

## FIREARMS AND GUNS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by The Hon. J. Dolan (Minister for Police), and read a first time.

*House adjourned at 4.28 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 5th August, 1971

The SPEAKER (Mr. Toms) took the Chair at 11.00 a.m., and read prayers.

### BILLS (2): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Clean Air Act Amendment Bill.
2. Anatomy Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr. Davies (Minister for Health), and read a first time.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: NINTH DAY

#### *Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 4th August, on the following motion by Mr. A. R. Tonkin:—

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

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

MR. HARMAN (Maylands) [11.04 a.m.]: Mr. Speaker, firstly I would like to congratulate you on your elevation to the office of Speaker of this House. I also congratulate the Chairman of Committees on his election. To the new members of this Assembly I offer my congratulations. I hope they find that over the next three years, they will have a rewarding and satisfying life in the Parliament. It has been of great benefit to me over the past few years to know that in some small way I have been able to assist my electors and this has given me a great deal of satisfaction. It is a challenge to be a member of Parliament but I am sure that this challenge can and will be met by the new members.

Mr. Speaker, during the course of this debate there have been several references to the role of local government. It is on this subject that I wish to dwell for a few moments this morning.

Members will recall that this year, 1971, we are celebrating the centenary of local government. History shows that in 1871 the Municipal Corporations Act and the Road Districts Act were approved by the Legislative Council of that day.

These Acts gave the local people for the first time the opportunity to involve themselves in a limited field of activity concerning their own particular areas. The original draft gave these local councils the authority to construct roads, bridges, and jetties, as well as to engage in some other minor activities.

Since 1871 we have seen the growth of some 144 local authorities. As we move around the State we see ample evidence of development by these local authorities, engendered no doubt by the zeal and the civic pride of the thousands of persons who have acted on local authorities. I commend all the people associated with local government over the past 100 years for their work and their devotion to such government.

In recent years the role of local government has been subjected to very close scrutiny. We have had a number of inquiries, Royal Commissions, and reports from people who have very analytically examined the functions and the role of local government.

Members will recall that in 1947 a committee was established to report on the amalgamation of the two Acts, the Municipal Corporations Act and the Road Districts Act. This was first seriously suggested in 1926 by the metropolitan Local Government Association. In 1948 a Bill was introduced into this Parliament but it lapsed following a certain amount of criticism and it became the subject of an inquiry by a Royal Commission.

In 1953 a Bill was redrafted for Parliament but it lapsed, again because of criticism. In 1954, 1955, and 1956, further Bills were presented to the Parliament but they, too, met with the same fate. The year 1957 brought more success because in that year the Local Government Bill almost got through both Houses of this Parliament. It was referred to a conference of managers because of dispute over certain clauses but unfortunately the conference of managers could not agree and the Bill was dropped.

Finally, in 1960, the Local Government Act, as we know it today, was passed by this Parliament. If one cares to read through the debates of that time it will be evident that a great number of speeches and a great number of clauses were subjected to close scrutiny and examination. Since 1961, when the Act was proclaimed, there have been 19 amending Bills passed by Parliament. There have been a number of other Bills which were not successful.

This indicates the importance of local government and the need to keep abreast of changes. The history of change in local government legislation indicates that the task of the reformer is not an easy one and, based on past history, it could be expected that if further changes are contemplated in the future we can expect a great deal of criticism in this Parliament.

What then is the situation today? I think there is ample evidence to suggest that local government is at the crossroads. We have evidence of some powerful local authorities with large areas which they can rate and from which they can collect a great deal of revenue. We have local authorities at the other end of the scale which are impoverished because the land within their jurisdiction is almost non-ratable, and in some cases those local authorities are existing solely on advances by the Government. So it is evident at this stage, having seen 100 years of local government, that in the next few years we as a Parliament must face up to a number of situations in the local government field.

At times people have questioned the democracy of local authorities. When we look deeply into the situation we find that a local authority derives its powers from this Parliament. We find that if a local authority wishes to pass a by-law that by-law must be approved by the Minister. Just how democratic is the situation in which members of a local authority are elected by the voters in their areas, but when those members pass a by-law they are not, in fact, making a law because it still must be approved by the Minister for Local Government?

We have heard, too, of suggestions that the authority of local government is being eroded. Generally speaking this is probably the case because in the early days many local authorities became quite ambitious and thought they had the wherewithal, the technique, and the officers to handle a great number of projects. But from experience it was found they were not equipped to handle some of the projects they wished to undertake and it became evident to the Government—and both parties were involved here—that in the interests of the State, generally, it was necessary for the State Parliament to assume certain responsibilities; and this has happened over the years.

Take the question of main roads. Legislation in connection with the Commonwealth Aid Roads Agreement was before this Parliament during the 1968-69 session. This was an interesting exercise and I would suggest to new members who are interested in this matter that they might read *Hansard* of the 17th June, 1969. This was a real cloak and dagger experience in the Parliament. The previous Government was not sure whether or not the Labor Opposition would support that

particular measure. A number of meetings between the Liberal Party and the Country Party were held during the afternoons, and many discussions occurred between those parties.

The Government was trying to obtain an idea from the Labor Opposition whether or not it would support the Bill. When it found that the Opposition did not intend to support the Bill, but suggested the debate be postponed to enable the matter to be further considered, the Government decided that would be the best course to adopt. At that time a great deal of concern was being expressed by local authorities throughout the State. They were not anxious to see the legislation approved without having the opportunity to consult with the Government, and for some reason of its own the Government had not been able to arrange such consultations.

However, as will be found in the debate which occurred on the 17th June, 1969, time was subsequently afforded to the local authorities to enable them to discuss the matter with the Government. But the Labor Opposition was not happy with the arrangements that had been made and, as a matter of fact, asked Parliament to refer the legislation to a Select Committee. The previous Government decided against that move and so our proposal was not approved.

Here was a case where we could see that the local authorities in the State were, to say the least, getting a raw deal; and it was our intention that all aspects of the Commonwealth Aid Roads Agreement be thoroughly examined before a decision was made by this Parliament. It might be suggested that was an indication of the erosion of local authority status and power, but at least the Labor Party was anxious to ensure that every possible step was taken to see that the legislation was thoroughly understood before any further action was taken.

When considering the future of local government we must also ask ourselves whether in fact local government is really necessary. This question has been asked before. If we wish to look at it from the point of view of the metropolitan area, we find that we have the water supplies, electricity supplies, town planning, transport, police, and all that type of facility organised and run by the State Government. It would be quite easy to set up a garbage disposal system run by the State Government, and it would be quite easy to have the Main Roads Department take over the construction of all roads in the metropolitan area. It would also be easy to set up an authority to look after parks and reserves and some other aspects over which local government has authority at the moment.

I am not suggesting that should be done; I am merely putting forward the argument that this is something which could

happen, and it has already been suggested. I am not suggesting for one moment that the whole structure of local government in the metropolitan area should be disregarded.

Mr. Rushton: Do you think that would be as efficient as the local authorities are?

Mr. HARMAN: That is another matter.

Mr. Jamieson: Some are efficient, and some are deficient.

Mr. HARMAN: In regard to garbage disposal, one could argue whether or not it would be more efficient to have a Government-controlled garbage disposal system for the metropolitan area.

Mr. Rushton: Can we take it that you believe in a centralised garbage disposal system?

Mr. HARMAN: No. I am trying to make the point that I am not suggesting this should be done. I am suggesting there is an argument that local government in the metropolitan area could be done away with, but that is not my argument. If I wished to argue that local authorities in the metropolitan area be done away with, I would also have to expect people to argue that the State Parliament could be done away with, because the same argument holds good.

Finally, the Commonwealth Government in Canberra would finish up being in control of all these matters, with boards, tribunals, and *ad hoc* committees administering them. I am not suggesting that for a moment because I believe there is room for local government, State government, and Commonwealth government.

Mr. Rushton: That is contrary to the socialistic doctrine.

Mr. HARMAN: However, there is certainly room for changes to be made in all these arms of government. It is obvious that there is need for changes to be made in local government, and I will submit reasons for this in a moment. There is need for changes to be made in State government because, for example, we have advocated for a long time that there should be only one House of Parliament in the State of Western Australia. According to the way of thinking of those on this side of the House, this would be a more proper form of government for Western Australia. In Commonwealth government the only changes I could foresee that would be to advantage would be a change of government by putting the Australian Labor Party in office.

Sir David Brand: There is a question mark about that.

Mr. HARMAN: Returning to the needs for changes to be made in local government, I will now quote from a report on aspects of local government in Western Australia that was submitted in 1968 by

the Local Government Assessment Committee. On page 35 of the report the following appears:—

More than half the existing local government units—

This is in the metropolitan area. Continuing—

—do not employ a qualified civil engineer on a full time basis. In five units the shire clerk holds the dual position of Shire Clerk-Engineer. Two units do not employ a full time health inspector. Only a few units employ a qualified planning officer on a full time basis.

Further on in the report this appears—

It is often stated—and it was submitted to the Committee by several local authorities—that small units can give the particular form of service that their electors desire. But the Committee believes that small units can only offer their electors a choice, and a very limited choice, because of their small financial resources. They cannot provide the wide range of services that can be provided by a unit with substantial resources.

A further paragraph states—

If the present trend continues, and there is no evidence to suggest that it will not, the existing distribution of local government resources and potential resources cannot provide equitable local government at an economic level for the Region nor will it provide economy and efficiency in administration for all units. In the opinion of the Committee local government resources in population and valuations should be mobilised into units of financial strength and flexibility able to meet the needs of a modern progressive state. There seems little value to the community in preserving small units of government with inadequate resources.

That report by the Local Government Assessment Committee was submitted in 1968. Its members were well informed on local government matters and certainly had the advantage of hearing all the evidence concerning the affairs of local authorities in this region of the metropolitan area so that they could make that particular statement which, to me, suggests that there is need for change.

I am sure the present Government, through the Minister for Local Government, is already examining ways and means which can be employed to improve the status, the function, and the effect of local government.

Mr. Court: What is your attitude in regard to a small local authority that is efficient, effective, and where the people do not want a change?

Mr. HARMAN: This is interesting. I suppose this situation exists in a place like Peppermint Grove—

Mr. Court: That is so.

Mr. HARMAN:—where the area administered by the local authority is .3 of a square mile, comprises about six streets and, in fact, is really only a pocket handkerchief local authority. I believe the people living within its boundaries do not want any change, because they are quite satisfied with the existing situation. I think that local authority employs something like two persons. It has some reciprocal arrangement with another local authority for the provision of library facilities and, by and large, I do not really know what is the attitude of the individuals of that local authority towards the authority itself, but there has not been any move by them to prevent the recommendations submitted in the report of the assessment committee from being implemented.

Mr. Fletcher: They would not be disadvantaged.

Mr. HARMAN: As the member for Fremantle has said, I do not think they would be disadvantaged. It is possible, if that local authority were amalgamated with another to form a greater local authority, they would have the advantage of the availability of more resources and an opportunity to enjoy greater facilities. For instance, I doubt whether the Peppermint Grove local authority could afford to finance a swimming pool if it were considered necessary. It might be argued, of course, that a swimming pool is not needed in that area, because it is close to the river, but that situation could arise in another area some distance away. Perhaps the building of a swimming pool was not a very good example to put forward.

Mr. Jamieson: They could finance one, but they do not have to finance anything.

Mr. HARMAN: Local authorities such as Peppermint Grove and other small local authorities must be taken into account, but by and large there are some good arguments to suggest that if some local authorities were amalgamated with effective distribution of boundaries based on population numbers, the people would get a greater service from their local authority.

For some time, of course, we on this side of the House have been advocating certain other changes. We believe that in local government elections voting should be made compulsory on the basis of one man one vote. Recently amendments were made to the legislation to allow electors to be placed on the rolls of local authorities in addition to the names of those people who own a certain amount of property. Plural voting still applies, of course, in local authority elections, and it is interesting to note that in England in 1870—not 1970—the English local authority system dropped

plural voting and reverted to the system of one vote one man. So in that regard we could say that we are 100 years behind England.

I also believe, personally, that we should have clean-sweep elections for local authorities. That is, instead of councillors retiring every two or three years, or whatever the arrangement is at the moment, a new council should be elected for a period of three years only, similar to the term of the State Parliament. There are many arguments in favour of this. One is, of course, that the new council collectively would be interested in achieving certain objectives over its three-year term. It would also mean that the officers of the local authority would not be continually explaining to new members entering the council the history and the aims of the local authority and the way in which they should execute their duties.

It would seem to me that by having new councils elected every three years we would have greater efficiency in, and greater service from them. The member for Subiaco is shaking his head.

Mr. Rushton: It is obvious you have not studied the benefits of the present system.

Mr. Bateman: Since when has the member for Dale been the member for Subiaco?

Mr. HARMAN: The member for Dale is entitled to his own opinion. My opinion is that a clean-sweep election every three years would produce greater efficiency and would provide greater service to the residents of local authorities.

Mr. Rushton: Would you elaborate on how this would be more efficient?

Mr. HARMAN: I thought I had explained that. If the honourable member reads this debate when it appears in *Hansard* he will see that I have given the reasons in support of my proposal.

Mr. Jamieson: If he did you would still have to explain it to him!

Mr. HARMAN: This is a matter which I have mentioned publicly on several occasions, particularly in the course of various disputes I have had with the City of Stirling. It is the lack of communication on the part of some local authorities which causes a great deal of concern among their ratepayers.

One of the examples concerns the City of Stirling. I will quote illustrations in support of this argument. Two or three months after I was elected as member for Maylands in 1968 I wrote to the Town Clerk of the Perth Shire, which is now the City of Stirling; I asked him whether he would be good enough to forward me a copy of the minutes of his local authority. I thought that was a fairly reasonable request, as it came from the State member of Parliament of an electorate which comprised part of the City of Stirling. I

assumed I would receive a letter from the Town Clerk informing me that in due course the minutes would be forwarded.

Mr. Davies: Never assume anything in the case of the City of Stirling.

Mr. HARMAN: I assumed that would be the case, because I did find out that certain other persons were receiving these minutes. However, that did not turn out to be the case. This is truly an instance of the exercise of good public relations by that local authority! I did receive a letter from the Town Clerk saying it would not be possible for him to forward me a copy of the minutes, but that if I cared to go to the local library I could peruse a copy there. That got me off on the wrong foot with the City of Stirling.

Apart from all the letters which people have written to the City of Stirling, which are not answered, or the replies to which are a long time in coming, the next illustration I am about to quote concerns an incident which happened in September or October last. There was an increase in property valuations in my electorate, and particularly in those parts which had been zoned for high density accommodation.

At the same time the City of Stirling struck a lower rate than that for the previous year, and applied the lower rate on increased valuations. It meant that, in effect, a great number of the people in my electorate received rate notices indicating that the amount due was well in excess of \$100.

I defy any member of this House to tell me that he knows of a case anywhere in the metropolitan area in respect of an average householder—whether he be living in Floreat Park, Dalketh, or Peppermint Grove—who has to pay rates in excess of \$100 per annum. I doubt whether there is any other local authority in the metropolitan area which has struck a rate on an average house at such a high figure. Some of these people were called upon to pay rates amounting to \$110, \$120, and \$130 for a normal house.

Mr. Rushton: What was the nature of the holdings?

Mr. HARMAN: Less than half an acre. In striking the rate the City of Stirling was aware that householders in the zoned areas would receive large assessment notices. Fortunately there is a State Parliament; and we were able to ask the Minister for Local Government to introduce legislation to provide for some relief to be given to these ratepayers, and for notational valuations to be placed on their properties. With the striking of a rate based on the notational valuation the amount comes down.

At that time the State Parliament would not allow the striking of rates on notational valuations to be applied in the last

financial year; but it indicated that this would take place in the financial year commencing on the 1st July, 1971. This was the decision of Parliament, despite the view put forward by the then Labor Opposition that the notational valuation method should be applied in the last financial year.

One would have thought that the City of Stirling, which was anxious to appease and to look after its ratepayers, would bring to their notice the machinery which ratepayers in those zoned areas could avail themselves of in order to have notational valuations placed on their properties. I waited in vain for the City of Stirling to make some sort of announcement, to advise the people concerned that they had the right to apply for notational valuations; it did not take place. I made a random survey in my electorate, and found that, generally speaking, the people concerned were not aware that they could apply for notational valuation and so avail themselves of a reduction in local authority rates.

Fortunately I was able to take this matter up with the Minister for Local Government, and he has arranged for some advertisements to appear in the newspapers in that area so that the people will be aware that they have the right to apply for notational valuations. This is another example of the lack of communication between the local authority and its ratepayers.

This has happened not only with the City of Stirling, but also with a number of other local authorities, and is one of the reasons people are apathetic towards and why they criticise local government. The reason is the lack of information which should emanate from the local authority to the ratepayers. Some local authorities are not aware of this need for communication; but I would point out to you, Mr. Speaker, that in the shire of which you are a freeman—in the Bayswater Shire—a bulletin setting out the almost day-to-day affairs of the shire is published every month. Some other local authorities distribute news sheets, journals, and similar publications. I hope that in any review of the role of local government in the future, the advantages of keeping ratepayers informed will be taken into consideration.

These are some of the proposals I would like to see implemented in local government, to overcome problems which are evident and have been caused by the increase in population in certain areas—resulting from the corridor plan or some other plan.

I would like, firstly, to see the number of local authorities reduced, and for some of them to be amalgamated, not with a

view to making them too large but certainly large enough to be efficient and to be able to provide a wide variety of services to their ratepayers.

Secondly, I would like to see the introduction of compulsory adult franchise in local government elections, based on the one-man-one-vote system. Thirdly, I would like to see clean-sweep elections introduced, rather than have the present rotating system of retirements retained. Fourthly, I think that greater emphasis should be placed on public relations and communication; and in this respect I can only suggest that in the various wards of local authorities the people establish ratepayers' associations—whether they be termed "councils" or use some other title.

If the local parliamentary member could attend the monthly meetings of the community council this would be another way of ensuring greater communication between the local authority and the ratepayers.

Sir David Brand: If you were the Minister for Local Government would this be the policy you would advocate?

Mr. HARMAN: Three of the principles are already advocated by the Labor Party and therefore, as Minister, I would be in tune with Labor Party policy. The fourth point—that is, the clean-sweep election—involves my own personal opinion.

Mr. Court: I cannot imagine local authorities applauding this speech of yours.

Mr. Graham: Of course they would applaud any reforms!

Mr. Court: Yes, but good ones!

MR. RUNCIMAN (Murray) [11.41 a.m.]: I join with other members in congratulating you, Sir, on your election to the high and dignified office you hold. I feel sure you will discharge the duties of that office with the propriety and decorum which characterises the position.

I offer my congratulations to the Premier, the Cabinet, and members on the opposite side of the House on their having won the Treasury bench. However, I feel sure that in three years' time the position will be reversed and they will have the opportunity then to extend congratulations to us.

I also offer my congratulations to the new members on this side of the House, firstly on their having been elected to represent their constituents; and, secondly, on their very good contributions to this debate so far. It has been said that being in Parliament is very frustrating and I can assure members that it can be frustrating whether one is a member of the Government or a member of the Opposition. Nevertheless the position has many reward-

ing moments, too. I trust that members on this side will have the opportunity to represent their electorates for a long time.

It has also been said that when a person first enters Parliament as a member of the Opposition those years constitute a good training ground because it is possible to learn a great deal in the three years a person may be in Opposition and this is very valuable to him when he occupies a seat on the other side of the House.

Being a farmer and representing a rural electorate I am pleased I have not been involved in some of the very serious problems which confront representatives of other rural electorates in this State. I do not have the same problems experienced in the electorates of the member for Narrogin and the member for Roe, for instance. However, I am deeply concerned with the situation which obtains in those areas.

One point which has greatly disturbed me is that, having made a trip through most of Australia, I have met many people who have adopted the attitude expressed in the Chamber a few nights ago. It appears that some people do not seem to appreciate the problems which farmers are experiencing, and this attitude is most alarming. Some people have said that when they were in business and faced difficult times and their businesses failed they did not receive any help or sympathy and had to get out of the business, so why should there be all this sympathy expressed for farmers?

Over the years some farmers have failed financially in their ventures and have had to leave the industry and no-one has said anything because it has been a problem which has concerned them only. However the present situation is considerably different. The great wool industry is in a parlous condition and thousands of farmers could be in peril of losing their livelihood and they do not know where to turn for help. One of the most depressing aspects as far as many farmers are concerned is the uncertainty. They do not know whether to stay on their farms or go; they just do not know what to do for the best. While Federal and State Governments are engaged in reconstruction—and I realise this does take some time to achieve—farmers themselves are in a most unenviable position during the waiting period. Therefore, I hope the State Government will render all the help it possibly can during this transitional period.

I am aware that the State Government has made some moves along these lines, but I feel a great deal more could be done in this regard; because, as I have said, one of the worst aspects is the uncertainty and its effect not only on the farmer himself, but on his wife and children also. It is a most demoralising experience and therefore I hope the reconstruction scheme and other decisions can be expedited.

Another point I wish to emphasise is that people do not appreciate or understand the wide repercussions this crisis in the rural industry can have right throughout the community. We all know the situation in Albany and we have read of the position in Merredin. I believe that the crisis is now beginning to make itself felt in city areas as well. Many of our coastal and other holiday resorts are feeling the effects. The mining boom has been a tremendous help and to a great extent is cushioning the present crisis. Unless our agricultural policy prospers the whole country will find itself in a very serious economic position. Therefore, there is a need for greater understanding of the financial and other hardships being experienced by wool-growers both in the farming and pastoral areas.

When the previous Government assumed office, one of the first things the then Minister for Industrial Development did was to encourage industrial development in rural areas by the formation of committees. This was a policy of decentralisation, and in turn it encouraged smaller industries to establish themselves in many of the country towns. The Department of Industrial Development has done a tremendous job over the past 12 years in assisting many of the rural industries to get off the ground and has encouraged others to establish themselves. I was very pleased to learn that this important development was stressed by the new Minister for Industrial Development and Decentralisation not long after he took over the position.

It is rather a coincidence that the same member is Minister for Town Planning, because some of the problems involved in encouraging smaller industries into the country concern the very strict town planning conditions now operating. I believe some degree of flexibility must be exercised in many of the town planning schemes that have recently been adopted in our country towns if assistance is to be afforded new industries.

I know of a number of development problems which have arisen in the Pinjarra area recently. This was a town which prior to the Alcoa development did not have a comprehensive town planning scheme, but there is now a scheme in operation. Many industries in association with the Alcoa development are unable to commence because of the rigid nature of town planning restrictions.

I will bring these problems to the attention of the Minister as time goes by. The action taken by Alcoa of Australia at Pinjarra to provide employment for some hundreds of farmers is very worthy. Many farmers will, I feel sure, take advantage of the employment opportunities and those farmers will also obtain the benefit of housing being provided by the company.

Earlier in the debate a member from this side of the House mentioned the weight and grade system of meat marketing. He also referred to the price the producer was receiving compared with the price the consumer was paying. That problem has been discussed in this House on a number of occasions, and last year the member for Warren and the member for Collie spoke at some length on the same subject. I do not know whether or not those two members will be able to do something about the matter now that they are on the Government side of the House. I have attempted to have something done about the discrepancy in prices since I first came to this House, nine years ago.

In recent months there has been some acceleration towards the development of a weight and grade system, and such a system has a great deal to commend it. I believe this is the type of development we might expect from the meat marketing authority when it is set up. A start might well be made with the proposed lamb marketing authority. The previous Government, had it been returned, would have gone ahead with the proposals for a lamb marketing authority, and it is pleasing to see that the new Government also intends to do something about such an authority. We do not yet know the conditions or the proposals for the authority, but it is something which will confer a great deal of benefit on the lamb producers in Western Australia.

No doubt, some members will recall that a couple of years ago the lamb marketing system in Western Australia was in a chaotic condition. Prime lambs were practically given away because they were becoming a glut on the market. About that time I was made aware that New Zealand had trade representatives in Indonesia who actively canvassed the main cities to promote lamb sales. New Zealand received from Indonesia a substantial order for lambs as a result of the representation. Representatives also went to Singapore and Malaya. However, Western Australia did not take the same action.

It seems that a market exists in Indonesia and in the other near Asian countries, and Western Australia should be the first to take advantage of these opportunities. I hope the Department of Industrial Development will expand its operations in an endeavour to locate markets for our primary produce. I am aware that a number of trade delegations have been to the near Asian countries in recent years. Those delegations have served a very useful purpose indeed, but I feel there is a need for greater emphasis on finding markets for our rural produce. I hope the Minister for Industrial Development will take up the matter and assist in this regard.

Another item in the Governor's Speech refers to the rationalisation of the dairy-farming industry. I do not know what is meant

by that statement; whether it means the whole-milk industry as well as the dairy industry. Over the last two years there has been some discussion concerning a single authority. However, the milk industry has a single authority: the Milk Board. The Milk Board has done a good job over the years. We may have been critical of some of the board's action from time to time, but most boards are criticised at some time or other. I hope there will not be any great interference with the present set-up of the whole-milk industry. It is one of the most efficient and best managed agricultural industries, so much so that many people are interested in it, and they want to take part in it. The dairying industry has problems and the whole-milk industry will help where it can. More and more dairy farmers are obtaining licenses to enter the whole-milk industry, and this is good to see.

Mr. Court: What is the general area in which new licenses are being granted?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The new licenses are going into the butterfat areas in the southern part of the State. The boundaries could be lifted and the matter left in the hands of the Milk Board. It is pleasing to see that centres such as Busselton and Margaret River have been brought within the zoning system. It will be interesting to observe what the Minister has in mind when he introduces his Bill.

Sir David Brand: How much further do you think we can go, having regard for the availability of irrigated water?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The industry does not altogether depend on irrigation, because some of our most efficient and best managed whole-milk production farms are in the drier areas north of Pinjarra. Those farms are very highly developed and efficiently run, and a good many of them—if they had the opportunity to increase their quotas—could produce a lot more milk than they are doing at the present time. It is not altogether necessary to have the dairying industry or the whole-milk industry established in irrigation areas, although I think it would have some advantages.

I recently made a plea that there should be more promotion by, and more encouragement from, the Milk Board regarding milk sales. Such a campaign has been carried out in a big way in Victoria and New South Wales. The milk boards in both States have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on milk promotion. There has been no promotion of sales in this State.

At one stage the whole-milk producers were willing to contribute towards such a promotion programme. Every extra gallon of milk sold to the community will bring some benefit to the hard-pressed dairying industry and the butterfat industry. This is an industry we would like to see assisted and maintained, and I firmly believe milk promotion would provide some assistance.

While the producers are prepared to do something about milk promotion the board, and to a limited extent the treatment plants, are not prepared to co-operate.

Mr. H. D. Evans: There is no provision in the Act for milk promotion.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: I realise there is no provision in the Act, but I think the Minister should look into the matter and give consideration to a provision to do this. The Milk Board in Victoria recently brought out two new products which would help to sell more milk. More milk sales is what we want in Western Australia. This would benefit whole-milk producers and butterfat farmers alike.

Mr. Court: From your practical experience, do you think we could cope with the upsurge of demand, including that from the normal population increase?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: I believe so; a large percentage of whole-milk producers could increase their production if given the opportunity of increased quotas.

Mr. Nalder: Do you think more consumption would take place if the board made milk available in quart bottles?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: This could be a help. I consider all avenues should be explored. In Victoria flavoured milks are available in dispensers in factories. This, too, helps to sell more milk, and should be explored for Western Australia.

Mr. Nalder: In Victoria I believe a reduction of 1c a bottle is made if the consumers take two quart bottles instead of one. The price for the two is cheaper than the cost of two bought singly.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Yes, this would have particular application to hotels, shops, milk bars, etc.

Members may not be aware that a market has been developed for the sale of Friesian dairy cattle to Singapore and, more recently, to Kuwait. Dairy farmers in Western Australia are selling cattle to both these countries. Only last week-end a person told me that he would be able to sell Friesian cattle in Malaysia. Japan, too, is interested in buying Friesian cattle. Perhaps this is something which could be exploited further. The industry was started by a farmer who happened to be in Singapore. He made some inquiries, saw opportunities for this market, and went ahead with the idea. Perhaps we might be able to expand in this direction and build up a larger market in the sale of dairy cattle to these areas.

Such a market would not only benefit the whole-milk area of the State, but also the dairying districts of the south. The Department of Industrial Development should take up the idea and investigate in what way and how far we can exploit and extend this market. Work has been done by individuals, but it is necessary, perhaps, for the Government,



through its department, to give some assistance. I have said before that as the markets of Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia are so close to us here in Western Australia, we should make every effort to try to get in ahead of people in the Eastern States or anywhere else. We should look upon those areas as our markets and do all we can to provide in this area greater opportunities for expansion of the outlets for our produce.

Another paragraph in the Governor's Speech reads—

The Government is dedicated to providing country areas with medical services equal in quality to those available in the metropolitan area.

This is not new. It is something which the previous Government was doing over its period of 12 years in office. A number of first class regional hospitals have been built in country towns. The former Minister for Health (The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon) has often said that Western Australia has some of the best hospitals in Australia. In fact, he maintains that the hospital which was opened recently at Northam is the best in Australia.

This action has been taken to enable people in country areas to receive the very best of medical treatment and attention. These hospitals are fulfilling an urgent and well-needed role.

The problem of getting more doctors in country areas is one which faced the previous Government and will continue to face the present Government. I certainly hope the Minister for Health will tackle the problem seriously and make every effort to encourage more doctors to go into country areas. Perhaps a bond-type system would produce results. If students at the university and the medical school were assisted with their fees to enable them to qualify and become doctors, in turn the qualified doctors could be required to go to country areas for a certain number of years.

This may help the situation considerably. At the moment many who go through medical school and become doctors subsequently specialise in some field and remain in the city. I would like to see some assistance given to encourage doctors to go to country areas. Under a bond system doctors would simply be paying back money advanced to enable them to go through medical school. The Government, the medical association, and the university should look at this suggestion, because the position is quite serious in many areas. In some country towns the local doctor is worked practically into the ground. He has great difficulty in finding a *locum* and, year after year, he has to stay on and keep on working.

Mr. Hartrey: Hear hear.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: These doctors do a tremendous job. The matter is extremely important and I hope the Government will look at it. It may even be referred to the Minister for Decentralisation, because people are leaving areas, particularly the outer ones, owing to the lack of medical attention. If the Government were to encourage young doctors to go out on a bond system for a number of years, this might be a way out. There may be obstacles to implementing the idea, but we should look at it because of its urgency.

Whilst on this subject, I mention that I listened with a great deal of interest to the speech made by the member for Subiaco last week. I have no idea whether some of the allegations he made are right or wrong, but I consider more attention should be paid to them. Members of the public are somewhat concerned at the statements made by the member for Subiaco. I feel there should be some clarification of the issue. The member for Subiaco was not criticising the present Minister for Health or the present Government; he was not criticising the former Minister for Health, or the former Government. The member for Subiaco is a former Registrar of the Royal Perth Hospital; he is a popular and very able medical practitioner; and he is now a member of Parliament. If he sees fit to come into the House and make certain outspoken criticism of the system at Royal Perth Hospital, I believe the Government should clarify the situation. It should either prove that the member for Subiaco is making a mistake or that something is wrong.

I consider that members of the public should be informed on this. People in many quarters are asking what is going on. I am well aware that the member for Subiaco has received many letters from doctors saying, "Well done." They think his criticism is well-founded and back him up on this.

Mr. Bateman: The Chairman of the Royal Perth Hospital Board asked the member for Subiaco to go along and have a look, but he refused to go.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: This is not the point. Some statement should be made.

Mr. Bateman: It is not the responsibility of the Government.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: Has all this deterioration taken place since your Government went out of office?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: No criticism has been made of the present Government or the present Minister for Health. This is something that has grown up gradually over the years. The member for Subiaco made this point. I consider members of the public should be informed whether the member for Subiaco is right or wrong.

The reply made by the Chairman of the Hospital Board, Mr. Reilly, did not clear the situation.

The reply was not good enough. There must be more to it than that. The public is now wondering what is wrong or whether anything is wrong. I hope the Minister will reply on this matter at some stage. I repeat, no criticism has been made of the Minister or the Government, but Dr. Dadour, with his experience and association with the hospital, would not come into this House and make such statements lightly.

Towards the end of last year the new pipehead dam at North Dandalup was opened. This is one of the dams which will provide water for the metropolitan area. It was opened by the then Minister for Works (Mr. Hutchinson). This dam, which will supply 25,000,000 gallons of water to the metropolitan area every day for five months of the year, will be linked with the main dam at South Dandalup, now in the course of erection.

At the opening of the dam I was pleased to be able to announce that I had received information from the Minister and his department that the servicing of the North Dandalup township area was also planned for this coming year. I hope this plan will proceed. It will be a great disappointment to the people of the area if it does not proceed according to plan.

The situation is different at Pinjarra, where a large proportion of the money for water services in the district has been supplied by Alcoa of Australia.

It appears that at Mandurah, which has been waiting for a reticulated water scheme for some years now, work has been held up. Mandurah is a large and growing town in which considerable development is taking place, and the development of a number of industries has been held up because of the lack of a reticulated water scheme in the area.

There is also a certain element of danger to health in the town, not so much among the permanent residents but among the thousands of tourists who come to the town every weekend and on holidays and who congregate in a fairly restricted area which is entirely dependent upon water from bores in backyards. People are worried about contamination of the bores from the use of septic systems in this area. That is not good enough in this day and age, and I hope that if there is any cutting down of funds this is one matter that will not be affected. A reticulated water scheme is urgently required at Mandurah. There has been progressive planning in the area, and I hope the full planning which the department has in hand will be proceeded with.

While I am speaking of water supplies, I might mention that a small water scheme was planned for Dwellingup, but this has

also been delayed, which is a pity. I realise the Government has problems at the moment, and we are waiting to find out what will happen. I hope however the Government goes ahead with the scheme for the Dwellingup area.

Dwellingup has had a tremendous amount of bad luck in recent years, with restricted water services to the town. The department was prepared to go along with the project, but this matter also seems to have come to a halt at the present time.

I would like to commend the Forests Department for providing the roads to picnic spots in the Dwellingup district. Recently I made a tour of the area, and I understand the Minister for Forests did likewise a few weeks previously. I hope he was taken to the local picnic spots on the Murray River and throughout the district, generally, where people from the metropolitan area go for marron and trout fishing. The Forests Department has put in roads, provided barbecue places, and made some lovely picnic spots right throughout the Darling Range from Dwellingup to Jarrahdale. This is a new feature of the work of the Forests Department, for which the department is to be commended.

Mr. T. D. Evans: The Minister actually visited the area and he was most impressed. He is very grateful for your kind remarks directed towards the Forests Department.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Thank you. When more people in the metropolitan area become aware of these picnic spots, instead of going to the beach on Sundays they will take their families to these delightful areas in the hills.

There is another matter concerning water in this area which worries me; that is, since Sir David Brand announced last year that the Dandalup dam would be the last major dam for the metropolitan area to be built in that district there have been constant rumours that the Murray River will be dammed in the near future. This matter has been highlighted by the fact that the Forests Department has changed some of its plans regarding pine planting in the upper reaches of the Murray because if the dam is built the area will be flooded.

Although this project may be some years away, I hope that long and careful consideration will be given to the effect the damming of this river will have on Peel Inlet, places like Yundurup, and the whole of this basin into which so many rivers flow.

There are dams on the North and South Dandalup Rivers to service the metropolitan area and local townships. There is a dam on the Serpentine River, which flows into Peel Inlet. If there is a dam on the Murray River, which also flows into Peel Inlet, what effect will this have on Peel Inlet and the surrounding areas? It could have a very serious effect. I hope some years of study and careful

thought and planning will be given to this matter because it would be nothing less than a tragedy if any action were to be taken which would upset one of the most delightful areas of Western Australia.

Peel Inlet and the surrounding areas have a great potential. I do not think the people of this State realise what a wonderful asset they have in those places. It will take a little time to develop them fully because of the small population, but with the Peel Inlet conservation committee and the new Ministry which the Premier will set up, I think a great deal of planning could take place. Before a dam is built on the Murray River, the developmental committee and the department should give very careful consideration to the effect it would have on Peel Inlet and the surrounding areas. The people in the area are somewhat uneasy about this matter, not only as it affects them but as it affects the State in general. It would have wide repercussions.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr. Jamieson: Two tributaries of the Murray River are already being dammed.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: Yes, but we still have the main stream.

Mr. Jamieson: Which one are you referring to?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The Murray River itself. The North and South Dandalup Rivers flow into the Murray River on the west side of Pinjarra, but the Murray River above Pinjarra is bigger than the Serpentine River or the Dandalup rivers.

Mr. W. A. Manning: That would be the Hotham River.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The Hotham River is further back, but I am not going back as far as that.

Finally, there is an item regarding police takeover of traffic. I realise that the Labor Party stated quite openly one of the things it would do if it were elected would be to have police takeover of traffic. I do not agree with it and for the reasons given by the Minister it will not save any lives; it will not have any effect on the road toll at all. When this matter comes up for debate I will have something more to say about it.

Mr. Jamieson: How do you explain the fact that all other States which have this sort of control have fewer problems in this regard than we have?

Mr. Court: Have they?

Mr. RUNCIMAN: This is doubtful, too.

Mr. Court: Is their incidence of accidents lower?

Mr. Jamieson: Regarding the incidence of deaths on the road, I understood we were worse than others.

MR. W. A. MANNING (Narrogin) [12.21 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, other members speaking on the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech have been passing compliments about the appointments. As I have already done this, I will pass straight to the subject I have chosen.

I do not intend to speak on local or State matters on this occasion but rather about the visit of the South Africans, because I feel I can give some information concerning the situation in South Africa.

Mr. Nalder: Do you mean the rugby team?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I mean about their policy, and so on. I do not intend to be at all critical, but I believe some people who took action and protested did so in ignorance of what they were protesting about. I think perhaps it is time that we learnt all we can about this particular country and what it is seeking to do.

As some members know, I went as a C.P.A. delegate to Uganda, representing this State. I made it my business to spend some time in South Africa, and also in Rhodesia. During the whole of that time I investigated the system of what is called apartheid. I looked up the meaning of the word "apartheid" and I discovered that it means separateness, apartness, or distinctness; that is how it is defined.

Mr. H. D. Evans: Race apart, I think is the literal meaning.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: No, it does not mean race apart. I checked this with the State Library and this is the definition. Its meaning, as far as the South Africans are concerned, is separate development. I will deal with that later to explain just what that is, but I would like to state my first lesson in apartheid.

On the very first morning I arrived in Johannesburg I wished to visit an office in a multi-storeyed building.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: If it means what you say, why did the South Africans refuse to accept a cricket team from Great Britain which had d'Oliviera in it?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I am not going to attempt to answer that.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: You would not have a clue.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: I am going to describe the factual situation in South Africa. I am not attempting to reply to these interjections.

A member: As you see it.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: The first lesson I received was when I went to get a lift. There were two lifts; one was marked "Europeans" and one was marked "Non-Europeans." I intended to wait for the one marked "Europeans" but I discovered the people, both Bantu and Europeans,

took whichever lift came first. An unfortunate result where a system imposes a dividing line is the necessity for the dividing line, whether observed or not.

First of all, I would like to give members an impression of what the situation is at the present time before I go onto the larger aspects of this particular system. Surrounding Johannesburg are towns of Bantu. I visited the township of Soweto where there were 100,000 homes. Most of these people work in Johannesburg. They live in Soweto and they journey by train or bus to the city just as the people here journey to the city from the suburbs every day. There is ample work in Johannesburg.

Some of the Bantu live in the city because of their type of occupation. For instance, those who work in hotels and have to be there at night or early in the morning usually have accommodation on the top floor of the hotel. Their accommodation is under inspection to ensure it is acceptable and suitable. Those who work in private homes can live in separate apartments. Again, these apartments are under inspection to ensure that the workers receive suitable accommodation.

The Bantu who work in the factories are fairly well provided for. The factories I visited provide the workers with a hot meal in the middle of the day. The charge for this is 9c a week. They also have a superannuation scheme. These facts give some idea of the consideration given to the Bantu people.

In the town of Soweto there are businesses owned by the Bantu. In fact, the Europeans cannot own businesses in the town. The Bantu can carry on their professions and businesses there and some are very successful. There is a Government housing area for Bantu people who are not well off but there are also some very nice homes Bantu people have built for themselves. There are Olympic standard sportsgrounds.

The Baragwaneth Hospital in Soweto is the best in Johannesburg, and probably one of the best in South Africa. This hospital is for the Bantu and I am told facilities there are better than those available in Johannesburg itself. There are halls and churches and plenty of open spaces. This is a description of the area in which the Bantu live.

I visited the Bantu radio station in Johannesburg. Except for the head man this is conducted solely by the Bantu.

Mr. Jamieson: Did you visit their television stations?

Mr. W. A. MANNING: They have no television stations at all.

Mr. Jamieson: I know that.

Mr. W. A. MANNING: Not even the E. S. S. have a television station. One of the reasons for this is the two-language

problem. It would be difficult to transmit in two languages. However, I believe this problem is under consideration now.

The Bantu radio station broadcasts regularly in four languages, and irregularly in 11 languages. In using the word "Bantu" I am describing the black people of South Africa. This is the general name given to cover all the different tribes. All the programmes are prepared by the Bantu; the performers and staff are Bantu. I spoke to these people and I was very impressed with them.

I visited one of the goldmines in the Orange Free State at Hartbeestfontein. This mine employs 12,500, of which 11,500 are Bantu. Members might be impressed by the fact that the biggest proportion of those who are employed in the mine come from outside South Africa. They come from areas such as Botswana, Lesotho, and Malawi. These Bantu leave their homes to work in South Africa. They are allowed to stay for limited periods only, and, I think, every nine months they must return home. They are allowed to return to South Africa again after a period with their wives and families.

These people all speak various languages of course, and they are trained at the mine. They are also accommodated in huts at the mine. I think there were six people to a hut, and the people furnish the huts themselves and most of them were beautifully furnished and with colour schemes and so on. The men charged with the supervision of the huts were well qualified for the job. Of course, all were provided with meals at the huge canteen on the property.

The most remarkable point about this is that people come from black-governed countries to white-governed South Africa because they desire employment. Surely this is some indication of the value placed upon South Africa by those people. Let us cast our minds back for a moment. For 51 years in the Union of South Africa there was no apartheid; it was an integrated community. But at the end of that 51 years the different tribesmen still lived in their own homelands. They still desired to be in their own areas, amongst their own people, and with their own habits and customs. This is only natural because those people came to South Africa from all over the place.

None were indigenous—neither the whites nor the blacks—they all came from various parts and they all preserved their individual nationalities. There was no assimilation or integration because, as I have said before, these people all desired to stay in their own homelands. That is how the idea of separate development came upon the scene. The desire is to allow these people to remain amongst their own tribes and to put them on a better basis instead of on no basis at all as they had been in the past.

Roughly stated, the plan is to develop a number of states—some black, some white, but none black and white—and the plan has unified government in the Republic of South Africa. The first interesting experiment in the self-government of these people in their own homelands has occurred. It is taking place in the Transkei, and it is the first practical embodiment of the theory of self-determination—which is the objective of the South African Government.

I think this development underlines the point that apartheid does work. I was not very impressed with the idea of apartheid as it is understood in this country. But when one goes to South Africa and sees the way the policy is carried out there one's opinion is changed. I would defy any member to visit South Africa without changing his opinion on apartheid as it is described in this country.

The first practical experiments in relation to self-determination took place in the Transkei, which is the largest of the Bantu territories. It is the homeland of 3,500,000 Xhosas, which is the name of the people's tribe. In their homeland they are called Transkeians and they have proved their ability to self-govern by entering wholeheartedly into each stage of the formulation of their own constitution. Their constitution was prepared in 1961, which is only ten years ago—and only eight years ago, in May, 1963, an Act granting self-rule was passed and the separate state was formed.

The result is a fusion of two systems of control. The first system is the traditional role of the chiefs which has been retained in the government of the Transkei. Members will realise it is most important to retain some of the power of the chiefs to which the people are accustomed. The second system is the modern method of electing parliamentary members. As I said, these two systems have been most successfully fused in the form of government of the Transkei.

Naturally, in the early days of the new Transkei white civil servants were needed to help, but they are gradually being eliminated and now 82 per cent of the civil servants are Bantu. I mentioned earlier that it is planned to develop various states of the different tribes, and Transkei is not intended to remain as an isolated showcase. In other areas the Bantu are now showing every indication that they are ready and anxious to move into self-rule. Every citizen can now identify himself with his own homeland group, such as the Zulu, the Venda, the Shangaan, the Ovambo, and others. Those tribes in particular are ready to move into the same form of self-government as the Transkeians. Those people will now be able to identify themselves with their own homeland with a view to setting up their own self-governed state.

The first step towards self-government is the establishment of territorial authorities which have been set up in every South African province. Therefore, the first move towards independence on a state basis has already been made. In June, 1970, at a magnificent ceremony, a territorial authority for the Zulus opened its first session at Nongoma and a multi-million dollar Rand growth point was announced.

That is evidence of the intention of the South African Government to provide the people not only with self-government but also with the means of self-generating help to enable them to establish business and industry, which is provided through a separate organisation. I think I have covered a good deal of the ground concerning what is taking place and what will take place in South Africa.

I think we should understand these things more fully so that we can make our determinations accordingly.

The United Nations' campaign against racism this year had its instigation in South Africa. However, I would like to point out that at the present time in Africa there is a tendency for the black nations to wake up to the position in which they have placed themselves. This awakening started first in Ghana which, as many members know, has been the scene of a great many troubles and difficulties in the past. People in the west coast areas of Africa have now realised that the attempts of the Organisation of African Unity has placed them in an untenable position. As members know, the sanctions on Rhodesia were imposed as a result of the Organisation of African Unity.

In concluding my speech I think I should point out that the sanctions imposed on Rhodesia become a little farcical when one discovers what is going on beneath the surface. When I was at the border of Rhodesia and Zambia I travelled on a coal truck and trailer which was carting coal from the Wankie coalfield in Rhodesia to Zambia. I was impressed to see just how much coal went into Zambia from Rhodesia, because the trucks and trailers passed by every two and a half minutes.

When I visited Salisbury and saw the rapid progress that was being made, together with the growth of existing industries and the establishment of new ones for the manufacture of goods they had been importing for years in the past, despite the sanctions that had been imposed on the country, it was obvious that Rhodesia was obtaining foreign currency to aid it in making this growth.

Mr. Nalder: Is Salisbury the capital of Rhodesia?

**Mr. W. A. MANNING:** Yes, I had many opportunities to ascertain how this growth had come about, and I made inquiries as to how the country had received foreign currency. I was told that the major source for this foreign currency was Zambia; it was money paid for the coal that Rhodesia sent to that country. Zambia is one of the principal countries that led the outcry against Rhodesia and joined those who imposed sanctions against it, and yet it is the largest customer of Rhodesia. Our country and other nations are supposed to refrain from trading with Rhodesia, and yet a large proportion of its trade is carried on with a country that has been the greatest urger, amongst all countries of the world, for the imposition of sanctions on Rhodesia.

I could relate interesting incidents of what happened on the border, but it would take a long time and I do not feel disposed to do so even if I had the time available. However, I want to point out that all the objection that is raised against what is happening in South Africa, and the trouble that is created and stirred up by the people in the black republics at present stems from the Organisation of African Unity, centred in Ethiopia and supported by Zambia. These people should spend more time looking at their own internal arrangements before telling the world, for one thing, what should be done with Rhodesia and also South Africa.

I did hesitate to speak on this particular subject, but in view of the statements that have been made and what has arisen I felt that I had some responsibility to acquaint the House of all that I know. I do not profess to know everything about this subject, but I endeavoured to learn all I could whilst I was in South Africa. I did secure some valuable information whilst I was there and have continued to do this since my return. I have now endeavoured to pass it on in the hope that it will be of some value to the members of this Chamber.

*Sitting suspended from 12.43 to 2.15 p.m.*

**MR. W. G. YOUNG (Roe)** (2.15 p.m.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with the other members who, over the past two weeks of this session, have congratulated you on your elevation to the position you occupy in this House. I have already had some assistance from you during my participation in the debates, and the congratulations I offer come from my heart.

To the new members I also offer my congratulations, as I do to the members of the Ministry. I hope they will follow in the steps of the previous Government and that the State will be provided with

good government, aided by a strong Opposition. Finally in this connection, I hope that the present Ministers' term of office will not be too long!

Firstly, I would like to deal with matters appertaining to the electorate of Roe, and the first relates to the Kambalda-Esperance railway line. Last week I asked the Premier some questions in relation to the present situation of that line; it was obvious from his answers that the situation has not yet been resolved and that we are still awaiting a reply from the Commonwealth Government in response to the request made by the Premier for assistance from that Government. Failing that the State should take advantage of the offer of a loan by Western Mining Corporation.

It would be disastrous and it would be a retrograde step if the district of Esperance and parts further north were not linked with the Australia-wide standard gauge railway. It is perfectly obvious that once the Kalgoorlie-Kambalda section has been converted to standard gauge and the Kambalda-Esperance section upgraded as a narrow gauge line, the latter section will be completely isolated from the rest of the railway system of Western Australia. Once upgraded as a narrow gauge line the Kambalda-Esperance section will remain a narrow gauge line for many years.

At the moment financial difficulties might prevent the standardisation of that section of line, but in view of the rapid growth of the State and the expansion of the Port of Esperance, every effort should be made to obtain the necessary funds for standardisation, especially as large sums of money are available from private enterprise to assist in financing this project.

I appreciate the difficulty that Cabinet faces in raising the Government's share of the money that is required; but I point out it would be a very short-sighted policy if every possible effort was not made to upgrade the Kambalda-Esperance section to a standard gauge line.

An interesting set of figures which shows the growth of the Port of Esperance in the last six years has been supplied by the Esperance Port Authority. We find that in 1966 the total trade through the Port of Esperance amounted to 161,182 tons carried by 28 vessels; but in 1971 the figure had grown to 790,492 tons plus 24,646 live sheep carried in 93 vessels. The growth each year has been dramatic—from 161,000 tons to 790,000 tons over a period of six years. This emphasises the growing importance of that region.

When we look further north and see the mineral developments that are taking place north of Kalgoorlie, it is perfectly obvious that every possible effort should

be made to upgrade the Kambalda-Esperance section to a standard gauge line, and so bring it into conformity with the expansion of the broad gauge railway system throughout Australia. I would ask the Premier and the Minister for Railways to look seriously into this proposal, because it is obvious that the needs of the Esperance region will be better served by a broad gauge line than by an isolated, but upgraded narrow gauge line.

I must agree with and congratulate the Minister because at least something is being done. The number of trains derailed on that section over the last year or two has indicated that some upgrading was necessary. However, I do believe that to upgrade a narrow gauge system is an entire waste of capital. The sooner we realise that our narrow gauge system is antiquated, and make every endeavour to change it, the better the rail system in Western Australia will operate.

Mr. Bertram: Excuse me for not listening attentively, but did you give details of the circumstances whereby you consider the 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge is preferable?

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: I did briefly. The 4 ft. 8½ in. gauge is not only preferable but is a necessity because otherwise an isolated 3 ft. 6 in. gauge will remain from Kambalda south and the dual gauge will be in operation from Kalgoorlie to Kambalda. No 3 ft. 6 in. gauge exists from Kalgoorlie to anywhere else and so the 3 ft. 6 in. rolling stock will be isolated from Kambalda south. It would not be tied into any other rail system unless it were pickabacked.

Mr. May: You would have to have all the sidings around not Kambalda but Kamballe included because the trains pick up the oil from Esperance.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: Would not this be desirable?

Mr. May: Oh yes.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: I am glad the Minister agrees. I appreciate the point he is making and what he says is eminently desirable and should be the objective.

Having obtained harmony on both sides over the Esperance railway line I would now like to deal with a recent announcement concerning the Railways Department, although it does not deal with the Esperance area. I am referring to the wool freight concessions from the town of Narrogin southwards, and from some points of view the announcement disturbed me.

Mr. T. D. Evans: Are you opposed to that?

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: I indicated I had some reservations. I have only the scanty information which was published in the Press, but it was stated that the concession was to be granted from Narrogin south. I

wanted to know whether this decision was based on a geographical line east and west, with Narrogin as the most northerly town, and whether it would embrace all the loop-lines leading into the system south from Narrogin—

Mr. Graham: Yes.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: —because if this is the case the railway line as it leaves Narrogin and heads into the eastern wheat-belt does run south of a line east and west of Narrogin. This would mean we could include Merredin because that is the loop-line. These are the points I want clarified; because, as members can appreciate, many people are asking for this information. They want to know the position from the end of the railway line at Newdegate. This goes in through Lake Grace to Wagin. These towns are some 250 miles from Albany and approximately the same distance from Perth. Will those farmers be allowed to put their wool on this train and send it to Albany?

Mr. Graham: Yes.

Mr. Bertram: The answer is "Yes" to both those questions.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: This would include Merredin because it does—

Mr. Bertram: I do not know about Merredin.

Mr. Graham: Hardly.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: These are the questions being asked.

Mr. Graham: Why not include Northampton?

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: Because that line does not generate south of Narrogin. These are the points people are inquiring about, because this is the height of the shearing season. Farmers have their wool ready to rail and if they can save 95c a bale by this concession granted from Narrogin, they want to take advantage of it. Of course the farmers will, on this basis, save more when sending their wool from Newdegate. I would like some of these questions answered because people who are contemplating railing their wool at the moment want to know what to do with it.

Mr. May: Do you think the concession will have a big impact on wool being railed to Albany?

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: This is the point I was about to develop. The Minister asked me whether I was opposed to the proposals in the announcement. I have some opposition to them because, as I was trying to indicate the other night, a free transport area in the southern part of the State is desirous in view of the fact that the railway lines do not run in a direct route to Albany and they were never designed to do so. One line runs down the centre and the rest in a circle and a far greater distance is involved by rail from areas such as Gnowangerup to Albany than

would be the case by road. A free transport area is desirable also because the farmers concerned can transport their wool to Albany direct by road and then backload with super, fuel, or something of that nature so that the saving would not be only on the rail freight, but also on the actual cost of their fuel and super. Farmers are all shearing at this time of the year and the maximum rebates for super are for the September and October deliveries, and this would represent a further saving.

I do hope the Minister for Railways and the Minister for Transport will study the position in the southern area. Whilst I appreciate the efforts made by the Government to help the member for Albany with his unemployment problem and also with the building up of the Port of Albany as a wool-selling centre in an endeavour to keep the Scandia Line calling there, I think the farmers generally are looking for something more. They want to be able to use their trucks to cart their produce and wool—and wool is the only item still restricted—to farmers all over the State and not just restricted to the southern area.

Mr. McPharlin: Don't you think it would be a good idea if the concession was given to farmers all over the State and not just restricted to the southern area?

Mr. May: This is what we tried to tell you the other night.

Mr. Graham: The member for Roe wants to kill the railways.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: This is a logical result of the move already made—

Mr. Graham: No, it is not.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: —because we cannot possibly have the situation where a farmer in the southern area of the State is allowed a freight concession which is not given to the farmer in the north. The price of wool appertains all over the State.

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: Did the Knox proposal apply to the whole of the State?

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: It applied to the areas where road transport could be utilised—

Mr. J. T. Tonkin: To the great southern.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: —to transport wool to Albany, if the Premier would allow me to finish. That is the point I was trying to make. It is a consideration in the southern districts, because of the system that already applies. There is a 10-mile buffer strip and some people have to use the railways while others are allowed free transport. This, of course, is the source of contention which brought about the request for an inquiry. The Knox report was the logical result of the inquiry. It determined that it was possible to have free transport in that area.

Mr. May: Is the honourable member aware that Western Australia has the cheapest freight in Australia on wool for an average haul?

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: Would our average haul be shorter?

Mr. May: I am referring to the average haul in each State. Western Australia has the cheapest rail freight on wool.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: I was not aware of that, but I do not think it is an argument. Why should a farmer 60 miles from Northam pay full price while a man 60 miles from Albany is not paying full price?

Mr. Graham: It was designed to help the Port of Albany.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: I agree that the intention is to help the port and to attempt to keep the selling centre open. The logical development, however, is that eventually we cannot have discrimination between two farmers who live in separate areas. One is penalised to the benefit of the other.

Mr. Graham: We have telescopic freights now.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: Yes, telescopic freights apply and farmers in Narrogin and south of that area will still be receiving the benefit of telescopic freights.

Mr. Graham: Telescopic freights give a lower freight rate for the person who is further away.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: They give everybody lower freight rates.

Mr. Graham: There is a differentiation between two farmers who perform the same task.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: This is what the Government is doing.

Mr. Graham: It is the position with regard to telescopic freights as well.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: Only to the extent that the man on the lower freight rate who lives closer to the centre is penalised to the benefit of the man at the extremity. This does not apply here.

Mr. Graham: It is penalising nobody.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: Yes, it is.

Mr. Graham: Nobody.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: Perhaps I chose the wrong word and should have said "discriminating" instead of "penalising."

Mr. Graham: That is getting closer.

The SPEAKER: Order! I think the member for Roe can make his own speech.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: I have developed that theme for long enough and I will move on, now, to the Minister for Agriculture; it must be his turn. During the course of the election campaign, and well prior to the election, much play was made on the priorities required by farmers who wished to obtain drought relief delegated agency loans. We were accused many times of not being able to relieve the farmer of the need to have this first priority. I am afraid I cannot find it at the moment, but a telegram purporting to come from the present Premier was read out at a meeting



at Newdgate held prior to the election. It was stated in the telegram that a Labor Government, if elected, would and could lift first mortgage priority rights and that the aim was to assist farmers, not to hinder them. It received a considerable amount of applause from the 250 farmers present at the meeting.

I will not say no attempt has been made because we, on this side of the House, when in Government appreciated the difficulties associated with lending money at risk. Perhaps an attempt was made to find some other means of lending money without first mortgage priorities. It is quite obvious, though, this was not done. Yesterday, by way of a question, I asked the Minister for Agriculture and he admits that since taking office five loans have been refused. This number may not seem many in the context of the number refused under the system operating when we were in Government. Nevertheless, the position could be that the five farmers who have been refused are farmers who made application in the previous year. Perhaps they thought by virtue of the telegram which was read out and the election promises made that they would now be eligible for the loan, because in the past they had not been able to get first mortgage priority. They could have thought that it is now no longer needed.

Mr. H. D. Evans: Would it require a change in the legislation to bring this about?

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: Possibly.

Mr. H. D. Evans: Not "possibly." When has there been an opportunity?

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: I agree it would require an amendment. If my memory serves me correctly, the offer was made on the 12th February, 1971, eight days before the election. It is convenient for the Minister to say it would require a change in legislation, but drought relief loans terminated on the 31st July.

It is perfectly obvious that an empty promise was made. The Government knew no drought relief would be available at the time in question and now there is no longer the need. If the legislation is amended now, it could not apply because drought relief loans have ceased. That is the point I am making. However it is in the past and bad luck for the unfortunate people who were knocked back.

Some sectors of the wheatbelt are experiencing near drought conditions. This does not apply all over, but the rains this year have been very patchy. If it does not rain very shortly there will be a full-scale drought. I suggest to the Minister that the promise should be honoured and the amended legislation to alter the need for first mortgage priority should be brought before the House as quickly as possible.

If rainfalls do not improve in August, there is not much possibility of their becoming general in September and October to be of lasting benefit. There will be another outcry for drought relief loans. If something is not done right now the same situation will apply; people will be knocked back because a first priority has to be secured. I ask the Minister for an assurance that he will look into this and get on with the job. In some areas this will be the second really bad year out of three. Demands will be great. Capital which farmers may have had two years ago when they first ran into trouble will be exhausted. Requirements for drought relief will probably be such that first priorities will be hard to obtain. If the system continues to apply they will be in difficulties. I am not suggesting how it can be done, because members on this side of the House did not promise to do it, but the present Government has promised it. Therefore, I consider the promise should be honoured.

I would now like to say a few words on local government. In my electorate increasing numbers of farmers are finding great difficulty in meeting their accounts and in paying shire rates. Some are 12 months behind. A new rating year is about to commence. Most of the shires are striking rates which they must have in by the end of August. Some people will not be one year, but two years behind with their rates. Some of the shires in my electorate are receiving only 70 per cent. of what they should be collecting. It is quite obvious that they will not be able to carry on in the near future without substantially increasing the rates, if work is to be done in the shire.

When there is a rate increase in an area where a large number of people cannot afford to pay it, immediately the payer is penalised. As the number of people paying rates falls, so the rates go up. The man who is paying is asked to pay a larger portion of the debt to help with the moneys needed to carry on the work of the shire. Something has to be done. I know the previous Government offered \$1,000,000 to help local government authorities over this hurdle. I hope the Premier and the Treasurer will look at this matter and make an announcement to the shires in difficulties because of rates still unpaid. Very shortly new rate notices will be sent out and there is still money owing.

The people who live in the shires do not know where they are going. The shires themselves do not know where they are going; and they cannot budget for roadworks and improvements in the district until they know they can get the money.

Touching on another issue of importance in this southern area, there has been an exodus of some people from the district. The farms are still there, but the married couples and hired men who worked on

the farms have moved on. These people were usually a good source of income to resident dentists in the area. The member for Murray did mention the medical problem in this regard and a similar situation applies with the dentists. The dentists have moved out and the people who live there usually cannot afford to come to Perth and spend the necessary two or three days having their own and the children's teeth attended to. As members are aware, dental treatment usually involves two or three days; it is not a matter of walking in and out. I know the department has attempted to attract resident dentists into these areas, but with the clientele available there are not many takers. The dentist would require a subsidy as some shires do with doctors. It may be that the Government would have to subsidise this dental service.

I think the answer to this could be the road dental clinic. This has served the area very well up till now. However, there are increasing demands on this service. Where the dentist would stay for two weeks, now he is required for up to six weeks. If we take account of the fact that the dentists must have holidays, too, there is not sufficient time to serve many towns in a year. I think it is incumbent on the Minister for Health and Cabinet to have a look at this matter and, if necessary, enlarge the fleet of road dental services with another two or three units. The dentist could then stay for a longer time and complete his work.

I know some towns have a waiting list and when the deadline is reached people waiting for treatment have to be dropped off. I do not say that work is left uncompleted, but people on the tail end of the list have to wait for the next visit. Quite often this could be in 12 months' time. The local doctor will generally perform extractions, but other necessary dental work may be delayed for 12 months. This can be very critical in the case of children, because in 12 months the tooth will be lost.

Instead of trying to attract dentists into the area in the hope of alleviating this problem, it would be expedient to have an enlargement of the road dental service so that more clinics can operate and more people in the areas could be served. This is particularly important in regard to young children as their first permanent teeth need regular care.

I would like to say something briefly about the meat situation. I am aware of the enlarged refrigeration section at the Midland Junction Abattoir. I ask the Minister for Agriculture whether at this point of time he has made arrangements to ensure, when the new section is opened—I understand this will be on the 1st September or the 31st August—that expert staff is available and extra chains can go

on killing. This season is deteriorating and at the moment it is perfectly obvious that once the wool is off the sheep there will be a big influx to the abattoirs. Even if the stock firms and farmers co-operate with the Midland Junction Abattoir Board, there will still be a very big yarding every week. I think it is essential the sheep should be kept moving through the yard to give the farmers the benefit of the best possible price.

I do not know what the situation is in regard to the export market. Two or three farmers have fairly large contracts to supply meat overseas. I know that shipping is available and it has been arranged to keep the meat moving through. Thank you, I got the nod in the right direction!

Mr. McPharlin: Ask the Minister can he guarantee there will not be more strikes.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: I do not think the Minister could guarantee that.

Mr. Jamieson: I do not think you could guarantee that.

Mr. Davies: Not blowfly strikes!

Mr. H. D. Evans: It looks as though there will have to be compulsory control of the yards.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: There will be? This will be done with the co-operation of stock firms and farmers or has the Minister the power to say it will be controlled?

Mr. H. D. Evans: I think everybody will co-operate.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: This is good news because the situation will be chaotic once the early rush of shearing is over and the flow of sheep starts.

Mr. H. D. Evans: We do not want a repetition of previous years.

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: That might be well said from the Minister's side but as long as we have a guarantee it will not happen, it makes me a little happier.

I would like to make one other point while I am on my feet, and that is in relation to the terms of the emergency grant of \$2,000, which was made available to farmers. Farmers were virtually given 12 months in which to assess their farming prospects. This loan was essentially a crop loan for the purchase of superphosphate, etc., and carry-on finance for day to day living. It was estimated at some \$70 a month and we were criticised when we offered them \$30 a week, but \$70 a month must sound better because there was not much criticism about it. I was amazed to see that it had been extended to root pickers and stone pickers for the improvement of pasture. Certainly it was a loan with repayment to be made out of the first crop. I do not think people who had reached desperation point in their farming would have benefited very much. The \$2,000 was to be loaned to a consortium of farmers—I think three was to be the minimum—to buy equipment such as a stone picker.

Stone pickers are expensive items of equipment and there would not be much change left out of \$2,000 after purchasing one. I am not sure what terms of repayment would be applied to people who are buying under a scheme such as this to improve pasture when repayment is supposed to be a first lien on their crops. Could the Minister inform me whether it was based on a wool clip, or could he inform me how the guarantee of repayment was made? I think it would be far better to advance more of this money to farmers so that they can plant cash crops and obtain quick returns. If the Government was so short of money, why did it allow the money made available to be expended on stone pickers and root pickers?

Mr. H. D. Evans: Did any farmer who desired to plant a cash crop fail to receive accommodation?

Mr. W. G. YOUNG: I am not aware of the facts so I cannot answer that question. I cannot understand how the repayments were to be made and I hope that in future we will be informed that the money will be advanced to put in a crop and not for the purchase of a root picker. The report in the Press was to the effect that the money had been advanced to improve pasture and, to me, this has no relation to putting in a crop. However, at some future stage I will ask about this again and I hope to get an answer to my question; that is, how the repayment was guaranteed when the money was advanced to purchase a root picker. I do not think there is anything further I wish to say at this stage, so once again I thank the House for its tolerance.

MR. J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Premier) 2.52 p.m.: It has long been a custom in the Legislative Council for the Leader of the House to reply to the various points raised by speakers who have taken part in the debate on the Address-in-Reply. I have often thought it was a good idea, because it enables the Minister to obtain information from the various departments and to give a quick reply to the speakers who have taken the trouble to raise various questions.

I am not rising here for that purpose, although I intend to reply to some of the suggestions and criticisms that have been made. However, before I proceed on that course, Mr. Speaker, I join with others who have already congratulated you upon your election. I have done that once already when you were elevated to that position, but I am pleased to see you there and I am sure you will discharge your duties without fear or favour and to the complete satisfaction of the members of the Legislative Assembly. I congratulate also the member for Gascoyne upon his appointment to the office of Chairman of Committees. I have known him for many years. He is a very diligent and painstaking member of the House and one who, I am

certain, will devote close attention to his office. I know he is efficient and will give satisfaction in the discharge of his duties.

I join also with those who have congratulated all the new members upon their election to this House. I feel it is a unique kind of experience to enter a place such as the Legislative Assembly—I have had no experience of the Legislative Council—and to appreciate what really goes on in this place. I would imagine that those members felt very much as I did when I first came here; that is, imbued with the intention to turn the place upside down in five minutes. However, one soon learns there is a certain pace beyond which one cannot go. It is part of an institution which carries on according to certain rules and however much one tries to get around those rules—sometimes one is successful if they are not of great importance—generally speaking one does not have much luck in that direction. Therefore one is forced back into the realisation that to bring about reforms takes time.

It is not only in Parliament that this happens. A week or two back I read with considerable interest that a doctor who is now 90 years of age has been trying for 30 years to convince authorities and other doctors that he had a cure for asthma without using drugs. He had tried to do that for 30 years, during which time he has actually been curing people, and now the Minister for Health in New South Wales has decided to establish a clinic in order that this method of treatment may be put into operation. Verily, it takes a long time to get the truth through when one is up against established opinion and principle.

I say to all members, irrespective of the side of the House on which they are sitting, "Don't give up. Keep trying. If you convince yourself after proper inquiry that you are right, don't give up!" I speak from very long experience, having come up against experts who held different opinions from mine, but on a number of occasions my own opinions ultimately prevailed. One should take a lesson from the experience of this New South Wales doctor who now says he can die in peace having, at long last, achieved something for which he has been fighting for 30 years.

If it were not for some of the promises I made during the election many members would not have had anything to talk about during this debate—

Sir David Brand: They had their priorities, as you did.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: —because they seem to have spent most of their time directing their criticism at me because of my promises and saying that I should have known better and should have known all about the financial position of the State when I undertook to do all the things I intended to do. As I go along we will see whether I should have done so or not.

One of the members who spent a good deal of time on this aspect was the Deputy Leader of the Opposition who recommended to the Government that it should see a musical show called, "Promises, promises." Ordinarily, as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had a distinguished musical career as a young man—on a wind instrument, I believe—I would have taken notice of his suggestion, but I did not see that show. However, by way of return I recommend that he should try to catch up with "Fiddler on the Roof."

Mr. Court: Well, that is a very good show.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: When one is taken to task about promises one should see what sort of example has been set by the Government which preceded this one. I have here the policy speech of the present Leader of the Opposition delivered in 1959.

Mr. O'Neill: It is a well thumbed copy.

Sir David Brand: And 99 per cent. of those promises have been carried out.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I shall show that certain promises which were made in 1959 by the present Leader of the Opposition have not been implemented, even though he had 12 years of office in Government in which to implement them, and furthermore he had ample funds available to him for the purpose.

Recently we had some discussion on the Knox plan to allow farmers to cart their own wool. In 1959 the then Leader of the Opposition said this—

Mr. Court: It was so long ago that the type has faded.

Mr. Jamieson: But it is enlightening when you hear it.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: This was what the then Leader of the Opposition (now Sir David Brand) said in 1959—

We will aim at obtaining the best use of road transport and the railways in the respective spheres in which they are best suited. We will recognise the special transport needs of primary producers, and in particular their right to carry their own produce in their own vehicles.

Right up to now the woolgrowers in the great southern have been denied that right which the then Leader of the Opposition said they had, and for which they had been asking for all that time.

Sir David Brand: We made substantial amendments.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: It is a bit late in the day for the Leader of the Opposition to criticise people who have been making promises, as he has not done what he promised he would do in 1959.

Mr. W. G. Young: What other restrictions were placed on farmers in 1959?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I will deliver the speech in the sequence in which I intend to.

Sir David Brand: He is saying "naughty boy" to the member for Roe.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: In his 1959 policy speech he also said—

Secondary industry: The immediate and urgent need is for capital investment in our State. We will pursue an active programme of industrial development.

Sir David Brand: Have we not?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: To continue—

To this end we will set up an industrial development authority composed of three competent men chosen by the Government, and a highly paid industrial director. They will be charged with the responsibility of going out for industry, both large and small, secondary and primary, from the Eastern States and overseas. It is intended that this authority will be backed by an Act of Parliament.

Was that ever done?

Mr. Court: Yes, but Parliament rejected the Bill. You opposed it.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Who is this highly paid director?

Mr. Court: I am telling you that we brought a Bill before Parliament, and we argued for days on its provisions.

Mr. Graham: And at that time you had a majority in both Houses.

Mr. Court: You fought against it bitterly, and eventually it was tossed out by the Legislative Council.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: We can be sure of one thing: what I am saying has set the Opposition arguing among themselves.

Sir David Brand: No fear of that! If you were to remain in office for 12 years as we did, and did as much in the way of industrial development as we have then I would be happy.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: These promises are very interesting. This also appeared in the 1959 policy speech—

Petrol trading hours: there is need for better service to motorists over weekends and holidays in the metropolitan area. While we do not desire to return to conditions existing before the Act we will confer with the industry on how this can be done. We will exempt the country from provisions of the Act and legalise the installation of automatic bowsers for after-hours trading as in Victoria.

Has that been done?

Mr. Court: We liberalised the trading.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: This was an undertaking put forward for the purpose of attracting support at the election. As a matter of fact, the then Leader of the Opposition who put that forward—and he subsequently became the Premier—was advantaged by the policy which he had submitted, and which was deliberately designed to catch the votes in certain directions.

Now I move on to one promise which always has brought some retort from the Leader of the Opposition. I turn to his 1968 policy speech in which he said—

We will within five years commence to construct two new bridges over the Swan River.

Mr. Court: The same old thing!

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I thought that would be the response.

Sir David Brand: Gracious me! Not that again!

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I have waited patiently to see any semblance of a start on those two bridges. Why was the promise put in the policy speech, if it was not intended to attract support?

Sir David Brand: It was intended to commence, but on the advice of the same advisers who advised you we did not proceed, because there was an obvious need for amendment of the plan brought about as a result of the growth and changes which were taking place in this State. Let me point out that the engagement of Mr. Ritter might result in a change of plan by this Government.

Mr. Fletcher: Despite the fact that one of the bridges was to be established at Fremantle, the previous Government could not win the Fremantle seat.

Sir David Brand: We were on the verge of winning that seat, but only the personality of the member held it.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: If I might come back to this sore point, as the Leader of the Opposition was saying—

Sir David Brand: No, you are saying.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Does the Leader of the Opposition mean to say that, if after having made a promise before an election he finds himself in Government and then the circumstances changed, he is entitled to say "I am not obligated to carry out my promise because the circumstances have altered?"

Sir David Brand: When we were in Government we got advice from the same advisers as you had.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: What an answer to the question!

Sir David Brand: We acted on the advice of the same advisers as you had. There is nothing funny about that.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Surely this is not a rule which applies only to the Liberal Party. If it is right for the Leader of the Liberal Party to make promises in good faith but subsequently when the situation is altered to say that that justifies him in not carrying out the promises, then I say the same principle ought to apply to the Leader of the Labor Party.

Mr. Court: It was explained to the public, and we will be interested in your reasons when you explain them to the public.

Mr. Graham: We will try to give effect to the promises we made, instead.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Mr. Acting Speaker (Mr. Bateman), you will recall that in December of last year the then Premier who is now the Leader of the Opposition introduced a balanced budget and made provision for some reductions in taxation. To make it clear he was not doing this light-heartedly, and to show that the whole position had been properly surveyed he said—and I quote from the financial statement which was supplied to all members—

Having regard to all factors likely to influence the course of events during the remainder of this year and although expenditure requirements for 1970-71 are high, the Government has found it possible by careful attention to priorities, to bring down a balanced budget without having to increase State taxes and charges.

Sir David Brand: Is that not fair enough?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Of course it is fair enough—having regard for all factors.

Sir David Brand: As they were known then.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: The then Premier went on to say—

The 1970 Budget reflects a careful stocktaking of the current situation in this State—

Sir David Brand: What is wrong with that?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Surely, having heard that, I was entitled to assume the Leader of the Opposition knew what he was talking about.

Sir David Brand: About what happened at that time.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: I ask: What happened after this careful stocktaking? The shortfall in the revenue—not a situation brought about by wage rises—after the careful stocktaking in certain items was \$10,120,000. The mineral revenue fell short of the estimate by \$2,300,000; the probate revenue fell short by \$1,500,000; and the stamp duty returns fell short by \$2,300,000. On those three items alone, after the careful stocktaking we were told about, the

Leader of the Opposition was down \$6,100,000 which was more than the eventual deficit of this State.

The Leader of the Opposition delivered his policy speech on the 2nd February, and he undertook to give \$1,000,000 to the local authorities.

Sir David Brand: That was right.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: When the Leader of the Opposition delivered that policy speech he already knew that he had informed the Commonwealth he was facing a \$12,000,000 deficit. I did not know that.

Mr. Williams: He informed the public of the State.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: He informed the Commonwealth a fortnight before he made his speech.

Mr. Williams: A statement was made to the Press on the 15th December.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: What I am stating is a fact.

Sir David Brand: What I said was published in the Press before that.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: A fortnight before the then Premier delivered his policy speech, in which he undertook to give \$1,000,000 a year to the local authorities and provide a subsidy for those using electricity outside the State Electricity Commission scheme—and for which no estimate had been made—he knew he was facing a deficit of \$12,900,000.

Sir David Brand: I made that quite clear at about Christmas time. It was the 15th December.

Mr. Graham: That is irresponsibility, is it not, with a deficit like that, to throw millions of dollars around?

Sir David Brand: In the knowledge that it was done on the 15th December.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Bate-man): Order! The Premier will continue.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: The point I am making is that there is no basis for the present Leader of the Opposition to take me to task for making the promises I did.

Sir David Brand: There is a wholesale basis because the present Premier was warned about the situation.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: The then Premier knew very well, a fortnight before he undertook to distribute \$1,000,000 a year to local authorities, that he was facing a deficit of \$12,900,000. The then Premier did not publish the facts before he delivered his policy speech.

Sir David Brand: Oh yes, I did.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: The facts were not published at all.

Sir David Brand: I published those figures on the 15th December, and the Premier knows it.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: What makes the situation worse is that the present Leader of the Opposition might have been excused for anticipating that when his likely deficit was brought to the notice of the Commonwealth he could expect some financial assistance from the Commonwealth, but when he attended a Premiers' Conference on the 4th February the then Prime Minister (Mr Gorton) told the Premiers in no uncertain manner that he would not give them a dollar to help them with their deficits.

Sir David Brand: That is right.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Did that make any difference to the attitude of the Premier at the time with regard to the election? Did he come forward and say that when he undertook to distribute \$1,000,000 to the local authorities, and when he undertook to give even greater extensions to the pensioners with regard to travel than the Labor Party promised, he was under the impression that he might have got some assistance from the Commonwealth? He did not say that he would now have to face the full deficit himself. I ask: Did the then Premier give any indication that he would be in difficulty as a result of his promises? Not at all. How then can I be blamed?

Sir David Brand: I made promises of \$2,000,000 on the advice of the Treasury, and the present Premier made promises of \$9,000,000 or \$10,000,000.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: But the difference is that the Leader of the Opposition had the knowledge that he was facing a deficit of \$12,900,000. I know this is hard for the Leader of the Opposition to take.

Sir David Brand: It is not.

Mr. Jamieson: What about the electricity promises? Those promises got us into a nice little pickle.

Sir David Brand: It was not a nice little pickle.

Mr. Jamieson: Would it not be a pickle?

Sir David Brand: It will be a pickle if the Minister is there for very long.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: The member for Roe suggested this afternoon that this Government should find the money for the standard gauge railway to Esperance, knowing full well that this House was told when the Bill was before it with regard to the Western Mining Corporation, that unless the Commonwealth Government provided the money the standard gauge railway could not be built.

Mr. W. G. Young: The Western Mining Corporation has made an offer since then.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Does the honourable member not know that there is very little possibility of that offer being accepted—

Mr. Court: I do not know that.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: —because it is at a rate of interest which the Loan Council will not authorise.

Mr. Court: Except in special cases.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Yes?

Mr. Court: I hope you are not taking it for granted that this will be in the bag if the maximum rate is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., knowing that the company will be subsidising it heavily on top of that.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: The fact of the matter is that we have three times asked the Prime Minister to find a way in which this can be done; but, being a realist, I cannot say I am full of hope about it.

Mr. Court: I would have gone forward with a tremendous effort in this case because that is the only way to get things done in a State like this.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: What does the Deputy Leader of the Opposition mean by "a tremendous effort"? Go to Canberra and twist the Prime Minister's arm?

Mr. Court: Not physically, but influence him as far as one can. I am sure—and I hope—that in your position you are trying to do just that.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: We have done just that. We have written three times. I have left myself open to be told by the Prime Minister, "Can't you take 'No' for an answer?"

Mr. Court: Just to clarify this, are you speaking about asking three times to get Loan Council approval for bridging finance?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: First of all we repeated the request made by the previous Government that the Federal Government should lend the money to us itself, but failing that we have put up the alternative that the Federal Government should give us permission to take advantage of the loan that has been offered.

Mr. Court: That is the point I was trying to clarify. You have not asked that three times?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: No, we have not asked that three times. As I see it, having regard to the battle I had to establish a position which the present Leader of the Opposition believed he had established, I have no great hope that we will succeed in this request. We were to be denied by the Commonwealth Government \$2,000,000 in semi-governmental borrowing which it was felt we were entitled to because of an arrangement made with the Commonwealth, with the knowledge of the Premiers, as a result of the advocacy of the present Leader of the Opposition.

When I brought this matter up at the meeting of the Loan Council I was unable to obtain sufficient confirmation from the other Premiers to establish the point. I had not been present myself, so I could

not say anything of my own knowledge. I had to appeal to the other Premiers who were present when the present Leader of the Opposition made the arrangement with the Commonwealth Government. I had to appeal to them in an endeavour to substantiate the case. Although several of them tried to assist me, they said their recollection of the incident was not sufficiently clear to enable them to say definitely that the position was as I stated it.

It was finally left to a discussion between myself and the Commonwealth Treasurer, and the understanding was that the decision we arrived at would be suitable to the Premiers, generally. The Treasurer and I met Mr. Snedden the following morning and had a discussion lasting about half an hour. By what I regard as a very fortuitous circumstance, because of a difference of opinion between two Treasury officers, we were able to obtain the money, although Mr. Snedden would not concede that we had won the argument. What I was concerned about at the time was getting the money. We will deal with the argument later on.

Having regard to that experience over \$2,000,000 of semi-governmental borrowing, which meant we still had to raise the money in this State, I cannot see any great hope of the Commonwealth agreeing to our raising this money from the Western Mining Corporation for the standard gauge railway. I hope I am proved to be wrong because we are just as anxious as anybody else that the standard gauge railway should be built. I again emphasise that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition stated very definitely in this House that unless the Commonwealth came to the assistance of the State the standard gauge railway could not be built. That position should be made perfectly clear.

Mr. Court: The approval you are talking about is the Loan Council approval that will be canvassed by telegram, as is normally done, is it?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: It has taken the Commonwealth a long time to reply to our request. We will see what happens eventually.

As far as we are concerned, the situation is even more difficult than it was when the Deputy Leader of the Opposition made his statement because, since then, the Commonwealth has followed a policy designed to counteract the inflationary trends in Australia, and it has been made very clear to all States—as it was made clear to the previous Premier—that there had to be a reduction in expenditure on capital works.

In view of that situation and the fact that we have to fund the deficit out of loan moneys, our capacity to find the money to build the railway is considerably less

than it was at the time the previous Government was dealing with the matter. Yet, under the circumstances then existing, the previous Government said that without Commonwealth assistance the standard gauge railway could not be built.

I hope we will be able to face the problems confronting the State in a manner which could be expected of any Government; that is, in a realistic manner. We will stand up to our responsibilities. We will discharge our obligations with regard to meeting our promises. I have already shown that the previous Government had 12 years to meet some of its promises, and did not meet them. We have been expected to meet our promises within the first two or three months of coming into office.

Mr. Rushton: They were so extravagant, that is why.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: We have already met some of them, but it is very noticeable that there is a good deal of opposition in some quarters to our carrying out some of the promises we made. For example, the matter of free school books is a fairly substantial impost upon the revenue.

Mr. Rushton: And cutting out maintenance at the same time.

Mr. J. T. TONKIN: Certain parties are now trying to sprag that because it means loss of income or loss of profit to them. That is all they are concerned about.

I repeat—and I use the principle already indicated by the Leader of the Opposition—that when a Government gets onto the Treasury bench and finds itself in an altered situation it is justified not only in deferring its promises but also in neglecting to carry them out. I do not want to take advantage of that dictum. We will endeavour, as the financial situation permits, to give effect to the promises we made. They will not all be put into effect at once; some of them will have to be phased in. We have endeavoured to deal with the more urgent promises which would give the greatest benefit.

We will continue with that policy, and if the financial position improves as a result of the development of the State—which can reasonably be expected because of the tremendous wealth in Western Australia—the rate at which the policies can be implemented will be greatly accelerated. But I want to make it clear that the caption which stated that we shelve promises was unfair and untrue. We had to admit that it was not possible to implement all the promises immediately; some of them would have to be delayed. I think we are perfectly justified in doing that, having regard to the responsibility which devolves upon us to avoid unnecessarily high taxation, which would have been inevitable had we decided that the promises should be implemented immediately. Mr. Speaker, I support the motion.

MR. I. W. MANNING (Wellington) [3.29 p.m.]: Mr. Speaker, I desire to take this opportunity to make a few comments during the Address-in-Reply debate. First of all, along with other members who have already done so, I would like to extend my congratulations to you on your appointment to the high office of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia. I think the Labor Party made an excellent choice when it selected you, Sir, for this august position, and I sincerely wish you well during your term of office.

I would also like to offer my congratulations to the new members who were elected to this Parliament at the last elections and wish them well during their stay in Parliament. I consider the Brand Government made a tremendous contribution to the progress of the State and to the welfare of the people of Western Australia during its term of office from 1959 to February of this year. A quick appraisal of this State from Wyndham to Esperance would quickly assure anyone of that fact. Undoubtedly many people—particularly young people—throughout the length and breadth of the State owe their jobs and security to the initiative and drive of the Brand Government.

When we are assessing progress we usually think first of big industries and such things. However, with your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read two or three paragraphs from the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Native Welfare for the year ended the 30th June, 1970. I am sorry the former Minister for Native Welfare is not in his seat at the moment because I hoped in doing this to offer him some encouragement. The comments I wish to read out are as follows:—

In the field of Aboriginal advancement, the policy followed by the Government over the past decade has been aimed at transforming an underprivileged and sub-economic minority group, too often existing in extremely poor conditions on the fringes of our society, into a self-respecting, self-supporting and fully participating part of the general population.

Ten years ago the majority of Aborigines not living on agricultural or pastoral properties existed in unserviced and unhygienic camps on the outskirts of country towns, very often adjacent to the local rubbish dump. Very few of these people possessed the degree of social advancement which would have enabled them to take their place in the ordinary community.

Today, by dint of strenuous efforts to extend to them the full benefits of health and education facilities, and by means of a carefully graduated transitional housing programme, these same people are able, with some exceptions,



to occupy fully standard housing and to become self-supporting members of society.

In my view the Bunbury region is one of the foremost in Australia in regard to Aboriginal advancement. By "advancement" I refer to the number of Aboriginal people housed and supporting themselves and playing an important part in the community life of the district in which they live.

Much of the success I refer to is attributable to the Aborigines themselves; but it also reflects a great deal of credit upon the Department of Native Welfare officers stationed in the area. Those officers in Bunbury perform an outstanding job, particularly in encouraging Aborigines to seek jobs, to settle down, and to fit into the local community. The officers are dedicated people, and perhaps this dedication also applies in regard to the successes of the previous Government in implementing its policy and creating the progress we have enjoyed. It was brought about by the dedication of civil servants, generally, and in particular those in the Bunbury region with which I am so closely associated.

The thoughts I have expressed concerning the Native Welfare Department officers apply also to the officers of the Child Welfare Department, the Public Works Department, the Housing Commission, and the Department of Agriculture. Perhaps my remarks apply above all else to the health services in the Bunbury region. Those services are now of a wonderfully high standard. The member for Bunbury mentioned the other evening the intensive care centre associated with the Bunbury Regional Hospital, and the establishment of this facility has brought the health services in the region to a particularly high standard indeed.

The efficiency with which the Bunbury Regional Hospital, in particular, is administered reflects a great deal of credit on the local administrators and, perhaps, bears out a point made the other evening by the member for Subiaco when he said that units which are not so large are much easier to administer efficiently. The honourable member also instanced a number of hospitals that are not quite as large as Royal Perth Hospital and are most efficiently administered. Looking at the situation in my particular area—the Bunbury region—I find those comments apply very much indeed because there is no question that the health services in the region—and the hospital in particular—are most efficiently administered.

I wish to devote a few minutes to further develop a point I was endeavouring to make the other evening when I was supporting the amendment to the Address-In-Reply moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. On that occasion, unfortunately for me, I was not able to persuade you, Mr. Speaker, that my comments were

relevant to the wording of the amendment. The point I wish to emphasise is the value of sport as an avenue of contact or a means of communication between our country and other nations.

A table tennis team recently visited Red China and as a result of that contact we now see all sorts of groups embarking on visits to China. Mr. Whitlam visited China with members of his party. Sir Basil Embry is to visit that country with a party from the Farmers' Union, and I think we will possibly see other interested parties endeavouring to pay visits to Red China. This contact has been brought about largely by the successful visit of a table tennis team.

What amazes me is the fact that some of the people who capitalised on this breakthrough with China are endeavouring by every means in their power to destroy the wonderful avenue of contact with the people of South Africa through the medium of sport. I am not at the moment concerned so much with the policy of the Government of South Africa; I am concerned that we as Australian people should retain a good relationship and contact with the people of South Africa. To my mind there is no better way to do this than by the use of sport and sporting teams.

It was most unfortunate that at the time the Springboks rugby team visited Australia there arrived in this country two disciples of mischief and disruption in the form of Messres. Crowther and Hain. I was most distressed to find they received the encouragement they did when they set out quite openly to promote hooliganism in our fair land.

Mr. Court: They are both trying to stir up trouble in the United Nations about our own internal problems.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I was distressed because these gentlemen had a personal war with the Government of South Africa and, in my view, they sought to get our support in trying to make it difficult for the people of South Africa and for any sporting bodies that might tour from that country.

It will be a bitter blow to sport in general and to cricket in particular—and I am now thinking of the Western Australian Cricket Association—if the forthcoming tour of the Springboks cricket team to Australia is disrupted. I think we must all appreciate the hard work, the amount of money, and the great deal of enthusiasm which went into the preparation of the W.A.C.A. ground to bring it to the required standard for a test match.

I am also mindful of the wonderful support that was received by the W.A. Cricket Association from the public of Western Australia in the provision of the necessary facilities. There is little doubt that the efforts of the cricket association were amply justified by the response it received

from the public. Its efforts, of course, culminated in a test match between Australia and England being played at the W.A.C.A.

This is now a magnificent cricket ground and it would be a very sad day indeed if we ever permitted people to prevent the South African cricket XI from coming here to play Australia. If this is permitted we will not only do a great harm to our relations with South Africa, but we will also harm the cause of cricket and sport generally. What a tragedy it would be for this country of ours if we were unable to welcome international sportsmen from all parts of the world!

Mr. Davies: Irrespective of colour.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: It is a very fine thing indeed for teams to visit us and compete against the best we can produce. The Minister for Health interjected, but I am not quite sure what he said.

Mr. Davies: I said, irrespective of colour.

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I feel sure however, that what the Minister said will be well answered by some of the comments made earlier by the member for Narrogin. We are certainly indebted to that honourable member for his resume of all he saw while in Africa, with particular reference to apartheid.

I think it is clearly established that in countries where this problem exists of black and white people living together the alternative to separate development would be integration. I daresay the country with possibly the greatest problem of integration is America. If all we have read about what America is experiencing is true, it would seem to me that integration in that country has a long way to go before it proves successful. This could well be eclipsed by separate development or apartheid but, of course, whether it will be successful or not only time will tell.

I was fortunate enough to see a television interview on Monday evening in which the new High Commissioner for South Africa was being interviewed. He left no doubt in my mind that the South African Government, by its experience, could possibly make some positive alterations to its policy of apartheid; alterations which would make it perhaps a great deal more acceptable to people who are concerned about the welfare of the coloured people in that country.

Mr. Davies: Hear, hear!

Mr. I. W. MANNING: However, in all fairness to South Africa, I do feel we should give it credit for trying to achieve something. There is no doubt in my mind that the Government of that country is far more interested in the welfare of its coloured people than we are in the welfare of ours.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.03 p.m.*

Mr. I. W. MANNING: The other point I wish to make in connection with the tour of the Springboks rugby team to this State is one I have been asked by trade unionists to make in this House. These trade unionists are dismayed at the action taken by some of the unions in an attempt to disrupt the tour. I want to quote from a letter I received from a constituent of mine who is a unionist and this will illustrate the point I am making. He writes as follows:—

I would like to record the opposition of myself and my wife to the methods used by the trade union movement to disrupt the proposed tour of Australia by the South African Springboks. I am not a supporter of South Africa's apartheid policy but feel the union action is abhorrent to most Australians; certainly to those with whom I have discussed the matter.

Again I say that certain actions taken and certain attitudes adopted were foreign to what we believe is the Australian way of life, and the point I want to emphasise on this occasion is that so many people throughout the length and breadth of Western Australia have been surprised and dismayed that Australians would adopt this attitude to sportsmen, using a political policy of a particular country as a reason for taking it out on the sportsmen. We as a Parliament and as individual members—and this is the other point I wish to emphasise—could well resolve to do nothing in the future to impair tours by visiting sporting teams.

Mr. McIver: What about the Australian delegation to the Olympic Federation? What were its views?

Mr. I. W. MANNING: I am not concerned with its views, I am concerned with what ought to be our views and our attitude.

Mr. McIver: Is it not our view?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr. I. W. MANNING: No; not necessarily, unless we choose it should be. I am trying to express in this House opinions which have been conveyed to me. People have been really distressed that we in Australia will go to such an extent to support disruptive elements. I say again that if the cricket team comes here we all ought really to reverse the situation and do everything in our power to discourage anyone who seeks to disrupt it and prevent it conducting a successful tour.

A great deal of work has been done by many people in the interests of sport, and particularly in the interests of cricket. We were all associated with the improvements at the W.A.C.A. ground. I, along with many other members I suppose, bought a ticket in a racehorse in an endeavour to raise funds. The horse did not die, but it lost the foal it was expecting—however, the

raffle was a success. There is a great deal of public support for sport in Australia, and in Western Australia in particular, and I hope that we will state loudly and clearly that visiting sporting teams are welcome and anyone who attempts to disrupt them is not welcome.

Mr. McIver: Why didn't they send out the original team which included two coloured people?

MR. DAVIES: (Victoria Park—Minister for Health) [4.08 p.m.]: It was not my intention to speak during this debate, but I feel I should say one or two things having been invited to do so by members of the Opposition. However before doing that I would like to join with others in saying how pleased I am to see you, Sir, in the position of Speaker. You and I have been acquainted for many years, long before either of us entered politics, and it was a delight to me to learn that we had both chosen the same side of politics. I was very pleased indeed to be able to support your election to the position of Speaker.

I also welcome those new members who have entered the House as a result of the elections held on the 20th February last, and I say to them that I am pleased to know that the hospitality and friendliness of the staff which I encountered as a new member 10 years ago still exists in this House. I think it is a credit to the staff that with all they have to put up with and the changing faces around the place, with all the ideas submitted to them, and the demands made on them, they can still remain cheery, courteous, and, indeed, most helpful.

I welcome those new members and indicate that I hope they enjoy their stay and are able to approach their responsibility with a degree of decorum. As members they have a great responsibility; they should realise that they are privileged people and that they enjoy privileges. They must realise particularly that they must respect those privileges and not take unfair advantage of the opportunities afforded them. This is equally important when they are speaking in this House.

I desire to deal with two matters relating to health, the first only briefly. This relates to the incidence of venereal disease and trachoma, brought to the notice of the House by the member for South Perth last night and on an earlier occasion. The Department of Public Health is very much aware of this problem and so am I, not from my personal experience, but because the matter has been brought to my notice by several people from distant parts of the State.

When I toured the north recently I was able to make inquiries of the doctors there as to the incidence of these diseases and some of the doctors told me they could not distinguish between trachoma and

conjunctivitis. Others said they could do so easily; and so I was left with the opinion that there is a degree of uncertainty in the diagnosis of the two complaints and on occasions they may be mistaking one for the other. The fact remains, however, that the incidence of trachoma and conjunctivitis is high and the Public Health Department is endeavouring, through the agencies of its public health sisters, to provide treatment, particularly at the native camps.

The unfortunate aspect is that although we have a great number of dedicated sisters doing this and other work and treating the illnesses before they become acute and require hospitalisation, there are, unfortunately, not enough of them; there are not enough women who will enter this field. The department currently has vacancies and we hope that with the money available and with the right staff we will be able to do something constructive in this field.

Venereal disease will always be a problem when we have the type of development Western Australia is experiencing now and has been experiencing for some time. Some towns in the north reminded me of the wild west and they appear to have some of the features which have been associated in the past only with American movies. Because of the problem associated with communities of men living in isolation, the disease is likely to spread, particularly amongst the natives, and it is very difficult to track down the carriers or the offenders. Although we have laws in respect of the reporting of this disease, and other provisions which give the Public Health Department certain powers, unless we can be directed to the infected persons, very little can be done.

I am sure the member for South Perth would not want the population lined up, as was the case in the services, for an inspection at certain periods. I am sure no-one would agree with that, and I certainly would not.

Mr. Court: Which towns are you referring to as being like the wild west towns we see in American movies? I would be interested to know.

Mr. DAVIES: Roebourne, particularly, struck me as a wild west town. There did not seem to be any kind of order in the place. It was booming and a great deal of change would be necessary in order to bring it to anywhere near what I would call a respectable town.

Mr. Court: Most towns up there are very well ordered.

Mr. DAVIES: This is, of course, probably a matter of opinion.

Mr. Court: You would not call Mt. Newman, Tom Price, and Dampier disordered towns.

Mr. DAVIES: I am talking of those towns where there is development; and I do wish the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would listen because—

Mr. Court: I have been listening to all of you and I am amazed at the sweeping allegations you make about the towns in the north. It is not fair.

Mr. DAVIES: I would like the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to have a look at what I said when the pull of *Hansard* is available—

Mr. Court: I was listening with care and that is why I was annoyed.

Mr. DAVIES: —and I will later accept his apology because he is putting the wrong construction on what I said.

Mr. Jamieson: His usual performance!

Mr. DAVIES: Anything anyone says about the north-west the Minister takes as a personal affront.

Mr. May: I beg your pardon!

Mr. Court: Not at all.

Mr. DAVIES: I notice that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is quick to jump to any criticism and he must acknowledge that there is criticism.

Mr. Court: Things are not helped by your wild criticism.

Mr. DAVIES: I am not making wild criticism. I am trying to put into perspective what one member on his side of the House said about venereal disease and native problems. I want to be fair to the natives and other people in the areas by pointing out some of the difficulties which the Public Health Department is encountering as they appear not to have been considered serious by the previous Administration.

Mr. Court: You are talking foolishly.

Mr. DAVIES: I am trying to put the record straight. I will still accept an apology from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Grayden: Some of the towns in the eastern goldfields are wild west towns.

Mr. Court: I am glad you are trying to put the record straight, but you are not.

Mr. DAVIES: The second matter to which I shall refer was also touched upon by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition the other evening; namely, the Royal Perth Hospital. For more than 100 years, I believe, there has been criticism of the Royal Perth Hospital. I can remember when I was a child people argued whether or not the hospital gave proper treatment; whether they would want to go there if they were sick; and whether they would want to let their favourite pet be treated at the hospital. On the other hand I have heard people speak in glowing terms

of the treatment received at the hospital, which has grown from almost a cottage to the building and organisation it is today.

First of all, I say that I am sorry I have not been able to answer completely and immediately the questions asked by the member for Subiaco. I have already indicated the answers require a great deal of time to research, as some of the information dates back to 1955. I am not prepared to direct, or even to ask, the administration of the Royal Perth Hospital to take staff away from the important everyday function of running the hospital to get out this kind of information at speed. I only hope he will bear with me and wait until the answers arrive.

I direct him to the reports of the hospital which give quite an amount of detail and would, I think, be very helpful in answering some of the points he has raised or useful if he wants to make further criticism. The worst feature, in my opinion, is that the matter has been treated rather unfairly in that sweeping criticisms have been made and the exceptional case has been considered. Perhaps it might be appropriate to mention the attitude of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition the other evening when he attacked the Deputy Premier for having the hide to criticise a Federal Minister. He wanted to know why the Deputy Premier did not take the matter up direct with the Federal Minister.

He then lauded the member for Subiaco, who apparently has not thought it necessary over the last 12 years to take up the matter with his own Administration, with myself or the present Administration, or with either the board or administration of the Royal Perth Hospital. There is no indication that the member for Subiaco has made any of these approaches. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition says it is wrong when we do something, but the same thing is right when the other side does it.

Mr. Court: That situation is not analogous.

Mr. DAVIES: We are doing our best to answer the questions asked by the honourable member who is continuing on with the fervour of a Spanish inquisitor in a way which is rather upsetting to the whole of the administration and staff of the hospital. The member for Subiaco says that his comments do not apply to all of the staff but, in saying this, he is trying to put some sugar coating on the pill.

Dr. Dadour: If you read correctly you will see the word "many" not "some." Be careful of your criticisms, please. Instead, answer my criticisms which have been constructive. I have not spoken up before because I had not realised how bad the situation was. Once I found out I went to town.

The SPEAKER: I take it the explanation the Minister is giving relates to questions asked by the member for Subiaco and does not arise from a member's speech in this session.

Mr. DAVIES: It arises from a member's speech.

The SPEAKER: I refer the Minister to Standing Order 122.

Dr. Dadour: The word I used was "many" not "some."

Mr. DAVIES: The member for Subiaco attempted to coat a pill with sugar by saying the deficiencies do not apply to all. Of course this may be the case. I cannot guarantee that every person in the hospital is 100 per cent. efficient. The appalling thing about the criticism and the fact that it has received so much publicity is that it reflects on the hospital as a whole and has had a serious effect on the morale of the staff.

Dr. Dadour: Surely this results from the Press and not from myself. It comes from what the Press has made of it.

Mr. DAVIES: The member for Subiaco initiated the whole thing and believes in what he said. He honestly believes his views are correct. He has taken no steps as a medical man over the past 12 years to do anything about it, although his interest is obviously long as it dates back to 1953. I believe every member of the staff at the hospital is entitled to be defended, and that is precisely what I want to do.

Main criticisms relate to costs, staffing—medical and administrative—and the teaching facilities. When we examine the costs of the hospital I consider we must examine them, not against the figures for 1953 but against comparable figures for other teaching hospitals in the metropolitan area as well as within the rest of Australia.

The member for Subiaco also said that the ratio of staff to patients is too high. From research I have undertaken, it seems the staff is no larger than that existing at any other teaching hospitals throughout Australia. I consider the administration has done a tremendous job under extremely difficult conditions. If we think of what they have been able to accomplish in the past 10 years, for instance, it is greatly to their credit.

It is a wonder to me that the medical administrator stays at the hospital and makes the constant carping which has been directed, not by the member for Subiaco but by other people who have not been prepared to fully investigate their complaints. This man could be earning a far higher salary than he is being paid by the hospital. He is a man dedicated to administration; he has done a good job; he has accomplished a lot; but he is being criticised.

We cannot please all the people all the time and we cannot run the Royal Perth Hospital in accordance with the individual wishes of each doctor.

The same comments apply to the administrator who looks after general affairs. He too is a man who puts in extremely long hours and is most capable.

Dr. Dadour: He is sitting at the back!

Mr. DAVIES: I invited him to the House today, because I wanted him to know that what I am saying now is the same as what I have said in my office over the past fortnight when we have had long discussions.

Mr. O'Neill: I thought you prefaced your remarks by saying you did not intend to speak.

Mr. DAVIES: That is right.

Mr. O'Neill: Why did you invite people to the House then?

Mr. DAVIES: I rang the hospital at lunch time and said I would be saying a few words this afternoon after the invitation from the member for Murray this morning. I will accept the apology of the member for East Melville at this stage.

Mr. O'Neill: No apology is extended.

Mr. DAVIES: Some criticism was also levelled at part-time medical staff and at their earnings. I believe their earnings are their own affair and they are entitled to keep them confidential, just as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition or the member for Subiaco are entitled to keep their incomes private.

Mr. Court: That is not what Mr. Whitlam thinks.

Mr. O'Neill: Are not the salaries of all public servants openly available to the public?

Mr. DAVIES: Yes, the salaries of all public servants are.

Mr. O'Neill: As well as the salaries of members of Parliament.

Mr. DAVIES: Why should professional men have to reveal their salaries?

Mr. O'Neill: If the money is earned from the public purse they should.

Dr. Dadour: The Minister was not asked their private earnings.

Mr. DAVIES: The member for Subiaco asked what the incomes were from working at the hospital. This is quite different from the income gained from the hospital itself.

Mr. O'Neill: Is private work done at the hospital?

Mr. DAVIES: Of course. It has been standing practice for years. It is being reviewed to see whether we can arrive at a more equitable arrangement or one more suitable to all concerned, because there are deficiencies.

Teaching facilities were also criticised. Only the teaching facilities at the Royal Perth Hospital were criticised. What about those at King Edward, Sir Charles Gairdner, and Fremantle, which are teaching hospitals?

Dr. Dadour: The Minister has gone out of context.

Mr. DAVIES: Princess Margaret is also a teaching hospital.

Dr. Dadour: You are out.

Mr. O'Neill: The Minister has not been in office long enough to know what he is talking about.

Dr. Dadour: I was talking of teaching in general. You have only been a Minister for five minutes and would not know.

Mr. DAVIES: Why take it out on the Royal Perth Hospital and not on other hospitals? I have endeavoured to inform myself on this subject. I will not quote only my opinion, but shortly I shall mention the opinion of other people associated with the hospital.

The member for Subiaco also said that he believed the hospital is too big and that it would be preferable to have many little hospitals. I would like to refer him to the latest report I could find.

Dr. Dadour: From where? Tell us from where!

Mr. DAVIES: For goodness sake, I intend to. I like to quote chapter and verse. I do not make sweeping accusations. If the member for Subiaco will give me a minute I will give the name of the publication, the date, the page, and the person who wrote it. The publication is *World Hospitals*, which is the official journal of the International Hospital Federation. It is dated April, 1971, and the article I refer to at page 45 was written by Dr. Michael French O'Carroll.

The SPEAKER: I hope the chapter is not too long.

Mr. DAVIES: It deals with the problems of hospitals in Ireland, which apparently are in a frightful mess. I quote—

Today, approximately half of the country's hospital beds are provided by hospitals, voluntary in ownership and control, but dependent almost entirely for their financial support on monies from central and local government.

This has caused the governments to be worried about the situation and they appointed a council of inquiry. I quote—

The Council, composed of seven physicians, seven surgeons, one pathologist, one obstetrician-gynaecologist, and two medical administrators, reported in the record time of seven months.

Mr. Rushton: Why do you not give a straightforward answer to queries being raised instead of going all over the place?

Mr. DAVIES: I am trying to quote world opinion and back up my argument regarding the size of hospitals. I am not making sweeping statements like the member for Dale.

Mr. Gayfer: Why do you not speak up so we can hear you?

Mr. DAVIES: I will do my best but have never been a strong or powerful speaker.

Mr. O'Neill: You never have been.

Mr. Bertram: A good speaker nevertheless.

Mr. DAVIES: Part of the findings are and I quote as follows:—

The views of the Consultative Council as expressed in this Report confirm the general agreement in the medical profession that hospitals or hospital complexes of 500-800 beds are essential for the effective delivery of modern hospital services and are necessary to provide acceptable training facilities and career structures for doctors, nurses and paramedical staff, without whom the hospitals cannot be run at all.

The report concludes that Irish hospitals are too many, too small and too independent of each other, and that available resources are too thinly spread.

Mr. O'Neill: That might apply to Ireland; they have a language problem there.

Mr. DAVIES: The Council recommended four regional maximum care hospitals each of approximately 1,000 beds, and each based on three existing medical schools. There would be 12 general hospitals or not less than 300 beds. That is the latest authoritative statement I could find regarding the size of teaching hospitals. This journal is dated April, 1971.

Mr. O'Neill: That is in Ireland; have you anything closer to home?

Dr. Dadour: In other countries it is different. By the way, is it the north or the south?

Mr. DAVIES: I am sorry, I knew these obvious remarks would be made. As there has been no inquiry in Western Australia I had to quote from the latest authority I could find.

Mr. O'Neill: It looks as if there will have to be one.

Dr. Dadour: We are in Western Australia.

Mr. DAVIES: The member for Subiaco says it is all right to teach that way in Ireland, with their hospitals.

Mr. O'Neill: He did not say it was all right at all; you make your own argument.

Mr. DAVIES: That is what the member implied. I am happy to see he is supported from the front bench.

Mr. O'Neill: You are distorting the argument completely, as usual.

Mr. DAVIES: I would think those on the front bench would be very quiet about the Royal Perth Hospital if they believe there is a deficiency there. I am saying the hospital is doing a very good job, if the inquisitors would leave it alone. It is still doing a good job.

Mr. O'Neill: Distorting the argument all the time.

Mr. DAVIES: I am defending the hospital, I should hope. I have been concerned by some of the stories about the Royal Perth Hospital. I am also worried about some of the aspects of the Public Health Department and the hospitals associated with it. Already there are matters in hand which I hope will meet some of the deficiencies. I hope when necessary legislation which is designed to overcome some of the deficiencies of which they have been complaining is brought before this House it will be supported by the Opposition.

A member: There are no deficiencies.

Mr. DAVIES: I found out I was not the only person concerned with the statements that had been made and the ensuing publicity. Indeed, as members will imagine, the hospital board is very concerned. Although it receives criticism from time to time, nevertheless its members do their best, and they do run a very good hospital.

On the 3rd August, following a hospital board meeting, the board sent to me an expression of concern. This was written by the administrator on behalf of the board. It is pointed out that the members are concerned about the harm which can be done to the hospital's reputation by the publicity given to what are, in their opinion, inaccurate statements and unsubstantiated charges. The board is also concerned at the effect of the allegations on the morale of the staff who work very hard in trying circumstances. Of course, this is what I have already said. More important is the attachment which was sent to me. This is from the chairman of the clinical staff, Mr. P. D. Goatcher. I understand Mr. Goatcher is the spokesman for more than a hundred doctors at the hospital.

Dr. Dadour: Nuts!

Mr. DAVIES: The clinical staff has held a number of meetings at its own instigation, and it considers the position so serious that it put its thoughts on paper and sent them to the board. With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I would like briefly to read his letter because it is important. It is addressed to the Chairman, Mr. Reilly, and he says—

The Clinical Staff Executive of the Royal Perth Hospital has studied the recent speech made by Dr. Dadour in the Legislative Assembly on July 22nd,

1971, concerning the Royal Perth Hospital. Dr. Dadour has drawn attention to the problems within the hospital. We are well aware of these. There are, however, inaccuracies which need correction and we welcome the opportunity to do so and to express our concern at the real crisis which is developing.

It seems that these inaccuracies have occurred because Dr. Dadour does not have comprehensive first-hand knowledge of the workings of the hospital. His views do not represent those of the medical profession. Appendix 'A' provides our specific comments on his speech. Appendix 'B' is relevant to increasing costs and summarizes developments in the hospital which have occurred in the period '53 to '71 while Appendix 'C' is a commentary on the space difficulties of the hospital.

For over a hundred years the Royal Perth Hospital has been the major centre of medical care in the State of Western Australia. During the past 20 years it has kept pace with medical developments which are becoming increasingly sophisticated and complex, but are necessary for treatment and diagnosis at modern standards. These great advances have resulted in the transformation of the hospital from an excellent general hospital to a comprehensive specialized teaching base in the last 15 years.

The hospital provides services which are widely used by other hospitals and the medical profession throughout the state. These services are an indispensable part of the medical services of Western Australia and it is a daily occurrence to hear of the transference of patients from metropolitan and country hospitals to the Royal Perth Hospital so that they may benefit from these special facilities and expert professional skills. The Resident Staff of the hospital play an important role in this and other hospital work to the satisfaction of the Clinical Staff.

It is an accepted fact that such a major unit will be more expensive to run than a similar community hospital of very limited capabilities but possibly not more than several such hospitals. Also, the Royal Perth Hospital provides treatment for major injuries which occur in the state, both from motor vehicle and industrial accidents. These are of increasing frequency.

The Royal Perth Hospital also provides training for our Asian neighbours. Fellows from India, Malaysia and Indonesia are spending periods varying from weeks to several years in the Royal Perth Hospital. They become experts in specialized fields and return to their homes where this experience

is applied to the benefit of their country. In the past 12 months nine visiting Fellows attended the hospital for extended periods of training. This was at no cost to the hospital as support for the visiting Fellows was provided by the World Health Organization and the Colombo Plan.

Also, at no cost to the hospital, specialist teams take their skills to New Guinea, Indonesia, Vietnam and India.

The costs of the hospital have increased, but the turnover rate has doubled from approximately 16 days average stay in 1953 to approximately 8 days average stay in 1970. Twice as many patients are treated as Out Patients by the hospital. Therefore, the Royal Perth Hospital provides service for more than twice as many people as it did in 1953. The turnover rate is increasing at the rate of 20% per year over-and-above the increase in beds. Mortality has been reduced from 8% in 1953 to 4% in 1971.

The Clinical Staff Executive is well pleased with the work of the Medical Superintendent. It is satisfied that the daily running of the hospital is undertaken with a high order of efficiency. Future planning is an essential part of his duties. The Clinical Staff consider Dr. Dadour's criticisms of the Medical Superintendent unjust.

The Clinical Staff recognizes that there is a problem of communication between a large hospital and outside medical practitioners. The Royal Perth Hospital has continually tried to improve this.

I might say that we are again trying to improve it. The letter continues—

We feel concerned that inaccurate statements have been made which may conceal the real problems of the hospital. One of these is space; there are many others.

This material is provided for your use as you see fit.

Yours sincerely,  
P. D. Goatcher,  
Chairman,  
Clinical Staff.

I will not read the rest of these documents but I believe they should be made available to members, and I seek permission to table the file.

The SPEAKER: You may table it at the end of your speech.

Mr. DAVIES: There is some general comment but as time is running out I will not be able to deal with it very effectively now. I think it is worth looking at appendix B, which lists some 42 major developments which have taken place at the Royal Perth Hospital and its annexe since 1953. Members will be amazed at some of them.

The very last piece of space—a basement has now been used to deal with nuclear medicine.

Mr. May: Is there anything wrong with the appendix?

Mr. DAVIES: No; this appendix is right.

I direct the attention of members to another attachment which deals with the laboratory departments—haematology, microbiology, biochemistry, medical physics, and pathology—and shows how extensively the services of those departments are used. They are used not only by associated hospitals and Government departments but also by other doctors. I think they are doing a wonderful job and I am concerned about the conditions under which they have to work.

In this connection, I direct the attention of members to appendix C, which is an appreciation of the problems at the Royal Perth Hospital. This was prepared some time ago and is currently before the Government.

The staff and doctors at the hospital are working under extremely difficult conditions. It is not a matter of operating occasionally; it is a matter of one of the operating theatres being in use for 24 hours a day at weekends, and the casualty department must suffer some difficulties. Unfortunately, we cannot organise casualties so that they come in at regular periods between 9 o'clock and 5 o'clock; they insist on coming in at times when they are probably not wanted and when the doctors are already working. Possibly at other times there may be occasions when doctors—

Mr. Rushton: That is a most intelligent thing for you to say!

Mr. DAVIES: —can sit down and have a game of cards, as the member Mr. Sublaco said he was able to do when he was a registrar or resident there; but when there is work to be done they do it, and they do it well.

We are desperately trying to do something about the casualty section, and some plans have been announced. Indeed, some new plans are already in operation in that section, and another set of plans which takes the position up to 1977 has just been brought to me. It can therefore be seen that the administration and the board are aware of the deficiencies and know what needs to be done.

There must be occasions when members of the staff are impersonal. If they have some distressed relatives waiting in the lobby—and, incidentally, the waiting area is totally inadequate and has been so for a long time—and they have patients who are in need of urgent medical treatment, they are surely not expected to go out and create friendly relations with them.



relatives while the casualty dies, or something like that. The first concern of the hospital is to the patient, and no-one would want it otherwise.

Charges have been made that members of the staff are impersonal and that no-one can get any sense out of them. We know there have been difficulties in communication, and this goes both ways. Some of the doctors at the hospital have trouble in contacting local doctors when they want to, for the obvious reason that the local doctors are probably out on their rounds. There are personal and physical breakdowns which, on occasions, nothing in the wide world could remedy.

I have said it three times and I will say it again: I agree that there are difficulties in communications with the doctors, but these can be overcome at any time by means of an excellent facility which is provided at the hospital; that is, at lunch time on every Wednesday a buffet meal is provided at Royal Perth Hospital which any doctor or other person associated with medicine can enjoy at no cost and during which he can hear a clinical discussion. This provides a great avenue of communication. To use a term which is currently popular, it provides a splendid opportunity for the opening of dialogue. When the hospital and clinical staff are present, this is an opportunity for any doctor to express his concern about any of the deficiencies which have received some publicity in recent times.

I believe the hospital will always be the subject of criticism. It cannot create a Doctor Kildare atmosphere. Unfortunately, many people want television hospitals to be duplicated at Royal Perth Hospital. We will never be able to do that; we can never hope to be able to do that. Unfortunately, that is the idea that gets into people's minds. We endeavour to run a hospital that keeps up with the latest trends, within the limits of the money available; one that meets the requirements of the population.

The SPEAKER: The Minister has another five minutes.

Mr. DAVIES: If the work done at Royal Perth Hospital could reasonably be spread over the rest of the hospital facilities in the metropolitan area, no-one would be more delighted than the members of the Royal Perth Hospital Board, who are expected to run a hospital which will meet every medical requirement in the State. People are brought to the hospital from all over the State, and the staff has maintained an extremely high standard.

I stewed over this for a long time and I felt disappointed about it, but I did not feel there was any need to say anything further. However, I was invited by the

member for Murray to stand up and be heard today and I felt I could not be silent any longer.

Mr. Rushton: No attack has been made on the general staff.

Mr. DAVIES: Of course an attack has been made on the staff. Some reflection has been cast upon the doctors and clinical staff, and they have expressed concern. I read out this letter, which is of considerable length, because I thought it would be of interest to members but apparently they are still treating the whole thing as a parody. This is a matter of real concern to people from whom members will expect to receive first-rate attention if they happen to be knocked over tonight and are rushed to Royal Perth Hospital. These are the people who would be expected to dance in attendance and give treatment; and it would be good treatment.

Mr. Rushton: You need not convince me. I know something about the hospital.

Dr. Dadour: You stay well in the House tonight.

Mr. DAVIES: I have nothing to fear. I do not know what that interjection meant, but as long as I am the Minister for Health, if I believe any injustice has been done to any department under my control, I can be guaranteed to stand up and defend it, with or without the support of the people who are being attacked.

This letter was not solicited from the clinical staff; it was written on their own initiative.

Dr. Dadour: I will show you a letter from the same signator.

Mr. DAVIES: In my office I have letters from people who support the Royal Perth Hospital. I have not said anything about them. I have stated that I am prepared to investigate any complaints.

We are prepared to investigate any complaints, but we want those complaints to be factual and justified. We do not want to be abused under parliamentary privilege.

Mr. Rushton: You started the ball rolling.

Mr. Bateman: He did not start it at all.

Mr. DAVIES: I want to apologise again to the member for Subiaco for not being in a position immediately to supply the answers to the questions he has asked. He is entitled to ask questions and I am sure he has some use for the answers which is not apparent to me, although I suppose it will be in due course. I would refer the honourable member to the Royal Perth Hospital report which may be of some interest to him, and I reiterate that the information required will be made available as soon as possible.

Mr. Rushton: What about your attack on the Mental Health Services last year?

Mr. DAVIES: I am not going to direct—in fact I have no power to direct—that staff be taken off more urgent work to undertake the research required to answer the questions effectively. The information given to me by the Royal Perth Hospital Board will be passed on to the member for Subiaco as soon as possible. That is the best I can offer him at the present time.

I can only repeat the statement with which I opened: that almost continually over the whole of its life of more than 100 years the Royal Perth Hospital has been subjected to criticism. But the fact remains that it has set an excellent standard and the staff are to be congratulated now, as they have been in the past, in regard to what has been accomplished at the hospital. I believe the staff deserves the approbation of the medical profession, rather than criticism.

The SPEAKER: The Minister will table the file to which he referred.

Mr. DAVIES: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I submit the papers for tabling.

*The papers were tabled.*

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

#### QUESTIONS (38): ON NOTICE

##### 1. ALBANY WOOL SHIPPING CO-ORDINATING GROUP *Responsibilities and Action*

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

- (1) Is it correct that the Albany wool shipping co-ordinating group, under the chairmanship of the Director General of Transport, was charged with two main responsibilities—
  - (a) to secure a flow of shipping through the port of Albany;
  - (b) to encourage wool buyers to make full use of the Albany wool sales?
- (2) If (1) is "Yes" would he advise what action has been taken by the group, and what action the group intends to take to achieve objective (b)?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) Yes, but the Group had a third responsibility; to encourage wool-growers within the Albany area of influence to make full use of Albany wool sales.
- (2) I crave the indulgence of the House because this is rather a lengthy answer. However, in view of the comments made by the member for Roe I think members should hear it.  
The group was able to demonstrate that Albany could be a profitable port of call for wool for a non-container shipping com-

pany trading between Australia and the Continent, and that for growers in the Albany area of influence sale and shipment through Albany produces a higher net back at the farm gate than sale and shipment through Fremantle given equal selling prices at each port.

The group has been able to establish a shipping programme comprising three sailings covering the first part of the 1971-72 wool selling season. The schedule is in terms of loading dates as they relate to sale dates and spread of destination ports.

Continuation of the programme beyond the first part of the season is dependent on the inducement offering to the shipping company. The company will schedule a ship into Albany for a minimum of 2,000 bales for the first sailing in September and requires that up-lifts thereafter reach 5,000 bales per sailing.

To co-ordinate the flow of wool from store to ship's hold the group has put together a local working party composed of representatives of the woolstores, the Port Authority, the W.A.G.R., road carriers and the Australian Stevedoring Industry Authority. This working party will meet for the first time on Tuesday, 10th August.

There is already ample buyer support for Albany sales as evidenced by the degree to which sale catalogues are cleared. The degree to which woolbuyers arrange shipment through Albany will depend on orders in hand at the time, the volume and type of wool offering for sale and the degree to which frequencies, sailing dates and destination ports ex Albany fit in with buying patterns. Buying patterns are, in the final analysis, dictated by the requirements of principals for whom buyers are operating.

The group has set up a shipping schedule attuned as far as possible at this stage to buyer requirements; all buyers have been advised of it and through buyer representation on the Wool Selling Co-ordinating Group are fully aware of the group's and the Government's aims. The Government has no reason to suppose that buyers will not support shipment through Albany to the extent they are able. Long term success of the Group's endeavours will depend on the degree to which all of the arrangements at Albany suit buyers.

Mr. O'Connor: Much of that work was arranged by the previous Government, of course.

## 2. WATER SUPPLIES

### *Merredin-South Farmlands Reticulation Scheme*

Mr. BROWN, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

With regard to the proposal for the upgrading of the Merredin-South Farmlands reticulation scheme including the Shires of Bruce Rock, Narembene, Corrigin and Kondinin—

- (a) what is the estimated cost;
- (b) when is the work to commence;
- (c) when is it expected to be completed?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (a) \$62,000.
- (b) Commenced 1970-71.
- (c) 1972-73.

## 3. SEWERAGE

### *Merredin*

Mr. BROWN, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Would the deep sewerage scheme No. 6 at Merredin be carried out by the Merredin staff of the Public Works Department?
- (2) When is it anticipated to commence No. 6 scheme?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) No, it is planned to do the work by contract.
- (2) December, 1971.

## 4. LAND

### *Special Leases at Shark Bay*

Mr. NORTON, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) How many special leases have been granted by his department in the Shire of Shark Bay?
- (2) Where are such leases located?
- (3) What is the purpose of each lease?
- (4) What is the area of each?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Six.
- (2) to (4) Two leases at Wannoo, one of 5 acres for a road house and one of 3 acres for a wayside house. One lease at the Shark Bay turnoff, of 3 acres 1 rood 24 perches for a roadside cafe and service station. Two leases at Monkey Mia, one of 22 perches for bulk fuel storage and one of 1,200 acres for a landing place for stock. One lease at Useless Loop of 4,888 acres for collection and manufacture of salt.

## 5. MINERAL CLAIMS

### *Shark Bay*

Mr. NORTON, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) How many mineral claims are held within the Shire of Shark Bay?
- (2) For what purpose have they been granted, and what is their total area?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) There are 33 mineral claims and two dredging claims.
- (2) 33 mineral claims totalling 5,364 acres for gypsum whilst the two dredging claims for ilmenite total 410 acres.

## 6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### *Adjustment of Boundaries*

Mr. W. A. MANNING, to the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

Does he intend to proceed with further adjustment of local government boundaries before the forthcoming redistribution of electoral boundaries?

Mr. MAY replied:

Possibly. Municipal district boundaries are varied independently of any electoral district boundary adjustments.

## 7. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

### *Additional Power Station at Collie*

Sir DAVID BRAND, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Does the State Electricity Commission plan another power house at Collie?
- (2) If so, when will it be commissioned?
- (3) Will it be a coal burning unit?
- (4) What is the estimated life of the Collie field at the present rate of coal consumption?
- (5) Does such an estimate include the extra coal required to fuel any additional units?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) There is no active planning at present.
- (2) and (3) Answered by (1).
- (4) In excess of 30 years.
- (5) No.

## 8. ORD RIVER SCHEME

### *Cattle Stations*

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for the North West:

- (1) Has the Government considered proposals for large scale Kimberley cattle station development integrated with some Ord River irrigable land development?

- (2) Is the Government receptive to such proposals?
- (3) If so, are any agreements likely to be reached this year to coincide with the completion of the main Ord dam?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) to (3) This matter is currently being considered by the Government.  
I would like to add that any proposals put forward to the Government in regard to the Ord River area are most welcome.

## 9. EDUCATION

### *Donations: Appeals to Parents*

Mr. BATEMAN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware that students are being continually requested to take home appeal forms and boxes requesting financial donations from parents of the children?
- (2) In view of the fact that the continued approaches are causing embarrassment to parents on low income levels, will he have an inquiry conducted at departmental level in an endeavour to restrict this practice?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) No. Appeals in primary schools are controlled by a joint departmental and teachers' union committee. The objectives of this committee are to limit school appeals to those which directly concern children. The only organisations currently approved for school support are the Save the Children Fund and the Junior Red Cross.
- (2) A notice will be prepared and inserted in the *Education Circular* directing the attention of teachers to regulation 27 and to the conditions governing the organisation of appeals in schools.

## 10. TERTIARY EDUCATION

### *Projects*

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Treasurer:

- (1) What tertiary education projects are likely to be undertaken within Western Australia during the financial triennia commencing 1st January, 1973, and 1st January, 1976?
- (2) What tertiary education projects are being undertaken in Western Australia during the present financial triennium ending 31st December, 1972?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) In the triennium commencing 1st January, 1973 there will be further developmental work associated with the Western Australian Institute of Technology, University of Western Australia and the Murdoch University which will also involve staff recruitment. First developments in Bunbury are anticipated during this period.

In the triennium commencing 1st January, 1976 additional developments in the institutions mentioned and at Bunbury are anticipated.

- (2) Details of all the projects approved three years ago and being undertaken are not readily available but will be provided to the Member at a later date if so required.

11. *This question was postponed.*

## 12. EDUCATION

### *"Revolt" Publication: Examination*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Will he arrange for the Crown Law Department to peruse the circular *Revolt* to ascertain what action can be taken against those responsible for its publication?
- (2) Will he let me have details of Crown Law Department recommendations?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) This is being done.
- (2) Yes.

## 13. EDUCATION

### *"Revolt" Publication: Circulation*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does he agree that the articles printed in the publication *Revolt* are un-Australian and undesirable for distribution to school children?
- (2) Will he, following receipt of Crown Law advice, take all possible action to prevent distribution of these articles and to see the publishers and distributors are apprehended and, if possible, convicted?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Action will be taken in accordance with Crown Law advice.

## 14. MORATORIUM MARCH

### *Police Films: Destruction*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Premier:

- (1) Did he or any of his Ministers confer with or cause someone to confer with a police force representative regarding burning of or

destroying a Police Department film on the moratorium march prior to its destruction?

- (2) Did a person from the Minister's office or someone on the Minister's behalf go and watch destruction of the film?
- (3) Is it normal for the Minister to send someone from his office to watch destruction of police information?
- (4) Can he advise when this previously occurred?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) No, the initiative in this matter was taken by the Police Department.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes. The Commissioner of Police requested this.
- (4) This is the first instance during the term of the present Government and the Commissioner of Police.

15.

## POLICE

### *Films of Demonstrations*

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) Were police films taken of any of the following:—
  - (a) demonstrators at the Springbok rugby game;
  - (b) demonstrators outside the Parmelia hotel or other area during the Coral Sea demonstrations?
  - (c) the march to Parliament House of those supporting improved native housing conditions;
  - (d) on any other occasion at demonstrations in Western Australia?
- (2) Where are these films being held at present?
- (3) If these films have been destroyed will he give reasons and details?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) (a) Yes—only where they became involved in police action and arrest resulted.
- (b) No.
- (c) No.
- (d) Once only when segments on police carrying out duties during the Moratorium march 30-6-71 were filmed.
- (2) The films have been destroyed.

- (3) The purpose of the films was for training of recruits in Police Academy in handling of demonstrations, marches and crowds and was the first exercise of this nature. After viewing films the Commissioner of Police decided it was not suitable for training purposes and instructed that the films should be destroyed in the department's incinerators.

Instructions have been issued for the making of a training film covering all aspects of police duties during demonstrations, marches and handling of crowds, with police personnel only acting several parts.

16.

## EDUCATION

### *Achievement Certificate, and High School Curriculum*

Mr. MENSAROS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Are there any plans to extend the achievement certificate into the fourth and fifth years of high schools?
- (2) Are there plans to extend the present six periods of the core subjects of English, mathematics, science and social studies in high schools to more periods weekly?
- (3) Apart from these core subjects and the three periods for sports, for what subjects are the remaining periods planned to be used?
- (4) Depending on the planning asked in (1) to (3), will there be provision made for those students who wish to complete high school yet have no interest and/or capacity for the four core subjects as a preparation for tertiary education?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) The Dettman Committee on Secondary Education recommended extension of the Achievement Certificate to fourth and fifth year. This is now accepted Education Department policy for implementation at an appropriate time.

The Board of Secondary Education has commenced a discussion of the implications of this policy.

- (2) No.
- (3) No decisions have been made on the period allocations for subjects other than core subjects.
- (4) Yes. A major objective in extending the Achievement Certificate to fourth and fifth year will be to improve the provision for those students who wish to complete their secondary education but have no desire to proceed to tertiary education.

17.

### MILK Deliveries

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister for Agriculture:

In view of the large response to a circular distributed to customers, will he review the position regarding an earlier delivery commencement by vendors in the milk trade?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

The member for Maylands has already made an approach to me to meet members of the vending section of the wholemilk industry. It is anticipated that at this proposed meeting the question of review of delivery hours will be examined.

18.

### POLICE

#### Motor Transport Department

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Police:

- (1) Did the Police Department forward a report to him supporting the creation of a department of motor transport?
- (2) If such a report does exist, will he please table a copy?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) The former Commissioner of Police, Mr. Napier, submitted a report on 17th July, 1970, to the then Minister for Police, Mr. Craig, supporting the creation of an authority with headquarters located in the metropolitan area and ultimately with branches or agencies throughout the State, to be responsible for the registration of all vehicles and their inspection for roadworthiness and compliance with vehicle standards and the examination for and issue of motor drivers' licenses.

Mr. Napier furnished a copy of this report to me on 16th March, 1971.

- (2) A copy of this report will be tabled as soon as prepared.

19.

### ROAD TRANSPORT

#### Wool to Albany

Mr. O'CONNOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Did he advise the Mayor of Albany that he would support the "Knox" report on wool transport to Albany?
- (2) If this is so, does he intend to implement the report?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr. MAY replied:

- (1) No. The Mayor of Albany was advised by me, orally, on 19th July that the "Knox" report on

wool transport to Albany would be presented by me to Cabinet. No indication of my support was given.

- (2) This will be a Government decision.
- (3) Answered by (2).

20.

### HIGH SCHOOLS

#### Campus Designs, and Number

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many high schools were built by the previous Liberal Government to the campus design?
- (2) Where are these schools situated?
- (3) How are the various faculties designated at the schools?
- (4) How many high schools were built during the Brand Government's term of office?
- (5) What was the total number of high schools available at the beginning of the Brand Government in 1959?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Two.
- (2) Thornlie and Morley.
- (3) Science and mathematics; social studies and commerce; English and languages; manual arts and home economics; upper school. These faculties are provided in stages according to school enrolment growth.
- (4) Eighteen complete high schools and two first stages.
- (5) Twenty-seven.

21.

### KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION

#### Application for Financial Assistance

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Kindergarten Association of W.A. (Inc.), applied to your Government for financial help to give relief to parents?
- (2) If "Yes" what was the detail of the request and of his Government's decision?
- (3) Referring to the Government's policy speech of the 3rd February, 1971, relating to kindergartens: "We shall assist in the further development of the pre-school education throughout the State.", what does this imply?
- (4) What additional help did the Brand Government give the Kindergarten Association last year, and what is the detail of that help?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) To provide financial assistance to reduce parent levy and to provide increases in salaries and allowances.
- (3) That the extent and nature of Government financial assistance to the Kindergarten Association will be directed towards a sound expansion and development of pre-school education.
- (4) The formula for assistance to the Kindergarten Association was changed, resulting in an increase of \$63,000 in the annual Government grant.

22. PRIMARY SCHOOLS

*Unit Progress System*

Mr. A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it intended that all Government primary schools will institute the practice of allowing pupils to proceed at their own pace by means of the device known as "unit progress"?
- (2) If "No" what steps does the Education Department intend to take in an endeavour to ensure that pupils, whose schools do not allow for them to proceed by unit progress, will not be handicapped as a result?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Unit progress is a method of curriculum organisation designed to assist teachers to provide for individual differences between pupils. It is not the only way of achieving this objective and is not necessarily the best way in all situations. All teachers are encouraged to pursue this objective in the manner which they consider to be most practical and most effective. It is not the policy of the Department to prescribe a particular method of curriculum organisation to be employed in all schools.

23. MORLEY HIGH SCHOOL

*Intake of Fourth-year Students*

Mr. A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Education:

Will he indicate whether the Morley High School will take fourth year students in 1973?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

A decision will be made early in 1972.

24. NATIVE WELFARE DEPARTMENT

*Dismissal of Mr. T. C. Madden*

Mr. A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Why was Mr. T. C. Madden dismissed from the Native Welfare Department in late 1969 or early 1970?
- (2) What was the exact date of dismissal?
- (3) How much notice of dismissal was afforded Mr. Madden?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

- (1) to (3) Mr. Madden was not dismissed by the Native Welfare Department. His resignation, dated 30th October, 1969, was accepted and became effective from 28th November, 1969.

The Member is free to examine the personal file on a confidential basis in the office of the Minister for Community Welfare if he so desires.

25. RURAL RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME

*Release of Funds*

Mr. BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has any farmer, whose application for assistance for Commonwealth rural reconstruction assistance has been approved, not received funds for the allocated purpose?
- (2) If "No"—
  - (a) why is this so;
  - (b) what steps are being taken to expedite release of funds?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) If the member meant "Yes"—
  - (a) The necessary State legislation (Rural Reconstruction Scheme) has not been passed.
  - (b) Bill is ready for notice.

26. KWINANA-BALGA POWER LINE

*Capacity*

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) With respect to the 330 K.V. line to be constructed from Kwinana to Balga—
  - (a) what is the current carrying capacity of the line to be installed initially?
  - (b) if all conductors are not to be provided initially, what is the current carrying capacity of the line when all conductors are installed?
- (2) What is the maximum load now experienced at the northern terminal, Balga, and what was the maximum winter load for each of the last five years?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) (a) 1,900 amperes.  
(b) 3,800 amperes.
- (2) Maximum load on Northern Terminal, 1971—154 M.V.A.  
Maximum winter load on Northern Terminal, 1970—132 M.V.A.  
Maximum winter load on Northern Terminal, 1969—122 M.V.A.  
Maximum winter load on Northern Terminal, 1968—103 M.V.A.  
Winter, 1967—Terminal being commissioned—load small and not determined.

## 27. ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL

### *Administration Sections: Employees and Salaries*

Dr. DADOUR, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What were the numbers of—  
(a) medical administration employees;  
(b) general administration employees,  
at Royal Perth Hospital for the years ended 30th June, 1969, 1970, 1971?
- (2) What was the total of salaries paid to each of the above groups for these years?
- (3) Are payments in addition to salaries made to each of the above groups?
- (4) If "Yes" how much was paid to each group in the above years?
- (5) If "Yes" for what service are these extra payments made?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) to (5) The answer to this question involves a great deal of research and will take some time. When the information is available I will supply it direct to the Member.

## 28. ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL

### *Expenses of Board*

Dr. DADOUR, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Chairman of the Royal Perth Hospital Board allowed entertainment or any other expenses from hospital funds?
- (2) If so, what were the amounts spent for the years ended 30th June, 1969, 1970 and 1971?
- (3) To what extent were hospital funds spent on board functions, meetings and entertainment for the years ended 30th June, 1969, 1970 and 1971?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) No specific costs are available.

## 29. CONSUMER PROTECTION

### *Establishment of Council*

Mr. McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Consumer Protection:

- (1) Does the Government intend to introduce complementary legislation to the Commonwealth Trade Practices Act?
- (2) Is it intended that a consumer protection council will be established to operate on similar lines to that which is operating in Victoria?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

- (1) The matter is currently under review.
- (2) It is intended to introduce legislation to protect consumers. It is hoped the measure will incorporate the best features of legislation existing in other States.

## 30. ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL

### *Bed cost*

Dr. DADOUR, to the Minister for Health:

What is the formula for arriving at the ascertained daily cost for a bed at Royal Perth Hospital?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

The calculation of the ascertained daily cost per bed at any hospital, in its simplest form, involves merely dividing the gross expenditure for a given period by the total number of inpatient days in the same period.

At hospitals with a large outpatient load, including the Royal Perth Hospital, the cost of providing the outpatient services is deducted from the gross expenditure and the remainder is divided by the number of inpatient days. This arrives at a more accurate figure for the cost per inpatient day.

The cost of providing the outpatient services is divided by the number of outpatient treatments, to arrive, of course, at the cost per treatment.

The Royal Perth Hospital does not have a unique formula.

## 31. RURAL RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME

### *Discussion at Agricultural Council Meeting*

Mr. NALDER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Was the subject of farm reconstruction discussed at Agricultural Council held recently in Canberra?



- (2) If "Yes" did he report the position in Western Australia?
- (3) What were the figures he presented to the meeting detailing—
  - (a) number of applications for assistance;
  - (b) number of farmers assisted;
  - (c) number rejected;
  - (d) number of applications held pending further inquiries;
  - (e) amount of finance allocated involving special interest rates;
  - (f) amount of finance allocated for farm build-up with interest rates at 6½ per cent.;
  - (g) total sum allocated?
- (4) If these figures were not presented to Agricultural Council, what are they?
- (5) Did he press for further Commonwealth Government financial assistance; if "Yes" for how much?
- (6) Does he forecast many further applications?
- (7) Has the Government set a closing date for applications under the farm reconstruction scheme?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) (a) 355 (of which 48 had been processed).
- (b) 19.
- (c) 29 (of which 8 were considered not eligible or not in need of assistance. 21 were considered non-viable).
- (d) Not given.
- (e) Not given.
- (f) Not given.
- (g) Approximately \$275,000.
- (4) Figures above were presented. More recent figures (to 30th July, 1971) are—
  - (a) 529 (of which 130 have been processed).
  - (b) 31.
  - (c) 86— 8 not eligible.  
13 not in need.  
65 not viable.
  - (d) 11 (in addition 2 have been withdrawn).
  - (e) \$507,219 for debt reconstruction for which the agreement specifies an average interest rate of at least 4%.
  - (f) \$49,000.
  - (g) \$556,219.

- (5) In negotiations with the Commonwealth Government it has always been emphasised that the total of \$100 million for Australia, and \$14.67 million for this State, is inadequate. The Commonwealth recognises this. There is no point in requesting a further amount until experience indicates how long funds will last and what further sums will be required.
- (6) Yes. Estimates by State and Commonwealth bodies suggest that there are several thousand farmers in Western Australia in a non-viable or doubtful position. It is anticipated that many of these will apply for assistance.
- (7) No closing date has been specified.

## 32. RURAL RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME

### *Applications for Purchase of Properties*

Mr. BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Have any applications been received from farmers wishing to buy properties through the Commonwealth rural reconstruction scheme?
- (2) If "Yes" from what shire area?
- (3) What is the total amount of funds required for property purchase to date?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
  - (2) Shires—
- |                              | No. |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Albany .....                 | 3   |
| Augusta/Margaret River ..... | 1   |
| Boypup Brook .....           | 2   |
| Busselton .....              | 1   |
| Corrigin .....               | 1   |
| Cranbrook .....              | 1   |
| Cunderdin .....              | 1   |
| Dandaragan .....             | 1   |
| Dalwallinu .....             | 1   |
| Donnybrook .....             | 1   |
| Dumbleyung .....             | 1   |
| Esperance .....              | 2   |
| Gnowangerup .....            | 2   |
| Goomalling .....             | 1   |
| Katanning .....              | 1   |
| Kellerberrin .....           | 1   |
| Lake Grace .....             | 3   |
| Manjimup .....               | 1   |
| Mingenew .....               | 1   |
| Moora .....                  | 6   |
| Plantagenet .....            | 4   |
| Ravensthorpe .....           | 3   |
| Wagin .....                  | 1   |
| Wickepin .....               | 1   |
| Wyalkatchem .....            | 1   |

42

- (3) \$981,941.

## 33. WATER SUPPLIES

*Investigation into Surface and Underground Sources*

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What major water studies are currently being undertaken in Western Australia either for storage of surface or development of underground water by the Government, private enterprise or Commonwealth Government—or a combination of these parties?
- (2) Are these studies being co-ordinated by the Government and, if so, by which department?

Mr. JAMIESON replied:

- (1) Within the metropolitan area the Metropolitan Water Board in conjunction with the Geological Survey Branch of the Mines Department carries out continuous investigation into the underground resources of the metropolitan area. The Board with the co-operation of the Public Works Department and of the Geological Survey Branch as appropriate also has under continuous study the streamflow of the various streams in the catchments under its control and from time to time the detailed study of likely dam sites.

The Public Works Department is currently investigating dams on the Helena, Collie, Harvey, Ashburton, Harding and Shaw Rivers. In conjunction with the Mines Department, and in some instances with private enterprise, it is investigating underground water at Esperance, Albany, Pinjarra, the Pilbara and the East Murchison.

A jointly financed Commonwealth/State programme of surface water assessment which this year will cost approximately \$600,000 is in course throughout the State.

The Mines Department is carrying out a large scale investigation of the Perth coastal basin.

- (2) There is substantial informal co-operation in the work of the various State Government Departments in the whole field of water investigation. More formally some aspects of the work are co-ordinated through the Australian Water Resources Council and its Standing Committee. This Council which is composed of Ministers of all State Governments and of the Commonwealth is also the body through which Commonwealth funds are allocated to this work.

## 34. SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

*Albany*

Mr. STEPHENS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it correct that all bus services to schools in Albany are under review with a view to re-routing and effecting some curtailments?
- (2) If "Yes" what will be the maximum number of miles children will be expected to travel to catch a school bus?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes. Proposals are at present with the local School Bus Advisory Committee for recommendations.
- (2) Any children affected by the proposed reorganisation of services will be required to travel a further one and a half miles.

## 35. TERTIARY EDUCATION

*Facilities at Bunbury*

Mr. WILLIAMS, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Reference his answer to my question 17, part (4) on Tuesday, 3rd August, 1971, relating to tertiary education in the Bunbury area, does another case have to be presented to the Commonwealth advisory committee on advanced education?
- (2) If so, when will it be presented and for which financial triennium?

Mr. T. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) and (2) The case for the first stage of development at Bunbury is being presented this year. Further submissions on behalf of Bunbury will need to be made in later financial triennia.

## 36. PERTH ENDOWMENT LANDS ACT

*Amendment*

Mr. R. L. YOUNG, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is the Government planning action to amend the City of Perth Endowment Lands Act, 1920-1970?
- (2) If "Yes" what would be the intent of such action?
- (3) Has the Perth City Council been approached in respect of this matter and, if so, what was the nature and intent of such an approach?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

- (1) to (3) Amendments to the City of Perth Endowment Lands Act, 1920-1970, as requested by the

Perth City Council are under consideration by the Government. The views of the Council on certain aspects are awaited.

37.

### LAND

#### *Subdivisions in Metropolitan Area*

Mr. COURT, to the Minister for Town Planning:

- (1) What major subdivisions of residential land in the metropolitan region have been approved since the Government took office, and on what conditions were they approved?
- (2) What major subdivisions are under negotiation, and when is finality expected?
- (3) To what extent do the areas covered by (1) and (2) relate to the estimated annual need for additional residential land in the metropolitan area?
- (4) Of the areas referred to in (1) and (2), which subdivisions refer to projects under negotiation before the Government took office?

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

- (1) (a) Eleven major subdivisions—
  - (i) Balga.
  - (ii) Whitfords Estate (3).
  - (iii) Quinns Rocks.
  - (iv) Two Rocks.
  - (v) Yanchep.
  - (vi) Evelyn Street, Gosnells.
  - (vii) Rockingham Park.
- (b) The usual conditions relating to the provision of open space, roads and drains, water supply and sewerage, pedestrian ways were applied to each approval although various special conditions were included relating to the provision of school and kindergarten sites in Whitfords Estate and a school site at Quinns Rock.
- (2) (a) Six—
  - (i) Wanneroo Townsite (2).
  - (ii) Bannister Gardens.
  - (iii) Beckenham.
  - (iv) Swan View.
  - (v) Quinns Rock.
- (b) Overall plans for two other major projects including approximately 1,000 lots have been received.
- (c) The application will be determined as speedily as circumstances permit.

- (3) Excluding numerous other small subdivisions and 2(b), in the past six months 50% of the annual estimated need of 7,000 lots has been approved.

- (4) Nine.

38.

### RAILWAYS

#### *Cost of Knox Plan, and Reduction of Wool Freight*

Mr. STEPHENS, to the Minister for Railways:

- (1) What was the estimated net cost to the Railway Department of the Knox plan on easing of road transport restrictions in the area for which Albany is the natural outlet?
- (2) What is the estimated loss of freight and hence cost to the Railway Department with the announced plan to reduce freight on wool south of Narrogin by 50 per cent. per bale?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

- (1) A net gain of \$2,000 would result from the closure of the Boyup Brook-Katanning section.

From this saving would be deducted loss of revenue resulting from any decreased haulage of wool from Albany to Fremantle. Last year this amounted to \$250,000.

- (2) The revenue on wool railed to Albany last year was \$71,284. If the same quantity were to be railed this year the reduction in revenue will be \$35,642. However, this does not take into account the diversion to Albany of wool previously railed to Fremantle from outlying areas. The actual result therefore cannot be assessed until the new pattern of operations develops.

Under the arrangement approved by the Government the loss of revenue actually incurred will be recouped to the Railway Department by Treasury.

### QUESTIONS (8): WITHOUT NOTICE

1.

#### TOWN PLANNING

##### *Appointment of Mr. Paul Ritter*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Premier:

Having regard for the appointment of Mr. Paul Ritter to make a study of the urban corridor development plan prepared by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority—

- (1) Was the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority's opinion sought regarding this appointment before it was made?

- (2) Will the Government appoint an independent consultant who is known to have reservations regarding—

- (a) the siting and construction of Pacminex Alumina Refinery at Upper Swan,
- (b) the construction of the 330 kv S.E.C. power lines adjacent to or through the Darling Range,

to make an analytical study of these schemes and provide another authoritative viewpoint regarding all aspects of these projects specially as to—

- (i) the people's interests,
- (ii) aesthetic involvement,
- (iii) environmental evaluation?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

As the subject matter of this question more properly concerns the Department of Town Planning, I would suggest the question be directed to that Minister.

Mr. RUSHTON: May I direct the question to the Minister for Town Planning, Sir?

The SPEAKER: Yes.

## 2. TOWN PLANNING

### *Appointment of Mr. Paul Ritter*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Minister for Town Planning:

Having regard for the appointment of Mr. Paul Ritter to make a study of the urban corridor development plan prepared by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority—

- (1) Was the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority's opinion sought regarding this appointment before it was made?
- (2) Will the Government appoint an independent consultant who is known to have reservations regarding—

- (a) The siting and construction of Pacminex Alumina Refinery at Upper Swan,
- (b) The construction of the 330 kv S.E.C. power lines adjacent to or through the Darling Range,

to make an analytical study of these schemes and provide another authoritative viewpoint regarding all aspects of these projects specially as to—

- (i) the people's interests,
- (ii) aesthetic involvement,
- (iii) environmental evaluation.

Mr. GRAHAM replied:

In reply to the question of which no prior notice was given the answers are—

- (1) No; although it was discussed by me with the Commissioner of Town Planning. I might add that there is a large volume comprising the details of the corridor plan together with many reasons and arguments why such a concept should be accepted. There are others, including myself, who have some reservations.

The Government desired that something more than opinions should be available for which reason professional advice was sought. It was known, by me at least, that Mr. Ritter had certain reservations himself and that therefore, having regard to the qualifications which he possesses and are recognised internationally, he would be fitted, particularly being familiar with the local conditions, in every respect to analyse the proposals, and if he felt so disposed, as appeared likely, submit to the Government his report containing reasons why in his judgment there was something faulty with the scheme. I would point out that there are no limitations or restrictions whatever placed on that gentleman. He is free to arrive at whatever decisions he likes in whatever form. Because of his international name and reputation, which is considerably better than that of many of those who feel disposed to criticise him, he would quite understandably have regard for his professional prestige and would not, as perhaps is the implication in the question, seek to oblige a viewpoint, or a possible viewpoint of the Government, the Government incidentally having expressed no viewpoint whatever because the concept has not as yet been considered by the Government.

- (2) This, of course, will be a matter entirely, in the first place, for the Ministers concerned and then, in the second place, the Government, as to whether it feels there is a necessity for other advice. Finally I would say there is nothing new or novel in the

matter of the Government appointing consultants or advisers either from within Australia or from abroad to investigate matters including the sinking of the railway line through the heart of Perth, the freeway, the Narrows Bridge, and, indeed, the metropolitan regional plan in connection with which Professor Stephenson was imported. If I may add one further word—

Mr. O'Connor: You have a three-quarter hour time limit, don't forget!

Mr. GRAHAM: —the decisions made will have such an important impact on the people of the day and on the future that no Government should run the risk of making a decision which could have a detrimental effect upon the City of Perth and its people, for which reason it is not justified, I should say on all counts, in obtaining the views pro, which we have received and have had for some months, without also obtaining the concept or analysis from the negative side. The Government can then fully appraise the situation and make the judgment—perhaps only up to a point, because it could be that Parliament itself will make the final decision.

Mr. Thompson: Then make that type of survey in the case of the proposed 330 k.v. State Electricity Commission power line.

Mr. GRAHAM: Is that a question?

Mr. Thompson: No; a statement.

### 3. MORATORIUM MOVEMENT

#### *National Service Registration*

Mr. O'NEIL, to the Premier:

I regret I have given no prior notice of my question which is as follows:—

- (1) Has he been made aware of the fact that the Moratorium Movement proposes to recommend to young men that they decline to register for national service?
- (2) If this be true, will he—
  - (a) resign as patron of this organisation; and
  - (b) request Ministers and other members of the Parliamentary Labor Party to disaffiliate from this organisation?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

- (1) Yes.

(2) (a) I am communicating with the organisation, and as a matter of courtesy I will inform it of my opinion before I inform anyone else.

(b) Consideration will be given to what attitude the Ministers should adopt.

### 4. KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION

#### *Application for Financial Assistance*

Mr. RUSHTON, to the Premier:

With reference to question 21 (2) on today's notice paper, to which the Premier did not reply, could he tell me whether the application was approved or declined?

Mr. J. T. TONKIN replied:

I am unable to give the honourable member the information now. I suggest he place the question on the notice paper and I will supply him with the answer in due course.

### 5. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

#### *Protection of Families*

Mr. THOMPSON, to the Speaker:

Is there any privilege of Parliament which provides for a member's family to be protected from others who take direct action as a result of things said by that member in the House? I ask this question because last night while I was in this House my home was stoned and my family, particularly my four young children, were terrified. I believe this action was taken because of a speech I made in this House on Tuesday night.

The SPEAKER replied:

No; I do not think any Act covers a member of Parliament any more than it covers an ordinary citizen who makes a statement. I did confer with the member for Darling Range when he handed this question to me. I felt it could be a dangerous question to ask in a place like this in case it is assumed that the people who did stone the house were the people who took offence; and if this gets publicity it could perhaps urge someone to do something he should not do. I do not hold with this kind of action, but I know of no Act which could offer protection.

Mr. THOMPSON: I merely said that I believed this action was taken because of the speech I made; and my house was not stoned the night before my speech.

Mr. Court: We have all had this experience.

## 6. RAILWAYS

### *Cost of Knox Plan, and Reduction of Wool Freight*

Mr. STEPHENS, to the Minister for Railways:

Does his answer to the second part of the first question of 38 on today's notice paper refer to wool actually sold at sales in Albany and subsequently railed to the Port of Fremantle for shipping rather than being shipped through the Port of Albany?

Mr. BERTRAM replied:

If the honourable member will put the question on the notice paper I will be delighted to give the answer.

## 7. ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL

### *W. D. Scott & Co. Report: Availability*

Dr. DADOUR, to the Minister for Health:

Referring to the answer supplied to question 39 on the 4th August, I appreciate the physical problem of tabling the reports.

I now ask: Is it possible for me to have access to the W. D. Scott & Co. report in the Minister's office on the basis that I can convey extracts of information, which I thought appropriate, to the House?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

As I have previously stated, the report was completed in December, 1964, according to the information given to me by the Royal Perth Hospital.

The physical problems associated with bringing the report to the House would be exactly the same if the report was taken to my office. The member for Subiaco can apply to the Royal Perth Hospital for permission to look at the report, and he can tell the authorities at the hospital that I have no objection to his seeing the report, or making available any information contained in the report.

## 8. RURAL RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME

### *Release of Funds*

Mr. BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Further to question 25 on today's notice paper: In view of the concern of the farmers in the rural areas, has he any particular reason for not having presented the rural reconstruction Bill to the House?

Mr. H. D. EVANS replied:

As indicated in (2) (b) of my reply, the Bill is at the stage where it will be introduced immediately the physical limitations and impossibilities which have precluded its introduction are overcome. I thought it would have been fairly obvious that there were limitations, considering that the Address-in-Reply debate has been concluded only this afternoon.

## DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

### *Attendance at Conference in Japan: Personal Explanation*

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [5.33 p.m.]: I desire permission, Mr. Speaker, to make a personal explanation.

The SPEAKER: Has the Deputy Leader of the Opposition the indulgence of the House to make a personal explanation? Permission granted.

Mr. COURT: My attention has been invited to the recorded comments of the Minister for Health when speaking on an amendment to the Address-in-Reply on the 3rd August. On that occasion he said, amongst other things, and I quote—

What about some of the meetings when the Deputy Leader of the Opposition holcks off to Japan to meetings to stir and do discredit to his State.

The Minister for Health did not say which of my several visits to Japan this I referred to. Nor did he specify which meetings I am alleged to have attended and conducted myself in some way detrimental to the interests of the State.

I want to say quite categorically that at no time in Japan did I ever say or do anything to the detriment of this State. On earlier visits to Japan I have negotiated contracts and reached agreement with the Japanese, and established bases of negotiations which I believe have been of considerable importance and value to the State.

On my last visit to Japan, in April of this year, I went at the invitation and as the guest of the Hudson Institute to participate in the Kyoto International

Conference on the long term political, economic, and social atmosphere in which corporations will function in the future.

A further reason for protestation is that before I went I wrote to the Premier and told him that I was going to the conference, and I told him of the general background of the conference. It was an important top level meeting and had I not accepted the invitation—which was at some personal inconvenience—it would have meant that there would have been no one there to participate or give any expression of opinion on the role of Australia and, in particular, Western Australia, in the economic developments which were about to take place on the international economic scene. As I said, the conference was, in my opinion, of considerable value to the State. I stayed on in Japan a week after the conference and any other contacts I had in Japan were, I believe, of value to the State—particularly at a rather critical time in the relationships between Western Australia and Japan.

I believe the Minister concerned has a duty to explain the basis of his allegations and to give details of the meetings which he alleges I went to and at which I did not act to the credit of the State.

I also believe the Minister should make his information public, in fairness to myself and to the Parliament.

The **SPEAKER**: There can be no debate on a personal explanation.

Mr. **COURT**: I understand that, Sir.

### **SNOWY MOUNTAINS ENGINEERING CORPORATION ENABLING BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

**MR. GRAHAM** (Balcatta—Minister for Industrial Development) [5.37 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill now before members is to enable the recently constituted Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation to carry out work for the State Government and for private organisations within Western Australia.

During the years when the Snowy Mountains Water Conservation and Power Generation Scheme was in the course of construction, the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority built up tremendous expertise in a number of fields and on completion of the scheme the Commonwealth Parliament was moved to pass an Act which would permit the organisation that had been created to remain as an effective body. The Commonwealth statute is the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation Act of 1970.

This Act recognises that the exercise of the functions of the corporation are limited to matters for which the Commonwealth Parliament has the power to make laws.

However, the Act does make provision that the corporation may perform any of its specified functions in pursuance of an authority conferred by State law, and the Prime Minister has approached the Western Australian Government with the proposition that appropriate legislation be introduced.

Undoubtedly, if we had the facility to use this organisation in the future, should the particular occasion arise, it would be a great advantage. The specialised engineering knowledge which the corporation has built up over the years is unique, and if we can readily take advantage of this for either State-sponsored projects or privately-sponsored projects, we should do so.

The Bill, as drafted, is concise and does not need any explanation on my part. Accordingly I commend the Bill to members.

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

### **VERMIN ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

**MR. T. D. EVANS** (Kalgoorlie—Treasurer) [5.40 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

I am quite sure that in the short time that has been available to the member for Dale since the Bills were distributed, he has now satisfied himself that this measure, in fact, is not purporting to restore the tax.

This small measure, together with the amendment to the Noxious Weeds Act, is to correct a deficiency of many years' standing. The Vermin Act contained provisions for assessing vermin rates on properties that were subject to this charge. Members will recall that during the last session of Parliament vermin rates were abolished, so that, as from the 1st July, 1970, no rates have been levied. However, there were a large number of assessments outstanding and collection of these amounts continued in 1970-71.

One ratepayer owing outstanding rates queried the validity of the assessment on the grounds that the Act did not provide for aggregation of contiguous parcels of land of less than five acres in area. On close examination of the Act, and after obtaining Crown Law advice, it was evident that the claim by the ratepayer has some substance and that the deficiency had existed since 1943.

Mr. Rushton: Will you make the refunds?

Mr. T. D. EVANS: In that year amendments were made to the Act to enable a ratepayer who had enclosed some of the parcels of land he owned with rabbit-proof fencing to qualify for a rebate of

the then existing rate. However, in the process of providing this concession the definition of "holding" was changed and the principle of aggregation removed.

It did not have a great deal of significance at that time because the exemption level was for holdings of 160 acres or less. A few years later, in 1946, the 1943 amendment had no significance at all, because the exemption was removed altogether, thus making all land subject to vermin rates irrespective of area.

However, from the 1st July, 1951, an exemption of land of 10 acres in area was introduced and this was reduced to five acres from the 1st July, 1964. Therefore, from the 1st July, 1951, the question of aggregation became important.

Prior to 1943 and in succeeding years up to the repeal of rating in 1970, various commissioners have applied the principle of aggregation of contiguous holdings and rates have been paid by all ratepayers on this basis.

It would be an impossible task to attempt reassessments over a long period of years, even if it were possible to locate the persons to whom any reduced assessments applied. This is quite apart from the financial result which could well mean either the cessation of vermin protection, which is unthinkable, or the possible reimposition of the rate, which would be undesirable.

In any case it is clear enough by virtue of subsequent amendments and the continuation of the practice of aggregation that it was not intended to remove this principle in 1943.

Accordingly, the Bill now before the House proposes to restore the principle of aggregation to the Act retrospectively to the 1st July, 1951, and so provide that the law conforms with what in fact has been the actual basis of rate payments since that date up to the time when the levy was discontinued. This basis has been accepted over that period by all ratepayers except the one who has objected. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Mensaros.

### **NOXIOUS WEEDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

**MR. T. D. EVANS** (Kalgoorlie—Treasurer) [5.45 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This measure is complementary to the legislation which has just been introduced to amend the Vermin Act. It is being introduced for exactly the same reasons.

Some of the rating provisions under the Vermin Act are imported by reference into the Noxious Weeds Act. In fact, the

Acts provide that one assessment may be issued for both rates and this was the practice of the rating authorities.

The retrospectivity in this Bill only dates back to the 30th June, 1964, as the rating provisions commenced operation from that date. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. McPharlin.

### **BULK HANDLING ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

**MR. H. D. EVANS** (Warren—Minister for Agriculture) [5.50 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill before the House proposes to amend the Bulk Handling Act, 1967, for the purpose of providing for the application of the income and property of Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited. Concisely, the main purpose of the proposed legislation is to free Co-operative Bulk Handling of the need to pay taxation on surplus income.

Members will be aware that the grain-growers of Western Australia, who are the shareholders of Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited, have an advantage over their counterparts in other States because of the superior service they receive from Co-operative Bulk Handling.

The creation and growth of Co-operative Bulk Handling and its ownership and retention by farmers have been achieved only at great sacrifice to themselves.

On the latest figures available, the amount loaned by growers to find the capital for Co-operative Bulk Handling totalled \$37,138,000. This method of financing, together with the policy of rebating any surplus to avoid heavy taxation, has put the company in an unsatisfactory position. Both the board of directors and the shareholders are naturally concerned that the company should be given increased stability whilst at the same time diminishing future toll income.

The company has been earning substantial surplus on income and, to avoid payment of taxation, has been distributing practically all of these surpluses to shareholders in proportion to the business each has done with the company during the particular year. These annual rebates aggregate in excess of \$10,000,000 over the last five years.

Under the present income taxation legislation, any profit of a co-operative company which is not distributed as a cash rebate, bonus debentures, or shares is assessable income on which tax must be paid. The board's policy has been to avoid this taxation with a result that the company has not accumulated any significant reserve funds. Any small



amounts retained, such as a provision for accumulated long service leave, have resulted in tax payments almost as great as the actual provisions.

It is to be noted that Co-operative Bulk Handling is the only bulk handling authority in Australia which pays tax. Apart from South Australia, the other authorities, being governmental or semi-governmental, are exempt from taxation. The South Australian authority is exempt from income tax as a result of a decision of the Taxation Board of Review, which passed its decision on two factors incorporated in that company's memorandum and articles of association. Firstly, that company is not permitted to declare a rebate or dividend; and, secondly, in the event of its winding up, the assets are distributed to the Government of South Australia. As a result, in South Australia the authority has been able to accumulate funds and this season has reduced the rate of toll from 5c to 4c a bushel.

Recently the Commissioner of Taxation was approached by Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited to ascertain whether an alteration to its memorandum and articles of association would secure exemption under section 23 (h) of the Income Tax Assessment Act. The commissioner indicated qualified acceptance depending upon the facts and law operative if the proposal was proceeded with. After much consideration of the best method to achieve this, the company's solicitors suggested the proposed amendment to the Bulk Handling Act which is now before the House, rather than an alteration to the memorandum and articles of association.

This amendment to the principal Act prescribes the manner to be applied to the income and property of the company, and, on the Bill becoming law, the company would be in the same position as South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited.

No part of the surplus could be distributed to the growers, but to offset this the directors have in mind recommending a reduction in the rate of toll at the outset, and as funds are accumulated there is no doubt that substantial reductions will be possible in future years.

The scheme was placed before the shareholders at the annual general meeting held in March of this year. There were 102 shareholders present at the meeting and 101 voted in favour of the resolution.

Should the proposed amendment be not acceptable, the company would have to ask shareholders to amend the memorandum and articles of association, then request an amendment to the Bulk Handling Act and possibly to the Companies

(Co-operative) Act. The proposal incorporated in the Bill and suggested by the solicitors of the company is deemed to be far simpler, and I commend it to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Gayfer.

*House adjourned at 5.57 p.m.*

## Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 10th August, 1971

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

### SUPPLY BILL

#### Assent

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

### QUESTIONS (2): ON NOTICE

1.

#### TRAFFIC

##### *Breath Analysis Tests*

The Hon. R. J. L. WILLIAMS, to the the Minister for Police:

(1) Since the introduction of breath analysis tests to determine the percentage of alcohol in the blood of a person believed to have committed a traffic offence when driving a motor vehicle in an intoxicated condition, how many persons, in contravention of this part of the Traffic Act, have been—

- (a) convicted of one offence;
- (b) convicted of more than one offence;
- (c) imprisoned?

(2) During this period—

- (a) what is the total amount of fines paid by the convicted offenders; and
- (b) how many deaths have occurred resulting from all traffic accidents?

The Hon. J. DOLAN replied:

- (1) (a) Since the date of introduction of the tests in 1965 there were 7,621 convictions.
- (b) Separate statistics of those convicted for more than one offence are not kept.
- (c) The total number of convictions include those fined and imprisoned. No separate statistics are kept.