

a safety provision for the growers in (3) in that the Minister may require the Company to make other arrangements if he is not satisfied with those that it has made.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 43 to 54 put and passed.

Schedule put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

House adjourned at 9.15 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 4th October, 1967

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

QUESTIONS (27): ON NOTICE PAROLE BOARD

Female Representation

1. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is there any female representation on the Western Australian Parole Board?
- (2) If not, will consideration be given to such an appointment so that, among other things, the female point of view can be given in like manner as women justices in the summary relief court?
- (3) Does he know if New South Wales has appointed a woman to its prisons' parole board?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) Section 21 (2) (c) (ii) of the Offenders Probation and Parole Act provides that where the Parole Board deals with a matter affecting a female prisoner, membership of the board shall include two women. Two women have been so appointed.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) The New South Wales Parole of Prisoners Act, 1966, provides that one, at least, of the members of the Parole Board shall be a woman.

HOUSING

Position at Mandurah

2. Mr. RUNCIMAN asked the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applications for State Housing Commission homes are there from Mandurah?
- (2) What was the price paid for the land on which the State Housing

Commission is now building homes at Mandurah?

- (3) What is the estimated cost price of the homes, including the installation of bore water supply and septic systems?
- (4) What rent will be charged for these homes?
- (5) Has the State Housing Commission a policy regarding the use of building materials for homes in the country such as brick versus timber and asbestos?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

(1) Large families	....	13
Small families	....	14
Couples	....	3
Pensioner couples	....	4
Lone unit	....	1
		35

(2) \$1,365 per lot.

		\$
(3) (a) Houses	....	9,105
(b) Duplex houses	....	8,328
(c) Cottage flats	....	6,175

		\$
(4) Houses	....	11.60
Duplex houses	....	10.80
Cottage flats	....	8.35

- (5) The commission policy is governed by the level of incomes of applicants and their ability to meet the rents assessed without undue subsidies or rental rebates. Where the income of applicants indicates ability to meet the rents of brick or brick veneer construction, tenders are invited for this type of construction. Tenders called over recent years at Albany, Geraldton, Merredin, Narrogin, and Northam have indicated capital costs and rentals well beyond the tenant's capacity to pay without substantial rebates. Only in Bunbury has it been considered possible to build in brick veneer.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT TRUST

Bus Services: Profits and Losses

3. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Are all or any routes of the M.T.T. bus services making a profit?
- (2) What routes are making a profit?
- (3) What routes are losing money?
- (4) What action is being taken to avoid losses?
- (5) Is any action being taken to popularise M.T.T. services; if "Yes," what is the nature of the action?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) Answered by (1).

- (4) The introduction of economies in operating costs.
- (5) The trust is doing everything possible to popularise the services by—
 - (a) The introduction of new and modern vehicles into the fleet.
 - (b) Improvements in schedules.
 - (c) Feeding information to the public by means of timetables and brochures.
 - (d) Special travel concessions for families and pensioners.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Appointments

4. Mr. BRADY asked the Premier:

- (1) How many justices have been appointed during the last six months?
- (2) From what suburbs or shires did the appointees come?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) Appointments to the Commission of the Peace gazetted between the 31st March, 1967, and the 29th September, 1967, (both dates inclusive) totalled 57. In addition, the presidents of the shires of Balingup, Denmark, Esperance, Katanning, Morawa, and Nannup were appointed justices of the peace *ex officio* under section 9 of the Justices Act.
- (2) The 57 appointees referred to in (1) resided at—

Albany.
 Badgebup.
 Bencubbin.
 Bentley.
 Beverley.
 Canna.
 City Beach.
 Cockatoo Island.
 Como (3).
 Cottesloe.
 Dalwallinu.
 Dampier (3).
 Derby.
 Doubleview (2).
 East Fremantle.
 Exmouth.
 Fremantle.
 Goomalling.
 Innaloo.
 Jerramungup.
 Kellerberrin.
 Marble Bar.
 Merredin (2).
 Mosman Park.
 Mount Lawley.
 Mundaring.
 Munglinup.
 Norseman.
 Northam.
 Ongerup.
 Perth.
 Pingelly.

Port Hedland (2).
 R.A.A.F. Base, Pearce (2).
 Scarborough.
 Tambellup (2).
 Tammin.
 Tuart Hill.
 Victoria Park.
 Warralakin.
 Wembley.
 West Dale.
 Westonia.
 Williams.
 Wongan Hills.
 Woodlands.
 Wundowie.
 Yokine.

CLEAN AIR ACT

Burning of Industrial Waste: Prevention

5. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that the committee appointed under the Clean Air Act is not empowered to stop people burning industrial wastes, causing smoke and fumes, etc., to pollute the atmosphere?
- (2) If "Yes," will he amend the Act to give the committee power to stop the burning of industrial or mill waste where inconvenience is caused to residents nearby?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

- (1) No. The Clean Air Act relates specifically to both burning equipment and industrial plant.
- (2) No. Under section 228 of the Local Government Act "a council may so make by-laws for the prohibition, regulation and abatement of nuisances." In fact, in a number of municipalities, including some in the metropolitan area, by-laws are in force which cover the burning of waste, including sawdust.

LAND TAX AND METROPOLITAN REGION IMPROVEMENT TAX

Revenue

6. Mr. TOMS asked the Treasurer:

- (1) What was the revenue for the year 1966-67 for—
 - (a) land tax;
 - (b) metropolitan region improvement tax?
- (2) What is the anticipated revenue for each of the above for this financial year?

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) (a) \$3,514,404.
 (b) \$549,501.
- (2) (a) \$3,820,000.
 (b) \$577,000.

LIBRARY BOARD*Negotiations with Town and Shire of Kalgoorlie*

7. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) At what stage are negotiations between the State Library Board and—
 - (a) the Town of Kalgoorlie;
 - (b) the Shire of Kalgoorlie;
 in having library facilities under the auspices of the board established in each of the above-named districts?
- (2) What difficulties are confronting such establishments?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Applications have been received by the Library Board for a joint library service to be operated from a common building. These have been placed on the waiting list.
- (2) Further consideration cannot be given to the applications until a firm proposal for the future library building has been received.

SCHOOL TEACHERS*Appointments from Overseas*

8. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many replies were received to the advertisement for school teachers, published in Britain and reported in *The West Australian* of the 19th April, 1966?
- (2) How many applications were accepted?
- (3) How many teachers subsequently came to this State as a result of this advertisement?
- (4) Who was responsible for the cost of their fares to this State?
- (5) What were the terms of their employment?
- (6) What was the extent of the campaign made to recruit teachers overseas?
- (7) Was the campaign confined to Great Britain only and, if not, what other countries were involved?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Approximately 60.
- (2) Fifty-four.
- (3) Thirty-eight.
- (4) They came under the Commonwealth Government assisted passage scheme.
- (5) They were appointed initially on a temporary basis with the right to apply for permanent status after completion of 12 months' satisfactory service.

- (6) Advertisements in all leading United Kingdom educational publications followed up by a visit to the United Kingdom of a senior departmental officer to interview applicants.

(7) Yes.

SCHOOL AT SOUTH KALAMUNDA
Establishment

9. Mr. DUNN asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) In view of the rapid population growth in the Kalamunda area, has consideration been given to the provision of a primary school in the South Kalamunda area?
- (2) If so, what location is being considered?
- (3) When is it anticipated it will be in use?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Education endowment Lots 112-115 have been reserved as a future school site.
- (3) This cannot be stated at present.

SCHOOLS*Provision of Libraries*

10. Mr. DUNN asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Education Department to provide libraries for primary schools?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) Will his department permit parents & citizens' associations to provide libraries?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) and (2) Because of the need to give priority to the building of classrooms, libraries cannot be provided in primary schools at present. However, it is planned to do so in the larger schools as soon as circumstances permit.
- (3) Yes. This has been done in a number of schools.

RAILWAYS*Bauxite, Wheat, and Timber: Tonnages Transported*

11. Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What were the yearly tonnages of bauxite transported by the railways since the special freight agreement came into operation?
- (2) What were the tonnages of wheat transported by the railways over the Collic-Brunswick section for the years 1965, 1966, and to the 30th June, 1967?

- (3) What were the tonnages of all classes of mill timber transported by the railways over the Collieries section for the years 1965, 1966, and to the 30th June, 1967?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

	Tons.
(1) Year ended 30/6/64	210,185
Year ended 30/6/65	434,435
Year ended 30/6/66	632,674
Year ended 30/6/67	1,252,496
(2) Year ended 30/6/65	72,713
Year ended 30/6/66	95,677
Year ended 30/6/67	160,246
(3) A segregation of timber between mill and otherwise is not available, but total tonnages of all timber hauled were as follows:—	
	Tons.
Year ended 30/6/65	79,960
Year ended 30/6/66	69,746
Year ended 30/6/67	56,209

WILDFLOWERS

Illegal Picking: Policy on Prosecutions

12. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Forests:

Is it the policy of the department to prosecute for the offence of illegal picking of wildflowers, only in cases of commercial exploitation of wildflowers?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

Whenever evidence is deemed sufficient for success, a prosecution is made for its warning effect on the public. Unfortunately, adequate evidence is hard to obtain. Apart from officers of the Forests and Police Departments, 379 honorary inspectors have been appointed under the Native Flora Protection Act, all of whom are performing good service.

466 large notices prohibiting the picking of wildflowers have been placed at vantage points throughout the State with commendable public response.

Reports of alleged unlawful picking most often do not give the important details which are necessary to sustain a prosecution. However, wherever possible the leads given are followed up and suspects, if traced, are interviewed or written to, to give them at least a warning.

It is considered desirable to encourage the general public to refrain from picking wildflowers, and the Forests Department has engaged in a policy of educating adults and children in their responsibilities of preserving the State's native flora.

Prosecutions would certainly be considered in the event of sufficient evidence of flagrant breaches of the Act.

DOGS

Ownership by Aborigines

13. Mr. BURT asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

(1) How many unlicensed dogs is an aboriginal allowed to own?

Roaming on Pastoral Leases

(2) What action can be taken by a pastoralist to prevent unlicensed dogs from roaming on pastoral leases?

Mr. NALDER replied:

(1) None.

(2) The action prescribed in sections 22, 22A, or 23 of the Dog Act.

Restriction of Number on Native Reserves

14. Mr. BURT asked the Minister for Native Welfare:

(1) Is there any restriction on the number of dogs allowed to be kept on a native reserve?

(2) If it is known that dogs leave the reserve and roam on pastoral properties savaging sheep, can a police constable enter the reserve for the purpose of destroying the dogs?

(3) If not, what action can be taken by the pastoralist to prevent such occurrences?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

(1) No; but every dog is required to be registered in accordance with the Dog Act.

(2) and (3) Section 34A of the Dog Act gives a local authority power to make by-laws for the control of dogs from sunset to sunrise and the destruction of dogs not so kept under control.

Unregistered dogs wandering at large may be destroyed by a police constable or officer of the local authority under the provisions of section 19 of the Dog Act.

Pastoralists may also take action under sections 22 and 22A of the Dog Act for the protection of their stock.

NORTH KALGOORLIE SCHOOL

Cold Water Drinking Units: Provision

15. Mr. BURT asked the Minister for Education:

(1) Have any four-point cold water drinking units been installed at the North Kalgoorlie School this year?

- (2) If not, is it intended to take such action before the summer commences?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Yes. Two four-point drinking units were installed in June, 1967.
(2) Answered by (1).

YALGOO SCHOOL

Replacement of Building

16. Mr. BURT asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it intended to replace the existing school building at Yalgoo with a new two-roomed structure, during the current financial year?
(2) If not, when will such action be effected?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) A replacement school will be commenced this financial year and completed in the next.
(2) Answered by (1).

WIRELESS HILL LOCATION

Transfer to State Government, and Use as Reserve

17. Mr. KELLY asked the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is he aware that there is at present an outstanding show of kangaroo paws and many other colourful flora species spread over a sizeable portion of Wireless Hill?
(2) As it is likely that O.T.C. will vacate this area in the near future, will he cause an inspection to be made as early as possible of this extensive flora stand?
(3) Has he yet submitted any definite proposals to the Commonwealth Government for the transfer to the State Government of the 99 acres contained in the Wireless Hill location?
(4) If this stage in negotiations has not yet been reached, could he indicate what is the current situation; and when does he anticipate that steps will be taken to finalise a transfer?
(5) In any subsequent negotiations for the use of Wireless Hill, will he give serious consideration to the gazettal of all or part of the area as a Class "A" reserve?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) Yes.
(3) Yes.

- (4) The Postmaster-General has advised in his latest communication dated the 29th September, 1967, and received by me on the 2nd October, 1967, that he appreciates the State Government's desire to have this matter finalised as expeditiously as possible. The State is vigorously continuing its representations with a view to securing the whole of the subject land for public use.

(5) Yes.

POULTRY

Restriction in Metropolitan Area

18. Mr. W. HEGNEY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has he received any communication from the Local Government Association or any local government authority requesting the introduction of by-laws to ban or restrict the keeping of poultry in the metropolitan area or any part thereof?
(2) Has any action been taken in the matter?
(3) If the answer to (2) is "No," what action, if any, does he propose to take?

Mr. NALDER replied:

- (1) No.
(2) No.
(3) None.

19. *This question was postponed until the 10th October.*

RAILWAYS

Albany Railway Station: Resiting

20. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Railways:

What plans has the Government for the resiting of Albany railway station?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

No firm plans have yet been formulated in this direction.

Albany Marshalling Yards: Broadening

21. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Can he advise the nature of plans for broadening the railway marshalling yards at Albany?
(2) If plans have been made and bearing in mind the urgency of such works, when is it envisaged that work will start on the project?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) No firm proposals have yet been formulated in this connection.

MINERAL SANDS AND TIMBER

Shipment through Bunbury

22. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Works:

Can he advise:

- (a) the tonnages of mineral sands; and
 - (b) the tonnages of timber and classifications;
- shipped through the port of Bunbury for the preceding five years?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67
(a) (tons)	178,909	207,680	364,090	405,909	440,845
(b) (tons)	77,470	78,825	45,341	89,303	77,761

* No classifications readily available; to obtain these would take considerable time and effort.

MINERAL SANDS

Leases at Albany-Cheyne Beach Area

23. Mr. HALL asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) As there are lucrative deposits of mineral sands in the Albany-Cheyne Beach area, what action has the Government taken to enforce the working of such leases?
- (2) What action has been taken by the Government to obtain overseas markets for mineral sands mined in the Albany-Cheyne Beach area?
- (3) Can he advise the intention of Laporte Titanium (Australia) Ltd. for the working of the leasehold held in its name?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

- (1) The holders of these mining tenements were recently called upon by the Mines Department to show cause why the tenements should not be resumed for non-compliance with the labour covenants. The case has been before the warden's court and adjourned until the 15th December, 1967.
- (2) No action by the Government—producers seek their own markets.
- (3) No leasehold property is held by Laporte—the company has applications pending in the district; labour covenants do not apply until tenements are granted.

GASCOYNE JUNCTION POLICE STATION

New Building

24. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Police:

- (1) When is it anticipated that the new police station will be built at Gascoyne Junction?
- (2) Will quarters be built?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

- (1) It is expected that tenders will be called mid-January.
- (2) Yes.

SCHOOL AT EAST CARNARVON
Provision

25. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Education:

- (1) When will tenders be called for the building of the new school at East Carnarvon?
- (2) Will this eventually become a high school?
- (3) How many classrooms are to be built under the initial contract?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

- (1) Sketches are being prepared now, but it is not known when tenders will be called.
- (2) No.
- (3) Five.

MIDLAND WORKSHOPS

Shortage of Staff

26. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Is there a big shortage of tradesmen at the Government Railways Workshops, Midland?
- (2) Is there a big shortage of running staff, loco and traffic, in the railways?
- (3) Have a number of employees been requested to work on after reaching the age of 65?
- (4) In order to overcome shortage of staff, has consideration been given to allow staff to draw superannuation at 60 and work on to 65?
- (5) Is he aware some employees retire at 60 to get superannuation, and then join private firms?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No, but there is a fluctuating shortage in some categories.
- (2) There is an immediate need for trainee enginemen and shunting staff. Courses of training are conducted from time to time to meet shortages in trained staff.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No.
- (5) Yes.

Concessions for Early Knock-off

27. Mr. BRADY asked the Minister for Railways:

- (1) Are a number of employees at Midland Government Workshops permitted to cease work slightly ahead of knock-off whistle to

allow them to avoid the crush by other employees leaving shops at blowing the knock-off whistle?

- (2) If "Yes," are the employees concerned returned soldiers or employees with physical disability incurred on the job?
- (3) Are any employees allowed the knock-off concession who are not returned soldiers or suffering injuries incurred on the railways?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes. Concession is also allowed to some employees with certain physical disabilities caused other than through war injury or accident at work.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Tests for Admission to Occupational Centres

Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Education:

Yesterday he told me that children who had been excluded from the Education Department's classes at the occupational and spastic centres had the right of appeal. Could he tell me to whom such an appeal should be directed?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

I would suggest that in the first instance the appeal be made to the Director-General of Education; and, if the appellant is not satisfied, he should then appeal to the Minister.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Report Presented

The Speaker (Mr. Hearman) presented the report of the Standing Orders Committee.

Ordered: That the report be printed and its consideration made an Order of the Day for the next sitting of the House.

HIRE-PURCHASE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr. Tonkin (Leader of the Opposition), and read a first time.

DENTISTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Works), and passed.

LOAN ESTIMATES, 1967-68

In Committee

Resumed from the 21st September, the Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr. Crommelin) in the Chair.

Vote: Railways, \$10,884,000—

MR. TONKIN (Melville—Leader of the Opposition) [4.51 p.m.]: Each year it becomes the responsibility and duty of the Treasurer to proceed to the Loan Council for the purpose of submitting the State's case for an allocation of the total loan funds available for expenditure in Australia. Quite naturally, when the Premier for Western Australia goes, he endeavours to prepare the ground beforehand by indicating that the amount allocated the previous year was not sufficient and therefore a substantial increase in loan funds is necessary if development is to continue. Although those statements are invariably made, Treasurers know that under the existing arrangement, unless there is a very substantial increase in the total borrowings from the Commonwealth, no one State has any chance at all of getting a substantial increase over and above what is granted to other States. At this stage it is as well that we should give some consideration to the basis of the allocation in order properly to understand the inherent unfairness of it.

I well remember that when the Financial Agreement was first established, it was on the basis of the average of loan expenditure in the States during the previous five years. Western Australia has always been a State to heed any requests made by the Commonwealth Government. These requests have been in various forms; for example, the provision of volunteers to fight abroad, the curtailment of acreage for wheat, the cutting down on the number of men employed in the mining industry, the curtailment of expenditure of loan funds on schools, hospitals, and the like. During the war period the Commonwealth made a special plea to all the States to curtail as far as possible their loan expenditure. It can be proved beyond doubt that the State which heeded that request most—and to its detriment—was the State of Western Australia.

There were other States where very little diminution of expenditure of loan funds took place. I do not want to mention any one State, but I know of States where very little reduction in housing or in the provision of new schools and hospitals took place. Therefore, in those States the level of loan expenditure was much higher than in the State of Western Australia, where we deliberately and at some sacrifice cut down expenditure on loan funds. Our brick kilns were closed, for example, and we were not constructing new schools.

I well remember an occasion when, in order to make the best use of space available in the schools, I proposed to change

the character of some of the schools in the northern suburbs. The situation was that there were more children attending the Newcastle Street School than could be accommodated and some of the children were being taught in the shelter shed and in the playground, whereas there were a number of empty classrooms at schools such as Mt. Lawley, Maylands, and East Perth.

To my mind it did not make sense, when we were asked to curtail loan expenditure, to be adding classrooms where there was a surplus of children, and not using vacant classrooms elsewhere. Therefore, after going very carefully into the situation and making myself familiar with the distances which any children would have to travel, I decided that we would turn Lord Street School into a co-educational technical high school, as very little addition to the building would be required, because from memory the school had four empty classrooms. I decided that some small addition would be made to the school and we would then disperse the children from Lord Street to the perimeter, absorbing some of them at Highgate, some at East Perth, and some at Maylands. Then we could put the overflow from the junior technical school in Newcastle Street into Lord Street.

As with all similar cases when a little inconvenience is caused to parents, there was a hubbub about it and I had a torrid time for a while. Eventually the situation settled down and these children were quite properly accommodated in the school on the perimeter and no child had to go a great distance.

The point I want to make is that we deliberately curtailed our expenditure of loan funds, not because we did not have the loan funds, but because we heeded the request of the Commonwealth to conserve loan funds as far as possible and as a result, manpower. We are still suffering from that attitude, because when it came to the point of working out the average of loan expenditure in the various States over a period of five years, necessarily Western Australia's average of loan expenditure was down compared with the other States. We are never able to get away from that, because it was upon that calculation that the formula was originally based. Each year the Commonwealth drops a year and adds a year, but as the succeeding year's allocation is dependent upon the allocation of the previous five years, we are never able to get away from the effect of the original formula.

In my opinion this situation must be brought forcibly before the other States and the Commonwealth, and the unfairness of it appreciated so that we will not continue to suffer, in regard to the amount of funds available for our development, because Western Australia, over and above all other States, yielded to the special request of the Commonwealth and deliberately kept expenditure down.

We should have received a bonus for our virtue, but instead we have received, and are receiving, punishment in the form of reduced funds. We have to hammer that aspect in discussions with the Commonwealth, and keep on hammering it until we can make it clear that the right thing is not being done by us. As the Treasurer said, it is contrary to human nature to expect that the other States will give up some of their loan funds in order that Western Australia can have more, and so the only reasonable solution is for the Commonwealth to recognise that the attitude we adopted at the time is one worthy of reward and we should now be given some recompense even though it is somewhat belated. Despite that, it would still be of tremendous advantage and would be an acknowledgment of the State's ultra patriotism at the time.

Mr. J. Hegney: Were not the other Treasurers expected to do the same as Western Australia was doing?

Mr. TONKIN: The other States were requested to do the same as we did, but in some instances they did not do as requested and so there was little reduction in their loan expenditure. I can remember one State that went on building just as many schools as it was building previously and as a result of that its loan expenditure for the past five years has been considerably higher than it would have been if it had done the same as Western Australia.

In the expenditure of loan funds it is axiomatic that the money should be divided and expended in a way to make it reproductive. If we could have the ideal situation, by far the greatest proportion of the money available to the Treasurer would be allocated to projects where the money spent would be fully reproductive. Of course that is all right in theory, but it does not work out in practice. We cannot do without schools or hospitals, and although it might be argued that in the long term expenditure on education is reproductive, it is not directly reproductive in the sense that we regard expenditure on water supplies or irrigation.

In a developing State with large areas to cover, we have to have special regard for the fact that a large proportion of the money received will have to be spent on essentials although they are not reproductive. In this category we have police stations, gaols, hospitals, and schools, to mention a few, where the Treasurer has regard for the fact that the money so expended is not likely to return any interest to the Treasury, or any great expansion in production. Nevertheless, he is aware of the fact that these are essential requirements and have to be provided, otherwise there would be serious trouble.

According to the figures quoted by the Treasurer, which I have seen published in the Press, the total Commonwealth borrowings for 1967-68 for works and housing

is \$677,000,000. This is an increase of \$32,000,000 on the figure for the previous year. As the Treasurer, before he went to the Loan Council, stated he had to get a substantial increase in loan funds, what surprised me was his announcement—and I would be extremely happy if it turned out this way—that he had sufficient money to maintain Western Australia's development at the existing level. I very much doubt that. For a start, he will be in serious trouble with his housing programme. I have never known the housing situation in Western Australia to be as bad as it is at present.

Mr. Graham: Hear, hear!

Mr. TONKIN: A few years ago if there was a family against whom an eviction order had been issued, one could feel quite certain that the State Housing Commission would provide accommodation for that family within a matter of days. I can well remember that the attitude of the officers of the commission was, "We do not want to put these tenants to the expense of having to go to court and pay the court fees. As soon as we are satisfied that the notice to quit is genuine and there is no collusion, we do not require the case to go to court before we will provide accommodation." That was the attitude adopted by the officers of the commission for quite a while whenever I approached them, but that is not the case now. On the contrary, the Housing Commission refuses to grant accommodation after a case has been heard in court and the magistrate has set a certain time in which the premises have to be relinquished to the owner.

I have had several cases such as that in recent weeks. The tenants evicted would ordinarily qualify for assistance. There is no question of any collusion, because the magistrate has satisfied himself that the person applying for possession of his property is entitled to get it and an order has issued, but the Housing Commission is not in a position to assist. The only conclusion I can come to on those facts is that the commission just has not the housing available. I do not think there has been any change of attitude or heart on the part of the officers of the commission. They would still help people who had been evicted if they could, but if they do not have the houses available they cannot put people into them. That is the true situation at present.

A week or so ago I asked some questions regarding the dates on which applications had been lodged and allocations of houses were being made, and from the answers I received it was obvious there is a big lag; that it now takes more than 12 months to deal with the applications lodged in one month, and so a little thought will show that this situation will continue to deteriorate. It is all very well to speak of development and of maintaining develop-

ment at the present level; to speak of building standard gauge railways, and the like; but a man has only one life to live, and surely the important thing for any Government to do is to ensure, as far as possible, that the people in the country are provided with the basic requirement of a roof over their heads and that they shall not have the worry of wondering where they will sleep at nightfall.

Mr. Brand: If we did not have standard gauge railway projects there would not be the pressure on housing that there is.

Mr. TONKIN: That is a question one could argue, but I do not propose to do so at present. What I am trying to establish is that in my view human values are most important. It is all very well to see new buildings being erected in the city; to have a sense of development and new activity; and to see men becoming millionaires from the sale of land. That creates an air of prosperity, but it is scant satisfaction to the man with a wife and children who cannot find a place in which to live. To my way of thinking that is basic to the responsibility of any Government.

I well recall hearing the Minister for the North-West, from his place on this side of the House, telling the Government of the day that there had to be a limit to the rate of development; that the Government could not just go ahead with all sorts of new projects because it was desirable to do so; that a Government had to have regard for a number of other factors which were controlling factors and which should limit our growth. I wish the Minister would talk to the other members of the Government if he still holds those views because, obviously, whilst it is a wonderful feeling to be leaping forward, if it is being done at the expense of a large section of the State's citizens, one has to ask oneself if there is justification in proceeding at that rate.

It seems to me the Government should have allocated more of its funds to housing and not permitted housing to get into the deplorable mess it is in today. I challenge any member, on either side of the House, to show that housing is not in a deplorable situation today. The Minister for Housing has repeatedly said there is no crisis. As to whether there is a crisis depends on whom one is, and where one is. Let the Minister approach some of these people who have been evicted by a court order and not provided with a house by the State Housing Commission and ask them if there is a housing crisis. He will get only one answer, of course.

One aspect of this question which amuses me is the attitude adopted by the Housing Commission towards people who get into difficulty because they cannot pay their rent. Do we accept the proposition that a person who cannot afford to pay the rent to the State Housing Commission and therefore falls into arrears for one reason or another is not

entitled to have a house to live in? I do not hold that view and I would like to know if any member in this House does. We could say, "Those people cannot pay their rent to the Housing Commission, and so they have to live in the open." If we do not say that, the next question is: Who should house them? Should some private home owner house them, so they will not be out in the open? Or, putting it another way, if the Government will not accept the responsibility, is it fair to ask some private person to accept that responsibility? I think we have to answer that question in the negative.

So it comes back to this: In the final analysis, if the Government believes the people are entitled to be housed it has to provide accommodation for them, even though some bad debts will be involved. The Government is not entitled to put dollars before human values and human welfare.

I know of instances where the commission has refused to provide accommodation, because it had made inquiries through certain channels and discovered that the applicants were behind with some of their hire-purchase payments to certain firms; which means the commission was setting itself up in the position of assessing the creditability of the tenant.

If it were not for the fact that the Housing Commission makes very substantial profits, one might say there must come a time when the commission cannot continue to carry the losses. But the losses involved in providing accommodation for people who, for one reason or another, get behind in their rents, are so small that they would not affect the finances of the State Housing Commission; or they would affect them scarcely at all.

I believe it is the prime responsibility of the State to provide accommodation for its people. We need extra workers, and we are appealing for migrants and trying to encourage them to come here; and this at a time when we cannot provide houses for those who are here at the moment. I think that is a wrong policy, and it is certainly contrary to the policy announced by the Minister for the North-West on the occasion to which I referred earlier.

If we are to continue to progress to the maximum of our ability, we must provide more houses. I think it is dreadful that this situation, which has been deteriorating for a number of years, should have been allowed to get into the position in which it is today.

According to what the Premier said when he got his last allocation, whilst he has enough money to maintain development as it is for the present period, in future years the situation is going to be serious unless something can be done. I agree with that. I think the position is serious now.

One statement which the Premier made, and which rather startled me at the time,

was an implication that the electricity charges would have to be raised in order to provide more profit for the commission, so that that profit could be used for capital expenditure.

The commission already makes a very substantial profit; a bigger profit actually than it shows in its accounts; because, despite the fact—and the Auditor-General has each year drawn attention to this matter—that the commission does not take into account the amount of unread meterage, as it relates to the metropolitan area, it shows very substantial profits.

In the country towns the commission takes in unread meterage; but, of course, it deliberately excludes it in the city, because to take it into account would considerably increase the amount of profit which has actually been made. This is not a fictitious profit; it is a profit which has been made, but which has not been taken into account. The Auditor-General draws attention to this every year, but without result.

I cannot see how the Government can justify a proposal to increase the charges of this instrumentality, which is already making very substantial profits, in order to provide capital funds for its extension. That would be to levy, still further, the consumers of electricity in the metropolitan area—who are already paying a proportion of the losses sustained in the country districts—to provide for the State's development.

I have had a comparison made of the relative expenditure on electricity between the period when the Hawke Government was in office, and since the present Government has been in office. It must be remembered that the funds available to the present Government are substantially in excess of those which were available to the Hawke Government.

In 1957-58—which of course is precisely 10 years ago—the expenditure on the State Electricity Commission by the Hawke Government was \$2,480,000. In the previous year—in 1956-57—its expenditure had been \$4,200,000. The expenditure for 1966-67 was \$2,150,000, and the estimated expenditure for 1967-68 is \$2,750,000.

I want members to reflect on those figures for a moment or two, and then see whether the State Electricity Commission is imposing such an additional substantial burden upon the funds of the Treasury. It must be remembered that the funds available to us were some \$20,000,000 less than those available to the present Government. Yet, those are the figures. The Hawke Government in 1957-58 expended from its Loan Funds \$2,480,000 on the State Electricity Commission. Last year the present Government spent \$2,150,000, and its estimate for this year is \$2,750,000. So by comparison the Hawke Government did far better in regard to electricity services.

Mr. Nalder: How much money was spent on extending power into the country during the period to which you refer?

Mr. TONKIN: Had the Deputy Premier given me some prior notice of that question, I would have looked up those figures and given him the answer.

Mr. Williams: I thought you might have mentioned them if they were fairly high.

Mr. TONKIN: It is a pretty big job to segregate all the figures of expenditure over a number of years. One takes figures on a broad basis which one believes will show the picture. Of course if there was unlimited time available, one could go into a number of angles like this and have the answers. Surely I cannot be expected, without having an opportunity to look up the figures, to know what these expenditures are with regard to this area or that area. I am sorry, but I just cannot do it, and that is the fact of the matter.

What I do know, however, is that the State Electricity Commission had loan funds made available to it to expend where it decided to expend them; and on the figures I quoted I think it must be conceded—having regard to the total funds available to both Governments—that the Hawke Government did far better than the present Government has done in this regard. For example, let us take the expenditure for 1956-57, when the Hawke Government spent \$4,200,000.

Mr. Rushton: Is it not to the credit of the present Government that it has made this fund available?

Mr. TONKIN: Loan funds are allocated to the various departments in accordance with the schedules which are submitted, and it is from the total allocation of the whole amount available to the Treasurer that these are made.

I am proceeding to show that, in my opinion, a disproportionate amount of money has been expended in certain directions. I started by saying it is axiomatic that as far as possible the expenditure of loan funds should be in those avenues where they will be reproductive; and electricity is one of them. In this field our record is far better.

In 1956-57 the total amount available to the Hawke Government was \$36,936,332. That is a little more than half the loan funds available to this Government in the present year. In 1957-58 the funds available to the Hawke Government were \$35,341,964, which is actually less than the year before.

The figures indicate that this Government gets on the average from \$2,500,000 to \$3,000,000 more each succeeding year. For the year 1958-59—which of course covers part of the time that the present Government was in office—the total allocation was \$36,733,684; which again is

less than the allocation for 1956-57. Despite the fact that two years had elapsed, the loan allocation for that year was actually less.

Now we come to the period of office of the present Government. In order to save time I shall jump a number of intervening years, because I do not want to weary the House with each year, and I shall take the year 1963-64, when the loan funds available to the Government amounted to \$48,271,362. In 1964-65 the amount rose to \$50,965,652, and in 1965-66 it rose to \$52,926,325.

So members will see that during the present Government's term of office there has been an increase in each succeeding year of some \$2,000,000 or more; in certain instances it has gone close to \$3,000,000 more. In those circumstances one could have expected the Government's allocation for reproductive works to be substantially in advance of that of the Hawke Government.

Take the question of mining development in Western Australia. In 1956-57, out of a total loan allocation of \$36,900,000 odd, the Hawke Government allocated for mines, slightly more than \$500,000. The allocation of this Government in 1966-67 was \$88,900, some \$400,000 less; and the estimate for this year is \$178,000—that is, \$178,000 out of this total allocation of some \$63,000,000. There again is a clear indication of the different point of view in the expenditure of the loan funds available. I shall concede that any Government is entitled to spend the money in a way it thinks is the best way to spend it; but there is room for difference of opinion on what is the best way to spend it.

In my view, the first priority ought to be housing. What is the use of trying to bring people into the country to develop it and work in the industries, if we cannot guarantee them accommodation when they get here? It is all very well to tell them they can get in touch with a land agent and that the agent will provide accommodation. Some agents can manage to do that at different times, but at a figure; and the type of accommodation which is most readily available is in flats where children are not wanted; and if there is one sort of family rather than another, that we want to encourage, it is the family with children. So I think we have to go to considerable lengths to ensure accommodation is available for families with children; and the more children the better.

The next type of accommodation is fully-furnished accommodation; and several people from my district who have been evicted have been confronted with the problem of fully-furnished accommodation. When they have had the first notice to quit they have got in touch with me and I have impressed upon them that the situation is very difficult and they must do their utmost to try to find private accommodation. In each case they come back and say they have been in touch with

this agent and that agent, and have seen this house and that house at \$17 per week or \$18 per week, fully-furnished.

They say they have their furniture in the house where they have been living for some time and that if they take one of these places that are fully-furnished they will have to store their furniture indefinitely, pay the cost of storage, and then add that to the high rent being asked; and the situation becomes impossible. In fact, it is impossible; but the Housing Commission is forced into the position of having to say it considers these people can get accommodation elsewhere. That has been the experience of quite a number of members on this side of the Chamber and probably of members on the other side as well. So it would seem that another look has got to be taken at the allocation of these loan funds. I know one cannot manufacture additional funds, but the money has to be spent where the need is greatest.

Mr. Lewis: Where would you consider is the lesser need?

Mr. TONKIN: I think the Minister for Industrial Development got the big slice of the cake.

Mr. Court: The good old Minister for Industrial Development! You had better look at how much I got this year.

Mr. TONKIN: I know that spending money on gaols and police stations is not attractive to Treasurers, but unfortunately—

Mr. Brand: Never has been, either.

Mr. TONKIN: —it is imperative that people who break the law and who are found guilty of so doing must be provided with accommodation. So the Treasurer is obliged to find the money to provide it. I had a look at the gaol in Bunbury and the quarters in which the police officers are expected to do their work. Of course, nobody could justify keeping those officers there any longer than absolutely necessary under the present conditions.

I have recently heard a difficulty has arisen about this. I notice on the detailed Estimates that money is provided for a new building in Bunbury, but I am wondering whether this difficulty is likely to hold up the construction. This seems to me to be a problem somewhat similar to that in connection with the Barracks Archway. I hope that if there is an argument—and I understand there is—it will soon be resolved.

Mr. Brand: It will be.

Mr. TONKIN: Possibly in the sweet by and by. I hope it will be speedily resolved, because this question is one that has to be decided; and the circumstances will not alter and there will be no justification for holding up the decision and therefore holding up the building. This kind of problem is going to crop up in this State from time to time. I pose this

question, Mr. Deputy Chairman (Mr. Crommelin), and you will see it is quite germane to the discussion: Suppose this gaol at Bunbury had a similar historical significance to Anne Hathaway's Cottage in Great Britain, can you imagine any Government in Great Britain bulldozing Anne Hathaway's Cottage out of the road in order to put up a new building? I cannot.

I saw a few of these old buildings in Great Britain and had the pleasure of staying in one of the inns, which was hundreds of years old. I can just imagine what an outcry there would be if the Government of the day decided it was going to send a bulldozer down to clear that inn away for a new building. In this State we have already had that problem; and, of course, as the years go by similar problems will crop up and they will have to be faced realistically.

I have not all the facts at my disposal at the present time with regard to the building at Bunbury, but it would appear to me that even though additional expenditure is involved, we have to do something to preserve these things. If suitable land in a suitable locality—

Mr. Williams: What do you call a suitable locality in this particular case?

Mr. TONKIN: In my view one would be where the efficiency of the department would not in any way be interfered with because its office accommodation was put out of the way. It wants to be placed in a position where it will serve the needs of the public with the least inconvenience.

I do not know whether there exists in Bunbury at the present time land which is available or which could be made available to meet these requirements; but if it is available, then I can see no reason why it could not be acquired and the building proceed immediately. On the other hand, if it is considered that the present building has no claims to preservation and that it would be an eyesore and there is no justification for its retention, then the Government should not hesitate to demolish it. The decision has to be made sooner or later and there is no justification for procrastination, because the Government has already acknowledged that the need for the new building is urgent.

I hope that this difficulty will be resolved speedily so that the officers who work down there will not be obliged continually to work in unsuitable and overcrowded conditions.

Mr. Craig: What makes you think we are procrastinating on this? Just because of the old building?

Mr. TONKIN: No, just a few things I have heard.

Mr. Craig: Tell us what you have heard.

Mr. TONKIN: The Minister for Police ought to know that he is the most reticent

man in the House with regard to telling me what I want to know, so how can he expect me to come along and readily tell him what he wants to know? Surely I am entitled to keep a few secrets!

Mr. Graham: I think a Royal Commissioner will tell him a few things presently.

Mr. Craig: He might, too; and he might tell you something, too.

Mr. TONKIN: If the Minister for Police is, in a round about sort of way, giving me an indication that a decision has already been made, I am pleased to hear it.

Mr. Craig: A decision on what?

Mr. TONKIN: To put up the new building.

Mr. Craig: This has been going on for some time; plans are in process.

Mr. TONKIN: I know the plans are in process for a new bridge across the river—

Mr. Craig: We are talking about the Bunbury Police Station.

Mr. TONKIN: —but the Government will not disclose them, because they are still tentative, despite the fact that it is buying land there. So to say plans are in process does not mean a thing. That reminds me that plans were in process 15 years ago to build a new receiving home at Applecross.

Mr. Craig: Did you draw up any plans for the Bunbury Police Station when you were in government?

Mr. TONKIN: No, because I was not the Minister for Police.

Mr. Craig: But you were a member of the Government.

Mr. TONKIN: I just quoted the illustration of a proposed new receiving home at Applecross and the fact that plans were drawn; but that is no proof that the building will ever be erected. We want something more concrete than that. Perhaps the Minister could tell us this, because I know the Bunbury people are anxious to find out! Has a decision been made to go ahead immediately with the new building? Now, we have this reticence to which I referred.

Mr. Craig: I said we are quite definitely going ahead with the new building.

Mr. TONKIN: Is the Premier taking any steps at all to try to get a change in the Commonwealth attitude to the allocation of loan funds, or is his effort limited to his annual appearance at the Loan Council when he joins in the chorus and tells the Commonwealth the States are not getting enough?

We have to continue to hammer this, and we in this State have a special case for consideration in the light of what I have already said about our being ultra patriotic in the initial stages.

To conclude my remarks, I will again quote the comparison of funds which are

available now and those which were available to the Hawke Government to show that the present Government ought to be in a position to do far better than it is doing. The record of the present Government with regard to housing—and this is in no way a criticism of the present Minister; if he has not got the money he cannot build houses—cannot be compared with the record of the Hawke Government. The Labor Government record was far and away ahead of the record of this Government. We have always regarded housing as a far more important matter than other avenues of expenditure and our attitude could be well known by the people generally. We would certainly make a vast improvement on the record of the present Government in this field.

In 1957-58, the allocations for all States was \$400,000,000. This year the allocation is \$677,000,000. Western Australia's share in 1957-58 was \$37,680,000, to which we had to add \$3,366,000 loan repayments, making a total of \$41,046,000. Now we have to contrast that figure with the allocation for the present year. This year's allocation of \$677,000,000 is up \$32,000,000 on the previous year. Western Australia's share of that is \$63,230,000, which is up \$2,990,000 on the previous year.

If we subtract from that figure the \$10,000,000 set aside for Commonwealth-State housing, we have \$53,230,000 plus \$4,164,000 loan repayments, making a total available to the Treasurer of \$57,394,000. I say that having that amount of money available, the Government's record with regard to housing is absolutely deplorable.

Mr. Lewis: You will have to produce a figure to show that the Hawke Government spent more on production. It must have spent relatively less on such things as education.

Mr. TONKIN: No, we did not.

Mr. Rushton: What did your Government spend it on?

Mr. Bovell: Everything.

Mr. TONKIN: The Minister for Lands has answered the question. We all agree that the State certainly requires more loan funds—a lot more—to carry out the task which lies ahead of it. I want to tell the Treasurer that, having regard for the growth in the peak load which is taking place, I do not think he is making enough money available to the State Electricity Commission to meet the needs of the commission. Because of the extraordinary development which is occurring, it is to be expected that there will be a far greater demand for electricity. I have had a look at the figures and have discussed them with an expert. That expert has told me that, in his opinion, unless a very steep increase in expenditure takes place for the production of current, we will reach

the stage in this State where we will be short of supplies in precisely the same way as years ago we reached the stage where we were short of water.

Mr. Brand: And short of power.

Mr. TONKIN: On that occasion it fell to the Labor Government to find the funds to put the necessary work in hand and make up the shortage. The present Government came in and reaped the benefit.

Mr. Brand: If you want to hark back to the past, what about the electricity situation when the McLarty-Watts Government came in? I do not think it helps to hark back.

Mr. TONKIN: I do not think it helps, except by way of comparison.

Mr. Brand: Then let us go back and make a comparison with the situation in those days.

Mr. Graham: What, at the end of the war?

Mr. TONKIN: Whether we make a comparison or not, if it is likely to be a fact—and I am informed that it is on present trends—that because we are not making adequate provision we will reach the stage where we will be short of power, then this is the time to mention it. I have had a look at the figures showing the peak load demand and, of course, it is about double what ordinarily occurs in the economy of any country.

Mr. Brand: That is right, and it will continue to grow.

Mr. TONKIN: And it will continue to grow! It is my opinion that proper cognisance has not been taken of that fact.

Mr. Brand: Yes it has.

Mr. TONKIN: Unless further provision is made, we will reach the position where we are short of power, and I consider it my duty to point that out. I do not want to be told later that if I had known about the situation I should have said something about it.

Mr. Brand: This has been the subject of Government discussion over many years. We are aware of the position and we are planning ahead to meet the demand.

Mr. TONKIN: I am very glad to hear that. I want to be assured that the planning is adequate and will meet the requirements of the State. If there is one field of reproductive expenditure which requires to be properly attended to, it is the field of electricity generation.

Mr. Brand: We need more borrowing authority for the State Electricity Commission to raise more money locally.

Mr. TONKIN: That may not be the complete answer at all. I remember that the State Electricity Commission had some difficulty in borrowing money when the Government was giving borrowing powers

to other authorities. An extension of borrowing powers would not help the State Electricity Commission, because we would reach the stage where there was not enough money available to meet the borrowing permitted.

Mr. Brand: That has not happened in the other States.

Mr. TONKIN: Neither it should. The State Electricity Commission was in trouble last time it tried to raise money.

Mr. Brand: The loan was not fully subscribed, but it was underwritten.

Mr. TONKIN: Of course; but the position of underwriting reaches the stage where nobody can underwrite further unless at a very high interest rate.

Mr. Brand: That is not the case here.

Mr. TONKIN: It may not be the situation now, but that position could be reached.

Mr. Brand: That may be so. This has also been the position in other States but the loans have been underwritten. We hope the next loan will have a better response.

Mr. TONKIN: I would hope so too. If we increase the borrowing power of a number of authorities—and I notice that this power is being increased from \$200,000 to \$300,000 without permission—that will mean a greater demand for the funds which are available, and this must increase the cost of many services. So that aspect must certainly be watched.

Mr. Brand: We hear a lot about Australian investment opportunity and here is one which local people can invest in with absolute security.

Mr. TONKIN: Yes; a very sound investment and one I would recommend. I hope that something will happen to ensure that there will be some change in the formula utilised under the financial agreement upon which the allocation of funds depends, because capital is very necessary in any enterprise, and more particularly in Government enterprises.

As we have a third of the continent to develop and we now have a large number of projects which require manpower, and which will necessarily mean additional services, then the Commonwealth itself will benefit substantially by taking the necessary steps to ensure that more funds are available where expenditure will give the best return. I trust the Government will continue to hammer that point of view in the hope that we will finally get some alteration in the method adopted to make funds available.

MR. HALL (Albany) [5.57 p.m.]: There are three matters I would like to raise tonight. The first one deals with electricity—and I hope I can inject some electrification into the Minister—and the other two deal with railways and harbour

development. I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister for Electricity an anxiety shared by many people throughout Western Australia. The people concerned have suffered humiliation and sacrifice because they believe that either through the inadequacy of the tenants or the inadequacy of the department there is not complete supervision over electrical installations in this State.

I refer the Minister to a newspaper article dated the 8th February, 1967, which refers to the electrocution of a child at Denmark. The child had climbed onto a roof in Paterson Street. Some neighbours observed the child, but could do nothing about the situation.

The matter was taken up with the State Housing Commission, and I also took it up with the State Electricity Commission. The child's name was Gilpin, and the newspaper article was as follows:—

**Tenants Angry About Boy's
Electrocution**

The tenants of the 10 houses in Paterson-street have been deeply affected by the death of a four-year-old boy.

The boy, Shane Ross Gilpin was electrocuted last Friday afternoon when he fell across power lines, while playing on the roof of his home.

All of us here, I think, have humane instincts. Just after this accident at Denmark, something similar occurred in Kalgoorlie. In trying to unravel the compensation set-up for the parents, I found that the State Housing Commission would have nothing to do with it. Also, I found that the State Electricity Commission would have nothing to do with it.

I then wrote to Mr. Evans, who has some legal knowledge, and I asked him what we could do in this particular case. Mr. Evans gave me some advice and as a result I have a question appearing on tomorrow's notice paper. Mr. Evans referred to the Fatal Accidents Act for a possible breach of contract or, for the tort of negligence—breach of duty.

One of the two bodies concerned must accept responsibility in cases such as the one to which I have referred. We cannot stop children from climbing on roofs, and rubberised protective coating should be used for all household electrical wiring. In law a life is probably worth \$6,000 to \$8,000, but to the parents concerned a life cannot be measured in terms of cash. A child lost in an accident can never be replaced and I think the day must come when departments concerned with these matters will have to face up to their responsibilities. It is of no use passing the buck. Many accidents occur, although they are not always fatal. Therefore, something will have to be done to obviate them.

I will await with interest the answers to the questions I have placed on tomorrow's notice paper in the hope that

on this occasion the State Electricity Commission will face up to its responsibilities and in some way compensate the parents of the child who died as a result of the accident to which I have already referred. I took the matter up with the Leader of the Opposition (The Hon. J. T. Tonkin) and he advised me to proceed along the lines I have taken. I do not think we will reach any finalisation in regard to the matter for some time and probably, in order to win the case, legal action will have to be taken. I believe a similar accident occurred in Kalgoorlie only a few days after the one I have just mentioned. Some authority must accept the responsibility of ensuring that electric wires leading into homes are properly covered—and this applies whether the homes belong to the State or are privately owned. Human life should not be sacrificed simply because no department will take the necessary responsibility.

We have a responsibility in that we must ensure that the regulations are carried out, and we must also ensure that everything possible is done to protect life by providing regulations to cover every possible eventuality. We are building an increasing number of houses and new electricity connections are being made every day. But are we taking every precaution to make sure that the people are protected? We all know that children climb onto roofs, up trees, and everywhere else. A child of two or three years of age, if it is not closely watched, can walk three or four miles, and so we have to make sure that everything possible is done to protect it.

The second point I wish to raise concerns plans for the resiting of the Albany railway station. I asked some questions on this matter today and in reply the Minister for Railways said, "No firm plans have yet been formulated." I would refer the present Minister to the previous Minister for Railways, who told me that plans would be drawn up and something definite and positive was being done about the Albany railway station. The station will have to be resited to fit in with the pattern for the redevelopment of the marshalling yards. This is borne out by the fact that there will be an expenditure of \$4,100,000 on the development of grain silos, and so on, which will be located in the Albany marshalling yards. I also asked the Minister—

- (1) Can he advise the nature of plans for broadening the railway marshalling yards at Albany?
- (2) If plans have been made and bearing in mind the urgency of such works, when is it envisaged that work will start on the project?

To both of those questions the Minister replied—

- (1) and (2) No firm proposals have yet been formulated in this connection.

I do not know whether both questions were put to the same officer, but he certainly does not envisage an expansion of the railway marshalling yards at Albany to match the development that has already taken place, and will continue to take place in the hinterland. Apparently no provision is being made by the Railways Department for this expansion. I do not know whether the railways have sold out completely to road transport, but the replies I received to the questions I asked today indicate that nothing will transpire in regard to the expansion of the railway facilities at Albany.

I have an extract from *The Albany Advertiser* of the 20th September, 1967, the heading of which is, "No. 3 berth approved: to cost \$1,350,000," and it reads as follows:—

Works Minister Hutchinson has given approval for the construction of the No. 3 land-backed shipping berth at the Port of Albany.

Yet apparently the Railways Department is making no effort to match this contemplated expansion.

Mr. O'Connor: We have other more urgent works. That is the reason.

Mr. HALL: Can anyone imagine more urgent works than an expansion of the railway facilities at Albany when \$4,100,000 is being spent there on the development of grain silos for the hinterland? The Minister for Lands has already given his complete approval to the opening up of further land, and more money will be spent on machinery, land development, and other work necessary because of this expansion. Apparently the port facilities are to be improved eventually but little or nothing is to be done about an improvement to the railway facilities.

Mr. O'Connor: They will be adequately handled.

Mr. HALL: In many years to come. The Minister is 20 years behind the times. It is obvious the Government has not faced up to its responsibilities even though \$4,100,000 is to be expended on developmental work. Our shipping turnaround is being affected by the inadequacy of berthing facilities. The Minister's statement to the Press about the No. 3 berth is a myth. He said that \$1,350,000 was to be expended on the construction of the third berth; yet in the Estimates we find only \$5,000 is set aside for dredging work, which would be the commencement of the project. At the same time, for the Port of Bunbury, over \$1,000,000 has been set aside for dredging and so on. This is to take care of the siltage in the port.

The Government has failed completely to realise the significance of the development at Albany—the Minister for Lands knows only too well the development that is taking place in the hinterland. He has opened up a good deal of new country in the hinterland, as did the previous Gov-

ernment. However, this Government as a whole is doing little to match that development, as this year's Estimates prove. Where would a sum of \$5,000 go? Nowhere. If I were permitted I would say what I think about it in much more colourful language. I suppose I could do it and then withdraw!

Mr. Nalder: You do not appreciate anything that is being done.

Mr. HALL: The Government has not done anything at all, particularly in regard to the Albany Harbour. For many years practically nothing has been done. The extract I quoted from the Press about the No. 3 berth was the greatest piece of propaganda I have ever seen.

Mr. O'Connor: Maybe they should get a better member down there.

Mr. HALL: That may be so, but the one they have has to be beaten first.

Mr. Graham: We need a better Government.

Mr. HALL: The Minister for Works talks about approval for the expenditure of \$1,350,000 on the No. 3 berth; yet the Premier has advocated only \$5,000 for the dredging work. The serious part about the whole business is that the port and railway facilities are not matching the development of the area. The Country Party members know this. I have been with the local Legislative Council members to interview the chairman of the harbour board. Those members and I were in complete harmony. Mr. Murray the chairman of the board, outlined the position to us. There has been increased production of wool and other commodities in the Albany area and, in my view, the Government has failed completely to accept its responsibility in regard to improving facilities. To spend \$5,000 on dredging work will do as much good as a child rattling its money box just before Christmas. It will have no significant bearing on the main project.

Mr. Jamieson: It would not be much good going to the money box after Christmas.

Mr. HALL: The Government has failed to accept its responsibility. It apparently does not intend to extend the marshalling yards, resite the railway station, or develop the harbour works to the extent they should be developed to fit in with the progress of the district. The Government must also face up to the question of the foreshore road. This means a diversion of all traffic away from the centre of the town and along Festing Street. While the dredge is in Albany carrying out this \$5,000 odd amount of work it should be used for other reclamation work to fit in with an extension of the marshalling yards. Something will have to be done about making more industrial sites available and it would be sound economics to use the dredge for other

work while it is in Albany. These are the points to which the Government should give consideration.

I can see the Premier has a smirk on his face, but if I were a member of the Government I would definitely advocate using the dredge to a greater extent than is proposed while it is located at Albany. We see in the Press that \$1,350,000 is to be expended and yet, in the Estimates, a sum of only \$5,000 is provided. That is a shocking situation.

Let us now have a look at what has been done over the years. As I said, the Estimates for 1967 show that public works at Albany, for the Albany Harbour Board, will incur an estimated expenditure of \$5,000. In 1964, only £500 was spent.

Mr. Nalder: Tell us what your Government spent in 1946.

Mr. HALL: The expenditure on works for the Albany Harbour in 1965-66 was nil.

Mr. Hawke: What a Government!

Mr. HALL: Let us make a comparison with what was spent on harbour work at Bunbury. In 1965-66 a sum of £147,000 was spent. In 1964-65 a sum of £227,401 was spent.

Mr. Williams: What about the loan of the Albany Harbour Board?

Mr. HALL: That sum of money was spent on dredging at Bunbury because of the siltage. I am prepared to make the statement that the Albany Harbour Board will provide something like \$70,000 for the third berth. If we looked at the Estimates we would see that a different position existed with other harbour boards. The Albany Harbour Board meets depreciation, interest, and the repayment of loans, but I wonder how many other harbour authorities in the State do the same. Providing money for the Bunbury Harbour is like trying to fill a tank with a four-inch pipe when there is a six-inch outlet which is always open. It can never be filled; there is no chance of balancing the budget. In 1966-67 a sum of \$262,000 was spent at Bunbury.

Mr. Williams: Not half enough.

Mr. HALL: Albany got no recognition at all. Yet we read this nonsense in the Press about a third berth costing \$1,350,000. What a myth! That announcement was made simply because there is to be an election next year. The Government must wonder how silly the people in the south can be if it expects them to accept that sort of statement. What an attitude for the Government to adopt. It is humiliating to the people in the district.

I would now like to quote from a paper which I consider to be a supporter of the Liberal Party, although it has given me quite a good deal of publicity. I refer to *The Albany Advertiser* and I shall quote

the editorial from the issue of the 20th September, 1967—it is not something I have written myself.

Mr. Brand: Are you sure?

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr. HALL: Before tea I was about to quote from the editorial in *The Albany Advertiser* of the 20th September, 1967. It states—

The announcement by Works Minister Hutchinson of the approval for the building of No. 3 shipping berth at the Port of Albany is good news, particularly for the Albany Harbour Board whose patience in waiting for the berth has been almost as severely taxed as the port's need for the additional berth.

Anything that could be done to complete the berth sooner than the date given by Mr Hutchinson would be a good thing, but the chances of this happening are remote when the government is heavily committed to development in so many other parts of the State.

Let me interpolate by saying that the Government's attitude to the development of the southern portion of the State has resulted in the situation commented upon by the editorial. This is where I take the Minister for the North-West to task, because he has been instrumental in influencing Cabinet that the northern part of the State is the part that counts. Consequently, the southern part and certain parts of the south-west portion of the State have been sadly neglected, as a result of the domination of Cabinet by the Minister.

Mr. Court: Most of the development up north is being done by private enterprise.

Mr. HALL: In that case the Minister should be prepared to give a statement showing how much has been spent on the north-west, and how much has been drained from the revenue of the State for that purpose.

Mr. May: I am sure he will be delighted to do that.

Mr. HALL: To my knowledge, for the past 50 years the southern portion of the State has been sadly neglected. This neglect can be traced back to the time of Major Lockyer and Lord Forrest, and to the statements they made that they would see grass growing on the streets of Albany. The editorial continues—

Figures quoted by the minister point to the port's huge increase in trade over the last 16 years, following the development of primary industry in the region.

I commend the Minister for Lands for opening up this area, and for bringing finance from the Eastern States, overseas and other parts of Western Australia for this development; but the extension of port facilities has not matched the development of the area. I am sure that

when the Minister for Agriculture faces the regional conference on Saturday next a similar attack will be made on him by his own colleagues in the primary producing area, because the development of primary production has not been matched by the extension of port facilities.

Mr. Nalder: My advice is that you should speak on something about which you know.

Mr. HALL: I am sure they will attack him. I know something about this matter, because I am the member for Albany. I know the feelings of the people of the region. I say to the Minister for Agriculture that his colleagues in other places are not content with the approach which has been made by this Government to the development of the port. This is a serious matter, and here I must refer again to the allocation of \$5,000. It staggers me that such a small amount has been included in the Loan Estimates.

The Minister for Works is the only member of the Government to whom I can pay a tribute, because he has made an attempt to do something to develop the port. However, he has to fight against the dictatorial attitude and the domination of centralised vested interests which dictate the policies of this Government. The editorial continues—

That the third berth will not be completed and operational for another two years at least, must place a heavy burden on port authorities in the handling of shipping.

We are aware that shipping has been held up in both the inner and the outer harbour, yet extra berthage cannot be provided. This inaction by the Government must react against the development of the port and of the region. Further on the editorial has this to say—

Because of the region's tremendous capacity to produce at a far greater rate than at present, it is not unreasonable to suggest that plans for a fourth land-backed berth should be on the drawing boards by 1970.

I say that the extra berthage will not be adequate in, nor will it be completed by, 1970. Albany and the southern portion of the State have outgrown the development that has been anticipated.

Mr. Evans: You have too much "berth" control down there!

Mr. HALL: Not too much birth control, but only too much ships' berth control. The population has increased rapidly, but the provision of berthage for shipping has not kept pace with the development. The editorial continues—

Planning should also include a foreshore road—a road that would give access to the port without interfering with normal traffic.

All Country Party members with whom I am associated realise how severe is the diversion of traffic through the town. A

foreshore road would enable transport to go alongside the ships to unload phosphate, sulphur, and other commodities. The editorial continues—

The board's intention to follow the Tydeman plan is sound but it should consider accepting the proposal for a road along the foreshore instead of the far more costly Tydeman scheme involving considerable reclamation.

Any piece-meal upgrading of Festing Street must be rejected as the answer to port access for heavy vehicles.

Festing Street has been upgraded on two or three occasions, and it runs right through the residential centre. The diversion of the increased traffic along the foreshore road would be of advantage in the development of the harbour. Through reclamation, industrial sites could be provided cheaply and these could be sold or leased, as desired by the Government. The Albany Town Council has the matter in mind.

What strikes me very forcibly is that a big proportion of the development that is to take place will have to be carried out by the Albany Harbour Board, because through the increased powers which have been granted to it to borrow money for development, a heavy burden will be placed on it. We should realise that the board has consistently paid its way through the years, by way of meeting depreciation and interest charges; but in other parts of the State, such as Bunbury, interest charges and depreciation have not been met by the authority concerned. The only way in which those charges have been met has been by borrowings.

Albany should not be burdened with the responsibility to finance port development in the year 1967, when this work should have been carried out in 1965. If we turn to 1950-51 we find that the number of vessels using the harbour totalled 59; but for the year 1966-67 the number of vessels using the harbour totalled 167.

Mr. Dunn: That is a wonderful tribute to this Government.

Mr. HALL: It is not a tribute to this Government. The increased number of vessels has resulted from development by many Governments. I would give the present Government some credit for the development which has taken place in the area, but the previous Government has also been responsible for it. The previous Government was responsible for the development in the Esperance area where the Chase syndicate developed the land, although some rorts were perpetrated.

Mr. Brand: You cannot have it both ways!

Mr. HALL: This is so. I do not blame the Government for this. I have given credit to the Minister for Lands and to his predecessor for opening up the area, and as a result the hinterland has been developed. Consequently the increased

production has poured into the port, and this is borne out by the fact that Co-operative Bulk Handling is to spend \$4,100,000 on expansion, but this Government is only prepared to spend \$5,000! This really rocks me. When we speak of the increase from 59 vessels in 1950-51 to 167 vessels in 1966-67 which entered the harbour, we should also realise that apart from the increase in number, ships in these days are bigger in size and in capacity. The exports and imports through the port have also increased during the period I have mentioned.

Let me now refer to some comments—and the Minister for Works is aware of them—made by the Chairman of the Albany Harbour Board (Mr. J. D. Murray). I shall not read the statement in full, because it is too lengthy. This statement has been submitted to the Minister for Works. Its submission, together with what I and other members of the area have been able to advance, finally convinced the Government or Cabinet that something had to be done. I would like to read the following from the report of Mr. Murray:—

Recently the Department of Harbours and Rivers studied the berthing facilities at Albany and made a berth occupancy study to establish the berthage requirements of the port. This study is based on an American formula, and in brief is designed to establish an optimum maximum berth capacity as a percentage of the gross annual time available (i.e. 365 days of 24 hours). The optimum berthage occupancy increases with the number of berths in the Port, and the percentages as determined are:—

One berth	29%
Two berths	38%
Three berths	43%
Five berths	50%

Delays in ports must be accepted as no authority can have berths available at all times. It is considered that a total of 18 ship days per annum is a reasonable amount. These charts show the berth occupancy figures prepared over the three years 1964-66 on the basis of Albany being a three berth port with complete ability to interchange all berths. It is essential to be able to interchange berths.

Mr. Lewis: In other words, you want berth control.

Mr. HALL: I hope we are not getting mixed up with the pill; but we certainly have berth control at Albany. The Government has done this.

Mr. Jamieson: You asked for it, and you got it.

Mr. HALL: This report continues—

However, as I have already explained, the berths are not inter-

changeable, and therefore the berth occupancy is based on two land backed berths only.

Mr. Bovell: You had better spell it.

Mr. HALL: I think these boys have been studying the wrong paper. To continue—

The cargo tonnages through the port bear no relationship to the berth occupancy study, however they do show the steady increase in the annual tonnages handled, and clearly show the seasonal nature of the port's trade. The arithmetic mean of each twelve month period is steadily rising, and if present trends continue should reach the maximum line towards the end of 1967.

Ship delays have increased from nine in 1964 to 40 in 1966. I could elaborate very much on this statement; but let us have a look at the attitude of the Government. It has not observed with a clear mind the expansion that is taking place in the region, and has not realised the urgent necessity for the third berth in Albany.

With regard to grain development in Albany, in June, 1965, the total region under grain was 981,450 acres, but in June, 1966, it had increased to 1,233,660 acres.

Mr. Dunn: Another step in the great leap forward.

Mr. HALL: That represents an increase of over 252,000 acres. The Department of Agriculture has estimated that during the next seven years the area of cleared land within the region will increase by 9,000,000 acres; and this estimate is rather conservative.

Our friend has just said that this is a great leap forward. However, when we realise the dormant period through which we have passed during the last 100 years, it is only natural that the land should be opened up in this way. I do not condemn the Minister for Lands for this.

Mr. Bovell: My word, you shouldn't, considering what this Government has done for the Albany region!

Mr. HALL: The Minister for Lands is only too easy to get on with. This land was opened up because its potentiality was recognised. However, now we are passing through another stagnant period of bewilderment because of the dictatorial nature of one Minister.

Mr. Sewell: They spent \$5,000 on the harbour.

Mr. HALL: Yes. I do not know whence that came or from whom it was borrowed.

The shipment of grain for the 12 months ended the 30th June, 1965, was 269,650 tons, whilst for the year ended the 30th June, 1966, the figure was 351,760 tons. There is every indication that this tonnage will again increase and improve.

However, I will not weary the House with any more of the facts and figures which Mr. Murray has submitted. A lot of effort was put into the preparation of this report, a copy of which I know has been sent to the Minister for Works.

Albany has been called the port of production but not of export. In this regard I want to refer to the sleepers which are milled within 80 miles of Albany. These sleepers, instead of being shipped through Albany, are carted up very steep gradients at exceptional cost and then shipped through Bunbury.

Someone has had a hand in the cost of these sleepers, although I do not know who it is. At one stage we were undercutting these sleepers by 80c. Next there was an adjustment and they were able to undercut us by 10c. These sleepers are being milled in the Albany area, but are being pushed uphill and shipped through Bunbury to stimulate trade there.

With regard to mineral sands near Albany, I have asked many questions and have written to the Minister for Mines, but as yet I have received no reply. There is a definite distinction between the situation in Bunbury and that in Albany. Mineral sands are being shipped through Bunbury, and this is of great capital value to the State. However, there is complete stagnation in regard to this particular commodity in the southern portion of the State. The following appeared in an article in *The West Australian* on the 28th June this year:—

Commonsense View of Mineral Exports

Sir Maurice Mawby's conception of Australia's role as a supplier of raw and primary materials to more intensely developed countries recognises the benefits to be gained from fully exploiting our mineral wealth with the means at hand.

Yet the Government today is completely stagnant and dormant in its approach to this particular commodity in the southern portion of the State.

I also asked a question today in regard to Laporte, and I was told that that company has no control over leases. However, last year I was told that it had 2,000 acres of sands under its control. Many more leases are tied up and nothing has been done with them, yet in the south-west portion of the State the mineral sands have been found to be lucrative. Why have not the sands been developed in the southern portion as well as in the south-west of the State? This is something the Government has to answer.

Mr. Court: I can assure you that if they were commercially viable they would have been exploited long ago.

Mr. HALL: The member for Merredin-Yilgarn had the sands tested 10 years ago and I myself had them tested in South

Australia. It was found that without any upgrading they were equal to those in South Australia. The sands in the south-west of the State have been upgraded, but nothing has been done with the sands in the south.

Mr. Court: It is a question of quantity.

Mr. HALL: What I am saying cannot be refuted or denied, any more than can the correspondence I sent to the Minister. For seven months he has ignored that correspondence. I have never known any other Minister to do such a thing. Ministers usually treat members with respect. This, however, is an occasion when complete ignorance has prevailed, and I have been brushed off.

The Government has something to answer in this respect. It must realise it has passed over something of great advantage to the State. The Minister for the North-West is pushing and driving for the development of our mineral resources, and if he had obtained enough royalty we would have enough finance to supply all the housing requirements in Western Australia. However, by minimising the royalties from the north-west, he has virtually sold us out to Japan and America.

These sands are available in the south-west. We have only to study the financial pages to see how well off are the firms which control these leases. Why the sands have not been developed and exploited is beyond me. The only answer I can find is that the Government cannot see anything below the 26th parallel. That staggers me, because after all is said and done it is the primary industries which are keeping Western Australia on its feet. No-one can dispute that fact. Beef production is expanding, and can be developed further, and this year there have been six wool sales in Albany. I cannot understand the attitude of the members of the Country Party who have allowed this centralised dictatorship. Unless this is prevented, the whole of the population of Western Australia will be comfortably situated in the city and will give the country away.

Mr. Brand: Not much chance of that.

Mr. HALL: The other matter on which I would like to speak concerns the resting of the primary school at Albany. I feel I must take this matter up with the Minister for Education. The development of Albany has reached the stage where the primary school must be resited. One of the advantages of this would be that the children would be diverted from the heavy traffic, which is rather chaotic at the moment, and it will remain that way until such time as traffic lights are installed on other similar action taken.

The school is situated right on a spot where the children have to cross the road continually and therefore be exposed to heavy traffic and possible calamity. I think the Minister should give serious

consideration to having the school resited. I do not know whether it would be possible to sell the school, but it would be very valuable property. If a sale was possible, the return from it should be applied to another school in some other area before it is too late. The resiting of the primary school is very essential, and earnest consideration should be given to it. Business development is taking place all around and a number of civic centres have been built. In fact, the school is being built out.

Mr. Lewis: Do you have any suggestions for an alternative site?

Mr. HALL: I have a suggestion and I would like to discuss it with the Minister some time. The point that worries me is that the resiting of the school is imperative; but I think the Minister is earnest enough to give it consideration. I believe that the property reverts to public property. I do not think the Minister should lose the property, but should look at the Act in an endeavour to get around that point. The sale from the property would more than offset the cost of rebuilding a school in another area in a better location. One of the reasons why this should be viewed seriously is that the present locality is becoming almost completely a commercial area. It would be possible to gain money because of the business potential of the area if a sale could be executed. Consequently the development of a primary school in another area could take place and it would not represent any great encumbrance on the Treasury.

Mr. Lewis: I take it there is no ground available there?

Mr. HALL: No, there is not any ground available in the area. I have said all I want to say on the Estimates. I hope I have made at least some impression on the Premier and that I have perhaps offended the Minister for the North-West with regard to the potential below the 26th parallel.

MR. MITCHELL (Stirling) [8.2 p.m.]: I did not intend to enter into the debate at this stage, except to make a few complimentary remarks to the Government. However, after having listened to the comments of the member for Albany in connection with the inaction of the Government, I would like to put the record straight in respect of a few matters concerning my own area. I look upon Albany as being portion of my area, because the electorate of Stirling surrounds Albany and the whole of the wealth of Albany comes from the hinterland of which such a large part is in my electorate. As I have said, I want to put the record straight.

First of all, I would like to know exactly how a Government could ever be right, when we hear such criticism as has been made by the member for Albany and by the Albany Press. For years we have been fighting for a third berth at Albany.

When the Government said it was going to put in a third berth, it was immediately criticised on the ground of some political trick. The Government does not need political tricks of this nature to hold sway in this State. It stands by the fact that it represents the whole State. The Government wants to see the development of the whole area, and it is not necessary for it to gain prestige by making the quite obvious move to install the third berth in Albany. It is then accused of political trickery. I have never heard anything quite so silly in all my life.

The member for Albany mentioned that all the people concerned in the area have co-operated with each other. The council members and I have co-operated with the member for Albany and assisted the Albany Harbour Board in the presentation of the case to the Minister for Works. I believe that eventually we persuaded the Government that it was the right and proper time to put in the third berth in Albany; that the port had developed to the stage where the third berth was necessary and the time was now right for the work to be done.

The member for Albany also mentioned that the Government has not carried out its obligations, because it has failed to provide a foreshore road. I have been a strong supporter of the foreshore road in Albany. In fact I consider it is one of the most essential things that should be provided in the Albany area in order to develop the port to its proper level. The board consists of sensible men and, when I put my views to them, they said the most important thing was the third berth. They said, "Let us work for the third berth and when we obtain that and develop the port to that extent, perhaps we can suggest that we want the foreshore road."

I should say that the foreshore road in Albany could be built without its being a great cost to the Government. In fact, it could even be the means of making some money, because if the reclamation were properly carried out, the industrial sites available would almost offset the cost of the foreshore road. However, until such time as the third berth is constructed, nobody is prepared to say that he wants the foreshore road. I consider this is the proper sequence of events.

For years I have heard people criticise the Government for not spending money in the Albany area. Members must surely be aware of the war service land settlement scheme in the Albany area which was started by a Government of the present political colour and carried on by the Opposition when it was in power. Something like £40,000,000 was spent on war service land settlement in Western Australia. This sum of money was provided by the State and the Commonwealth. Approximately £35,000,000 of

that amount was spent in the Albany zone. If that is not money by anybody's reckoning, I do not know what is.

The Governments which provided at least £35,000,000 in the Albany zone to develop war service land settlement thereby gave the area the greatest boost in agricultural production that has ever taken place in any one area of the State.

Mr. May: Are you talking about dollars?

Mr. MITCHELL: Despite this, suggestions are made in the Press and by members of Parliament that the Government has done nothing for the southern areas of the State. The war service land settlement scheme brought home to people the value of the land on the southern coast. It provided the impetus by which land settlement has been carried on and developed in that area.

Members have just heard the member for Albany say that the southern areas of the State are stagnating. The southern areas of the State are making the biggest development that has been made anywhere in Western Australia. This is evidenced by the land thrown open, the increased number of stock, and the increased production. These are only a few of the developments, but I do not want to weary the House by mentioning all of them. In any event, the member for Albany mentioned quite a few. The Port of Albany has doubled its intake of goods in phosphatic rock, etc. and more than doubled its export of goods. Approximately 200,000 bales of wool were produced in the area, but only 57,000 bales were shipped through the Port of Albany. Nevertheless, the figures show the potential for the area.

In spite of all this progress, we are told the Government is doing nothing to assist the area. If the Government is doing nothing to assist it, it must be a terribly good area, because it is making progress; and, we are told, it is making that progress in spite of the Government. I say that the Government has made a remarkable contribution towards the development of the great southern area. One has only to consider the hospitals, the schools, the bitumen roads, and many other things to see that this is so. In spite of the carping criticism made by the Albany Press and, unfortunately, by the member for Albany, this progress is taking place. If the people who are so eager to criticise got together and worked for the progress of the area and gave some credit to those who are already working to that end, then probably the progress would be even greater.

As I have said, I wanted to correct the impression which might have been made because of the views advanced by the member for Albany and also to say how much I appreciate the fact that the third berth has been agreed to. We are aware that perhaps it should have been commenced 12 months earlier, but we also know that the Government has so many

commitments that it cannot start work in advance of the time when something is necessary.

In our discussions with the Albany Harbour Board, the member for Albany and I were told by the members of the board that the time for a third berth had arrived and they thought the Government should be made fully aware of the necessity for it. When the case was properly presented and when the need was shown, we found that the third berth would be started.

The member for Albany twits the Government for the fact that it is only providing \$5,000 for the work. However, this is a start. The Albany Harbour Board has borrowing powers of \$300,000 a year. The money has to be borrowed by somebody, and whether it is borrowed by the Albany Harbour Board or by the Government, surely it is right that the Government should show its interest in the matter; and it is right that the Albany Harbour Board should use its borrowing powers to progress with this work. I want to congratulate the Government on the fact that it has now seen the necessity for the third berth at Albany and has made provision in the Loan Estimates this year for the work to be started.

There is one other point I wish to mention in connection with the Loan Estimates and, that is, the amount of money made available for planting softwoods in Western Australia. The Minister for Forests has probably been advised by his experts that it is no good planting pines in the great southern area because they will not grow there. Experts are sometimes wrong and, in this case, I would say they are definitely wrong. On many occasions I have mentioned the possibility and the desirability of planting some pines in the Denmark water catchment area.

Mr. Brand: What is the rainfall there?

Mr. MITCHELL: It is between 30 and 35 inches. There is no doubt that pines will grow in the great southern area. I have seen pines cut on private properties which are probably the biggest pines that could be grown in Western Australia. Many acres of pines were planted at the Pardellup Prison Farm some years ago and these showed promise of tremendous growth; but, unfortunately, when the fire-breaks were being burnt, the pine forest was burnt down and destroyed.

Mr. Brand: I was told that the soil was the problem.

Mr. MITCHELL: As far as I am concerned the soil in the great southern area will grow pines. They grow anywhere, and I say that in the Denmark water catchment area there is ample ground which could be utilised for the purpose. Also the area is reserved and it could not be used for other purposes. Some pine forests would improve the position as far

as the salinity of the area is concerned, and unquestionably progress could be made with pines there.

As I have said, the experts have told me they will not grow. I could probably tell the experts something about the hills areas. We have seen areas in the hills cleared and planted with pines, but in some of the areas the pines, in less than 15 years, have stopped growing, and they are not likely to grow much more because the stone is too close to the surface. I make the suggestion to the experts that possibly some of the areas they have planted in the hills will not grow pines. I am referring to some of the areas between Perth and Williams. I am sure that good pines could be grown in the Denmark area and I appeal to the people concerned to have another look at the matter to see whether something could be done to assist the area. If this is done, it may be possible to develop another industry in the Albany region which could be of great benefit to the port.

MR. FLETCHER (Fremantle) [8.14 p.m.]: I know I should take advantage of the Estimates to discuss matters affecting my electorate and the State. I refer to housing and other matters on which the Government has fallen down. However, soon after my return from overseas as delegate to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference in Canada, Mr. Speaker asked me whether or not he should convene a meeting for me to give a further report in addition to the printed one which I submitted. However, members have received a copy of that conference report from me. Again, like the member for Avon, who felt an obligation to report to the House following his study trip overseas, I, too, feel an obligation placed upon me to present a supplementary report to the House in addition to the conference report I have already made. As members are aware I travelled overseas beyond Canada and this will be the subject of my comments in making a report this evening, and I will elaborate more explicitly on some of the subjects discussed at the conference.

I admit it is rather difficult not to present my speech in the form of a travelogue. Let me say in short that the trip proved a valuable experience to me because it was very educational and what I have seen overseas has proved to be of advantage to myself, and no doubt it will be of similar advantage to other members of this House and to the State in general.

After leaving Australia I spent three days in San Francisco, three days in Los Angeles, and three days in Chicago on my way to Montreal where all the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association delegates assembled prior to the holding of the conference in Ottawa. After we assembled in Montreal we became scattered in groups throughout the various Provinces of Canada. I was interested in

matters associated with health, fishing, education, and similar subjects. I realised the great advantage in touring the entire width of Canada, so initially I flew to Newfoundland in Nova Scotia and then across Canada to Vancouver. I then retraced my steps over the continent, Province by Province.

Whilst in Montreal I visited the site of Expo 67. At that time the exhibition had not been opened, but I was greatly impressed with what I saw and what is now the showcase of world exhibits. It is a showcase for the exhibits of all nations, including Australia. That was a very interesting experience. Delegates were entertained on a provincial and local government level. Considerable entertainment was provided; and, to use a colloquialism, there was a great deal of earbashing associated with the entertainment provided. There was one rather amusing incident in this regard, which involved the Premier of the Province, and I hope that at some future date he will not read the remarks I am about to make. This gentleman spoke for one hour.

I was seated at the main table because I had to respond on behalf of all delegates. After being submitted to such a gruelling during this one hour speech, I was still uncertain, when I resumed my seat after a speech of 10 minutes, whether the applause that followed was in response to my speech being a good one or because I had dealt with my subject so briefly.

I understand that tonight I can take advantage of 45 minutes to deliver my speech on the Loan Estimates. The delegates to the conference visited primary and secondary industries while they were in Canada. To me, these visits were an eye-opener and no doubt similar visits proved of considerable interest to the member for Avon who visited Canada shortly after I was there. I was also introduced to the public health administration. I witnessed the operation of the transplanting of an artificial kidney in a hospital patient; a technique which has been, I understand, only recently introduced to Australia. Following the operation the patient left the hospital in reasonable health, and returned as an out-patient for subsequent treatment. Previously such patients died. As I indicated a moment ago, this method is now practised in Australia.

I also had the privilege of witnessing an abdominal operation through a glass dome, looking down upon the operating table and the doctors performing the operation. I made inquiries into the care of the aged, and found that Canada is far more progressive in this field than we are in this State.

Mr. Brand: What do you mean by that?

Mr. FLETCHER: Greater care is taken of the aged. I am not casting any reflection on the Premier.

Mr. Brand: No; I realise you are not.

Mr. FLETCHER: I am merely saying that the hospitalisation and the care given to the aged is superior to that in this State. The institutions are similar to our "C"-class hospitals, but by and large they are superior to what I would consider the best of our hospitals in Western Australia.

Mr. Brand: How are they superior? Do they have better buildings or better accommodation?

Mr. FLETCHER: Better accommodation is provided. The layout of the buildings is better and the meals provided are better than those supplied to the aged in our State. In general the facilities are better. I do not want to become bogged down on this subject, but I will say that the people in charge of the aged on a State basis were prepared to visit Western Australia to show us how we could emulate their methods of treating the aged. However, in view of the politics in which I believe, I do not wish to leave aged people in the care of private enterprise. I would prefer to see Government hospitals established at the expense of the taxpayers to care for those who have paid taxes all their lives. I object to any private concern being associated with the care of the aged, and I left my hosts in no doubt as to what my feelings were in that respect.

Canada is a wonderful country over which to fly in autumn because one can see the prairies below, the expansive lakes, and the wonderful greenery. The Minister for Agriculture may have been fortunate in seeing these sights. It is a wonderful experience to look down from an aeroplane and witness the superabundance of water; water which would be valued so greatly in Australia. I saw the hydroelectric scheme at Niagara Falls. This, in itself, is a wonderful experience. Whilst I was there a rail strike was being held and, as members opposite would say, it reminded me of home. However, that is a democratic country and people have the right to object to the conditions they do not favour. I heard the Government being criticised in regard to American investment, and its resultant influence on Canadian industry and its economy. I have spoken on this subject in the House previously and expressed the view that I would not like to see American investment become predominant in this State.

In retracing my steps to Los Angeles, I would like to mention that whilst I was in this city I was travelling as a Labor man at my own expense and on a very limited budget. I travelled from the airport to the city of Los Angeles in segregated traffic, and I consider this to be of great importance. Passenger car traffic had a separate lane allocated to it, and heavy transport and buses travelled along another lane. On top of the highways were placed markings and numbers which signified the lane in which the respective vehicles had to travel. I travelled to Los Angeles in

a bus at 70 miles an hour in absolute safety; a speed which cannot possibly be achieved in Western Australia by such a vehicle.

I disembarked from the bus at the Statler Hotel. Some members may know it. The tariff charged was beyond my capacity, because it was \$18 for bed and breakfast. I promptly picked up my bags and went to the Y.M.C.A. where I obtained splendid accommodation commensurate with my purse. At this point let me say that if any member leaves on a similar mission to that which I took he would have to come from the other side of the House to afford the hotel accommodation offering.

Mr. Rushton: Is that a general statement?

Mr. FLETCHER: Yes. Alternatively, the Treasurer should make available more travelling expenses to a delegate travelling overseas to a Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. The delegate would then not be embarrassed in regard to accommodation. As I stated, I stayed at the Y.M.C.A. in Los Angeles; and I took advantage of the accommodation that association provided at many places. I spoke to many people, including liftmen, and men in the street, because I wanted to know how people in America lived and how they felt over various matters.

I heard criticism of the taxation imposed on them to pay for the war in Vietnam. I saw overways and underways with traffic passing in close proximity to my accommodation. Smog and smells were prevalent. The time of the year may have been responsible for the waves of fog drifting in, because it was autumn; and there is no doubt that the smell of the exhaust fumes throughout the city was very noticeable. I am greatly concerned that similar conditions will eventually be experienced in Perth, and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition may be interested in this subject from a transport point of view.

Close to my accommodation was a cutting very similar to that which is now being built in front of Parliament House. I heard the constant roar of traffic, and if we are to experience a similar roar of traffic outside Parliament House I am not looking forward to it. I am sure all members of this House will agree with me on that. If Harvest Terrace is to be left open, we will have the roar of traffic on both sides of Parliament House.

Mr. Graham: It will not be on both sides, but on all sides of Parliament House.

Mr. FLETCHER: I even saw cars on the roofs of commercial buildings opposite to the building in which I was accommodated. This seemed incredible to me. I wondered when people in America, and even in Australia, would house their cars in their bedrooms and sleep on the roofs of buildings themselves. Most of the cars

I saw on the streets were huge limousines which, in the main, carried only one passenger per vehicle.

I travelled uptown and downtown. I saw members of the affluent society and those who were less privileged. I was bitten by one who, in America, is colloquially called a bum; and, whilst wishing to spare the feelings of the feminine audience in the House tonight, I was accosted by a prostitute. I am still not sure whether I should have been offended or have taken the approach as a compliment.

Mr. Bovell: You must have a magnetic personality.

Mr. Graham: I have heard it otherwise described.

Mr. FLETCHER: Perhaps it could have been that I did not look as decrepit as I felt. I was footsore from wandering around the streets, because travelling by taxi proved to be very expensive. To give members some idea of charges, a small breakfast cost \$1.30, and the charge for a haircut was \$1.80. I do not know what it would cost the member for Northam for a haircut. A newspaper cost me 25c. I gave a 25c piece to the news vendor and stood by him pretending to read the headlines in anticipation of getting some change, but he ignored me. I subsequently found that that was the price of the morning paper.

Mr. O'Neill: He was also expecting a tip.

Mr. FLETCHER: That is probably so. In the restaurant in which I had my breakfast I was astounded to see a policeman with a pistol on his hip. In America apparently all policemen carry pistols.

Mr. W. Hegney: He must have known you were coming.

Mr. FLETCHER: When I asked the proprietor of the restaurant what this particular member of the constabulary was doing in his restaurant he looked at me in surprise, and in the American dialect he replied, "The place would be full of God-damn bums if this fellow was not here to move them on."

I had seen what he referred to as "God-damn bums"; they were the less privileged people who wandered the streets day and night. I admit there is a very affluent society in America, but there is also a tremendous number of underprivileged people there. The tragedy of the situation was that these people wanted to come into the restaurant to enjoy the warmth, because the place was air-conditioned. They probably did not have the price of a cup of coffee or a bun, but because they came in and sat down and occupied seats which could have been occupied by paying customers the policeman was there to move them on; that is, those who could not pay.

I admit that as a Labor member I might have looked for this sort of thing. I did,

however, witness this without having to look very far for it. It was evident from the answer I received to my question. What I have just said is borne out by a newspaper comment which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 2nd October and referred to a warning given by the brother of the late President Kennedy. It reads as follows:—

Senator Robert Kennedy warned yesterday that the United States was facing its most pressing domestic crisis in 100 years—violent upheavals among its desperate poor.

"There is savage, bloody evidence of an under-developed nation within our borders, its people too long denied a share in our affluence," he said.

I will not weary the House by reading the remainder of the article. I am merely trying to put into perspective the real situation in America as I saw it. I admit that these comments consist of bits and pieces of various subjects; but I saw that 1c parking was available for six minutes, and for 5c one could park for an hour. I saw policemen on three-wheeler motor cycles, chalking the wheels of parked vehicles.

Mr. Jamieson: Do not tell Curlewis about that.

Mr. FLETCHER: The matter of parking costs might be of interest to some members. I saw liquor bars, churches, and missions alongside each other, and I am sure that the churches were losing in favour of the liquor bars. Apart from this I saw air raid and fallout shelters. I mention these things to show that the Americans take the talk of war seriously.

On one occasion I was looking for a gentlemen's convenience and having wandered into what I assumed was a gentlemen's convenience I found myself in a fallout shelter. I mention this to show that, as a result of war hysteria, the Americans have catered for such contingencies. Air raid shelters were also available on a pre-fabricated basis, and they could be installed in back yards. The commercial interests are not slow to capitalise on the fears of people, because these air raid shelters are readily available at a price.

There is no doubt that Los Angeles is a beautiful city. The music bowl is worth seeing, as are the beautiful public and administrative buildings. I did however strike a discordant note outside the Hall of Justice where I found that bonds and bail could be arranged by those who came before the Hall of Justice. The bonds and bail were available at the entrance to the hall.

The American business people are very astute; they do not miss an opportunity to capitalise on the miseries of the less fortunate people. I viewed Los Angeles from high ground; thought at the time the weather was very smoggy. I certainly

missed our clear Australian sunshine. I do not know whether the weather is like that all the time, but it was certainly not pleasant while I was there.

I must now make mention of the conference that I attended, because that was the purpose of my going overseas. As delegates, we were grouped at the conference according to the various countries from which we originated. I have here the agenda items, and I have already reported to the Chamber what I did while I was there. Members may, however, be interested in what occurred. We were grouped in branches, and the original 32 branches in 1950 had grown to 68 branches in 1965, and the numbers are continuing to increase. I have here a booklet entitled, *IPA—FACTS*, October-November, 1966. One of the questions asked in this booklet is—

How many countries are in the Commonwealth of Nations (British) and what is the total population?

The answer to the question is as follows:—
23 countries—

9 in Africa.

5 in Asia.

3 in the West Indies.

The remaining 6 are—The United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Cyprus, Malta.

Total population of the British Commonwealth is about 760 million people.

The member for Fremantle was a delegate representing a portion of those 760,000,000 people, and I would like to thank members for giving me the opportunity to represent this State. The subjects discussed were the Commonwealth and the world; international affairs; and Vietnam. I will now read the consensus of opinion, though I will not go into a great deal of detail. It reads as follows:—

The danger of escalation of the war in Vietnam was generally recognized. United States military action in South-East Asia and the mistrust existing there and elsewhere between communist and non-communist blocks were poisoning international relations. All effort should be directed to bringing an end to hostilities in Vietnam and to bridging the dangerous gulf between East and West.

Certain delegates strongly criticised U.S. policy. As self-appointed policeman of the world, the U.S. misconceived the problem in Asia; it hinged not on communism but on whether Asia should or should not continue to be dominated by the West.

This I think is the point at which I should place in *Hansard* my comment on this particular matter. Having a draft of my speech, I would like, with the forbearance of members to place it on record. It does appear in the conference record which was compiled at the time, but this has a

very limited circulation. I will read the notes quickly, and hand them to *Hansard* after I have finished. My theme was "International Affairs—Australia and Asia." The speech reads as follows:—

Since we are as delegates assembled here for the collective and individual advantage of those we represent, then I believe we and our Governments should take cognisance of opinions and decisions emanating from such a conference as this.

If as a consequence of my few minutes address, any delegates are convinced that Australia's role in international affairs in Asia is inimical to her own and Asia's, and the world's best interests, then I ask those delegates to request their various Governments to endeavour to influence Australia away from her present involvement in Vietnam.

Some of this was printed in Western Australia, it occupied a two-inch column in *The West Australian* at that time. I would like members to know what I said in full. It is as follows:—

Let me first give Webster's definition of the word Australasia—Austral is given as meaning "South" from Auster, the South wind. Asia of course is self-explanatory. In effect I am a Southern Asian with a white skin. I am additionally a Democratically elected parliamentary representative of a nation of some 11,000,000 other white-skinned Asians living among some one billion coloured Asian neighbours.

I make this point not to illustrate any threat of invasion—all Asian neighbours have economic and other problems at home, without acquiring Australia's—but to demonstrate that our present behaviour is tantamount to a person slapping a swarm of bees hanging immediately above one's head.

I want delegates to know that Gallup Polls reveal that a majority of those of the 11,000,000 questioned, are opposed to the negation of democracy in the sending of our conscripted youth to invade any part of Asia in an undeclared war.

It is a notorious fact that not one of the Governments which have ruled South Vietnam since 1954 has been democratic. All have ruled by military force and have forcibly suppressed opposition. Yet here we are an allegedly democratic nation—a party to an invasion of an Asian neighbour's soil to assist any but a democratic regime.

I reason the situation this way. Asians have as much right to repel invasion from Australia as Australia

has to repel invasion from Asia. Like many thousands of other Australian volunteers I joined forces with others some 20 odd years ago to repel imminent Asian invasion of Australian soil. I submit that Vietnam today is attempting to repel an American-Australian invasion force which has crossed thousands of miles of ocean to ensure continuation of the Western presence and influence in that part of Asia.

I further suggest that just as one State of Australia would naturally come to the assistance of another State of Australia—just as one State of Canada would come to the aid of another State of Canada—if invaded—then I ask delegates: Should we be surprised if the State of North Vietnam comes to the aid of South Vietnam when invaded? Do they all become "Commies", or "Commos" because they object to being invaded and having their children, parents, homes and property bombed and burnt? I would here point out that the word "Commie" and "Commo" is used in America and Australia respectively, to intimidate and silence legitimate opposition and criticism.

I believe there is an obligation on such a gathering as is here convened, to remind those who profess and subscribe to democracy, and accompanying Parliamentary system that something more than lip service is expected from signatories of the United Nations Charter and the Declaration of Human Rights—rights which accord all the right to choose Governments of their own choice without assistance, armed or otherwise, from overseas. I might here ask who appointed America and Australia as policemen in this area? I regret to state that I believe that outside economic domination means domination of foreign policy and international affairs—hence Australia's participation. I would state that Australia lives in Asia—America does not and further I see little purpose in electing myself or Federal colleagues to Australian Parliament, if decisions over which we have no control or opportunity to debate, are made and imposed upon us by representatives in Washington or elsewhere.

Mr. Court: I hope you made it clear that was your personal view.

Mr. Graham: He would not be alone in that opinion.

Mr. Brand: You would share it.

Mr. Graham: As do a number of people everywhere.

Mr. FLETCHER: I did. I would like to continue so that this can appear in

print, because I am not at all ashamed of it. Continuing—

If it is argued that armed assistance was invited to South Vietnam then it was invited by and to assist one of the previously mentioned non-elected, unpopular, undemocratic oppressive regimes which have been temporarily maintained in office by force of foreign arms, until discredited, or another puppet found.

These are harsh words I know, but harsh deeds are being perpetrated from sea, land and air against a poorly armed people in the name of democracy.

I am concerned that such action will drive these and their neighbours into the arms of those who do not subscribe to our Parliamentary system.

Let me ask the Minister for Industrial Development what he thinks of that comment.

Mr. Court: Your views and mine on Vietnam would be entirely different.

Mr. FLETCHER: Listen to my next comment—

The fact that C.P.A. membership has grown from 32 in 1950 to 68 in 1965, affords me, and I am sure other delegates, satisfaction. I am anxious to see our representation further increased and am concerned that the condoning of Australia's present involvement will do little to increase membership.

Let us briefly investigate what America and her reluctant allies are fighting. Principally the N.L.F. assisted now by Northern relatives. The National Liberation Front is a coalition of three political parties opposed to the Saigon dictatorship. It is led by a non-Communist lawyer.

I mention this for the benefit of the Premier and the front bench opposite. Continuing—

On its committee are Buddhist and Catholic Priests, Protestant Clergy, small business men and professional people. It has its own Government in the South Vietnamese countryside with its own laws, taxation system and health and education services.

The Democratic Party of Vietnam, —

This will be of interest to members.

Mr. Brand: I'll say it will!

Mr. FLETCHER: Continuing—

—a violently anti-communist group, who had formerly supported the discredited Bao Dai, estimated in July, 1963, that the National Liberation Front had the support of at least 75 per cent. of the people of South Vietnam, and ruled about 90 per cent. of the country.

Let me say that that situation still appears to prevail. Continuing—

This I suggest explains the extraordinary strength of the guerilla movement and the present inability of the American Australian and other invaders to crush it.

Mr. Brand: Why don't you mention the North Vietnam invaders?

Mr. FLETCHER: To continue—

Points from the programme of the National Liberation Front include among other things—

- (1) Overthrow of the military dictatorship within Saigon.
- (2) Election of a National Assembly with universal suffrage, freedom of opinion, Press, assembly, trade unionism, and religion.
- (3) General amnesty for all political prisoners—dissolution of all concentration camps.
- (4) Suppression of foreign monopolies and encouragement of national industry.
- (5) Agrarian reform on the basis of "land to those who till it."
- (6) Education—to liquidate illiteracy from all.
- (7) To establish a National army, to abolish the draft, and to abolish all foreign military bases.

Vietnamese history since 1963 is common knowledge. Unable to suppress the people, the pro-American Diem regime was disposed of by the simple expedient of assassination. Since then nine successive "Governments"—

I have that in quotation marks—

—have come and gone in Saigon—each more corrupt and brutal than the last. The September elections will do nothing to alter this. How can they when most of Marshall Ky's political opponents are either in gaol or have a price on their heads as Viet Cong. And in the meantime, Australia through acquiescence, or economic domination, continues to be an accomplice in the murder of an entire people to ensure that none of the N.L.F. seven objectives previously mentioned may be realised. I ask the Governments of delegates present to peacefully intercede to ensure the withdrawal of foreign troops from Asian soil, so that Asians may determine their own affairs as we who subscribe to Democracy would determine ours.

That was my comment on the occasion.

Mr. Brand: It does not represent my views.

Mr. FLETCHER: Let me take up some more time of the Committee on this subject. I refer to an article in *The West*

Australian of the 2nd October, 1967, under the heading, "Johnson: Increase War Taxes." It reads as follows:—

Washington, Sun.: As President Johnson urged congress during the weekend to increase taxes to pay for the war, the *New York Times* called on him to halt the bombing of North Vietnam immediately.

Here is the *New York Times* asking that the bombing be halted. Members may ask what relevance this has to this Chamber. Let me say this: The Australian taxpayer's money being wasted in destroying homes in Vietnam should be spent in Australia to build homes for our people. That is the significance of my comments.

Mr. Graham: Hear, hear!

Mr. FLETCHER: To continue quoting in part—

He made his appeal to congress while visiting Texas, where he also warned that every day's delay increased the danger of runaway inflation.

Speaking to reporters at the L. B. J. ranch, he said the alternative to a relatively small income tax increase was an "inflation tax" with all its evils.

He did not estimate whether the Vietnam war costs—about \$1,786 million a month—would increase sharply in the next few months.

Earlier in the day he complained that congress had cut the Defence Department's appropriation by \$1,428 million at a time when the costs of the war could never be precisely estimated.

Listen to this—

The *New York Times* called on Mr. Johnson to order an immediate halt to the bombing of North Vietnam.

I said this at the conference 12 months ago. I suppose members opposite would consider me to be disreputable for saying it; but when I quote as I have done from the *New York Times* confirming what I said 12 months ago, members opposite pretend not to hear what I am saying. I say to the Minister for Industrial Development and the Premier that they would have more to spend in this State if, on a Commonwealth level, Australia was not a little Sir Echo, wasting the taxpayers' money by a show of force in this area and alienating friendships we might otherwise achieve in Asia.

Mr. Court: Hanoi will be very proud of that speech.

Mr. Graham: In another 12 months the Liberal Party of Australia will be the only party supporting intervention in Vietnam.

Mr. FLETCHER: The Minister's comment is consistent with what the Leader of the Opposition said last night. Abuse is no argument. I sincerely believe what

I say; and an ever-increasing percentage of the Australian community and the American population agrees with me. From the latest figures I have read, as a result of his administration in relation to the policy in Vietnam, President Johnson's popularity is down to 39 per cent.

I do not wish to say any more on the subject, although I would like to continue with the rest of the agenda. I have copious notes, but 45 minutes soon pass.

Mr. Brand: It seems like hours to us.

Mr. FLETCHER: Irrespective of whether members opposite agree with me, or not, I ask them to believe in my sincerity. I have never left anybody on the other side of the House in any doubt as to my sincerity. I sincerely believe what I have said and what I have read—and so does an ever-increasing percentage of our population.

Mr. Brand: It does not express my views, sincere or otherwise.

Mr. FLETCHER: I would rather lose my seat as a parliamentary representative than change the opinion I have expressed this evening.

Mr. Court: I hope they did not think you were expressing the views of the W.A. Branch of the C.P.A.

Mr. FLETCHER: It is a reasonable assumption that I will never be sent away again, because I took the opportunity to fearlessly say what I would say here, and what I sincerely believe.

Gibraltar was on the conference agenda and the delegate explained the predicament of his country. There is another heading, "The Establishment of a Means of Peaceful Settlement of Disputes between Peoples of the Commonwealth." This can be found in the Twelfth Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference report.

There is another heading, "Commonwealth Self-Help-Trade and Aid." Members opposite will perhaps agree with this, particularly the Minister for Agriculture. I appealed to the British delegates to use their influence at home to ensure that overseas shipping companies showed some mercy in relation to the freight rates they charge to carry Australian produce from our shores. The Minister for Agriculture does not appear to be interested in that, even though it has a vital effect on the industry he represents. I will not repeat what is in the report; members can read it if they care to.

Another heading is, "Commodity Price Stabilization in the Commonwealth." The report reads—

Delegates accepted that one of the reasons for the failure to reach the UN Development Decade rate of growth of 5 per cent per annum had been the budgetary deficits arising from lower prices for primary products.

The share of the primary producing countries of world trade had fallen from about 30 per cent. in 1950-52 to less than 25 per cent. in 1960-62.

Another heading is, "Food Resources and the Population Explosion." The comments are—

The conference noted the figures from UN sources on world population. Since the end of the Second World War, world population growth had doubled from 1 per cent to 2 per cent a year and was increasing steadily. According to UN estimates, world population would grow by an annual average of 2.1 per cent until 1975 and by 2.6 per cent from 1975 to 2000. In less than 40 years the 1960 world population of 3,000 million would double, so that by the year 2000, the total world population was expected to be 6,300 million. Unfortunately the growth rate was more critical in countries where food producing capabilities were limited.

Another item on the agenda was, "Education and Technical Assistance." I would inform the Premier I said that with the educational facilities available to us we were doing all that could be reasonably expected of us for Asian and other students admitted to our University and technical schools.

Under the heading of "Education and Technical Assistance," the following appeared:—

Developing countries valued the educational and technical aid they were receiving but in most cases it was not sufficient to make a real impact or to meet their needs.

Then on page 7 of the report the following appeared:—

Parliamentary Government in the Commonwealth

1. Commonwealth Parliaments had initially followed the Westminster model, but many variations had evolved to meet local conditions. Each country must, while maintaining fundamental democratic principles, evolve its own parliamentary methods.

2. Parliamentary institutions in many countries stood in need of reform to bring them up to date.

3. The committee system offered many advantages in meeting present-day demands on Parliaments, and members should consider developing this system further.

The functions of Parliaments were reviewed under the following headings:—

The Upper House

The abolition of upper Houses was proposed by several delegates.

Mr. W. Hegney: Hear, hear; a pity it was not carried!

Mr. FLETCHER: I was waiting for that comment. To continue—

In developing countries, it was generally agreed, the upper House was not essential, especially as speed was needed in responding to the demands of the country.

I will not read any more of the report. Those were the principal points raised. I made contributions on education and trade, and also in relation to food and agricultural resources. Time does not permit me to cover my entire trip, but I would like to mention that I came home with Air India via London, Moscow, Bombay, Madras, and Singapore. I took the opportunity to spend a week in most of the places I have mentioned. I saw many things which were of value to me from an educational point of view, and some things which could well be emulated here.

My trip was somewhat spoiled by what I saw in India. I saw some very depressing sights and they reminded me of my comments at the conference. Many of the people in India are living in underprivileged degradation. That is the soil in which communism grows. Communism has grown, and will continue to grow while that situation exists. There is an obligation on the western nations to see what can be done to ease the situation and to see that it does not prevail. In our own interests it behoves us to do something about it.

One can see Indians worshipping the cow which they should be eating. That seems a strange contradiction. I saw people in such a state of infirmity that they were unable to walk and were dragging themselves along the streets. However, I also saw extreme wealth, and I sometimes wondered if it would be better to send shiploads of contraceptive pills to help those people rather than shiploads of wheat. I have noticed, since my visit, that contraception is being practised. The population has to be limited; there are just too many mouths to feed. The Speaker (Mr. Hearman), also was in India not long before me and I do not doubt that he witnessed most of what I saw. He, like myself, would have visited New Delhi and Bombay. Bombay was a very depressing place, from what I saw of it. I found myself staying at the Taj Mahal Hotel, and the charge was 90s. sterling per day. However, outside that hotel were beggars, and consequently I did not sleep very comfortably and was glad to be on my way back to Singapore.

I spent a few days in Singapore. I found the people there to be very industrious, and I consider them to be very good neighbours of Australia. I have further comments and copious notes, but I will not deal with them at this stage. There might be another opportunity to do so; but I did wish to give a further report to this House on my trip overseas. As I said earlier, I felt there was an obligation on me to add

to my printed report which was circulated among members.

In conclusion, I would say that more members should go overseas. It would be of benefit to the members concerned, and I suggest that it would consequently benefit the State.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by Mr. Norton.

EVIDENCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr. Court (Minister for Industrial Development), read a first time.

BILLS (3): RETURNED

1. Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act Amendment Bill.
2. Education Act Amendment Bill.
3. Taxi-cars (Co-ordination and Control) Act Amendment Bill.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

DOG ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [9.8 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill comes to us from another place and I introduce it into this House on behalf of the Minister for Local Government. Some 10 years ago the South Perth City Council considered that dogs in food shops represented a serious danger to public health and passed a by-law which would prohibit the owner of any dog from taking that dog into any place where foodstuffs were sold.

Section 21 (a) of the Dog Act at present provides that the owner of a dog which is found in any shop within any town, which is not under the effective control of some person, by means of a chain, cord, or leash, commits an offence. The implication here is that provided the dog is on a chain, cord, or leash, it may be taken into a shop.

It is clear that the by-law of the South Perth City Council is *ultra vires* as it is repugnant to section 21A of the Act. The council has consulted its solicitor, who has agreed with this view.

This Bill seeks to clarify the situation by providing that the owner of a dog which is found in any food shop within any city, town, or townsite commits an offence. The penalty for the first offence is \$10, and for subsequent offences \$20.

Subclause (3) of clause 3 is inserted at the request of the solicitors who act for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association of Australia, and is similar to provisions in most of the Dog Acts of other States. It provides that where a person is totally

or partially blind, he is entitled to be accompanied by a dog *bona fide* used by him as a guide dog, in any building or place open to, or used by, the public and also that he may take this dog with him in any public transport. I think it will be agreed that this is quite a reasonable approach to a situation that has developed, and I hope the House will accept this proposal.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Jamieson.

ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) [9.12 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I would advise members that the amendments contained in this measure come about as a result of a periodical review of the Electoral Act, and are intended to provide a means for the better administration of the Act.

The amendment in clause 3 provides that a person claiming enrolment must have lived continuously in the district or subdistrict, for which he claims to be enrolled as an elector, for a period of one month immediately preceding the date of his claim. The existing period is three months.

The following additional amendments are also contained in this clause:—

- (a) ~~Provision~~ for a claimant to have lived in the Commonwealth of Australia for six months continuously, and
- (b) for three months in the State (instead of the six months), and
- (c) a consequential amendment to subsection (2) to alter from three months to six months the period during which an elector changing his place of living to another district may vote.

These amendments to section 16 are almost identical to those put forward by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition last year.

Mr. Graham: And in 1963, and on both occasions opposed by the Minister now on his feet.

Mr. COURT: I wanted to make the point before the Deputy Leader of the Opposition tried to spoil what I had to say. He will appreciate that I have honoured our promise to keep this matter under review and our promise that if it was desirable we would make appropriate amendments. The amendments should give him some satisfaction.

Mr. Graham: I think the Government was determined that if any amendment was made it would not be by the Opposition.

Mr. COURT: It was not that at all. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition should be thankful for small mercies. We made a promise, and we have honoured it.

Mr. Graham: Just as well my leader is not present to comment on that remark.

Mr. COURT: As a result of the overall review of the Act, the Government has decided to proceed with the amendments. The amendment in clause 4 amends section 40 to insert the title "Director of Mental Health Services" in lieu of the discarded title "Inspector General of the Insane."

The next amendment requires that the witness to the signature of a claim shall also sign the claim as that witness. As now worded, the section does not stipulate that the witness is to sign in that capacity, so it is considered that this requirement now to be inserted should be made. A similar requirement is embodied in the Commonwealth Act.

The amendment in clause 6 is consequential to the previous one and it makes the signature of the witness an essential part of the claim.

The next clause contains a provision new to the electoral legislation in this State. By the addition of a new subsection (3) (a) to section 45, it is provided that, where the Chief Electoral Officer is satisfied that, through physical incapacity, mental illness or mental disorder, a person fails to enrol, such failure shall not be deemed a contravention of section 45. The amendment was lifted from section 26A of the Elections Act of Queensland.

Our Act, at present, contains no specific provision for any eligible person over 21 years of age to be excused from enrolment. The amendment will enable such excuse to be accepted and the person or his relatives assured accordingly.

The next amendment, which affects section 51A, is similar to that contained in the preceding clause 7 but relates to the circumstances of the Chief Electoral Officer being satisfied that a person is unable to comply with the compulsory voting requirements of the Act owing to physical incapacity, mental illness, or mental disorder.

It is understood that the reasons given for non-voting at elections include a number of cases in this category. The amendment will enable the Chief Electoral Officer to remove the names of those persons from the roll when he is satisfied that, for the reasons stated, this should be done.

Clause 9 repeals and re-enacts section 57. This section requires the Inspector General of the Insane to furnish the Chief Electoral Officer with quarterly returns showing the name of every person received by him as an inmate of a hospital or reception house for the insane. This will facilitate the removal of the requisite names of those persons from the rolls under the provisions of section 60.

Another amendment is necessary as a result of the coming into operation on the 1st July, 1966, of the Mental Health Act, 1962-64, with the title "Inspector General of the Insane" no longer existing and the term "hospital or reception house for the insane" no longer applicable. The current reference now is "Director of Mental Health Services," as earlier indicated, and "approved hospitals".

New provisions contained in clause 9 replace inapplicable provisions of section 57, the Bill thus enabling the removal from the electoral rolls of the names of the persons in the category contained in the clause; namely, those who have been reported under the Medical Health Act as being incapable of managing their own affairs and who are inmates of approved hospitals.

Clause 10 amends section 82 to the effect that any candidate may withdraw his nomination at any time but not later than noon on the day of nomination. The Bill introduced by the Minister for Justice provided that in that event, the deposit lodged by him would be refunded. This was considered by the Minister to be reasonable but the Legislative Council deleted this latter provision in Committee—

Mr. Graham: Hear, hear!

Mr. COURT:—thus continuing the existing forfeiture provisions applicable to the nomination fee when withdrawal of nomination occurs after the closing of nominations. I think the Government would have an open mind on this matter and would be prepared to accept the amendment made by the Legislative Council if it meets the general approval of members.

Mr. Hawke: No wonder the Treasurer looks happy.

Mr. COURT: At present, a candidate may withdraw his nomination, in accordance with section 82, at any time not later than seven clear days before polling day, in which case he is required to forfeit his deposit. The Act contains no provision, however, to cover the position of postal votes, which may be issued from the close of nominations until the time the candidate withdraws. Of particular importance in regard to this is the allocation of preferences shown on those postal votes. But the Act is silent in the matter.

The amendment in the Bill obviates this problem and will bring the position, with regard to the withdrawal of nominations, into line with the general provisions of section 80 of the Commonwealth Act.

The next amendment is consequential on the preceding one and affects section 88 which deals with the position which applies on the withdrawal or death of a candidate after nominations have closed.

Clause 12 contains a minor amendment necessary to line up references in section 90.

Section 93 refers to the "North-West Area as defined in the Electoral Districts Act, 1947." The Electoral Districts Act of 1947-65, however, shows this area as the "North-West-Murchison-Eyre Area" and the amendment in clause 13 alters the name accordingly.

Clause 14 amends section 99A in regard to absent voting. This section provides that "where on polling day for an election, an elector is not at any time during which the poll is open within the boundaries of the district for which he is enrolled" that elector shall, subject to the regulations relating to absent voting, be permitted to vote as an absent voter at any polling place open outside the district for which he is enrolled.

It is submitted that the provisions of section 99A in this respect should be amended to make it possible for an elector to claim an absent vote at any polling place which is open, irrespective of whether he will be at any time in the district for which he is enrolled during the hours of polling.

A similar amendment was included in a 1957 Bill which was not supported to the point of being passed by Parliament. However, the provisions permitting absent voting at any polling place which is open function for State elections in New South Wales, have applied in the Commonwealth sphere since 1966, and similar facilities, it is considered, should be available for electors in this State.

Clause 15 affects section 119 in the matter of questions to be put to voters. These particular amendments are consequential upon the proposed amendments to section 17 in regard to qualifications of electors and I think they require no further elaboration at this stage.

Clause 16 inserts a new section numbered 150A, which requires the Chief Electoral Officer to furnish in writing to the Minister, after each general election for the Assembly, a report showing the number of electors on each of the rolls made up for that election.

This new provision is related to section 12 of the Electoral Districts Act, 1947-65, which refers to a report being submitted to the Minister by the Chief Electoral Officer when it appears from the rolls made up for the last preceding general election for the Legislative Assembly that the number of electors on each such roll, in respect of not less than eight districts, falls short of, or exceeds by, one-fifth or more the quota for those districts.

In order that the Minister might be informed of the numbers on each of the rolls so made up, irrespective of the requirements of section 12 of the Electoral Districts Act, 1947-65, it is considered that the provisions appearing in clause 16 should be included in the Act.

Clause 17, the final clause, contains consequential amendments to section 190. These amendments are resultant upon the variations sought in clause 3 in respect of the qualifications of electors as set out in section 17. Members will appreciate that these are, in the main, machinery clauses arising from administrative review. I commend them to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Graham (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [9.23 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Local Government Act Amendment Bill is similar to the other measure inasmuch as it was introduced in another place by the Minister for Local Government. The changing needs of the community in the field of local government are constantly under review, and this is surely indicated by the fact that amendments to the Act have been introduced every year since its inception in 1960.

The 25 clauses contained in this amending Bill are designed to provide a number of amendments which have been found to be desirable during the course of the past year.

Clause 1 prescribes the title. Clause 2 provides for the Act to come into force on a date to be proclaimed and further provides that it shall not be necessary for the various amendments to be proclaimed at the same time. Clause 3 provides for an amendment to the arrangement of the Act made necessary by subsequent amendments.

Clause 4: Section 37 of the Act provides that a person cannot be elected to the position of, or act as, mayor, president, or councillor of a municipality if he is an undischarged bankrupt. Clause 4 excludes people from holding these offices if they have entered into a composition or scheme of arrangement or executed a deed of assignment for the benefit of their creditors.

Section 39 provides that where a member of a council under the Bankruptcy Act, 1924, as amended, of the Parliament of the Commonwealth has an order of sequestration made against his estate or enters into a composition or scheme of arrangement with, or executes a deed of assignment for the benefit of, his creditors, his office of member becomes vacant.

The Municipal Corporations Act, which preceded the Local Government Act, included in sections 38 and 39 a provision similar to that contained in section 39 of the Local Government Act in respect of a

person who wished to be elected to a municipality. It is considered undesirable that the distinction which exists between sections 37 and 39 should continue.

Clause 4A: The situation exists in rural districts that if two brothers operate a farm in partnership and live on the farm with their respective wives they can have between them a total of eight votes in a municipal election. A similar farm, if operated by a corporate body, is entitled to one vote only. The country shire councils have requested that some effort be made so that more equitable voting values can be given.

It is realised that it may be more equitable to reduce to four votes the total number of votes to which each property is entitled; however, it was found to be almost impossible to draft such a restricting clause as many sections of the Act would need amendment. In an effort, therefore, to preserve the *status quo* to some extent, this amendment doubles the entitlement of a corporate body by increasing the number of votes from one to two. Although this amendment does not go as far as the country shires have requested, the extra vote for a corporate body will strengthen and equalise its position.

Clause 5: At present a council must prepare an electoral roll showing, amongst other things, the valuation of each property. The Perth City Council wishes to have its roll prepared by means of an electronic data process and has requested this amendment to relieve it of the necessity of showing this valuation. It is contended that valuations frequently change by small amounts which are not sufficient to affect voting rights, and the records cannot be readily adapted to this process if valuations must be shown. The amendment provides that the Minister may, in writing, exempt any council from including in a list any such particulars which relate to the value of the land as he specifies.

Clauses 6 and 7: Some minor amendments are required to the sections of the Act relating to absent voting. In section 114 (1) (c) it is required that a witness to an absent vote certificate shall write the date on which he signs the certificate. However, the form prescribed in the twelfth schedule makes no provision for the date and no reference is made in section 117 (1) (d) to this requirement. There is, therefore, no apparent advantage in having included the date on which a signature is witnessed.

In section 117 (2) (a) (iii) a returning officer is required to retain the "outer" envelope which contained absent voting papers. The outer envelopes bear the absent vote certificates and are referred to in section 117 (2) (a) (i). It is obvious that the word "outer" in the paragraph in question, should read "inner."

Clause 8: A 1964 amendment to the Local Government Act covered the payment at elections of overtime to officers who were

required to remain on duty after the close of the poll. The returning officer is paid a fee which is considered to be adequate to cover all his duties in connection with the election, and this amendment therefore excludes returning officers from the payment of overtime.

The views of the three associations associated with local government were sought and the majority of members of each of these associations was in favour of the amendment.

Clause 9:—This amendment has been introduced at the request of the town of Cottesloe, and it provides for the impounding of surfboards used in a place and manner contravening council by-laws. This clause amends section 193 to provide for the seizure of surfboards which are used contrary to the provisions of a by-law made under this section, and also for the impounding for a period up to three months any such surfboard which is seized. The disposal of unclaimed surfboards so impounded is also provided for. The proposal has been supported by the Country Town Councils' Association, the Local Government Association, and the Country Shire Councils' Association.

Clause 10: This amendment is similar to that contained in section 19 (1) and (2) of the City of Perth Parking Facilities Act in respect of responsibility for an offence concerning vehicles deemed to have been committed by the owner of the vehicle at the time. It has been requested by the South Perth City Council which, in common with many other local authorities, has had experience of the by-laws in respect of street lawns being breached, and has found it impossible to identify the offenders. The amendment varies section 221 of the Act under which a council is authorised to make by-laws relating to street lawns.

Clause 11: This clause has been introduced at the request of the Country Shire Councils' Association because of the changing value of money. Section 274 of the Local Government Act requires that except in emergent circumstances, tenders must be called by a council for the provision of goods and services to the value of \$1,000. It would be more realistic if this figure were amended to read \$2,000, and this amendment complies with the request by substituting for the words "one thousand dollars" the words "two thousand dollars."

Clause 12: Community fruit-fly baiting schemes are administered by a committee appointed by the Minister for Agriculture upon nominations being received from either the local shire council or a local fruitgrowers' association, and this arrangement has proved to be most effective.

Some shire councils wish to administer these schemes through the normal shire administration by way of book-keeping,

collection of fees, etc. It is therefore proposed to amend section 277 of the Local Government Act to enable municipalities to carry out certain provisions of the Plant Diseases Act with reference to community fruit-fly baiting schemes.

Clauses 13, 14, and 15: These clauses provide that streets of a lesser width than one chain cannot be created without the approval of the Minister for Town Planning. This approval previously had to be given by the Minister for Lands. However, the layout of streets is considered to be a function of town planning and this amendment recognises the fact. The amendment was requested by the Local Government Association and has been agreed to by the Minister for Lands.

Clause 16: The Country Shire Councils' Association has requested a variation to the procedure when a municipal council wishes to join an existing regional council. The present procedure is for the old council to be dissolved and the new council then constituted.

This amendment to section 329 provides an additional subsection which makes allowance also for the removal of a district or portion of a district from a council. Provision is also made for the adjustment of accounts of the county or regional council when such variation is made in the constitution of the district.

Clause 17: This clause provides that where an order to fence an unsightly area is served on an occupier of land who is not the owner, the council shall cause a copy of the order to be served also on the owner.

Section 340A which was enacted last year created the anomaly that whereas the order could be served on the owner or the occupier, the final responsibility for the cost of the fencing rested on the owner. In some cases the owner would not have received notice of the order. This amendment will overcome that situation.

Clause 18: At present there is a certain amount of ambiguity in sections 373 (1) (a) and (1) (b), which read as follows:—

- (a) This part applies to each district in the State.
- (b) The Governor may by order apply all or any of the provisions of this part to any district or to portions of a district and the provisions apply in accordance with the Order but not otherwise.

By adding after the word "apply" in the second last line of subparagraph (b) the words "to the district or portion of the district" this ambiguity will be eliminated.

Clause 19: This clause has been introduced to ensure that a builder does not continue with a building or alterations after his attention has been drawn to a contravention of the Act or by-laws.

It provides that a council or a building surveyor with the approval of the Secretary for Local Government may serve a written notice on the builder, and if he is not the owner, a notice is also to be served on the owner, requiring him to stop all work specified in the notice.

The amendment provides for an appeal to the Minister by any person aggrieved by the notice and the Minister may confirm, set aside, or vary the notice as he thinks fit. A notice under this section remains in force until it is withdrawn by further notice in writing given by the council or the building surveyor of the municipality or until it is set aside by the Minister on appeal.

Clause 20: This clause is designed to simplify the procedure and follows amendments to sections 408 and 409 which were made in 1963. Section 411 relates to orders for demolition of buildings following a conviction for building in contravention of the Act, and the amendment provides that notices shall be served on the owner by registered post and affixed to the building. Previously it was required that this order be published in the *Government Gazette* and a newspaper circulating in the district.

Clause 21: This amendment provides for a spouse of a member, or where the member is not married, a member of the family of a member, being insured when accompanying the member on council business at the request of the council.

Clause 22: This clause amends section 533 of the Act and provides that where a council of a municipality has adopted valuations other than those normally applicable to that type of municipality the Governor may at the request of the Council revoke the order under which the council originally adopted the different valuations. A revocation may not take place within five years of the revocation of the first order.

Clause 23: Section 637 of the Local Government Act provides that a town shall pay the full assessed cost of carrying out the audit of its accounts whereas a shire shall pay only half the assessed cost. This distinction was introduced because originally road boards and shires had very little revenue of their own when compared with some of the larger towns. Today circumstances have changed and there is little to distinguish between the financial operations of some of the larger shires in the metropolitan area and many of the towns.

The amendment applies only to shires within the metropolitan area, and these shires are listed in the twenty-seventh schedule to the Act, which forms clause 25 of this amendment. The three associations concerned with local government have agreed to this part of the amendment.

The amendment further provides that if a satisfactory system of internal audit

is operating a shire may still receive the benefit of paying only 50 per cent. of the assessed audit fee.

Some shires have instituted procedures whereby their operations are subject to a continuous scrutiny by the auditors. These systems have several advantages but the main ones are that errors can be detected much sooner, and the final audit at the end of the year is simplified and accelerated.

As these systems, which are installed at considerable cost to the shire, save the department both time and money in carrying out the final audit, it is felt that the shires should receive some incentive to install and operate these procedures. Accordingly this amendment allows a shire which operates an approved system to receive a 50 per cent. discount.

Clause 24: This clause makes it an offence to break any glass, metal, earthenware, or utensil; or to discard, deposit, or leave, except in a receptacle provided for the purpose, refuse or litter of any kind in any street, public place, or public reserve vested in or under the control of the council or on any property of a municipality.

These provisions are contained in the Local Government Draft Model By-laws (Deposit of Refuse and Litter) No. 16. However, it has been resolved to include these provisions in the Act so that they will be applicable to all municipal districts.

The clause also gives power to appoint honorary litter inspectors with powers similar to those of honorary inspectors of flora and fauna. The approval of all three associations representing municipalities has been obtained.

Clause 25: This is the schedule of metropolitan shires referred to in clause 23.

These are the amendments to the Local Government Act, and I present them for the consideration of the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Toms.

LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) [9.42 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill to amend the Licensing Act contains several amendments introduced to permit of a smoother administration of some aspects of the Act, and other amendments drafted with a view to strengthening the provisions in some sections.

In some cases where the licensee is the purchaser of the licensed premises under a contract of sale, the court has experienced difficulty in enforcing the carrying out of improvements. In some cases the vendor

is disinterested, while the purchaser may not be able to afford the expense. The vendor is the owner at law, yet the purchaser may be regarded as the equitable owner. It is intended therefore to make them both owners for the purposes of the Act, so enabling the court to deal with them both.

There is an amendment which will enable the court, when only two members of the court are presiding and find they are not in agreement with each other in a matter of dispute, to submit the papers to the third magistrate for decision. At present the Act only provides that, in these circumstances, the court will adjourn; and the only alternative is to have a rehearing entailing considerable—and, I suggest—unnecessary expense.

It appears that many vigneronns are availing themselves of a weakness in the Act and have established wine shops in towns at quite some distance from their vineyards. In these shops they are able to dispose of their product without the necessity for procuring a license to do so. I believe the original intention of the provisions contained in section 46, which is the section dealing with this matter, was for the transaction covering the sales of a vigneron's own produce to be completed on the vineyard. The object of the amendment in the Bill is to ensure that such sales are completed on vineyard premises.

In the interests of the industry, it is proposed to retain the provision enabling sales from vineyards carrying five acres of grapes; and, in this respect, the occupier may sell quantities of not less than one quart bottle of wine made on the vineyard or spirit in bond when sold to another occupier of a vineyard. The amendment also writes into the Act, cider and perry. Sales in future will be legal when sold not only on the vineyard or orchard, but also from it.

The necessity for these amendments arises not only because of the establishment of wine shops at a place other than on the vineyard, but also because of the actions of certain vigneronns in having established delivery services with arrangements for receiving orders by telephone and other means, and in providing a delivery service.

When, subsequent to the introduction of the amending Bill in the Legislative Council, it became known to the Minister for Justice that so many producers were involved and the practice was rampant, it was decided in the interests of the industry to permit sales from vineyards rather than restrict them to sales on vineyards.

A new subsection is being inserted to enable the sale of liquor on some of our trains. Anticipating the situation which will obtain with the inauguration of the transcontinental standard gauge passenger trains in 1969, this proposal has been under consideration for some time past.

Such sales are not at present allowed in this State, yet in all other States liquor is served with meals in dining or buffet cars. It is considered that this arrangement should apply here also. While the question has arisen more particularly with a view to anticipating the running of the through service from Perth to Sydney, it would be illogical, if the proposal in this direction is agreed to, to retain any embargo on the intrastate services between Perth and Kalgoorlie, or on other long distance train services in other parts of the State.

The Bill therefore makes provision for the sale of spirituous and fermented liquors in dining, lounge, cafeteria, club, and buffet cars on long distance services. This matter is also the subject of some complementary amendments to the Railways Act. Doubtless, some structural and other preliminaries will need to be attended to by the Railway Department, so it is desired the amendment be passed as early as possible in order to facilitate the changes which will have to be made.

No new principle is really involved in the matter of the Commissioner of Railways issuing licenses, for under the provisions of section 46 of the Licensing Act the commissioner is already authorised to issue licenses for refreshment rooms to his employees and, in doing so, nominates certain employees.

When a railway lessee requires a license, however, he is required to obtain it from the court. There is no intention to lease railway facilities, the subject of this amendment, and this aspect is being attended to by appropriate amendment to the Railways Act.

There is another amendment dealing with the obligation on applicants for airport, canteen, and restaurant licenses to advertise their intention to apply for the license. This amendment tidies up an unintended effect of one of the 1965 amendments which inadvertently relieved applicants of this obligation.

In the matter of hotel grading, I would mention that there is no provision for varying or rescinding any grading made in respect of a hotel. As a result, once a hotel is graded—though the standard might in time diminish considerably—the original grading must stand. This Bill includes the provision for the varying or the rescinding of the original grading made by the court.

Another amendment in this direction is being introduced to prevent a person falsely representing by any means that a hotel has been graded when, indeed, it has not, and a suitable penalty of \$100 is inserted.

In the matter of the granting of restaurant licenses, experience has shown that an applicant can be put to considerable expense in an attempt to make his pre-

mises suitable for licensing and then find a license may still not be granted. The court considers it should be possible for an applicant to seek a provisional certificate for a restaurant license, similar to that available in respect of a publican's general, a wayside house, or an Australian wine license. A suitable amendment is contained in the Bill to permit this to be done.

With respect to section 116, it is proposed to permit an inspector of licensed premises appointed under the Act—and this includes an inspector of liquor—to require licensees to make minor repairs to licensed premises to a cost not exceeding \$200.

Under the amendment inserted in this Bill the inspector is required to be a qualified person, namely, a health inspector; and a simple and inexpensive means is provided also for the licensee to bring his objections before the court, should he consider the inspector's requirements to be unnecessary.

Alternative penalties for refusal to carry out the inspector's requirements are provided. The court may direct the licensed premises be closed and suspend the license until the licensee has complied with the requirement; or the court may, in its discretion, impose on the licensee a penalty not exceeding \$50. This, I submit, is a very reasonable approach to the problem of ensuring that minor repairs are carried out without recourse to involving the Licensing Court itself in these matters.

Section 118 of the Act provides the penalties for refusing entertainment; that is, refusal to receive a guest or to supply any person with food, liquor, or lodging. The section also authorises the Licensing Court to prescribe the hours during which meals shall be obtainable; and, under certain circumstances, the court may prescribe tariffs for such meals. In this latter respect, however, there is no provision enabling the court to indicate the nature of the meals which must be supplied. An appropriate amendment in the Bill rectifies this matter.

Another amendment deals with the sale of bottles of beer on the goldfields and has been inserted in response to representations made by the member for Murchison and some goldfields members of the Legislative Council and supported by the Murchison Ward of the Country Shires' Council.

When the Act was amended some few years ago for the purpose of allowing such sales, the word "liquor" was used, but I suggest the intention was to permit the sale of beer in bottles only.

With respect to the amendment dealing with this matter, I am advised by the Chairman of the Licensing Court that, if the restriction to beer only in bottles and

cans on Sundays is to be applied, it will be applied irrespectively to all customers. This, I suggest, will be quite equitable, but the sale of liquor, generally, is not necessarily always desirable.

Another amendment is directed at removing some unfairness evident through the application of section 134B of the Act, which, in effect, prevents the landlord of premises, the subject of an order of prohibition, from letting the premises to another person for the purpose of procuring a permit for unlicensed premises. This can occur notwithstanding that the other person might be much more suitable in the capacity in respect of which his predecessor was found unsuitable.

The amendment regarding this will enable the court to prevent an offender against the section, should it think fit, from opening elsewhere, while enabling the court to assist the landlord to get another and responsible tenant.

Another provision affecting permits for unlicensed restaurant premises, is one under which the permit will expire and require renewal in the same way as a license expires and requires renewal. This will enable the court to hear objections or to vary the provisions of the permit at least annually.

Power is also given to the court to discharge or vary a prohibition order which, when issued under the existing provisions of the Act, is of continuing permanence. Yet, the court, if dissatisfied with the character of the occupier, and the conduct of the business warrants it, should be enabled to discharge or vary the original order; and the Bill so provides.

A publican's general, limited hotel, or wayside house license may be forfeit under section 177 if the licensee fails to maintain the premises and accommodation "at the standard required by this Act." The Act is, however, silent on the subject, so this reference is, accordingly, meaningless. A suitable amendment attends to this matter.

There are some brief amendments affecting procedures in the matter of applications by clubs and those necessary when a club desires to surrender its certificate of registration.

These explanations cover the provisions of the Bill and no doubt, as is usual in the case of Licensing Act Amendments, the Bill will be mainly dealt with point by point in Committee, when some further elaboration may be required. The measure is part of the normal review which takes place from time to time in respect of the Licensing Act, and I commend it to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Brady.

House adjourned at 9.54 p.m.