of my electorate at the moment are completely inundated with water—some of them to a depth of several feet. It will take some time before this water dries up, and many hundreds of acres of pasture will be set back because of the flood conditions. Perhaps the Minister for Works can come to the aid of those farmers by making available additional drainage, particularly in the Harvey and Capel areas, which are the two most affected. At one place the Harvey diversion river has broken its banks, and the large volume of water, instead of flowing out to sea, is flooding

over the various farms, a number of which have been seriously affected by the floodwaters. I am hoping the Minister will come to the aid of the farmers by granting them some compensation.

The farmer was not overlooked in the latest Federal Budget, because a bounty of £3 per ton on superphosphate is to be introduced. I understand from a statement made by the Federal Treasurer that this is designed to stimulate primary production. So far as I am concerned, its major benefit will be to assist the farmer in his endeavour to combat some of the rising costs which in the past have been a great burden to him indeed; because the farmer—particularly the dairy farmer—has not been in the position to pass on those costs and he has been burdened with an ever-increasing cost of production. Therefore, a subsidy of £3 per ton on superphosphate will be quite a contribution towards assisting him in that regard.

Its benefit will be State-wide, because farmers through the length and breadth of the State have been affected by the flooding conditions and the severe winter we have experienced this year. As a result of these conditions all pasture land will take a great deal of rehabilitating, and a considerable quantity of superphosphate will be required to bring this about. However, I am sure we will all reap a great deal of benefit from the subsidy announced by the Commonwealth Treasurer.

Once again I would like to indicate my full support for the motion so ably moved by the member for Stirling. Any further comments I may have I will make when the Estimates are before the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Brady.

House adjourned at 10.42 p.m.

Legislative Council

Wednesday, the 28th August, 1963

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

WATER SUPPLIES

Addition of Chemicals

1. The Hon. W. F. WILLESEE asked the Minister for Mines:

With reference to the letter by the Minister for Health, published in *The West Australian* on Saturday, the 24th August, 1963, which states—

It is already well known that numerous chemicals are already added to water supplies.

will he please supply a list of the chemicals added to the—

- (a) Metropolitan Water Supply; and
- (b) the town supplies of—
 - (i) Shark Bay;
 - (ii) Carnarvon;
 - (iii) Onslow;
 - (iv) Roebourne;
 - (v) Port Hedland;
 - (vi) Broome;
 - (vii) Wittenoom;
 - (viii) Marble Bar;
 - (ix) Derby;
 - (x) Wyndham;
 - (xi) Kununurra; and
 - (xii) Halls Creek.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (a) (1) Chlorine;
- (2) Copper sulphate;
- (3) Calcium hydroxide (lime).
- (b) Nil.

HOUSING: STATE RENTAL HOMES

Widows' Pensions Increase: Effect on Rebates

2. The Hon. N. E. BAXTER asked the Minister for Housing:
- (1) Is it possible that the recent increase in civilian widows' pensions, as announced in the Federal Government Budget, will affect any rebate on an economic rental at present allowed to a civilian widow occupying a State rental home?
 - (2) If so, could the Minister state to what extent?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) On the basis of the announced pensions increase to civilian widows, rebate adjustments would be made in accordance with the scale laid down in the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement Act, which has been in operation since 1945. Example:
 - (a) For Class "B" widows (without a dependent child under 16) where the increase in pension is to be 10s. per week, the decrease in rebate would be 2s. 6d. per week.
 - (b) For Class "A" widows (with a dependent child under 16) where the increase in pension is to be £3 per week, the decrease in rebate would be 14s. 6d. per week.
 - (c) For other civilian widows, rebates on rent would vary as these would be dependent on the amount of the widow's other income.

MARINE STORES ACT
AMENDMENT BILL*Assembly's Message*

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Council.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: TENTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 27th August, on the following motion by The Hon. A. R. Jones:—

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:—

May it please Your Excellency: We, the members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia, in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious

Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

THE HON. J. M. THOMSON (South) [4.36 p.m.]: I wish to associate myself with the remarks of previous speakers who expressed deep regret at the passing of three members of this Chamber, who during their terms here commanded from all of us the greatest respect.

I would also like to associate myself with the remarks made by the previous speakers during the debate on this motion in extending to the newly elected members—Mr. Dolan, Mr. Dellar, and Mr. Heitman—a sincere welcome. I trust their stay here will be very pleasant to them, and will prove to be profitable to their constituents. I want to express my congratulations to Mr. Baxter on his appointment as Chairman of Committees, in which capacity he will take the Chair during the Committee stages of Bills. I am sure he will carry out his duties in an effective and efficient manner, as we all know he is competent of doing.

The motion before us enables members to discuss all and sundry topics appertaining to their constituencies, and to the State as a whole. It is very commendable that by this means members are able to acquaint the House and the public of this State with matters which concern them, and which come before members of Parliament from time to time.

Recently I was very interested to read a report of the Kindergarten Union of Western Australia, dealing with the subject of preschool education. After reading and digesting the report one becomes concerned with the future activities and expansion of preschool education. I think it is accepted that preschool education plays a very important part in our social structure. It is a matter which interests not only parents of young children, but also the citizens residing in centres where kindergartens have been established.

I now refer to that report, and it would be well for those in authority to give consideration to the important points mentioned therein, to see what can be done for the future stability of the union. I quote from the report under the heading of "Future Expansion"—

The indications are that the number of kindergartens affiliated with the Kindergarten Union will double in the next five years and treble in the next ten years.

In order to meet those demands at least 25 trainee teachers need to be admitted each year in the immediate future, increasing to fifty per annum within ten years, to maintain the necessary supply of teachers.

A corresponding increase in the number of administrative and advisory staff will be required with salaries commensurate with the qualifications, experience and responsibilities of these positions.
Salaries.

The greatest single factor in the shortage of kindergarten teachers is the low salary scale which compares unfavourably with that of other teachers and other professions for women.

Although there has been an increase in both Government and parent payments since 1956, this increase has had to go towards balancing the budget with no provision for:

- (a) employment of additional administrative and clerical staff to cope with expansion;
- (b) increasing salaries of teachers to a point where Kindergarten College can expect to attract a satisfactory number of recruits.

The Main Problem.

Preschool services of W.A. are well established on a basis of good standards comparable with any other State in Australia. People have demonstrated that, in spite of the almost insurmountable financial difficulties of establishing kindergartens, they want them and will work to get them for their children.

If we cannot supply trained teachers, people will open kindergartens with untrained staff and the standards will inevitably go down.

Unless a preschool service is a good one, it could be a danger to the young children of our State.

The problem, therefore, is to obtain the money to enable us to offer reasonably comparative salaries in order to attract trainee teachers so as to provide properly trained kindergarten teachers for present and future needs.

It is considered that the least requirement that would bring this about would be that we pay kindergarten teachers according to the award of independent schools assistant mistresses.

Those remarks under the two headings to which I referred are worthy of consideration and I trust they will receive this consideration by those in authority. I refer first of all to the need for finance to increase the administrative and advisory staff within the Kindergarten Union itself.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: We have one at Norseman which is run better than those run by the Kindergarten Union.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: The second need is to obtain finance for salaries to make them commensurate with those in

similar teaching professions. A big responsibility is placed on us, the powers-that-be, and the community to ensure that this finance is made available for these purposes.

Reference has been made to the number of trainee teachers who will be required in the next 5 to 10 years, but what is of more concern is the number which is required to meet the present demand. We want more qualified teachers to instruct these young trainees. It is of the utmost importance in my opinion and also in the opinion of those responsible for the administration of this important work that an additional grant be made for this purpose. Now is the time to give serious consideration to this matter to ensure that a sufficient number of fully qualified instructors or lecturers is available for 1964.

The total sum required to cover additional salaries and increased administration staff is in the vicinity of £7,000, and, when compared with the total amount which is spent on education today, this is a modest sum. Despite the low salaries paid to trained teachers, there are many girls who seek to enter this field to make it their career.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: What would be their rate when they come out?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I will deal with that in a moment. It is a very important point and I am sure members will be as surprised as I was to realise the variations in salaries paid to teachers in different categories. I trust the Minister for Education will review this matter of the grants made to kindergartens without delay, because I understand there is available at least one fully qualified person in the Eastern States who would be prepared to come to Western Australia.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Don't import any more into this State, for goodness sake!

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: She would undertake the responsibilities of lecturing mistress at the kindergarten training centre. If we are desirous of having fully trained girls engaged in this work, we should give every assistance, because they play a very important part in teaching children of a preschool age.

I wish to refer to the salary rates, but before doing so I think it would be appropriate to present certain facts concerning the requirements of kindergarten teachers. I quote again from the report, and it says this—

1. The kindergarten teachers must have the same entrance qualifications as the State trainee teachers.
2. The kindergarten teacher trains for three years because of the specialised nature of her work.
3. The kindergarten teacher works 8.45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

4. The kindergarten teacher is responsible for the guidance of 30 children between ages 3½ to 5 years in the morning and a second group of 20 children on three afternoons. Where the numbers for a second group are not available, she is expected to conduct a programme of parent education.

It is obvious that the requirements of assistant teachers for preschool education are as important as those of other teachers; and the job is a skilled one. Therefore it is most necessary that these people should receive salaries comparable to those of teachers in similar classes within the State; and in this regard I wish to make two comparisons: firstly, with the rate of salary paid to assistant mistresses at the independent schools; and, secondly, with the rates paid to the teachers in the employ of the Education Department, within their respective grades.

After a girl has served her three-year training period and received her diploma as a kindergarten teacher, she receives, in the first year, an annual salary of £669 as compared with £748 received by an assistant mistress at an independent school; and that is a difference of £70 odd. The salary of a Grade 1 teacher in the Education Department is £756, and that is appreciably different from what the kindergarten teacher receives; yet the training and the responsibilities are very similar. The educational requirement up to that point is the same: Leaving standard; and ability, intellect, etc., are comparable.

Looking at this matter from the point of view of the rates of pay per week, which may be more impressive, we find that the kindergarten teacher receives £12 17s. 4d. a week for her first year; the assistant mistress at an independent school receives £14 7s. 8d.; and the teacher in the Education Department, in Grade 1, receives £14 10s. 9d. I am not saying, of course, that we should reduce these higher rates, but that we should increase those of the kindergarten teachers and bring them up to a comparable figure.

As the report says, the kindergarten teachers desire to be put on a salary rate comparable with that applying to the independent school assistant mistress; and that is something that needs to be done if we are to encourage young girls who reach school-leaving age and who desire to follow a teaching career in preschool education. We should do something more than we have done up to this time to make their rates of salary more attractive.

There is no incentive given to these girls who, because of their aptitude, kindly disposition and natural affection for children of that age, desire to follow this occupation of kindergarten teaching. We should be prepared to increase their remuneration and make it comparable with that of others in a similar vocation.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: Would you agree to the kindergartens being run by the Education Department?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: That might eventually come about, but I have no opinion on the matter. I think that as they are functioning at present, in spite of the lack of finance, they are doing a very good job, and will continue to do so. In Victoria and Tasmania there is a different set-up from what we have here.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: The kindergartens cater for only some of the children.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: That brings me to a very important point, because we have to meet the increased rate of salaries. Up to this year the salaries were on a far lesser rate than I have quoted. The Kindergarten Union found it necessary to increase the parent levy; and every time we do that we deprive children whose parents are in a low income group of the right to have preschool training. That is most undesirable, and therefore we should endeavour to avoid that situation.

I could be told, even at this juncture, that the Kindergarten Teachers' Union has prepared a log to put before the Arbitration Court for their wages to be brought into line with those paid to the mistresses in the independent schools.

There could be a diversity of opinion regarding what constitutes kindergartens. I say the kindergartens that are controlled by, and under the management of, the Kindergarten Union are the ones that we can look to with confidence to continue their excellent work. It is because, unfortunately, of the lack of finance that we have preschool centres set up that are not affiliated with the Kindergarten Union and therefore may not be able to supply—in fact, they cannot supply—properly trained personnel; and this is a very important point.

To meet the increased rate of salary paid this year, as compared with last year—the rate of pay last year was £40 less than it is today—and to make conditions more attractive and the remuneration reasonable and fair to the trainee teachers, the Kindergarten Union, or the people responsible, had to increase the parent levy. As a result, the charge to the parents rose by £2 per child. That is disastrous, because it has the effect that the children of those parents who cannot afford such an increase are taken away from the kindergarten and denied their preschool training.

I now draw the attention of the House to a comparison of the salary range to which I have already referred. The first-year mistress at an independent school receives 30s. a week more than a first-year kindergarten teacher, and a Grade 1 State school teacher receives £1 12s. 8d. more, and so on down the scale until one finds that a person teaching at a kindergarten

for three years receives a salary which is £2 16s. 3d. less than that paid to an assistant mistress at an independent school, and £3 9s. less than the salary paid to an assistant mistress at a State school. These are anomalies which must claim the attention of those in authority.

What is concerning us most at this point is: What is to happen when the Arbitration Court reaches a decision on this log of claims that is to be lodged? Who will meet the increased amount of money required for the payment of the additional wages? This amount will be in the vicinity of £18,000, which will be necessary to meet the full commitment of increased salaries, and if the Government cannot see its way clear to advance that money, who will? The question is: Are we going to see the preschool educational system fold up? We cannot afford to allow that to happen. In fact, it must not happen. Therefore, I trust that steps will be taken to ensure that a more practical approach will be made to these problems by those who are in a position to do something about solving them.

I have already mentioned that the Governments of Victoria and Tasmania have accepted the responsibility for the payment of salaries to these people. In Victoria a contribution is made to the Education Department and to the Health Department towards the cost of building and staffing these centres. Therefore, if a plan along the lines I have suggested were adopted it would not be setting a precedent. Here is an opportunity whereby young girls who are leaving school could be gainfully employed in a worth-while and rewarding career; but we will have to offer them more incentive than we have to date to encourage them to take up this career.

I now wish to refer to one or two other educational matters which seem to have commanded the attention of several speakers in this Chamber to date. As I come from a centre which has a five-year high school, and as I represent a district which has two five-year high schools, and numerous other high schools, I have often wondered what can be done about the large number of boys who attend these secondary schools after completing their education in the rural primary schools.

Looking at education with its recognised permanent attributes, if it is to be more effective, it is necessary that it be able to meet the needs of an ever-changing civilisation and that it be always ready and able to adapt itself to changing circumstances.

After close observation over many years it would appear that there is a need—and it is not necessarily a new one—for the type of education most suitable for boys sent from rural primary schools to attend high schools to be investigated. I am referring to the boys from the rural

primary schools, particularly, because they are the ones I am most interested in at the moment.

When they commence their secondary schooling at the five-year high schools, for the first three years they are prepared to sit for the Junior certificate examination. Many of these lads on entering their third year at high school continue on and sit for the Junior certificate examination and pass; some terminate their schooling during the year; and some sit for the examination and fail, and then go back to the farms from which they came, because that is where their future occupation will be.

I think it would be safe to say that 80 per cent. of these lads would return to rural occupations on the farms, and to them the three years that they spend in studying for the Junior certificate examination are somewhat wasted because they are not pursuing a course of instruction or education which is the most practical and necessary for the type of work they intend to pursue in the future.

We know that by the time they pass through the primary school they have reached a good standard of education, and when they enter the high school their education will continue to improve. Whilst they are doing that—particularly in regard to the lads from rural primary schools—it is most desirable that we should look to some additional training which will prove of value to them in later years. In the main these lads are coming from country districts to continue their studies at such high schools as Albany and Narrogin, and they will return to the rural areas to carry on farming activities and eventually become established farmers in their respective districts.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: Education in any form is never wasted.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I am not saying that; how true that statement is! However, cannot we think along these lines? If we can direct the education of these lads along other avenues which will prove far more important and helpful to them in following their intended occupation in rural areas, would that not be better than to make them sit for the Junior certificate examination which is, of course, an accepted standard?

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: The very basic standard.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: Yes, it is, but the suggestion I am making is that those who do not desire to enter the commercial world or take up a profession should have the opportunity of taking a four-year course at the type of school I have mentioned. It is the opinion of others that if this suggested course were followed it would give a lad a balanced education

directed towards his following the relative activities of the life he is going to lead when he leaves school.

The suggestion is that each lad should be given a technical school education of four years based on a syllabus which would include, firstly, written English, realising it is a fundamental necessity that a lad should be able to write and express himself in a proper and efficient manner. I think a study of English speech is also necessary so that he can put forward his ideas and communicate intelligently with those he contacts.

The syllabus could also include mathematics, which are practical and which we all appreciate can be of value to an individual because of the many important avenues in which mathematics are used and applied in the management of his affairs; especially in accountancy and in relation to farming generally. Other subjects could be farming methods, general wool-classing, animal husbandry, manual training, motor mechanics, social studies, and sporting and physical education.

If his other activities in the present three-year course were included in a four-year course embodying these additional subjects, a lad would be better fitted to return to his rural occupation, having applied himself in a course of education which would be of greater interest and of value to him in his life-long pursuits. It is far better they should take those subjects than such things as languages, physics, etc., when sitting for their Junior certificate. These are things that are worth while considering in our planning for the education of the lads who will be our future farmers developing the rural areas of the State.

What are we going to do about the other 10 per cent.? They can take their Leaving and enter commerce and the industrial life of the community, and the professions. They are well provided for. I submit the suggestion is one that is worthy of considerable thought because I can see it will be of tremendous value and importance to the young people whom we are training at high schools today.

I now wish to refer briefly to the adult education set-up in Western Australia. On studying the personnel of the Adult Education Board of Western Australia I am surprised to find that as the board is constituted, all members reside in the metropolitan area. I think it is high time consideration was given to the appointment of a country representative to that board because of the expansion that is taking place in this State; and if the board is going to be truly representative of adult education, representation should not be confined to the metropolitan area; it should be spread throughout the State as a whole.

The board has done quite a commendable job over the last seven or eight years with regard to its activities, but it is very necessary for consideration to be given to the appointment of another country organiser-tutor. At the present time there is only one country organiser-tutor; and if the activities of adult education are to expand, the person occupying that position will be taxed to the utmost. I know that it will take money to make this appointment, and that a far bigger grant will have to be made by the University to the Adult Education Board.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: The Adult Education Board has a very meagre income.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: Unfortunately it has. That is the point I wish to make. The grant to the University should be increased to further an expansion of adult education activities in Western Australia.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I will support you in that.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I imagine the honourable member would, because she is very interested in adult education.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: An increase is badly needed.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: Yes, it is. I think the need to expand this particular sphere of education has appealed very much indeed to many folk in country districts, yet it is astounding to find there is only one autonomous body of the Adult Education Board outside the metropolitan area. That is a disappointing and amazing state of affairs; and it is high time every endeavour was made to expand the activities of this necessary form of education, particularly if we are to profitably employ our leisure time. We are told that we are going to enjoy more and more leisure as time goes on, and it will therefore be necessary to employ it in a satisfactory manner. I say that this could be effectively done through the auspices of adult education.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: The grant should be doubled.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: Yes, indeed it should be. Perhaps I had better give the correct title of the position to which I referred previously. I should have said we have only one country tutor-organiser; and I think it is high time an additional one was appointed to assist the person who is now carrying out those activities in a very competent manner. At Albany there is a very active branch; and if we look back at the result of the summer school held there during the last Christmas holidays or during the seasonal holidays we will find it was very successful, mainly due to the activities and organisation that were put into it. Therefore, I urge that the seeing eye in the University

will be prepared to look further afield than at just what is taking place at the University. I am sure the position will be as I have stated, if further funds are made available. Of course, these funds are always difficult for any Government to provide; but these are the things that people are demanding and the Government should be watchful of their needs.

I would like to make reference to a resolution which was submitted to a regional conference in the great southern area early in the year. This was in connection with a flora and fauna reserve in the Pingrup-Nyabing area. This reserve comprises an area of 232,000 acres and its number is 25113. The motion moved at that conference was to the effect that the fauna and flora authority of the Lands Department consider the relocation, east, of this particular reserve. I am sure we all realise the value of having these reserves in our rural areas; and we know that pressure is often put on the Lands Department by members of Parliament to have these reserves released for the purpose of extending farming activities.

In many instances it is quite a practical approach to a practical request; and if this area is relocated and shifted further east it could still serve its intended need, while allowing the present land to be thrown open for selection. That is my main idea in bringing this forward, together with the fact that it would provide an access road through this district just east of Pingrup in the Magenta area, down to the Jerramungup townsite, through the Gairdner River, and back into Albany for the purpose of importing and exporting.

The authority concerned is reluctant at all times—and justifiably so in many instances—to let these reserves go, but I should be pleased if the release of this reserve could be considered with a view to the value that would result to the surrounding districts and the accessibility that would be provided from one point to another, particularly from the townsite of Jerramungup to Magenta and up to Pingrup, and even to the Lake Grace district. It would be of tremendous value to the people selecting land, and to those people who are already in the area, because it would result in a considerable reduction in freights so far as wheat, other grain, and super are concerned. I regret I cannot quote the figures relating to freights, but perhaps I can do so on a future occasion.

I earnestly appeal for a practical approach to be made in this matter, as a relocation east of the reserve I mentioned would serve a very useful purpose and the result would be valuable, not only to the individuals concerned, but to the development of the State as a whole. There is still plenty of room to the east to have a fauna and flora reserve—if that be desired—containing 232,000 acres.

Before concluding I wish to make reference to something that appeared in the *Weekend News*. It concerns the employment of men in the north-west in connection with the building of the radio station at North West Cape—and I think the matter was referred to by Mr. Syd Thompson, when speaking on the Address-in-Reply. Concern was expressed by the Building Trades Association that the contractors should consult that body before tendering for the work in this particular area because of the increased amount of money which would be needed. It would appear, from my reading of the article, that there was a desire on the part of Hardeman-Monier-Hutcherson to possibly exploit the situation. If that were the thought in the minds of those connected with the Building Trades Association, then it fell far short of what was the case.

It might be as well to inform the House of the situation which applied at the time the tenders were called. I have here a form under the heading of Hardeman-Monier-Hutcherson, which states as follows:—

Interviews are now taking place in Perth for positions in the North-West Cape Project. At this date, vacancies exist for a variety of occupations but no guarantee can be given that opportunities will be available throughout the full period of the contract. Because of this, intending applicants are warned against travelling to the site without first being interviewed in Perth. All enquiries should be first made at your local Commonwealth Employment Service office.

The relevant W.A. award will be observed by the Joint Venture.

The following are the wages which will be paid:—

Wages: It is intended to work a six-day week of nine hours, but this may be varied without notice according to the needs of the job. Typical rates, calculated on a 54-hour week, are:

Carpenters	£37 10 8
A.W.U. Labourers, unskilled	27 7 9
Grader Operators, under 100 h.p.	31 8 4

These rates include a district allowance.

Details regarding accommodation are as follows:—

Accommodation: Board and lodging are free. It is planned to maintain a very high standard of barrack accommodation, e.g.:—

- Lined and insulated rooms (2 men)
- Mess
- Wet canteen
- Recreation building
- Film and reading building
- Free bedding

Most amenities buildings will eventually be air-conditioned.

The following are details regarding transport:—

Transport: Plane travel will be required. The fare is £18 ls. from Perth. Awards vary on payments, but most of them provide for return fares to be eventually paid by the employer.

Taxation: A taxation deduction of £270 plus half of your present dependants' allowance applies to all wage and salary earners who work in the North-West Cape area for more than six months in any financial year. For example, based on earnings of £30 per week, the following tax rates apply:—

	Perth.	N.W. Cape.
Single	£4 8 3	£3 8 9
Married	£3 14 3	£2 15 9
Married, 1 child	£3 6 0	£2 8 9

Concerning union membership it says:—

Union Membership: All employees on the site will be required to join and remain members of the registered union covering their calling.

That is the accepted procedure. The company then points out the conditions under which the men will be living.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Whose statement is that?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: This statement was issued by Hardeman-Monier-Hutcherson, the contractors employing the men who are going to work on the North-West Cape project. It would appear that the Building Trades Association and the Transport Workers' Union were concerned that there should be an additional £11 paid above the award rates. The contractors did not enter into any further negotiations on this point, which caused dissatisfaction among the unions concerned.

The *Industrial News* referred to this matter in its publication, but I must confess that I am unable to comment on it. Contractors apparently felt that if they consulted with the various unions on the matter they would be expected to agree to an increase above the award rate set by the Arbitration Court. Members should be acquainted with these matters. We heard only one side of the case, as it was reported in the *Weekend News*, and there has been no further reference to the matter since. What applies to the men employed at the Ord River Dam should apply to those employed on the North West Cape project.

We have to accept the fact that we will always have certain sections of the community pressing for higher wages. That is fair enough.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: That is due to the costs of production.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: But we must decide between what is reasonable and what is extortionate. Commonsense needs to prevail in these matters.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: If a thousand of these men would work in the north it would improve the unemployment position.

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: I agree.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: They wanted consultation.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: What do we have the Arbitration Court for?

The Hon. J. M. THOMSON: Exactly. Once an agreement has been reached, we should abide by it, instead of saying, "We'll see if we can get another £17 extra a week because it is further away from the metropolitan area." I think that is unfair extortion. If we are going to have an award, then let both parties abide by it. I support the motion.

THE HON. L. A. LOGAN (Midland—Minister for Local Government) [5.40 p.m.]: I join with other members in welcoming to the House the three new members: The Hon. D. P. Dellar, The Hon. J. Dolan, and the Hon. J. Heitman. Mr. Heitman is now a colleague of Mr. Jones and me in the Midland Province, and I can assure him that both Mr. Jones and I will co-operate with him in the interests of the Midland Province and of the State.

I have only one or two points to raise. The first concerns the Child Welfare Department matter which was mentioned by Mr. Bennetts. When speaking to the Address-in-Reply Mr. Bennetts has, for the past three years, criticised the departmental officer at Kalgoorlie. In those three years there have been three departmental officers there, and had there been twelve departmental officers and Mr. Bennetts had spoken to the Address-in-Reply on twelve different occasions, he would still have complained about the departmental officer up there.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: I haven't complained about the present one.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The honourable member has not yet had time to.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: You can't expect to control it with men like those I mentioned.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The man concerned was employed in the office of the clerk of courts in Kalgoorlie, and there was nothing wrong with his character while he was there. I did not hear Mr. Bennetts mention that the man had worked in the clerk of courts' office in Kalgoorlie. What was wrong with the Child Welfare Department engaging a man who had been employed in the office of the clerk of courts at Kalgoorlie? Was the department wrong in engaging him on that basis?

The Hon. G. Bennetts: You had to find out.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I am pleased the honourable member thinks so. It happens in many cases. It has happened in connection with members of Parliament. Let us look at the incident referred to. It was unfortunate that when the order of commitment was issued to the man, he did not utter one word of protest. His wife issued the order of commitment, and when it was served on Mr. Keenan he did not utter one word of protest.

The Hon. J. D. Teahan: And the man who put him in gaol sat quietly and said nothing.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: It was not until Mr. Keenan said, "I have been paying some maintenance money; where is it?" that this whole thing started. Had he said something when the summons was issued he would not have gone to gaol.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Why did the man hold his money?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Ask one of your own colleagues. He was convinced the man was not guilty, although the court found him so. The man was charged with stealing £25, and he did not receive anything other than what he was justly entitled to under the Public Service Act. There was still some doubt about his guilt, but I do not think there is any doubt now. He was given his just rights under the Public Service Act. Possible I can claim some credit for the fact that he still holds a job today. My policy has always been that if a man commits a first offence and it is not a serious one, then he is entitled to a second chance.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Not a serious one?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: He was accused of taking £25. The charge was that he had stolen £25. That was the charge, and we have to look at the matter from that aspect. I am not one of those people who discharge men and expect private industry to employ them.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: I don't believe in sacking.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The man is in another job where he is under control, and those are the circumstances. As to age, let us have a look at Mr. Bennetts' idea. He wants a man about 45 or 50 years of age to go into the job. We would have the position of starting young chaps at 16 or 17 years of age and keeping them in the office until 45 years of age with no promotion and then putting them out as probation officers. Is that what Mr. Bennetts wants? Does he think we should take a man off the street who cannot get a job anywhere else? It appears that that is what he wants me to do, but it is not quite as practical as the honourable member thinks.

The most efficient welfare officers in the department are girls 21 to 23 years of age. They are the most efficient officers we have, and I defy anyone to prove me wrong. Mr. Bennetts does not know what he is talking about when he mentions the age of the person doing this particular job.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: I know more about it than the Minister.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Mr. Bennetts should make inquiries and find out more about the matter. He will find that what I have said is true.

Mr. Ron Thompson raised a very sticky issue in regard to local government and the conflict between section 45 and section 109 of the parent Act. These conflicting sections have been in operation for a long while, because they were in the Road Districts Act before the Local Government Act came into effect. Apparently nobody has ever drawn attention to it before, but the reason the second section was included was to make sure that anybody who was enrolled that should not have been enrolled could be challenged when he went to vote.

I appreciate the problem which has arisen and I have no answer as yet. One answer might be to take out part of section 45 which states that the qualifications for enrolment are a natural born or a naturalised subject. If that part is taken out of the Act anybody who is a ratepayer or an occupier could be enrolled, which would cover aliens. The same part would have to be taken out of section 109, and I do not know whether that is good policy.

The Hon. R. Thompson: As long as you do it before the next election.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: It is not an easy problem, and it is one that needs a lot of thought.

Mr. Lavery raised a few points in regard to town planning. The first one related to the food producing area south of Fremantle and particularly to market gardens, and I think his was a commonsense approach to the problem. But let me remind the honourable member that if it had not been for the Town Planning Department and some of the actions of myself over the last four years, a lot more of this area would have gone to urban use, and would not be producing food.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: I gave you full credit for that in my speech last night.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: You didn't hear that last night.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes I did, and I have a copy of the honourable member's speech to which I will refer. Many times pressure is applied to subdivide these areas, and it is a phenomenon which happens everywhere. The North Ryde area of Sydney was a very productive market garden site but is now all urban. East of Melbourne was once all beautiful orchard country but that is now urban. In South

Australia, the tomato growing area, with its glasshouses, had to move from Adelaide to Elizabethville and now, because of the build-up in that area it may have to go further afield.

I flew over the valleys around Los Angeles by helicopter and saw huge areas of land which were once productive but are now urban. All we can do is to hold on to the land as long as possible; as long as it is economical to do so.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: It will also keep down the price of market garden produce.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: No-one appreciates the problem more than I. However, because of economics, people realise that it is better to get £1,000 for a block of land so they subdivide, and they cannot be blamed for doing that.

We are fortunate in this State that we still have some areas at Osborne Park and Wanneroo and others further south at Spearwood. I appreciate that none of the other areas are as good as the main valley at Spearwood, or even the area of the Cockburn Shire Council where the honourable member said 700 houses were going to be built on a site which was previously a lime pit. There is a lot of land in that area; some of it has been used for horticulture, and some for market gardens. All that area is included in town planning and much of it will become urban. It cannot be avoided.

I do regret that Mr. Lavery saw fit to use the expressions that he did in regard to the Town Planning Department. I do not think it was becoming of a member of this House to make such statements as they were known in the community as "the absolute acme of bureaucracy".

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: It has been said outside this House and I will say it here.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Surely the fact that the honourable member has made it once and thinks it is right does not give him any reason to reiterate it.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: Well, it is so.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: The officers of this department have been trained for many years to become proficient in their jobs and over the last 12 months they have been working on this scheme, and other schemes, far beyond their normal hours of duty. They are very proficient men and they have done this in the interests of the State and the honourable member ought to be ashamed of his statement.

Point of Order

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: Mr. President, I ask for a withdrawal of the remark made by the Minister that I ought to be ashamed. I am not ashamed of anything I said, and I said it in all sincerity. I ask the Minister to withdraw his remarks.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Under the circumstances, I think that the remarks were unfortunate. I do not deem the remarks of the Minister harsh and I would suggest that the honourable member should refrain from attacking people in the manner he has.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I feel I have some rights in this House and you, Sir, as guardian of this House will agree with that. If I make a statement in this House that is untrue, and it can be proved to be untrue, then I am quite prepared to accept what you are now saying. But I am not going to allow the Minister to say that I should be ashamed of anything I have said in this House, because that is not true. I am not ashamed.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): The Minister may proceed.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Mr. Lavery did not just go that far, he went further. By implication he accused the department of crooked dealings and partiality.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I certainly did not accuse the department of crooked dealings, because it does not have any deals.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I will read what Mr. Lavery had to say, "If this position continues—

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: What position? Read the first part of it.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Very well, I will read the first part. It is as follows:—

What Mr. Ron Thompson had to say earlier this evening in his resolution to disallow certain regulations is the sort of thing I am referring to, Mr. Minister. If this position continues we will have some very wealthy people making fortunes out of town planning and others who will go to the wall. We already know of people who have been refused certain subdivisions etc. and who have sold out at low prices. Then, after a period of time, those properties have been subdivided and some of the big land agents have made fortunes out of them.

Further on he says—

... but I am referring to the number of people who, by virtue of an organisation, or an office of the Crown—

and this reference is to departmental officers—

—are so dogmatic in their deliberations that they allow some groups of people to make fortunes and other groups of people to fall by the wayside.

If this is not an implication that there is something crooked or partial, I do not know what is.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I will discuss it again later and bring some facts and figures.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Bring me the figures. You have accused the department and officers in the department.

The Hon. A. F. Griffith: He has accused the engineers and everybody else and put them all under suspicion.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I take strong exception to the accusation.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: The Minister for Mines had better keep out of this.

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I can handle my department. I am not going to have accusations made in this manner. If Mr. Lavery wants to make them let him go outside where he will have to prove what he says.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I have made these statements outside.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Mr. Lavery can make them in the House and get away with it.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I have made these statements and I am not ashamed of myself.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: I repeat, I regret that the honourable member made those statements in this House last night.

The Hon. F. R. H. LAVERY: I will repeat them when I get the opportunity.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Those are the points I wanted to make with regard to town planning. Mr. Jack Thomson mentioned flora and fauna reserves in the Pingrup-Nyabing area. I agree that at the moment this area to a certain extent is holding up the development of Jerramungup and northwards. It is also holding up the road system from the north to this area and to Albany and the coast. Whether it is possible to push this reserve further east I do not know, but investigations are being made to see if this is possible.

The Hon. J. M. Thomson: Are these investigations being made now?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: Yes. If it is possible, I hope the Minister for Fisheries, who is in charge of this particular reserve, will see fit to move it—not all of it, but only a portion—eastwards. I think it will be to the advantage of all concerned because it is tying up a lot of land from an agricultural point of view, and unless Jerramungup gets this area to the north, development will probably stagnate. I

can assure Mr. Thomson that investigations are being made, and I intend to follow them up because I have to go to that area on the 21st of next month and I would like to have the answer ready.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Did you make any inquiries about the railway line which is separating the Carboni property?

The Hon. L. A. LOGAN: No. I am sorry I have not as yet. I will follow it up and let the honourable member know the details. That is all I wish to say on the Address-in-Reply. Both aspects I have discussed are important, and I support the motion.

Sitting suspended from 6 to 8.5 p.m.

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [8.5 p.m.]: In replying to the debate on the Address-in-Reply I would first of all like to take the opportunity of congratulating His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor upon the Speech he delivered on the opening day of this session of Parliament. I think all members will agree with me when I say that so far as Sir John Dwyer was concerned, and despite what I hope is a temporary incapacity, he came to this House at much inconvenience to himself to deliver the Governor's Speech on behalf of the Governor. I feel sure that the people of Western Australia very much appreciate the concerted effort he made in order to be here on that particular afternoon.

I support the motion moved by Mr. Jones. In a way I regret that my remarks will be at some length, but they will only be at length in order that I might try to answer many of the questions that have been raised by members during the course of the debate.

Whilst there is no occasion for me, at this particular time, to dwell any further on the question of the condolences that have already been passed by this House to our late members, I am sure this is an occasion for us to welcome new faces to the House. I do welcome Mr. Dellar, Mr. Dolan, and Mr. Heitman. I feel sure that these members will make valuable contributions to Parliament on behalf of the districts they represent and on behalf of the State of Western Australia. I would like to be associated with the welcoming remarks made by other members in this regard.

I would explain to our new members that it has been customary, over a long period of years, for the Leader of the House to reply on the Address-in-Reply and to endeavour to give to members supporting the motion such information as he is able to give upon the various subjects about which members have sought enlightenment during the course of their remarks. It is regrettable, of

course, and unavoidable, that those members who spoke late in the debate—I appreciate that someone has to speak late—sometimes do not get answers as do the members who spoke earlier. Obviously, that is because the same opportunity for research into the various problems that are brought forward is not available to me.

I am sure that all members of this House know that any Minister who finds himself in the position I now occupy has adopted the practice of referring the remarks made by members which do not come within the jurisdiction of his own portfolios, to his colleagues in another place. In this way information can be supplied so that questions raised by members in this Chamber can be answered. I continue to follow that course.

I believe that members will agree it has been my endeavour and the endeavour of my colleague, Mr. Logan, to supply as much information as is possible. Perhaps it is sometimes given at too great length, but nevertheless I feel that I must continue to play the part and fulfill the custom that has grown in this House for so many years. Opportunity is taken by members during the Address-in-Reply debate and also whilst speaking to Supply Bills to raise questions concerning their own electorates and matters concerning the welfare of the State, and I believe it is my responsibility—and the responsibility of my colleague—to try to answer these questions to the best of my ability.

I feel the Lieutenant Governor's Speech was a very good one. I do not expect all members to agree with me. I once attended a function—some years ago now—at which a Minister in the previous Government was also in attendance. I can remember that he was being criticised rather severely for some of his actions but he adequately defended himself by saying that it was only the man who did nothing who could not be criticised and it was the man who did things that was criticised.

I say that the debate on this motion has produced some powerful criticism, and if the statement of the Minister on that day had any truth in reality then the present Government must certainly have been very active, because members found a number of subjects upon which they offered criticism. It is not unusual, of course, to expect elucidation on some of these matters, and I propose during the course of my remarks to try to do just that.

Starting at the beginning with Mr. Jones, who made the first speech on the opening day, I want to take the opportunity of thanking him for his support of His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor's remarks and for the various other comments he made during the course of his speech.

He devoted a considerable portion of his speech to the question of the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture is one of the three largest State Government departments with a total expenditure approaching £2,700,000. Of this, £1,500,000 is from Consolidated Revenue. In 1953 expenditure from Consolidated Revenue was about half this figure, the sum being £696,640. With the recent completion of the modern offices and laboratory buildings at South Perth the Department of Agriculture is now the best housed of all the State Government departments and is probably better housed than any other Department of Agriculture in Australia.

New office buildings have also been completed in several regional centres during the past years and more are being planned for other major centres in the near future. This department now employs a total of 1,006 people, including 155 University graduates. There are 47 cadets in various stages of University training and any suitably qualified graduates from other sources seeking employment are appointed. Ten years ago the total number of staff was 578, which included 50 graduates.

Country centres have been greatly improved over the past few years. There are now about 50 graduate officers providing advisory and veterinary services from 21 country district offices, and the Department of Agriculture operates 20 research stations in all parts of Western Australia from the Kimberleys to Esperance. The facilities of these stations have been steadily improved, and one station at Badgingarra and a number of pilot research areas have been established during the past few years to give a lead to farmers in developing a district.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: They are doing a good job, too.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Thank you. A new pig and poultry centre is being established at Medina. In general it is felt that the Department of Agriculture has made good progress over the years and particularly over the last decade; and, as would be expected, I feel it has made that growth in view of the rapid growth of the State and the expansion of our industries. The figures have continued at an increasing rate over past years. However, the availability of qualified staff has continued to limit the growth of expansion, but I think it must be readily agreed that the growth and progress of the Department of Agriculture has indeed been considerable over the years I have mentioned.

By way of interjection I intimated to Mr. Jones that the Government did intend to introduce legislation to amend the Companies Act, and the amending Bill will, I hope, be introduced this session. The Bill will be particularly designed to inhibit many of the undesirable practices which

have recently caused concern and heavy loss to some investors. I am pleased to say that Bills in a like form and of a uniform nature to the one proposed to be introduced in this State will be sponsored by the respective Governments in the Parliaments of the other States of Australia, and I hope they will be passed during the current session.

Mr. Willesee touched on a variety of Government undertakings in the northern part of the State, and this is what we would expect him to do because we know of his interest in the north. Mention was made of the Ord River project, jetties, and the State Shipping Service, and also of the need for cyclone-proof houses.

Mr. Willesee, while agreeing with the need for controls in the prawning industry, made some criticism of the manner in which licenses have been issued. The Government's action in introducing early controls has been generally well received. As to licenses, some criticism has come from Fremantle and Geraldton fishermen. Apparently some feel they should have a greater proportion of the 25 licenses than the 10 which they hold at present.

The Hon. R. Thompson: The objection was mainly to the Queensland boats getting the licenses as against the local boats.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I will continue with these remarks. My colleague, the Minister for Fisheries, gave me these comments as his views on the subject. Also, individual fishermen in Carnarvon and Shark Bay have sought licenses. It would not be much use issuing a license to an individual fisherman if he were not in a position to provide the considerable amount of capital necessary for the purchase of an expensive boat and its equipment.

A certain number of licenses have been given in Denham and Carnarvon to firms involved at those centres. Decentralisation of industry in this manner assures added prosperity to the respective townships and to the companies. I propose, during the course of my remarks, to say a little more on the question of decentralisation when I reach the comments made by Mr. Dellar.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: Could you also say a little more as to where you got an indication of the lack of finance of the applicants in the Carnarvon and Shark Bay areas?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No; at this point I could not, because the honourable member will appreciate that this is not a portfolio within my control. If I do not give him sufficient information now I shall be glad to get any further information that he would like to have at a later date.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: That remark is completely weak, from my knowledge of the area.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Oh! There is no reason why individual fishermen in either of those towns should not approach the companies involved for one of the licenses allocated to it. Indeed, company sponsorship might be a feasible way of including finance for additional licenses. Mr. Willesee may be assured that if the necessary conditions could be filled, consideration would be given to the granting of some additional licenses.

The honourable member also asked for the road from the aerodrome to Denham to be surfaced with bitumen. The Minister for Works advises me that the distance is 21 miles, and the cost of surfacing would be between £100,000 and £150,000.

At the present time the traffic using the road is not sufficient to justify this heavy expenditure. Furthermore, from the Nile-mah turnoff the traffic to Useless Loop could grow to such an extent that this road would have a higher priority for the allocation of construction funds.

The area is practically devoid of orthodox road-making materials, and we have to rely on pavements of birreda clay. On such a pavement, sealing would not stand up to the impact of heavy truck traffic. During the recent rains the road has been considerably damaged by heavy trucks operating with complete disregard and contempt for prevailing conditions.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I disregard that statement, too.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The honourable member does not think that is right?

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: I surely don't.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not think I am in a position to argue about it, but I think it is true that some operators operate with complete disregard for the prevailing conditions. I know that in the area Mr. Dellar was speaking about, when he made his contribution to the debate, there has been a complete disregard for a future road, because I saw the trucks operating over it.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Some of the oil companies are offenders.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: We can say that some of the oil companies may be offenders, and some of the heavy hauliers of one sort or another may be offenders. But I am sure Mr. Strickland will know—and will appreciate—of one oil company that has added a great deal to the road mileage of the north-west.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: And has ploughed plenty up, too.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: It has contributed considerably to the number of miles of road in the north-west in order to get its heavy machinery in. To continue, it is very difficult to police traffic on this road. The area has an average

rainfall of 7 inches, but this year it received 25 inches. On the current programme of works, an amount of £10,000 has been provided for improvements consisting of strengthening several minor bog sections, sheeting some harsh sections, and general running top improvements.

I would now like to comment on the remarks made by Mr. Willesee regarding a new type of design for the Onslow jetty and the removal of the Broome jetty. I am advised by the Minister for Works that the Wyndham and Derby jetties were designed and constructed by the Public Works Department, and that a jetty at Onslow would need to be of heavier construction than either of these as cyclonic seas which occur at Onslow are not experienced at Wyndham or Derby; that is, to the same extent. A cyclone-proof jetty could be designed and constructed but the cost would be extremely high.

Mr. Willesee will be glad to know that work to the extent of £550,000 will be carried out this financial year on the construction of a deep-water jetty at Broome.

Mr. Baxter made some reference to the Ord project and its relationship to the agricultural areas water supply scheme and pressed for additional Main Roads finance to meet flood drainage to local authority roads, and spoke on education at some length. I think they were the main subjects of his remarks.

Concerning flood damaged roads, the department is aware of the matters raised by Mr. Baxter—matters over which, of course, it had no control in the particular area. Arrangements have been made for the department's divisional engineers to consult with the shires and examine places where rehabilitation work will be necessary. Decisions can then be made as to whether maintenance works could be regarded as being due to the abnormal conditions.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: I think every local governing body is affected by them.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: We have had an extraordinary year. The last year I can remember in which we had such great quantities of water lying all over the country was as far back as 1926. If members fly over the State at present, they will find it seems to be waterlogged everywhere. As regrettable as it may seem to be, I do not think the Government can be blamed for that; as a matter of fact, I am almost sure it is out of our control.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: They did not evacuate Carnarvon this year, but they did two years ago.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The position was entirely different this year from what it was two years ago. The department must ensure that the shires are making legitimate claims; that they are not claiming for new roads which, in fact,

were old roads, and for works which are not in the nature of rehabilitation to pre-winter condition; and I repeat that conditions this year were extremely bad everywhere.

Mr. Baxter's remarks regarding education have drawn some comments from the department and the Minister, and I am asked to say to the honourable member that today educationists, psychologists, social scientists, and other students of human nature agree that the best type of discipline is self-discipline. We heard quite a lot about this subject from various members in the Chamber. Self-discipline is arrived at by a thorough understanding of what is required of the individual. Hence, a member of society must understand why he is required to obey certain laws, and similarly, pupils too are expected to understand why certain restrictions are imposed on them. Consideration for others and respect for their rights and feelings is inculcated. Those who have studied this problem are satisfied that the discipline in our schools is of a much higher standard nowadays than it was 40 or 50 years ago.

The school population has been more than doubled in the last decade. This factor, together with normal retirements, has resulted in roughly 75 per cent. of the department's teaching staff being under the age of 35 years. This is not a bad thing as the school is a youngsters' world, and the department can see no objection to having in charge young teachers who are fresh in mind, and who have fresh ideas, and plenty of energy and enthusiasm, and the desire to carry out their functions as school teachers.

The department endeavours to place as many as possible of its young teachers in schools with a senior headmaster not responsible for a class, so that he can assist them with his experience. Approximately 60 per cent. of young teachers go from a teachers' training college to such schools, and after two or three years' service they go to schools where a greater measure of responsibility is expected of them.

It is the Government's policy to find avenues of employment for youth, and the department would not be conforming to this policy by engaging married women whose husbands are also employed.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: There are quite a number of married women teaching whose husbands are in employment.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That may be so; that could come under a different category. They are supply teachers, in the main, I believe, but I do not know to what extent. I think the honourable member will still agree with the policy, and probably the department should be commended.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter: Do you favour employing a married woman if her husband is not working, in place of an unmarried woman?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I did not say that. In fact, it is to the contrary; the department is anxious to give employment to two people, instead of employing a married woman whose husband is working.

I must comment on the extremely fine expose by Mr. Dolan. His remarks on the inadequacy of the educational efforts of the Australian people, and the manner in which he made his maiden speech in this House prompt me to say that I think, perhaps, it is a great pity he did not enter Parliament years ago because I feel sure this Parliament would have been the richer for the learning and knowledge the honourable member has on the subject to which he addressed himself on this occasion.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate him on such a fine speech. It is very pleasing to listen to a constructive speech; one free of unnecessary criticism, with the knowledge—as Mr. Dolan said—that Governments of the day do their very best to perfect various functions for which they are responsible.

Quite a deal was said by Mrs. Hutchison about hooliganism, vandalism, larrikinism, and the inadequacy of the Police Force to maintain law and order. She had also quite a deal to say when being critical of the Government and the local authority concerned in their efforts to control flooding in the northern suburbs during a winter which—as I said a few minutes ago—has been almost unprecedented in the history of our State.

As to Morley Park drainage, I heard the honourable member say how negative this Government had been in dealing with this problem, and I thought it only proper—particularly in view of the by-play between my colleague, Mr. Robinson, and Mrs. Hutchison—that I should make a check on this matter.

I find that in April, 1959, £50,000 had been spent on Morley Park drainage, and since that date £330,000 has been spent. So I do not think it is justifiable criticism to say that this Government has done nothing in the matter. The substantial funds which have been expended since 1959 included the construction of a tunnel through the sandhills adjacent to Brown's Lake, and the provision also of a basin near the Morley Park shopping centre. Officers of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Department are giving attention to an extensive drainage programme for the surrounding districts, and the Minister for Water Supplies is likely to receive a firm recommendation in

the near future on the work in Kensington Avenue, Hampton Park, and the Dianella sections of the district.

I repeat that nobody likes to see people placed in the unfortunate circumstances in which we found them in this area. Nevertheless, their plight has been shared by people in areas other than Morley Park. People in other parts of the province I represent, and people in other parts of the State have found themselves in a similar plight. The majority of them bravely accept such circumstances in the kind of adversity that has been caused by a record rainfall such as we have had this year. In certain parts of the metropolitan area it is nothing strange to see "for sale" notices sticking up out of ground which is covered by 2 ft. or 3 ft. of water.

The Hon. L. A. Logan: Some of the "for sale" notices are under water now.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: As Mr. Logan has just said, some of the "for sale" notices are now completely covered by water. Of course, we must expect some criticism—

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I can remember when you were pretty critical.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: —some of it proper criticism, and some of it improper. Several members expressed doubt on the ability of the Police Force to maintain law and order. I think it is most unfortunate that a certain amount of criticism has been levelled against the police both by some members of Parliament and the Press as a result of the present state of affairs. I would only hope that the police would get a break.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: The police are quite competent, but they do not have the numbers; it is the Government's fault.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In addition to hoping that the honourable member would keep quiet, I would hope that the police would get a break. I do not think it is of any use to criticise civil servants, engineers of the Public Works, and members of the Police Force, when we are aware that these officers do not deserve this criticism. As Mr. Logan said tonight, they work very hard in the performance of their duties.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: The police are working too hard because there are not enough of them; that is the trouble.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The very people whom members seek to criticise now—although it may be some time in the future—may be found on the side of those who are now criticising. So if the cap fits I think members should be a little more considerate of the difficulties which some people have to face.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: There are not enough police to do the work.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I told Mrs. Hutchison that I would answer the question she asked of me during my reply to the debate on the Address-in-Reply. Members were informed that the information which was sought in this House by Mrs. Hutchison was in fact given in the Legislative Assembly and I was asked why it was not given in this Chamber. I took the trouble to read the question that was asked of the Minister for Police in the Legislative Assembly and on comparing it with the question asked by Mrs. Hutchison in this Chamber, I found that there was no comparison to be made between the two questions.

The information which my colleague, the Minister for Police, did not wish to give to Mrs. Hutchison publicly and which he gave to her privately was in regard to the number of policemen and policewomen who are on patrol duty at night in the city area. The question asked by Mr. Crommelin in another place made no mention of that. There is no comparison between the two questions whatsoever.

For obvious reasons, the Minister was reluctant to disclose the information publicly. He did not want to reveal the disposition of the Police Force in answering the question in the form asked by the honourable member.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I did not—

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If any mistake was made, I will take the blame. I did not disclose the strength of the Police Force in the metropolitan area; that information was given in another place. The important factor was that the Minister did not think it advisable to divulge to the honourable member the disposition of the Police Force. On the question of the number of police and the inadequacy of the police, if the situation is closely studied, it will be found that in recent times the Police Force has increased considerably.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: So it should, when we have had an increase in population.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am just trying to find a paper showing the actual strength of the Police Force over the last 10 years. I know that the number has increased considerably. However, I do not seem to be able to find the paper at the moment. Mr. Logan has offered to try to find it for me while I continue. All circumstances considered, and particularly in view of the concerted attacks which have currently been made on our Police Force, I desire to read to members a minute submitted by the Commissioner of Police to his Minister on the 16th August. By reading this minute I think I can supply

to the House the information for which I was looking. The minute reads as follows:—

In view of the fact that hooligans are now mobile and shift from one centre to another when pressure is brought to bear on them by all branches of the police service and they obtain a lot of Press publicity, I am satisfied that there are ample police to deal with them as disclosed by the number appearing before the courts.

The average ratio of police to population for Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania is one to 665. In Western Australia at present the ratio is one to 644.

Since 1958, the number of rape cases and those solved are those set out hereunder—

	Complaints	Solved
1958	9	8
1959	5	4
1960	10	10
1961	4	3
1962	13	11
1963	5	4

It can be seen, therefore, that that information does not tally with the remarks made by Mr. Bennetts who suggested that there had been an increase in this type of crime since the houses of ill-fame in the street popularly known—or unpopularity known—as Roe Street had been closed. Contrary to the opinion expressed that the closure of these houses has brought about an increase in this type of crime, the figures, in fact, show that no increase has been made and that, instead, there has been a decrease. I think it will be agreed that the police have handled the matter extremely well.

For instance, in regard to the type of offence which could possibly be increased as a result of the closure of these houses, I have had figures prepared for the 12-monthly periods before and since the closure of the houses of ill-fame, and the following facts show that under the headings of: "Before closure" and "Since closure", the following number of crimes of indecent dealing, indecent assault, unlawful carnal knowledge, incest, rape, gross indecency, and sodomy are listed. The figures show that there has been a noticeable decrease each year since the closure of the houses of ill-fame. I think they show conclusively that an all-round decrease in the incidence of this type of offence has occurred during this period.

In the first case there were 41 cases of indecent dealing before closure, and 29 cases since closure; a decrease of 12. For the crime of indecent assault there were 42 cases before closure, and 34 cases since closure; a decrease of eight. For the offence of unlawful carnal knowledge there was a decrease of 14 cases; for incest a decrease of four cases; for rape, a

decrease of seven cases. For the crime of gross indecency, the number of cases increased by one, but for the crime of sodomy the number of cases decreased by six. I point out that in regard to that crime there has only been one case committed since the closure of those houses.

I do not think the views of the honourable member are borne out by the facts. In the opinion of the Commissioner of Police the licensing of brothels would be a retrograde step, as the licensing of such premises is being discontinued generally throughout the world.

Mrs. Hutchison made some remarks on the subject of employment of married women teachers. Consequent upon representations made by her some two years ago, the then Minister for Education amended the arrangements for repayment of moneys owing under any contract with young female teachers who married before their contracts had been fulfilled. The then Minister was under the impression at the time that he had met the situation against which the honourable member was protesting, but apparently he had not done so.

The present position is that trainees sign a contract which provides that, in return for their training, free book allowance, certain transport allowances, and a specified living allowance, they will serve the department as a teacher for a specified number of years, the minimum being three.

No bond is put up, as the honourable member indicated, and the student is on the receiving end the whole time. If for any reason, other than illness, etc., she fails to fulfil her contract, the department claims a proportion of the living allowance which she received during her period of training, but no claim is made for the other benefits given. Under the conditions appertaining in the Western Australian Government service, females automatically retire from the permanent staff on marriage. This is a practice which has been followed in this State since before the turn of the century.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That does not make it right.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I suppose that was due to the fact that successive Governments believed it was more important to keep channels for youth employment open, than to have married women, whose husbands were earning, in employment.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: That has nothing to do with the point I made.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Consequent on the representations made by Mrs. Hutchison, the former Minister for Education arranged that if a teacher, still under contract, married, her liability was reduced by half; and that if she became

the mother of a child the whole of her remaining liability under the contract was cancelled.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: I am not objecting to that.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am trying to explain to the honourable member the situation, but if she is not prepared to listen I shall pass on to other comments I wish to make. In respect of the remarks made by Mr. Bennetts, I think most members will agree that he has been a regular contributor to the debate on the Address-in-Reply.

The Hon. W. F. Willesee: A very interesting contributor.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: He has never pulled his punches when advocating subjects that are dear to his heart. I understand this is the last contribution the honourable member will make to the Address-in-Reply debate. When he retires from politics I wish him well, and I hope he will have a long life to enjoy a well-earned retirement.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: Thank you.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Needless to say, the Minister for Railways will be particularly pleased to have perused that part of the honourable member's speech covering the big improvements to the *Kalgoorlie Express*. Mr. Bennetts touched on the fetter programme, accommodation at Kalgoorlie for buffet attendants, and drainage and mining matters. The Merredin Shire Council has made representations to the Public Works Department regarding drainage, and investigations are proceeding.

I am advised, with regard to the Esperance water supply, that at no stage has the department committed itself to the installation of a water softening plant for Esperance. Recently Mr. Stubbs was informed that whilst it was appreciated that this water was admittedly hard, similar water was supplied to other towns and because of the high cost involved it was not proposed to install any softening plant.

Plan P.W.D.W.A. 39352 of the proposed water supply works at Esperance was, under the provisions of the Country Areas Water Supply Act, 1947-1960, on display at Esperance for one month, on and after the 2nd April, 1962. No objections to the proposed rated water supply were received from any townspeople. On completion of supply, Esperance town will be rated in accordance with the provisions of the Country Areas Water Supply Act, as is the normal procedure for all water supplies under this Act.

Mr. Robinson sought an increase in financial assistance for the Blind School, and evidently he has firsthand knowledge of the Morley Park flooded areas. As a matter of fact, he almost got me out of

bed on Saturday morning to seek my assistance in helping one of the people in trouble out there.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: The Minister should get up earlier.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I would not care to say what time it was, but it was very early. As to the financial assistance to the Blind School, I think that the best reply that can be given to Mr. Robinson is that his submission to the Acting Treasurer on the 9th August is receiving attention.

Any support which I can personally give to the matter I will give, because I think this, of all good causes, is the most worthy. Governments, both present and past, have helped considerably the School for the Blind.

The W.A. Institute and Industrial School for the Blind was requested to supply details of its financial position to the Treasurer. The honourable member might like to know the information was received on the 20th of this month, and is receiving the attention of the Under-Treasurer.

Mr. Abbey is apparently desirous of a purely advisory water conservation authority being set up. He made some comment in support of an early seasonal opening of the Burakin-Bonnie Rock railway line, and explained to the House the reasons why he supported the establishment of an Agricultural Department checkpoint adjoining the South Australian border, with a view to lessening the incidence of the introduction of noxious weeds.

I understand that the inspection of stock arriving from the Eastern States by train is being maintained at Parkeston. Despite the large numbers involved during the last year it is felt this work is being done as thoroughly as is practicable. The present position regarding road transport is less satisfactory.

The Hon. C. R. Abbey: Very much so.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Importers are required to supply the department with details of stock being brought into the State. If not apprehended in transit, they are inspected following arrival at the owner's property. A few consignments have arrived without notification. There is no doubt that the most satisfactory method of preventing the introduction of weeds in this manner is to have a checkpoint near the eastern border of the State. This presents many practical difficulties, however, and consideration is being given to getting the co-operation of the Commonwealth, South Australia, and Western Australia in establishing a two-way checkpoint at a location such as Ceduna.

An alternative being considered is to have inspection facilities at Norseman, and require all imported stock to be presented, irrespective of destination.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: If that is done at Norseman it would be too late, because the burr could have shifted from the beast during transport.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I agree. This sort of thing is difficult to control. Of course, the person who has a disregard for these regulations is the one to catch up with.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: We have been trying to catch up with Bathurst burr for 30 years.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Such a person, because of his attitude to regulations, seems to get away with it more than anyone else.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: That is why the weed is getting away on the Commonwealth Railways.

The Hon. C. R. Abbey: Norseman can be by-passed.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The subsidy on superphosphate will undoubtedly result in the increased use of this commodity with a resultant increase in production, especially in the main export of primary products, including wheat and wool. I feel sure that as a practical farmer you, Mr. President, will agree with the subsidy on superphosphate.

The increased income should be reflected in the whole economy, and much of the subsidy would be indirectly returned to the Commonwealth Government in this way. It cannot be said that we are over producing at present, and the maintenance of this position depends not only on our markets, but also on the efficiency of our marketing agencies, including the Australian Wheat Board.

Turning to the remarks made by Mr. Syd Thompson, he sought direct assistance from the Rural and Industries Bank towards opening up new land, and he supported Mr. Abbey's remarks on the wool industry. Mr. Thompson sought additional grading of schools in thinly populated areas to facilitate earlier junior high school status. The honourable member also deplored the loss of the living-away-from-home allowance by parents of a child winning a scholarship.

Dealing with the question of Rural and Industries Bank assistance first, under general banking policy that bank considers applications for advances in accordance with general banking practice. The purpose of the establishment of the Commonwealth Development Bank is to assist development of this nature.

In spite of the comments made by the honourable member, when he suggested that the numbers required for raising a school to the status of junior high school should be reduced, the honourable member probably is unaware of the history of this development. Prior to 1950 there were no

junior high schools, but in that year an experiment was made with certain large primary schools, whose enrolment was over 300, and which had a post primary enrolment of 50. They were given the status of junior high schools; and the facilities for teaching in science, manual training, and home science were gradually provided.

These schools are quite large enough to have non-teaching headmasters, and to have appointed to them some specially qualified teachers, but not as fully equipped in this regard as full high schools would be. As this scheme was successful in 1952, the Minister of the day, who was Mr. Watts, made preliminary arrangements for the establishment of Class II junior high schools, the requirements of which were 150 in attendance, with 25 post-primary students. These arrangements were confirmed by the Labor Government when it came to office.

The numbers, however, are so small that it has not been possible to give all these Class II junior high schools the facilities, or the qualified staff, to enable the full range of subjects given in Class I junior high schools to be introduced.

The main advantage is that with a group of 25 post-primary pupils one teacher can be specifically set aside for post-primary teaching. Were the number to be reduced below this figure there would be no advantage other than calling the school by a grander title, as no additional staff could be given, nor could facilities for manual training, home science, etc., be provided. The headmaster would still need to take a group class consisting of upper-primary and post-primary children.

The honourable member will appreciate that there must be a lower limit below which it would be completely unrealistic to go.

Mr. Thompson also spoke about scholarships, and their effect upon the living-away-from-home allowance. He would be interested to know that since the beginning of 1962 all new scholarships awarded carry that allowance, in addition to the scholarship, if the child qualifies for that allowance. His remarks refer to a scheme which was in existence before that time and which the Government has rectified so far as the winners of new scholarships are concerned.

The House is indebted to Dr. Hislop for a useful contribution. The honourable member spoke of the closer affinity desirable between the practice of medicine and the study and treatment of mental cases; and he pointed out ways and means by which this might be brought about more easily these days through more diverse mental treatment facilities. Dr. Hislop will, I am sure, be interested to learn from the Minister for Health in another

place in due course the views of the department on the proposals submitted to the House. Dr. Hislop is to be commended for a worth-while discourse on the employment problem placed before members with a view to encouraging their interest in the setting up of a Select Committee of people to devote their services to investigating all the difficulties associated with that problem.

There has been a good deal said in recent days on the question of unemployment. No-one likes to see unemployment in the community, and no Government would endeavour to do anything to promote it. Whilst the Government is always prepared to accept criticism, if the criticism was levelled in the light of circumstances existing at the time, it would be better understood. We are told that at present we have approximately 6,600 people out of work, and I repeat that is not a state which any Government likes to see.

In 1956 there were 188,100 people in employment in this State. In 1957 there were 182,900 people employed, a drop of 5,200. In March, 1957 there were 187,700 people employed, a drop of 400 in three years. In March 1962 there were 198,400 people employed, an increase of 10,700 in three years. In April 1963 there were 202,600 people employed, an increase of 4,200 in one year. Those are the latest figures available. That is an all-time record. From those figures members will see the increase we have had not only in our population but also in the work force of Western Australia.

I repeat that no Government is satisfied to receive unemployment figures of this nature. But the situation is still not as bad as it was in March 1959 when this Government took over. At July 1963 we had 2.3 per cent. of the work force unemployed. In March 1959 there was 2.4 per cent. of the work force unemployed.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: We did not have nearly as much money.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The then Government did not have as many commitments as has this Government. When commitments increase in ratio with the money available one has to look at these things. But this has really nothing to do with the matter about which I am speaking.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You know how hard it was for the previous Government to get finance.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I know it was very hard for the previous Government to get finance. But we have found that it is not so hard to get money into Western Australia, and with the right sort of encouragement a great deal of capital is coming into the State.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: You are now talking about Commonwealth finance.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am prompted to say, Mr. President, that Mr. Lavery will recall what was said about Medina in the 1959 session of Parliament. He will recall the number of houses which were vacant in Medina at that time. In a challenging sort of way—I intended to be good-humoured—I said, "Well Mr. Lavery, have no fear; not only will we fill the houses in Medina and get some industries there, but we may have to get some more houses built."

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: I couldn't agree with you more.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am pleased the honourable member agrees with me now. I think that in those days there were some 30, 40, or 50 houses vacant at Medina—houses which the McLarty-Watts Government had built. Medina, as an industrial centre, had been allowed to go back. There are no houses vacant in Medina today to the best of my knowledge.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: How many houses did the McLarty-Watts Government build in Medina?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I could not tell the honourable member. In addition to there now being no houses vacant in Medina, I have been asked to build another 50 houses there. I know that in the time of this Government the B.P. organisation has established a lubricating refinery there. An alumina plant is being established there which the Leader of the honourable member's party during the last State election could not find. He raised his arms in front of the television cameras and said, "Where is this bauxite industry?" I regret that he could not find it, and I hope that he can find it now, because it is very nearly in process of production.

The Hon. R. Thompson: The Liberal candidate for Cockburn did not know where it was. He said so on TV.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I cannot help that. The honourable member knows that it is there, and he knows the boost it is going to give to the industrial area of Kwinana. He also knows what a terrific boost it will be when B.H.P. comes along with its integrated iron and steel industry. I am sure we are all pleased about that.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Do you remember opposing Wandana?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes, I do. I opposed it for a very good reason: I thought it was far better for the Government of Western Australia to put families in individual houses which they could own and pay off on low deposits, rather than put them in flats 10 storeys above the street.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Have you changed your mind since?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You do not think Wandana is necessary?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I did not say that. I do not say it has been unsuccessful; but I say that Wandana is right on the knife edge so far as the economics of the proposition are concerned.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: It has been quite good.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In the last three years Wandana has made a profit of approximately £7,000.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: How much do you make out of State houses?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I could not tell you.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: You won't tell us, you mean.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I will answer any question I am able to answer. Wandana cost about £650,000, and it made £7,000 profit last year after deduction for maintenance, insurance and so on. That amount of profit on £650,000 is, to my way of thinking, something in the order of 1 per cent.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: We have many worse and more unproductive investments.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Yes; I can relate them as can the Leader of the Opposition.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: The Midland Railway Company is one.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: We can discuss that later. I do not want to get off my point. Wandana has made a profit of 1 per cent. What is the rate of interest which the State pays for Wandana money? It is 3 per cent. I was asked whether, as Minister for Housing, I would encourage another building project of that nature.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Who asked you that?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Somebody asked me.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I do not think anybody did.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If they did not, then I will volunteer an answer anyway. I could not borrow money from the Commonwealth Government today at 3 per cent. Wandana is not a bright prospect when we take into consideration that every cent over that percentage has to come out of Wandana.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: What amount is returned to the State Housing Commission by way of profit?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I could not tell the honourable member.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: But you are the Minister for Housing.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The honourable member always knew the answers when he was Minister for Railways. He never reached the point when he could not give an answer.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Never.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: What a wonder!

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Never on railways.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The honourable member had to get the Legislative Council to pass a motion so that he could close a part of the railways.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: And the Liberal Party helped.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You had to have the numbers to get it through the House.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I happen to know these figures because I was asked a question in another place, and I got the accountant at the Housing Commission to take out the figures. The honourable member expects me to give him figures off the cuff.

The Hon. R. F. Hutchison: You forgot to say that Wandana served a social need which was necessary at the time.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I have not forgotten the purpose for which Wandana was built. I am suggesting that to build another block of flats as large as Wandana would be a difficult proposition economically. We cannot borrow money at 3 per cent.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Build some single unit flats at Fremantle and I won't criticise your point of view on Wandana.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The Government is opening a block of single unit flats on Friday. If I could get some more money, I might consider erecting a block in the honourable member's area.

Mr. Teahan availed himself of the opportunity of relating many of the problems encountered on the goldfields. I was prompted to clarify several points during the course of his speech. He suggested the Government should erect houses on the goldfields at moderate cost. He suggested a figure of £2,500, and also suggested that the rental should be approximately £2 10s. per week. But the economics of the proposition are not there. The Housing Commission would not be able to erect a reasonable house on the goldfields for that figure. It would not be a house which would commend itself to many people on the goldfields. Building costs would be an amount considerably more than that suggested, and, of course, the rent would have to be an economical one.

The Housing Commission built some houses at Leonora. We did not hood-wink the local authority there. We told them what the rents were likely to be. Despite that, the local authority said, "build them". When we built them we had the greatest difficulty in letting them because the rents were too high. But we had to charge those rents because the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, entered into by the Commonwealth and all the States in 1945, lays down the formula under which rents shall be charged.

Mr. Strickland was not right in his assertion about Carnarvon houses and the rents that are being paid there. I checked up on the matter and I have some figures which are of interest. I think the honourable member said that he thought some people were paying £6 a week rent in Carnarvon.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: On the Supply Bill, yes; but not on the Address-in-Reply.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am informed by the State Housing Commission that there are 109 State rental homes in Carnarvon and the range of rents charged to the tenants is as follows:—

- 5 pay 19s. 6d. per week.
- 3 pay 39s. 6d. per week.
- 13 pay 59s. 6d. per week.
- 32 pay 79s. 6d. per week.
- 49 pay 89s. 6d. per week.
- 6 pay 99s. 6d. per week.
- 1 pays over £5 per week.

The highest rent charged is £5 2s. 6d. per week and that is for a particular lot in Stewart Street. For reasons which I can understand the honourable member did not want to mention the names of the people concerned, but I would be pleased to show him the file and the report on the rents if he would like to see it. That was the information given to me by the State Housing Commission on rents paid at Carnarvon.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: I spoke on a ratio basis; one paying £6 and one paying £3.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I understood the honourable member to say that one was paying £6 a week.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: Only as a ratio—six to three.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I obviously misunderstood what the honourable member said.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: It is in the speech; you can read it.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I will show the honourable member the file if he would like to see it. However, in respect of housing at Kalgoorlie, as Mr. Teahan knows, I am having an investigation made. Mr. Evans has been very voluble and persuasive in the matter and at present we

are engaged in trying to find out whether applicants will pay the rent if houses are built for them.

While Mr. Garrigan is not happy about what is being done for prospectors, it is doubtful whether his ideas, which the honourable member placed before the Chamber, could be seriously regarded as a practical or economic solution. I am sure that on a previous occasion Mr. Jones raised the question of prospectors in this House, and he told us that he thought it would be a good idea if the Government were to get teams of prospectors together to go out to look for minerals. If my memory serves me correctly I told him at the time that this had been tried but it had broken down.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: It was, too.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: So far as prospectors generally are concerned I have given them every possible assistance. I asked Mr. Garrigan how much a prospector received by way of allowance and he gave me an incorrect figure. I have increased prospectors' allowances and have given them compressors to help them. The department helps them with tools and supplies them with fracture under certain conditions, and it lends them all sorts of things to help them with their prospecting activities. When any mine is discovered the local inspectors of mines examine it and assistance is given, under the Goldminers' Assistance Act, if a good report is received.

I am anxious to lend money in this way, although I have a very limited amount in the vote for the purpose. I am naturally anxious to lend it to people who present the greatest opportunity for returning it; because if we get it back we can lend it to someone else. However, I regret to say, from my experience of these shows, we do not get very much money back. It is another form of subsidy to the goldmining industry.

Members, as usual, were indebted to Mr. Wise for his contribution to the debate. He obviously went to the trouble of studying the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech in detail so enabling him to give expression to points which had relationship to the northern part of the State. Members appreciate that the views expressed by the Leader of the Opposition were indicative of the great amount of thought which he gives to problems of the land; and it is not my intention at this point of time to make any hasty endeavours to deal with the speech made by the honourable member in this House.

However, I would like to make some comment on the question of Commonwealth-State financial relations of which the honourable member made some mention, I think, when he spoke on the Supply Bill. There were three matters dealt with by the honourable member in relation to

finance which could be brought under the headings of financial assistance grants to this State, publication of financial statements, and State banking practice. Financial assistance grants have replaced the previous income tax reimbursement arrangements which existed prior to the financial year 1959-60. The new system arose out of discussions at a special Premiers' conference convened in March, 1959, to examine the question of the resumption of income tax by the States and of Commonwealth-State financial relations generally.

At the time it was unanimously agreed by all the States that the new scheme was a decided improvement on the previous arrangement, and that it should operate for a period of six years, which expires on the 30th June, 1965. The next financial year will, therefore, see the end of the current agreement, and I would like to assure the honourable member, as I think I said when I was replying to him on the Supply Bill, that strenuous efforts must be made—and strenuous efforts will be made—by all the States to negotiate a fresh arrangement with the Commonwealth to obtain an increased proportion of the Commonwealth collections from income and other taxation.

All the State Premiers are aware of the fact that the Commonwealth is not returning to the State its full collections from duties on petrol, and here again pressure will be applied at the expiration of the current Commonwealth Aid Roads Act in June of next year in an endeavour to obtain an increase in the allotment to the States for expenditure on roads.

The monthly publication of transactions on the Consolidated Revenue Fund was discontinued because it was considered that no useful purpose was being served in making comparisons, as was the former practice, with the results for the corresponding month for the previous year. Variations between the current year's Budget and transactions for the previous year, together with the occurrence in different months of such items as a three pay period distorted comparisons to such an extent as to make them meaningless.

A far better method would be to compare the actual results achieved at various stages during a year with the Budget for that year. In this respect it will be appreciated that until the Budget for this current year is presented to Parliament it is not possible to draw any conclusions from the actual monthly results achieved to the date of presentation. In other words, there is nothing with which to compare these results.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: I don't agree with that contention.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I asked the Treasury to have a look at the honourable member's contribution on this question,

well knowing, of course, that he has had considerable experience in these matters, and continues to be a student of them. What the Government has in mind is to publish the transactions on the Consolidated Revenue Fund at the end of each quarter, together with explanations of any irregular budgetary movements. The first quarterly statement for this current year will be published in October by which time the revenue Budget will have been presented to Parliament.

I listened with interest to the honourable member's remarks with respect to the development of the Rural and Industries Bank and agree that this institution has made considerable progress since its early days. I have personally found the Rural and Industries Bank to be of considerable assistance to the Government, and to me as Minister for Housing. Members will have seen in this evening's paper that only yesterday the bank announced details of another of its 100 small homes scheme.

I encouraged it to participate in this scheme on the first occasion. As Minister for Housing I make a contribution of £75,000 and the bank makes a contribution of £250,000, making a total of £325,000 for one scheme. I noticed by the paper tonight that most if not all of the money has been taken up. There is a provision that a good percentage of the money must be spent in country areas. I asked Mr. Chessell to ensure that that was done when the money was distributed.

I believe the Rural and Industries Bank can play a very important part and make a valuable contribution to the housing needs of the people of the State.

I think some members may be under the impression that there are many departments and instrumentalities which bank directly with the Reserve Bank. I am told that this is not in fact the case. There are very few instances where Government departments or instrumentalities maintain a separate account with the Commonwealth Bank, or with one of the private banks. One of the few exceptions is the Wyndham Meat Works, and in this case the arrangement goes back many years. Until recently the Commonwealth Bank was the only institution which provided a banking service at Wyndham and in addition it has co-operated extremely well with the meatworks in providing substantial seasonal accommodation.

Because cash orders issued by departments and instrumentalities are negotiated through the Reserve Bank, the impression could be gained that these concerns maintain separate accounts with this institution; but in effect all these bodies bank with the Treasury for the reason given by Mr. Wise when he referred to the pooling of resources, which is necessary in order to finance various advances and overdrafts. Admittedly the Treasury keeps its account

at the Reserve Bank, but by investing surplus funds the Treasury ensures that the balance in its bank account is kept to a minimum. It is not considered, therefore, that any great advantage would accrue to the Rural and Industries Bank if the Government were to transfer its bank account to that institution.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: When the Rural and Industries Bank opened at Kalgoorlie I helped—

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. G. Bennetts: —get depositors for it.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. G. Bennetts: My question was: Why does not the Government put money into it?

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No doubt during the coming session there will be opportunity for me to comment in greater detail than I propose tonight on the question of iron ore raised by Mr. Wise. This is a matter on which I have been very keen since becoming a Minister in this Government. Although no actual sales of iron ore, regrettably, have taken place up to date, I feel the future of this mineral is very great indeed so far as Western Australia is concerned.

A mineral like iron ore is not discovered, and got out of the ground, as readily or as quickly as gold. Nor do we find a market for iron ore as readily as we do for gold. When gold is discovered there is a ready market available, and it is easily disposed of. We do not have to find a market for it. Iron ore, however, is in short supply in the world; it is competitively sought after by purchasers; and instead of it being a seller's market today, it is undoubtedly a buyer's market.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Lots of sellers and one buyer.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is the case up to date. I hope, however, that the Japanese will not be the only potential buyers of our iron ore. I firmly believe that history will prove in the years to come that we will be exporting this mineral to various parts of the world. I have never tried to convey the impression that the development of iron ore was something we would see overnight.

Because I am interested in this matter I took the opportunity the other day to browse through the files of my department concerning the deposits of iron ore at Cockatoo Island and Koolan Island. I read of the difficulties that were obviously encountered by Governments of the past,

first in getting somebody to mine the areas, and then in securing a potential market for the product.

Even in those days the potential market for Cockatoo Island and Koolan Island iron ore was Japan. It was to go out of this country at the remarkable royalty—the file indicates—of 3d. a ton. Unfortunately, however, even at that price we never got the commodity off the ground.

The Hon. H. C. Strickland: The Federal Government would not grant a permit.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The Federal Government placed an embargo on the export of iron ore half way through the deal.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Do you think its tardiness with permits has hampered you in finding a market?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: No. I am not making these comments in a critical sense. I am merely trying to demonstrate that the development of iron ore is not going to be an overnight business; nor will any benefit accrue overnight. Mr. Wise asked if the tardiness of the Commonwealth Government to grant an export license reduced our chances to sell. I do not think it did. When I went to Japan to ask the Japanese to buy this commodity all we could think of at the time was the Mt. Goldsworthy deposits of about 1,000,000 tons, and the 2,000,000 tons at Talling Peak. But after the temporary reserves were granted, the work, energy, and exploration put in by the various individuals and companies have brought forth information to the effect that we have this huge quantity of iron ore in Western Australia.

Over the years people must have walked over these deposits without realising what they were walking on. It is very nice to know that we are in possession of this wonderful asset, and I believe that ultimately the State will use it to very great advantage. I repeat, however, that it will not be fast. Even after the B.H.P. agreement was signed in connection with the Cockatoo Island iron ore, it took years to get under way. Look at the time the company has taken in the development of Koolan Island. These things take a long time, and they require a great deal of capital. If I were to ask you, Mr. President, to invest £40,000,000 or £50,000,000 and say you were not likely to get a dividend for many years, I am sure you would be very reluctant to invest that amount of money; as would be the case with other investors in the world.

The Hon. F. J. S. Wise: Has Mr. President so much money?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not know. The first essential is to explore the area, find the mineral, obtain a potential market, and raise the necessary capital.

This is particularly so in big commitments of this nature. Money must be spent in building ports, railways, water supplies, and the rest. It will not be quick; but nevertheless I do not think we should be too impatient. We should do all we can to assist these people in obtaining their markets.

I feel certain that as time goes by the success of the State will be assured in regard to this matter. I would only like to make one other comment, and refer to the remarks made by Mr. Strickland which, for the moment, I missed. In connection with unemployment, Mr. Strickland suggested that overnight the Government found it could put £1,000,000 into housing. That is not right. The Government did not find that situation at all. It so happened that the unemployment figures for the month were in the paper on the very day I was due to make the announcement about the 10 per cent. of the Commonwealth-State funds which was to go to the building societies.

I commented to the Deputy Premier that I hoped this situation would help, because it would inject into the building industry straight away, as soon as the allocation was made in the next couple of days, something in excess of £1,000,000. This was not pulled out of a hat as suggested by Mr. Strickland. It is a normal allocation made by the Minister for Housing at approximately this time of the year, as provided for under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. There was nothing smart about it at all.

We heard a considerably lengthy dissertation by Mr. Mattiske on the question of water skiing. It was obvious that Mr. Mattiske is well versed on his subject. He studied the rules and regulations governing the sport, and apparently he has a first-class knowledge of their practical application.

It has been noticeable during the course of the debate that a great number of expressions of appreciation have been made of the efficiency and courtesy of Government servants, particularly those coming into contact with the public. I am sure these remarks will be appreciated, and will not go unnoticed by the people concerned.

Mr. MacKinnon made some strong points on the question of amenities being made available in country centres, and the provision of such amenities over as wide an area as possible, through the co-operation of the central Government, the local government and members of far-flung communities. There seems to be something to be said in favour of Mr. MacKinnon's approach to the analysis of the education statistics; for, unquestionably, the average Western Australian child achieves a standard of education, surely, at least equivalent to most children in other civilised countries.

Mr. Dellar when addressing the House within such a short time of his maiden speech, which he made a few days previously on the Supply Bill, paid tribute to the help and assistance the goldmining industry had been given by such bodies as the Chamber of Mines and local government. He gave full praise for the foresight and the developmental work done by mining operators. I cannot, however, agree with all the criticism he levelled at the main roads engineers in the administration of our main roads construction organisation.

A comment was made last night by Mr. Heitman about one man in the Main Roads Department named Paddy Maguire. The first time I met Paddy Maguire was in the spinifex on a track which subsequently became a road. He was pushing a road through from Marble Bar to Corrunga Downs, so that we could get supplies to an air force base at Corrunga Downs. I well remember meeting him on occasions, and Mr. Maguire has undoubtedly been a tower of strength to the Main Roads Department. I do not know what he will do in his retirement, because he has certainly lived the job he had in the Main Roads Department over the years.

I would say to Mr. Dellar, in the kindest fashion, that the people he criticised, and those he was inclined to think were a little stupid, may work for a Government he will support one of these days.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: In this he is right.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not think so. Mr. Dellar may claim to know more than the Main Roads Department engineers, but I do not think he does have a greater knowledge. I would like to pay a tribute to the efforts and energies of the Main Roads Department officers over the years.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: I always have.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I was rather surprised to hear Mr. Dellar talk about this Government not considering decentralisation for more than 100 miles from the metropolitan area. Such a statement will not stand up to examination. Members of the North Province will know that we can travel over 600 miles of bitumen road from here to Carnarvon. Does that indicate that decentralisation is confined to 100 miles of the metropolitan area? I am not criticising; I am merely giving the honourable member some kindly advice. It is better to go along with the departmental officers, and to encourage them, rather than criticise them. The honourable member has spent his entire life in the Murchison area, and perhaps he could tell me how far the black road went beyond Kalgoorlie. It went out to Broad Arrow. In the goldmining boom days at places which the honourable

member told us of—places that are now closed down—what was done in respect of roads?

The Hon. G. Bennetts: The bitumen was not suitable for horses.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The reason the honourable member cannot travel over good roads is that nothing was done to improve them during those boom days; and he knows the black road is gradually creeping out and that it now goes as far as—

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: Menzies.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is right; and there are plans to push it further over the next three years.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: That road reminds me of a bantam rooster.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: But what about five years ago?

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: Like an old fowl plodding along and getting nowhere.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The honourable member should give credit where it is due. As sure as the day is long, that black bituminised road will creep out.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: I hope so.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The honourable member endeavoured to convey an impression that little was done by successive Governments for people living in those parts of the State more than 150 miles from Perth.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: From the coast.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I wonder whether the honourable member would know what this State's expenditure is on main roads. Let us have a look at some of the figures.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: I have no doubt about what they have been spending.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Main Roads expenditure alone on important routes in the North-East Province has amounted to no less than £1,320,000 during the past five years in which this Government has held the Treasury purse-strings. The honourable member featured the Kalgoorlie to Leonora road in particular. More than £455,000 has been spent on that road during the period, a substantial part of which has of necessity been outlaid on construction.

In addition to the funds expended by the Main Roads Department, road grants, much in excess of £500,000, have been made to local authorities in the North-East Province. Mr. Dellar spoke regarding the construction of the main road from

Menzies to Leonora, criticising both the engineers and their methods of construction. He favoured the longer route between Menzies and Kookynie and stated that the longer route from Kookynie was preferable to the more direct route to Leonora. He is entitled to his own opinion. I will not argue about that. The direct route is 14 miles shorter, but the honourable member was emphatic that it is only 10 miles shorter.

The additional distance would involve expenditure of an amount of approximately £70,000.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: What is £70,000?

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: At the present time, 80 per cent. of the traffic uses the direct route, and 20 per cent. the longer route—

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: There is nowhere else to go.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: —through Kookynie, serving pastoral properties east and west of the road.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: One.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: In addition to the extra cost of construction, it is estimated that the longer distance, which would involve the larger volume of traffic to Leonora, and assuming approximately 20 vehicles a day, would cost £4,000 per annum. There is also to be considered the expense of resealing every 15 years at a cost of £100 per mile, or some £1,400 per annum.

Mr. Dellar referred to dams which had been put down on the road at approximately eight-mile intervals. Seven are needed, and five have been completed. These show good holding capacity, and little difficulty is anticipated with their refilling. The dams completed are full.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: That is what I am complaining about. It is a waste of money putting them down.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The honourable member thinks he knows more about the construction of roads than the engineers of the Main Roads Department.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: The water was already there.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I am explaining what the engineers think about it, and if the honourable member will listen to me, as I listened to him, I will be able to tell him.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: As I said before I can give it but I can take it.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: So long as we understand that I do not mind.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: That's for sure!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I do not mind at all but I suggest to the honourable member that in giving it, he does so fairly and does not seek to take the opportunity of criticising in this House people who are not in a position to defend themselves—to wit, the public servants of this State. They cannot come here and tell the honourable member what they think of any proposal he might put forward.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: This has now been going on for 12 months.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I wonder how far parliamentary privilege should be permitted to go.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: I have often wondered, too.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I think parliamentary privilege should not go as far as permitting the criticism of individuals. If a member criticises a Minister, that is alright, because the Minister has an opportunity of speaking for himself. I have learned both to endure criticism and seek an opportunity to answer that criticism.

The Hon. F. R. H. Lavery: You used to criticise Mr. Fraser very much.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I did.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The late Mr. Fraser never ceased to have my utmost admiration for the way in which he could handle any situation. I will continue with the explanation about sumps. As I said before, the dams are completed and full.

Mr. Dellar stated there was no water along the shorter route. These small sumps are put down during the course of construction at little cost, and it is not anticipated that water will be carted more than six miles, not 16 miles as stated by Mr. Dellar. The water points on the longer route would involve water carting very much in excess of the anticipated six miles on the proposed route.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: If I am wrong, they are right.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The honourable member referred to additional costs incurred in the longer cartage of materials such as pipes, screenings, etc., from rail on the shorter route. These are of little moment compared with the savings already mentioned.

With regard to road construction materials, there are excellent deposits on the proposed shorter route, and though drainage problems at creeks, etc., do exist, they are not of the same magnitude as those encountered on the longer route through Kookynie. It is the engineers' responsibility to thoroughly investigate and

survey the optimum location for roads, having regard to many factors; and of course the accuracy of information assembled during investigations is of paramount importance.

The engineer is a professional in his work, and I think we can have faith in the ability of the engineers to plan our roads throughout this State. I think the best example of their planning can be seen in the fine network of roads we have in Western Australia. These roads run a long way to the north and a long way to the south. I have had the good fortune to go into some of the other countries of the world, and I think our roads compare favourably with those in many parts of the world.

The Hon. J. G. Hislop: They are the best in Australia.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That is an apt comment; particularly when one realises the long distances we can travel.

The Hon. D. P. Dellar: I have said that for years.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver): Order!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: I listened with interest to Mr. Strickland when he charged the Government with wrestling with unemployment by allocating building society funds. I have already mentioned that aspect, and will not go into it again. However, Mr. Strickland may be assured that the case he put up for the throwing open of the 300,000 acres of Kimberley land for native settlement will be placed before the appropriate Minister without delay. I propose to make his remarks available to the Minister concerned.

Mr. Heenan mentioned gold production, prospecting, great iron ore deposits, of which I have already made brief mention, decentralisation, and the possibility of Mr. Burges as a site for the new Observatory.

I do not know what can be done to help Mr. Spencer Compton, President of the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society, in connection with the historical book. I know Mr. Compton, and realise from what the honourable member said about him that he is a worthy citizen. Mr. Heenan also touched on the problem of under-age drinking at dances.

Mr. Lavery complained that there was no reference in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech in regard to the question of police retirements. There is apparently some doubt in his mind as to whether the police force will be increased in strength. I suggest the honourable member accept in good faith the undertaking given. It is usual to fill vacancies through retirements and death by promotion, rather than by new appointments. Mr. Lavery expressed the hope that the new Civic Rehabilitation Council would be assisted; and there is no question about that.

That honourable member raised several points concerning the Federal-State financial agreement and housing, which were tidied up during the debate on the Address-in-Reply. Our newly-elected member, Mr. Heitman, evinced a keen knowledge of the needs of his province when making his maiden speech in this Chamber, and I feel sure he will prove an acquisition to this House of Parliament and that he will energetically pursue both the interests of his electors and those of the State of Western Australia generally.

Mr. Stubbs commended many of the new developments which, as he pointed out, are making Esperance a pretty healthy town. I think I interjected at the time and said that the growth of Esperance was showing a very marked improvement. The honourable member went on to deplore the passing of the old goldmining towns and expressed the desire for them to be re-explored. Other points raised were the need for a miners' pension fund and the electricity supply at Esperance. I also deplore the closing of these goldmining towns. I have said it in the House before and I repeat: It is sad to go through many of those old goldmining areas to find they have closed down.

On the question of re-exploring them, those members with experience in the goldmining industry know only too well that the approach to the problem of gold is an economic one. I regret to say that I am not in a position to do anything about raising the price of gold.

The Hon. G. Bennetts: That is the only thing that will do any good.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: If the price of gold were raised it would be possible to treat ore of a lower grade. This cannot be done now because the price is fixed.

The Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs: That is the only answer.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: The price of gold has, for many years, been fixed, but the price of producing gold has not been fixed, and as each year goes by, the cost of production rises. I have said time and time again that the only reason why the goldmining industry has been able to keep its head above water—apart from the fact that the Commonwealth Government has recognised the need to subsidise the industry to some extent—is the obvious co-operation which exists between management and labour.

Members: Hear, hear!

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: That has been the answer over a long period of years.

The R. H. C. Stubbs: We on the goldfields know that too.

The Hon. A. F. GRIFFITH: Those people who want to be assured of fabulous wages before they go to the North West Cape to work should follow the

example set by those engaged in the mining industry. If they did, they would reduce the number of unemployed. After all, if a thousand men were to go north, our unemployment figure would probably be the lowest in Australia. The mining industry, capital and labour side by side and present a fine example to industry in this State of what can be done when there is a willing spirit.

That must be the answer so far as the opening up of any of these new shows concerned. Goldfields members know just how expensive it is in the first place to dewater a mine filled with water. It is quite a big expense to get the mine to the point where the water can be taken off.

Mr. Dellar made suggestions regarding the provision of pumps to prospectors. I have told him I am going to have a look at that suggestion, and have a look at I will. I think the compressor units supplied to prospectors have been of considerable assistance to them, and if I can do anything to assist the industry in this regard I shall be only too anxious to do so.

Of course, we know there are new methods employed in prospecting at present. We have had little experience in the past of geophysical examination of potential mineral fields in this country. The Government has been endeavouring to encourage people with the knowledge and ability to explore these vast areas, and it has met with a good deal of success. I am quite sure that the growth of secondary industries in this State lies in the potential of the mineral development in Western Australia. A prime producing country we have always been, and I hope we will always be, but if we properly develop the mineral pursuits we have side by side with our primary production we will continue to grow, and grow fast.

I think I have, to the best of my ability, covered the remarks made and questions raised by members. However, there are one or two points on which I would like to conclude. First I would like to say that I feel sure members will join with me in expressing thanks to Mr. Watson for his contribution to the debate last night. The remarks he made on the occasion of his visit of Mr. J. D. Tilney, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, were most appropriate, and, I can assure Mr. Watson, most appreciated by the honourable gentlemen from England.

The second and final comment I would like to make is this: There seems to be a boom abroad in some quarters the suggestion that Western Australia is not on the verge of a boom. There seems to be a great deal of enthusiasm along the line the atmosphere that we should try to damp down the enthusiasm. Well, I say, "Don't damp

down." I am not suggesting anyone here is doing so, but Western Australians generally should not take any part in damping it down. We should all try to go forward enthusiastically, knowing that the development of Western Australia is assured and knowing that we have a wonderful country—a country capable of producing agricultural products; a country capable of earning for itself the balance of industries we deserve; and a country with the potential to do this.

Question put and passed; the Address-in-Reply thus adopted.

Presentation to Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (Suburban—Minister for Mines) [10.6 p.m.]: I move—

That the Address-in-Reply be presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator by the President and such members as may desire to accompany him.

Question put and passed.

BILLS (7): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Companies Act Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. H. K. Watson, and read a first time.
2. Constitution Acts Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. R. F. Hutchison, and read a first time.
3. Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Town Planning), and read a first time.
4. Dog Act Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. L. A. Logan (Minister for Local Government), and read a first time.
5. Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Justice), and read a first time.
6. Mining Act Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Mines), and read a first time.
7. Bills of Sale Act Amendment Bill.
Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. A. F. Griffith (Minister for Justice), and read a first time.

House adjourned at 10.14 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 28th August, 1963

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