

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

Third Session of the Twenty-fifth Parliament

Parliament was prorogued on the 24th May, 1967, to the 27th July, 1967, when it met for the despatch of business.

Parliament was opened by His Excellency the Governor (Major-General Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.)

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 27th July, 1967

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Legislative Council met at 3 p.m.

The PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) took the Chair.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Parliaments (Mr. J. B. Roberts) read the Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor (Major-General Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.) summoning the third session of the Twenty-fifth Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Delivery

His Excellency the Governor (Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.) entered the Council Chamber at 3.4 p.m.; and, the members of the Legislative Assembly having also attended in the Chamber, obediently to summons, His Excellency was pleased to deliver the following speech:—

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

It is with pleasure that I open the third session of the Twenty-fifth Parliament of Western Australia.

With profound regret I refer first to the untimely death of Mr. G. M. Cornell, M.L.A., who rendered valuable service to

Parliament and also as a Minister of the Crown.

The past year has witnessed a continued steady advance in most fields for Western Australia, highlighted by further major mineral development agreements and the opening of the State's first commercial oilfield.

Population still increases at a faster rate than that of any other State and is now in excess of 841,000. There is every indication that the million mark will be passed early in the 1970's.

This is undoubtedly being assisted by the Government's immigration policy, which last year succeeded in doubling the assisted passage migrant intake from approximately 7 per cent. of the Australian total to more than 14 per cent.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Transactions on the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the financial year just ended resulted in a small deficit of \$27,000.

This was an improvement of \$591,000 on the estimated deficit for 1966-67 of \$618,000.

This improvement was due to an increase in the Financial Assistance Grant paid to the State by the Commonwealth Government as the result of a variation in the formula used to determine payments to the States.

Expenditure from the General Loan Fund on capital works amounted to \$55,481,349 in 1966-67, which exceeded the previous year's spending by \$2,555,024.

Mr. President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

THE LAND

Development

The keen demand for Crown land has continued during the past year, when more than 4,000 applications were received for more than 1,000,000 acres released for selection.

Cereals

Another excellent season gave Western Australia a record 104,000,000 bushel wheat crop from 6.6 million acres. Over 7,000,000 acres of wheat have been planted this year.

Wool and Sheep

A record 28.2 million sheep shorn has lifted the State's wool production to at least 261,000,000 pounds of greasy wool, 25,000,000 pounds more than the previous year's production.

Fruit

An early forecast of a record apple crop has been reduced because of weather conditions and production will now be approximately 2,400,000 bushels.

Pastoral Areas

Excellent rains throughout the pastoral regions have produced a good season.

On the Ord catchment the rains aided regeneration work and provided the best season since the Department of Agriculture began its programme there in 1960.

Ord Project

The 31 farms on the Ord River are all in production this year. Acreage has risen 50 per cent. to over 12,200 and yields are again expected to increase substantially. Returns to farmers should reach \$2,500,000.

MINERALS

Value

Western Australia's mineral production for the 1966 calendar year rose by \$23,000,000 above the previous year to a record \$77,000,000.

Oil

Production of oil began this year with the official opening of the Barrow Island field on the 23rd April. Further oil flows from Pascoe No. 1 well, six miles south of Barrow Island, are also encouraging.

Nickel

The Kambalda Nickel Mine came into production this year and marks another important mineral development in the State.

Gold

The goldmining industry is in a difficult position with rising production costs against the static price of gold. The Government is assisting the industry by giving technical advice and by again supporting approaches to the Commonwealth Government for increased assistance through a gold subsidy.

General

Iron ore has now superseded gold as the major item of production, accounting for \$22,000,000 of the total, against \$19,765,000 for gold.

Mineral earnings, particularly from iron ore, bauxite, nickel, tin, and beach sands, are expected to substantially increase in 1967.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The manufacturing sector had another record year during 1965-66 with a net production valued at \$289,230,000, an increase of 11 per cent. over the previous year. A new record is expected in the current year.

Iron Ore

Australia's biggest iron ore development project, involving an initial investment of \$200,000,000, was launched in April this year by the Mount Newman Iron Ore Company Limited.

Local firms will enjoy a substantial participation in the constructional phase of this project and several large contracts have already been confirmed.

The pellet plant under construction by Hamersley Iron Proprietary Limited at Dampier is scheduled for completion next December, with exports commencing in the first half of next year.

Alumina

To maintain supplies of bauxite for the increased capacity of the Western Aluminium No Liability Refinery at Kwinana, it has been found necessary to plan for a further crushing plant at the Darling Range deposits and for an extension of the railway to haul these new tonnages to the refinery.

Salt

Despite set-backs due to heavy rains at the beginning of the last cyclone season, the Leslie Salt Company expects to commence exports from its Port Hedland project in 1969, three years ahead of its obligations under the agreement with the Government.

At Useless Loop, Shark Bay Salt Proprietary Limited began shipments this month towards the 1,600,000 tons of salt it will supply to Japan over a seven years period under its agreement with the Government.

General

The Government has continued to emphasise the importance of selling overseas and proposes to send a trade delegation comprising representatives of industry and Government officers to Indonesia in September to explore marketing opportunities for Western Australian goods.

NORTH WEST

Progress and development in the North of the State continues to attract growing attention throughout Australia and overseas.

Population in the area rose by nearly 10,000, or 74 per cent., between the census of 1961 and that of 1966 and continues to rise steadily.

Port Hedland

Plans to develop Port Hedland into an industrial centre of possibly 12,000 people by 1980 were announced during the year.

United States Navy Radio Communications Base

The United States Navy radio communications base at North West Cape, together with its civil support town, Exmouth, will be opened in September.

FISHERIES

The quantity of fish produced in 1966 was 35,500,000 pounds compared with 30,200,000 pounds the previous year. Crayfish and prawn earnings exceeded \$14,500,000.

FORESTS

Timber production continues at a high level, stimulated by the demands of Northern development. Pine plantings for future softwood needs are being doubled.

TOURIST INDUSTRY

The number of tourists attracted to Western Australia continues to grow annually and there is increasing interest in the North-West as a winter holiday area. Substantial sums have been invested in hotels and motels in this region but there is still an acute accommodation shortage during the peak tourist period.

Hotel Grading

The Licensing Court is preparing to grade hotels according to determined standards.

Air Links

Early this year a fifth international airline began operating through Perth.

DEVELOPMENTAL WORKS AND SERVICES

Power

Consumer demand for electricity in Western Australia is increasing rapidly. During the year 8,000 new consumers have been connected, and to meet the demand an extensive programme of power station construction is being undertaken.

Roads

The sum of \$32,500,000 is being allocated by the Main Roads Department this year for upgrading and extending the State's road system.

Nearly one-quarter of this amount is being spent on continuing the Government's road improvement programme for Northern development, including the Kimberley beef road scheme.

Railways

The Railway system has again set a new record for the volume of business handled.

The standard gauge line from Merredin to Leighton was used for the first time for revenue earning purposes on 11th November, 1966, when haulage of the new season's grain commenced.

On 1st May, 1967, the section between Merredin and Koolyanobbing was opened for the haulage of iron ore to Kwinana.

State Ships

The Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission now operates nine vessels, having found it necessary to charter S.S. "Yarrunga". Northbound cargoes continue to increase and to meet this demand the Commission proposes to lengthen M.V. "Dongara".

Transport

Following the legislation passed last session, a Director-General of Transport has been appointed and is now reviewing the whole transport pattern of the State.

Homes

During the year 1965-66 a total of 1,750 homes was completed by the State Housing Commission and a further 900 homes were under construction at the end of that period.

In the interest of conserving land and services, the Commission is considering the alternative of building medium density housing schemes, both in the metropolitan area and in major country centres.

Water and Sewerage

Development of the Metropolitan Water Supply System is being maintained to meet the increasing demands of domestic consumers and industry.

Preparation for the fluoridation of metropolitan water supplies is proceeding.

Further main drainage is planned.

The waters of the Dandalup rivers have been reserved for the Metropolitan Water Supply and preliminary work for the construction of dams on the rivers has begun.

Ports

The steady growth of agriculture, mining and industry throughout the State produces a continuing demand for further port improvements. In addition to work at Geraldton, Bunbury and Esperance, and on the Kimberley outlets, a contract has been entered into for the construction of a land-backed berth at Port Hedland.

At Fremantle, major developmental work now in progress includes the construction of a new berth specially designed for containerised cargoes; a new bulk cargo jetty in the Outer Harbour and the dredging of the Calista Channel leading to the alumina refinery jetty.

Education

Enrolments at Government primary and secondary schools now exceed 154,000 and next year a further increase of 4,500 is expected.

During the past year a record number of 375 classrooms was erected in Government schools throughout the State.

In 1968 a new high school at Rossmoyne will be in operation.

The further development of the Institute of Technology and other technical activities will be vigorously pursued.

A committee has been set up to inquire into and report on the organisation, syllabi and examination system for secondary education.

Hospitals

New hospitals were opened at Geraldton, Bentley and Kununurra. Work has begun on a hospital for Exmouth and tenders will shortly be called for a new hospital at Wyndham and, towards the end of the year, for one at Northam.

GENERAL

Local Government

A number of amendments will be made to the Local Government Act of 1960. The Local Government Assessment Committee appointed last year to inquire into various aspects of local government is expected to present a report on its findings in the near future.

Town Planning

A reappraisal of the Metropolitan Regional Plan is under way.

Child Welfare

Amending legislation will be introduced to facilitate the care and treatment of neglected and delinquent children and in particular to arrange for the care of wards living in other States.

A new reception facility for deprived children as well as a secure reformatory for the rehabilitation of the most difficult delinquent girls will shortly be built.

Gaols

More emphasis is being placed on rehabilitation and training within our prison system. A new regional prison at Albany was opened last year and planning is proceeding for the establishment of similar prisons at other centres. A property has been acquired at Middle Swan for a Women's Rehabilitation Centre to which female inmates of the Fremantle Prison are expected to be transferred during the coming year.

Police

During the past year the strength of the Police Force was increased by 100 men.

Traffic

The Government views the continuing road toll with concern and keeps the subject under constant review.

Civil Defence

The State Civil Defence and Emergency Service has been further consolidated and strengthened. Regional conferences have been held in many country centres.

Native Welfare

A hostel is being built at Port Hedland to enable older native children from surrounding districts to attend the secondary school. The programme designed to improve housing standards of native families throughout the State is being continued.

Apprenticeships

The Western Australian Apprenticeship Advisory Council has pursued its policy of shortened apprenticeships. Over 700 existing apprenticeship agreements have been altered.

Public Service

A new system of Public Service salary fixation and review has been established in accordance with legislation passed by Parliament last year. Appointments have been made to the positions of Public Service Arbitrator and Deputy Public Service Commissioner. Recruitment to the Service is being maintained at a satisfactory level.

Legislation

Legislation to be placed before you, other than that already mentioned, will include:

The Iron Ore (Nimigarra) Agreement Bill.

The Evaporites (Lake MacLeod) Agreement Bill.

It will also include Bills to amend:

The Dentists Act.

The Fauna Protection Act.

The Inspection of Machinery Act.

The Justices Act.

The Legal Practitioners Act.

The Licensing Act.

The Married Persons and Children (Summary Relief) Act.

The Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act.

The Offenders Probation and Parole Act.

The Prevention of Pollution of Waters by Oil Act.

I now declare this Session of Parliament open and trust that Providence may bless your labours.

His Excellency and the members of the Legislative Assembly then withdrew from the Chamber, and the President resumed the Chair.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Leave to Introduce

THE HON. A. F. GRIFFITH (North Metropolitan—Minister for Justice) [3.36 p.m.]: In order to assert and maintain the undoubted rights and privileges of this House to initiate legislation, I move, without notice—

That leave be given to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the Legal Practitioners Act, 1893-1966.

Question put and passed; leave granted.

Introduction and First Reading

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

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Distribution of Copies

THE PRESIDENT (The Hon. L. C. Diver) [3.38 p.m.]: I have to announce that for the sake of accuracy I have obtained copies of His Excellency's Speech which will now be distributed to members.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIRST DAY

Motion

THE HON. F. D. WILLMOTT (South-West) [3.39 p.m.]: I move—

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

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

Mr. President, during the time I was listening to His Excellency's Speech I could not help feeling that we were listening to a rather exciting and perhaps highly coloured fairy tale. Nevertheless, what we listened to was, indeed, no fairy tale. It was a recital of a simple statement of pure fact.

Only some six or seven years ago we heard a lot said in this State about our tremendous potential wealth. Today, a great deal of that potential wealth has been converted into real wealth. I think that was illustrated in the Speech delivered by His Excellency when he mentioned the increase of some \$23,000,000 in our mineral production.

Mention was also made of our first commercial oil field at Barrow Island. Nickel production at Kambalda was also mentioned. Of course, these are only some of the highlights of the ever-increasing—rapidly increasing—production in this State. From Wyndham in the north to Esperance in the south our production is climbing all the time. In the mineral field our wealth is increasing, and in the future production will be far in excess of what it has been up to now. Our industrial development is increasing all the time, and agricultural development is not lagging; it is keeping pace with the development of the rest of the State.

Throughout the length and breadth of the State, many smaller industries which get no publicity and about which the public knows very little, have been estab-

lished. It is only the larger developments, such as mineral production, which attract publicity.

Northern development is something which catches the imagination, but this northern development brings in its train development of industry throughout the rest of the State. I have in mind at the moment an industry which is one of the most important in the part of the State I have the honour to represent: That is, the timber industry in the deep south-west. Because of the huge development that has taken place—in particular mineral development, but the same thing applies to all the other developments—a tremendous demand for timber has been created. When we call to mind the fact that the Mt. Newman railway alone requires some 850,000 sleepers—and couple that with the thought of the other railways which have been constructed—one realises how much timber is needed.

Timber for sleepers is only part of the requirement. The building of bridges, wharves, jetties, and the construction of homes in the north create a larger and larger demand for timber. Mills in the south-west are working at full pressure the whole time to keep up with the production required to stay with development. Of course, a similar position exists in many other fields. I have mentioned only one instance of a need which is created by development.

This development illustrates the confidence that this Government has in the State of Western Australia; and confidence in the State is not limited to the Government. I think it has been clearly indicated that investors in this State have a tremendous confidence in it.

This confidence is illustrated by the fact that a company such as Hamersley Iron Pty. Limited is something like 10 or 12 years ahead of schedule in the construction of an iron pelletising plant at Dampier. A similar position exists with the Leslie Salt Co. at Port Hedland. That company is already something like three years ahead of schedule. I think that indicates clearly the tremendous confidence that investors have in our State.

Returning for a few minutes to timber: I noticed His Excellency mentioned the fact that pine planting in this State is to be doubled. I would like to have a few words to say on this subject. Over the last two or three years many experimental plots have been laid out in the forests throughout most of the lower south-west to ascertain the suitability or otherwise of the area for pine growing, and for the growing of other timbers, also. Although I think a good deal of money has been expended in this way I believe that at least some of it could be put to a better use at this time.

There is one area in this State which does not need to be proved for pine growing because it has already been proved.

I refer to the Blackwood Valley. Anyone who has travelled through the pine forests in and around Nannup must realise that this country is ideal for pine growing. I realise, as most other members would, that most of the land in the Blackwood Valley which is not already planted to pines is held by farmers. I also know that even three years ago had there been a suggestion that this land should be planted to pines there would have been fierce opposition from many of those farmers.

However, I believe that thinking has changed very considerably in the last three years. I think most of the farmers in the Blackwood Valley are beginning to realise that that country is the best in this State for pine growing. It is certainly good agricultural country also but there are large areas at present held by the Forests Department which are far less suitable for any type of timber growing and which are suitable for agricultural development.

I believe that at this point in our development of pine forests we cannot help but remember all that has been said in the last few years about a paper pulping industry in this State. I understand it takes something in the vicinity of 100,000 acres of pine forests to sustain such an industry, and it is time we got on with the job of pine planting so that we can achieve more in this field than has been achieved up to date.

That is why I think the Blackwood Valley is called to mind immediately. In my view it would be far better to concentrate our pine forests in that one area rather than to have them spread about in small sections throughout the State; and I think there are obvious reasons why that should be so. We know this country will grow pines, and it is far more economical to have them concentrated in one forest than to have them spread about all over the south-west.

I said I believed there had been a change in the thinking of the farmers who hold this land; actually I am certain of this because I have spoken to many of them. As a result I believe the Government should, at this stage, make some attempt, through the Forests Department, to reach an understanding with the farmers concerned in regard to the land they hold. The Forests Department could negotiate and arrange to have the land transferred to it and used for pine planting, and land in other areas could be made available to the farmers affected.

I clearly realise that this is something that cannot be done overnight; in fact, it will take a number of years to bring about. However, I believe it would be advantageous at this stage to reach an agreement with the farmers regarding the price to be paid for the land. My reason for saying this is because in most parts of the south-west land values are rising sharply; in fact, in many areas values

have doubled in the last five years and I see no reason to suppose that that trend will not continue. As a matter of fact, I think it will accelerate and it is not beyond the bounds of possibility to reach agreement now as regards a price that the farmers will eventually accept for all of their land, and over a period of time these people can be transferred to other areas.

It might be advantageous to transfer them fairly quickly, even if we have to give them $1\frac{1}{2}$ or two acres for every one they now hold in the area to which I have referred. The sooner something is done to try to reach an understanding with these farmers, and with the shires concerned, the better it will be for the State, because of being able to plant our pine forests at an earlier date. This is something the farmers, too, have come to realise.

Already in one or two instances farmers with small areas have found themselves surrounded by pine forests and this has had an eroding effect on the value of their land; and no Government wants to reduce the value of anyone's property, of that I am certain. It is because this has happened in one or two instances, and because some of the larger landholders are beginning to realise that eventually their country will have to be used for pine forests, that I think arrangements could be made now to transfer some of these property owners, or to take over their farms. I know in all probability it will be a long-term proposition, but I believe it is time we tried to reach some agreement.

There is just one other subject I would like to mention in regard to the south-west and this concerns the fruit-growing industry. I think most people realise that at the present time this industry is not in a very happy state and I am glad the Minister for Industrial Development, and the officers of his department, after a great deal of hard work, have been able to arrange for the canning of the coming year's peach crop—and for the canning of the whole crop. Last year only about half of the crop was canned but I understand that in the coming season the complete crop of about 1,200 tons will be canned.

At the same time the department is making strenuous efforts to have a canning industry, to cater for all types of products, and particularly fruit, established somewhere in the fruit-growing areas. A great deal of work has been going on in this direction and despite the many difficulties involved steady progress is being made. However, I have become aware of a good deal of pressure from some quarters—from some growers and well-wishers—to have an announcement made about the proposed canning factory, and I want to sound a note of warning to these people. I think they would be ill-advised to advocate any premature announcement being

made; in fact, such announcement could be extremely damaging to the negotiations which are at present taking place.

I, and my colleague on my left, The Hon. V. J. Perry, who is the other member representing the South-West Province in the Legislative Council, have kept closely in touch with all the negotiations and we are fully satisfied that everything possible is being done at this point of time. Because of that I issue a warning to the people in the area concerned not to bring pressure to bear to have some premature announcements made about this industry.

In conclusion I desire to express my thanks to the Premier, and members of Cabinet, for the privilege and the honour they have conferred on me in allowing me to move this motion this afternoon.

THE HON. T. O. PERRY (Lower Central) [3.57 p.m.]: I formally second the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by The Hon. W. F. Willesee (Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 3.58 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 27th July, 1967

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Legislative Assembly met at 3 p.m.

The **SPEAKER** (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair.

PROCLAMATION

The Clerk of the Assembly (Mr. L. P. Hawley) read the proclamation of His Excellency the Governor (Major-General Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.) summoning the Third session of the Twenty-fifth Parliament.

SUMMONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Speaker and members, in response to summons, proceeded to the Legislative Council Chamber; and, having heard His Excellency the Governor (Major-General Sir Douglas Anthony Kendrew, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.) deliver the opening Speech (*vide* Council report *ante*), returned to the Legislative Assembly Chamber.

QUESTIONS (2): WITHOUT NOTICE

RAILWAYS

Kalgoorlie-Leonora Service

1. Mr. **BURT** asked the Minister for Railways:

In connection with the suggested termination of the rail service between Kalgoorlie and Leonora,

will he assure the House that no precipitate action in this respect will be taken by the Government until full consideration has been given to local requirements, possible mining activities in the area, and the detrimental effect any cessation will have on reducing further an already declining population in the district?

Mr. **O'CONNOR** replied:

First of all, I would like to thank the honourable member for the notice he gave of this question, the answer to which is as follows:—

Considerable consideration has already been given to the points raised by the honourable member and no final decision will be arrived at until after the promises made by the Premier and myself are carried out, these being:—

- (1) No closure will be proceeded with until a black road is completed between Kalgoorlie and Leonora.
- (2) That myself or a senior officer will visit Leonora and hear the views of the local residents prior to a decision being made. This meeting has been arranged for Friday week next, the 11th August.

Mr. **Tonkin**: Have you not already started to pull the place down?

Mr. **O'CONNOR**: No.

BARRACKS ARCHWAY

Finance for Restoration

2. Mr. **HALL** asked the Premier:

What arrangement has the Government made for the financing of the preservation and beautification of our archway?

Mr. **BRAND** replied:

I have not had notice of this question, but I would remind the House that when it became apparent that the motion moved here would be lost and the archway would remain, I said that in due course when the area was being landscaped and generally improved in front of Parliament House, and when the freeway construction had reached a point where it was appropriate to carry out this improvement and landscaping, the archway would be included in those considerations. I am not aware of what it will cost to make the archway look anything like a