

may arise through normal biological processes, hunting, introduced predators, or habitat disturbance and destruction. Of course, it is also fair to say that at various times during the history of the world species have disappeared, and I suppose all of us, from our general education and reading, can call such species to mind. The disappearance of all the species from the face of the earth has not been caused solely by the intrusion of man. A number of the species have disappeared for perfectly normal and biological reasons.

The effect of such a declaration will be to afford the species nominated a special and exclusive type of protection. They would already be protected, of course, under the general provisions of the Fauna Conservation Act. Under the additional protection open seasons or any other partial lifting of conservation measures would not be permitted.

To emphasise the importance and seriousness attached to providing rare and threatened species with additional protection, a maximum penalty of \$1,000 is proposed for any breaches. Undoubtedly from time to time biologists will be recommending that additional protection should be granted to further species. Such recommendations will, of course, be considered on their merits and the appropriate action taken by the Minister in charge of the fauna conservation portfolio.

Possession of protected fauna is not an offence in itself under the Fauna Conservation Act as it stands at the present time, whether it be live fauna or the skins and carcasses of fauna. Enforcement officers have to rely on apprehending persons in the act of taking protected fauna if they wish to prove that an offence has occurred.

With the need to regulate the kangaroo industry, it will be necessary for it to be an offence to be found in possession of the skins and carcasses of these animals, unless they have been taken under license and have the tag, prescribed by the regulations, attached. Members will recall that earlier this evening I made reference to their agreement of a tagging system being used for the control of this industry. At the present time an unauthorised shooter may take kangaroos and if he is not apprehended in the act of taking them he could sell the carcasses or skins to a licensed processor who would not necessarily be committing an offence by being in possession of them. By adding this provision it will remove any temptation to deal in the skins and carcasses of kangaroos which may have been taken by an unlicensed operator.

Prevention of smuggling of fauna interstate and overseas will also be more effective if possession of the skins and carcasses of protected fauna is in itself an offence. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. R. Thompson.

## ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

**THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH** (North Metropolitan—Minister for Mines) [8.32 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 8th September.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 8.33 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, the 1st September, 1970

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

### QUESTIONS (30): ON NOTICE

#### 1. TRANSPORT

##### *Qualeup-Rocky Gully Area*

**Mr. COOK**, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has he received a proposal or given consideration to altering the transport pattern in the Qualeup-Kojonup-Frankland River-Rocky Gully area?
- (2) If so, would he detail any proposed changes and/or dates on which these changes have taken place or will take place?

**Mr. COURT** (for Mr. O'Connor) replied:

- (1) and (2) Representations have been made by members of Parliament representing these areas and by people in the area to ascertain the possibilities of permission to employ road transport directly to and from Albany primarily for grain, wool and superphosphate. Having in mind that agreement to this would result in a major change in the whole transport pattern in the area and in particular could endanger the stability of the operations of the W.A.G.R., the Director-General of Transport was instructed to try and devise a total operating pattern for rail and road in respect of all commodities to and from all destinations which would achieve the objectives of the representations without radically threatening the stability of the W.A.G.R. operations in the area. The Director-General of Transport produced a proposal but it did not meet the foregoing conditions. Thus no change is intended at this juncture.

2. **TRANSPORT***Katanning-Tambellup Area*

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) As a result of the study by the office of the Director-General of Transport of the transport pattern in the—

(a) Tambellup-Gnowangerup area;

(b) Katanning-Boyup Brook area;

(c) Katanning-Nyabing area,

has he received any proposals or given any consideration to altering the transport system in these areas?

- (2) If so, would he detail any proposed changes?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. O'Connor) replied:

- (1) and (2) In respect of Tambellup-Gnowangerup, the Director-General of Transport was not able to formulate a plan that was acceptable to the Government or thought to be acceptable to the majority of local people. Accordingly the proposal was that no change should be made and this has been accepted.

The proposal concerning the Katanning-Boyup Brook area and south thereof was for road rather than rail orientation to Albany for the bulk commodities. This would be beneficial to the majority of the people in the area but it results in a severe disbenefit to the W.A.G.R. Accordingly no change is intended.

No proposal has been received in respect of Nyabing-Katanning.

3. **COMMONWEALTH RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES ACT***Introduction of Complementary Legislation*

Mr. TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Government any intention now, or in the future of introducing legislation complementary to the Commonwealth Restrictive Trade Practices Act?
- (2) If "No" will he give reasons in view of the fact that it has been stated on behalf of the Commonwealth Government that the absence of complementary legislation in the States limits the effectiveness of the Commonwealth Act?

Mr. NALDER (for Sir David Brand) replied:

- (1) and (2) The State Government does not favour the Commonwealth's Restrictive Trade Practices Act.

4. *This question was postponed until Thursday, the 3rd September.*

5. **STATE TAXATION DEPARTMENT***Appointments*

Mr. DAVIES, to the Treasurer:

- (1) How many appointments—permanent and temporary—have been made to the State Taxation Department?
- (2) How many in each category have yet to be made?

Mr. NALDER (for Sir David Brand) replied:

- (1) 332.
- (2) Permanent—27.  
Temporary—Varies according to seasonal requirements.

6. **SOLAR SALT INDUSTRY***Indebtedness to Public Works Department*

Mr. TONKIN, to the Treasurer:

- (1) What is the explanation for the wrongful charging of Public Works—Departmental Works and Sales Account with the amount of \$234,256 Solar Salt Industry, Shark Bay, in the financial year ended the 30th June, 1969?
- (2) What is the arrangement for repayment of the debt?
- (3) What rate of interest is charged on the debt?
- (4) How was the debt incurred?
- (5) What was the total outstanding at the 30th June, 1970?

Mr. NALDER (for Sir David Brand) replied:

- (1) The Government agreed with Shark Bay Salt Pty. Ltd. to arrange for the dredging of Denham Channel by the Public Works Department and to provide navigation aids. In these circumstances the use of the account "Public Works—Departmental Works and Sales" was considered appropriate.
- (2) and (3) Under the agreement with Shark Bay Salt Pty. Ltd., the State was to be repaid at a rate of 15c per ton on all salt shipped. No interest was chargeable. However, the salt field has now been leased to new operators and the conditions governing the repayment of the debt are being renegotiated.
- (4) The debt represents the balance of the cost of dredging the channel required under the agreement.
- (5) \$230,906.

7. **RURAL RELIEF FUND***Financial Position*

Mr. TONKIN, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Since the 30th June, 1969, what transactions have been recorded in the Treasury trust account relating to the Rural Relief Fund set up under the Act of 1935-47?
- (2) What was the amount by which the fund was in credit at the 31st August, 1970?
- (3) What obstacles, if any, are in the way of the money in the fund being used to help farmers who are at present in serious financial difficulty?

Mr. NALDER (for Sir David Brand) replied:

- (1) Nil.
- (2) \$430,243.
- (3) The Commonwealth Bankruptcy Act which inhibits operations of rural relief boards. It is understood that the Federal Government has decided to introduce legislation to enable these boards to operate effectively.

8. **ASSISTANCE TO DISTRESSED FARMERS ACCOUNT***Financial Position*

Mr. TONKIN, to the Treasurer:

- (1) What was the amount standing to the credit of the account for Commonwealth Grants and Advances for Assistance to Distressed Farmers at the 30th June, 1970?
- (2) What was the balance of the account at the 31st August, 1970?
- (3) What was the nature of the latest transaction relating to the account and on what date was it recorded?

Mr. NALDER (for Sir David Brand) replied:

- (1) \$27,884.
- (2) \$27,884.
- (3) On the 18th December, 1964, a payment of \$150 was made to J. D. Dease of Nungarin, being the last instalment of a grant of \$1,190 approved in 1955.

9. **TRANSPORT***Tambellup-Mt. Barker Area*

Mr. MITCHELL, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Director-General of Transport made any inquiry into the transport problems which exist in the following areas:—
  - (a) Tambellup-Lake Toolbrunup area;
  - (b) Cranbrook-Frankland area;
  - (c) Unicup-Bokarup area;
  - (d) Mt. Barker-Rocky Gully area?

(2) If "No" when will this be undertaken?

(3) If "Yes" when can a copy of the findings be obtained?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. O'Connor) replied:

- (1) (a) Not specifically in respect of the Tambellup-Lake Toolbrunup area, though the problems of that part of the State are reflected in work done in respect of the whole Tambellup-Gnowangerup area.
- (b) Again not specifically, but when working up a proposal relative to the Katanning-Boyup Brook area it became obvious that it would be necessary to take note of the problems in the Cranbrook and Frankland areas at the same time.

(c) and (d) As for (1) (b).

(2) Answered by (1).

(3) Copies of the two papers outlining findings in respect of the Tambellup-Gnowangerup and Katanning-Boyup Brook areas are available and have been widely circulated. However, as may be inferred from the answers to (1) (b), (c), and (d), the papers do not deal specifically with these individual areas. However, their characteristics are identical to the area as a whole and were taken into account when proposals were formulated.

10. **MUSEUM***Historic Wrecks: Negotiations with Netherlands Government*

Mr. HARMAN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Have discussions taken place between the Western Australian Museum and the Netherlands Government concerning the preservation of relics from certain wrecks?
- (2) If so, what has resulted?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) In 1968 the Netherlands Department of Culture, Recreation and Social Work sponsored a visit by Mr. G. D. van der Heide to Western Australia to advise the Netherlands Ministry of Culture and the Western Australian Museum on matters concerning the protection and conservation of wrecks of Dutch East Indiamen. Mr. van der Heide is Director of the Museum voor de IJsselmeerpolders, Schokland and adviser to the Netherlands Minister of Culture on shipwrecks.

As a result of this visit Mr. van der Heide made recommendations relating to policy and staff training, which were adopted by the trustees as the policy of the Museum.

Following these recommendations, Mr. Harry Bingham, leader of the W.A. Museum diving team, spent three months in Holland being trained in procedures of wreck excavation, and Mr. Eric Car also visited Holland to study conservation methods. Both Mr. Bingham and Mr. Car worked closely with, and under the guidance of, Mr. van der Heide at his museum. Since Mr. Car's return to Western Australia a conservation laboratory to treat material recovered from wrecks has been established.

# 11. DROUGHT RELIEF

## *Applications*

Mr. H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What is the total number of applications for drought relief which have been received over the last 12 months?
- (2) How many of these applications have been granted?
- (3) How many of these applications were rejected on the grounds that the Rural and Industries Bank was unable to obtain a first mortgage on the properties offered by the applicants as security?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) 400.
- (2) 273.
- (3) 20.

12. *This question was postponed.*

# 13. BRIDGES

## *Swan River*

Mr. JAMIESON, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) When is it anticipated that tenders will be called for any or all of the proposed up-river bridges between the Causeway and the Bassendean-Guildford bridge?
- (2) How soon can some relief of traffic congestion on the Garratt Road bridge be expected, and what is causing the holdup in negotiations between the Main Roads Department and the local authorities concerned?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Two new bridges are being planned to cross the Swan River between the Causeway and Guildford. One is the Burswood Island bridge

and the other is the duplication of the Garratt Road bridge. Planning and preliminary design studies are being carried out for both these structures.

Subject to agreement being reached with the authorities concerned and also to the availability of finance, it is expected that tenders will be called for the Burswood Island bridge in the financial year 1972-73.

It is planned to make a start on the construction of the Garratt Road bridge during the current financial year.

- (2) Some improvement to traffic movement will be brought about by the widening of the section of Garratt Road between the existing bridge and Guildford Road. This work will commence before the end of this year and will be completed during April, 1971. It will be carried out jointly by the Bayswater Shire Council and the Main Roads Department.

The Belmont Shire Council submitted proposals for an alternative design for the Garratt Road bridge. This is being investigated.

# 14. HOUSING

## *Kalgoorlie*

Mr. T. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Housing:

How many rental homes are scheduled for erection at Kalgoorlie during this financial year?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

Eighteen units are programmed for the Kalgoorlie-Boulder area in 1970-71. Decision as to whether these will be rental or purchase will be made in the light of ruling circumstances when units are nearing completion.

# 15. TAXI LICENSES

## *Midland-Guildford-Bassendean*

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will he state the number of taxis licensed to operate in the following centres in the years 1965 and 1970—
  - (a) Midland;
  - (b) Guildford;
  - (c) Bassendean?
- (2) Were the taxis licensed on the basis of population in the respective centres?
- (3) What is the basis for permitting licenses at present?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. O'Connor) replied:

- (1) No taxi-cars are restricted to operate in Midland, Gullford, or Bassendean centres. The only restricted area licenses issued apply to the Gosnells and Armadale-Kelmscott Shires respectively.

Otherwise all licensees may operate anywhere in the Taxi Board's control area which extends from Gnarara Road in the north, to Singleton Beach in the south and from the west coast to Armadale.

- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) Section 11 (2) of the Taxi-cars (Co-ordination and Control) Act, 1963-70 reads as follows—

The number of taxi-cars that may be licensed to operate within the metropolitan area shall not at any time exceed one for every seven hundred of the population or be less than one for every eight hundred of the population of that area, as from time to time estimated or declared by the Deputy Commonwealth Statistician for the State.

From time to time the board reviews the position and issues additional licenses within these limits.

## 16. KING'S PARK

### *Director: Applications*

Mr. BURKE, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) How many applications have been received for the position of Director, King's Park and Botanic Garden?
- (2) What are the names and qualifications of the respective applicants?
- (3) When is a decision likely to be made on the appointment of a director?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) to (3) I am informed that 11 applications have been received so far.

It must be remembered, of course, that the applications closed at midnight only last night.

Names, in the interests of applicants, are confidential.

Here again, some applicants marked their applications "Confidential" because they are in other employment. Naturally it would not be in the best interest of those concerned to convey details of their applications.

Applications have come from England, Ceylon, Malaysia, New Guinea, Eastern States, Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia.

The King's Park Board, which is the employing authority, will consider applications when the President, Sir Thomas Meagher, returns to the State in the near future.

17.

## COURTHOUSE

### *Midland*

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is it intended to build a new courthouse in Spring Park Road, Midland?
- (2) Has it been decided to call tenders for building in the near future?

Mr. COURT replied:

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

18.

## RAILWAY INSTITUTE

### *Education: Government Assistance*

Mr. BRADY, to the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What financial assistance was allowed the Railway Institute for purposes of educational activities in each of the years 1965 to 1970?
- (2) Is it intended to give greater assistance to the institute in the current year to encourage more students into the various classes?

Mr. COURT (for Mr. O'Connor) replied:

- (1) Expenditure on education activities administered by the Railway Institute is paid for in full by the Railways Department. The expenditure in each of the years 1965-1970 was as follows—

	\$
1964-65	28,746
1965-66	28,117
1966-67	28,603
1967-68	31,420
1968-69	33,700
1969-70	36,966

- (2) Expenditure, which is expected to be higher in 1970-71, is determined by the number of enrolments in part-time classes and the number of full-time classes it is necessary to run.

Every encouragement is given to staff to enrol and qualify in subjects suitable to their employment.

19. **NATURAL GAS***Appliances: Cost of Conversion*

Mr. FLETCHER, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) When natural gas is piped south to the metropolitan area, what will be the approximate total cost of conversion of domestic gas appliances to the new fuel?
- (2) Will this be met by—
  - (a) the State Electricity Commission;
  - (b) a private company; or
  - (c) the consumer?
- (3) What is the relative calorific value of—
  - (a) existing gas;
  - (b) natural gas?
- (4) Is there any plan to incorporate the area covered by the Fremantle Gas and Coke Company in the area to be reticulated with natural gas?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) \$50 per consumer.
- (2) No decision yet taken.
- (3) (a) 512 B.T.U's per cubic foot.  
(b) 1,030 B.T.U's per cubic foot.
- (4) This is a matter for decision by the Fremantle Gas and Coke Co. Ltd.

20. **GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY***Air-Conditioning Units: Remote Areas*

Mr. BURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Government Employees' Housing Authority to provide houses with air conditioning units in areas south of the 26th parallel?
- (2) If so—
  - (a) which areas will be selected;
  - (b) what types of air conditioners will be provided?
- (3) Will the departments concerned assist the occupiers to pay for electric current consumed?
- (4) If so, on what basis?
- (5) What other amenities will be given to occupiers of Government houses in remote areas, following the recent visit by Government Employees' Housing Authority officers?

Mr. NALDER (for Sir David Brand) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) The subnorthern zone which includes localities north of the 30th parallel, but not including the South-West Land Division.

(b) Either a 1½ h.p. window type refrigerated unit or evaporative cooling unit depending upon power sources and climate.

- (3) and (4) Departments will pay for up to 480 units of power during those months in which the mean minimum temperature does not fall below 70° F. The payment will be made at the lowest current rate where there is a differential in current charges, the tenant to pay any service charge involved. Where the electricity consumed is less than 480 units in a month, the departmental subsidy will be on the basis of the department's paying the total account at the lowest current rates where there is a differential current charge, less any service charge applied.

- (5) Ceiling fans will be provided in all authority houses in Carnarvon. Requests for the provision of filling and loam in those areas where rock surface or erosion is troublesome will be examined by the authority.

The effectiveness of improved solar hot water systems is to be investigated.

Due to service difficulties in some areas, spare washing machines and refrigerators are to be located in certain centres to obviate present occasional inconveniences.

The authority for tenants to incur expenditure on urgent and minor maintenance has been increased from \$20 to \$30.

## 21.

**HEALTH***Breakfast Cereals*

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) By reason of the contradictory statements published recently as to the nutritional value or absence thereof in certain breakfast cereals, is he able to make a public announcement as to the factual position therein?
- (2) If "Yes" when?
- (3) If "No" why?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Yes. The composition of Australian food is kept under periodic review by the Nutrition Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council. Analyses of breakfast foods have been published under the direction of this committee in the booklet *Tables of Composition of Australian Foods* by A. Osmond and W. Wilson and issued by the Australian Institute

of Anatomy in Canberra. In this publication an attempt has been made to give representative values for precooked breakfast foods not fortified with thiamine.

The values per ounce of edible portion as purchased are as follows—

	Bran	Corn-Flakes	Rice Bubbles	Wheat Biscuits, Wheat Flakes and Puffed Wheat
Water	2.3	.8	.7	2.3
Protein	3.1	2.4	1.7	3.9
Fat	1.2	.2	.1	.7
Carbo-hydrate	20.5	24.1	25.0	21.1
Calories	74	107	109	99
Calcium	28	2	6	10
Iron	3.7	.8	.5	1.4
Carotene	0	0	0	0
Vitamin A	0	0	0	0
Thiamine	111	3	6	12
Riboflavin	.07	.03	.02	.05
Niacin	5.1	.5	.3	1.3
Vitamin C	0	0	0	0

(2) and (3) Answered by (1).

## 22. STATUTORY WOOL MARKETING SCHEME

### Introduction

Mr. GAYFER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Following talks he has had at Agricultural Council level last week, is it known when the plan for the statutory authority for the marketing of wool is to be introduced by the Commonwealth Government?

Mr. NALDER replied:

There has been no information on when the plan for the statutory authority for the marketing of wool is to be introduced by the Commonwealth Government.

## 23. DROUGHT RELIEF

### Water Drilling Programme

Mr. YOUNG, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Has a new drilling programme for water been considered in those newly declared drought areas?
- (2) Would he consider that such a programme would be able to locate further supplies, or does he consider that the areas were covered adequately last year?
- (3) Would he outline any proposals that he has for boring in the Neridup area east of Esperance?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Recommendations are being considered for a drilling programme covering the declared drought areas within the Gnowangerup, Albany, and Ravensthorpe shires, as also generally the Neridup area within the Esperance Shire.

- (2) There are a number of properties within these first three areas whose owners did not apply for exploratory boring last year. These, together with public reserves, will be the subject of a prior hydro-geological survey.

- (3) Answered by (1) above.

24.

## MINING

### Approval of Claims: Delay

Mr. MOIR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Are any mineral claim applications which have been recommended for ministerial approval still awaiting the Minister's approval after three years; if so, how many?
- (2) Have any mineral claim applications in this category been awaiting approval for—
  - (a) two and a half years;
  - (b) two years;
  - (c) one and a half years;
  - (d) one year;
  - (e) six months;
  - (f) three months;
 If so, how many in each category?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) For the year 1967—17.  
For the year 1968—588.  
Reasons for these outstanding applications include such matters as disputed ground, defective applications and outstanding information required by the department.
- (2) Not available. To provide the detailed information requested by the member would need the services of several officers for a very considerable time. In view of the extreme staff activity in regard to processing present and future applications further problems and delay would result in obtaining this information.

25.

## ESSENTIAL SERVICES

### Provision: Finance

Mr. BERTRAM, to the Premier:

Reference the statement in the Governor's speech, namely—

The Government has, within the limits of its financial resources, been able to cope with the pressures of growth and development, especially the provision of essential services

can he give an estimate of what additional sum of money is necessary to enable the Government in the present financial year to cope with the pressures of growth and

development especially the provision of essential services without it being limited by reason of unavailability of finance?

Mr. NALDER (for Sir David Brand) replied:

The capital works programme and the revenue Budget for this year are now being framed and until these are completed there is no basis for such an estimate.

## 26. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

### *Day Labour Force*

Mr. DAVIES, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Of the permanent and temporary persons in the employ of the Public Works Department day labour force as at the 30th June, 1970, how many of each category were employed in the architectural and engineering sections?
- (2) What were the trade category ratings of the employees concerned?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) Permanent and temporary employees for architectural and engineering divisions are as under—

		Per- manent	Tem- porary
Architectural Division	....	468	477
Engineering Division	....	2,003	351
		<hr/> 2,471	<hr/> 828

- (2) Break up of the above figures into trade categories is shown on two statements which I request permission to table.

*The statements were tabled.*

## 27. SWAN PORTLAND CEMENT COMPANY

### *Land: Tabling of Plan*

Mr. DAVIES, to the Minister for Lands:

Will he table a plan showing the land owned by the Swan Portland Cement Company at Rivervale and its relationship to land between the company's site and the Swan River?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

A plan showing the desired information is submitted for tabling.

*The plan was tabled.*

## 28.

## EDUCATION

### *Cluster Classrooms*

Mr. NORTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is there any difference in respect of building cost per child place between the cluster type classrooms and traditional classrooms; if so, what is the difference?
- (2) Is the area per child place in cluster type classrooms any different from the traditional classrooms; if so, what is the difference?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) An accurate cost comparison is not possible as it is some years since a complete traditional type primary school has been built. Furthermore, the new cluster type schools contain many additional facilities both for pupils and teaching staff. On the information available, approximate costs are \$400 per child place for a cluster type school and \$300 for a traditional type school.
- (2) The area per child in cluster type schools is 25 square feet as against 16 square feet in traditional type schools.

## 29. TWILIGHT COVE RESERVE

### *Dedication as Class "A"*

Mr. COOK, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is there an "A"-class reserve known as the Twilight Cove reserve?
- (2) What is the acreage in this reserve?
- (3) Will he make a map available showing the boundaries of the reserve?
- (4) Was any investigation carried out to determine whether or not this area should be classified "A"-class?
- (5) If so, who carried out the investigation?
- (6) On what date did the investigation commence, and on what date was the investigation completed?
- (7) Were any field trips made to the area in course and as part of the investigation?
- (8) If so, how many and what was their duration?
- (9) Is there a report available showing the results of the investigation; if so, would he make a copy available?
- (10) If no investigation was carried out, what factors influenced the Government's decision to declare it "A"-class?



Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) to (10) Twilight Cove is situated within Class "A" Reserve No. 27632, which extends from Israelite Bay almost to the South Australian border and contains approximately 1,535,500 acres. The boundaries of this reserve are indicated on the plan which is submitted for tabling. The purpose of the reserve is for a primitive area for preservation and study of flora, fauna, geological and anthropological features. It was declared and classified following investigations extending over a period of years by professional officers of the Lands and Surveys Department, and the Western Australian Museum, and after study by the Western Australian sub-committee of the Australian Academy of Science Committee on National Parks. I understand this report is available in the Parliamentary Library.

*The plan was tabled.*

### 30. TIMBER

*Hamersley Iron Pty. Limited: Houses at Paraburdoo*

Mr. H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Has Hamersley Iron Pty. Limited contracted for the construction of new houses at Paraburdoo?
- (2) If so, how many houses?
- (3) Will the scantling timber to be used be imported from South-East Asia?
- (4) If so, what country?
- (5) What volume of timber is to be used in the contract, and which species and grades?
- (6) What is the total value of all such timber to be imported?
- (7) Is the Government aware that the scantling timber to be imported is directly competitive with Western Australian hardwoods?
- (8) Since local timbers are not being used at Paraburdoo, will he indicate the loss of revenue to the State Government in—
  - (a) royalty income;
  - (b) W.A.G.R. revenue;
  - (c) sea freight revenue;
  - (d) other charges, such as wharfage and handling?
- (9) Is there a provision in all iron ore agreements which requires that materials used in construction shall be produced within the State as far as reasonably possible?
- (10) Does this apply to the Hamersley company?
- (11) What is the criterion upon which the Government would insist on invoking this clause?

- (12) What latitude of economic advantage would the Government countenance before permitting importation?

- (13) Were local firms asked to tender for the supply of scantling to the houses referred to above?

- (14) If so, what were the prices quoted in relation to imported timber?

Mr. COURT replied:

As the honourable member appears to be concerned that Hamersley Iron Pty. Limited may not be giving local people a fair share of contracts required to meet its development programme, I can assure him that there are many cases where local firms have been given preferment even though their prices have not been the lowest and in fact the local firms have sometimes been substantially higher in price.

Included in examples of this are some major timber orders including sleepers.

For his information, this company has already used Western Australian sleepers, valued at nearly \$5,000,000 and has currently let a further contract worth \$2,000,000 for the supply of sleepers for the Paraburdoo-Tom Price railway to a Western Australian firm.

Without these orders the Western Australian timber industry could have been in considerable difficulty.

It might also interest the member to know that 400 houses being built for Hamersley Iron at Karatha are being constructed by a Western Australian firm and that the timber being used is all local.

There are of course limits beyond which we cannot reasonably expect developers to go.

In dealing more specifically with the member's questions the answers are—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 588 houses in two contracts, the first of which is for 50 houses, and the second for 538.
- (3) Some of the scantling timber will be imported from South-East Asia.
- (4) Malaysia.
- (5) Approximately 2,400,000 super feet. Species are mainly jarrah and keruing.
- (6) This is not known, as it will be dependent on availability of supplies to meet the construction timetable for the houses.

(7) Yes.

(8) It is incorrect to say "local timbers are not being used at Paraburdoo" but the estimated loss of revenue if all local timber had been used is approximately:

(a) royalty income—\$35,000.

(b) W.A.G.R. revenue — \$77,000.

(c) and (d) not applicable, as it is understood transport by sea will not be used.

These amounts are comparatively small when measured against the very large sleeper and other orders supplied from Western Australian forests.

(9) There is a provision along the lines indicated by the member in all iron ore agreements.

(10) Yes, and I believe the company is complying with it.

(11) and (12) Many considerations are involved such as price, delivery times, quality, design, suitability of product, production capacity etc.

Each case would depend upon the particular circumstances to be considered, but expressed generally the clause would be invoked where, in the Government's view, it was reasonably and economically practicable for the company to use labour, materials, plant, equipment and supplies available in Western Australia.

Generally speaking there is excellent liaison and co-operation from the main developers.

(13) All major local mills were invited to tender.

(14) The difference is considerable but it is not thought desirable to disclose this figure in this manner. After all, it is company money being expended and not Government funds.

## QUESTIONS (5): WITHOUT NOTICE WHEAT

### Statutory Declaration Cards

Mr. GAYFER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) What number and percentage of statutory declaration cards concerning wheat acreage sown in 1970 have been returned from growers?

(2) When is it now expected that wheat quotas will be issued to farmers?

Mr. NALDER replied:

I thank the honourable member for prior notice of his question, the reply to which is as follows:—

(1) 10,760 statutory declaration cards were forwarded to growers. Of these, 9,100 have been returned giving a percentage return of 84.57 per cent.

(2) The first week in October, 1970.

## 2. WORKERS' COMPENSATION

### Weekly Payments

Mr. MOIR, to the Minister for Labour:

(1) For male, female, wife allowances, child allowances, what is the current weekly payments for each category applying under the New South Wales, Victorian, Queensland, South Australian, Western Australian, Tasmanian and Commonwealth compensation Acts?

(2) In respect of matters raised in (1), what are the rates contained in the Commonwealth compensation Act amendments?

(3) Has the Minister seen the Federal Treasury explanatory memorandum attached to the Commonwealth Employees Compensation Bill, 1970? If so, what action has been taken to amend the Western Australian Act in the light of that report?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

I thank the honourable member for giving me ample notice of his intentions to ask this question. The answer is as follows:—

(1) The following table represents rates in force as at the 1st January, 1970. Details of movement in rates since that date, if any, are not known.

	Adult Male	Adult Female	Wife's Allowance	Child Allowance
New South Wales	75 per cent. of average weekly earnings with maximum of \$26.00		\$7.00	\$3.00
Victoria	\$20.00 or average weekly earnings, whichever is the least		\$6.00	\$2.50
Queensland	80 per cent. of average weekly earnings—maximum \$29.30	80 per cent. of average weekly earnings—maximum female basic wage	23½ per cent. of basic wage (\$3.80)	7½ per cent. of basic wage (\$2.75)
South Australia	75 per cent. of average weekly earnings with maximum of \$27.00		\$9.00	\$3.50
Western Australia	\$26.10	\$19.60	\$6.90	\$3.00
Tasmania	70 per cent. of declared basic wage (\$29.80)		17 per cent. of declared basic wage (\$7.20)	9 per cent. of declared basic wage (\$3.80)
Commonwealth	\$28.15, or weekly earnings if less than \$28.15		\$6.80	\$2.60

- (2) Proposals contained in the Bill for amendments to Commonwealth compensation legislation were as follows:—

Adult Male	Adult Female	Wife's Allowance	Child Allowance
\$31.80	\$31.80	\$7.70	\$2.80

- (3) Yes, the memorandum was studied, and, together with all other available information, taken into consideration when framing amending legislation.

4.

## WATER SUPPLIES

### Harvey Weir

Mr. I. W. MANNING, to the Minister for Works:

I draw the Minister's attention to a headline article in the *South Western Times*, which is titled, "Harvey Weir Wall Cracking," and ask him the following questions:—

- (1) Is there any danger to the residents of Harvey because of the deterioration of the wall of the Harvey Weir?
- (2) As a result of the precautionary measure of lowering the level in the weir, will the normal allocations to irrigated properties be in any way restricted during the coming season?
- (3) In view of the unsatisfactory condition of the wall of the Harvey Weir, is it the Government's intention to make an early announcement concerning the construction of the proposed new dam on the Harvey River?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) With regard to public safety in connection with the Harvey Weir, my engineers inform me that there is no danger. The level of water in the dam has been dropped by 9 feet from crest, and this is an additional precaution, in view of the condition of the dam, to ensure there will be no danger. It is true there has been some cracking of the wall of the dam and this has given some concern to the engineers in overcoming the engineering problems associated with it.

Perhaps I might explain that the Harvey Weir was built in, I think, 1915, and the wall was then about 40 feet high. Subsequently, about 15 or 16 years later, a top was put on this thus providing another face on the dam. I think this was completed in 1931 and the dam is interlocked in two sections.

In the intervening years water has apparently infiltrated between the two sections of the dam, in the interface, and this has created some pressure.

Already the engineers from the Public Works Department have taken steps to alleviate the situation. They have, among other things, drilled out from the toe of

## 3. ALUMINA CONSTRUCTION CAMP, PINJARRA

### Non-Compliance with Health Regulations

Mr. MOIR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

In view of the allegations that the Pinjarra alumina construction camp is contrary to the Public Health Department Regulations published in June, 1970, will the Minister advise—

- (1) On what date did the Public Health Department approve of the camp coming into existence?
- (2) Has the Public Health Department inspected the camp since?
- (3) In what respects does the camp not comply with the above mentioned regulations?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) This is a matter for the local health authority; that is, the Murray Shire Council. It is understood that the council approved of the establishment of the camp in February last—before the construction camp regulations were promulgated.
- (2) The camp has been inspected by local authority officers on more than one occasion. About six weeks ago an officer of the Public Health Department, who was present in Pinjarra for another purpose, was asked to inspect the freezer and chiller facilities in company with the local inspector.
- (3) There is no definite evidence that the camp does not comply with the regulations, but the local authority has been asked to confirm this as soon as possible.

After note: The construction camp regulations are at present under review.

the first face, three-inch diameter holes which relieve the water pressure there. In addition, as the newspaper report probably states, the joint along the crest of the original dam has been caulked to prevent too much water getting into the crack.

I can sum up by saying that it is considered there is no public danger involved.

- (2) I am informed again by the engineers that, principally because of the Stirling Dam backing the Harvey Weir, there will be no question of rationing this coming summer as a result of the lowering of the level by 9 feet.

The Stirling Dam is some 14 miles or 15 miles upstream and is currently overflowing. It is possible, by the use of stop boards, to lift the level of the Stirling Dam higher, and this is usually done towards the end of the winter months, if necessary, and if it is seen no floods are likely to occur. It is therefore expected that water can be let down from the Stirling Dam to ensure the availability of water for irrigation farmers during the summer months.

- (3) The honourable member made mention of the unsatisfactory condition of the wall of the Harvey Weir. It is in an unsatisfactory condition at present and, in due course, consultants will be engaged to advise just how best to ensure the dam can operate at full capacity without any necessity for extra precautions. This will probably involve the bolting of the interfaces.

It is opportune for me to mention that a new Harvey dam was one of the water projects submitted to the Commonwealth Government for financial assistance following its request to the States in regard to water projects the States had in mind.

Mr. Tonkin: This surely must be a record answer to a question without notice.

Mr. Bertram: The Sermon on the Mount!

Several members interjected.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: May I ascertain what is behind the interjections?

Mr. Nalder: It is public interest.

Mr. Jamieson: I was wondering whether we should advise the people to shift to Pemberton.

Mr. Court: By interjecting, they are giving you a rest and giving you an opportunity to collect your thoughts and to go on for another 10 minutes.

Mr. Bertram: Stonewalling!

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: This matter is something which will arouse concern unless an explanation is given.

Mr. Rushton: Hear, hear!

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Therefore it is important that I dwell a little on it. I am afraid I am not, off the cuff, completely armed with all the information I would like to give, but I am endeavouring to do this to the best of my small ability.

Mr. Tonkin: Very generous of you.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I would like to say that this dam will be built at a cost in the vicinity of \$5,000,000 and it is difficult to give priorities for this matter or that matter, in view of the availability of loan funds. We all know, whether we are in opposition or in government, the difficulties surrounding the availability of loan moneys to carry out the tremendous number of projects the State requires.

With regard to the Harvey Weir, I would say that the situation which has developed apparently over very many years must accelerate the earlier construction of a dam. As a matter of fact, the Public Works Department has plans and is almost ready at the present time to call tenders. The only thing in doubt is the ability to phase it into our loan works programme.

## 5. ROTTNEST ISLAND BOARD COTTAGE

### *Classification and Additions*

Mr. FLETCHER, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Has the Rottneest Island building, known as the Board Cottage and previously the original quarters for pilot boat crews, been classified by The National Trust?
- (2) Which classification has it received, and what is the definition of this classification?
- (3) Are additions currently being made to the cottage, and what is the extent of these additions?
- (4) Was The National Trust consulted before the additions were commenced?

- (5) Will the Minister instruct the board to suspend work until the trust's opinions have been obtained and evaluated?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Class "A"—which is buildings assessed by The National Trust as of great historical interest.
- (3) Not additions so much as a separate section comprising lounge, kitchen, and toilet with access to the boathouse by an eight-foot wide flat-roofed passage.
- (4) No. The board was aware of the requirements of The National Trust and the boathouse is being retained in its original design.
- (5) It is intended that the work proceed as it will not adversely affect the historic nature of the boathouse.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by Mr. I. W. Manning, leave of absence for four weeks granted to Mr. O'Connor (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Transport) on the ground of ill-health.

#### METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

##### *Second Reading*

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Water Supplies) [5.13 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The object of this Bill is to amend the existing Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act as follows:—

- (1) To harness for the use of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board unused loan allocations of local authorities and bank overdrafts obtainable by local authorities for extending water works and services and to enable the board to take over such works which may be provided from these funds under certain conditions.
- (2) To enable the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board to make a by-law so that amended specified standards or specific requirements mainly with regard to plumbing requirements may be approved by the board or delegated person without the need to alter an existing by-law providing for those standards or specifications.

In regard to the first of these propositions, in 1968 the legislation controlling the operations of the Metropolitan Water Board was amended to allow the board

to acquire sewerage works provided by local authorities from loan funds or overdraft funds. The main provision of this amending Bill is to extend the power to acquire sewerage works to include water works and services. The terms upon which water works could be acquired by the board would be the same as those covering the acquisition of sewerage works and would be those which the local authority had entered into when raising the money by loan or by overdraft. To allow the provision in the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act to be effective, it is necessary to have a complementary amending measure to the Local Government Act to enable the local authorities concerned to sell any such water works to the Metropolitan Water Board.

Under the board's by-laws there are appendices or schedules which provide for standard drawings or specifications. The amount of detailed specification required in certain aspects of the board's operations, particularly with respect to materials like copper pipes and plastic pipes and fixtures, could soon cause the schedules to outgrow the by-laws in size.

It would appear there is no need for a tremendous lot of detail to be published as appendices to the by-laws, because plumbing control in the metropolitan area does rest with the Metropolitan Water Board. It is felt that under the circumstances it would be more practical that the board or a specified person authorised by the board may approve of standards and specifications rather than have continuous amendment to by-laws of plumbing details which must vary from time to time as new materials are available. The principle involved is not new as, in fact, similar power is already contained in the Health Act and the Local Government Act.

The Master Plumbers' Association has been contacted regarding this particular proposal and it has no objection whatsoever to its being implemented. Indeed, this principle is adopted with comparable legislation in, I think, the majority of the Eastern States. I have pleasure in commending the second reading of the Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Toms.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

##### *Second Reading*

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Water Supplies) [5.18 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

When I introduced the previous Bill I announced that this particular measure would be complementary to the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and

Drainage Act Amendment Bill (No. 2), so as to allow water works provided by a local authority out of loan funds or bank overdraft to be sold to the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board on specific terms and conditions. It does extend to water works the same conditions as were agreed to in 1968 with respect to sewerage works. That legislation passed through both Chambers of this Parliament and became law last year. I have pleasure in commending the second reading of the Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Toms.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: TENTH DAY

### *Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 27th August, on the following motion by Mr. Cash:—

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech be agreed to:—

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

MR. W. A. MANNING (Narrogin) [5.19 p.m.]: I wish to add a few words to the debate on the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech, which was made on opening day.

I suppose the greatest feature in this State, at present, is the progress being made in the development of mining operations and mining towns in various parts of the State. That development is contributing to the great increase in population and a degree of decentralisation of industry in many respects. I am very interested in the latest development concerning bauxite, and the possible development of reserves in the Wandering, Quindanning, and Boddington areas. It appears that decisive steps are now being taken towards that development.

A point which arises from the growth of the population in Western Australia, and one which concerns me greatly, is that the consumption of goods is greater and we appear to be creating a market for the sale of Eastern States foodstuffs. The figures concerned are tremendous and this causes me concern.

I will refer, particularly, to foodstuffs for a special reason, because we know, at this time, that the farmers are having great difficulty. We need a diversity of operations and a greater market for the farm products. However, in the latest *Western Australian Year Book 1970* it is shown that we imported from the Eastern States foodstuffs to the value of \$46,252,000.

I refer to the year 1967-68. This figure is made up as follows: cereals, \$4,415,000; confectionery \$5,160,000; fruit—dried and fresh—\$4,179,000; meat and meat preparations, \$1,525,000; milk and cream, \$2,838,000; and other foodstuffs covering a very wide variety, \$28,135,000. As I have said, the total was \$46,252,000.

The present position is even worse, because I have been able to secure the figures for the following year. The figures have not yet been published but they show that the total value of food imported was \$49,408,000. The figures for last year—1969-70—are not yet complete but I have been able to obtain those for the first nine months. The total of imports of foodstuffs from the Eastern States is \$41,241,000 for the nine-month period.

If we assume that the imports will continue at the same average for the remaining three months, then the value will be well over \$50,000,000. There is really no reason why this value of foodstuffs should be imported into Western Australia. We have purchased certain foodstuffs from the Eastern States in the past when there was not a very big market for them. However, today we have a considerable market available and we should be seeking a way to produce more of the imported foodstuffs in our own State.

The real answer, which I would support, would be secession. However, realising that this is not likely to occur, even if we had another referendum, it is no good battling along those lines. As I have said, I would favour secession, especially after the Commonwealth attitude towards drought relief in this State. A different system operates for this State when compared with other States, and I have no hesitation in advocating secession.

Mr. Jamieson: Too many Labor members are being returned to Parliament from this State; this is the trouble.

MR. W. A. MANNING: I feel we have to do something because the foodstuffs we are importing are manufactured from produce similar to that produced in Western Australia. For instance, over \$4,000,000 worth of cereal products was imported, and those products were manufactured from grain. Grain is one product for which we are fighting hard to find a market.

Mr. Lapham: We are like the cricket; singing about what we are doing in Western Australia.

MR. W. A. MANNING: A similar situation applies to milk and cream, and other foodstuffs. Millions of dollars are going to the Eastern States for products which could be manufactured in this State from the produce of this State. A lot of the imports are packaged goods which we are already producing in this State. I refer to canned and packaged vegetables, meat,

frozen foods, and those types of manufactured articles. Also, all the ingredients of cake mixes are produced in this State, yet there is a market for cake mixes from the Eastern States.

I have noticed that the average person—the housewife—when purchasing goods at the local store or supermarket does not seem to differentiate between goods made in Western Australia and goods made in the Eastern States. No notice seems to be taken of where the articles are manufactured, or of what assistance can be given to the producers in this State if local goods are produced.

Mr. Lapham: Is there any dumping of goods in Western Australia?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I do not think there is any necessity to dump goods in Western Australia. The goods are all nationally advertised. We have to do something about the goods which are produced and manufactured in Western Australia.

Mr. Rushton: Don't you think the present effort by the department is having some result?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: No. I notice that the department has suggested an emblem which indicates that goods have been made in Western Australia. That is a good effort, so far as it goes, but further action needs to be taken. The story needs to be told to the people of the State. The benefit of buying Western Australian goods should be brought to the notice of the people, and I feel this job has to be tackled further by the Department of Industrial Development.

I have referred only to foodstuffs, which account for well over \$50,000,000 a year. However, many other items are also imported.

Mr. Bickerton: Do you think the housewife might like a certain brand and does not worry where it is made?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: No. The message has to be got home that it is important to Western Australian industry that we buy Western Australian goods. It will be a difficult job because on a lot of the packages appears the name of the manufacturer, and the address is shown as each capital city. However, the goods are usually not manufactured in Perth; the address is that of a branch.

Mr. Lapham: Would the Eastern States manufacturer give a quantity discount to a retailer in Western Australia which the local manufacturer could not match?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I do not know.

Mr. Lapham: That type of trading has killed the clothing industry.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Clothing is another item. I notice that the imports amounted to \$37,000,000.

Mr. Jamieson: Do you think that some of those goods could have been produced in Western Australia and Eastern States labels put on them. I refer to foodstuffs.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I do not know; I would not like to see that taking place.

Mr. Jamieson: I know it is occurring, and other members have also noticed it.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Of course, it may be occurring. It may be that some of the people who purchase the goods come from the Eastern States and have been used to buying Eastern States goods. That is another point which is a factor.

However, I think something should be done to bring this matter to the notice of the householders. I do not think they would reject appeals to support local industry; because many of the goods produced here are just as good as, or better than, the Eastern States goods. There is no reason why we should not support the local industries.

Mr. Lapham: Are the Western Australian goods displayed as well as the Eastern States goods at the retail outlets?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Probably they are not. This is one of the reasons why it is hard to buy Western Australian goods. In some way we have to bring this problem to the notice of the people. From my own experience the people usually do not take much notice if they are told only once; they need to be told a dozen times before they realise what should be done.

Mr. Bickerton: It could probably be the continuity of supply.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I do not agree; there is a continuity of supply of the goods which can be produced here. We have to do something about the matter.

I have quoted only foodstuffs because the position of the farmers is very serious at the present time and if we can in any way improve the market for the produce of the farms we will be doing something worth while. While I am dealing with this subject I should mention that one way not to help the farmer is to have the Midland boys going on strike at this time of the year every year.

Mr. Jamieson: It is a different section of them this year.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: It has the same result and it does not help the farmer. This week's strike has probably caused the loss of slaughtering of 40,000 head of sheep.

Mr. Brady: And 500 men have lost work because the maintenance men are not there.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I cannot see how a strike like that can bring benefit to anybody; but those people seem to be hell-bent on destroying the farmers at this

time of the year in order to gain something for themselves. Such strikes will not help our local products.

I am also rather concerned about the situation that has arisen in regard to fruit fly. I have already written to the Minister about it. Fruit is sold at stalls on the Albany Highway near Armadale. People can buy this fruit and take it down the Albany Highway for 98 miles. At that point, near Williams, there is a sign which says, "Fruit must not go further south." People who are proceeding further south must get out of their cars and eat the fruit they have bought because they cannot take it any further. I cannot understand why we allow people to sell fruit that cannot be carried down the road into the towns in the south.

Mr. Cash: People do not have to buy it.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: If the fruit is infested it should not be allowed to leave the area.

Mr. Jamieson: Why don't you ask the Minister to do something about eradicating fruit fly?

Mr. Nalder: Are you looking for a job?

Mr. Jamieson: Yes—it would be done in no time.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Many of the towns have their own voluntary fruit-fly eradication schemes.

Mr. Jamieson: How good are they?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: They are very successful. There was some concern last year when fruit fly was found in some areas, but it came from outside. The point I am making is that people are able to buy fruit along the Albany Highway, and they then take it down the road and introduce fruit fly into areas that are free of it.

Mr. Rushton: That is one of the most successful areas in the State.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: It cannot be very good, because fruit cannot be taken past the 98-mile peg.

Mr. Rushton: It is protection for the people down there.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: We want the protection up here.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Mitchell): Order, please!

Mr. W. A. MANNING: It is time something was done to prevent the sale of fruit that is infected with fruit fly. It is no good prohibiting the carrying of fruit down the road.

Last year I raised the matter of the number of children and youths who come before the courts. The number is growing. It seems to me that we should find some method of ascertaining the reasons for the

growing incidence of crime among children and youths. I think detailed records should be taken of the lives of those who come before the courts. This information could be collated and tabulated in order to ascertain whether there is a trend which would indicate why these people go off the rails.

Mr. Cash: Do you think it is because certain parties advocate the breaking of laws?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I shall not pursue that matter. I understand that one party has done that but I do not think it is affecting the youth of today. I must admit that there is too much transgression of the law; and surely the right thing to do is to ascertain why it is occurring. I see no reason why details of the incidents in the lives of these people should not be kept in an endeavour to find out what has caused them to break the law.

This is a serious matter and something must be done about it. It is no use just condemning the offenders, or fining them, or putting them into institutions. We must find out the basic reasons for their behaviour. This course of action would not be intruding into their private lives because the information could be kept confidential. With the help of computers the information could be tabulated, and it might indicate what causes these people to break the law and suggest a means to obviate it.

I do not wish to say any more on this occasion. I think that during this session the State will continue to make great progress.

MR. JAMIESON (Belmont) [5.37 p.m.]: In my comments on the Address-in-Reply I would first of all like to compliment my new colleague on his success, as have nearly all the members who have spoken so far.

I now wish to deal with a matter raised by the last speaker; that is, the problem of drought relief and assistance to people in rural areas. I am indebted to my leader for some questions he asked on Thursday, the 20th August, which were as follows:—

- (1) Is it a fact that drought relief in the form of cash advances has been unavailable to the majority of farmers needing it because the Rural and Industries Bank requires a first mortgage on the applicant's property?
- (2) If "Yes" what alternative arrangements were possible to enable farmers in need of financial assistance to obtain it?

The Minister replied—

(1) No.

(2) Answered by (1).



On the 26th August, the following questions were asked of the Minister for Lands:—

- (1) Have applicants to the Rural and Industries Bank for advances for drought relief been required to give security for any loans made?
- (2) If "Yes" what kind of security was required?
- (3) In how many instances have advances been given on the security of a second mortgage on the applicant's property?

The Minister replied—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) First mortgage over land on which applicant's farming is done.
- (3) None.

It will be seen that conflicting answers have been given. If farmers are to be faced with this sort of confusion, I do not know that they can look for any relief from the present Government. I am sure that this situation was not intended, but these are the answers given by the Minister, and I think he should clear the matter up quickly to establish where the Rural and Industries Bank stands and advise whether funds can be made available on some basis to those people requiring urgent finance, other than by requiring a first mortgage.

Mr. Nalder: Some 300 farmers were given assistance to the extent of over \$1,000,000.

Mr. JAMIESON: In view of the answers given by the Minister, the situation is very confusing, to say the least. When the Minister was asked whether it was a fact that many farmers had been unable to get assistance, he replied, "No." But that was the case.

Mr. Bovell: It was nothing of the kind.

Mr. JAMIESON: If the Minister looks at those answers he will see how confusing they are, because one contradicts the other.

Mr. Bovell: It does nothing of the kind.

Mr. JAMIESON: I say it does and it is very obvious that it does. If the Minister does not think so, he had better ask some of his farming friends exactly what the position is. Obviously, if they are unable to give a first mortgage over their properties, they are unable to obtain this assistance; if they are able to give a first mortgage they can obtain assistance from a lot of other sources; so it is not worth very much.

The Minister said the other night that it is not customary—or it is not usual or normal—for members to make controversial maiden speeches in this

Parliament. If one goes back over a number of years, one finds that quite a number of members have made controversial maiden speeches. As a matter of fact, one present member of the Legislature—and not on this side of the House—was twice forced to withdraw statements made in his maiden speech.

Mr. Bovell: No previous member has proposed a motion of censure against the Government in his maiden speech.

Mr. JAMIESON: Technically, that may be so, but that is not to say that no previous member has made a controversial maiden speech. Two years ago the member for Mirrabooka certainly made a controversial maiden speech, and one only has to turn up *Hansard* to see what he had to say about the Leader of the Opposition, and myself, and a few other people, whom he selected at random. Furthermore, when my leader came into the House his maiden speech proceeded without interjections, but other speakers took him to task for what he said in the course of the debate and they were themselves severely taken to task by Sir Norbert Keenan, who maintained that a member's maiden speech must stand without comment. This is certainly not the first maiden speech that has been controversial, and it is very wrong to try to indicate to the public that this is the case.

I am indebted to the person who had available to him a computer and who compiled facts and figures after I had received information from the Minister for Police on driving licenses held by various age groups and the percentage of demerit points earned by drivers in each particular age group as a result of their committing breaches of the Traffic Act. It is interesting to note that, of the total number of drivers licensed in the 17 to 20 age group, those who have had fewer than six demerit points recorded against them represent 4.7 per cent.

In the 21 to 24 age group, the percentage figure representing the total number of drivers who have had fewer than six demerit points recorded against them jumps to six, which indicates that following their initial driving period, and when they get beyond the period they have to serve as probationary drivers, their driving seems to get worse. So it appears that some attention needs to be given to this aspect, because most people are of the opinion that those in the 17 to 20 age group are the drivers who present the most problems.

The table that has been presented to me by the person who has taken out these figures shows, as percentages, the demerit points that have been recorded against drivers in the various age groups, and the table clearly indicates that what I have said in regard to the 17 to 20 age group is a fact.

For the purpose of the record, I intend to read the figures set out in this table. They are as follows:—

Drivers' Demerit Points as Percentages

Age Group	Less than 6	6-8	9-11	+12
	Percentage of total licenses in each group			
17-20	4.7	0.075	0.002	Nil
21-24	6.0	0.21	0.07	0.002
25-29	4.4	0.15	0.055	0.002
30-39	3.2	0.075	0.026	Nil
40-49	2.4	0.044	0.012	0.001
50-59	2.0	0.0165	0.022	Nil
60-74	1.43	0.018	0.013	Nil
Over 74	0.75	Nil	Nil	Nil
Metropolitan offences	4.1	0.10	0.027	0.001
Country offences	1.9	0.045	0.03	Nil
Male offenders	5.2	0.14	0.047	0.0012
Female offenders	0.95	0.0084	0.003	Nil

From this table it is also significant to note that of the total number of licensed drivers who have had less than six demerit points recorded against them, 4.1 per cent. are in the metropolitan area, and 1.9 per cent. in the country. From these figures it would appear that drivers decreased in efficiency after their first four years of driving. From then on there is a slight increase in their driving efficiency, on a percentage rating, at any rate—and that is the only way we can make a comparison—and it continues on into the more mature age groups.

Mr. Nalder: What is the percentage of females licensed as against males?

Mr. JAMIESON: I do not have that figure readily available, but I understand it can be obtained for statistical purposes. The total number of females registered as drivers is 157,416, and the total number of males registered is 274,083. Those represent the totals licensed in the various age groups throughout the State. It would appear, therefore, that females, in the main, have a better driving pattern than males, and that the teenagers have a better driving pattern than those drivers in the 20 to 24 age group. It would seem, from this information, that some special attention should be given to this aspect, because the efficiency of drivers appears to deteriorate in the 20 to 24 age group instead of improving, as is the normal pattern after they have passed through the probationary stage.

I have often discussed in this House the problem of the countryside being despoiled by disposable containers, and the situation has not improved. Many innovations have been tried. Around the City of Perth, in particular, efforts have been made to prevent the disposal of litter by the "Help Keep Perth Clean" campaign. In the country, many types of signs have been erected on the roadsides appealing to motorists not to despoil the area by disposing of cans, bottles, and any other refuse. However, one has only to drive along any one of our major roads leading out of the city to realise that the litter problem still continues.

Unless we take steps to stop litter being disposed of in this way it will undoubtedly become an extremely serious problem. I can visualise no other successful way to achieve this than to place some value on each disposable container.

Mr. Nalder: What about cans?

Mr. JAMIESON: They can be covered over quite easily. The local authorities eventually have to pick up cans, anyway, and I have suggested a Government impost of, say, 1c per can. The local authorities could then pay 10c a dozen for all cans received, and the Government could recoup them by paying 12c a dozen, the extra 2c being paid to meet handling charges. The local Government could then get something in return from the considerable amount of scrap that came to hand.

Unless something such as this is done the ratepayers in the various areas will have to pay for the cans and bottles to be picked up, anyway. The disposal of bottles is a problem we definitely have to investigate. I can recall, in my youth, that children used to collect beer bottles and receive 6d. a dozen for them. I think the marine dealer now pays 6c. a dozen for them. They have become so worthless that one can see great heaps of beer bottles on any rubbish tip that one cares to visit. I invite any member of this House to visit the Belmont rubbish tip and he will see that is what happens to them.

We will therefore have to increase the value of these bottles and disposable containers, and if this will not be done by those firms that use the disposable containers it will have to be done by Government action.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: Would you agree that something else requires to be done, such as the imposition of higher penalties?

Mr. JAMIESON: That will not solve the problem; the offenders still have to be caught. If a value of 1c is placed on a can the kids will throw it in the back of the car, because a number of cans are more easily carried than a number of bottles.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: But under your scheme alone, you will still have people throwing litter out of their cars.

Mr. JAMIESON: I doubt it, if a certain value was placed on each can, for example. Even if people do continue to dispose of cans and other litter from their cars, if a value were placed on them there would be some incentive for scavengers to collect them, but there is no incentive at the moment. Such people merely add to the litter that is disposed of now. This is a problem that needs immediate attention.

It has been suggested that difficulty is experienced in having milk bottles returned. In my opinion milk should be sold in plastic disposable containers by

all metropolitan milk services. The experience has been that this is an easier and more efficient way to deliver milk than to deliver it in bottles. We often see where a milkman has dropped a heap of bottles on the road, and although he picks some of them up a great deal of glass still remains on the roadway.

Mr. Nalder: The cans are the problem; not the milk bottles.

Mr. JAMIESON: Yes, that is so, but there is the health aspect in regard to milk bottles. I do not think we need to go into that question at this stage. My deputy leader gave a discourse on it at one time and what he told us was rather sickening, but they can be used for a dozen and one other things. If disposable containers can be obtained at a cheap rate they should be used and the practice cultivated. We could set an example for the rest of the States in the Commonwealth. It is about time we did something in this regard to encourage all States to get on the same basis.

I will now turn to some of the problems in my own territory. I have spoken in this House at length on the problems at Newburn. They never cease to exist; in fact, they never seem to stop multiplying. The latest happening, which has added insult to injury to many people who have had to put up with the problems associated with the area, has been the provision of a main drain for the Railways Department and the Department of Civil Aviation. This drain runs right through the area and owners cannot sell their properties because of the blanket cover that has been placed on them. Furthermore, the land cannot be used for any purpose for which it is suitable.

A levy is now being placed on the owners in the form of a drainage rate to suit the convenience of these two Government departments. It is true that the department has the right to strike this rate under the provisions of the Act, but if one cares to look into the history of this area one finds that several Government departments, including the Department of Civil Aviation, were responsible for blocking off the natural drainage of the area.

It is true that the new drains that have been provided will, in a general way, be more efficient, but they do nothing to improve the lot of the people who are residing in this blighted district of Newburn. They merely have to suffer an extra burden, that of having to pay drainage rates without getting anything in return. They are unable to grow any produce on their properties and they are unable to sell them. All they can hope for is that in the future the town planning authority, the Department of Civil Aviation, or some other department will make a decision to take over these properties, instead of leav-

ing the people there indefinitely with their properties increasing in value, and with their rates increasing accordingly.

Therefore I complain again to the Government, and particularly to the Minister, because I think he should have a further look at this particular scheme. It involves about only one-third of the people in the Newburn area. The drains had to be built through the district, and the cost was met by the Department of Civil Aviation and the Railways Department. They were built under contract.

Now these people have become subject to rating to pay for the maintenance of these drains; and that is not fair. I think they should be exempted until such time as the Government has made a determination on the use of this land. If the land is to go to the Department of Civil Aviation, then this department should meet the cost of the maintenance of the drains—as it now meets the cost of the maintenance of the drains in its own territory.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I am sure that if you were the Minister for Works you would not amend the Act to exempt certain areas.

Mr. JAMIESON: Certainly I would, when specific areas should be exempted, particularly when the Government is opening up a drainage course that existed previously, but had in the meantime been blocked up by the action of a Government department.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: In most cases there is always the aspect of drainage existing before, and of some sort of balance having to be maintained.

Mr. JAMIESON: When the airport was constructed the water was held back, and this caused some flooding. The drains have overcome the flooding and brought the area back to its original position. Now we find an efficient drain has been constructed, but it cannot be used because at this stage it serves no purpose except, possibly, to increase the value of the properties and to impose more rates on the owners of the land.

Recently in company with Mr. Willesee, a member of another place, I went to look at what was thought to be a major pollution problem caused by the establishment of the railway yards at Forrestfield. Quite a degree of pollution from distillate occurred in the main drain in the Newburn area; it occurred to such an extent that the cauliflower crop in one market garden was almost lost. This pollution appears to have stopped, although as late as today when I checked on the position I found that the drain still contained a small quantity of distillate. From where the distillate comes, or how it gets into the drain, I do not know. However, on the occasion when we made the inspection we could not see even a spot of distillate in the drain,

because the visit was organised well in advance. I do not know whether or not extra precautions were taken on that occasion.

I can assure the Minister that whenever he cares to inspect this drainage system he will see that the water which is carried along the drains to the Swan River contains some oily pollutant. This pollutant appears to be connected with railway activities; although I must admit that in the main plant of the railway yards the department has gone to a lot of trouble to rid the effluent of the oily substance by mechanical means, by the use of chemical settling ponds, and by other similar systems.

I now wish to draw the attention of the Ministers of the Government to the fact that a serious anomaly exists in the creation of the Parliamentary Salaries Tribunal and its functions. Unfortunately on this occasion I will not have sufficient time to deal fully with this aspect. One feature which obviously needs some attention is in regard to the postal allowance. When the commissioners were appointed on the last occasion, for some reason or other they went into this aspect and took away from the Administration the responsibility for allocating the postal allowance; the commissioners then made the postal allowance a cash allowance. Of course, previously this had been the responsibility of the Administration—as I think it ought to be, just as the paying of telephone rentals is the responsibility of the Administration. This factor was not taken into consideration by the commissioners. However, they took over this responsibility and said it was a function which they should administer.

Under the new budgetary provisions we find that a private member, instead of having an allowance of 2,400 standard stamps a year, is now given only 2,000 stamps. Because of the provisions in the Act nothing can be done about this matter until the tribunal sits again.

The tribunal specifically avoided doing anything about fringe benefits, because it considered it had no jurisdiction. Despite this lack of authority, the tribunal considered it had the power to deal with the allowance payable to Ministers, because it said that these were regarded as remuneration within the meaning of the Act. I doubt whether that is correct, because "remuneration" is defined in the Act as including salaries, allowances, fees, and other emoluments.

Fringe benefits, such as the allowance for air fares and other things, are not paid unless they are used. I say that, similarly, ministerial allowances would not be paid until they are used. In my view, by no stretch of the imagination should the tribunal have dealt with this matter, because once again this is a responsibility of the Administration.

Looking back to the introduction of this legislation by the Premier, to my mind there was no suggestion that the creation of the tribunal should in any way interfere with the rights of the Administration in this regard. Having made a determination that the ministerial allowances should be at a certain level, it went on to say that for overseas travel where costs vary enormously, the reimbursement of actual expenses incurred should be the rule. This probably has always been the case.

It was not intended by the legislation that this would be a matter in which the tribunal should involve itself; nor should it involve itself in the postal allowance. Unfortunately, I understand that the tribunal obtained information from an officer in another place that the members there were being paid the postal allowance in cash. At the time the members of the Legislative Assembly were, in many cases, drawing the allowance in stamps, but, because of the information it obtained, the tribunal reduced the allowance by \$5. Now we find that another cut-back is to take effect because of the budgetary provisions.

I hope that some Ministers of the Government will take cognisance of what I have said. The Act should be tidied up to define clearly what are to be the functions of the tribunal. In respect of fringe benefits, I have constantly questioned the Premier—and I will probably deal with this matter on another occasion—on the payment of air fares to members of Parliament. According to the answers of the Premier, payment has always been under consideration. I have been asking about this matter since 1963, and it seems that the matter is still receiving the consideration of Cabinet.

The Wolff report recommended that eight air fares per year should be paid to members of the north, and that was way back in 1965; but the provision of an air fares allowance was only approved earlier this year by the Cabinet of Western Australia. It appears that Cabinet is taking far too long to consider the payment of allowances such as air fares, especially when we take into account the conditions which already prevail in the other States. Western Australia seems to be miles behind. If our members of Parliament are not granted these fringe benefits we will find less efficiency in this Parliament and less informed members of Parliament.

It is the responsibility of the Government to look into the situation in relation to parliamentary salaries and allowances to ascertain whether or not it would be desirable to include a provision in the legislation to enable members to make approaches in regard to fringe benefits. If that is agreed to, the tribunal will be

able to compare what is claimed by members of Parliament in this State with what applies in the Eastern States.

I am glad that the member for Bunbury is in his seat. I thought at first that my remarks might fall on deaf ears. I now wish to deal with some industrial problems on which he made some comments. I went to the trouble to find out what he did say in respect of a certain company operating in the south-west of this State. He said—

In the south-west, not so long ago, a meeting between representatives of several unions and the management of a company was held to arrange for a new award.

I find this situation to be disturbing. In the first place the award was a private agreement, and the subject should not have been broached in this House; but as it has been, I intend to take the matter a bit further.

It would appear that on the 20th June an offer was made by Laporte Titanium—although the member for Bunbury did not say this—and because of the other features associated with the award, such as over-award payments, service pay, and improved general conditions, this must have been the particular agreement that was involved. When the negotiations were proceeding the company proposed a differentiation in the over-award margins; and it was prepared to offer about a 10 per cent. increase to tradesmen, and 7½ per cent. to other workers.

As a consequence of these negotiations and of the previous attitude of the trade union movement to the application of increases—other than margins granted for skill, and these are determined in the course of arbitration or conciliation—any increases that are to be granted—such as the 3 per cent. increase and previously the 28 per cent. marginal increase granted under the national wage case—must be applied to all margins. If the increases in the offer were adopted it would make the differentiation between the highest paid and the lowest paid even greater than it is at present. In view of the norm that has been applied to this aspect of industrial agreements, the unions—after the offer had been made—decided to negotiate for an even rate for all the workers. Two aggregate meetings, at which the members agreed to do this, were held. One was held on the 7th July and the other on the 21st July. It is true that some of the tradesmen, one of whom has, no doubt, approached the member for Bunbury—

Mr. Williams: How do you know it was the same agreement I was referring to?

Mr. JAMIESON: We have examined the whole area concerned and also the unions affected.

Mr. Williams: How do you know it is the same one?

Mr. Cash interjected.

Mr. JAMIESON: Not two interjectors at the one time!

Mr. Tonkin: I am sure you can manage the two.

Mr. JAMIESON: Yes, if they are of that size! One of the matters mentioned by the member for Bunbury was the question of secret ballots. Because of this we went to a great deal of trouble to find out about these things from the people concerned. In view of the reference to the nature of the new award, to over-award payments and to service pay, the award to which I have been referring must be the award in question.

Mr. Williams: There are a lot of other industrial agreements.

Mr. JAMIESON: No other industrial agreement of this type in that area.

Mr. Williams: Many industrial agreements contain provisions relating to over-award payments, service pay, etc.

Mr. JAMIESON: I would remind the member for Bunbury that he said—

In the south-west, not so long ago, a meeting between representatives of several unions and the management of a company was held to arrange for a new award, over-award payments, service pay, and improved general conditions.

Mr. Williams: That is not unusual. They appear in most awards.

Mr. JAMIESON: There is no other industrial agreement that has been arranged in that area with a firm as large as Laporte Titanium and involving so many employees. It is of no use the honourable member trying to run away from it. The company itself is very concerned about the matter, and no doubt the honourable member will hear more from it. The member for Bunbury went further by indicating to the House that this was some problem initiated by the union leaders, and that a secret ballot had been held. He even gave the figures of the secret ballot.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

Mr. JAMIESON: I was indicating earlier that the secret ballot referred to by the member for Bunbury in the course of his speech was so secret that it did not occur. That is how secret it was! Nobody knows anything about it. The person who conducted it kept it to himself! That is probably the best way to conduct a secret ballot of that kind. One can get into the position one wants and one can even quote the numbers that took part in the ballot. This becomes a very good argument, if nobody checks the position; but,

unfortunately, in this case a check was made and it resulted in a denial that a ballot took place.

All the conditions that were sought by the union leaders, that are so repugnant to the member for Bunbury, were sought in the best circumstances possible—between management and the unions. There were no hard feelings but there were several differences on one particular aspect I mentioned earlier—whether there should be an overall marginal increase for all concerned, or whether there should be differing amounts for different categories of employees at the works. That was the only point at issue at any time, and it is so much rubbish for the honourable member to come forward and tell this House that a secret ballot was conducted and the men were in agreement.

Mr. Davies: That is misleading the House, is it not?

Mr. JAMIESON: Of course it is. It gave the impression that there are people in Bunbury who are creating unnecessary disturbances. However, on contacting the trade union leaders involved I was told that at no stage did they get the men in a mood where they were prepared to strike. They were not even considering it. No attempt was made in that direction; yet the honourable member said the men were antagonised; they were told this, that, and the other thing. The member for Bunbury ought to take back to the person who informed him of what is supposed to have transpired the information that the trade union movement does not intend to stand for such rubbish. Indeed, the honourable member must know that his information was most incorrect.

It is unfortunate that anything was said about the agreement because, as I said, the agreement was a confidential one between the unions and the employers. They entered into an arrangement that they would not have the matter discussed publicly. However, because of the situation that has occurred, unfortunately some mention had to be made of it.

Now let us deal with the question of compulsory unionism. The honourable member does not like compulsory unionism. I wonder why? If we develop his argument we get to the stage where we believe we should not have any compulsion on us to pay taxes. If we followed his argument the payment of taxes would be voluntary and, if that were so, I can imagine the Treasurer not having one night's sleep because he would not know whether he was to receive any money from taxes or not.

Why should we not have compulsory unionism? The reason given by the honourable member is that it is against his principles; or at least, he did not want to be associated with such a thing. He

said the Chamber of Manufactures approaches him every so often and asks him to join but he always says that he does not think the organisation represents him. Each time he is approached he declines to join. At that stage the Leader of the Opposition interjected and said, "Yet you accept their representation to protect your position." To this the member for Bunbury replied, "Yes, but I am taking this action purely as a matter of principle at the present time."

Under such circumstances, would the principle be a matter of the hip pocket nerve fluttering? I think it would be. I think it would be a matter of not wanting to pay his just dues. At that point the honourable member had the temerity to quote Article 21 of the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights to support his argument. Article 21 states—

- (i) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
- (ii) No-one may be compelled to belong to an association.

The honourable member then went on to say that he believed those people who are very keen on shouting about unionists' human rights should do a bit of shouting about the Declaration of Human Rights.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has five more minutes.

Mr. JAMIESON: Nowhere in the Declaration of Human Rights will one find any reference to a situation where a person is not expected to pay his just fees or dues, according to the law. Of course, the people who drew up the Declaration of Human Rights are not fools. They would not expect people to be able to opt out under the circumstances to which I have just referred; nor would they expect others to have to pay for such people by providing money for trade union administration and so on. People who try to get out of paying their just dues under those circumstances are only fleas: they are living on the work somebody else has done—on somebody else's endeavours—and they are just sucking the blood that others have provided. It ill behoves anybody to act in that way.

I have referred to the fact that we could reach a stage where it could be said that the payment of rates and taxes should be on a voluntary basis, but if that principle were followed we could be in all sorts of difficulties because people would soon find they had conscientious objections to paying any sort of fees. People must live up to their obligations and pay the fees of the organisation that looks after their interests. I would hope that we do not have too many in the community who would expect to get away without meeting their just dues or their financial obligations, whether it be to the Chamber of Manufactures, the trade union movement, or any other body.

At least with compulsory unionism the employers and employees know where they are going. The employers know that the workmen have a group looking after their interests, and if a worker has certain religious convictions which forbid him to belong to a certain organisation our Act lays it down that such a worker can opt out, and that is a satisfactory arrangement.

Under such circumstances neither the worker nor his union should have any gripe; but to suggest that at Bunbury the men went ahead and held some sort of secret ballot is just so much rubbish. Even if it were supposed to be secret, everybody would know about it; but when I inquired nobody knew anything about it. Under those circumstances surely the member for Bunbury owes the House an explanation, and I hope it will be forthcoming. I would also hope that in the future when an agreement is entered into between employers and employees on the basis that the results of the agreement are not for publication, the honourable member will not breach the confidence of the people who proposed the arrangement. It does him no good to be associated with that sort of situation. Unfortunately my time has expired, and the many other matters I wanted to discuss will have to be dealt with during the debate on the Estimates.

**MR. STEWART** (Merredin-Yilgarn) [7.40 p.m.]: I wish to make a contribution to the debate on the Address-in-Reply and refer to some of the problems and some of the bright spots in my electorate.

First of all, I would like to observe the courtesies and congratulate the member for Albany on winning a hard fought contest. I had in mind to wish him an interesting career, but I can see he will make it interesting, and interesting for us, too. I wish him well in his parliamentary career.

The interests of my electorate are twofold; firstly, there is the mineral development in the east of the Merredin-Yilgarn electorate; and, in the west and south of it we have the farming industry, which is not enjoying the happiest of situations at present. In the first instance, I wish to make some observations so far as the mineral wealth of the electorate is concerned.

As members know, in the mineral areas there is an air of prosperity and efficiency, and people have confidence in the future. That is the type of reaction one gets when one visits those parts of my electorate. We all know, of course, that at Kambalda a great nickel mine is now operating and the company has a works at Kwinana which are operating most satisfactorily. I wish to pay a tribute to the company for the design of the town at Kambalda and for the homes and amenities it is providing for the workers there. The housing is

good and is of a substantial nature. This breeds confidence for the future, and the talk in the area is that it is a 100-year project.

That is only part of the mineral story, of course, because at Widgiemooltha another shaft is being put down and those responsible have great expectations for the future. The salt industry, too, is proceeding along sound lines and there is a good deal of drilling and development work being carried out. We are hopeful that there will be more substantial finds of that very precious mineral, nickel, which will contribute to the wealth and welfare of Western Australia.

Further west there is the iron ore deposit at Koolyanobbing. This field is being mined on a very satisfactory basis and the company is regularly sending supplies of iron ore to the coast. Recently, of course, there was a strike of nickel north of Bullfinch in the Southern Cross area. We hope that this, too, will develop into something worth while and will contribute to the wealth of Western Australia.

The second point I want to discuss is in connection with education and at this stage I would remark that we seem to be well catered for in primary education and there are no great problems in the electorate. In this regard I wish to pay a tribute to the Minister for Education for his sympathetic handling of requests regarding school bus routes. In areas where the distances are great he has used his discretion and, with the concurrence of the parents, he has extended routes and the parents are appreciative of his efforts in this regard.

However, I wish to make a plea in regard to the senior high school at Merredin. This is the only senior high school between Northam and Kalgoorlie. It caters for a very wide area. The school was built in 1957 and, although it has been added to on several occasions, it has never been able to keep up with requirements. The school enjoys a very fine record scholastically, and has the confidence of the area. Residents are pleased with its performance and also with the work done by its ancillary—the St. Michael hostel which was built by the Country High School Hostels Authority. I will have more to say about that later on.

The accommodation problem at the Merredin Senior High School is most acute as four new classrooms are needed. Every room, annexe, and service room is now occupied by classes, and the accommodation for staff rooms is absolutely deplorable. I know this matter is being investigated at the moment and I hope that something will come from this investigation.

The country high school hostel, St. Michael, was enlarged last year from 96 beds to 120 beds. This, too, enjoys a very

fine reputation. It has very good accommodation. The stage has been reached, however, where extensions are necessary. I do not know whether these extensions will take the form of additions or duplication, but it appears to me that the necessity is for duplication.

Once it was assumed that if a farmer had two sons, in time one would take over the family homestead and the farmer would buy another property as a start for the other son. This can no longer be assumed today. The position in the farming industry is such that, if a farmer has two sons, one will probably take over the old family homestead but the other will have to find some other form of employment and earn his living in another way. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that we have the best in education and all the facilities that go with this. The quality of the education in my area is not in question, but some of the facilities must be upgraded.

I would like to say that the Government Employees' Housing Authority has been most co-operative so far as the supply of teacher-housing is concerned. As members know, this has always represented an extremely difficult problem in country areas. Country shires have been most co-operative in using their borrowing powers and in leasing the houses to the Education Department.

I would like to speak on farming in the area. I do not want to overstate the position because, after all, I have farmed all my life. I have seen situations similar to those we are experiencing now, because I commenced farming in the early '30s. I ran into many of the worries and problems in those days that beset us now.

The season is causing some concern in my electorate in that there is no subsoil moisture, particularly in the northern section. In addition last year's drought was so severe that the crop is very meagre. A reasonably good season is absolutely essential if these farmers are to stay financially viable. I should like to give a broad outline of the effect on the folk in the Merredin area, which is the area serviced by the largest town in the eastern wheatbelt; namely, Merredin.

Last year the crop was approximately 4,000,000 bushels. The previous year it was 14,000,000 bushels. In effect, the 10,000,000 bushels short meant that \$9,000,000 was lost in the first advance. I think a great tribute must be paid to the farmers themselves and to the financial institutions concerned. The latter have managed to cushion the shock and to keep many farmers on the land. These farmers have, in consequence, placed very little strain on the drought relief proposals. As members know, 280 applications were received for drought relief and 240 or 250 farmers received assistance. Therefore,

members will see that a great contribution has been made not only by the stable efforts of the farmers but by the financial institutions, too.

It is particularly desirable that the farmers should be able to pick up the shortfall, because they suffered grievous losses in sheep numbers last year which, combined with falling wool prices, makes it very difficult for them to carry on with their accustomed efficiency.

I make a special plea for one particular section; namely, the new land farmers. In the main, they are younger folk who have shown courage and initiative. In many cases they have gone right out onto the perimeter in lower rainfall areas in poor country to carve out farms for themselves. Up to date, they have not really established themselves. As members know, it takes decades to make a farm efficient. A person only begins to establish himself in a decade.

The position now is that their commitments are falling due. Only a very small proportion of the farm is cleared. The average is in the vicinity of 1,500 acres which, in broad-acre farming, is possibly half the number necessary for a reasonable chance of survival in farming.

I advocate the appointment of a committee of inquiry comprising people with suitable experience in farming. I recommend to the Premier and the Government that the committee should investigate the institution of a scheme similar to the dairy consolidation scheme. Consolidation is necessary for these people, especially for those who want to leave the industry because of the hopeless position in which they find themselves. In many cases it is a question of slow starvation. Approximately a quarter of these farmers have resources outside their farming activities.

Those who want it, and especially those who want to leave, should be allowed to consolidate. Then it should be relatively easy for the Government to institute a rehabilitation scheme similar to the one which existed after the last war. In this way the people concerned could be re-employed in other industries. After all, we are doing quite a lot to encourage migrants to come to our land. The farmers in question could be retained with excellent results and they could be found suitable places in other industries. They are very worthy people and hard working. Other industries would welcome them, but training would be absolutely necessary.

I am well aware that the member for Mt. Marshall advocated a similar scheme. The number of new land farmers involved is in the vicinity of 1,700. I will not quote the number of farmers who have not applied for quotas, because the number is not up to date, but possibly more than one-third will not be able to carry on this year. This is quite a large number. In



addition, many of the others will find it extremely difficult, especially when the wheat quota is so modest. We must remember that established farmers, with records of past production, receive the bulk of the quotas. The Government has been extremely reasonable towards new land farmers and has allocated 12½ per cent. of the quota to them. However, this is still insufficient to make a farm viable, for the simple reason that in the first few years the new land farmer must rely on cereal growing alone. Fencing, water supplies, and pastures are almost non-existent and, consequently, they must rely almost entirely on cereal activity.

In the 13-inch rainfall area the quotas are based on two factors; namely, one-third of the area of the farm at 11 bushels an acre. It has been mooted that the quota will be 55 per cent. of this sum. This may be, but even at a figure of 11 bushels, it is insufficient, under any circumstances, to make the property of a new land farmer viable. It is an extremely difficult situation.

I am well aware that the Minister for Agriculture has approached the Federal Government for finance for a long-range refinancing scheme. After all, interest rates are so high that the only way to overcome the situation is to refinance these people at a much lower rate of interest. Interest is possibly one of their highest charges.

Another section is causing me tremendous concern and I refer to people from overseas, particularly from England, who have come to Western Australia within the last two or three years and have bought farms on the basis of one-third deposit with the owner taking the first mortgage. These people ran into troubles with frost two years ago and through the extremely poor season last year. They are in the position of not being able to raise any money at all. However, they have paid substantial money for their properties, but the owners will not give any easement of the mortgage which would enable them to get drought relief. Their position is extremely difficult. The only answer is to refinance. With the Commonwealth Government's lack of sympathy towards the drought situation, I am extremely worried about this problem. I have seen some heartbreaking instances in my own territory.

I turn now to the question of water. The position is much better than it was and I commend the Minister for Works for this. To my mind he made a very statesmanlike gesture in the last submission to the Commonwealth Government in April of this year. He advocated up-grading main extensions outside the modified comprehensive scheme. There has never been a submission, not in the last few years at least, for upgrading the mains outside the modified comprehensive

scheme. The member for Avon gave us a discourse the other night on how expensive it is to reticulate farming areas. It costs up to \$10 an acre to deliver 1,000 gallons per thousand acres, which is insufficient.

The mains have existed for a long time, but they have not been lifting the necessary quantities of water. The idea of up-grading the mains is an insurance scheme. It is not a scheme to reticulate all farms, but a scheme to run the mains out so that farmers will have the assurance that water is available when a dry year, like last year, is experienced. Members will appreciate that in the 12 to 13-inch rainfall areas there is not a great amount of run-off.

The farm dam scheme—that is, the key dam scheme—has been particularly successful. During the last year the Government has uplifted the limit from \$2,500 to \$5,000, which has enabled the key dam scheme to be lifted from 6,000 cubic yards to something in the order of 10,000 cubic yards. The definition connected with the key dam scheme is that the depth must be at least 16 feet, because of the tremendous amount of evaporation, which is in the order of 7 feet per year. It has been found that if the dams are this depth, most of them will fill with water over a period of two years, particularly if there is any intense rain in this time.

The scheme has been successful and I hope the Government can manage to allocate more funds to it. It is very reasonable so far as interest rates are concerned, because these are at 5½ per cent. There are no repayments for the first three years and the mortgage is over a 15-year period. To my way of thinking the scheme is particularly good and efficient, and it has certainly proved very popular with the farmers.

I have seen instances of it at Warralakin in one of the worst affected areas in my electorate. Last February I saw four dams which were well over 10,000 yards in capacity with 14 feet of water in them. This was just before the cyclone and the farmer concerned had not managed to get his seed to germinate in the ground.

I believe that pursuing the key dam scheme on farms is a sensible approach to water problems. In the past we have had rather a pipeline phobia and everyone thought that water had to be piped. This is not so at all. The virtue of piping, of course, is that it is an insurance when no rain falls in very dry areas.

Mr. Lewis: Where are the dams and what is the depth?

Mr. STEWART: They are at Warralakin and the depth was 14 feet of water in February. They are very good and I am greatly impressed with the scheme.

The mileage for the mains outside the main conduit has been submitted to the Commonwealth. I hope the submission

meets with a much better fate than the question of drought relief. I shall give an illustration of the main extensions outside the comprehensive water supply scheme which require upgrading. These are—

	Main	Miles	Chains
1.	Toodyay .....	26	25
2.	York-Beverley .....	42	63
3.	Collgar .....	14	60
4.	Walgoolan North A .....	9	62
5.	Walgoolan South .....	48	35
6.	Walgoolan North B .....	19	44
7.	Walgoolan North C .....	7	42
8.	Westonia D.H. ....	44	62
9.	Bodallin North .....	31	2
10.	Noongar .....	2	56
11.	Moorine Rock .....	3	42
12.	Southern Cross .....	5	66
13.	Marvel Loch .....	38	47
14.	Ora Banda .....	36	70
Total .....		332	36

I must say I am very pleased to hear this and I give the Minister for Works full credit for submitting the proposal to the Commonwealth, because I consider the extensions are most necessary. The rainfall is much greater in the area of the modified comprehensive scheme, and I consider the people I represent are much more in need of sympathy and consideration.

Another matter mentioned in His Excellency's Speech was that of probate. The position has been well stated in another place by a gentleman who really knows about it. However, I would like to put this point which affects the people in my area: it is very hard to arrive at a realistic value of the estate of a farmer within two years of his death. As members well know, the value is assessed on past sales and whereas a property might have been saleable two years previously it might now be absolutely unsaleable. So it is difficult to know whether the value is one-half or one-third of what it was previously. This also applies to shares. Not only is the probate duty high, but also the values are unrealistic, and I think some other methods will have to be found to overcome these difficulties.

I would like to urge the Premier to keep up his battle with the Commonwealth for further funds for drought relief. After all, many areas of the State are still not out of the wood, and this applies even in my electorate where the conditions are still very dry.

Another matter that causes me concern is the surplus of sheep and the lack of a sufficient build-up of winter fodder to tide us over the dry season. At the moment there is a surplus of sheep and owing to the industrial problems at the abattoirs I am most concerned about what will happen to those engaged in the industry. I

do hope that common sense will prevail and that the troubles will be solved, because the producers are fighting for survival. Industrial unrest strikes a lethal blow at the hopes those people hold for the future.

In conclusion, I would like, very clearly, to state my views concerning the Commonwealth Government. I think the attitude of the Commonwealth is most parsimonious. We should be treated more reasonably because, after all, the surplus sheep I have mentioned are sold cheaply for export. We export meat and sheep on the world market and the people involved in the handling of those commodities must be paid for their services, as must the producer for his product. When one realises the contribution made by Western Australia with its mineral wealth—which is most profitable for the Commonwealth Government, because when mining concerns make a profit they are taxed 47.5c in the dollar—one appreciates that the Commonwealth should treat the farming community of this State more realistically. Those people are going to have a tight time, but with a little sympathy and understanding they should come out all right. I support the motion.

**MR. DAVIES** (Victoria Park) [8.05 p.m.]: At this stage in the debate there are not many more speakers to be heard, so I take the opportunity of thanking those members who have spoken for their co-operation in drawing up the speaking lists. I would also thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the manner in which you have helped both the Government whip and myself. I know there have been some tight moments when speakers were not ready, and once or twice members on this side of the House had to speak because the Government had nobody ready. Some of our members had to fill in at very short notice, and I particularly appreciate that. Of course, it was ever thus with the Address-in-Reply debate, and those who have been here longer than I know that it is not likely to change.

Before I join in the words of welcome to our new member (Mr. Wyndham Cook) I would like to pay tribute to the late Jack Hall. I was particularly close to Mr. Hall over the last few years and although he had a weakness which was apparent to all of us, the weakness was with him for a long time and it was not as attributable to himself as one would imagine. Many members will be surprised to know that after Mr. Hall died an autopsy revealed that he suffered from certain deficiencies which prevented him from taking as much liquor as you or I and which also affected his ability to handle it properly.

I think this bears recording because some people are always anxious to deride any person with a weakness or failing. I

do not think anyone in this House did that, and he was always grateful. His family is also grateful, and I am sure the people of Albany appreciated the splendid representative they had, especially when one considers the numbers that turned out for his funeral. I do not think there has ever been such a large funeral in Albany. Mr. Hall certainly applied himself very well. He was a hard worker and industry was always his motto.

I join with other members in welcoming the new member for Albany. We enjoyed campaigning in the by-election. We did not know there were so many hills in Albany; but the campaign certainly gave us an opportunity to see something of the town, which we would not otherwise have had. Of course we enjoyed it even more when we heard the result—and what a splendid result it was.

I am sorry that a controversy arose regarding the maiden speech of the member for Albany in which he moved an amendment to the Address-in-Reply. He made his position perfectly clear, and the following is recorded at page 317 of the current *Hansard*:—

I would emphasise that this is not a motion of no confidence; it is not a motion of censure. The Opposition is simply trying to give the Government the opportunity to support a move in line with its declared policy to give protection to the reserve which is so urgently needed.

If that was not abundantly clear to the members of the Government, I do not know how much clearer they could want him to be. Apparently the Government was touched on a raw nerve and instead of accepting his remarks in the spirit in which they were given, the Government brought down controversy. This certainly did it no good, because neither the radio nor the Press supported the Government. I applaud the member for Albany for speaking out in the manner he did and for representing his people in the manner in which they expect to be represented. I hope he will be able to represent them for many years.

Mr. Rushton: They did not report the fact that, traditionally, members of this House would not interject.

Mr. DAVIES: At this stage I must ask that any interjections made while I am speaking be made in a loud and clear voice. There is nothing I hate worse than to find a mumbled interjection heard by the *Hansard* reporters and inserted in *Hansard* when I have not had the opportunity of answering it. I have made this request on past occasions, and I ask again that all interjections be made in a loud and clear voice.

Mr. O'Neill: They are highly irregular.

Mr. DAVIES: Well, shall I say, all interjections allowed by Mr. Speaker. As I said before, there has been very little change in the running of the Parliament over the years. I thought we were to have a change in the hours of sitting, but that was quickly hit on the head. I think our traditions are so slow to change that if all of us present remained in Parliament for the rest of our lives we would be unlikely to see very much change. I think this is reflected in some cuttings I took from a paper recently. No doubt many members would have seen the *Record* newspaper dated the 15th July, 1899, which has been circulating in Parliament House. When one considers some of the statements in that newspaper one would think it was last week's local newspaper. One of the comments in relation to Parliament states—

Members do not appear to be over anxious to tackle the formidable list of social measures provided for their delectation by the Cabinet, seeing that three weeks elapse from the date of opening Parliament before the Address-in-Reply is adopted. Why this flood of talk? Is it because some great principle is at stake, or is there some momentous grievance whose rectification is denied—or whisper it further—is it sweet to see one's name in print, though there's nothing in't? It is sad to think the last reason is probably the principle cause for Mr. Blank moving the adjournment of the Debate. The last night, however, carried some very enthusiastic speeches, particularly the Premier's, who dealt it out hotly to Mr. James.

Unfortunately the Premier is not here to deal it out hotly. However, I think the fact that we have entered the fifth week of the Address-in-Reply indicates very little change has occurred in the workings of Parliament. Some of the other comments in that newspaper are well worth noting. I will not read all of them, but I will mention one or two in passing. Mention is made of the need for workers' compensation, and reference is made to the goldmining industry, American atrocities in the war in the Philippines, and the native position in the north. Of course, we all know that we are still dealing with some of those problems today. The paper contains one statement, however, that is far from true. It states—

The Premier pronounces the native question in the North West as settled. The aborigines, he says, have long since become domesticated, and live regularly on the stations.

That was in 1899, and I am sure if that statement was true, the Minister for Native Welfare would be delighted. Owing to the age of this newspaper, Mr. Speaker, I am unable to vouch for the truth of the statements I have quoted; but I am sure you

will forgive me for not doing on this occasion what we are supposed to do; that is, verify the accuracy of quotations from newspapers.

This is the last session of the 26th Parliament and perhaps it is an appropriate time to review some of the workings of this Parliament and, in fact, some of the attitudes of the Government over the past 11 years. I cannot help but feel that the Government is growing very tired. There are many indications of this. We often find that only members of the Opposition attend official functions to which members of both the Government and the Opposition have been invited. I do not know whether this is caused by a lack of interest on the part of the Government or by a breakdown of communications on the part of Ministers, but as far as I am concerned it seems to be happening more frequently.

Of course, the Government has many problems and they are certainly great ones. I am sure the Government is watching the Federal Budget debate with a great deal of interest. The Government is wondering what will happen when the measure gets to the Senate, and whether or not the Democratic Labor Party will continue to oppose the receipts tax. It will be a most interesting situation and I certainly do not envy the Government the job of trying to find its way out of its many problems.

I am sure members will agree that great strides are being made in many countries of the world. From the publications that hit my desk I am able to see that countries like Ireland, some of the South Americas, and some European countries have made gigantic strides in industrial fields. Many of those countries seem to be doing far better with education and housing than our State Government is doing. Unfortunately, there are signs that the economy of this State is slowing down, and this is something that we must really fear. Of course, the greater our expansion the more rapid is likely to be the effect on the slowing down of the economy in Western Australia.

The signs are there and they are attributable to a large degree to the drought. Once again this emphasises the State's dependence on agriculture. I have said before that we must not overlook our agricultural industry and look only to the glamour mineral boom. I would like to see more money made available for agricultural research work in the north. Although I am very impressed with the industrial development in the north of our State, I find that this is only evident in isolated spots. There are many millions of square miles of land where there does not appear to be a living thing.

If we can make more money available for this aspect there would be some hope of deriving benefit so far as agriculture is

concerned. As I have said before, however, this is a great hope. One thing I did not like about the north was the tendency of the companies to run the towns. In many of the company-established towns I found that numbers of employees resented the company control. This was also the case with the people who live there.

I admit that the people in those areas live under extremely good conditions and they receive good wages for long hours of work. If they kicked over the traces, however, they could soon expect to receive their walking ticket. The companies exercise an unreal control over the towns, and I do not believe this is in the true spirit of the Australian way of life.

If I were asked to describe the Government in one word I would say it was a Government of expediency. This has been evident ever since the Government has been in office. It is a Government which has done as little as it possibly could, particularly in matters relating to social welfare, and also in many other directions where help might be required for the ordinary working man.

Mr. Rushton: What about its record in health?

Mr. DAVIES: I would like to know what it is doing in relation to matters of health.

Mr. Rushton: Look around you.

Mr. DAVIES: I say I would like to know what it is doing about health matters, generally, because the annual report of the Public Health Department is two years behind in publication. If the Minister would be good enough to have the report of the Public Health Department tabled I would be delighted to read it and see exactly what is being done by the Government in this direction. Whilst we must continue to look at newspaper reports, however, I must be a little more circumspect in what I believe.

When I was interrupted I was about to say that the Government only seemed to take action when it was forced into doing so. One of the very first things that happened when I came into this House was that legislation was introduced which sought the closure of banks on Saturday mornings. Similar legislation had been put upon five different occasions by a Labor Administration, but the parties which now comprise the present Government gave it no support at all.

When, however, the Government thought it could win a few votes as a result of such legislation, it introduced a measure along the same lines as those proposed by the Labor Party. The same thing happened to me when I introduced a Bill which sought to close garages on Sunday mornings. The Government said such legislation was totally unnecessary, completely unwarranted, and something it

would not support or foist onto the community. The following year the Government brought in a measure which was identical with the Bill it refused to support the year before.

It is certainly a Government of expediency. Let us consider for a moment the Government's attitude on legislation that was introduced by the member for Clontarf in relation to door-to-door salesmen. There is a crying need now for some amendment to that legislation. The Government cut all the meat out of the Bill. The legislation is practically useless. People think some protection is provided by this legislation but there is none at all, except as it relates to the sale of books. In relation to other items, however, door-to-door salesmen still have an open go and the Government displays no interest in assisting the unfortunate people who might be affected.

I could also refer to such things as workers' compensation and matters relating to housing which only attract Government action when a crisis is reached. As I have said, this Government is certainly a Government of expediency.

Let us consider the price of land. This is another record which the Government has created; it has created a record in the price of land. I am aware of the fact that the Government appointed the McCarrey committee to go into this matter and make some recommendations which might remedy the position by bringing down the price of land. But the Government merely adopted one or two of the recommendations of that committee and the result was that the price of land levelled out at the top prices and we now have evidence of a further rise in the price of such land.

Why has not the Government taken some action in regard to prices? The Government did away with legislation in connection with unfair trade practices—which was a pretty toothless tiger, anyway—and when the Federal Government introduced legislation in connection with unfair trade practices—to establish a trade practices tribunal—which required the States to bring in complementary legislation, we find that the present Government refused to assist in any way whatever.

Once again the Commonwealth legislation does not have many teeth, and it is proving to be almost completely ineffective so far as its original intention was concerned. We find this legislation is being challenged at the moment in the High Court under section 91 of the Australian Constitution, and it will continue to be. But our State Government does not even bother to try to assist the Federal Government, which is of its own political colour, by action which might help in controlling prices in this country so that the public will not be exploited.

The Federal Liberal-Country Party coalition is convinced that there is a need for such legislation, yet we find this State Government and other State Governments where there are Liberal-Country Party coalition Governments continue to make the legislation ineffective by not assisting with the introduction of the necessary complementary legislation.

There have been instances where agreements have been abandoned at a national level because of this legislation and where separate agreements have been entered into with each of the States concerned. Here, because of the Australian Constitution and the separate agreements—which do not cross State boundaries—no action can be taken under the legislation by the civil servants whose job it is to try to assist in these matters.

What has the Government done to protect the consumer? What has it done in regard to advertising, about which there is a tremendous amount of criticism at the moment? We had an Australian national body—a private enterprise body—draw up a string of regulations by which advertising firms agreed to abide; yet we find that those regulations have been described as not being worth a row of beans. That is what it amounts to, because the public is still being exploited by false advertising.

We find, indeed, that the Government's own campaign of advertising Western Australian goods is misleading in one direction, because it says, "Buy Western Australian and your money comes back to you." The people believe that this is a money-back guarantee on Western Australian goods but, of course, it is no such thing. All it means is that we keep our money in the State and, indirectly, the money comes back to us. There is, however, plenty of unfair and untrue advertising; but I have never heard any member of the Government raise his voice in regard to it; nor has any member of the Government had anything to say about consumer protection or the protection of the working man. What has the Government done in regard to prices generally? I have not heard one Cabinet Minister express concern in this direction.

Mr. Rushton: It has given the working man plenty of work.

Mr. DAVIES: And he gets less for it. Has the honourable member ever heard any member of the Government—the Premier, the Deputy Premier, or any of the Ministers—say that he did not believe that the announced increases were justified? Has the honourable member ever heard any one of them say that he did not consider an increase in the price of beer justified, or an increase in the price of bread, in the price of petrol, timber, or of steel justified? All these commodities affect the working man, and yet never has

there been one word of protest from any member of the Cabinet about any of the rises in the prices mentioned.

Mr. Rushton: The price of petrol is controlled.

Mr. DAVIES: As a potential Minister, the honourable member should speak up; he should not be shy.

Mr. Rushton: I said petrol is at a controlled price.

Mr. DAVIES: The price-fixing standard set in South Australia is agreed to, but it need not be. I have never heard any member of the Government raise his voice in protest about such price increases.

Let us, however, talk about wages; and what does the Government do? If we talk about a rise in the basic wage the Government immediately says, "This is going to cost us \$3,000,000 in one year."

Mr. Lewis: Does not that put up costs?

Mr. DAVIES: Not only does the Government protest publicly about the basic wage, but it also sends its representative to the Industrial Commission to officially oppose any increase in wages. This is what the Government has done.

Where do the Government's sympathies lie? They certainly do not lie with the working man. Prices can be increased and the Government will say nothing, but let there be any move for a rise in the basic wage and the Government will oppose it tooth and nail. Its representative before the Industrial Commission was doing just that last week; he was doing it officially on behalf of the Government. By this means it was not necessary to use the Employers Federation. The Government was probably ashamed of the Employers Federation representative who said that people could live on \$36 a week and that amount was ample.

Mr. Court: He did not say quite that.

Mr. DAVIES: I have never heard any statement met with more derision than was the statement made by the Employers Federation. With this Government we can increase prices as much as we like, and the Government will do nothing about it, but let us try to increase the basic wage and the Government will strongly oppose any such move. That is the type of Government we have.

The people are awake to these things now; they are becoming increasingly concerned, and although the member for Dale said they had plenty of work—

Mr. Dunn: You have been saying this ever since you have been in this House, but the people have not voted you in as a Government.

Mr. DAVIES: I do not know whether I have been saying this ever since I came to this House, though I am coming to the point of indicating that I have not

struck so much concern in my electorate regarding the difficulties experienced by the working man as I am at the moment.

This is probably one of the most trying times I have known as it affects the hardship experienced by the working man. Although we are supposed to be an affluent society I am constantly finding people wanting all sorts of help—something which I never encountered in my earlier years.

Although we are supposed to be an affluent society we still have our blanket appeals and our appeals for food for the pensioners. We have not been able to help this poor and needy section of our community. They are the people about whom the Government shows no concern. There are, however, other sections of the community who are concerned about these people, and I refer particularly to the trade unionists.

The member for Cockburn dealt with this aspect fairly well the other night, but from the statement made by the member for Dale, I do not think he quite understands, because he seemed to claim that the member for Cockburn was asking for conciliation or collective bargaining rather than arbitration.

Mr. Court: The member for Cockburn blamed the migrants for industrial trouble, which I thought was grossly unfair.

Mr. Brady: He did not blame them but pointed out they were New Australians.

Mr. DAVIES: The member for Cockburn pointed out something I intended to mention; that it is not the old cloth cap socialist whom the Government members like to deride who are leading the strikes and causing industrial trouble at the moment; it is the young people—the men with families—who are trying to make a go of things: those who would like to have their own homes and their own cars and live comfortably, but who are unable to raise a deposit for a block of land let alone put a deposit on a home.

Mr. Court: Since when has Paddy Troy been one of those—and Marks?

Mr. DAVIES: Here again it shows how far the Minister for Industrial Development is from the industrial scene so far as trade unions go; because if he watched television or even had a look at the faces of the people who are at strike meetings, or if he went to some of the meetings and saw some of the people and spoke to them, he would realise their concern, and he would realise it was not the Paddy Troys—

Mr. Court: Not much!

Mr. DAVIES: I wish the Minister would speak up.

Mr. Court: I said, "Not much!" The Paddy Troys, the Marksies, and the Laters! Good heavens, you have the lot!

Mr. DAVIES: This would indicate that these one or two people have complete control over all the hundreds of thousands of union members. Of course, if members analysed the reports that were put on the table and read some of the Commonwealth reports, they would realise that the number of trade unionists is dropping, and dropping quite considerably. The member for Bunbury will be delighted to know that there is not the percentage of workers in trade unions that there have been in the past.

The fact remains that never before throughout the whole history of Australia, indeed, not since the turn of the century, have the workers shown so much willingness to take industrial action on their own to try to get something they thought they were going to get, but which is rapidly becoming beyond their reach. I have said before that the gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" is increasing alarmingly, and while it does increase and while the Government does nothing to try to keep down prices, but does everything to keep down wages, we can expect more and more of this industrial unrest.

People are becoming quite unhappy with the general struggle to live and survive. Certainly we have some affluent areas. There are some areas where people live far more comfortably than we do; but I do not represent one of those areas and I rarely go into them. The people amongst whom I move and with whom I talk and whose homes I visit have a very real and genuine concern at the increasing struggle to maintain standards.

Previously I have asked what the Government means by free enterprise, but I have never received a real answer. I have concocted various answers myself and I have read some of the propaganda distributed by the Liberal Party. I have read many articles in magazines concerning what free enterprise proposes to do in the community.

Mr. Rushton: Freedom of conscience and freedom for the individual!

Mr. DAVIES: Here we are on the catch-phrases and so forth again, but we will not go into them. I will not become side-tracked. As yet I have not received an answer. For the most part I have heard that the Liberal Party believes in free enterprise without Government control. However, having read a few speeches on the subject, I would like to quote from one which was made in 1953. It was made by a present Minister of this Government and the speech is to be found on page 222 of *Hansard* of 1953, and reads as follows:—

As far as controls are concerned, I would like to say, as a general statement, that I am opposed to them except under abnormal conditions such

as are experienced during a world war. It is my view that controls, no matter how well intentioned they may be, weaken the moral fibre of the people and discourage initiative and, particularly in their attempt to defy the natural laws of supply and demand, have a tendency to place a premium on inefficiency. They undermine the moral fibre of the community through encouraging people who seek illicit ways of circumventing them.

Mr. Craig: Who said that?

Mr. DAVIES: Then on page 224 is the following:—

The situation in Australia today is that both primary and secondary industries find themselves with inflated costs and about to commence a struggle against world competition because of the events of the last few years, and the rather lavish Government spending during that period.

I hope I have not taken those extracts out of context, and I hope I have read them to the satisfaction of the Minister for Industrial Development. The fact remains that from those remarks we are entitled to understand that the present Liberal-Country Party coalition Government does not believe in Government controls, so I thought it was necessary to ascertain what has happened in regard to Government controls during the 11 years the present Government has been in office.

I want to remind members of the quotations I just read on lavish spending weakening of the moral fibre, and discouraging initiative, because I now want to refer to some of the controls which have been introduced in the last few years. After only a quick check I have found that this Government has established boards to control mental health, water supplies, parole, several in regard to factories and shops, taxis, chiropractors, Government employees' housing, the National Trust, chemists, youth services, pure air, the Totalisator Agency Board, painters, town planning marketing of linseed, fluoride, artificial breeding, and transport. These are just a few of the boards this Government has introduced.

Mr. O'Neill: Did you say painters?

Mr. DAVIES: Yes.

Mr. Rushton: That came from your side.

Mr. O'Neill: That was a private members' Bill—a private member from your side.

Mr. DAVIES: Yes, but it was agreed to by the Government. We will take the blame but it was passed by Parliament. I also checked to see what licenses are now necessary in addition to those previously required. Since this Government has come

into office, licenses have been established in connection with beekeepers, Alsatian dogs, several new licenses for motor vehicles, debt collectors, land and estate agents, car dealers, door-to-door salesmen, and crop-dusting pilots.

Mr. O'Neill: I thought you said we had done nothing about consumer protection.

Mr. DAVIES: These are just a few of the new licenses necessary, and I am trying to marry these two attitudes.

I carried out some research of our *Hansards* and I found that over the years a number of questions have been asked in regard to the boards in existence. On the 2nd November, 1965, in reply to a question by the present member for Belmont the Premier told us there were 88 boards the members of which received a fee. He said there were other boards the members of which did not receive payment. In November, 1965, there were 88 boards the members of which were paid. A week after that question, the same member asked the Premier to give the number of boards about which the Government knew, and the reply dealt with statutory boards only. At that time there were 151 statutory boards plus 50-odd hospital boards; that is, over 200 boards controlling the community at large.

In September, 1967, in the Legislative Council, Mr. Wise asked a question regarding the boards established under State Statutes and a list was tabled indicating that at that time there were 109 boards the members of which received payment of some kind. In other words, in two years there had been an increase of 21 boards under a Government which did not believe in Government control.

That is a fairly good record; in fact, it is a new record the Government has created and I would like to know what it is doing about the matter. Is it taking any action to see whether all the boards are necessary? Has the Government made any inquiries? Does it allow these little boards to build up little empires of their own? I am in a position to state that when the Labor Party is next returned to office, a searching inquiry will be made into the needs and costs of these boards, as well as into their ramifications, because something needs to be done. I do not know how many boards have been added to the 109 paid boards in existence in 1967, and no evidence exists to indicate that any of the boards have been disbanded. Therefore this is a new record the Government has created.

Then, of course, we get to the Public Service as a whole. One would think that the Government would want to apply some restraint on the Public Service. The figures I am about to quote are taken from the annual reports of the Public Service Commissioner. First of all, in 1910 there

were 1,308 public servants. In 1953 there were 3,895, an increase of 2,587 in 43 years.

When we went out of Government in 1959 the Public Service numbered 4,625, which was an increase of 730 in six years. That increase was in line with the average which had been fairly evident over the years.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: It was a very sad period of the State's history, though.

Mr. DAVIES: The Minister did not listen to the beginning of my remarks.

Mr. Ross Hutchinson: I am listening.

Mr. DAVIES: In 1970 we are told there are 8,598 civil servants, an increase of 3,973—or more than 85 per cent.—since this Government has been in office. Those figures are shown in the Public Service list which was tabled during this session of Parliament.

Mr. Dunn: Those figures show the wonderful advance which the Government has made.

Mr. DAVIES: Those figures certainly show a record set by a Government which is supposed to believe in free enterprise. It has increased the Public Service by 85 per cent. in 11 years. That is a splendid record for a free enterprise Government!

Mr. Rushton: What has been the increase in the population?

Mr. DAVIES: I must apologise for not dealing with any more interjections at this stage because I have only a short time to go. I want to have some figures recorded, but if anyone would like to ask me any questions I would be pleased to supply the answers in the lobby when I have completed my speech.

I think it would be fairer to say that in 1910 we were dealing with a different aspect of our Civil Service. In 1910 there were 4.82 civil servants to every 1,000 of population. By 1950 this figure had grown to 5.64 per 1,000, an increase in 40 years of .82 per thousand of population. In 1960 there were 6.52 civil servants per thousand of population, which means that during the period the Labor Party was in Government there was an increase of .88 in a 10-year period.

In 1970 there are 8.78 civil servants per thousand of population, an increase of 2.26 per thousand of population during the period of office of this free enterprise Government. Is that not a new record of which to be proud—a splendid record?

Mr. Court: Are you advocating that we sack some of them?

Mr. DAVIES: I am not advocating anything; I am indicating the need for a search to see if the best use is being made of those additional people. I worked out the number per thousand of population



from the figure of 8,598 which is shown in the Public Service list, and the population figure as at the 30th June last.

**The SPEAKER:** The honourable member has five more minutes.

**Mr. DAVIES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The population figure was 979,700. I did check that figure with the Government Statistician's office to ensure that it was correct as reported in *The West Australian*, and the person to whom I spoke seemed to think I was an idiot for bothering to check. However, I explained we had to check newspaper articles for correctness before we quoted them in Parliament.

**Mr. Rushton:** Don't you think the public servants are doing a fair job of work?

**Mr. DAVIES:** I am sorry, I cannot answer any more interjections. I want to remind the House that the figures I have quoted for the Public Service do not include the Police Force, the State Electricity Commission, the Railways Department, the Totalisator Agency Board, the Metropolitan Transport Trust, the harbour boards, the 35 public relations men who average \$5,500 a year, cadets who are employed in the Civil Service; and, of course, they do not include wages employees.

In this regard I will remind the House of the Government's attitude to the Public Works Department day labour scheme when it took office in 1959, and point out that in 1960, the Architectural Division, totalled 928 men. Figures given to me by the Minister for Works, in the House tonight, show that 945 men are now employed in the Architectural Division, an increase of 17 after the Government said it would do away with the day labour force.

On the 30th June, 1960, the Engineering Division employed a total of 2,610 persons and the total is now 2,354. That figure is down 256, to the Government's credit, but there is a shortage in the categories of carpenters and labourers. If such tradesmen and labourers were available I am sure they would be employed in the Public Works Department and increase the total.

What hypocrisy it is for the Government to claim that it is a free enterprise Government and then increase the Public Service by 85 per cent. in 10 years. The ratio of civil servants to population has increased by 2.26 per thousand over the last 10 years and the number is now 8.78 per thousand of population. Under completely socialistic conditions the ratio does not approach these figures.

Goodness gracious, how the people are being hoodwinked by this extravagant Government; there is not the slightest doubt about that. The Government has made a welter of it while no-one has bothered to check its expansion of Government control.

The Public Service list for 1970 showed an increase of 779, and this is accountable to a degree because the State has taken over the taxation authority. However, here again, only in March of this year I was told, in answer to a question, that the total staff establishment would be 319. In answer to a further question tonight, I find 332 people have been appointed and another 27 are to be appointed. So there is a total of 40 in excess of what was anticipated when I asked the question in March.

We wonder about empire builders. The Premier had already told me I had nothing to worry about in this direction regarding the new State Taxation Department. However, the Government has been making whoopee while the people have been led to believe that they have a free enterprise Government which does not believe in Government control, and does not believe in extending the Civil Service. Goodness only knows what the position would be if a check were made of the staff in the other instrumentalities and departments I have mentioned, such as the Metropolitan Transport Trust, the Totalisator Agency Board, the Railways Department, and the Education Department. It would probably be found that there have been greater increases still and the Government would establish more records. The Government certainly has established records in regard to the housing shortage. Obviously a record has been established regarding the Civil Service, too.

I do not attack civil servants as civil servants.

Several members interjected.

**Mr. DAVIES:** I attack the people who are empire builders.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

**MR. COURT** (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) [8.49 p.m.]: At the outset I would like to convey my congratulations to the member for Albany. It was unfortunate that he got off to a bad start.

**Mr. Tonkin:** A very good start.

**Mr. COURT:** I put his bad start down to his advisers.

I would also like to say how much I personally regret the passing of Jack Hall. He was a very close friend of mine because we had a number of mutual interests, particularly in music, and I did know his sterling worth in a number of ways. His end came rather suddenly and it was very sad. Nevertheless, I think everybody remembers Jack Hall as a person without malice and one with whom we were all pleased to be associated, as a friend, regardless of political differences.

I would like to say a few words about some aspects of a number of matters which I noticed particularly whilst I was

abroad. On this occasion I went abroad on a private visit, but things did not work out quite the way I had planned. I have found that while one is mixed up with a development programme it is almost impossible to divorce oneself from official duties while travelling. In other words, people did not take me seriously when I said it was a private visit, because every other time I have been twisting their arms to get investment.

Three main matters came to my notice and I feel I have a duty to comment upon them, particularly as the Address-in-Reply is the appropriate time to make such comment. The first is the general pattern of industrial unrest which I saw in almost every free country I went to. Secondly, there is the very vexed question of conservation and environmental control. The third point I would like to touch upon is the changing scene throughout the world in respect of the conversion of minerals into metals.

To deal firstly with the question of industrial unrest, what is most disturbing is the fact that the pattern seems to be the same wherever one goes. The only difference is the degree of unrest. I refer, of course, to the free world, because this sort of thing would not be tolerated in iron curtain countries.

One is struck by the fact that there seems to be a small but very powerful, highly dedicated, and highly trained group at the head of all the agitation. It is useless for people like the member for Cockburn to talk about migrants being to the forefront of the agitation because they are unhappy about their lot and this kind of thing; it is equally useless for the member for Victoria Park to talk about the "unhappy multitude." The fact is that these people are stirred into the strike and strife situation.

A most frightening aspect developed when I was in Britain and on the Continent. I refer to the time when prominent trade union leaders were prepared to come out and say after the change of Government in Britain that they were above and beyond the Government and the people. In other words, they were a force on their own and they were not going to take any notice of the will of the people. This is a frightening thing, and it must affect every member this way, whether he is on this side of the House or the other side. It should be frightening, because we all believe, I hope, in the fact that in the final analysis it is the people who have the say through the ballot box. The people are the ones who throw Governments out and put Governments in. I always like to feel that when a Government is elected on a policy, the people—whether they are employers, employees, or the general populace—have some regard to the fact that the Government was elected on a particular policy.

Mr. Jamieson: There are irresponsible people in the Liberal Party, you know.

Mr. COURT: I believe that the dislocation that has occurred in the free world—and, ironically, it has occurred because of the state of affluence that has developed compared with years ago—will take some time to correct. There has been a loss of confidence between representatives of employers, employees, and Government. This is one of the saddest things of all, because without some confidence there can be no progress at the negotiating table. Those concerned must be able to feel that they can frankly discuss matters, offer something, make a counter offer, and even another offer again, to arrive at a logical conclusion. When this atmosphere is lost and with it the confidence necessary to solve problems, the very basis of the society in which we live is also lost.

Mr. Lapham: Was there any inflation in the countries which you visited?

Mr. COURT: Of course, there is inflation in every country in the world. The fact remains that the net worth of the earnings of the people today in the free world—in countries like Australia, Britain, Western Europe, and North America—is higher than it has ever been in history. One of the saddest things about it is that the people who are getting hit the hardest in these countries, including our own, are the people lowest down the scale.

Mr. Lapham: Why don't you give them a lift?

Mr. COURT: The reason for it is the great wave of industrial unrest; the planned unrest, and strife sought rather than solution. For the first time in history the man down below could get pay for 52 weeks in every year. However, because of this great unrest he is denied this and he is not sure whether he will be paid for 40 weeks, 45, or 50. It is not the "boss's" fault; the work is there to be done, the pay is there to be earned. It is the fault of leaders—militant leaders—and I am not only referring to this country. It is the same pattern wherever one goes. I almost felt it as I stepped off the plane in the countries I visited. It is these leaders who deny this man the opportunity for which so many people in the union movement fought and worked for over a long period of time.

Mr. Toms: Do you think they are a lot of sheep?

Mr. COURT: I believe that the organisation which is at the top is so powerful that it is not there by accident.

Mr. Jamieson: What sleeps under your bed?

Mr. Jones: Even the price of butter has gone up.

Mr. COURT: The member for Belmont has raised the question of the communist bogey. I have not mentioned it.

Mr. Jamieson: You were stirring it up.

Mr. COURT: If the cap fits in respect of the people I have mentioned, let it stay there and let them wear it. If we identify the people in Australia who are stirring up the strife, we will see that their allegiance is not directed to the good of Australia or the worker.

Those who listen to the radio would have heard a talk by Jack Munday on A.B.C. radio session "A.M." on the 18th August. This reflected exactly the same strife pattern and he even advocated industrial violence, which has never been heard of in this country before. Two minutes after, on the same session, the new messiah of the Labor Party and of the left wing industrial movement, Mr. R. J. Hawke, did not disown Mr. Munday when he was asked whether he went along with what Mr. Munday had said. Instead, he replied, "You can't believe what you read in the paper."

Mr. Tonkin: I have heard the Minister say that himself.

Mr. COURT: The fact is that Mr. Munday was speaking on A.B.C. "A.M." on the 18th August. It was not a Press report; the man was present in person. He made no bones about it and said that there could be circumstances in which blackmail was justified.

Mr. Lapham: Who is Munday?

Mr. COURT: He happens to be very prominent in the union movement in New South Wales.

Mr. Lapham: I have never heard of him and he is of no interest to Western Australia. The reason why there is trouble in Western Australia is—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. COURT: It so happens that the pattern is the same if we look at the movement in this State. It does not matter whether the name is Troy, Marks, Latter, or Bastow. No-one will tell me they want peace and they want people to settle down and be able to take home pay for 52 weeks in every year.

Mr. Lapham: They are not getting a full week's wages for a full week's work.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. COURT: At the present rate of development in the free world, I believe there is plenty in it for everybody if only we come back to a basis where people settle down and negotiate in a proper atmosphere of mutual trust. In this way, we can share the gains that are ours and gains that have occurred because of improved conditions, which members cannot deny.

Mr. Lapham: We send our wives out to work now.

Mr. COURT: Members cannot deny that conditions have improved in Australia.

Mr. Jamieson: The Minister has said that wives go out to work because they want to. They go out because they have to.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. COURT: Before I conclude my comments on this part of my speech, I want to refer to another trend which is also apparent in other countries as well as in Australia. There was a time when we could identify political leaders. We could say, "This man is the leader of the Liberal Party; that man the leader of the Country Party; and that man the leader of the Labor Party." We knew who the political man was. Today we cannot identify him. Mr. Whitlam is in the extraordinary situation when he is not quite sure what is going to be said on his behalf. There was the experience of the Leader of the Opposition in Victoria; and the Leader of the Opposition in this State is in very much the same position.

Most of the political comments in this State are made by Mr. Coleman through the industrial wing. If the Leader of the Opposition wants it this way, that is his business and not mine. However, I have an interest as a citizen in the fact that the clear line of demarcation which the public previously understood is no longer there. It was a clear line of demarcation which existed between the political leader, and the industrial agitator and leader. Now we cannot identify who is who.

It was Mr. R. J. Hawke who called the great rally—or strike, or stop work meeting, call it what one will—the other week. It does not matter what it is called, it amounts to the same thing. The political leaders at Federal and State levels had to dance, and they did dance.

I think we will hear a lot more of the new messiah of the Labor movement, and my own opinion is that he is a comparatively young man, with above-average education, who is dedicated to the left; and, what is worse, of course, he is just power hungry and he is only interested in the power he can get. Whether he uses this—

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. COURT: Whether he uses this through the industrial wing or through the political wing, or both, he could not care less.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Members are reminded that interjections are always disorderly. I have permitted interjections, but I am certainly not going to permit

members to make lengthy speeches by way of interjections. If members want to make interjections they must make them sharp and to the point.

Mr. COURT: I will conclude my remarks about the industrial unrest by repeating that the pattern is the same wherever one goes; the erosion of political power that the people elect is the same wherever one goes; and we have a person in Australia rising to this power, absolutely power hungry. One only has to read and hear what he says to know what his ultimate aims are.

I very quickly move on to the question of environmental protection and the general attitude throughout the world to pollution. It has to be accepted that wherever one goes this has become the "in thing" today. One has only to make a dramatic statement about pollution—and that word is used for what I believe is more correctly called "environmental protection"—and one really hits the headlines.

I would like to think that we are all conservationists who want to protect the environment. I cannot imagine anyone in this Chamber, or anyone in his right mind, not wanting to do so. What is rather frightening is the fact that some people have assumed a tremendous amount of power in this very spectacular campaign, and I really believe that the pendulum has swung too far one way because, in the final analysis, somebody—and usually the Government—has to make some decisions as to what things can be done and what things cannot be done. These things can best be decided in an atmosphere in which there is a degree of rational thinking.

In all the countries I have visited I have found more goodwill on the part of industrialists towards environmental control than on the part of the extreme campaigners towards the industrialists. The fact remains that in most countries prodigious sums are being spent by industry—quite apart from Governments—to overcome some of the errors of the past.

The present generation of industrialists is very conscious of the fact that mistakes were made in the past and that no-one cared very much. In the past, people were more concerned about getting a man a job, and no-one raised this question. It is unfortunate that it was not raised at the time, but the fact is that some things were done in places which were thought to be remote and of no great consequence. Today we find great metropolises in those places and the scars are there. The modern industrialist is anxious to show goodwill and do his part, not only to make sure that he prevents further damage to the environment but also able to correct, in his time, and to the best of his capacity the mistakes of the past.

In Australia we can have the best of two worlds. We can have the best of the development—be it rural, mining, or industrial—and at the same time we can protect the environment. This can only be done if there is goodwill both ways. When things settle down in Australia, so that we can see more clearly the pattern and organisation that will be needed to handle this situation, I see this as one matter in which Governments and Oppositions can join forces and be at all times vigilant to achieve the maximum in environmental protection in its true sense, at the same time making sure we do not adopt a policy of "stop everything," because, sooner or later, if we do stop everything we reach an economic crisis which reflects back on the community.

I was in New York at the time that city was experiencing "brown-outs." It is quite frightening to see the brown-outs" in a great city, when one thinks of the problems in operating emergency services in a huge city—bearing in mind that there are 15,000,000 people within a 25-mile radius of the centre of New York. There are sanitary services, water supplies, hospital services, and a thousand and one other things that are crucial in the life of a community. When one sees this power being cut back, one realises how frightening it can be.

Mr. Davies: What was the cause?

Mr. COURT: One of the causes was the failure of "Big Allis"—the famous 1,000-megawatt Allis Chalmers plant in New York. One of the real problems is that that city has not been able to keep up with its power generating capacity because of arguments with conservationists. As one man said to me, "We thought we had it licked because everyone was concerned about the stuff that is poured into the air." I am afraid people are more concerned about what is poured into the air or the river than about some of the other environmental factors, which in my opinion are equally important. They thought they had it licked by using nuclear power which has no air pollution problem. But then they ran into another group. A power station cannot be run without cooling water, and the prospect of putting the cooling water back into the river brought another crisis. And so the argument goes on.

It takes several years to catch up on a power generating programme. After a decision has been made to put in a plant, I think it is fair to say that about five years elapse before the plant has been ordered, built, put under load, and fully commissioned.

This situation has arisen because of an excess of power—political power or any other power—in the hands of a group which, with some justification, decided a

few years ago that the American conscience had to be stirred. It was stirred, and some cities have done a remarkable job. In other cities the authorities are acting in a very businesslike and scientific manner, at great cost to the community where the community services are involved, and at great cost to industry where industry is involved. It has now been accepted as one of the costs of the community and one of the costs of industry to build in the necessary safeguards in respect of environmental control.

I now reiterate something I said before, because I think it is important. I hope we will give more attention to this total question of environmental control, which goes far beyond just the pollution of the air and the pollution of watercourses, the sea, and rivers. This goes to the very way of life that we enjoy, because the things people do and the way people behave towards one another contribute just as much to the pollution of the environment as the things that are particularly related to industry.

I would also like to feel what we, as a Parliament, could set an example by publicly giving due credit to people who do take positive action to protect their environment. I have personally known of cases in Europe, Britain, and America, in which tremendous sums of money and tremendous effort—conscientious scientific effort—have been used to overcome a problem, but no word of thanks has been received from the community. If these people who are so obsessed with the question of environment were occasionally to express some appreciation to the people who do the right thing, I am sure they would achieve a better result.

Might I touch on the third point I wish to mention; that is, the question of the reduction of minerals into metals. Members present, almost without exception, have been to the north and to some of the other developmental areas, and have seen what is happening in what could broadly be termed a breakthrough period—a period in which we had to get things started, and to develop railways, ports, and the like. At that time it was made clear—and I think the Opposition from time to time has very rightly raised this query—that this was not to be the end in itself, but that it was only the beginning and we had to have something more than just the export of our natural resources.

It became very apparent that if we were ever going to get large volumes of metal production—such as alumina ingots, nickel metal, or iron in the form of iron or steel—the only way we could get into big tonnages was to trade internationally. The simple fact is that last year Australia produced 6,500,000 tons of steel and that is a good performance for a community of 12,500,000 people. By 1975 Japan

will produce 160,000,000 tons of steel and if we are to supply only 10 per cent. of that production we must produce 16,000,000 tons, or 2½ times the amount of steel we produced in Australia last year for our own needs.

So the story goes on right across the Northern Hemisphere. Two and a half years ago we commenced quiet negotiations with the industrialised countries of the Northern Hemisphere and we pointed out to them that there are good economic, social, political, and financial reasons why consideration should be given to the processing of minerals into metals in developed countries such as Australia, Africa, and Latin America. At that time—to be quite frank about it—there was a certain amount of cynicism, and we received a cold response. However, this has changed and now I am pleased to say that a very active and positive study is being made of the prospects in all of those fields by the industrialised countries of the Northern Hemisphere.

We now have the rather remarkable situation in which not only are these large concentrations of industries in the Northern Hemisphere, but also some of these Northern Hemisphere countries have now exhausted their raw materials because they have been using them for so long. So those countries are starting to become very conscious of the fact that Australia, the Africas, and the South Americas all have large reservoirs of raw materials. I think it is appropriate to gently remind those countries that we cannot forever and a day be the suppliers of raw materials as they come out of the ground. That message seems to have got across to them because there is now an active participation in studies on the part of those countries.

I believe that in the next decade we will be a source of supply to those countries. In fact, I will be surprised if within the next year, we do not hear an announcement of a major participation by countries of the Northern Hemisphere, in partnership with this State of ours, in the production of metal. Members might think it rather strange that I have been doing my best to develop a liaison with our friends in Latin American countries. Some people seem to think that those countries are competitors of ours, and in some ways they are. But I think with the international scene changing as it is today, we should not look upon them as competitors but rather as contemporaries and partners in a tremendous development.

I believe that if we are to achieve the maximum result from the reduction of our minerals into metals, it can only be done in a big way if other countries which have large volumes of raw materials do the same thing. The simple philosophy we are following is this: when the European

countries buy their iron ore, coking coal, or any other mineral, they buy it from many countries; for example, say, some from Canada, some from West Africa, some from South America, and of course now they are starting to buy some from here. Likewise, the Japanese might commit themselves to us as their principal suppliers up to, say, 40 per cent. of their needs; but beyond that they wish to diversify. They would not want to put all their eggs in one basket because it would not be good for us or for them. If we want to succeed in this philosophy and to supply them with, say, semi-finished steel—in the form of slabs or blooms—we must convince them that there are other sources of supply as well as this State.

If we do not convince them, they will buy in a timid fashion and we want them to buy in a bolder way. I might make so bold as to say that by 1985 Australia will be producing and exporting up to 50,000,000 tons a year of semi-finished steel, some from the Eastern States, and some from Western Australia.

One of the factors that is bringing about a most decisive change in thinking is, of course, the question of coking coal. I suppose it would be expecting too much of Mother Nature to wish for coking coal as well as the iron ore to be abundant in our own State. However, the fact is that Australia has coking coal of fairly good quality in large quantities in the Eastern States. Somehow or other we have to blend our iron ore with that coking coal. We cannot expect to produce all the steel in this State because we have the iron ore, and the Eastern States cannot expect to make all the steel because they have the coking coal. It is up to us to take a broad view and I think we have to think on more than just a national basis; we have to think internationally. Whether or not we like it, the multi-international corporation is going to be our salvation.

I would like to record why I believe this to be so. The type of metal production we will have to undertake—be it alumina ingots or semi-finished steel—will have to be on such a vast scale in order to be economic that no one country could buy all the production. So if we think in terms of a large steel complex capable of producing 7,000,000 tons, we have to bear in mind that no country could take that volume at any one time when it comes on stream. If there are three countries—say, North America, Europe, and Japan—making up a partnership with Australian interests for this type of production, two things would be done. First of all, a number of sources of capital would be found to take the strain off the individual participants and—what is more important from our point of view—a number of assured outlets for the product would be found; because the investment in such a project is so huge—it would be far bigger

than anything we have had in Australia—that the consortium could not afford to take a risk on the disposal of its product.

Therefore the group either has to have long-term sales contracts—as we did with our iron ore—or else it has to have a captive market through investment. For this reason I believe the time has come when we not only have to lift our thoughts from the State and think nationally on this matter—and I hope our friends in Queensland and New South Wales will do the same—but we also have to think internationally because the great outlets for this metal will not be in Australia where the needs are very small, but in other countries where there is a huge demand, and the population, the expertise, and the markets.

In recent days we have read that a senior Japanese member of Parliament visited this State and other States. He said quite frankly—and it is good to hear this—that Japan will seriously consider investment for the sake of making metals in Australia and other countries. We welcome this. I saw Mr. Fujio, who is a very knowledgeable person, an experienced politician, and a person of considerable ability with a sound knowledge of the Japanese economy, and I told him that whilst we agree with the idea of processing here and welcome it, we wanted to make sure that the process was not carried out here on a basis of merely transferring the pollution from Japan to Western Australia. In other words, we want the industry established here in a way to avoid pollution. We have suitable locations to do this compared with the problems of the highly industrialised countries where they have greater densities of population. We want to ensure that we have the best of two worlds—the investment in the reduction of minerals into metals, and also the protection of our environment.

One final point I want to make on this is the fact that in the past we have all thought of blast furnaces as being the best means of producing steel. It is true that the Japanese have brought about a revolution in blast furnace practices. In this field they have been great initiators and experimenters; they have learned to get the maximum efficiency from coking coal, through the use of furnace feed of different sizes, and so on. It appeared as though they had achieved the maximum efficiency and much better than could be enjoyed by direct reduction and the electric furnace steel making method.

At one time there did not seem to be any great future for these processes, but the technology of direct reduction and electric furnace steel methods has improved immensely because of the greater amount of research that has been undertaken in this field, and because of the situation in regard to coking coal. Not only is coking coal becoming more difficult to obtain under long

term contracts, but it is becoming dearer. The technological advances that have been made, coupled with the increased price of coal, is making it more and more possible for steel to be produced by the electric furnace method. This is most important to us, because our greatest prospect of making steel in the early stages will be by the direct reduction and electric furnace method.

I am sure we will be wise to take an ever-increasing interest in this method of steel production. The member for Collie has an interest in it because coking coal does not have to be used as a fuel in the direct reduction and electric furnace method.

Mr. Jones: You say then that Collie coal is not unsuitable for this process?

Mr. COURT: Collie coal is very suitable for metalising.

Mr. Jones: We agree on one point.

Mr. Jamieson: What about tidal power?

Mr. COURT: For electric furnaces producing steel there is not the same need for cheap power as there is in the production of aluminium. I am sure that the harnessing of tidal power in the north will not come within my time or that of the honourable member, but when it does it will make a tremendous contribution to production in the north. Up to this point of time the fuel used could be steaming coal, natural gas, or oil according to the process that is actually used. We could gain two ways if Collie coal is used; namely to reduce the mineral to metal, and for extra power generation to supply power to electric furnaces.

Some processes use steaming coal, some use furnace oil, some use a petroleum coke, and others use natural gas, but we are watching all of them. I will not go any further; I merely wished to speak on those three matters. With our current industrial development programme the greatest need is the diversification of industry, and this is by far the most difficult to achieve because, ironically, it is more difficult to get the medium and smaller sized industries operating than it is to get some of the giants going; but we will not give up. I will enlarge on this point on another occasion.

**MR. BICKERTON** (Pilbara) [9.24 p.m.]: I often wonder if there is any advantage to be gained in having a debate on the Address-in-Reply. I have said this on many occasions, but I now realise that there is one advantage; that is, to enable Ministers, at any rate, at the end of the debate when there is rarely a chance to reply, to put forward their own points of view rather than answer the points that are raised by members in this Chamber.

I think it would be well if the Ministers concerned would concentrate more on what was said by the members and take action

accordingly, rather than wait for what we call the "drop call" at the end of the debate. I was not concerned whether I spoke in this debate or not because, as I said before, and I repeat, from the point of view of my electorate, I seem to obtain more satisfaction by dealing with the various Government departments than I do by speaking in the Chamber and having little notice taken of my remarks by the Ministers concerned.

I must comment on some of the remarks made by the Minister for Industrial Development, particularly those which he made in regard to industrial unrest. No-one would deny that there is industrial unrest. We have a great deal of it. It was refreshing to hear the Minister say that there is industrial unrest throughout the free world. This goes to show what an advantage it is to travel, because in the past most Ministers in the Government have given us to understand that the trend of industrial unrest applies only in Western Australia; that there is something wrong with the workers in Western Australia; that they are led by communists and listen to agitators, and that this does not go on elsewhere.

So I repeat it is refreshing to hear the Minister say that industrial unrest is occurring throughout the free world. I am not as scared as many people are, but at the present time I cannot see that industrial unrest is any greater than it has ever been. It is certainly nowhere near as great as the great industrial revolution in Britain where those who were endeavouring to earn a living and raise a family reached the stage where they had to take direct action to exist. They did not want to lose any pay; they wanted brushes pushed up chimneys instead of using their children to clean out the soot. Those were some of the improved conditions they sought; they merely wanted a reasonable living, and eventually, by many different means, they attained it.

The members of this Chamber, and people outside it realise that the conditions workers enjoy today and their improved standard of living have been brought about by the struggles of those people to whom I have referred. Surely there will always be struggles, and it strikes me that it will always be the man at the bottom of the ladder who gets the blame; it has ever been thus.

Mr. Court: It is not the little man I am blaming; it is the man at the top of the union movement.

**MR. BICKERTON:** I will rephrase my remark and say that it will always be the union movement that is responsible for the trouble.

Mr. Court: It is not the union movement; it is those power hungry people at the top who are the cause of all the trouble.

Mr. Jamieson: Rubbish!

Mr. Court: The honourable member should know; he was made to dance.

Mr. Fletcher: One at a time!

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Mitchell): Order!

Mr. BICKERTON: I enjoy a little interlude. It is strange that when there is some industrial trouble it is always the union that is out on strike; forgetting for the moment who is responsible for bringing the men out on strike. In the opinion of some sections of the community, anyway, it is always the union that is to blame. I have never heard the argument put forward from members on the other side of the House as to the pity of such and such a strike because the management had mishandled it.

Mr. Court: Can you name one employer-lockout in 20 years?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr. Court: Can you name one lockout by an employer?

Mr. BICKERTON: I will remind the Minister for Industrial Development that I give him credit for his knowledge of accountancy and for his drive. I have done this on many occasions, and those remarks are not sarcastic, but genuine. However, I would say that the Minister, of all the members in this Chamber, would know the least about industrial relations apart from the connections he has with people who deal with them.

But in the Minister's own life—and again I give him credit for the business he has set up—I suppose that prior to his entering this Chamber it would be doubtful whether he controlled any number of men outside of those in his office; and I do not think there would be a great deal of industrial experience needed for that.

Mr. Court: At one stage I was regarded as a pretty good negotiator for my union.

Mr. Davies: Which union was that?

Mr. Court: The Musicians' Union.

Mr. BICKERTON: To have a fight or a strike of any sort generally involves two groups. We cannot have a fight or a strike when one group is involved; we must have two groups.

The Minister has said that we see very few lockouts. Why should we have lockouts? The result is obvious if we have a group providing the labour going to the person doing the employing and saying, "We think such and such should be fixed up," only to be told, "No, it will not be fixed up"; and this goes on month after month with further approaches being made and still no action by the person who is capable of granting the concessions. As I have said the result is obvious in such a case.

Mr. Bovell: There is an arbitration system.

Mr. BICKERTON: The men who want the better conditions are not gutless; they are not going to keep working away under the same conditions; sooner or later they will react and say, "We will not work for you."

If the union men are not strong this is no problem at all to the person doing the employing, because he will say, "If you do not do the work I will go and find someone else who will." When the union men get strong enough to be able to resist this dictatorial attitude the person doing the employing finds he cannot get men anywhere else and he then resorts to negotiations which, I submit, would have been the logical thing to do in the first place. But he does not have to lock people out; the employer is in the happy position of not having to do this.

Mr. Court: Have you ever tried negotiating with Marks or Paddy Troy?

Mr. BICKERTON: I suppose those gentlemen have negotiated union deals over the years, and while I have not been in a position of having to negotiate with them I have been in the position where I managed a coalmine and it was necessary to negotiate with the people concerned. Provided the arguments are reasonable, negotiations are carried out and a decision is arrived at.

But it is quite wrong for us to get the idea that wherever there is trouble the union is to blame. Let me quote an example of a large iron ore company in the north-west, the employees of which asked for some toilets to be provided on the site. I thought their reasons were quite good. They did not want to go cavorting around the spinifex because of the tourist buses that frequented the area. This argument went on for two and a half months. I am sure that if I were given a hammer and a couple of nails I could have built a toilet myself.

This sort of thing causes bad industrial relationships. Eventually, however, I was able to get in touch with one of the officials and to point out how ridiculous the whole thing was. Apparently he knew nothing about it. I do not know what happened to the industrial officer; he was certainly not there for very long. As I have said, this is the sort of thing that causes industrial trouble.

If, however, there happened to be a strike over that matter who would have been to blame? No-one would have known the circumstances and the facts would not have been considered at all. It would have been said that the men were overpaid and that they did not do enough work; that Marks had been there; that Latter had been there, or that somebody else had been there and caused the trouble.

No consideration would have been given



—not for one minute—to the fact that a case existed in respect of the men concerned. So whenever one talks about industrial unrest—and it certainly does exist—sooner or later we must be broadminded enough to look at both sides of the story and take all the facts into consideration.

We are all aware of the fact that affluence is, of course, the cause of such unrest, but affluence does not go one way. If the working man is affluent do not tell me the boss is not. Where working conditions and travelling conditions are improved for the worker surely they must also be improved for the employer. If the worker once went to work on a bicycle and the boss drove up in a T-model Ford, it is probable we will now find that if the worker drives up in a Holden the boss will no doubt be thinking in terms of a Mercedes Benz, or something similar.

As the working man becomes less dependent he must be in a position where he demands a little more; not perhaps for himself, but for his family and his dependants. He demands a little more to educate his children, and we all know what that means.

So we should not be carried away too much by the people who forever want to lay the blame at the door of the fellow who happens to be a member of a union. It is true there are those who strike but if they had decent bosses they would not have to do that. The Minister referred to power-hungry people, and he made reference to Mr. Hawke, President of the A.C.T.U. I feel sure the Minister will agree with me when I say that many newspapers and prominent people in the community have labelled the Minister himself as one of the most power-hungry individuals in this State, if not in the Commonwealth.

Opposition Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. BICKERTON: I do not exactly hold that against the Minister, because I have always admired a fellow who is a little power-hungry. It shows initiative; it shows that he wants to get somewhere, and provided he is genuine in his endeavours—as I believe Mr. Hawke is; the Minister can answer for himself—there is nothing wrong with that.

Mr. Court: Is he genuine in his endeavour to build up or break down?

Mr. BICKERTON: The position he holds is one which requires a most efficient gentleman at the helm and if that gentleman has no ambition for power whatever I doubt whether he should be there. I doubt whether anyone who knows Mr. Hawke, and the Minister for Industrial Development, would say that one was more power-hungry than the other.

Mr. Court: Hawke will not achieve the same lasting benefits for the worker as his predecessor did.

Mr. BICKERTON: It is possible the Minister's successor would not achieve for the Government what he has achieved; perhaps he may not be as power-hungry as the Minister.

It seems to me to be ironical that the Minister should refer to someone as being power-hungry, and I am not using the term in the derogatory sense used by the Minister.

Mention has been made of heads of unions, of agitators, and of those sorts of people, but has anyone thought of what must go on behind the scenes in big business? Would not we have our Markesses, our Latters, our Hawkes, and whoever else the Minister might care to mention?

I have had no great experience of big business but I have no doubt that behind locked doors there would be the fellow who might be supplying cement, or something of that nature, who is in a position to advise those who were retailing the commodity on what they should sell it for, when they should sell it, or to whom they should sell it, and what might be made out of it.

The Minister is not so naive that he does not know this goes on. There must be heads of organisations and groups. We find heads among the unions; but if we want to look for real power—and much of it without glory—we will find it in the organisations that control the finance, the products, and the production of the world.

Mr. Court: Let us stick to industrial matters for the moment. Can you tell me about any industrial contract, entered into by an employer in this State in the last five to seven years, that has been dishonoured by the employer?

Mr. BICKERTON: What does the Minister mean by industrial contract?

Mr. Court: When an arrangement has been arrived at for a set of industrial conditions. I find such arrangements have been repudiated by the other side.

Mr. BICKERTON: The Minister draws something out of the air, but can he tell me one that has been broken? It is possible to create industrial strife by bending an agreement as far as it is possible to bend it; and it will ever be thus. I can refer to a simple example that could spark off an industrial strike. This would not be a case of breaking an industrial agreement with a union.

I can give the Minister another example of a coalmine in New South Wales who had a certain type of coal that was suitable for the manufacture of a certain type of gas. The name of it was excelsior. The owner of this mine had a horse which had body odour; and that is not uncommon. It is a type of dermatitis, and you, Mr. Acting Speaker (Mr. Mitchell), would

know because you have worked among horses. It is very unpleasant for people to work with a horse which has that complaint.

The members of the union refused to work with this horse at the pit, because with the circulation of the air the odour of the animal went right through the mine. When the management reached the stage where it had attained its production for the period it would send the horse back into the pit again. The headline in *The Sydney Morning Herald*—and I have it to this day—was “Miners Refuse to Work Because Horse Has B.O.” Everyone thought it was funny, but it was not funny at all. This was just another method to create industrial unrest; but the average person could not be convinced of that. He would say it was the fault of the miners.

Management does not have to break industrial agreements to cause strikes, and the Minister well knows that. He has spoken to a sufficient number of business people to know that there are more ways of killing a cat than by choking it with butter, as the saying goes. Industrial unrest will continue until such time as both sides get together and do something about the matter. Up to the present they have not been doing that.

It is strange that when a huge organisation undertakes a project it will contact the party which supplies the timber, the party which supplies the bricks, the party which supplies the earth-moving machinery, the party which supplies the transport, and the rest; and this organisation will conduct a large conference of the parties involved. Together they will work out the contracts and the rest of the details of the project. However, one of the ingredients in any successful project—and in my view it is the most important ingredient—is an approach to the labour force, but such an approach is never, or rarely, made. The organisation generally says it will pick up the labour as it goes along. Some overseas companies have worker-representation on the management.

Mr. Court: Some people have tried to arrive at an amicable basis.

Mr. BICKERTON: Some have tried and failed; and others have tried and succeeded. The Minister is no doubt aware that the Lincoln Mining Company has on its board of directors representation from the workers and the management. The Minister should have discovered this when he was overseas recently: that more and more of the large American companies are reaching the stage where they realise the value of a contented labour force, and of a labour force that gains its fair share of the profitability of the project which is undertaken. If only one or two people profit from an undertaking, it is all right as far as they are concerned. But most of us would ask: How much

value is that to the country as a whole? When a decision is made to exploit some raw material or some natural resource, for it to be of advantage to the State the State as a whole must benefit. If it is not possible for the whole State to benefit, then at least three-quarters of the State should benefit from it—not just some small section.

It is only natural for someone who is working long hours in a project to feel that instead of all the great wealth from it going out of the country, some of it should be made available to provide something better for his family. Although this worker might be earning a fairly large pay packet, it is not so very great when we take into consideration that much of it is earned basically in overtime; and what he earns is not a great deal more than what he would earn in Perth if he worked the same amount of overtime. There is nothing wrong with a worker wanting something better for his family; but as soon as he mentions it openly he is accused of being an agitator, a communist, or something else.

I think this is the basic cause of much of the industrial unrest today; it is that individuals and groups are not understood by those who are in management. If we went through some of the biggest firms in this State I doubt whether we would find one general manager with any sort of qualification that would enable him to class himself as an expert in the management of personnel. I am sure that no general manager could say that he understood the individual's outlook. He could say that he was qualified to build bridges and that type of thing. How many firms are there which concentrate on engaging a person who is qualified to handle other men and to get the maximum out of them, without holding over their heads some form of threat which could put them out of employment? This has been the policy of management since the very beginning. That is the only reason why management has been able to maintain the work force; particularly has this been so in recent years. There has been the threat that if the worker did not do as he was told he would be out of a job.

Mr. Court: That does not apply today. There has been full employment in this State in the last five years, but now we are experiencing the worst industrial trouble ever.

Mr. BICKERTON: Now is the time for us to look into this matter. We should say that those who are the employers should take the same amount of responsibility as the employees for any industrial troubles that arise.

Let us take into consideration the basic wage or the basic rate of pay. On what is this fixed? It is fixed on the costs

operating at the time. When the basic rate is increased we find that invariably prices increase. The very reason for the workers to apply for an increase in the basic rate is the increase in costs; and the purpose of the increase in wages is to maintain the *status quo*. However, in practice that does not apply. What happens to the workers after they have been left behind for a number of months or years as a result of rising costs, and are then granted an increase in the basic rate? It seems that any increase in the basic rate is the occasion for those who supply and sell goods to boost the prices. I ask: Who is told always that he is responsible for putting up prices? The one who is told this is the person who puts up a case for increased wages in order to maintain the *status quo*.

Mr. Lapham: You are forgetting the Federal Treasurer.

Mr. BICKERTON: That fellow is a friend of mine! He comes into it also. It is unfortunate that this blame must always be placed on the union organisations. Nobody seems to have thought of what goes on inside management; and here I am not discussing so much the person who is out in the field or even the State manager. I am discussing the person who is much higher up. We do not know whether or not there are any communists among those higher up, because they do not come out and say they are communists.

As against that, whenever a case is put up by a union and the management finds itself up against the wall, the management always finds the easy way out by misleading the public by saying "This is caused by a lot of agitators."

Well, I suppose it will be with us for a long time. However, I would have thought that the Minister, after his trip overseas where he saw the operations of so many of these big companies, could come back and tell us how to overcome this industrial unrest and what the Employers Federation was doing towards overcoming it. What sort of avenues are the employers opening up with regard to the methods of training they are using for the managerial side? What assistance is given to the work force of the country to train suitable people to look after the employees' affairs, as well as those of the management? I thought that at some time or other the managers might consider having on their boards of directors representatives of those who supply that important ingredient; that is, labour.

I would like to think that industrial unrest would cease tomorrow, but personally I cannot see it, while man is as selfish as he is now. I think we are getting there, but we are getting there very slowly. One of the things which will probably help most in this case is a little word called "tolerance"; and it is hard to obtain

from the employer side these days. The employers will concentrate too much on placing a blame. Sometimes I think inefficiency in managers is to blame for much of the trouble.

None of us likes to say, "I was at fault." If a manager finds himself in a corner when he reports to his superiors, he is inclined to say, "The difficulty here is that there are too many communists and too many agitators."

Mr. Bateman: The easy way out.

Mr. BICKERTON: It is an easy way, but it is not a good way, and many of those managers who are so quick to use this expression seem to overlook the fact that their own early experience which enabled them to rise to their present standard of living was brought about, to a large extent, by the efforts of the union.

If the working man in Great Britain 300 or 400 years ago, had been content to put up with his conditions, managers these days would not have achieved their present level of living. It was the worker's desire to obtain something better which has enabled the employers today to have their Wednesday golf and their Mercedes Benz. I would not deny them either of these luxuries. I would have them both myself possibly if I had a chance. However, the desire of the working man has enabled the employers to achieve this standard of living.

The employers need to ask what is wrong with their management and occasionally forget about this bogey it is so easy to put forward from time to time, which would be so hard to prove to anyone but their own particular boards of directors.

The second point referred to by the Minister dealt with pollution. I agree with many of his remarks on this matter and I am not going into the subject of pollution, because it has already been dealt with at length in this Chamber. It is something we must watch and it is a great danger to us.

However, referring back to my other remarks, the people are up in arms about pollution. Now, because this involves a great number of people who probably have a great voting power, I have not heard anyone say yet that this fight against pollution is led by communists and agitators. Why? If members opposite want to blame all industrial unrest on communists and agitators, why not blame them for this upheaval over pollution, or for the agitation concerning land prices and that sort of thing? But no. That type of talk is kept for select times.

Mr. Court: These agitators have a particular function. It is their life and their dedicated role. They are not interested in things which would do the community a bit of good.

**Mr. BICKERTON:** Would the Minister say they were men of some brains?

**Mr. Court:** Some are very able men and very hard working; but unfortunately they are dedicated to the wrong cause.

**Mr. BICKERTON:** Would not some of those people who have all the brains and are so dedicated be on the management side?

**Mr. Court:** They are not communists. They do not want to break everyone down.

**Mr. BICKERTON:** I think the only communists the Minister knows are those who say, "I am a communist." The Minister should do a study of those who do not say it but who are, nevertheless, communists. He might get a bit of a shock.

**Mr. Court:** They are the ones we worry about.

**Mr. BICKERTON:** I say they could be handling much of the finance which controls our production.

**Mr. Court:** Like fun!

**Mr. BICKERTON:** If they are not, they certainly have the same ideals as the people to whom we refer in many instances as communists.

**Mr. Court:** It would be interesting to see a communist banker walking down the street.

**Mr. BICKERTON:** One would not be found under my bed, that is for sure!

Steel production in the north was the other point mentioned by the Minister, and I was very interested to hear his comments on this. I do hope we get to the stage where we have some form of secondary production because it would be great for the area. However, before we go into the matter, I believe there is much room for a great deal of research on the industrial side generally, and into the co-operation between management and unions, to the mutual satisfaction of both sides.

I disregard these one or two men, because I think the average Australian person is fair minded and sensible enough, if it is really made known to him that he is being led by the nose, to wake up to the fact. I have great faith in the Australian to do this. However, as for branding everyone who is endeavouring to do something for his organisation as an agitator, I would not like to be in that at all.

My time is running out, and as I know that it is hoped to conclude this debate tonight, I will say no more for the present.

**MR. LEWIS (Moore—Minister for Education) [9.57 p.m.]:** I wish very briefly to reply to some of the comments made by some members on matters which directly or indirectly concern my portfolio.

I refer first to the remarks of the member for Maylands who commented on school sites. I could not detect whether he was complaining about the price or lack of planning; but he really touched on both these factors. He mentioned, in particular, the cost of the Morley site. For the benefit of the honourable member and other members I have obtained some information regarding this particular site.

I am told that three-fifths of the 20-acre site was purchased for \$163,835. An offer of \$109,450 for the balance was rejected by the owner, and resumption action is being taken. Whether this will result in a lower price remains to be seen.

With regard to the planning, the honourable member was rather critical of the Government for its lack of planning and for not acquiring sites. He believed that surely the Government must have known about the required sites. I want to tell the member for Maylands that since this Government came into office some 197 school sites have been acquired. Actually, the figure given me was 260, but I have studied these very closely and omitted those mentioned more than once. These could include extensions to existing sites; that is, extensions made so many years after the schools were established. Very frequently we find a site is too small and therefore we must acquire some houses or other building. This is regarded as a second site, but I refer to such land as the one site.

I have finally reduced in this manner the number to 197; but the total cost involved is \$6,160,712. This involves the period since the Government came into office. In the first year 11 sites were acquired. One might well say that the present Government would have been justified in criticising the previous Government because it was found necessary in 1960 to acquire 11 sites.

I would not go that far; I would say that all Governments have had occasion to acquire school sites. I daresay we will continue, for some years yet, to acquire sites in various parts of the State. In the next year 10 sites were acquired, and in the following year 18 sites. In 1962-63 the number was 15, and so on. Over the years there has been occasion to acquire sites, but not all of the sites have been developed.

**Mr. Toms:** The sites have been acquired at ever-increasing prices, unfortunately.

**Mr. LEWIS:** The prices are not getting less. The price of land is going up and, naturally, the cost becomes greater. I do not want to be political, but disregarding the sites which have been built on, or which are about to be built on because plans have already been made for building within the next year or two, there are 34 sites out of 197 for which we have no

plans for development at this stage. Those 34 sites have been acquired for use some years ahead.

Questions have been asked of the Government—and criticism levelled at it—regarding the acquisition of this particular site. I would remind the House that the pattern of school attendances is vastly different from what it used to be because a greater number of youngsters remain in high schools these days. We plan a high school at site A, and another high school some distance away at site B. The sites are worked out on the expected number of students in the area. We now find with the vast increase in the number of secondary students that the schools at site A and site B become overcrowded and it is necessary to acquire a site between the two schools which have already been constructed. However, in the meantime the proposed new site has become expensive. The site has to be acquired of necessity and a fairly high price paid for it. I think that deals broadly with the acquisition of sites.

I would also like to say that the acquiring of sites is a matter of fairly fine judgment, especially when we are lacking sufficient loan funds to build all the classrooms we require, and especially when we need all the other capital expenditure which is required for education. It is a matter of pretty fine judgment whether we put the capital into acquiring sites now to be used in 10 years' time, or whether we use the money to build classrooms where there is a very urgent need.

It is only a matter of arithmetic to appreciate that a capital sum spent now, with the interest and sinking fund added to it, could become double the amount of money in 10 years' time. So, to pay \$X now would be relatively the same as paying twice the amount in 10 years' time. It is a question of assessing just how soon we will need a particular site. It could be 10 years, or longer, and we have to assess whether we should pay a certain amount of money now or whether we should put that money into classrooms, which are more urgently needed. As I have said, some judgment is required to know what is the right thing to do, and sometimes judgment can prove to be a little astray.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke about the number of classrooms built, and he referred to the Governor's Speech. The part he referred to reads as follows:—

Three hundred and twenty-two classrooms were constructed and the number is expected to be exceeded in 1971.

The Leader of the Opposition said it could be assumed, from that statement, that 322 were constructed in 1970. I do not know how he could assume that, because we are still only in September, 1970, with another four months to go.

Mr. Tonkin: The Minister knows I was referring to the financial year.

Mr. LEWIS: Well, we did not state in the Governor's Speech that it was a financial year.

Mr. Tonkin: Which year did it refer to?

Mr. LEWIS: The Governor's Speech said that 322 classrooms were constructed, and the number was expected to be exceeded in 1971. I appreciate the Leader of the Opposition's assumption that it was a financial year, but I interjected, when the Leader of the Opposition was speaking, that perhaps he was getting the calendar year mixed with the financial year.

In fact, we built 322 classrooms in the calendar year of 1969. Perhaps we could have made it clearer in the Governor's Speech. The answers given to the question relating to the number of classrooms built in particular financial years were correct, so there is no argument. The Governor's Speech referred to a calendar year and not to a financial year. I merely mention this matter to put the record straight and to show that the information given, not only in the Governor's Speech but in reply to questions, was absolutely correct.

The member for Mt. Marshall expressed his concern—and I am sure this concerns many members—that some parents, particularly those who live in the country where the economic situation has deteriorated over the last couple of years, have found it increasingly difficult to pay the cost of boarding their children. This has occurred even to the point of having to withdraw the children from the boarding schools, or from the hostels. I can assure the honourable member—and all members, because I know most members are concerned with this problem—that this matter is receiving very close attention from the department to see if we can find some way of alleviating the financial burden on those parents. At the same time we are endeavouring to build up the standard of education which is available at the country schools. I do not mean the teaching standards; I mean that the choice of subjects, particularly in the senior country high schools, should be as wide as it is in the metropolitan high schools.

The member for Merredin-Yilgarn referred to the Merredin Senior High School and said it was of a fairly high academic standard. I can confirm those remarks because I saw some recent figures which showed that the pass rate at the Merredin Senior High School was the third highest in the State. I think that indicates the country students do not lack anything in academic ability. If we can get schools of the size we desire, with a choice of courses equal to the larger schools anywhere else, then the children will respond and receive the benefit of those wider courses.

Just whether we can achieve the two-fold objective of assisting the parents and building up the country schools by merely raising boarding allowances, or in some other way, is a matter for very close examination at present.

I also appreciate the situation where we have junior high schools scattered over fairly wide areas, and at fairly long distances from senior high schools. I also appreciate that many country parents are satisfied with the first three years of secondary education which their children receive.

Therefore, we are looking to the possibility of upgrading the standard of education which is given in a country junior high school, even in the first three years. Perhaps this might have to take the form of travelling science rooms under the direction of an expert science teacher. This is one possible facility. However, no decisions have been arrived at, but I merely mention this to give an indication of the matters which the department is closely examining at the present time.

I appreciate the remarks made by the member for Merredin-Yilgarn on a senior high school. This matter will be examined to see if we can do something about the accommodation at the school and at the hostel. The hostel at Merredin was the first country high school hostel established by the hostel authority. It has since been extended, but apparently it needs some further extension or duplication.

The member for Albany mentioned the building in Albany which the department was obliged to hire in order to give instruction in welding and the motor trades. The honourable member was a little unfair when he said that the cost of the two demountables was being wasted because they would be used only for a couple of years. Of course, demountables are not wasted. At the worst, all that is wasted is the cost of erecting a demountable and removing it when it is no longer required for the purpose. When this occurs, it is shifted to some other place where it is needed.

I admit that a fairly high rental is being paid. I think the honourable member mentioned a figure of \$45 a week. One could say, "Rather than spend \$45 a week and renovate the building, we will defer instruction until the technical school is built in two years' time."

The honourable member did not suggest this, and I am not suggesting it either, because I feel that we have a responsibility to provide these courses to students in Albany as quickly as possible, even if we have to use a makeshift building until such time as the technical school is finished. However, the demountables would not be suitable for this purpose. I

have made some inquiries on this point and I am informed they would be entirely unsuitable for the purpose required.

Mr. McIver: Did the Minister say that the hostel at Merredin was the first to be constructed?

Mr. LEWIS: Yes, that is so. It was the first constructed by the Country High School Hostels Authority and I believe it was opened in 1962.

I shall conclude my remarks with those few comments, because the hour is getting late. I repeat that I wanted to make them to set the record straight on some misunderstandings which have arisen on matters connected with my portfolio.

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

*House adjourned at 10.14 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 2nd September, 1970

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

### QUESTIONS (31): ON NOTICE BRIDGE

1.

#### *Bridgetown-Boyup Brook Road*

Mr. KITNEY, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) What was the total cost of renewing the bridge and approaches thereto at the junction of the Bridgetown-Boyup Brook Road, one mile east of Donnybrook?
- (2) Is his department satisfied that this has now satisfactorily overcome what has always been considered a dangerous section of these roads?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) \$26,959 including the channellisation of the intersection.
- (2) Yes.

2.

### EDUCATION

#### *Preschool Training*

Mr. FLETCHER, to the Treasurer:

- (1) What formula is used as a basis for determining Government grants to the Kindergarten Association of W.A. (Inc.)?
- (2) Does cost of—
  - (a) maintenance to property and equipment; or
  - (b) increase in staff wage or salary rates,
 influence allocation?